Background: In July 2019, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) implemented new data collection methods that enabled officers to collect more comprehensive information about each police stop in an aggregated manner. More specifically, these changes have allowed for more detailed data collection on stops, protective pat down (PPDs), searches, and arrests. (For a complete list of terms, see the glossary on page 2.) These changes support data collection requirements in the *Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Amendment Act of 2016* (NEAR Act).

Data Notes: The accompanying data cover all MPD stops including vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, and harbor stops for the period from January 1 – June 30, 2023. A stop may involve a ticket (actual or warning), investigatory stop, protective pat down, search, or arrest.

If the final outcome of a stop results in an actual or warning ticket, the ticket serves as the official documentation for the stop. The information provided in the ticket include the subject's name, race, gender, reason for the stop, and duration. All stops resulting in additional law enforcement actions (e.g., pat down, search, or arrest) are documented in MPD's Record Management System (RMS). This dataset includes records pulled from both the ticket (District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles [DMV]) and RMS sources. Data variables not applicable to a particular stop are indicated as "NULL." For example, if the stop type ("stop_type" field) is a "ticket stop," then the fields: "stop_reason_nonticket" and "stop_reason_harbor" will be "NULL."

Each row in the data represents an individual stop of a single person, and that row reveals any and all recorded outcomes of that stop (including information about any actual or warning tickets issued, searches conducted, arrests made, etc.). A single traffic stop may generate multiple tickets, including actual, warning, and/or voided tickets. Additionally, an individual who is stopped and receives a traffic ticket may also be stopped for investigatory purposes, patted down, searched, and/or arrested. If any of these situations occur, the "stop_type" field would be labeled "Ticket and Non-Ticket Stop." If an individual is searched, MPD differentiates between person and property searches. Please note that the term property in this context refers to a person's belongings and not a physical building. The "stop_location_block" field represents the block-level location of the stop and/or a street name. The age of the person being stopped is calculated based on the time between the person's date of birth and the date of the stop.

There are certain locations that have a high prevalence of non-ticket stops. These can be attributed to some centralized processing locations. Additionally, there is a time lag for data on some ticket stops as roughly 20 percent of tickets are handwritten. In these instances, the handwritten traffic tickets are delivered by MPD to the DMV, and then entered into data systems by DMV contractors.

On August 1, 2021, MPD transitioned to a new version of its current records management system, Mark43 RMS.

Beginning January 1, 2023, fields pertaining to the bureau, division, unit, and PSA (if applicable) of the officers involved in events where a stop was conducted were added to the dataset. MPD's Records Management System (RMS) captures all members associated with the event but cannot isolate which officer (if multiple) conducted the stop itself. Assignments are captured by cross-referencing officers' CAD ID with MPD's Timesheet Manager Application. These fields reflect the assignment of the officer issuing the Notice of Infraction (NOIs) and/or the responding officer(s), assisting officer(s), and/or arresting officer(s) (if an investigative stop) as of the end of the two-week pay period. The values are comma-separated if multiple officers were listed in the report.

For Stop Type = Harbor and Stop Type = Ticket Only, the officer assignment information will be in the NOI_Officer fields. For Stop Type = Ticket and Non-Ticket the officer assignments will be in both NOI Officer (for the officer that issued the NOI) and RMS_Officer fields (for any other officer involved in the event, which may also be the officer who issued the NOI). For Stop Type = Non-Ticket, the officer assignment information will be in the RMS_Officer fields.

Null values in officer assignment fields reflect either Reserve Corps members, who's assignments are not captured in the Timesheet Manager Application, or members who separated from MPD between the time of the stop and the time of the data extraction.

Finally, MPD is conducting on-going data audits on all data for thorough and complete information. Figures are subject to change due to delayed reporting, on-going data quality audits, and data improvement processes.

Glossary

- **Consent search:** A search of a person or property based upon valid consent of the individual whose person or property is being searched. The Fourth Amendment requires that consent to a search not be coerced, by explicit or implicit means, by implied threat, or covert force.
- **Contact or field contact:** Conduct by a police officer which places the officer in face-to-face communication with an individual under circumstances in which the individual is free not to respond and to leave.
- **Probable cause:** A set of facts, circumstances, or reliable information that would lead a reasonable and prudent police officer to believe that a crime has been committed, or is about to be committed, and that a certain person committed it.
- **Probable cause search:** A warrantless search of a person or vehicle based upon probable cause that is conducted under specific circumstances. To conduct a probable cause search of a vehicle, a police officer must have probable cause to believe that contraband or physical evidence of a crime is in a moveable (i.e., operable) vehicle in a public area (e.g., public space, shopping center, parking lot). To conduct a probable cause search of a person, a police officer must have probable cause to believe that the person has contraband or physical evidence of a crime on his or her person.
- **Protective pat down:** A limited protective search for concealed weapons or dangerous instruments. A pat down, also known as a frisk, consists of patting an individual's outer clothing to determine the presence of weapons and other dangerous objects. Pursuant to the Supreme Court ruling in Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (1968), police officers have authority to conduct a limited search of a person for weapons during some stops. Reasonable suspicion for a stop does not automatically provide the basis for a pat down. For a pat down to be reasonable and constitutional under the Fourth Amendment, the preceding stop of the individual's person must be lawful and the police must have an objectively reasonable basis to believe that the individual is armed and dangerous.
- **Reasonable suspicion:** Minimal level of objective justification for making a stop. Although reasonable suspicion is not capable of precise definition, it is more than a hunch or mere speculation, but less than probable cause.
- **Records Management System:** Computer system used by MPD to collect and store required stop data as well as other law enforcement information including crimes, arrests, missing person reports, and traffic crashes.
- **Stop:** A temporary investigative detention of a person for the purpose of determining whether probable cause exists to make an arrest. A stop is a seizure of an individual's person and occurs whenever an officer uses his or her authority to compel a person to halt, remain in a certain place, or to perform an act (such as walking to a nearby location where the police officer can use a radio or telephone). If a person is under a reasonable impression that he or she is not free to leave the police officer's presence, a stop has occurred.
- **Warrant search:** A search conducted pursuant to a valid search warrant granted by a judge or magistrate based upon probable cause.