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RACIAL PROFILING:
PATROL EXPERIENCE

1) Number of vehicle stops

-Reducing number of African American/Latino stops

“If there is any hesitation, (to make a car stop) it’s because of racial profiling. They don’t want their statistics to look like they are stopping a lot of Hispanics.” (Police Officer)

2) Failure to report/altering statistics

“Some officers are actually keeping tabs on how many Hispanics, blacks, etc. they stop. I have seen officers check the ‘white male’ box if the Hispanic doesn’t have a Spanish surname, and the officer will say, ‘oh, that guy looked white.’” (Police Officer)

3) Accusations of discrimination

“Now they are jumping on the bandwagon. We are getting to the point where we will stop them and they will say, ‘well you’re just pulling me over because I’m Mexican.’ See, now they have learned the system.” (Sergeant)

“Here I have someone who is illegal and he’s calling me prejudiced and doesn’t even belong here! He has the same rights and a lot of times more rights than me. And that really frustrates me. Once they come over here and learn the system, they really work it.” (Patrol Officer)

4) Population as a baseline is inaccurate

-Perception that many Latinos are undocumented which affects true population (census)

-Latino residential/work mobility alters population

5) Night-shift officers cannot visibly determine driver race or ethnicity (before stop)

6) Disproportionate traffic offenses (license, registration)

“Like license plates...they would come here from Mexico and they would be given 2 license plates, but nobody ever explained to them that they go on the front and the back of the car, so they would put them on 2 cars.” (Community Leader)

RACIAL PROFILING:
LATINO EXPERIENCE

1) Language barrier

- Latino drivers unable to ask about stops/searches, etc.
- both officers and Latinos become frustrated

- Confused about issued tickets/summonses

- No recourse to dispute tickets/summonses

“Because they cannot speak English, they are afraid no one will understand.”
(Latino resident)

- Officers unable to conduct thorough criminal investigations
- Accusing the wrong person

2) Stopped because they were Latino

“When the police see that they are Mexican, they stop them, they check their car.”
(Latino resident)

3) Searched/handcuffed because they were Latino

4) Not likely to complain about the police

“If they call the police department, the police are not going to do anything about it. They don’t believe that the police department is going to do anything against another officer.” (Latino resident)

COMMUNICATING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT ON RACIAL PROFILING

- ✍ Establish trust between Latinos and law enforcement

- ✍ Share experiences with law enforcement
 - Latino representatives/leaders/liaisons
 - “Meet in the middle”
 - Complaint process

- ✍ Task forces-combination of Latino residents/leaders and law enforcement

- ✍ Access to Racial Profiling Statistics/reports

- ✍ Access to bilingual material
 - MO driver’s license manuals
 - city ordinances/statutes

- ✍ “Welcome to our town” (i.e. Marshalltown, IA)

- ✍ Outreach