University of
CINCINNATI

# Semi-Annual Contact Card Report

## January 1-June 30, 2018

## University of Cincinnati Police Division

## I.    Introduction

The University of Cincinnati Police Division (UCPD) is committed to bias-free and equitable treatment of all persons while enforcing the law and providing police services. In accordance with the UCPD's *Bias Free Policing Policy* (SOP 4.1.300),[1] a "Contact Card"[2] is the form that is filled out whenever a UCPD officer conducts a nonconsensual contact (e.g., traffic stop, suspicious persons contact, field interview or arrest). This report is the third in a series of semi-annual reports that describe Contact Card data collected by the UCPD.  The purpose of this report is to conduct a comprehensive review of UCPD contact data, to ensure compliance with the UCPD's philosophy of bias-free policing, to analyze crime data, and to aid in officer development, deployment of staff, and development of best practices. In making this information available to the public, this report enhances the transparency of the UCPD to the community it serves. Future reports will explore comparisons to historical contact card data.

Contact cards were created for UCPD use in September 2015 as a way to better capture details regarding nonconsensual stops. In addition to Contact Cards, UCPD officers also record all stops with additional information in an official report that is kept in their Automated Records Management System (ARMS) database. Contact Cards provide supplemental information to these reports, capturing additional information that may not be included in an official report. Additionally, Contact Cards provide information on activity on and around campus, which allows the UCPD to be more responsive to issues and concerns. It is used as a problem-solving tool, as it contains information to help analyze repeat problems.

First line supervisors and a lieutenant review the Contact Cards prior to being entered into the electronic database by administrative staff.  It is a tool to assess individual officer activity and performance to ensure their actions are consistent with the vision, mission, and core principles of the UCPD including transparency, legitimacy, fairness, and accountability. Any abnormalities in officer performance or conduct that are discovered are reported through the chain of command for review. To aid in supervisory review, the crime analyst produces a monthly report for shift commanders and sergeants designed to assist them in identifying any potential outliers or abnormalities that should be further examined and documented per policy. Finally, particular scrutiny of off-campus traffic stops is required per the Traffic Enforcement and Activities Policy. At this time, all off-campus traffic stops require immediate notification of the UCPD chain of command (including the Chief of Police, Director of Public Safety, and the Vice President for Safety and Reform) who review these stops for consistency with UCPD policy.

## II.    2018 UCPD Contact Cards, January-June

Between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018, there were a total of 305 Contact Cards recorded by UCPD officers.  A single incident, however, can result in multiple contact cards if the officer has

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[1] The UCPD Bias Free Policing policy can be found at: http://www.uc.edu/publicsafety/reform/resources.html

[2] For a copy of the most recent version of the Contact Card, please use contact information on the report's title page.

a nonconsensual encounter with more than one person. As will be shown, the total number of incidents for this time period is 219. Analyses presented in this report will be provided at both the incident and person level.

Figure 1 displays the percentage of contact card incidents that were the result of being dispatched by UCPD Communication Center, initiated based upon their own observations, and dispatched by another agency. Figure 1 demonstrates that the majority of contact cards are the result of being dispatched (59.8%). In comparison, only 26.0% are the result of self-initiation and 14.2% are the result of the officer being dispatched by another agency.

**Figure 1. Contact Card Incidents by Nature of Call: 1/1/2018 – 6/30/2018**
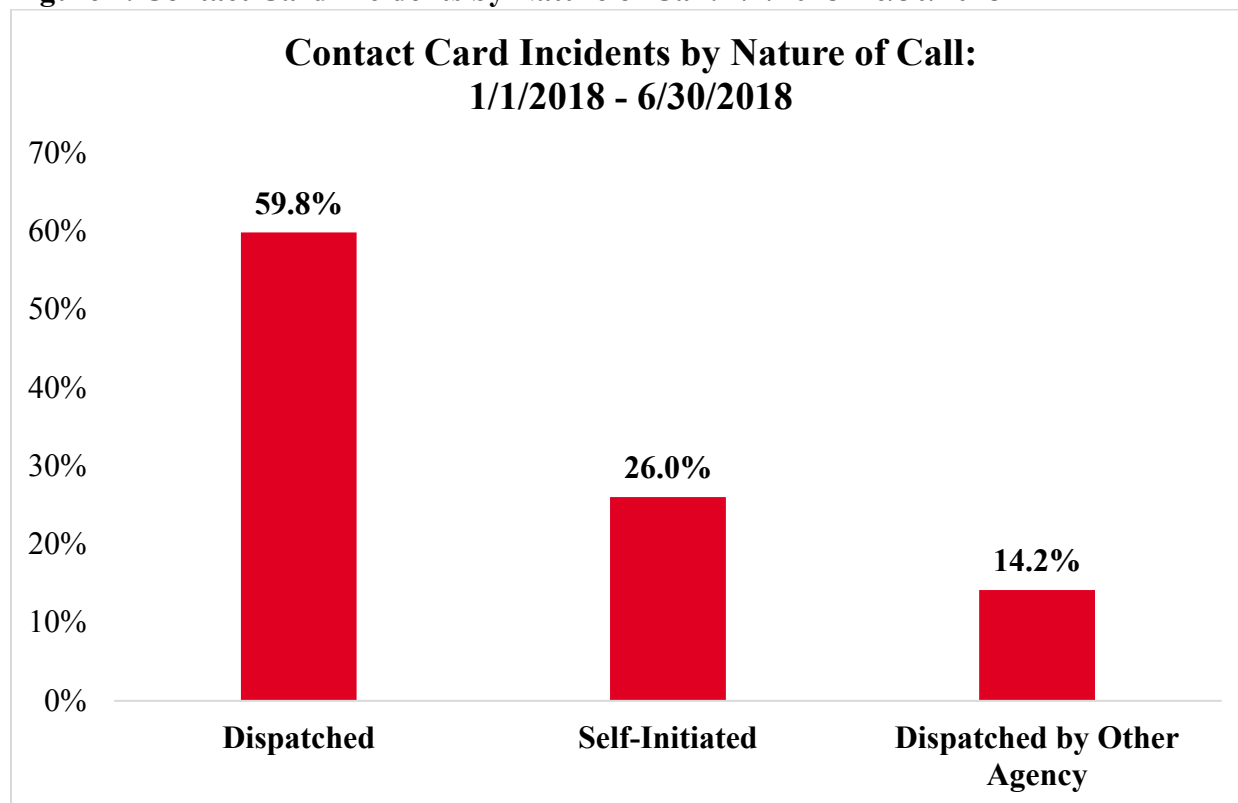


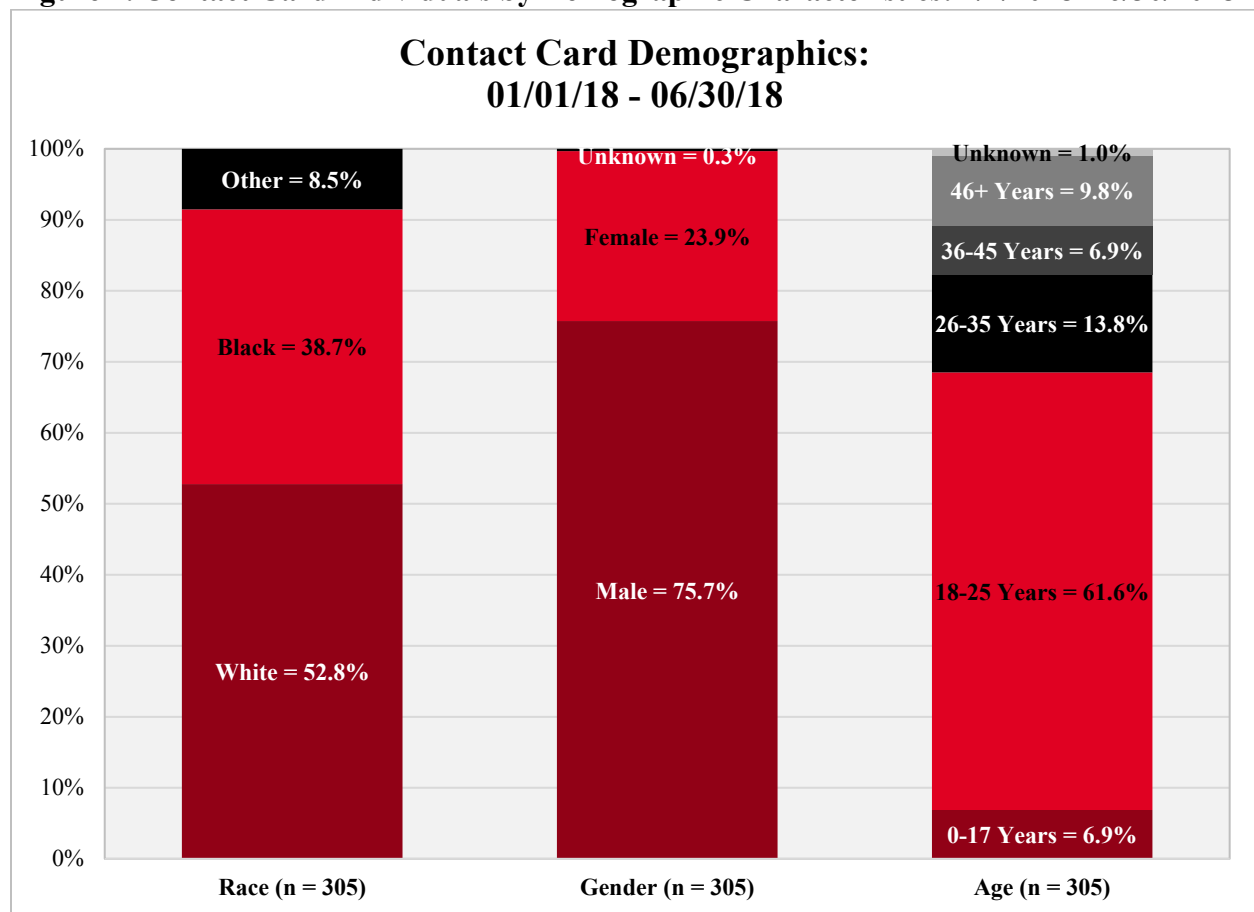### III.    UCPD Contact Cards by Demographic Characteristics

As defined by the Bias Free Policing policy: "The intent, and the only purpose of the Contact Card, is to document UCPD's non-consensual encounter/contacts with any person." In an effort to better foster transparency and legitimacy with the community, this section describes the demographic characteristics of the individuals (e.g., gender, age, race/ethnicity) with whom UCPD officers come into contact during nonconsensual stops. The analyses presented in this section are based on 305 contact cards.

Figure 2 displays the race/ethnicity, gender, and age of the individuals stopped by the UCPD. First, Figure 2 shows the percent of UCPD Contact Cards by the race/ethnicity of the subject stopped. As shown, just over half of the individuals stopped by the UCPD in January through

June of 2018 were White (52.8%), while 38.7% were Black. [3] Less than 9% of contacts involved Hispanics, Asians, Middle Easterners, Native Americans, and those identified as "other race/ethnicity" by the officers.

Figure 2 also displays information regarding the gender and age of those stopped by the UCPD. The majority of contacts between January and June were of males (75.7%), while only 23.9% of UCPD contacts were of females. Although not graphically displayed, the percentages of stops for males and females are consistent with those reported in previous semi-annual reports. Also during this time period, approximately 61.6% of all stops were of individuals aged 18 to 25 years. This is to be expected, given the general age range of the majority of UC students. This is a slight decrease in stops of 18-25 year olds from previous semi-annual reports. The second most frequently represented age range among UCPD contacts was 26-35 at 13.8%. All other age groups made up less than 10% of all UCPD contacts.

**Figure 2. Contact Card Individuals by Demographic Characteristics: 1/1/2018 – 6/30/2018**



Contact Card Demographics:
01/01/18 - 06/30/18

Race (n = 305):
Other = 8.5%
Black = 38.7%
White = 52.8%

Gender (n = 305):
Unknown = 0.3%
Female = 23.9%
Male = 75.7%

Age (n = 305):
Unknown = 1.0%
46+ Years = 9.8%
36-45 Years = 6.9%
26-35 Years = 13.8%
18-25 Years = 61.6%
0-17 Years = 6.9%

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[3] The Contact Card's race/ethnicity categories include: White, Black, Asian or Pacific Islander, Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Native American, and other. Due to the small number of contacts with persons of these races/ethnicities (Hispanic 0.3%, Asians 5.2%, Middle Easterners 1.0%, Native Americans 0.0%), these racial/ethnic groups have been merged with the "other" race/ethnicity (1.6%) for display purposes throughout this report.

Simply stating the percentages of how often drivers of different races and ethnicities are stopped, however, is not particularly meaningful without comparison to some "expected probability" of these stops of different racial/ethnic groups assuming that no racial discrimination exists by police. These expected probabilities are often referred to as "benchmarks," "base rates," or "denominators." Unfortunately, due to the unique urban university setting for which the UCPD is responsible, there is no reliable data upon which the UCPD can construct an "expected probability" of stops of different racial/ethnic groups against which to compare the contact card data. Both US Census data and University of Cincinnati demographic statistics are limited in nature.[4] Instead, the UCPD will continue to rely on other methods to ensure that UCPD officers are treating all persons equitably, without bias, and in keeping with the vision, mission, and core principles of the UCPD. These methods include: 1) a monthly Contact Card report comparing officers within shifts and against historical data, designed to assist supervisors in identifying any potential outliers or abnormalities in officer activity that should be further examined, 2) supervisory oversight in the form of documented field visits, reviews of body worn camera and in-car camera footage, and 3) investigation of all citizen and internally generated complaints, including immediate notification to the Chief of any allegation of discrimination, racial profiling, or biased policing per the UCPD Internal Investigations and Complaints Policy SOP 4.2.100.

IV.    **UCPD Contacts: Stop Analyses**

UCPD Contact Cards also contain data fields for stop characteristics including the reason for the stop and the resulting action taken by the officer. When filling out their Contact Cards, UCPD officers are required to select a primary reason for each nonconsensual stop conducted from the following list[5]:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Assist Other Agency | 7. Suspect |
| 2. Drug/Alcohol Involvement | 8. Suspicious Person/Vehicle |
| 3. Medical | 9. Terry Stop |
| 4. Mental Health | 10. Traffic Stop |
| 5. Noise Complaint | 11. Trespass |
| 6. Panhandler | 12. Other [6] |

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[4] The limitations of both Census and university demographic statistics as benchmarks for stop data are described in detail in the *Second Semi-Annual Contact Card Report*.

[5] During this time, the UCPD revised the contact card. Categories that were in use the entire time between January 1 and June 30, 2018: Drug / alcohol involvement, mental health, noise complaint, panhandler, suspicious person/vehicle, suspect, traffic stop, trespass, Terry stop, and other. "Assist other agency" was added in March. Noise complaints and panhandlers were combined in the "Public Nuisance" category for display purposes. No stops were for the "Terry stop" reason during this time period; therefore, it is excluded from Figure 3.

[6] The initial analysis of the reason for the stop variable indicated that "other" reason for the stop was the second most frequent reason for the stop. Therefore, the Clery Compliance Coordinator, who enters the contact card data, performed a comprehensive review of these 52 hard copy contact cards (to check for write-in responses) and, if necessary, their associated ARMS reports to determine whether they should have been captured as an existing reason category. Of these, 47 should have been captured as an existing reason category (e.g., "stop sign" written in, recoded as "traffic stop"; "person down" written in, recoded as "medical"). For the analyses in this report, the recoded versions of these reasons for the stop are used. The importance of officers using the established categories was again reviewed with UCPD supervisors by the Crime Analyst.

Figure 3 displays the percentages of the different reasons for stopping an individual recorded by a UCPD officer. As shown, the largest percentage of contacts was due to drug and/or alcohol involvement (24.9%), followed closely by suspect (24.3%). Assist other agency accounted for 13.4% of contacts, while 12.5% of contacts were due to Suspicious Person/Vehicle. The less frequent reasons for stop can also be seen in Figure 3, each accounting for less than 9% of all contacts by UCPD officers.

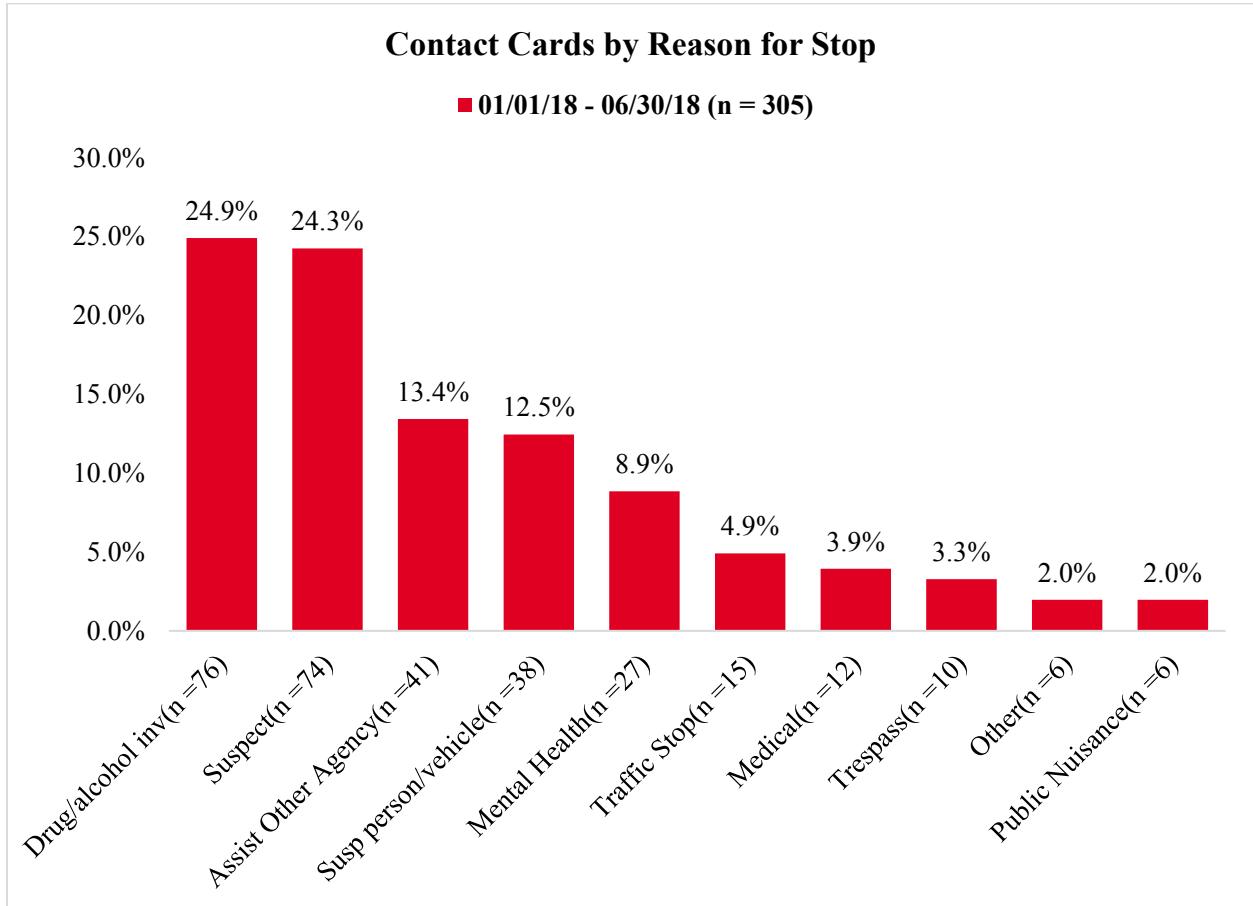**Figure 3. Contact Card Individuals by Reason for Stop: 1/1/2018 – 6/30/2018**



Figure 4 also shows information regarding reason for the stop but analyzes it by the race/ethnicity of the person stopped. For ease of display, the least frequent reasons for the stop are included in the "other" category in this graph. Some differences in reasons for the stop are evident by race/ethnicity. For example, Whites were more likely than other racial/ethnic groups to be stopped for drug/alcohol investigations, while Blacks were more likely than Whites to be stopped for reasons related to assisting other ages. In contrast to previous contact card reports, Whites were more likely to be stopped for suspicious vehicles/persons than other races, and the same percentage of Whites and Blacks were likely to be stopped for the reason of suspect. The possible reasons for these disparities are being examined by the UCPD.

**Figure 4. Reason for Stop by Race/Ethnicity**

### Reason for Stop by Race: 1/1/2018 - 6/30/2018

■ White (n = 161) ■ Black (n = 118) ■ Other (n = 26)

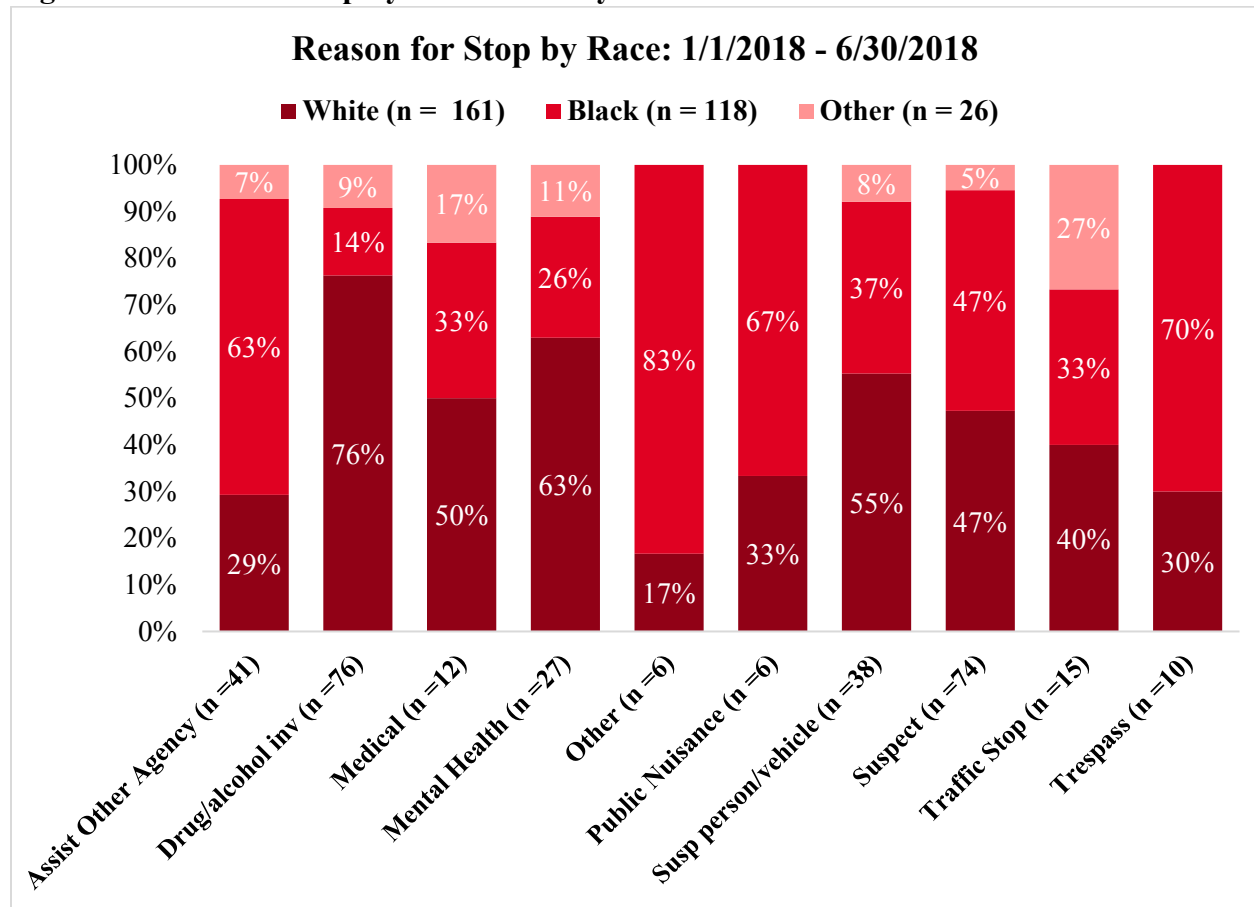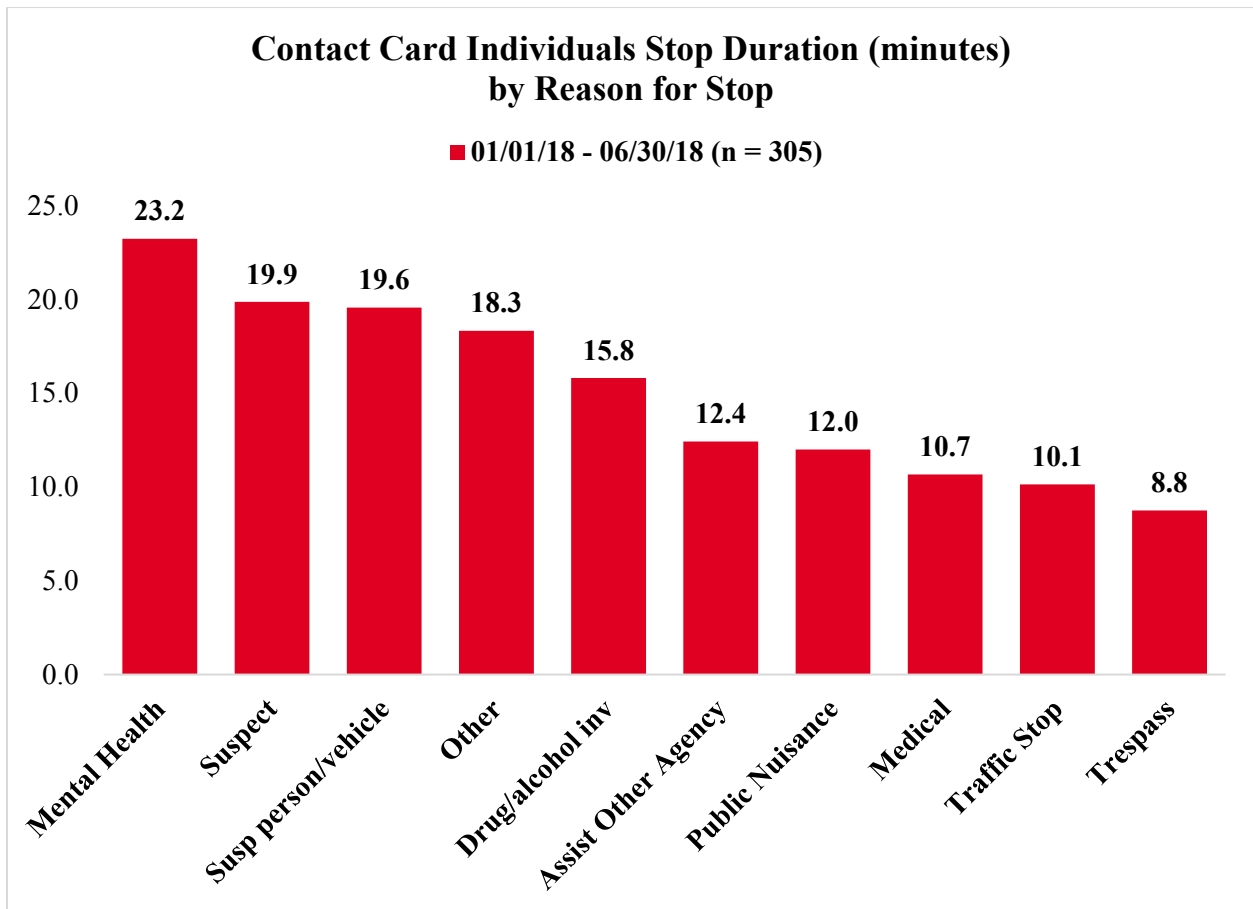| Category | White | Black | Other |
|---|---|---|---|
| Assist Other Agency (n =41) | 29% | 63% | 7% |
| Drug/alcohol inv (n =76) | 76% | 14% | 9% |
| Medical (n =12) | 50% | 33% | 17% |
| Mental Health (n =27) | 63% | 26% | 11% |
| Other (n =6) | 17% | 83% | |
| Public Nuisance (n =6) | 33% | 67% | |
| Susp person/vehicle (n =38) | 55% | 37% | 8% |
| Suspect (n =74) | 47% | 47% | 5% |
| Traffic Stop (n =15) | 40% | 33% | 27% |
| Trespass (n =10) | 30% | 70% | |

Figure 5 displays information regarding reason for the stop and stop duration and show clear differences. Stops for trespass have the lowest average number of minutes (8 minutes), while stops for mental health (23 minutes), suspects (19 minutes), and suspicious person/vehicle (19 minutes) are, on average, the longest in duration. These findings are consistent with previous contact card reports.

**Figure 5. Contact Card Individuals Stop Duration (minutes) by Reason for Stop**



**Contact Card Individuals Stop Duration (minutes)
by Reason for Stop**

■ 01/01/18 - 06/30/18 (n = 305)

| Reason | Duration |
|---|---|
| Mental Health | 23.2 |
| Suspect | 19.9 |
| Susp person/vehicle | 19.6 |
| Other | 18.3 |
| Drug/alcohol inv | 15.8 |
| Assist Other Agency | 12.4 |
| Public Nuisance | 12.0 |
| Medical | 10.7 |
| Traffic Stop | 10.1 |
| Trespass | 8.8 |

## V.    UCPD Contacts: Post-Stop Analyses

Analyses of post-stop outcomes are an important consideration of any data collection effort because the potential exists for differential treatment based on the individuals' race, ethnicity, gender, and/or age not just in the initial stopping decision but also after the stop has been made. When making a stop, the officer has a series of possible actions they may take as a result of the reason for the stop and what the officer observes during the stop. The possible actions listed on the UCPD Contact Card and their definitions are listed below:

- **Advised:** subject provided with information of a university policy or statute
- **Arrest:** physical seizure of an individual
- **Citation:** subject was issued a court summons
- **Student Conduct Referral:** the student is referred to Student Affairs, for a potential student code of conduct violation
- **Criminal Trespass Warning (CTW):** subject was given a written criminal trespass warning
- **Handled By Other (HBO):** handled by other police agency
- **72 Hour Evaluation / Psychiatric Hold:** taken into custody reference the UCPD's Mental Health Response policy

- **Recite:** subject reissued a court summons from previous infraction
- **SOW:** sent on way, subject was directed to leave the area
- **Transport:** provided transportation to another location
- **Warning:** in lieu of a citation or arrest the individual was given a verbal warning

Figure 6 displays the percentages of the different actions taken by a UCPD officer after stopping an individual.[7] The majority of contacts (68.2%) resulted in less serious outcomes (e.g., advise, student conduct referral, sent on way, and warning), while only 9.5% of contacts resulted in arrests. More specifically, the largest percentage of stops resulted in a "advised" (25.6%), where the officer advised the subject of information related to a university policy or statute. The second most frequent officer action taken was "sent on way (SOW)," where 17.7% of contacts are sent on their way by the officer. Approximately 17% of the contacts were "conduct referral", where the officer directed the violation to be reviewed by the University's Student Conduct board. UCPD officers arrested subjects in 9.5% of stops. The other less frequent actions taken and their percentages can be found in Figure 6.

**Figure 6. Contact Card Frequency of Stop Outcome: 1/1/2018-6/30/2018**



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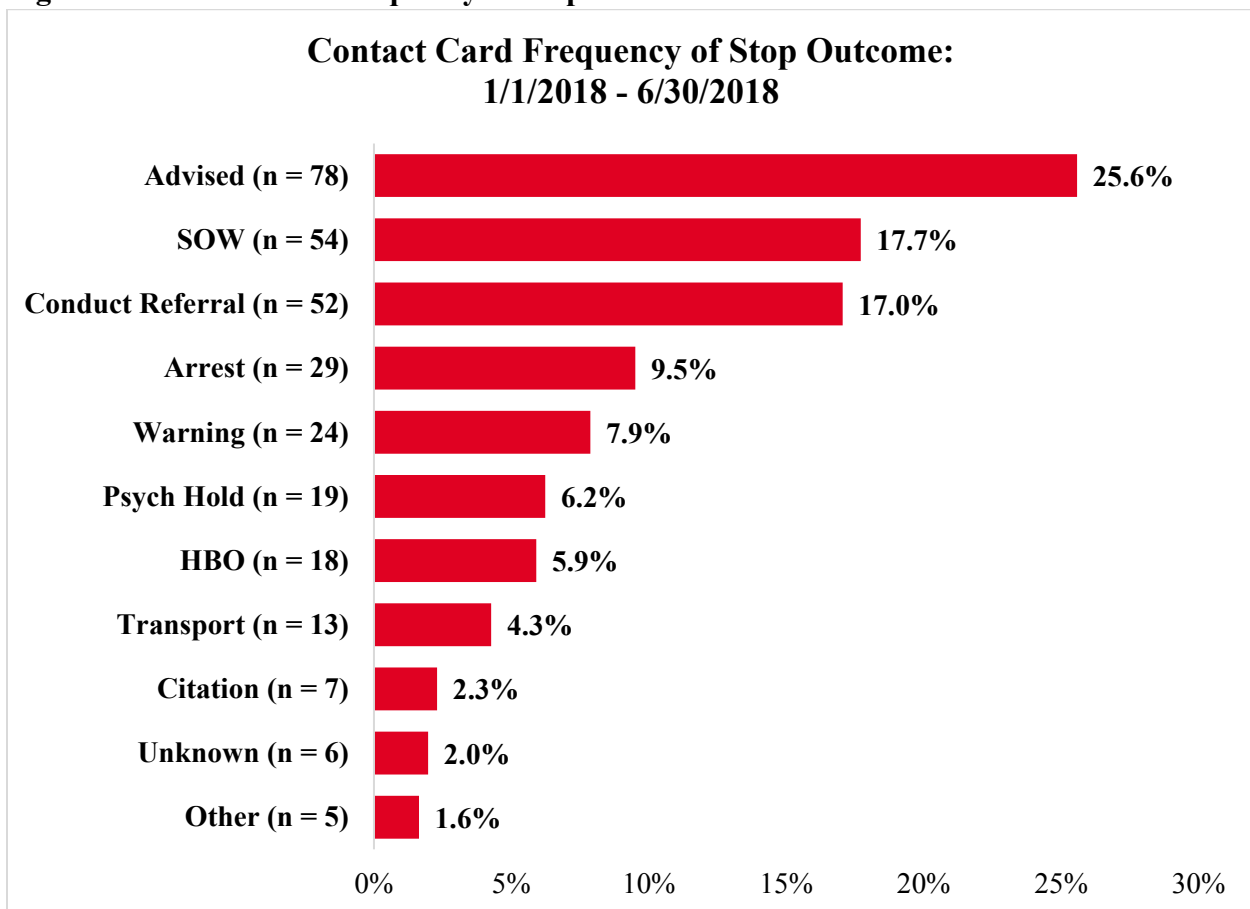
[7] For ease of display, criminal trespass warnings are included in the "warning" category, recite is included with the "citation" category.

Figure 7 shows the action taken during a stop by the different reasons for the stop. This graph shows clear differences. More than half of stops made for drugs/alcohol resulted in a student conduct referral. Nearly half of the mental health calls resulted in 72-hour psychiatric evaluations. Finally, as indicated in Figure 7 although only 9% of stops resulted in arrest overall, arrest was a more likely outcome for stops based on the following reasons: assist other agency, suspect, suspicious person/vehicle, and trespass.

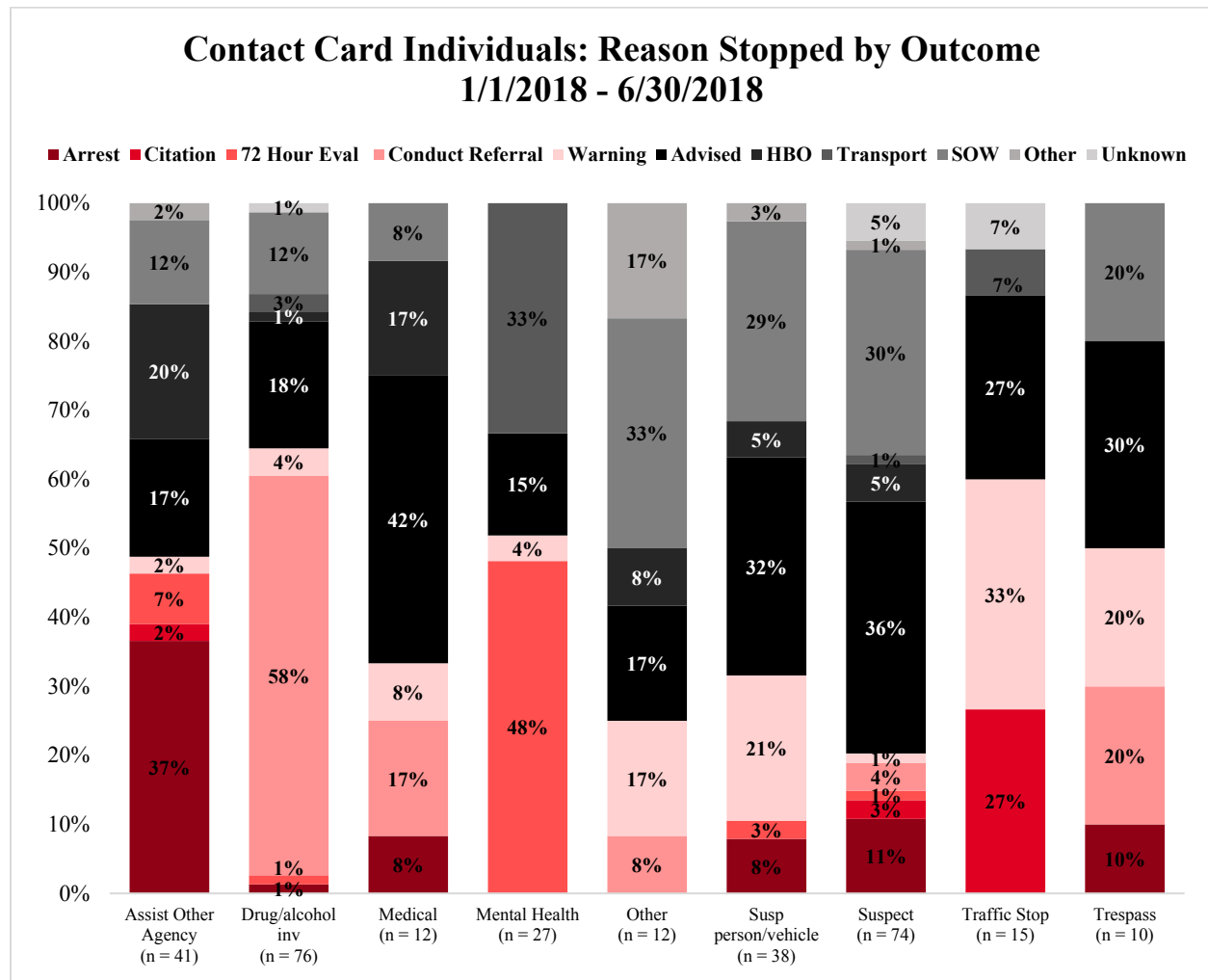**Figure 7. Contact Card Individuals: Reason Stopped by Outcome: 1/1/2018-6/30/2018**



Figure 8 examines the most frequent categories of Action Taken by race/ethnicity. As shown, similar percentages of Blacks (28%) and other minorities (31%) received the most common action taken by UCPD officers: advisement. Slightly fewer Whites (23%) received an advisement. Higher percentages of Whites (27%) received student conduct referrals than Blacks (8%) and other minorities (8%), but this could be due to officers encountering fewer Black and minority students than White students as this outcome only applies to UC students.

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There is a small disparity in racial outcomes for arrest. Black subjects made up 13% of arrests whereas Whites and other minorities comprised only 7% and 8%, respectively, of arrests during nonconsensual stops. After some further analyses of the 29 stops resulting in arrests, the UCPD determined that this disparity was largely the result of dispatched runs and assist other agency calls compared to self-initiated activity. Of the 29 arrests during the January – June 2018 timeframe, UCPD officers arrested 12 White individuals (41.3%), 15 Black individuals (51.7%), and 2 individuals of other races (6.7%). Non officer-initiated calls made up 83% of all arrests, with 48% being assistance of other agencies and 34% being dispatched calls to UCPD. Officer-initiated activity accounted for only 5 arrests during this timeframe, with UCPD officers arresting 1 black individual (20%) and 4 white individuals (80%) during self-initiated stops. The UCPD continues to closely monitor racial disparities in arrest outcomes.

**Figure 8. Contact Card Individuals: Outcome by Race**
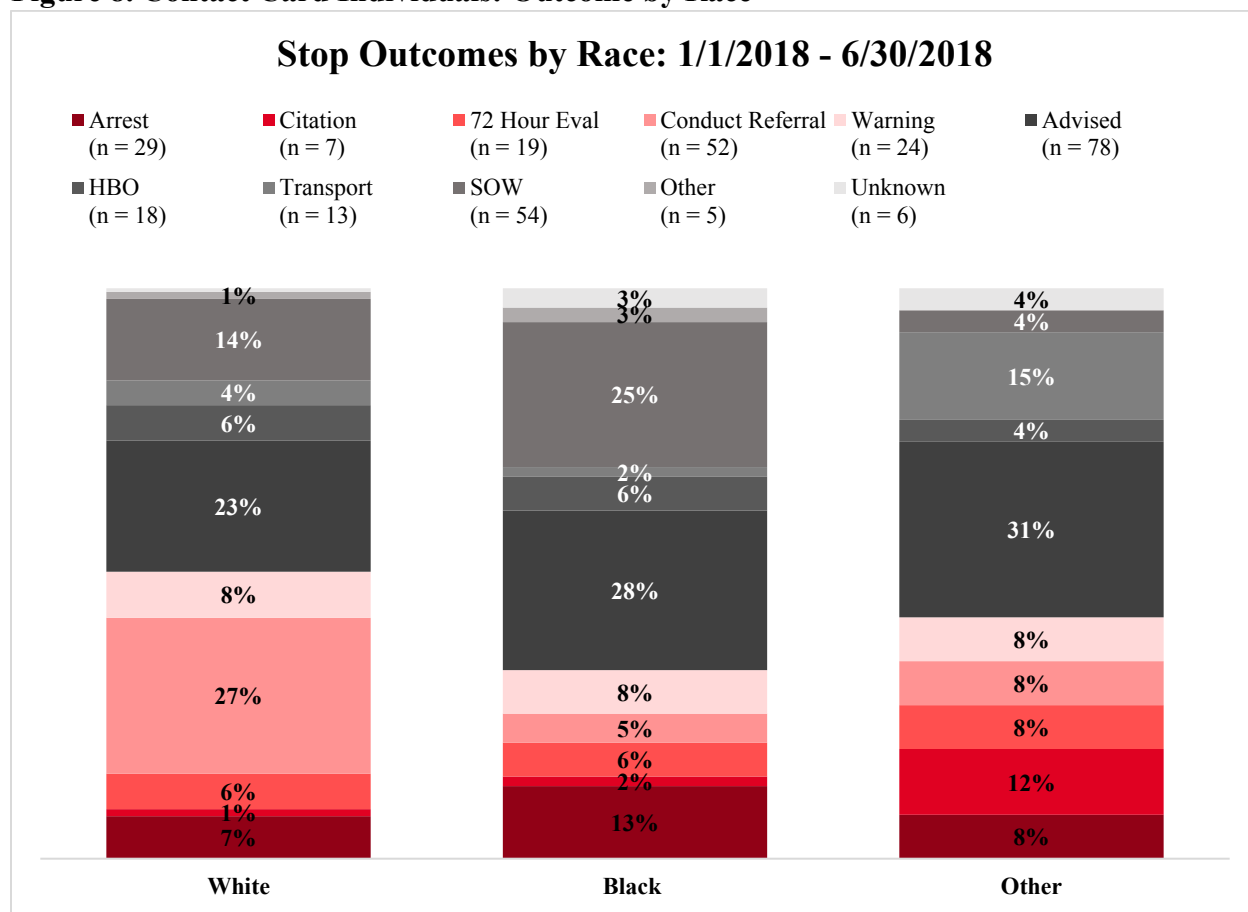


## VI. Summary

This report details all 305 UCPD Contact Cards submitted between January 1, 2018 and June 30, 2018. Contact Cards are filled out by UCPD officers for each individual they come into contact with during a nonconsensual stop (i.e., any traffic stop, suspicious persons contact, field interview or arrest). These data are collected in accordance with the UCPD's *Bias Free Policing Policy*.

Of the 219 incidents resulting in 305 contact cards, the majority involved stops that were dispatched by UCPD (59.8%) or another police agency (14.2%), while only 26.0% were self-initiated. The majority of contacts were of Males (76%), Whites (53%), and subjects between the ages of 18 to 25 years (62%). The most common reason for a nonconsensual stop was drug and/or alcohol involvement (25%) followed by assist other agency (13%). The most common actions taken to resolve nonconsensual stops were advisements of university policy or statute (26.4%), sent on way (18%) and student conduct referrals (17%). The outcomes of stops did show some variation across the reason for stop. For example, the majority of stops made for drugs/alcohol resulted in a student conduct referral, while the majority of mental health calls resulted in psychiatric holds. When an arrest occurred, it was most likely for stops initiated for the following reasons: assist other agency, suspect, suspicious person/vehicle, and trespass. The outcomes of stops were generally similar across racial/ethnic groups, although a slight disparity exists for arrests. Black subjects made up 13% of arrests, whereas Whites and other minorities comprised 7% and 8% of arrests, respectively. After further analyses of the 29 stops resulting in arrests, the UCPD attributes this disparity to be due to Blacks being slightly more likely than Whites to be the subject of dispatched runs to assist Cincinnati Police Department or to process warrants from other departments compared to self-initiated activity.

It is important to note that the information reported here is strictly descriptive in nature. This summary does not include analyses that examine causal influences. Nevertheless, the Contact Card data provides important information on the patterns associated with UCPD officers' nonconsensual stops that UCPD supervisors and commanders can monitor for possible anomalies in order to ensure the Division's officers are engaging in fair and non-biased policing. The review of these data will continue to be conducted on a semi-annual basis; corresponding reports will be made publicly available on the UCPD's website: https://www.uc.edu/about/publicsafety.html.