



SPEAKING TRUTH. SEEKING JUSTICE.

Years of research, interviews, and study have shown that Iowa has a problem with racially-biased policing. Just Voices is an initiative to raise victim's voices, speak their truth, and seek justice.

FACT SHEET: Data Collection from DMPD

The collection of data related to the Des Moines Police Department: What is supposed to be available

Since the fall of 2017, a series of document requests have been made to the Des Moines Police Department. What follows is a description of records that are to be maintained by the department, or some other agency, and the source from which the records may be obtained.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT)

The Iowa DOT maintains records on citations issued by all police departments in the State of Iowa that utilize the TRACS system for recording traffic stops and preparing citations. The records that are contained in this website from the DOT are for the Des Moines Police Department for the period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2019. (108,156 records). These records are also retained by the Des Moines Police Department and include the geo-location information on all citations that are issued by the department. (88,402 geographic ECCO records)

Polk County Sherriff

The Polk County Sheriff's office maintains records on all bookings. The records that are contained in this website are for bookings initiated by the Des Moines Police Department for the period from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2019. (92,247 records)

State of Iowa Data Warehouse

The State of Iowa Data Warehouse maintains records on the disposition of all cases in all District Courts for the State of Iowa. We have obtained records from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2018. (100,167 records). These records have not been utilized in the charts created for the website.

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The Des Moines Police Department (DMPD)

The Des Moines Police Department utilizes audio and video recording in police vehicles as well as body cameras on all officers on patrol. The availability of these records and information is limited.

The Des Moines Police Department collects and maintains incident reports. The availability of this information is also limited.

The Des Moines Police Department maintains daily detailed records on the activities of the Special Enforcement Team. This team operates from April through September of each year.

Des Moines City Council Mandate

On June 22nd, 2020, The Des Moines City Council mandated, by ordinance, that the Des Moines Police Department publish, online, its Manual on Policies and Procedures. This has not yet been done.

In theory, this means that a record should have been created during each stop by a Des Moines police officer. The exact nature of a record from any “stop” will vary depending upon the exact circumstances of the stop.

For any stop where the officer exits the car there should be a “log” maintained by the department of the stop. This will be recorded when the officer calls in from the car to the dispatcher. The audio recording of the contact is to be retained for 90 days and then, barring a reason to keep it, is destroyed. This record is not retained in any written or computer form unless some form of incident report is prepared regarding the stop – or there is a citation or arrest. The metadata stored is also supposed to include GPS information. Trip logs are to be maintained for a period of 6 months.

For more information on our data findings, go to www.justvoices.org and visit the “Our Data” page.

**The disparity in policing in Des Moines is as different as
black and white.**