

Explanatory Notes

The attached data represent all MPD: (1) incident reports classified as “stop and frisk” from 2010 to 2016 (S&F Incident Report Tab); and (2) field contact reports from 2012 to 2016 classified as “vehicle stop”, “pedestrian stop”, or “bicycle stop” (Field Contact (Stop Data) Tab).

A “stop” is a temporary detention of a person for the purpose of determining whether probable cause exists to arrest a person. A “frisk” is a limited protective search on a person to determine the presence of concealed weapons and/or dangerous instruments.

For more information, including additional definitions and procedures, please find MPD’s General Order on Police-Citizen Contacts, Stops, and Frisks at the following link: <https://go.mpdconline.com/GO/GO OPS 304 10.pdf>

Stop and Frisk Incident Report Data

Whenever a forcible stop or a frisk is conducted, MPD officers are required to submit an *incident report* which includes specific factors which supported the determination that reasonable suspicion was present to use the minimum amount of force necessary to stop or frisk a person.

Although the primary purpose of the stop and frisk incident report is to collect information on forcible stops or frisks, officers frequently use this report to document non-forcible stops. Thus, the incident type “stop and frisk” may include non-forcible stops, forcible stops, and frisks.

Each row of information in the attached dataset represents an individual associated with a stop and frisk incident. Not all individuals of an incident may

have been stopped or frisked. For example, two individuals may have been associated with a stop or frisk incident but only one person may have been stopped. The other person may include a witness. Moreover, two individuals may have been stopped where only one person is frisked.

Field Contact Report Data

When a non-forcible stop is conducted, MPD officers may document it on a *field contact* report instead of an incident report. A *field contact report* is also used to record general contact with a citizen. This dataset only captures the field contact type where the officer has indicated it is a stop by classifying it as a “pedestrian stop”, “vehicle stop”, or “bicycle stop.”

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) upgraded its records management system in 2012 and 2015. During each implementation, data collection processes may have changed. For example:

- The date field for field contact reports prior to January 2, 2012 was not migrated to the current record management system. As a result, tens of thousands of records carry a date of January 1, 2012. Therefore, MPD is unable to provide field contact data prior to January 2, 2012.
- With the implementation of the most recent RMS in 2015, MPD began collecting race and ethnicity data according to the United States Census Bureau standards (<https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>). As a result, Hispanic, which was previously categorized under the Race field, is currently captured under Ethnicity.

Race and ethnicity data are based on officer observation, which may or may not be accurate. Individuals are not required to provide their date of birth and/or age; therefore, there may be blank and/or unknown ages.

Totals are subject to change due to record sealings, expungements, audits, and data improvement processes.