

## Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Carrboro, NC, 2002-2013

December 7 2014

Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek Epp, and Kelsey Shoub

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

<http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/traffic.htm>

Table 3. Percent Searched by Race and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	30,528	-	71.94	22.40	-
Total Searches	2,010	6.58	5.26	11.65	2.21
Speed Limit	11,370	2.28	1.88	3.99	2.12
Stop Light/Sign	3,947	2.76	2.22	6.60	2.97
Driving Impaired	381	56.59	58.77	48.98	0.83
Safe Movement	2,641	4.96	3.96	8.88	2.24
Vehicle Equipment	3,843	10.93	9.01	16.09	1.79
Vehicle Regulatory	5,369	7.73	5.40	14.95	2.77
Seat Belt	255	14.90	11.03	23.60	2.14
Investigation	1,014	20.61	16.36	31.01	1.90
Other Vehicle	1,708	12.47	10.18	21.56	2.12

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search more than double that of Whites. This finding is sustained in a multiple regression analysis controlling for the following variables: Hispanic; Age; Purpose of Stop; being stopped by a “High Disparity” officer; the day of the week; and the hour of the day. The increased likelihood that a Black male driver would be searched in that model, compared to a similarly situated White male driver, is + 273 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is +128 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	30,528	-	71.94	22.40	-
Total Searches	2,010	6.58	5.26	11.65	2.21
Consent	851	2.79	2.07	5.41	2.61
Search Warrant	5	0.02	0.02	0.01	-
Probable Cause	354	1.16	0.80	2.54	3.18
Incident to Arrest	746	2.44	2.28	3.23	1.42
Protective Frisk	54	0.18	0.10	0.45	4.50

Figure 4. Percentage Searched by Race, Gender, and Age

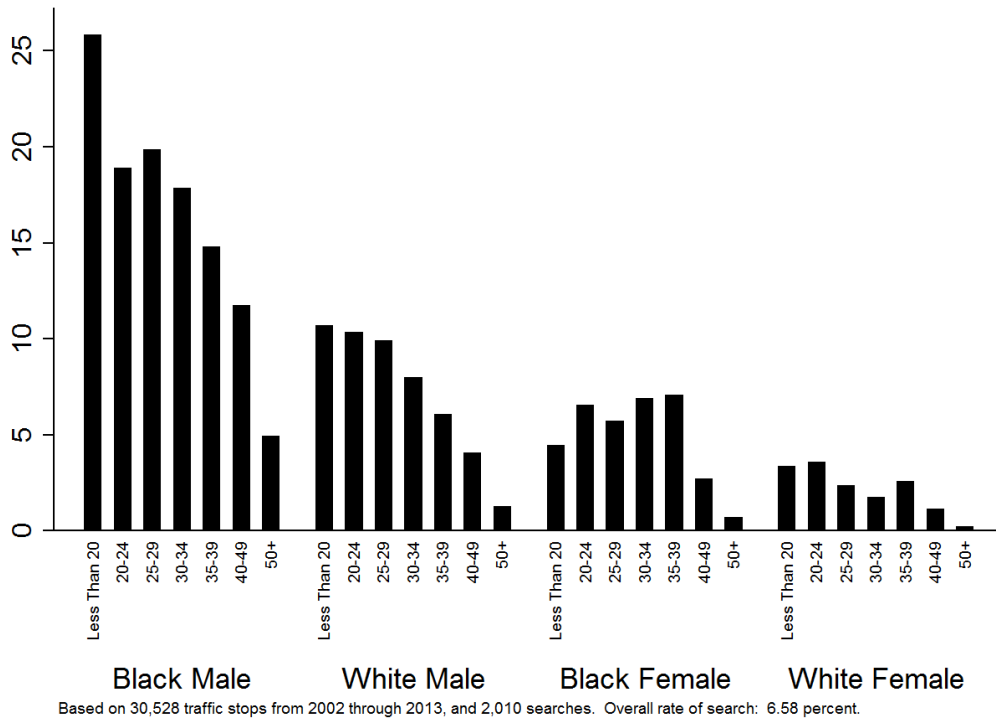
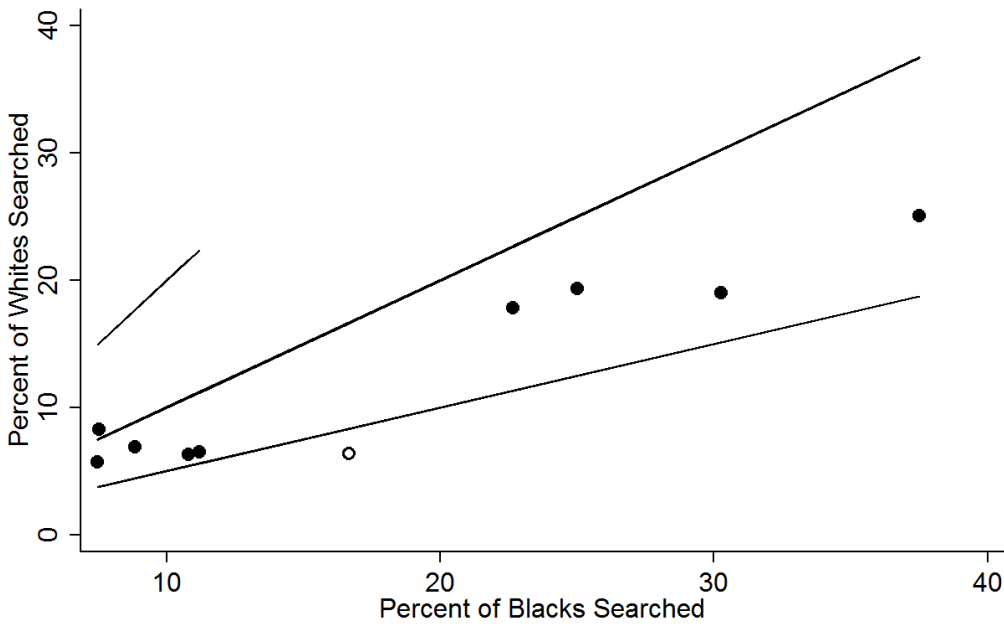


Figure 10. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer



Includes 10 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Black stops, and a search rate above the department average of 6.58. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. No officers search Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Blacks. One officer searches Blacks at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.