



NEW 2025 DATA CONFIRMS SYSTEMIC, LONG-TERM RACIAL & ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN POLICING

THIS BRIEFING LAYS OUT THE ARREST, REFERRAL, TRAFFIC-STOP, AND USE-OF-FORCE EVIDENCE GATHERED BY PATF-HOCO — AND THE ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES HOWARD COUNTY SHOULD ADOPT IN RESPONSE.

Prepared by PATF-HoCo: August 26, 2026 **(UPDATED)**

THE EVIDENCE • THE FINDINGS • A CALL FOR ACTION

Findings and recommendations from the Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (PATF-HoCo)

NEW 2025 DATA CONFIRMS A SYSTEMIC MULTI-YEAR PATTERN



At the request of the Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (PATF-HoCo), HCPD and public data sources provided racial and ethnic demographic data across arrests, referrals, traffic stops, and use of force. The sources cover different periods — arrests and referrals (2022–2025), traffic stops (2020–2024), and newly published use of force (2025) — yet all of them point to the same conclusion: **the racial and ethnic disparities in Howard County policing are systemic and ongoing, not a one-time anomaly.**

BLACK SHARE OF COUNTY POPULATION

~20%

Yet Black people are over half of all arrests and referrals every year, 4 in 10 traffic stops, and 63% of 2025 use-of-force incidents.

HISPANIC SHARE OF COUNTY POPULATION

~8%

Yet a rising, disproportionate share of arrests, referrals, and traffic stops through 2025.

YEARS WITH THE SAME PATTERN

4 of 4

Arrests, referrals, traffic stops, and use of force all show the same disparity across different years.

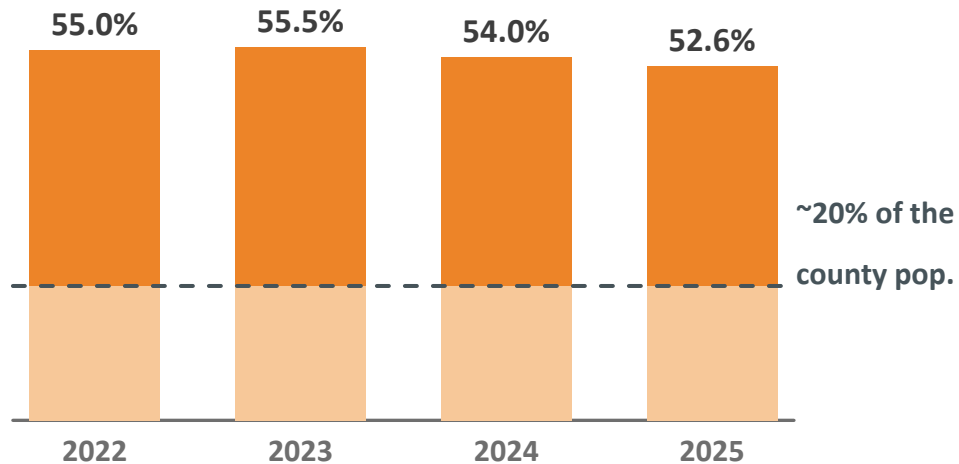
In this deck: adult and juvenile arrests and referrals (2022–2025), plus supplemental traffic-stop (2020–2024) and 2025 use-of-force evidence.

ADULT ARRESTS: DISPROPORTIONATE FOR BLACK AND HISPANIC PEOPLE



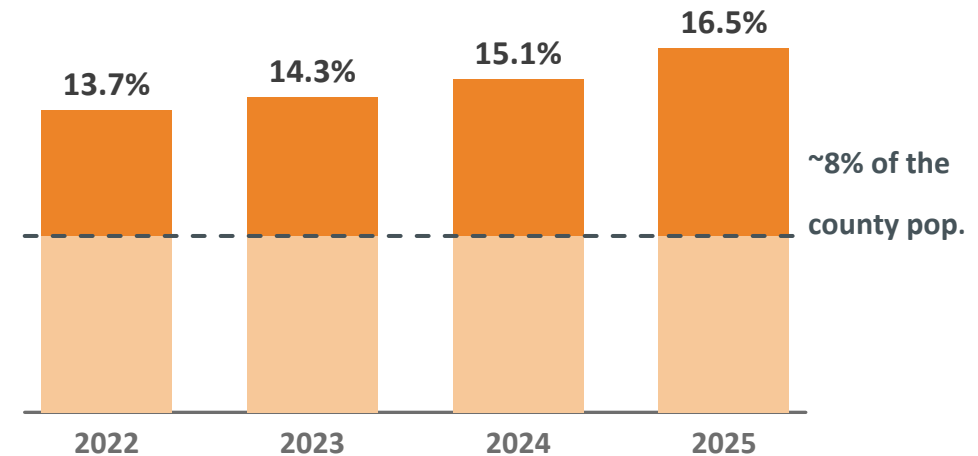
BY RACE — BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

Black share of adult arrests



BY ETHNICITY — HISPANIC

Hispanic share of adult arrests



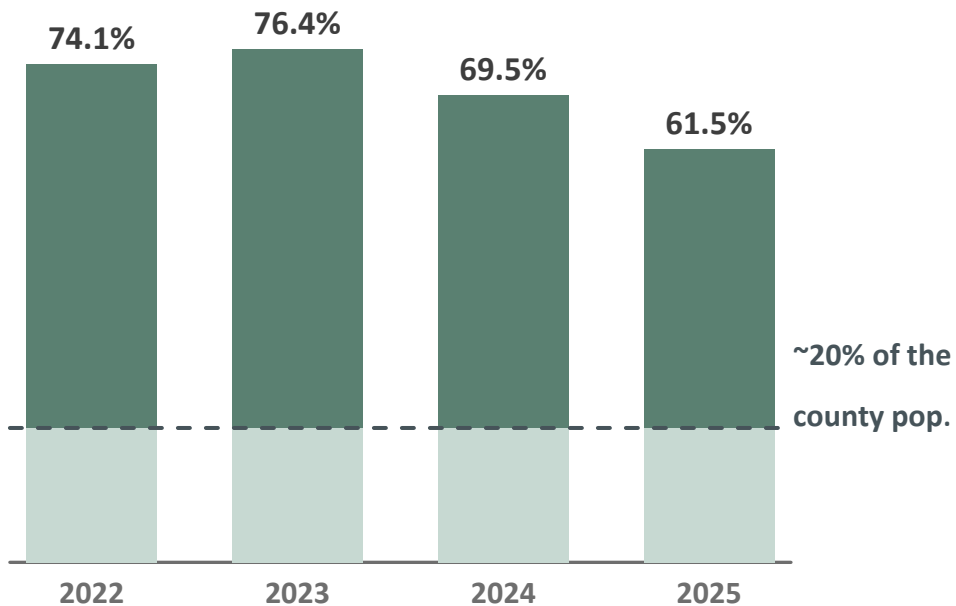
Black people (~20% of the county) are over half of adult arrests every year; Hispanic people (~8%) are arrested at roughly twice their population share.

JUVENILE ARRESTS: THE SAME DISPARITY AMONG YOUTH



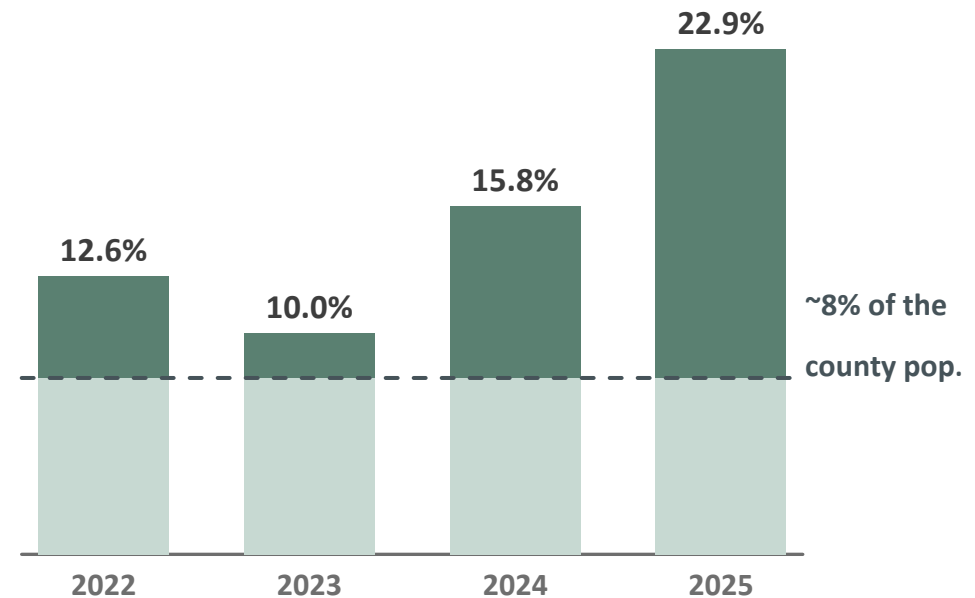
BY RACE — BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

Black share of juvenile arrests



BY ETHNICITY — HISPANIC

Hispanic share of juvenile arrests



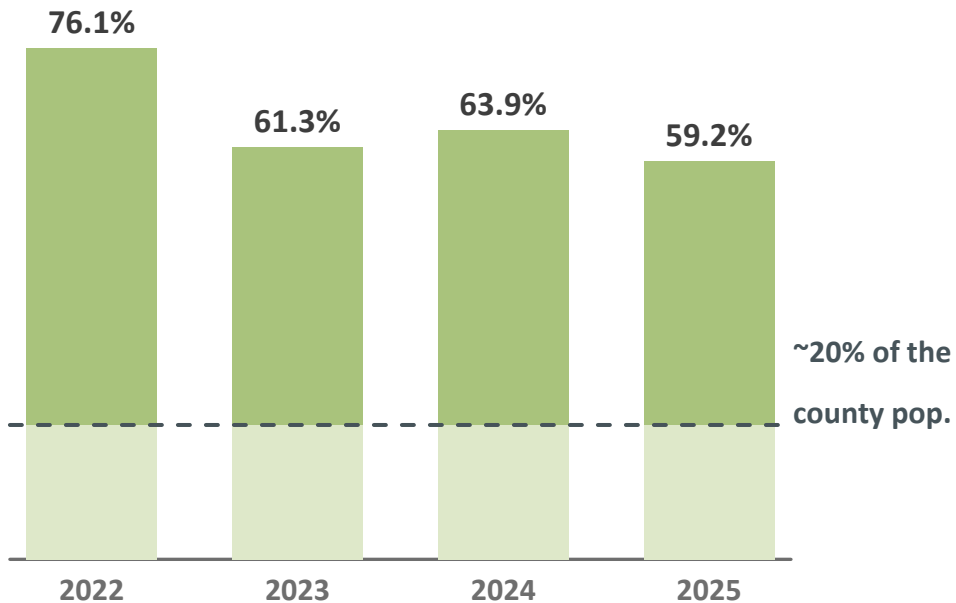
Black youth (~20% of the county) are a majority of juvenile arrests; Hispanic youth (~8%) climb to nearly three times their population share by 2025.

JUVENILE REFERRALS: THE DISPARITY EXTENDS TO REFERRALS



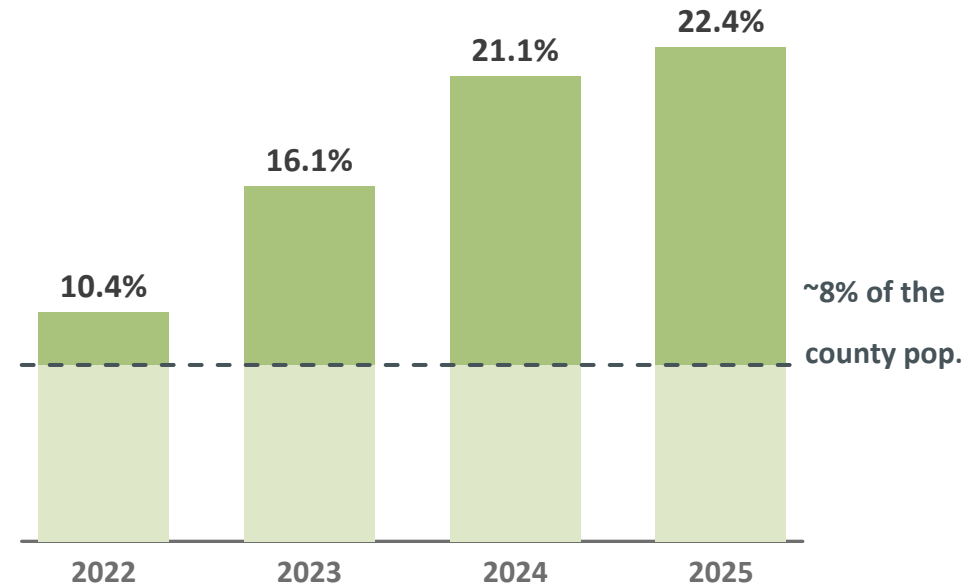
BY RACE — BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

Black share of juvenile referrals



BY ETHNICITY — HISPANIC

Hispanic share of juvenile referrals



The same pattern holds for referrals: Black youth remain near 60% or more each year, and Hispanic youth rise to about three times their ~8% population share.

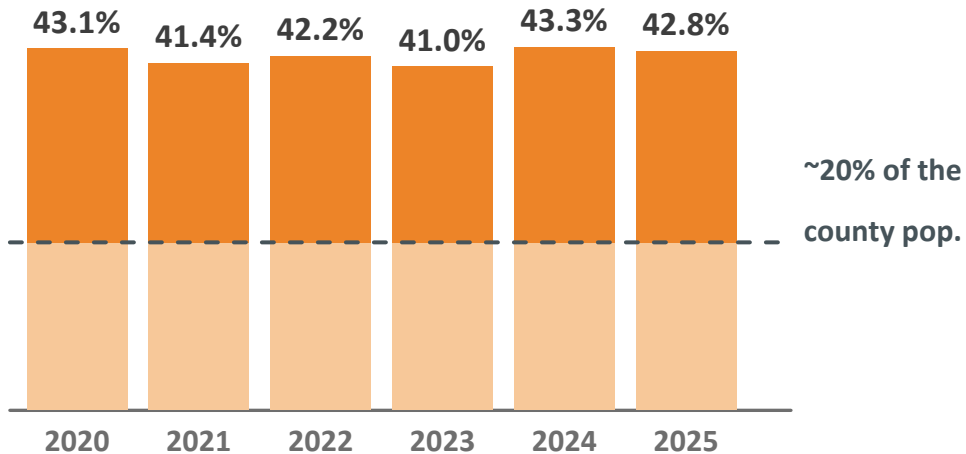
TRAFFIC STOPS: THE SAME DISPARITY (A DIFFERENT SOURCE)



SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING EVIDENCE — HCPD TRAFFIC STOPS, 2020–2025

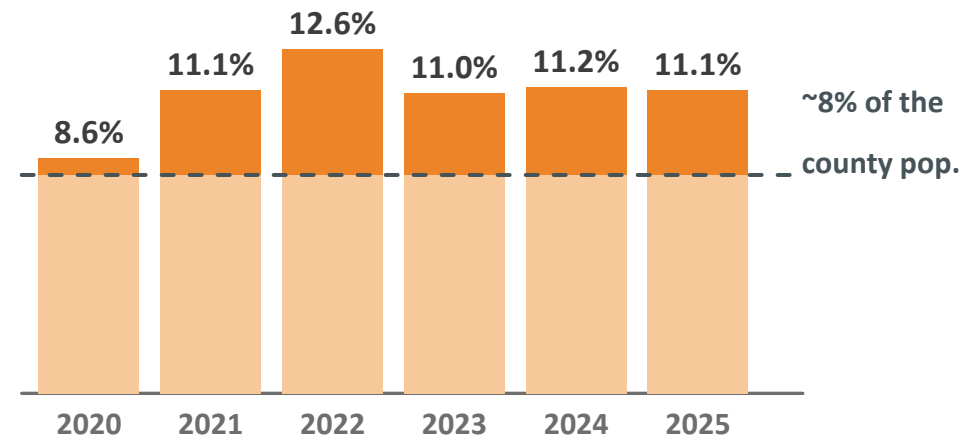
BY RACE — BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

Black share of HCPD traffic stops



BY ETHNICITY — HISPANIC

Hispanic share of HCPD traffic stops



Black drivers are ~2x their population share of HCPD traffic stops and Hispanic drivers are stopped above their ~8% share every year — the same pattern seen in arrests and referrals.

Source: HCPD traffic-stop data. 2020–2024 figures from the Maryland Race-Based Traffic Stop Dashboard; 2025 figures from the HCPD Reportable Traffic Stops Dashboard, as the statewide dashboard does not yet publish 2025 data. Black traffic stops excludes Black Hispanics; Hispanic includes all races. Population share per Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning (Research Report Issue 27, Sept. 2021).

USE OF FORCE (2025): THE SAME RACIAL DISPARITY



SUPPLEMENTAL SUPPORTING EVIDENCE — NEW 2025 DATA ELEMENT ON THE HCPD PORTAL ⁽¹⁾

BY RACE — BLACK / AFRICAN AMERICAN

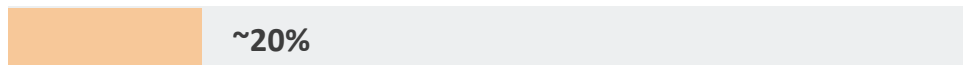
62.8%

of all 2025 HCPD use-of-force incidents involved Black / African American people — who are only ~20% of the county population.

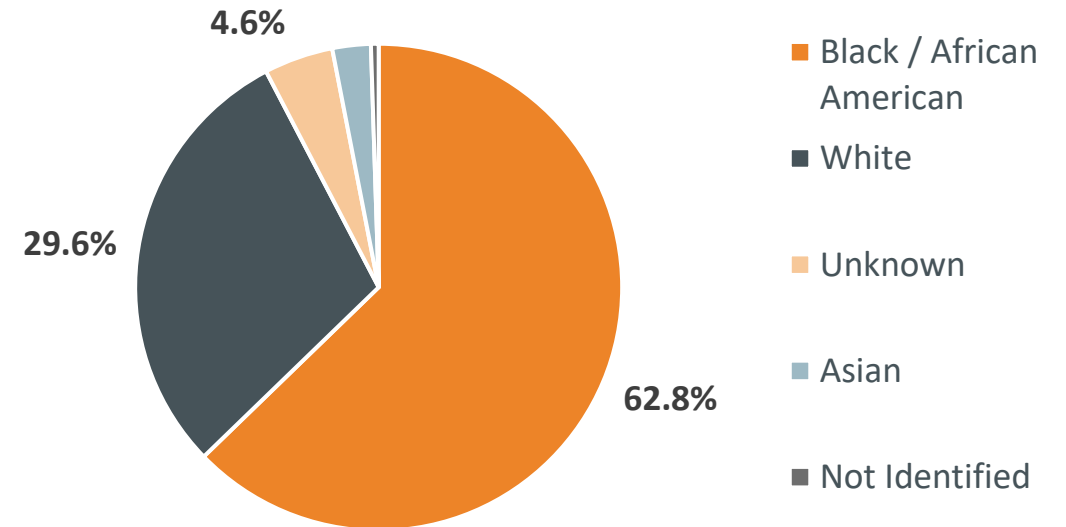
Share of 2025 use-of-force incidents



Share of county population



2025 USE-OF-FORCE INCIDENTS BY RACE (n = 196)



Black 123 · White 58 · Unknown 9 · Asian 5 · Not Identified 1

⁽¹⁾ New in 2025: HCPD added use-of-force data to its public portal — a transparency step PATF-HoCo welcomes. One year (2025) data is available, the portal reports use of force by race only, ethnicity / Hispanic data not available yet.

African Americans are ~20% of Howard County but 62.8% of 2025 use-of-force incidents — the same systemic racial disparity documented in arrests, referrals, and traffic stops.

THE CASE FOR ACTION IS CLEAR — AND URGENT



These disparities are systemic and ongoing. **Every year without action prolongs significant and measurable harm to Howard County’s African American and Hispanic communities.** Across arrests, referrals, traffic stops, and use of force, the evidence points one way. The Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (PATF-HoCo) calls for two steps now.

1 Publish the Data — Annually

HCPD’s addition of use-of-force data to its portal is a welcome step, but continued access to public data should not depend on changing leadership priorities or voluntary disclosure. **Howard County should enact legislation requiring annual publication of racial and ethnic data on arrests, citations, referrals, traffic stops, and use of force—using a consistent, clearly defined methodology and format.** Until then, residents may remain dependent on repeated MPIO requests to obtain important information that is not routinely published.

2 Commission an Independent Study

County leadership should **engage a qualified third-party expert** to analyze the data, identify the drivers of these disparities, and deliver actionable recommendations to the community, county leadership, and law enforcement.

The pattern is clear across every source and year. Acting now is what turns this data into progress — and prevents further harm.



Ordinary residents
advancing transparency
and accountability in local
policing and public safety.

CONNECT WITH US
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ABOUT US

George Floyd's murder brought the Police Accountability Task Force of Howard County (PATF-HoCo) together in 2020. We are **ordinary residents who chose to act—not just observe**—to advance transparency and accountability in policing and public safety right here in our own neighborhoods.

From Concern to Action

PATF-HoCo turns community concern into action through research, education, public engagement, and advocacy. Our work includes promoting equitable and transparent practices among Howard County law enforcement agencies and encouraging County leaders to strengthen public accountability. We also monitor the Police Accountability Board and advocate for it to fully carry out the statutory responsibilities it was established to fulfill. Through these efforts, **we seek to raise awareness, encourage community involvement, and contribute to meaningful, lasting change.**

Community-Powered Change

Our many coalition partners strengthen and support our efforts for transparency and accountability in local policing. **We invite others to act when they see inequity**—whether in policing, immigration, education, poverty, access to affordable quality health care, or other local concerns. **Ordinary residents, united around facts and shared purpose, can create meaningful change.**

ACTS

Acknowledge inequity. Confirm the facts. Team up with others. Step up and act.