



Semi-Annual Contact Card Report

January 1-June 30, 2019

University of Cincinnati Police Division



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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 part of 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 and Director of Public Safety) who review these stops for consistency with UCPD policy.

II. 2019 UCPD Contact Cards, January-June

Between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019, there were a total of 333 Contact Cards recorded by UCPD officers. A single incident, however, can result in multiple contact cards if the officer has

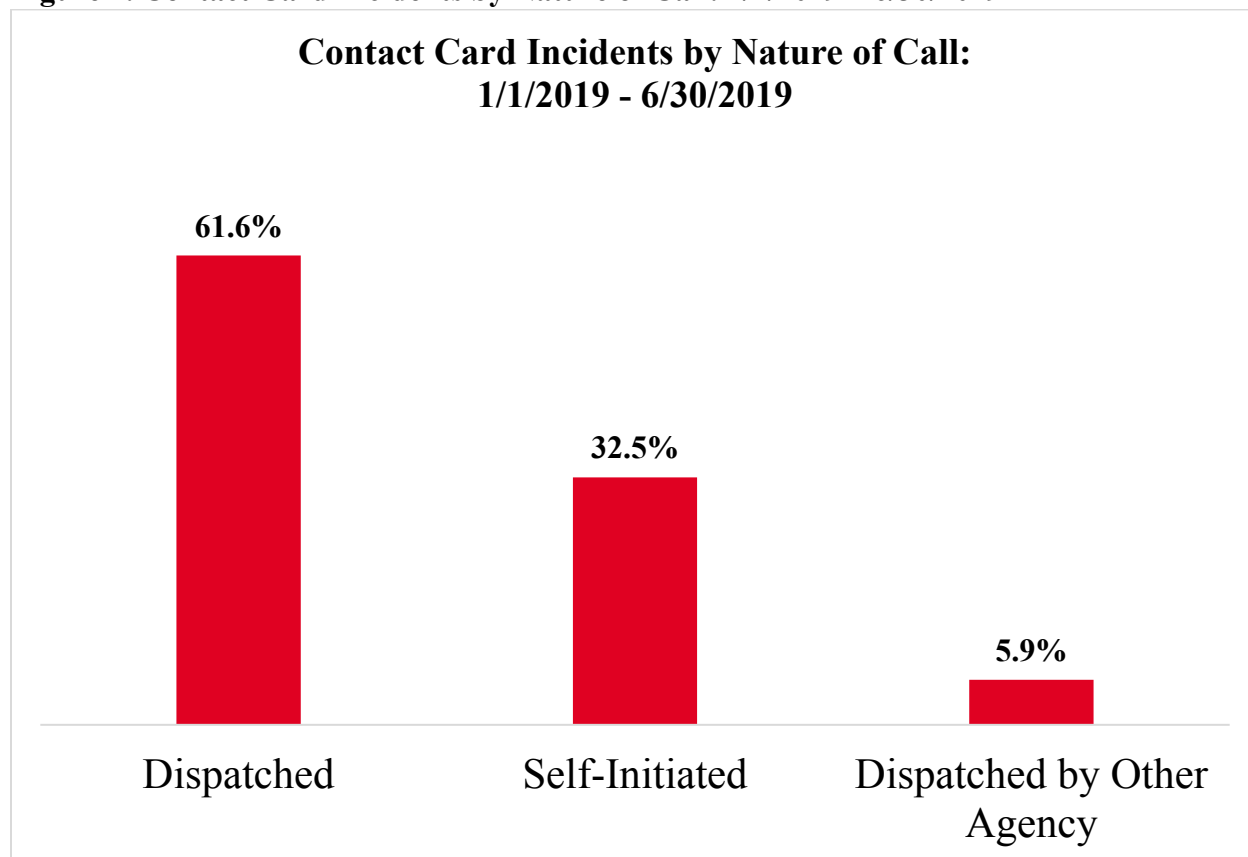
¹ The UCPD Bias Free Policing policy can be found at: <http://www.uc.edu/publicsafety/reform/resources.html>

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 237. 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 (61.6%). In comparison, only 32.5% are the result of self-initiation and 5.9% are the result of the officer being dispatched by another agency.

Figure 1. Contact Card Incidents by Nature of Call: 1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019



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 with during nonconsensual stops. The analyses presented in this section are based on 333 contact cards.

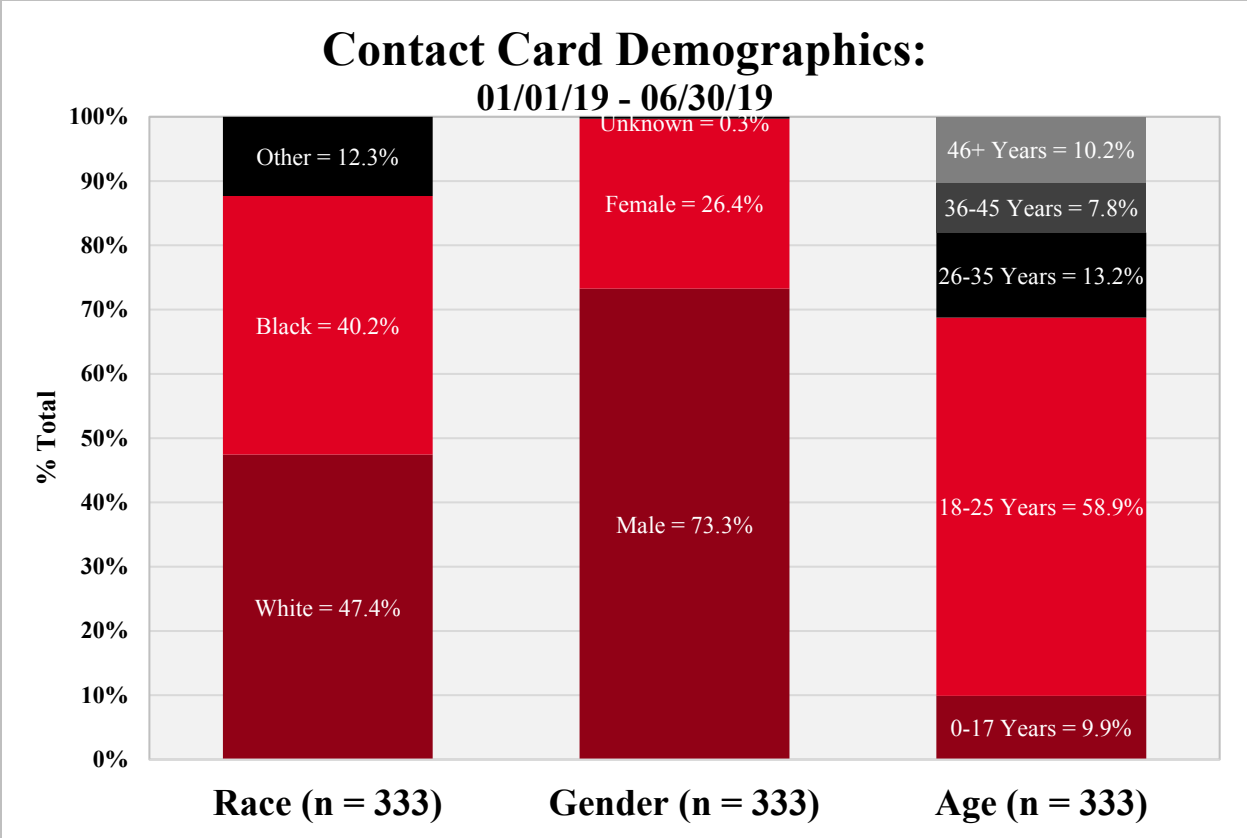
Figure 2 displays the race/ethnicity, gender, and age of the individuals stopped by the UCPD. First, Figure 2 shows the percent of UCPD Contact Cards by the race/ethnicity of the subject

stopped. As shown, almost half of the individuals stopped by the UCPD in January through June of 2019 were White (47.4%), while 40.2% were Black.³ Less than 13% 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 (73.3%), while only 26.4% 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 58.9% 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. The second most frequently represented age range among UCPD contacts was 26-35 at 13.3%. The 0-17 group made up 9.9% of these contacts. It is possible that this is attributed to a rash of vehicle break-ins, vehicle thefts, and vandalism that occurred in June of 2019. Several very young suspects were stopped and arrested in connection to these events.

Figure 2. Contact Card Individuals by Demographic Characteristics: 1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019

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 0.7%, Asians 2.2%, Middle Easterners 1.5%, Native Americans 0.25%), these racial/ethnic groups have been merged with the “other” race/ethnicity (2.4%) for display purposes throughout this report. There were 15 (4.5%) cases marked as “Other” in the race category. Upon review of records management data, it became clear these were cases where the individual’s race was marked as unknown and several were witnesses to events rather than suspects or victims.



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. 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 – this report is supplemented with a monthly meeting of command staff to review the contact cards and report, 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:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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 | |

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 (23.7%), followed by suspicious person or vehicle (15.3%). Suspect accounted for 14.7% of stop reasons. Assist other agency accounted for 10.5% of contacts. The less frequent reasons for stop can also be seen in Figure 3, each accounting for less than 10% of all contacts by UCPD officers. Keep in mind that each card has a reason for stop indicator, meaning that one stop for suspicious activity can result in multiple cards marked accordingly.

Figure 3. Contact Card Individuals by Reason for Stop: 1/1/2019 – 6/30/2019

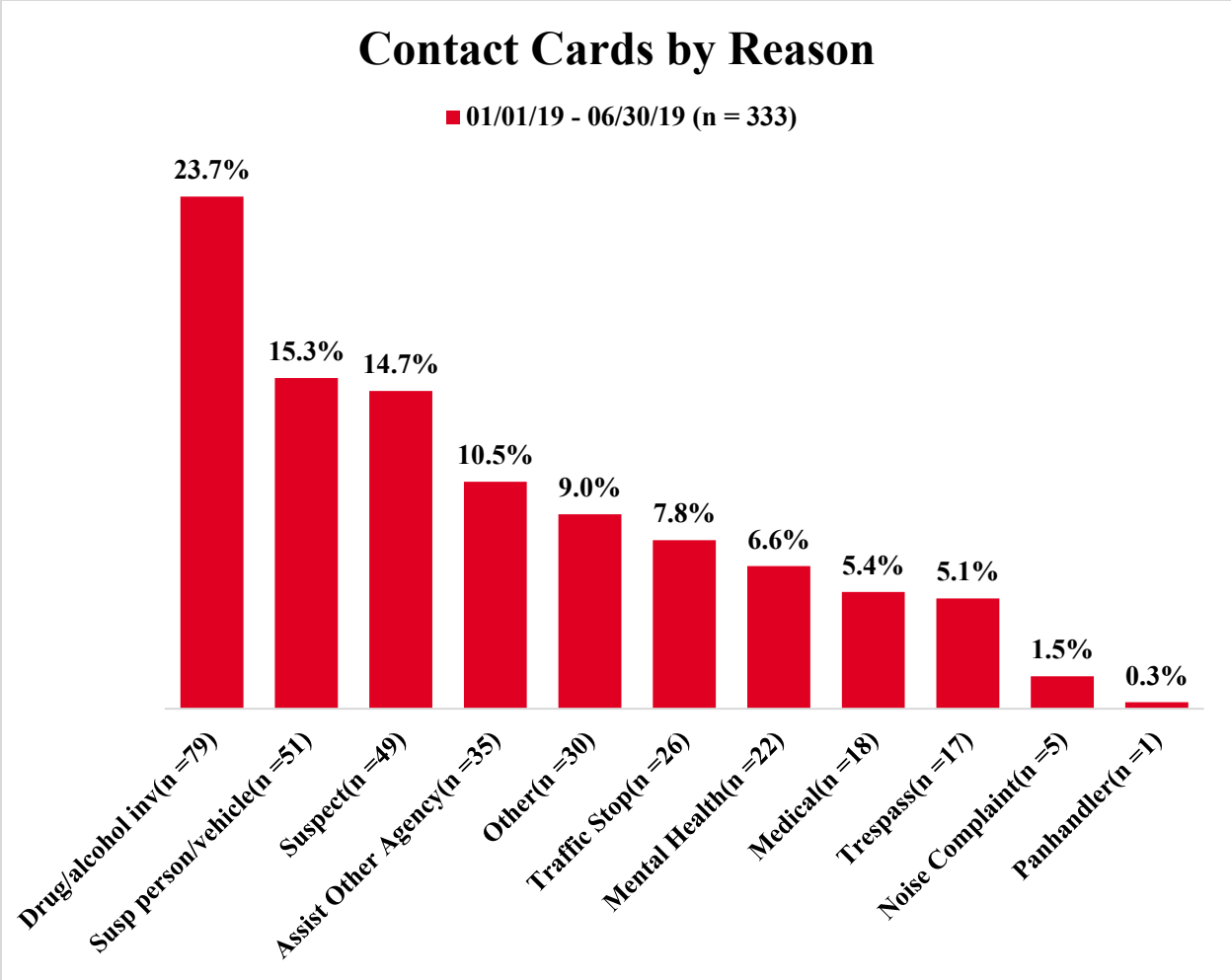


Figure 4 also shows information regarding reason for the stop but analyzes it by the race/ethnicity of the person stopped. For ease of display, the least frequent reasons for the stop are included in the “other” category in this graph. Some differences in reasons for the stop are evident by race/ethnicity. 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 agencies. Blacks were more likely to be stopped for suspicious vehicles/persons than other races. Fluctuations in the overall percentages of individual contact card by race may be explained by the collection method of contact cards. One stop can result in multiple contact cards and each report the demographic information of an individual involved. Overrepresentation of one group over another is likely to happen and fluctuate given this method of collection. The possible reasons for these disparities are examined in monthly reviews of contact card data. Given the relatively small number of nonconsensual stops made by UCPD, the monthly report and subsequent review of contact cards by the command staff, Clery Compliance Coordinator, and Crime Analyst attempts to ensure that these disparities are the result of dispatched calls and are not the result of a biased approach to proactive police activity.

Figure 4. Reason for Stop by Race/Ethnicity

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

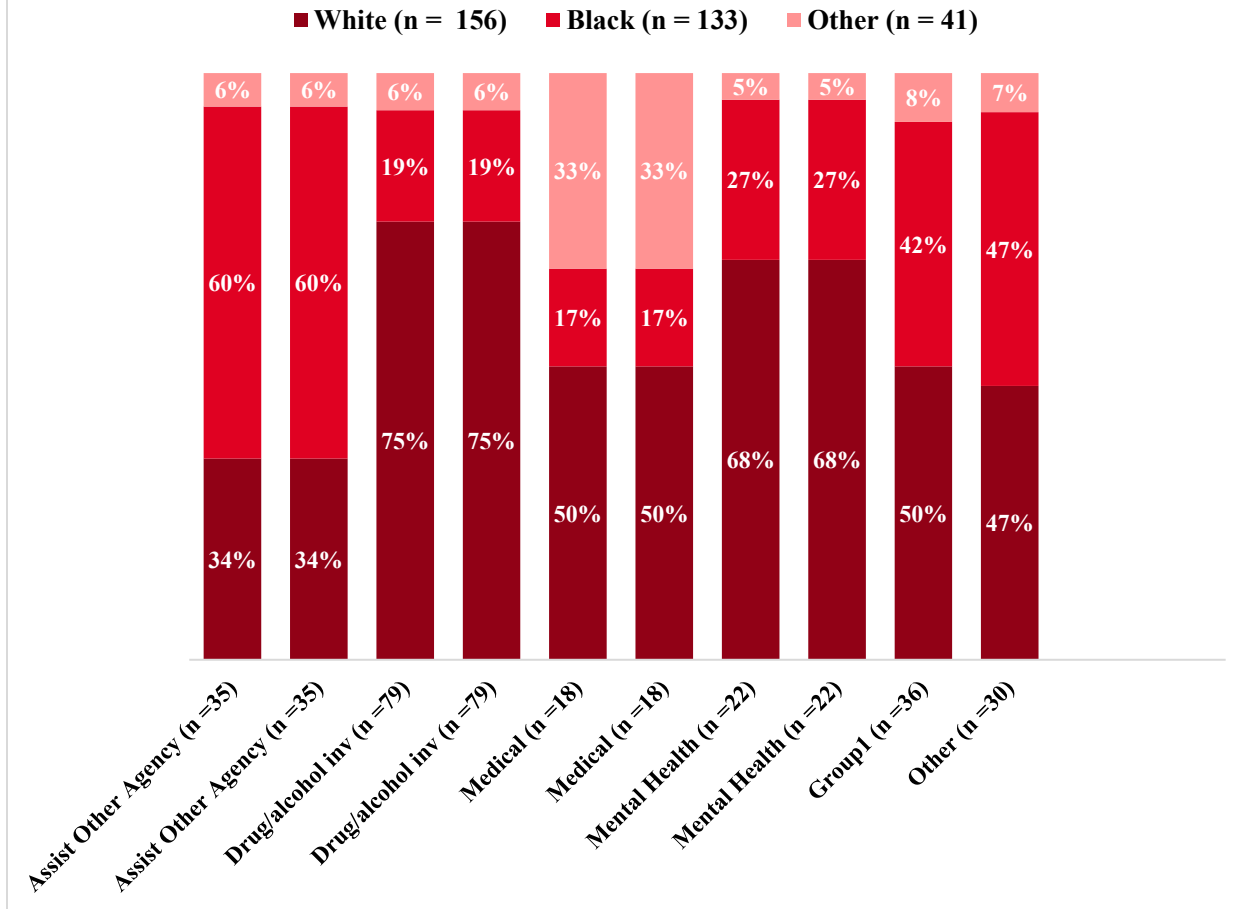
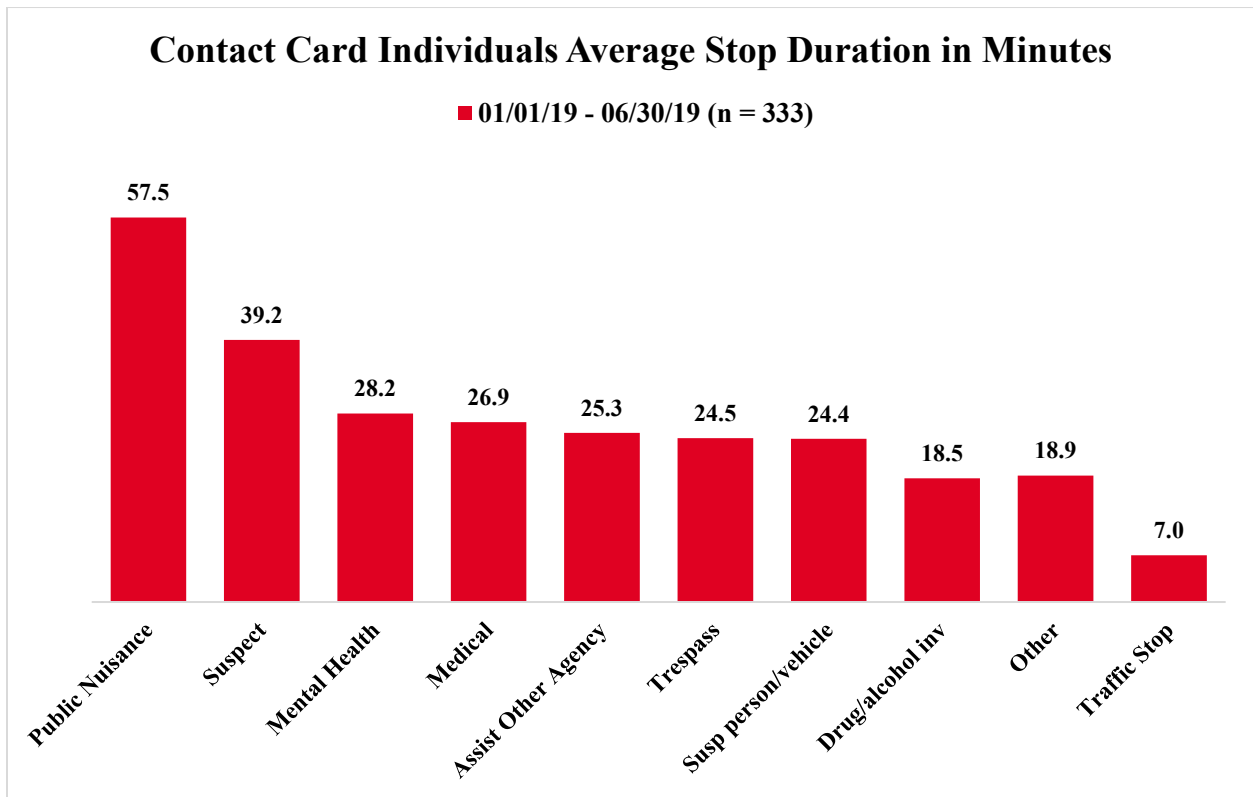


Figure 5 displays information regarding the reason for the stop and the stop duration. In this report the largest amount of time appears to have been spent on public nuisance calls with an average of 57.5 minutes. This is the result of multiple individuals stopped in relation to loud parties. In previous reports and in most cases where there is a noise complaint or other public nuisance, stops are much shorter and less involved as individuals are sent on their way or arrested. Parties are often more time consuming as officers are often coordinating with the individuals they have stopped and other policing agencies.

Traffic stops were the lowest average duration (7 minutes), while calls such as calls for mental health, medical, and trespassers tended to average in the 20-30-minute range. See Figure 5 for details about each of the reasons for stop.

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



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. The majority of contacts (68.1%) resulted in less serious outcomes (e.g., advise, student conduct referral, sent on way, and warning), while only 14.1% of contacts resulted in arrests. More specifically, the largest percentage of stops resulted in a “advised” (21.6%), where the officer advised the subject of information related to a university policy or statute. Approximately 20% of the contacts were “conduct referral”, where the officer directed the violation to be reviewed by the University’s Student Conduct board. The third most frequent officer action taken was “sent on way (SOW),” where 15% of contacts are sent on their way by the officer. The other less frequent actions taken, and their percentages, can be found in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Contact Card Frequency of Stop Outcome: 1/1/2019-6/30/2019

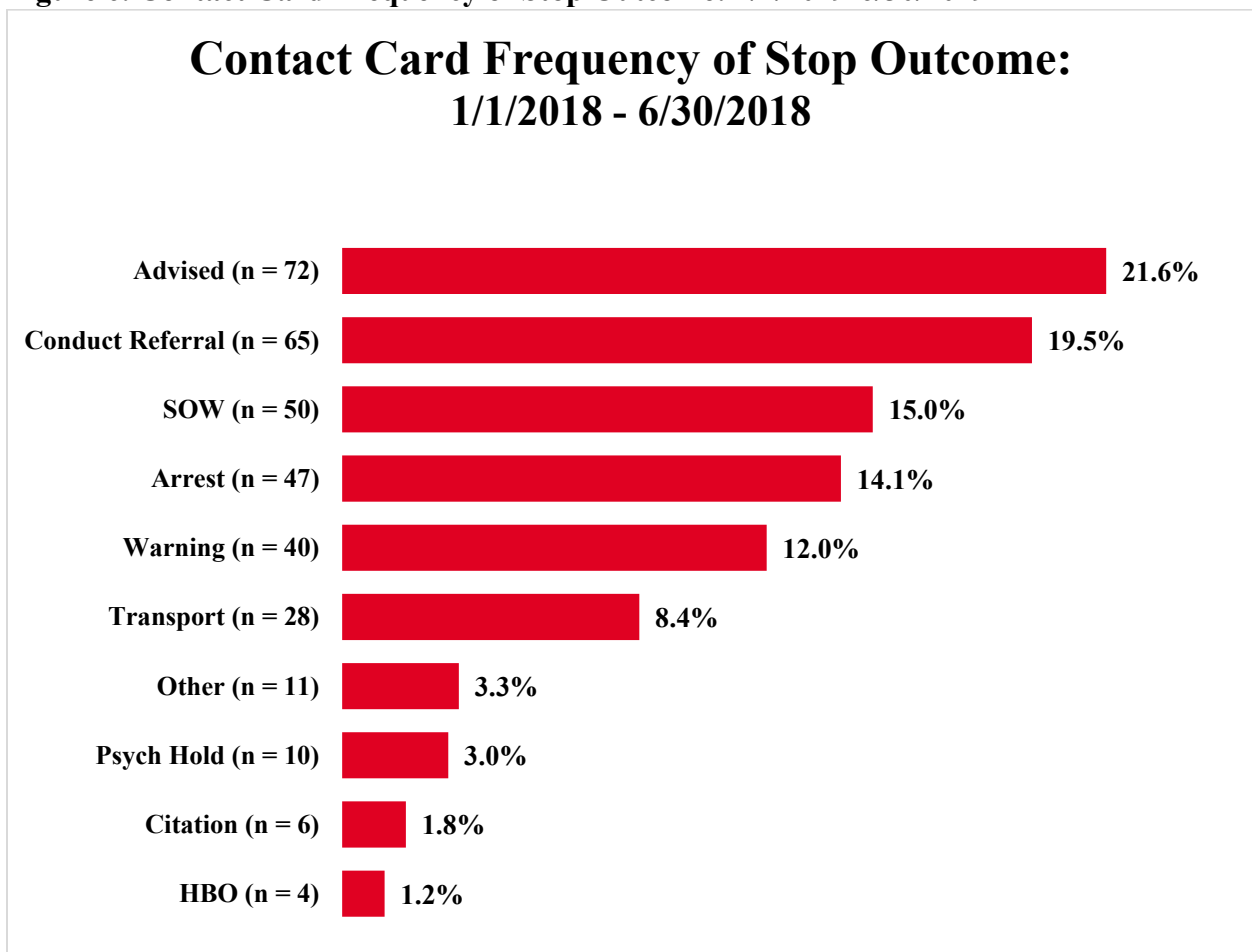


Figure 7 shows the action taken during a stop by the different reasons for the stop. This graph shows clear differences. More than half of stops made for drugs/alcohol resulted in a student conduct referral. Nearly half of the mental health calls resulted in 72-hour psychiatric evaluations. Finally, as indicated in Figure 7, although only 14.7% 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. It is important to note that contact cards

capture outcomes of arrest by any agency. For the purposes of this report we have combined them in the graphs for readability. UCPD officers conducted 33 arrests noted on the contact cards while officers from CPD arrested 14 individuals whose contact resulted in an arrest.

Figure 7. Contact Card Individuals: Reason Stopped by Outcome: 1/1/2019-6/30/2019

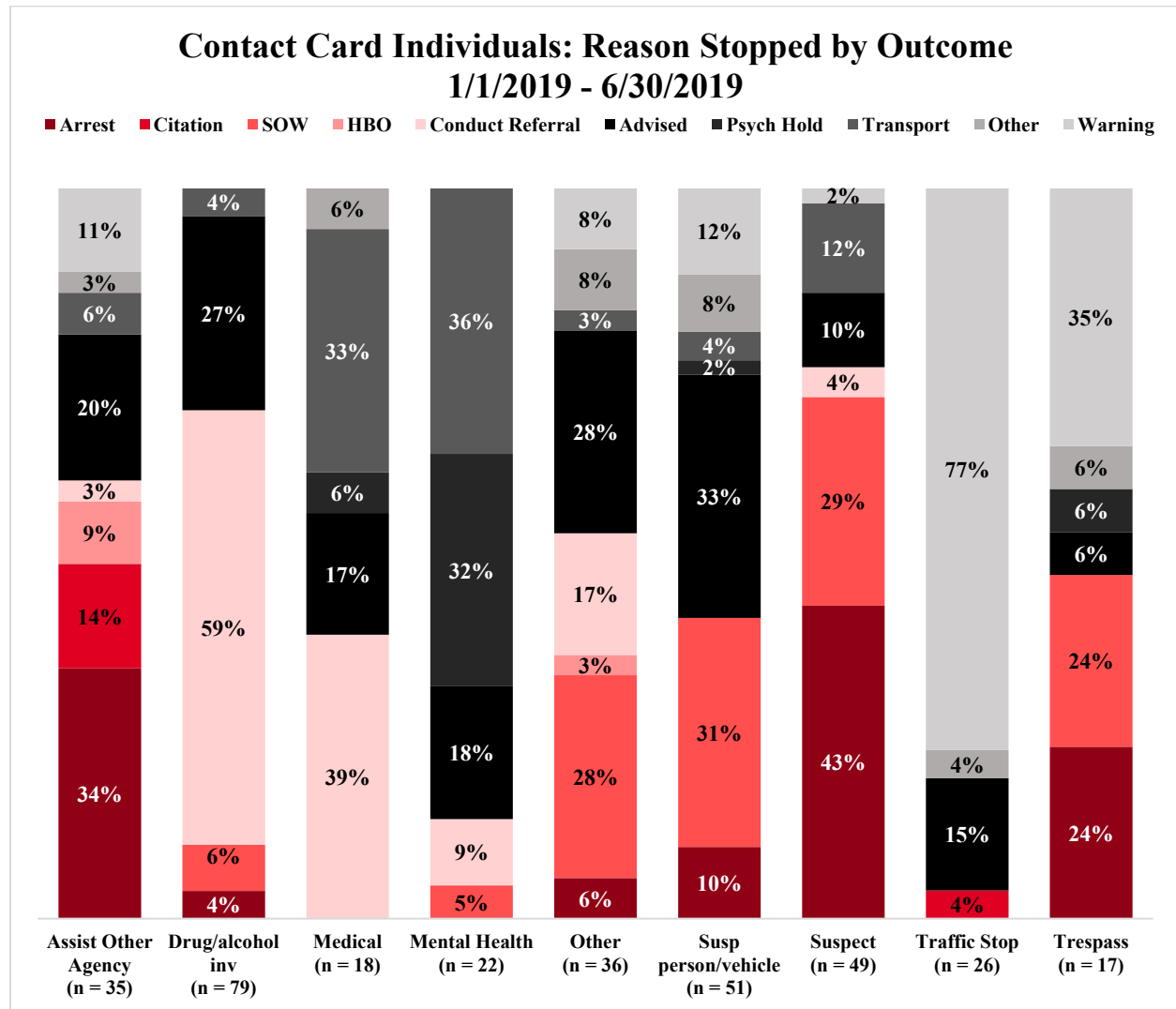
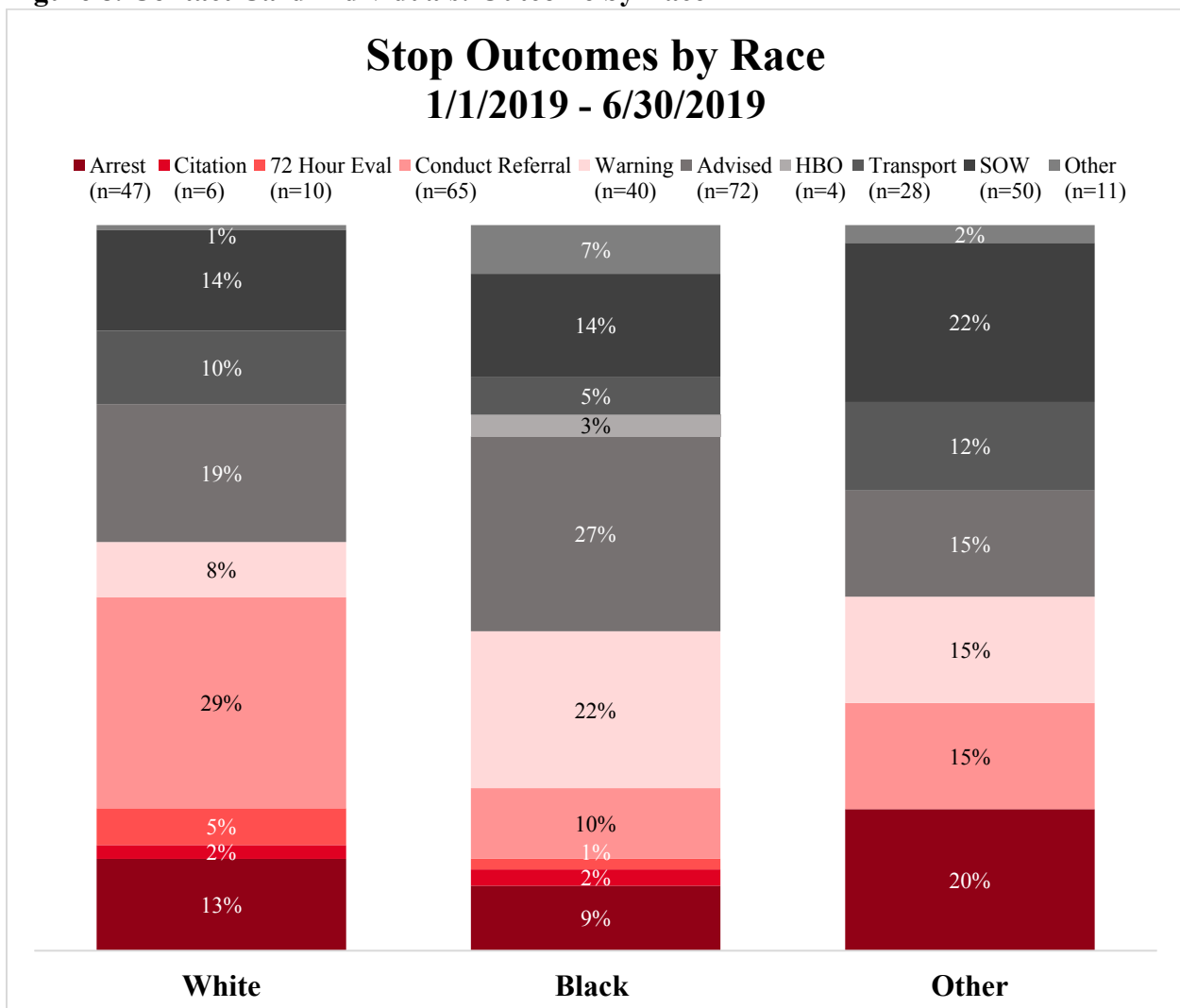


Figure 8 examines the most frequent categories of Action Taken by race/ethnicity. As shown, Blacks (27%) and other minorities (15%) received the most common action taken by UCPD officers: advisement. Slightly fewer Whites (19%) received an advisement. Higher percentages of Whites (29%) received student conduct referrals than Blacks (10%) and other minorities (15%), but this could be due to officers encountering fewer Black and minority students than White students, as this outcome only applies to UC students.

There is a small disparity in racial outcomes for arrest. Black subjects made up 9% of arrests as an outcome whereas Whites and other minorities comprised only 13% and 20%, respectively, of

arrest outcomes during nonconsensual stops. After some further analyses of the 47 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 47 arrests during the January – June 2019 timeframe, UCPD officers arrested 12 White individuals (25.5%), 29 Black individuals (61.7%), and 6 individuals of other races (12.8%). Non officer-initiated calls made up 55.6% of all arrests, with 6.4% being assistance of other agencies and 48.9% being dispatched calls to UCPD. Officer initiated activity accounted for 21 arrests during this timeframe, with UCPD or CPD officers arresting 14 black individuals (66.7%) and 6 white individuals (28.6%) during self-initiated stops. The UCPD continues to closely monitor racial disparities in arrest outcomes. Of the Black individuals arrested, 0% had an affiliation with the University. Meaning that none were students, faculty, or staff. All these arrests were pedestrian stops, 2 arrests were the result of assisting other agencies, 10 were the result of the individual being a suspect, 1 was the result of a trespassing, and 1 was stopped under the suspicious person reasoning after a citizen approach an officer and stated she had been choked by the suspect. In the last case, the suspect was arrested and turned over to CPD officers.

Figure 8. Contact Card Individuals: Outcome by Race



VI. Summary

This report details all 333 UCPD Contact Cards submitted between January 1, 2019 and June 30, 2019. 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 237 incidents resulting in 333 contact cards, the majority of the involved stops that were dispatched by UCPD (68%) or another police agency (4%), while only 28% were self-initiated. The majority of contacts were of Males (73%), Whites (47%), and subjects between the ages of 18 to 25 years (59%). The most common reason for a nonconsensual stop was drug and/or alcohol involvement (23.7%), followed by suspicious person or vehicle (15.5%). The most common actions taken to resolve nonconsensual stops were advisements of university policy or statute (21.8%), student conduct referrals (19.7%), and sent on way (15.3%). 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 or a transport to other services. 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 disparity exists for arrests. Of stops involving black individuals they were arrested in 9% whereas Whites and other minorities comprised 13% and 20% of arrests as outcomes, respectively. Less than half of the arrest resulted from officer-initiated actions.

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>.