

Referrals to School Resource Deputies in the Antelope Valley Union High School District

Dr. Jaime Hernandez
Chelsea Helena, NLSLA
July 31, 2023



EQUAL JUSTICE SOCIETY





WHO WE ARE

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Los Angeles County



Investigation into Various Compliance Complaints Against the Antelope Valley Union High School District

May 24, 2023

https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/system/files/file-attachments/May%202023%20AVUHSD%20Final%20Report_Hernandez.pdf

 Los Angeles Times

Antelope Valley racism history fuels suspicion of Fuller death



 Los Angeles Times

Sheriff's Department reform in Antelope Valley still lags



 WWNY

Video of school resource deputy body-slamming teenage girl sparks protest in Calif.



 Los Angeles Times

Video shows L.A. County sheriff's deputy striking man during DUI investigation



 ABC7

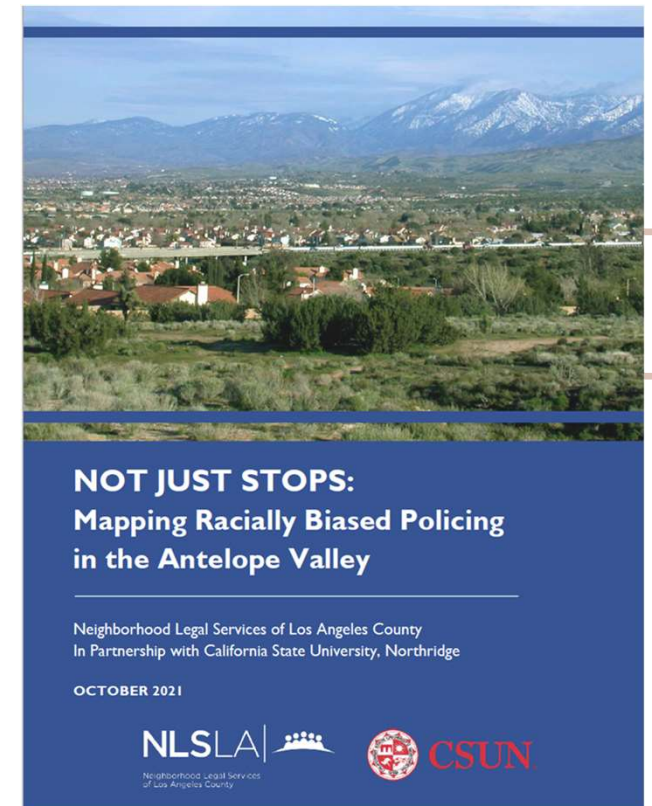
Antelope Valley Union High School District renews contract with LASD to keep school resource officers on campus

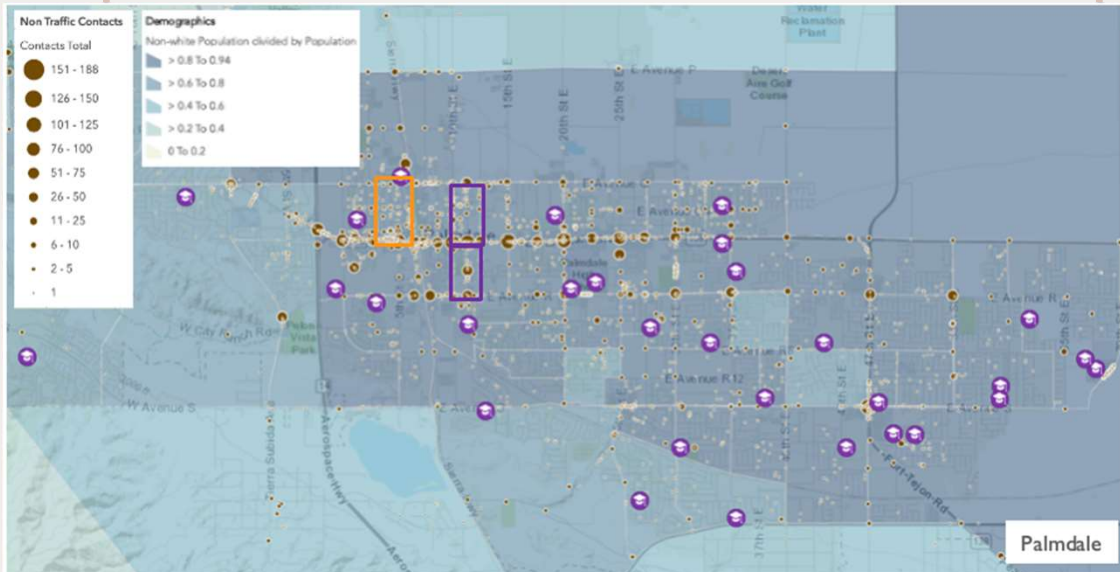
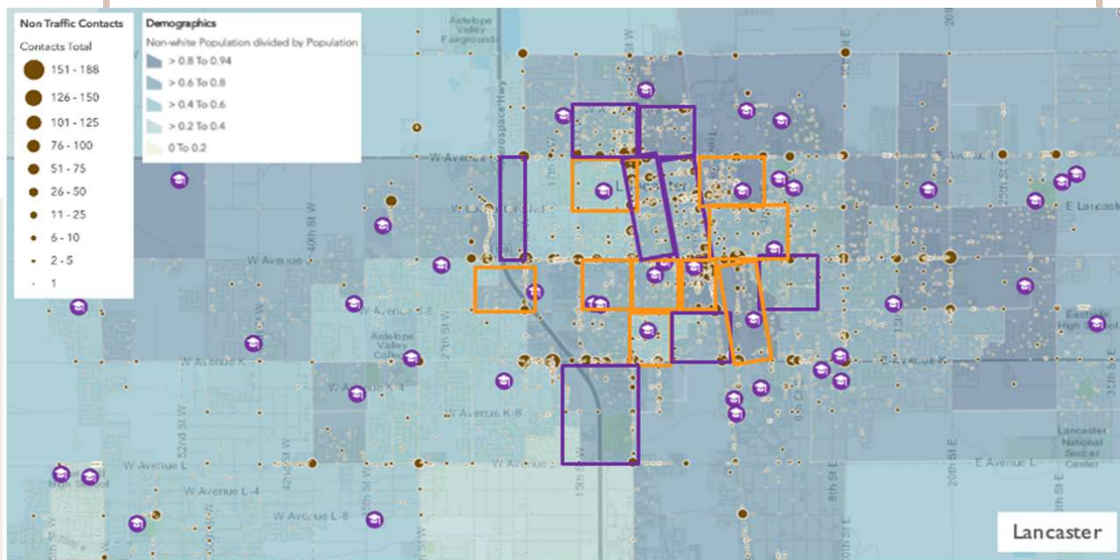




RACIAL BIAS AND POLICING IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY

https://nlsia.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Mapping-Racially-Biased-Policing-in-the-AV_compressed.pdf

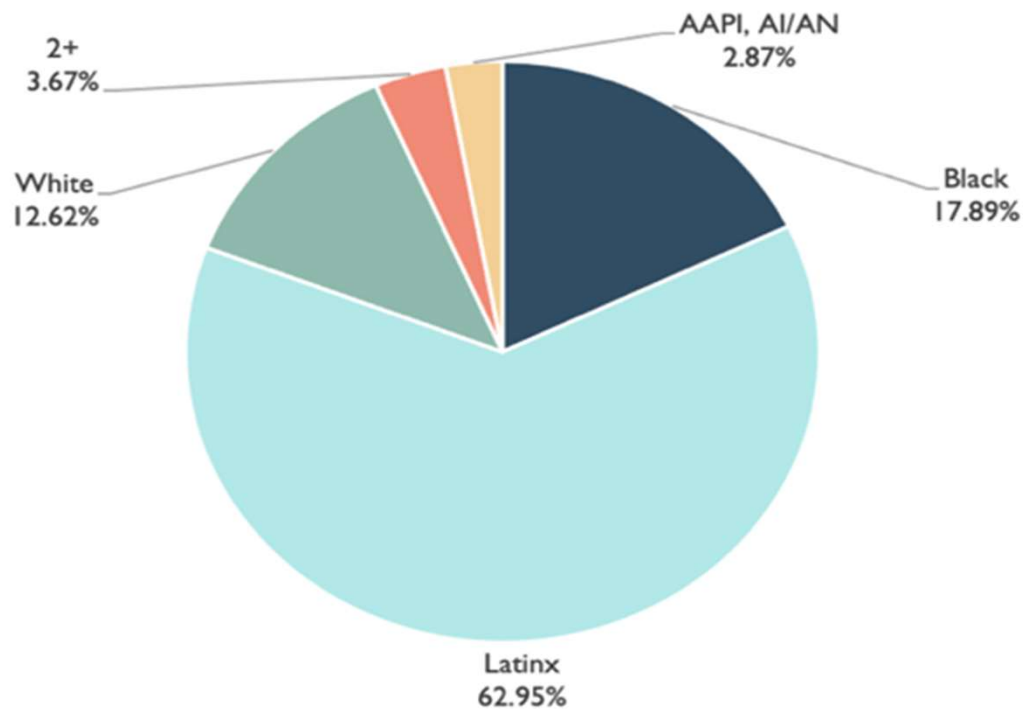




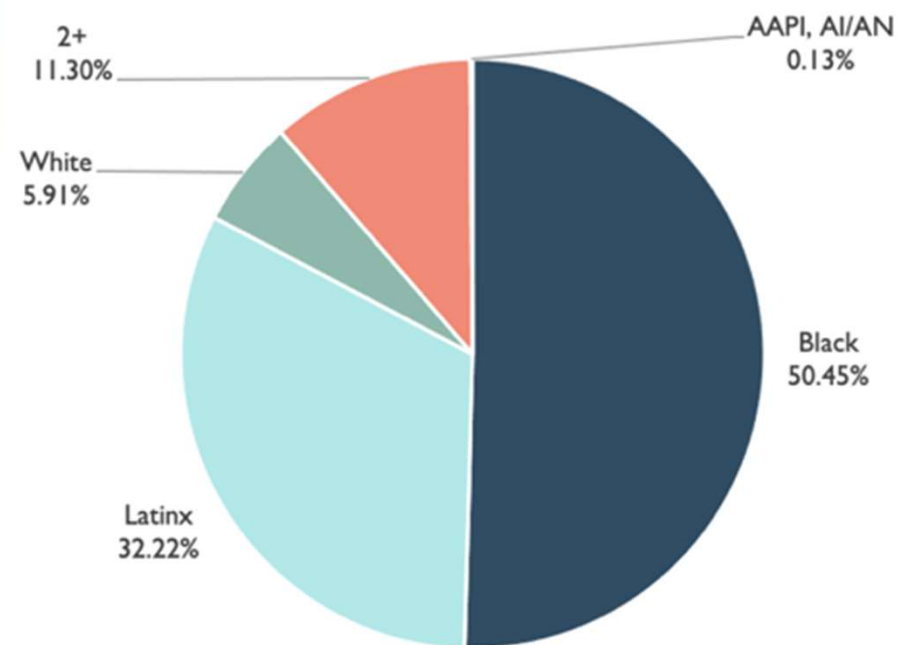
Of the 20 census blocks with the highest contact rates, nine border or contain K-12 schools.

LASD Contacts with K-12 Students

Lancaster and Palmdale K-12 Population by Race



LASD Stops by Race: K-12 Students



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Section 6. Policies, Procedures, and Practices Related to Referrals to Law Enforcement and Probation Officers, and Restraints, Searches, and Threat Assessments

Allegation 6.1: The District disproportionately refers SWDs and Black SWDs to LASD.

Allegation 6.2: The District empowers LASD to intervene in minor school discipline incidents.

Allegation 6.4: LASD disproportionately restrains and uses more force than necessary on SWDs and Black SWDs.

ALLEGATION 6.1: **FOUNDED**

The District disproportionately refers SWDs and Black SWDs to law enforcement, resulting in high rates of restraints, citations and arrests.

- SWDs are more than three times more likely to be referred to law enforcement than their non-disabled peers.
- Black SWDs make up 61.4% of all referrals to LASD.
- SWDs received 42.7% of arrests, a significant overrepresentation compared to their 17% share of total enrollment.

ALLEGATION 6.1: **FOUNDED**

The District disproportionately refers SWDs and Black SWDs to law enforcement, resulting in high rates of restraints, citations and arrests.

- Black SWDs received 55.6% of arrests given to special education students. Black non-disabled students received 37% of general education students arrested.
- Black SWDs make up 60% of students arrested into custody. Black nondisabled students account for 50%, both indicative of overrepresentation.
- Three of four restraints (76.5%) were carried out on Black SWDs.

ALLEGATION 6.2: **FOUNDED**

The District empowers LASD to intervene in minor school discipline incidents.

- The investigation found many instances of law enforcement referrals that resulted in the escalation of minor student misconduct to result in citations, restraints, and arrests.
- The high number of law enforcement referrals is indicative of a reliance on SROs for school disciplinary actions.

ALLEGATION 6.4: **FOUNDED**

LASD disproportionately restrains and uses more force than necessary on SWDs and Black SWDs.

- LASD and campus security restrained Black SWDs at much higher rates than SWDs from all other races/ethnicities. 76.5% of restraints were carried out on Black SWDs.
- No evidence of investigations into the use of force, including restraint on the part of the District or LASD.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation 11: Establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department that defines and limits the scope of SRO responsibilities and mandates relevant training, program evaluation, and an oversight mechanism.
 - MOU should:
 - Prohibit SROs from becoming involved with minor infractions and school discipline;
 - Require specialized training for SROs (adolescent development, trauma, implicit bias, crisis intervention for youth, alternatives to detention, protections afforded to SWDs);
 - Require oversight of LASD and data collection to ensure compliance with MOU.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendation 12: Prioritize positive behavioral supports, counseling, and mental health supports and services over campus security and SRO programs.
 - The data and research literature indicates that the current SRD programs are ineffective and perpetuate inequities against SWDs and Black students with and without disabilities.
 - In lieu of large campus security teams and full-day assignments of SROs at each comprehensive school, the District should consider increasing the numbers of mental health staff, special education teachers and aides, and reading specialists.

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