



Developing a Data-Driven Approach to Address Racial Profiling

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Brief History

1999

Connecticut enacts The Alvin W. Penn Racial Profiling Prohibition Act. (Public Act 99-198)

2012

Connecticut makes major reforms to the law.

2013

Requires all 107 police agencies to begin electronically collecting and reporting traffic stop data.

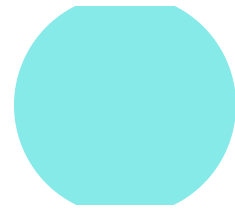
2015

First study was published.

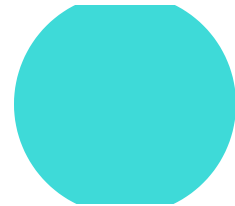
2016 -
PRESENT

6 statewide studies annually.

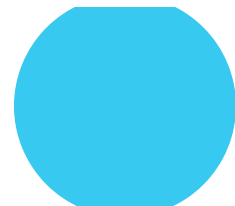
Why Traffic Stop Data?



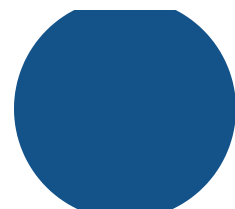
On average, Connecticut law enforcement agencies conduct approximately **550,000** traffic stops a year.



Traffic stops are the most common encounter police have with the public.



Issues of race and traffic stops brought to the forefront.



Over 4,000 law enforcement agencies collect data on the demographics of traffic stops.

Fundamental Questions to Address

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Do racial and ethnic **disparities** exist in traffic stops?

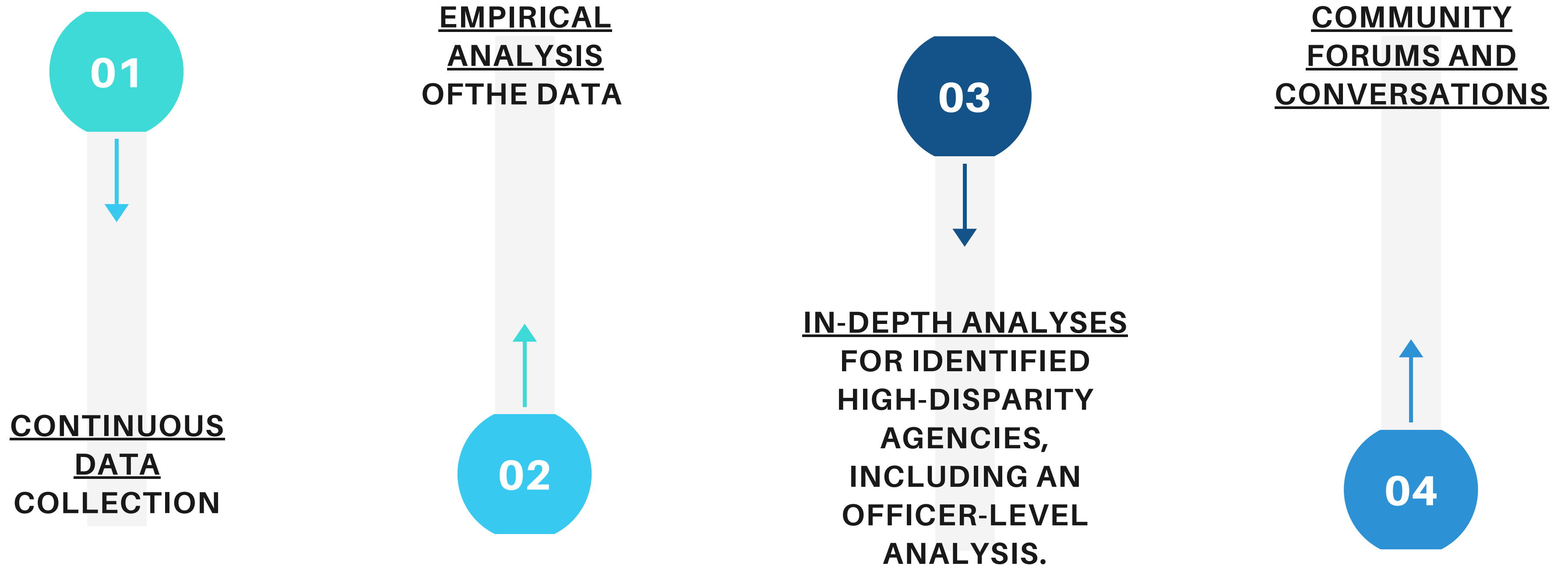
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What are the **factors** driving the disparities that are identified?

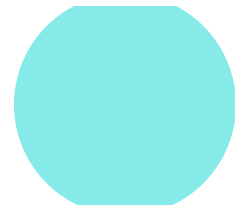
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What **interventions** are most effective at reducing/eliminating racial and ethnic disparities and also improving roadway safety?

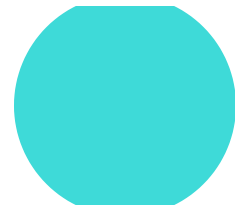
The Connecticut Model- Four Phases



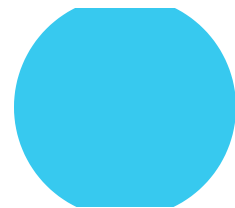
The Preponderance of the Evidence Approach



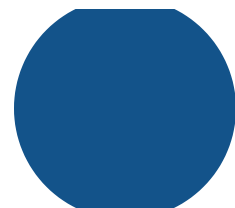
Advantages of Connecticut's approach



Guide for policymakers and policing administrators



No single method is able to fully capture all dimensions of disparity.



Our approach helped build stakeholder confidence in the findings.

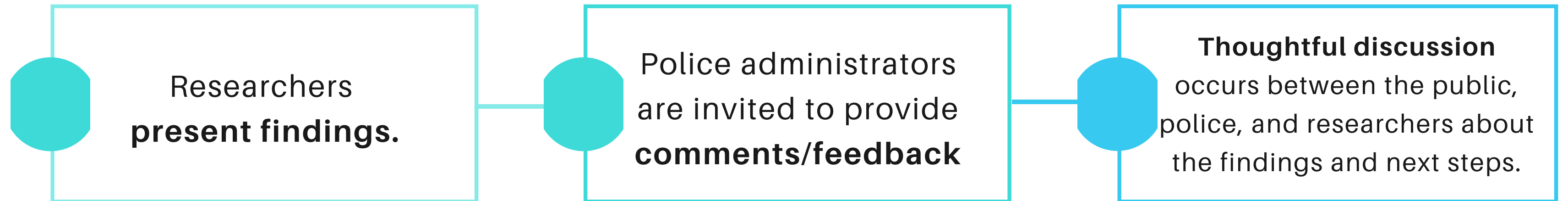


Departmental Intervention

- Each year, all 107 departments are evaluated.
- Those identified as high-disparity are invited to an in-depth analysis with researchers.
- What are the factors contributing to racial and ethnic disparities in traffic stop data for departments identified in the annual analysis?
- **There is not a one size fits all approach.**

Community and Stakeholder Input

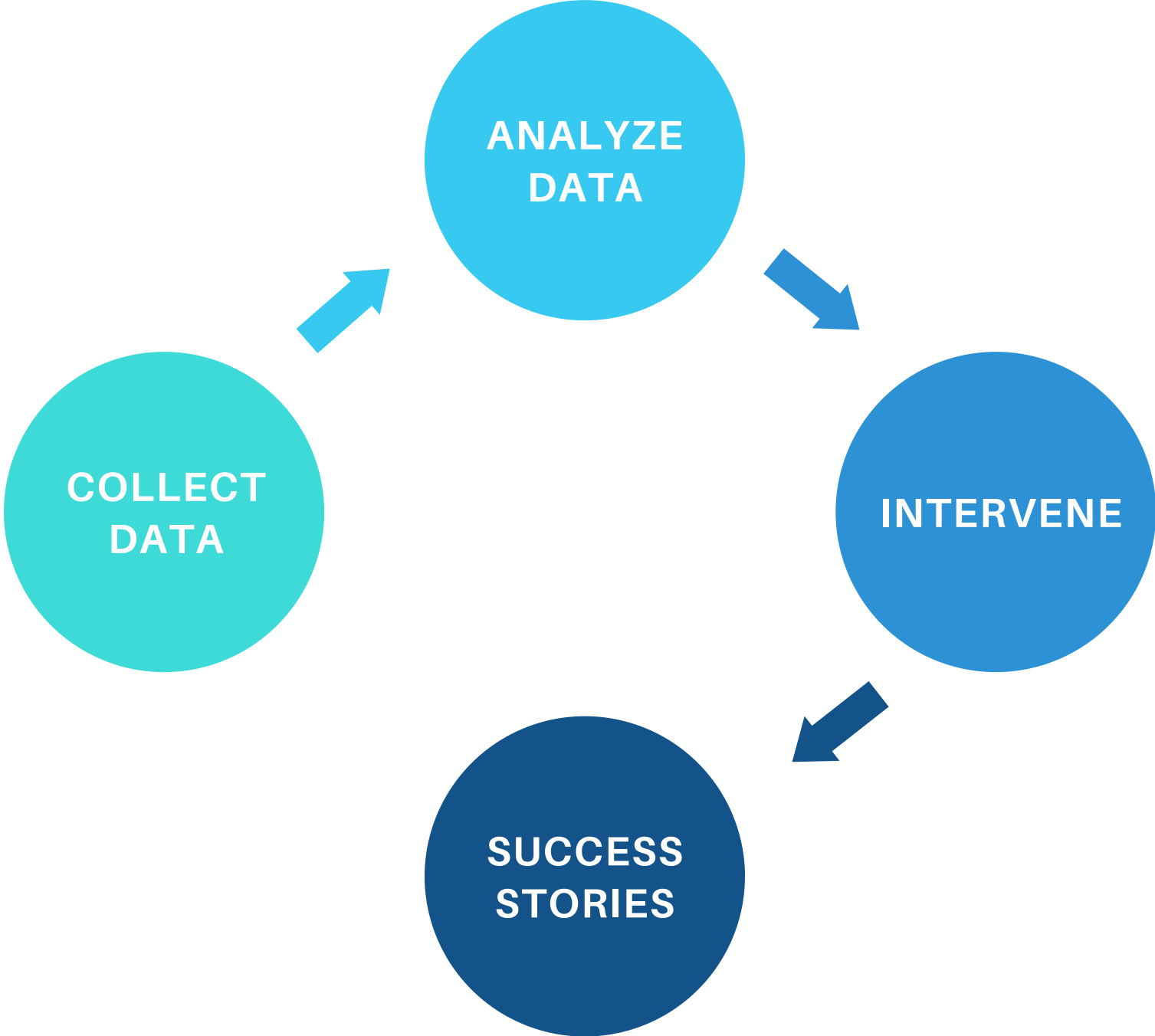
Public forums are conducted in communities with high disparity agencies.



Intervention Success Stories

32 municipal police agencies and 5 State Police Troops were identified as "high disparity agencies."

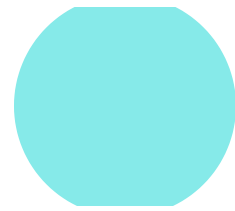
Since 2015, Connecticut has conducted 7 statewide studies.



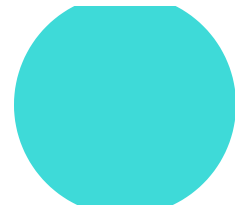
Interventions were conducted in all agencies.

Newington, Waterbury, Hamden

Slow and Steady Wins the Race



The last three calendar year statewide reports have shown **significant reductions** in racial and ethnic disparities statewide.

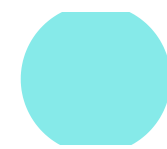


Far **fewer departments** are being identified as "high disparity agencies."



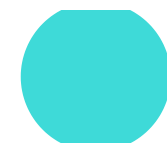


State Highway Safety Offices are Critical to Program Success

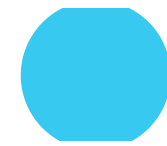


Connecticut Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office.

- The 1906 program provides the critical support to maintain our program.




It is possible to eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in traffic enforcement and improve roadway safety at the same time.

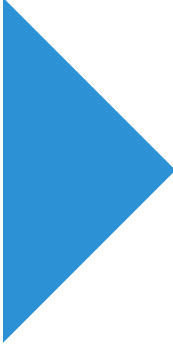


State Highway Safety Offices play a critical role in understanding this research and disseminating effective enforcement techniques to their law enforcement partners.


Other Program Benefits



The accumulation of a rich dataset is now available with 91 million data points from 3.5 million traffic stops.

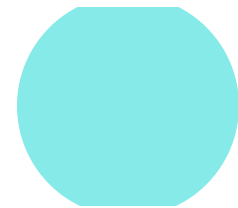


We consistently look for win-win solutions during our departmental interventions (i.e., improved roadway safety and reduced disparities).

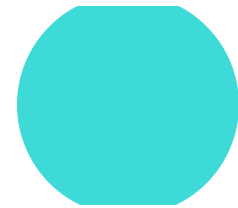


Our research has been able to substantially contribute to the ongoing conversation about traffic safety in Connecticut.

Research Highlights Worth Noting



No evidence that participation in Highway Safety Office safety programs contributes to statewide or departmental disparities.



Racial and ethnic disparities are significantly decreased when law enforcement primarily focuses on **safety-related violations**.

→ speeding, distracted driving, following too close, traffic light violation



Conclusions



The section 1906 program has been critical to the success in CT.



Coordinated state and national data collection and analysis is essential to help advance equity in traffic enforcement.



Good data will allow you to identify the strategies that reduce fatalities, injuries, and disparities, all at the same time.

RACIAL PROFILING HAS HISTORICALLY OCCURRED, & CONTINUES TO OCCUR THROUGHOUT AMERICA.

The Connecticut Racial Profiling Prohibition Project's mission is to bring together community stakeholders and law enforcement to identify and address racial and ethnic disparities in traffic enforcement.

OUR MISSION

ABOUT THE PROJECT



Thank you!

For more information, please visit

www.ctrp3.org

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