

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

April 10, 2015

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	1,314,787	-	45.62	49.69	-
Total Searches	70,231	5.34	3.57	7.20	2.02
Speed Limit	400,656	2.15	1.67	2.92	1.75
Stop Light/Sign	98,992	3.68	2.35	5.57	2.37
Driving Impaired	7,618	41.65	45.38	37.60	0.83
Safe Movement	73,861	6.47	5.34	8.05	1.50
Vehicle Equipment	124,243	8.94	5.52	11.37	2.06
Vehicle Regulatory	441,032	4.70	2.72	6.12	2.25
Seat Belt	51,966	7.36	3.57	10.36	2.90
Investigation	49,565	17.24	12.45	21.59	1.73
Other Vehicle	66,854	8.73	5.99	11.89	1.98

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 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 +136 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is +13 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	1,314,787	-	45.62	49.69	-
Total Searches	70,231	5.34	3.57	7.20	2.02
Consent	34,461	2.62	1.49	3.79	2.54
Search Warrant	119	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	10,462	0.80	0.33	1.28	3.89
Incident to Arrest	23,969	1.82	1.69	1.98	1.17
Protective Frisk	1,220	0.09	0.05	0.14	2.80

Figure 7. Search Rates by Race, Gender, and Age Group

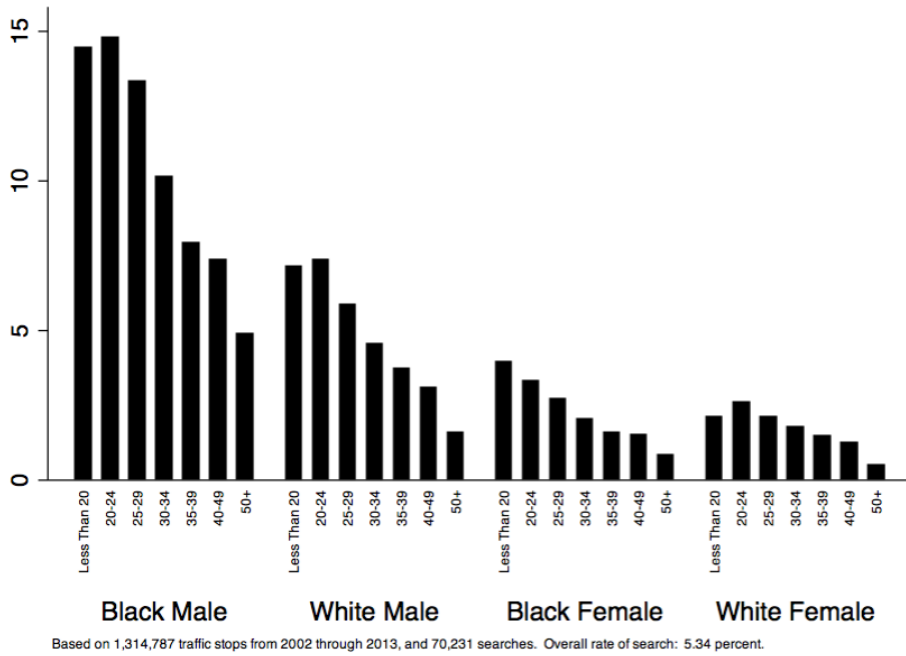
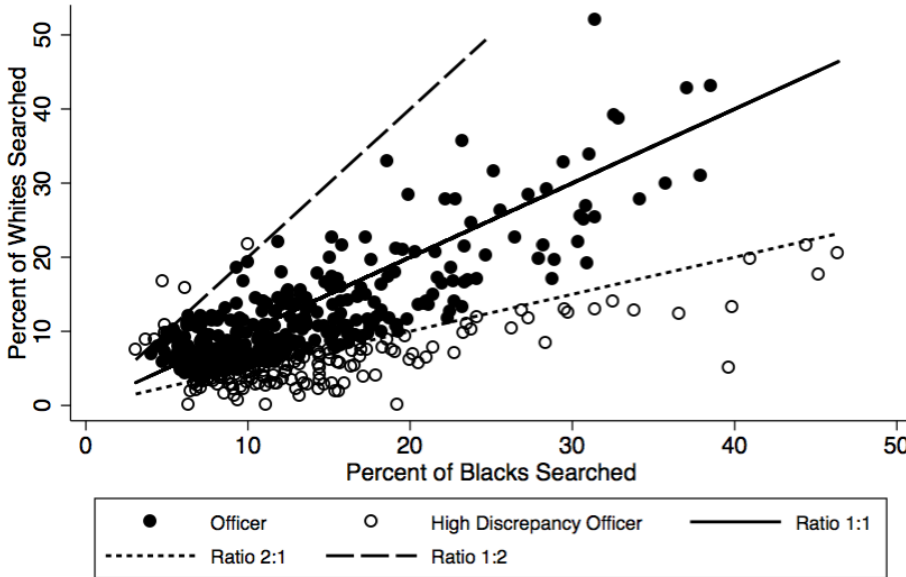


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer



Includes 496 officers with at least 50 stops of Blacks and 50 stops of Whites and a search rate of over 5.34. Of these officers, 130 have rates of searching Blacks more than twice their rate of searching Whites and 8 have rates of searching Whites at twice the rate of Blacks.