

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Chapel Hill, NC, 2002-2013

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<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 | 65,460 | - | 69.74 | 24.05 | - |
| Total Searches | 2,427 | 3.71 | 3.12 | 6.08 | 1.95 |
| Speed Limit | 467 | 1.50 | 1.39 | 2.20 | 1.58 |
| Stop Light/Sign | 132 | 2.29 | 2.12 | 4.06 | 1.92 |
| Driving Impaired | 388 | 54.65 | 57.94 | 45.53 | 0.79 |
| Safe Movement | 207 | 5.69 | 5.48 | 7.13 | 1.30 |
| Vehicle Equipment | 294 | 5.58 | 4.51 | 8.49 | 1.88 |
| Vehicle Regulatory | 418 | 3.42 | 2.11 | 7.35 | 3.48 |
| Seat Belt | 45 | 3.63 | 2.46 | 7.72 | 3.14 |
| Investigation | 322 | 11.29 | 8.75 | 16.27 | 1.86 |
| Other Vehicle | 154 | 5.89 | 3.72 | 11.00 | 2.96 |

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search almost 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 + 111 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is +48 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

| Search Type | Number | % Total | % White | % Black | Ratio |
|--------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|
| | | | | | Black:White |
| Total Stops | 65,460 | - | 69.74 | 24.05 | - |
| Total Searches | 2,427 | 3.71 | 3.12 | 6.08 | 1.95 |
| Consent | 600 | 0.92 | 0.66 | 1.82 | 2.76 |
| Search Warrant | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Probable Cause | 534 | 0.82 | 0.60 | 1.58 | 2.63 |
| Incident to Arrest | 1,211 | 1.85 | 1.75 | 2.47 | 1.41 |
| Protective Frisk | 77 | 0.09 | 0.20 | 0.07 | 0.35 |

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

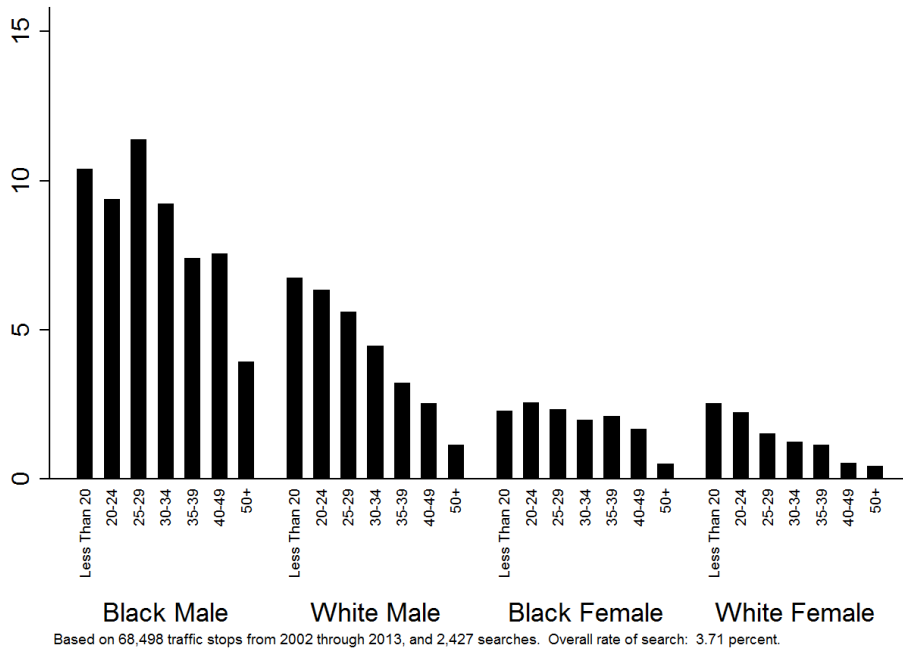


Figure 10. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

