

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



# CONSENT SEARCH

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**

MARCH 26, 2026

Marc R. Yamada, Chief of Police



**PREPARED BY:  
THE POLICY AND PLANNING DIVISION**

# BACKGROUND

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Montgomery County Code Section 35-6A Community Policing requires the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) to maintain public datasets that include information on race, gender, age, and ethnicity for various data points, such as Field Interview Reports, Reasonable Suspicion Stops, and Traffic Stops.

In 2024, the MCPD created and implemented a software tool to better collect information on Consent Searches, Field Interview Reports, traffic, and investigative stops all in one application.

The new tracking application was launched on November 6, 2024. A six-month analysis was conducted, using data collected from November 6, 2024, through May 25, 2025, to analyze preliminary data and continue to enhance the application and data collection techniques.



## New App Implementation:

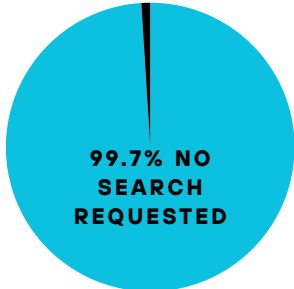
The new software app for collecting consent search data was incorporated into the Field Interview App on Departmental cell phones in November 2024. The new process was introduced to field officers through multiple means, including:

- **On-line Training:** A virtual training course provided instruction to officers on collecting data and information for Field Interview Reports, Reasonable Suspicion Stops, and traffic stops utilizing the new app in lieu of completing the old MCP Form 120. The training was initiated on 12/4/24
- **Updated Policy:** Function Code 0710, entitled Consent to Search Requests, issued 12/2/24
- **Informational Bulletin: IB 24-24,** entitled New App for Field Interviews Reports, Reasonable Suspicion Stops and Consent Searches, issued on 12/2/24
- **Updated guidance:** Training Bulletin TB0710, entitled Conducting and Documenting Consent Search Request, issued on 1/10/25.

The MCPD now has its first full year of data collected through the new application. The following report represents data collected for the calendar year 2025. This data summary only addresses consent searches that resulted from a traffic stop.

This report presents annual data and demographic information related to compliance with Montgomery County Code Section 35-6A.

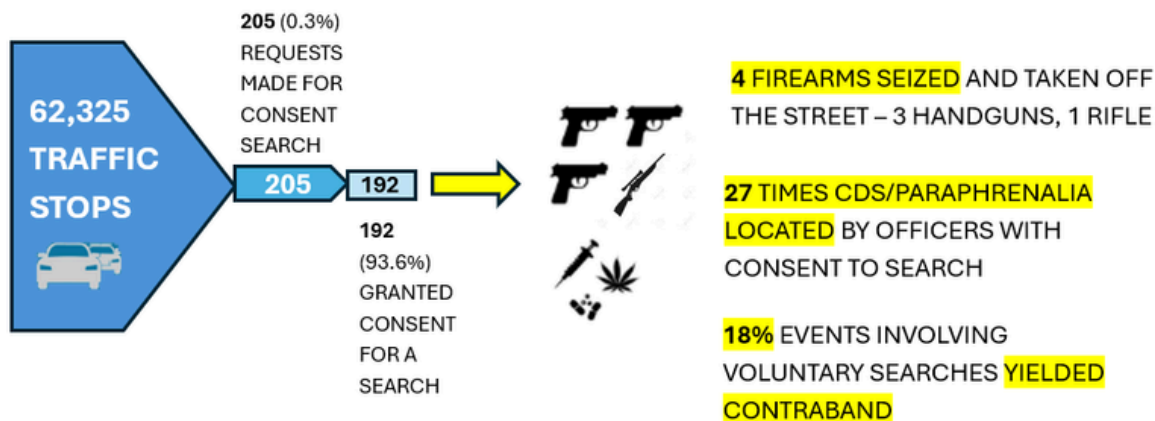
# ANALYSIS



Over 62,325 Traffic Stops were initiated during calendar year 2025, and 205 individuals were requested to give permission for a consent search after establishing reasonable articulable suspicion. This represents a request being made just 0.32% of the time.

There were 205 consent search reports filed, in which 7 (3%) were declined and 192 (94%) provided voluntary consent. Early on, six reports listed the consent acknowledgement as Not Applicable (NA). The original version of the consent search form included "NA" as an option if a search was not completed. As the MCPD closely monitored the implementation and responses, adjustments and enhancements were made. The "NA" option was removed.

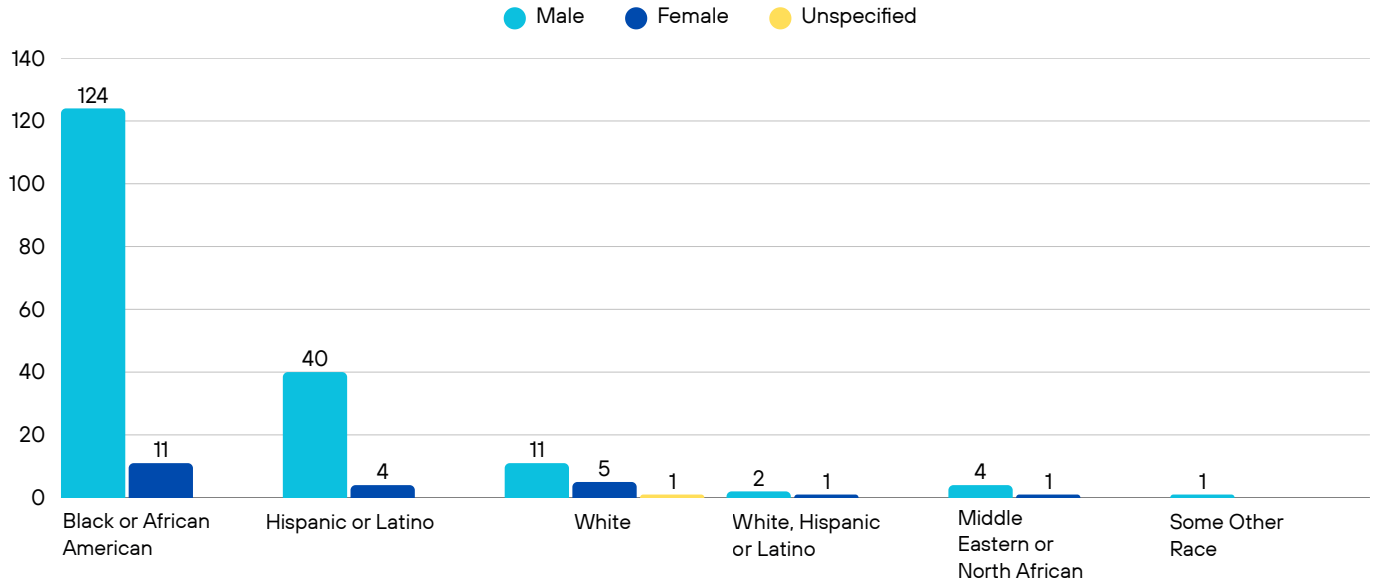
For the reporting period listed above, there were 203 unique individuals resulting in 205 completed reports. In two events, two officers searched the same person; one officer searched a vehicle while the other searched personal property. This resulted in two reports for the same person, thereby yielding a higher number of reports than individuals.



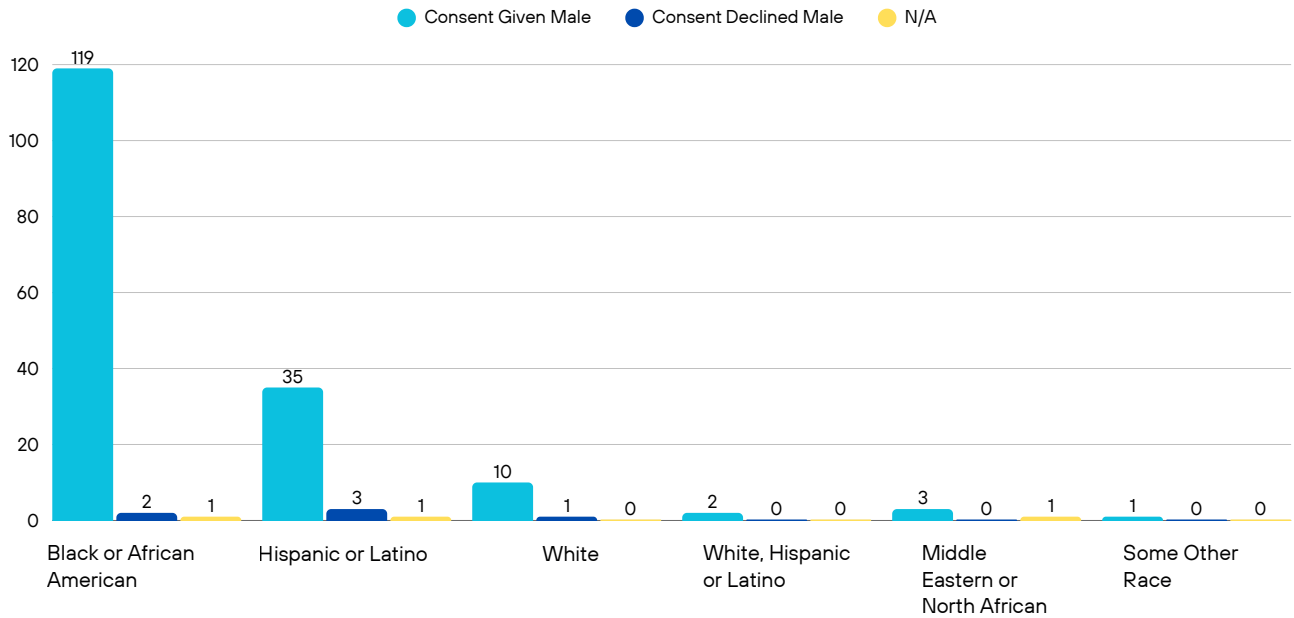
### Individuals Searched - Demographic Data

The following charts show the demographic information for the persons searched. The charts include all 205 individuals, including those who declined consent to search.

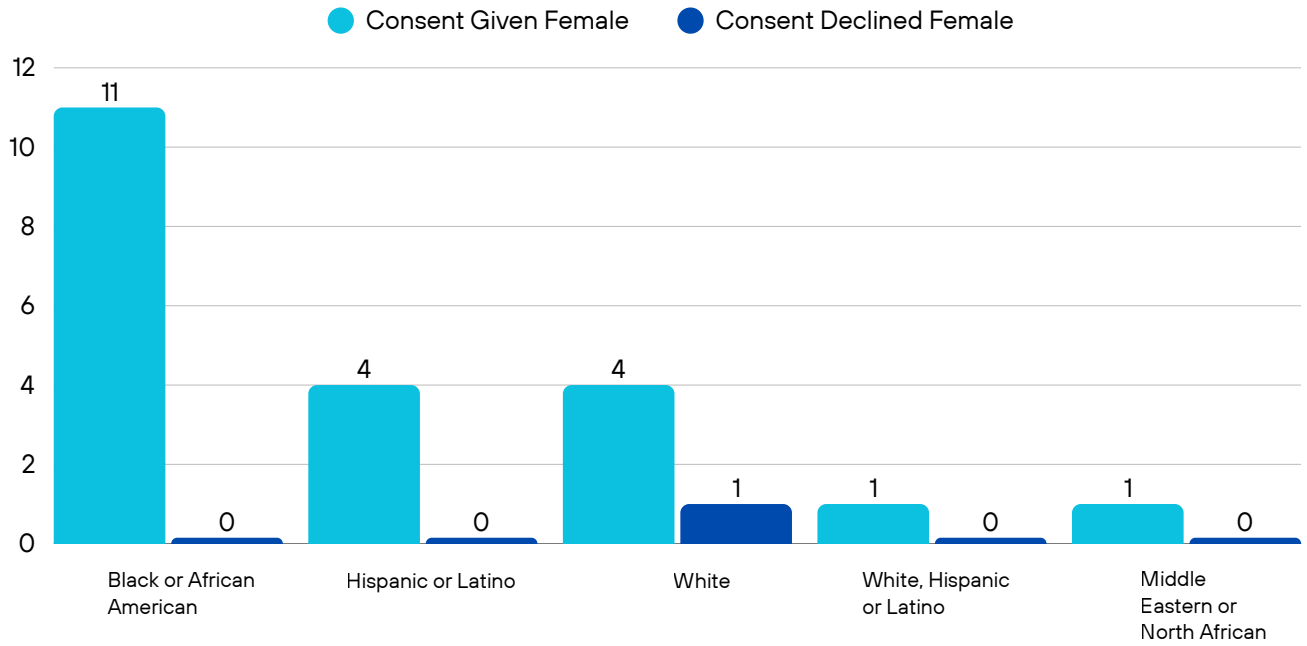
Race and Gender of Individuals From Whom Consent to Search Was Requested



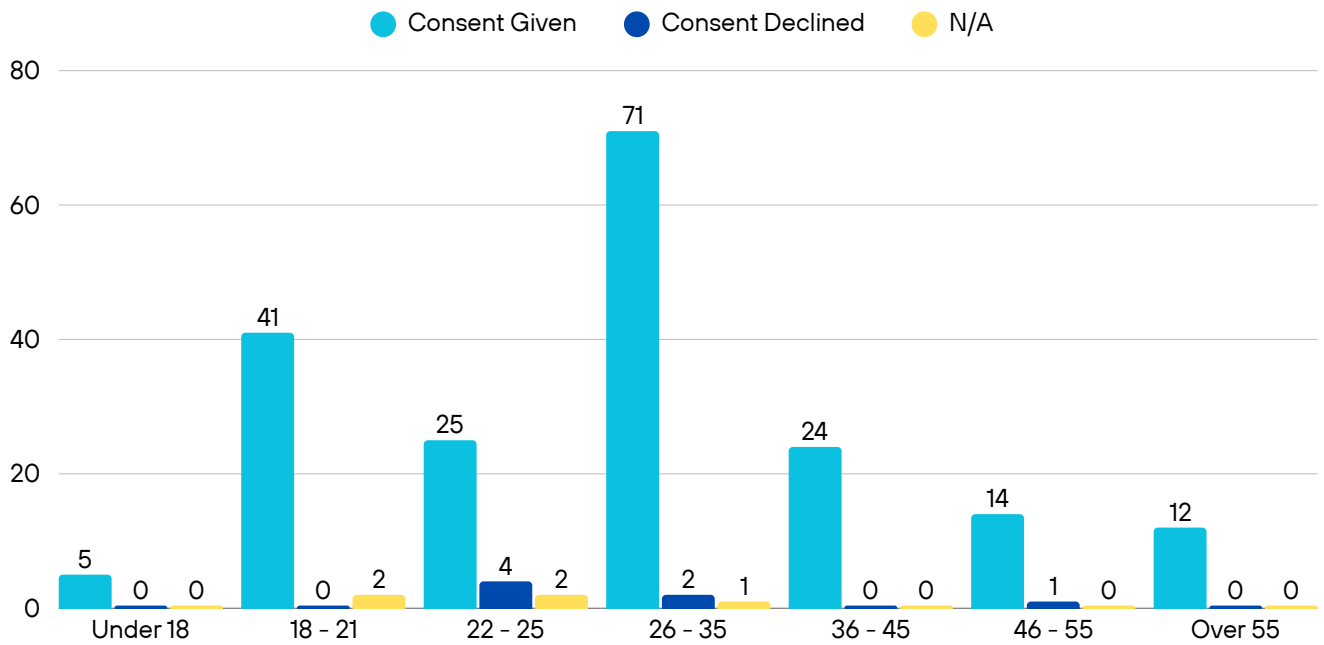
Race of Males From Whom Consent to Search Was Requested



### Race of Females From Whom Consent to Search Was Requested



### Age of Individuals From Whom Consent to Search Was Requested

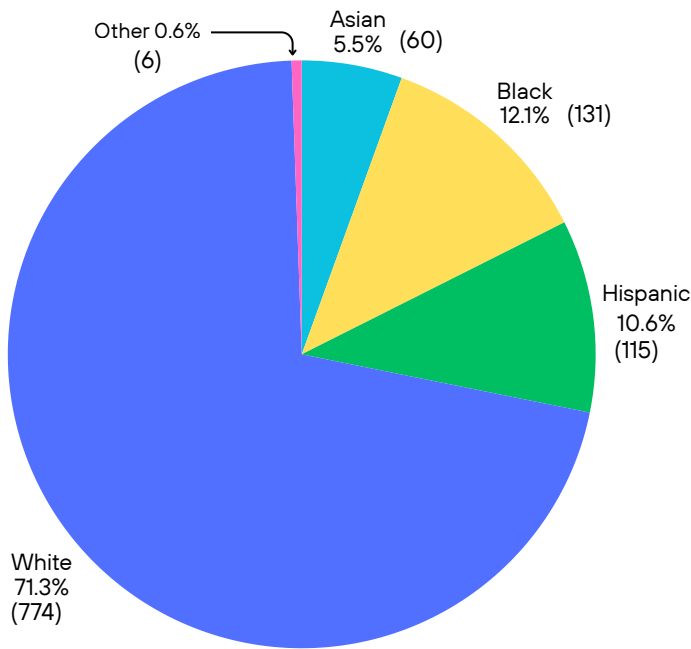


### Officer Data

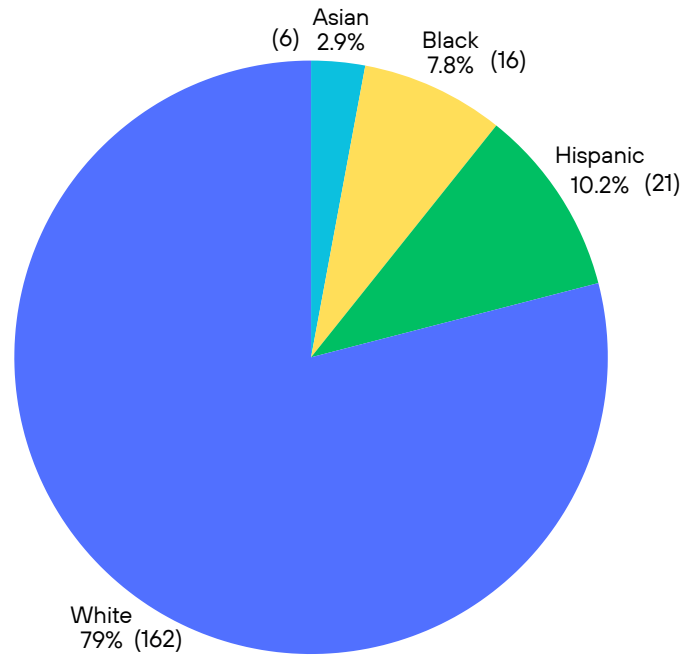
The data collection and review process allowed for the comparison of demographic data of all MCPD officers, officers utilizing consent searches, and individuals voluntarily agreeing to consent searches.

The demographic data on the officers of the MCPD is shown below, based on calendar year 2025 data.

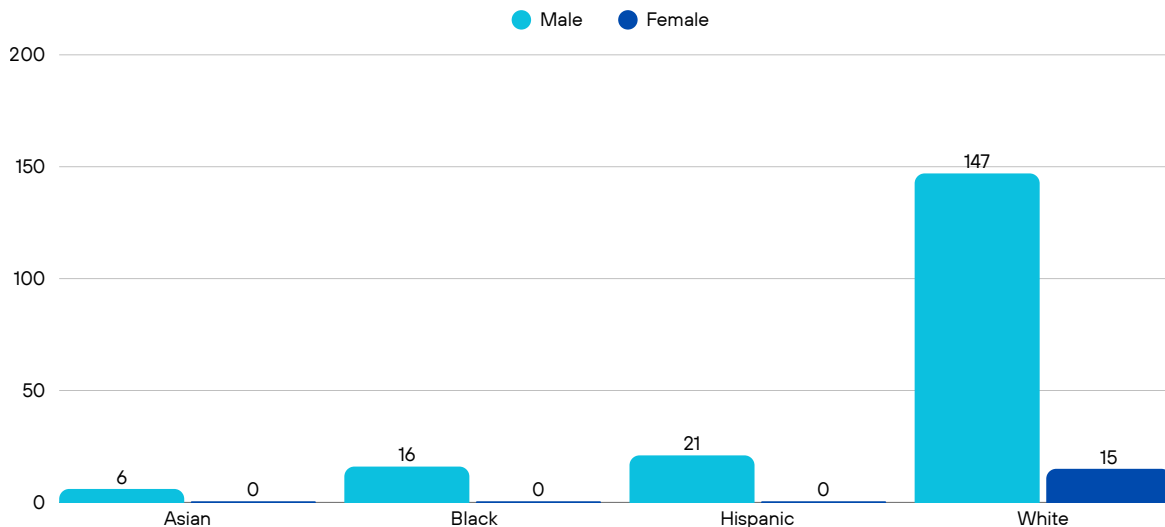
Race of MCPD Officers



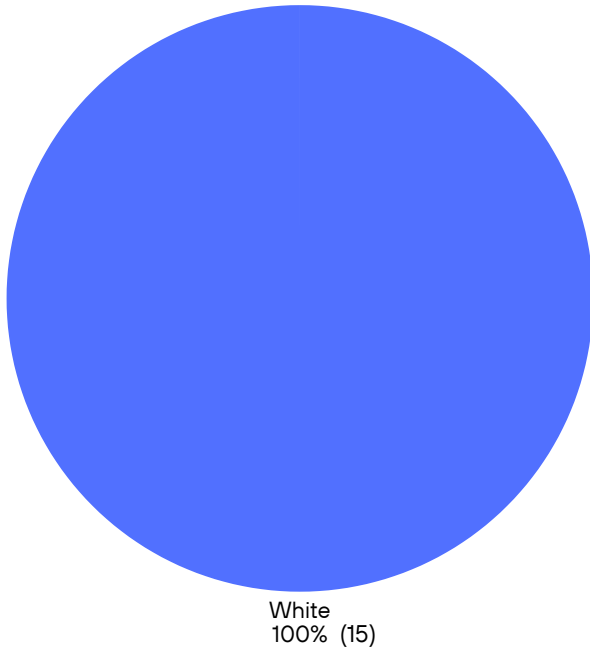
Race of Officers Engaging in Consent Searches



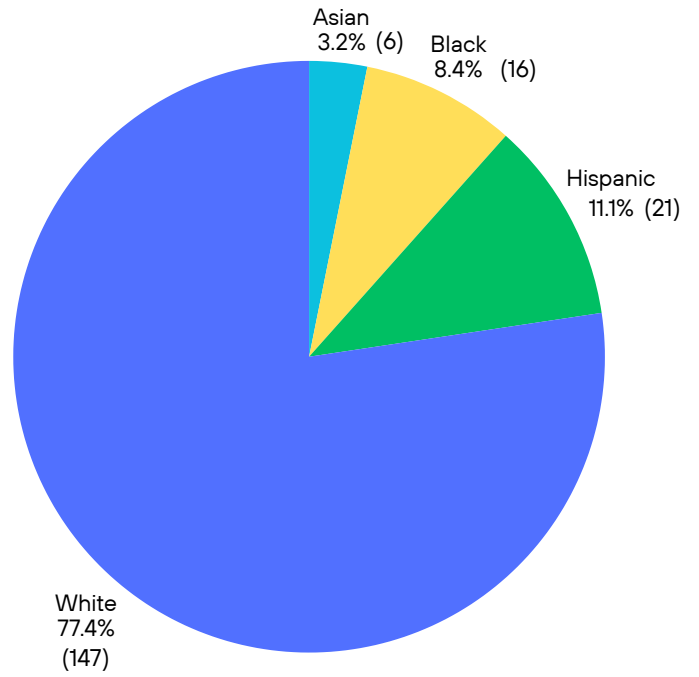
Race and Gender of Officers Engaging in Consent Searches



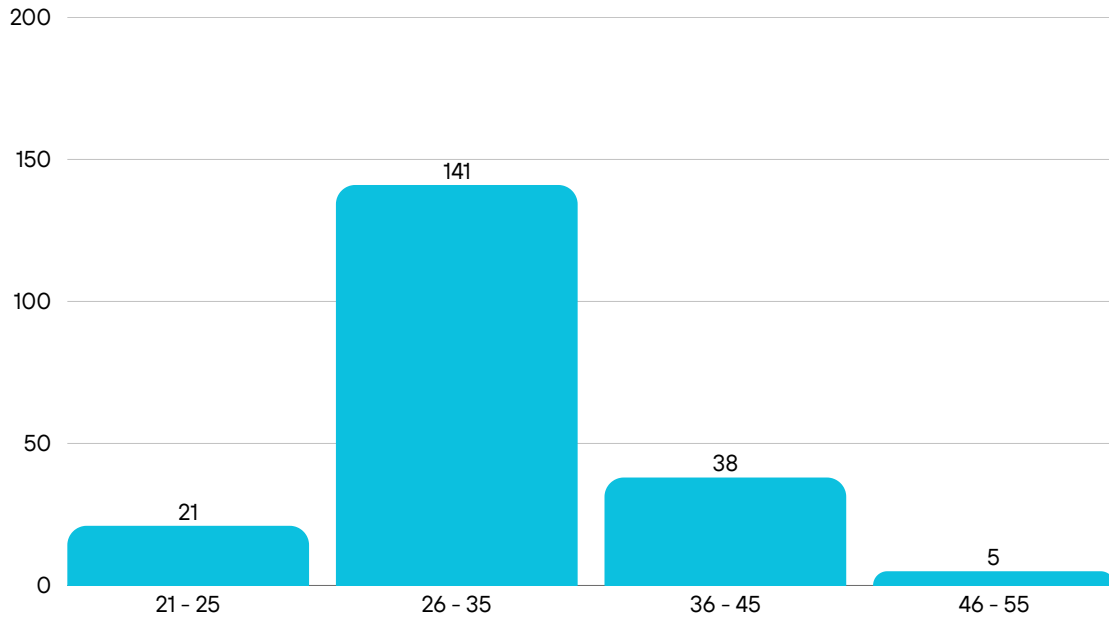
Race of Female Officers



Race of Male Officers

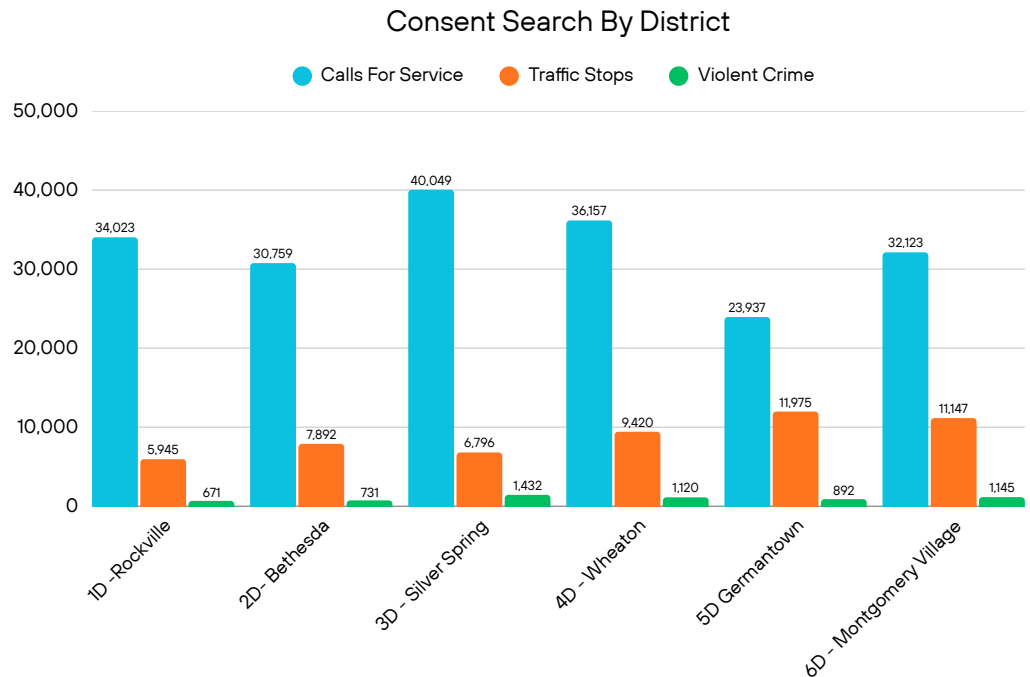
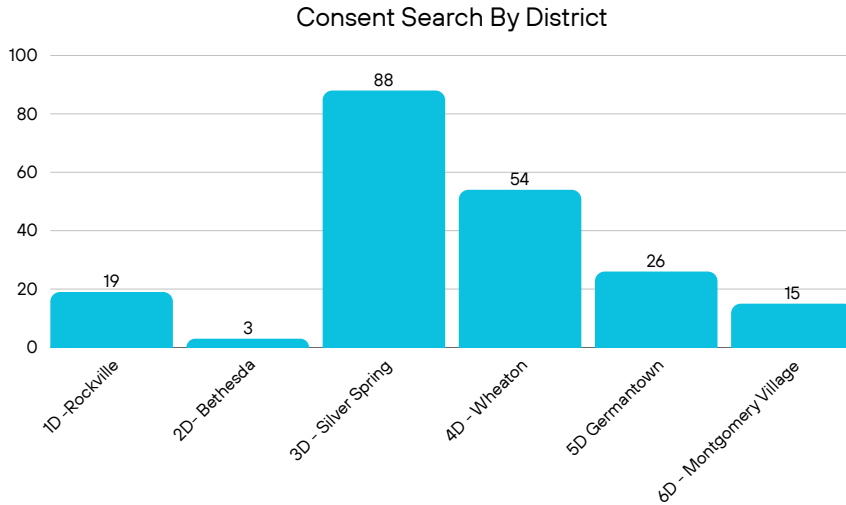


Age of Officers Engaging in Consent Searches



## District of Occurrence

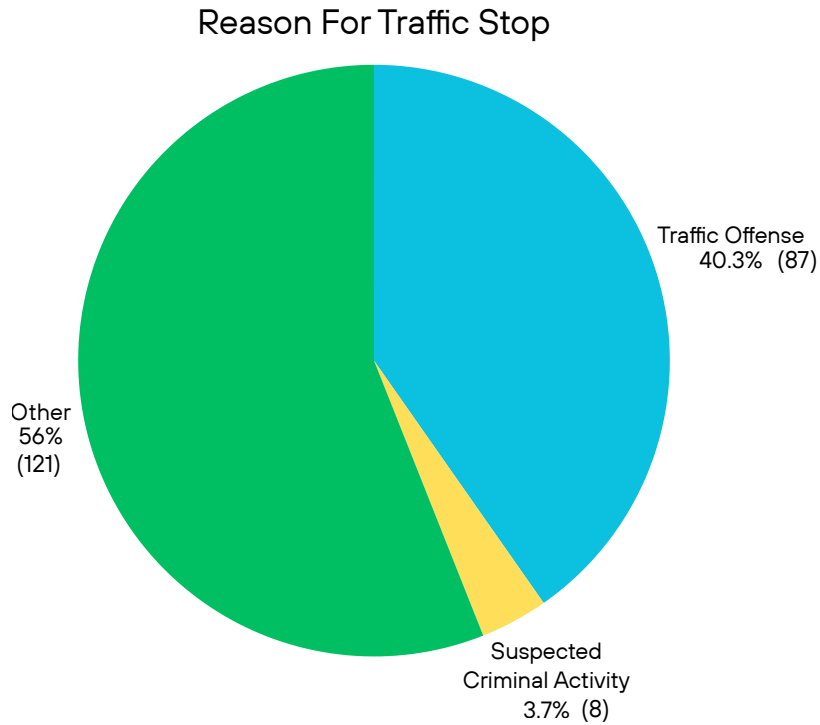
The 3rd and 4th Districts had the highest number of consent search reports, 43% and 26% respectively. This is consistent with the 3rd and 4th districts reporting the highest number of calls for service and crime rates within the county.



The traffic stop data shows the number of traffic stops conducted within each district boundary. There were 9,150 additional stops made. However, the location data for these stops showed that the stop occurred in another jurisdiction outside the county boundaries or did not have latitude and longitude coordinate data associated with the location.

## Reason For Traffic Stop

Traffic Offenses accounted for 40% (87) of traffic stops. Traffic Offenses can include speeding, running a red light, failure to stop at a stop sign, driving under the influence, among many others. Eight (4%) stops were made due to suspected criminal activity, including observed or suspected Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) transactions. The remaining traffic stops (56%) were made for other reasons, including suspended or expired registration, stolen vehicle tags, and multiple violations. Events involving multiple violations will result in a higher count of offenses than the number of stops.

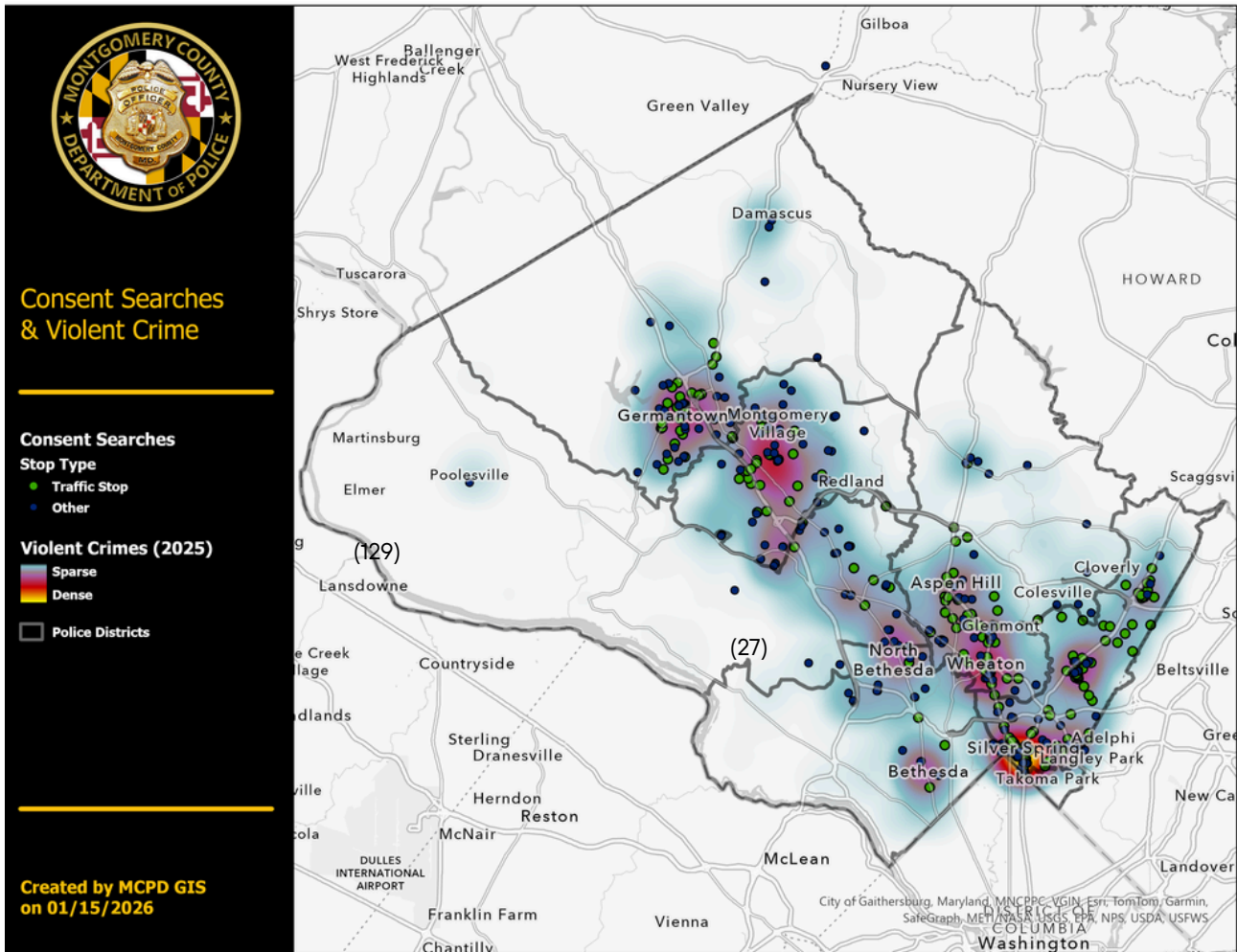


### Consent Search Outcomes

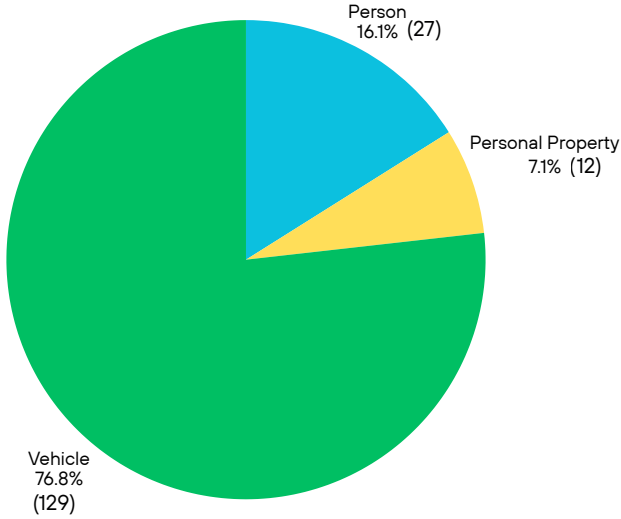
Consent to search was voluntarily given 192 times during this reporting period. Although an officer may request a search based on circumstances or conversations with the vehicle occupants, the officer may decide that a search is no longer needed. The total number of searches conducted was 168. Of the 168 searches, 129 (77%) vehicles were searched, 27 (16%) persons, and 12 (7%) personal property searches were conducted.

Of the 168 completed searches, 34 events (20%) resulted in the seizure of items: 27 seizures of CDS paraphernalia (not including cannabis), three handguns, one rifle, and three other items not considered contraband. Three handguns were in the possession of individuals who were prohibited from possessing firearms due to being under the age of 21. One weapon was determined to have been stolen on April 5, 2025, from Atlanta, Georgia. Subjects in all three events were arrested and charged with multiple handgun violations. The fourth weapon seized was a rifle also in the possession of a prohibited individual, due to prior criminal history. This individual was subsequently arrested.

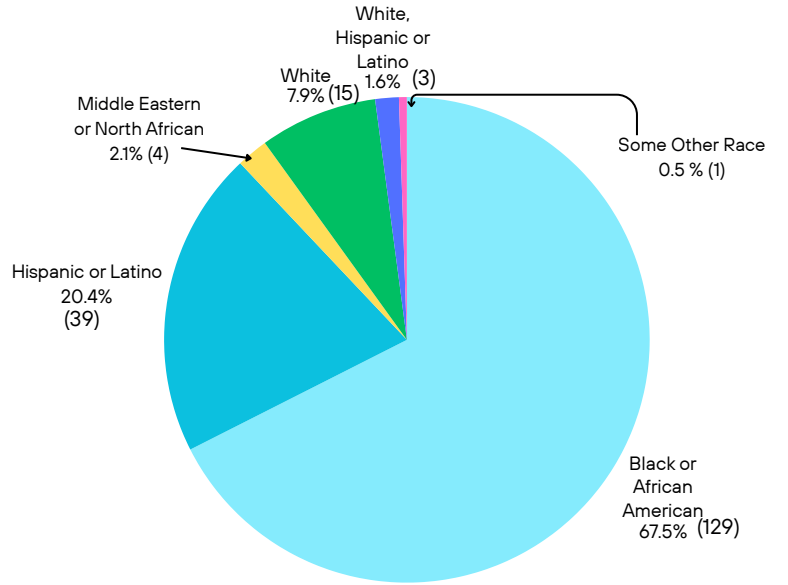
A cursory review revealed that consent searches appear to be frequently requested in areas with notable reports of violent crime.



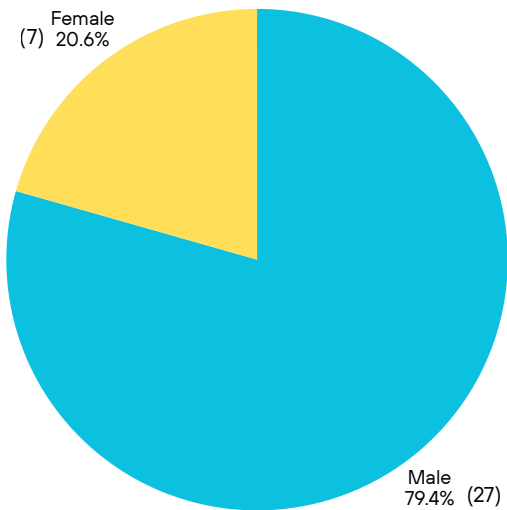
Consent Search Category



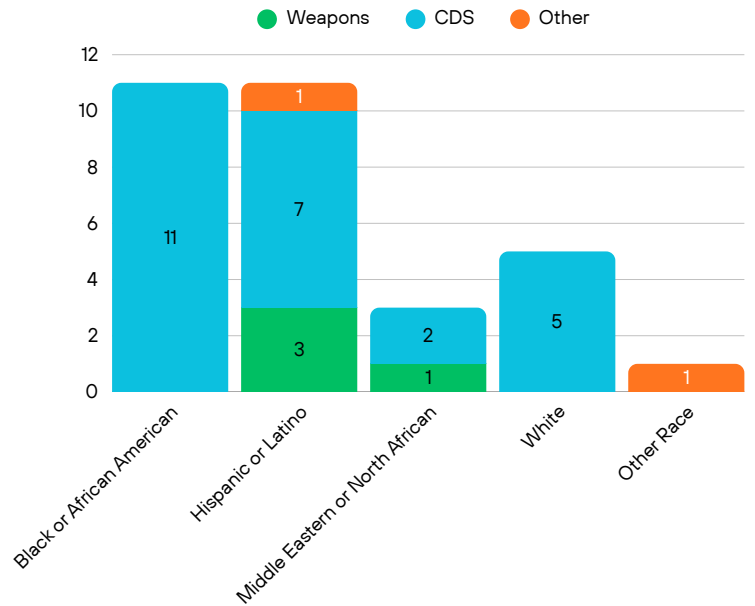
Race of Individuals Who Gave Consent to Search



Gender of Individuals From Whom Items Were Seized



Race of Individuals From Whom Items Were Seized and Type of Item Seized



## Summary

The MCPD Policy and Planning Division collaborated with the Patrol Services Bureau and the Information and Technology Management Division to design a streamlined multi-use data-collection mechanism. Feedback will continue to be evaluated to improve usability in the field and for analysis. This annual review is part of ongoing efforts to enhance and optimize the data collection and analysis process. As additional information is collected, a more in-depth analysis can be conducted, including year-to-year comparisons, trends, and other notable occurrences.

Starting in 2026, the Consent Search Annual Report will be incorporated into the Police Statistical Data Report, as consent search data and demographics are part of the data collection requirements of Montgomery County Code Section 35-6A.

This report was prepared by the MCPD MSB Policy & Planning Division with the assistance of the Information Management and Technology Division. Any questions or comments can be directed to [MCP.PolicyandPlanning@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:MCP.PolicyandPlanning@montgomerycountymd.gov).