## Menthol Cigarette Ban Impact on Communities of Color

A menthol ban would run counter to progressive policing principles that build trust and legitimacy and would likely create an environment where communities of color would experience increased interaction with law enforcement leading to:

- Eroded trust in law enforcement
- · Increased traffic stops and street stops in communities of color
- · Increased likelihood the police will use force on a person of color



More than 1 in 6 Black and Latinx residents who were pulled over in a traffic stop or stopped on the street had similar interactions with police multiple times over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup>

## A menthol ban will make this situation worse.

Civil rights and law enforcement groups have said a crackdown on increased illegal sales resulting from a menthol ban would also strike communities of color.



<sup>1</sup> Harrell and Davis, Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2018 (2020).

<sup>2</sup> American Civil Liberties Union et al, Letter to the Honorable Frank Pallone, (Feb. 24, 2020).

This material was prepared to facilitate discussion with policymakers regarding government policy and tobacco harm reduction. The data presented are solely for the purpose of addressing public policy jissues regarding tobacco products and RAIS is not responsible for the content of referenced publications. The views expressed by cited references may not reflect the views of RAIS. RAIS does not make brand-specific claims regarding Reynolds' brands. Nothing contained in this document should be misconstrued to the contrary. No tobacco product is safe, all tobacco products are addictive. Youth should never use tobacco products. Tobacco product consumers who are concerned about their health should quit. © 2022 RAI Services Company