

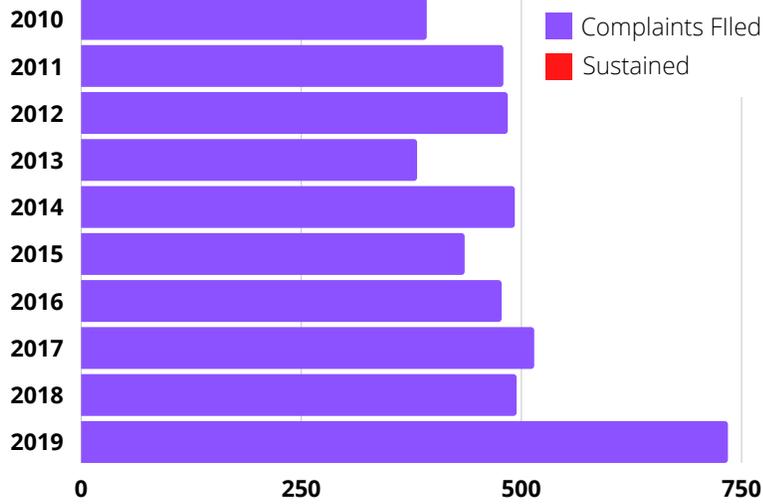
LAPD Confirms Continued Criminalization, Harassment of the Black Community



Last year, the Los Angeles Police Commission ordered the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and California Policy Lab (CPL) to analyze and report on LAPD stop data collected under the Racial and Identity Profiling Act (RIPA) of 2015. Released in October 2020, the two reports confirm what community members most harmed by policing have long known.

The reports show severe racial disparities in every aspect of LAPD policing but at the same time, it must be remembered that the underlying data is self-reported by police and cannot be taken at face value. The true number of searches is likely much larger, and more alarming. In fact, the OIG estimates that LAPD did not document nearly a quarter of searches.

In addition to this police-generated data, LAPD Annual Complaint Reports show Angelenos filed **4,882 complaints of biased policing between 2010-2019**, with reports reaching a high of 734 in 2019, a year in which **68% of biased policing reports were filed by Black people**. Yet LAPD tossed out all of these complaints, sustaining **zero** of them.



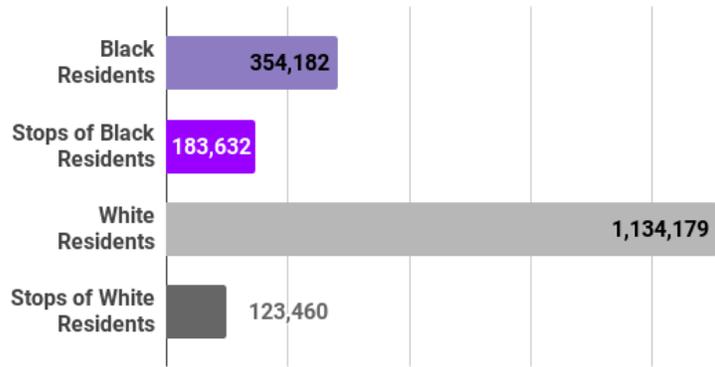
Those most impacted by police violence have been sounding the alarm about racist stops for decades, but LAPD pretends nothing is wrong.

Worse, police engage in gaslighting, dismissing peoples' experiences of racism as "perception" not based in reality. But the reality could not be more clear.

Some Report Findings

LAPD targets Black people for stops at vastly higher rates than white people.

City of Los Angeles, 2019:



LAPD made 672,569 officer-initiated stops in 2019, meaning the stop was not in response to a call for service. **Black people are 9% of the city population yet made up 27% of those stops**, while white people are 29% of the population and 8% of stops.

Additionally, while Black and Latinx people are far more likely to be stopped, **stops of white people were more likely to find contraband** and to lead to arrest.

Stops are also used by police to gather an individual's personal and physical information, which is recorded on a Field Interview (FI) card and stored in databases accessible to LAPD and other police departments. There is no retention limit on FI card data, which is notoriously rife with police lies.



LAPD filled out FI cards during 16% of stops of Black people; for white people in only 5% of stops. The disparities are worse for minor traffic stops: Black people were twice as likely to be written up in an FI card for stops for registration violations, 6 times as likely for license plate violations.

LAPD searched, handcuffed Black people at vastly higher rates than white people.

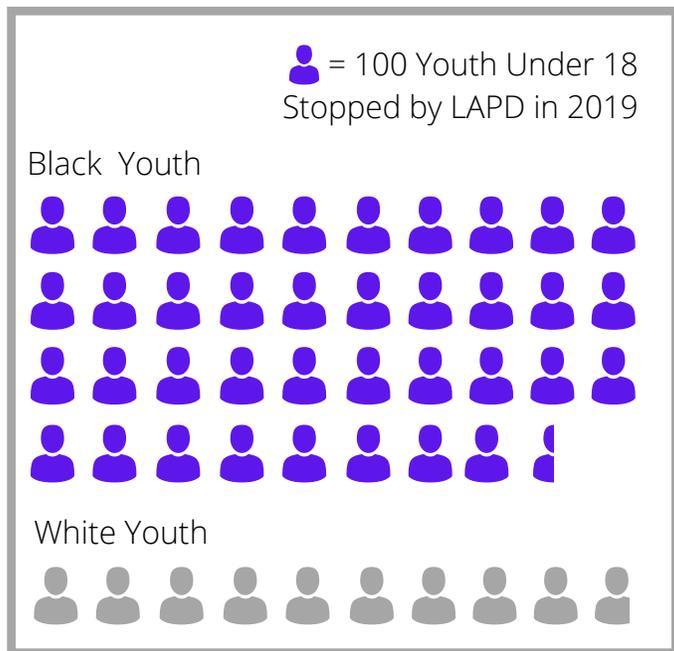
Black men were searched during stops at nearly 5 times the rate as white men. During traffic stops, Black people were ordered out of the car at 4 times the rate as white people for license plate violations, and around 14 times the rate for speeding violations.

Black and Latinx people were more likely to face prolonged questioning, including their parole or probation status and their criminal record. Questioning involved “searches, including discretionary searches; handcuffing or having a person face a wall with their hands behind their back; checking for tattoos; and the completion of FI cards.”

Black people were handcuffed during 10% of stops, white people only 2%. However, of all people handcuffed, white people were more frequently arrested. Therefore, Black people are five times as likely to be handcuffed, but stops where white people are handcuffed are nearly twice as likely to produce a basis for arrest.

These forms of escalation are invasive and dangerous, and show the predatory nature of policing that feeds off of the dehumanization of Black people.

LAPD aggressively targets Black and Brown youth.



In 2019, LAPD made 3,818 stops of Black youth under 18 compared to 963 stops of white youth.

For children under age fourteen, 35% of stops were Black children, 53% were of Latinx children, and 9% were of white children.

LAPD uses violent force at vastly higher rates when stopping Black people.

Police used TASERS during officer-initiated stops for 3 times as many Black people as white people. During traffic stops, police pointed guns at over 5 times as many Black people as white people. Of 54 times when police dogs bit or held a person during an officer-initiated stop, 23 were Black people; 3 were white.

The reports perpetuate the criminalization of Black people simply for being Black.

The OIG writes that “activities and circumstances which can result in officers making a stop may also be affected by other underlying disparities,” including “disparities in local crime rates, poverty, homelessness, gang membership, and involvement with the criminal justice system,” but fails to acknowledge how institutional and systemic racism has contributed to the overrepresentation of Black people in data sets and in circumstance for each of these categories, and how this is compounded by LAPD.