



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UConn IMRP Releases Three New Reports on Rhode Island Traffic Stop Trends

Hartford, CT – May 6, 2025 – The Institute for Municipal and Regional Policy (IMRP) at the University of Connecticut has released three new reports analyzing traffic stop data in Rhode Island from 2020 to 2022. This work continues the IMRP’s long-standing collaboration with Rhode Island, which began in 2016.

Nationally recognized for its pioneering “Connecticut Model,” the IMRP has set a standard for evaluating and addressing racial and ethnic disparities in traffic enforcement. The model has been adopted by several states and integrated into the U.S. Department of Justice’s practices, affirming its role as the national benchmark in traffic stop data analysis.

While Rhode Island's traffic stop reports from 2016 to 2019 were mandated by law, the latest three reports reflect voluntary participation following the sunset of that legislation. “Rhode Island law enforcement has been an important partner in this work,” said Ken Barone, Associate Director of the IMRP. “The momentum and trust we’ve built led to nearly 100% participation by police agencies.”

The latest analyses encompass more than 563,000 traffic stops. The data reflects the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with traffic stops dropping 37% in 2020. There was a significant increase in enforcement in 2021 and 2022, but stops remained 12% below pre-pandemic levels.

Overall, the findings are encouraging and indicate positive progress in reducing disparities over time. “While small disparities are observed when analyzing each year individually, the three-year trend shows a decline in disparities—a positive sign,” said Barone. “Two additional years have since passed, and Rhode Island would benefit from an updated analysis to assess whether this progress has continued.”

The IMRP commends participating agencies for their strong commitment to transparency and equity. Their willingness to engage in open, data-driven review has enabled the production of a thorough and independent assessment.

These reports serve as an essential resource for policymakers, law enforcement, and community stakeholders committed to advancing equitable policing practices.

For more information or to access the full reports, visit <https://imrp.dpp.uconn.edu/publication/>.

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