

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches by the Forsyth County Sheriff's Department, 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	96,440	-	77.59	18.87	-
Total Searches	4,522	4.69	4.24	5.11	1.21
Speed Limit	37,024	2.44	2.11	3.02	1.43
Stop Light/Sign	6,460	1.83	1.79	1.86	1.04
Driving Impaired	839	56.97	59.19	51.81	0.88
Safe Movement	11,081	8.47	7.90	6.42	0.81
Vehicle Equipment	9,367	5.43	5.40	4.80	0.89
Vehicle Regulatory	18,602	3.20	2.59	4.63	1.79
Seat Belt	2,466	4.87	4.09	6.43	1.57
Investigation	6,187	9.07	9.12	8.61	0.94
Other Vehicle	4,414	6.71	5.98	6.60	1.10

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 21 percent higher than 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 +30 percent. For female drivers, the likelihood is -23 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	96,440	-	77.59	18.87	-
Total Searches	4,522	4.69	4.24	5.11	1.21
Consent	2,469	2.56	2.35	2.39	1.02
Search Warrant	21	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	601	0.62	0.53	0.82	1.55
Incident to Arrest	1,299	1.35	1.22	1.66	1.36
Protective Frisk	132	0.14	0.12	0.21	1.75

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

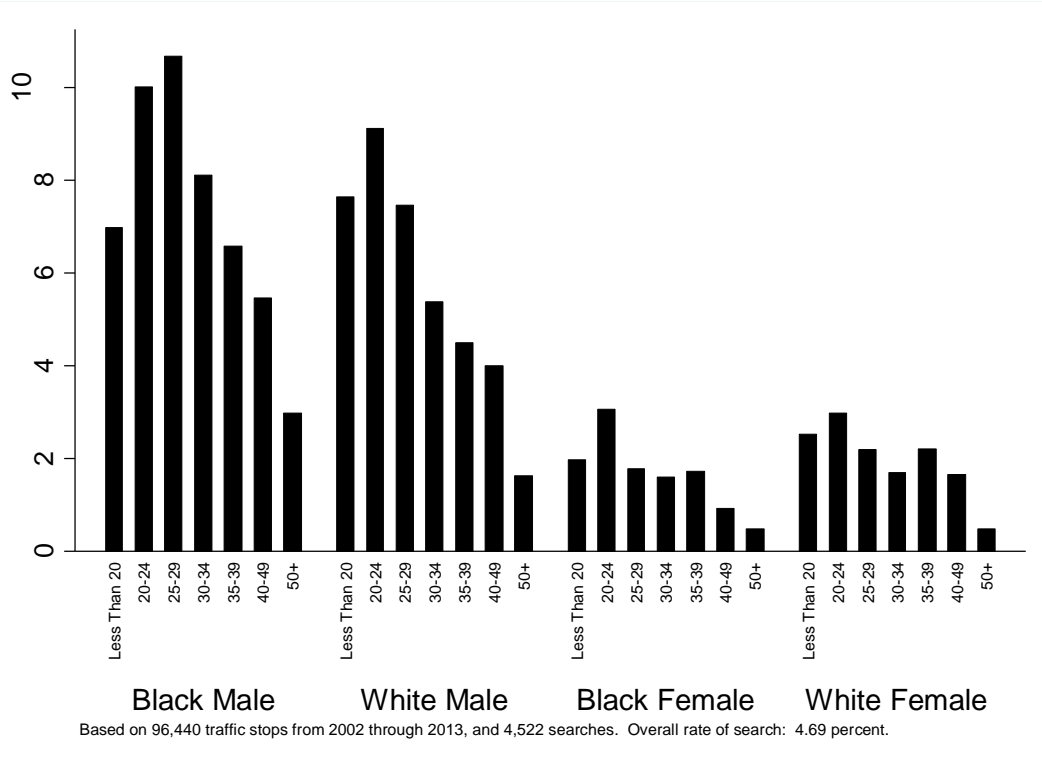
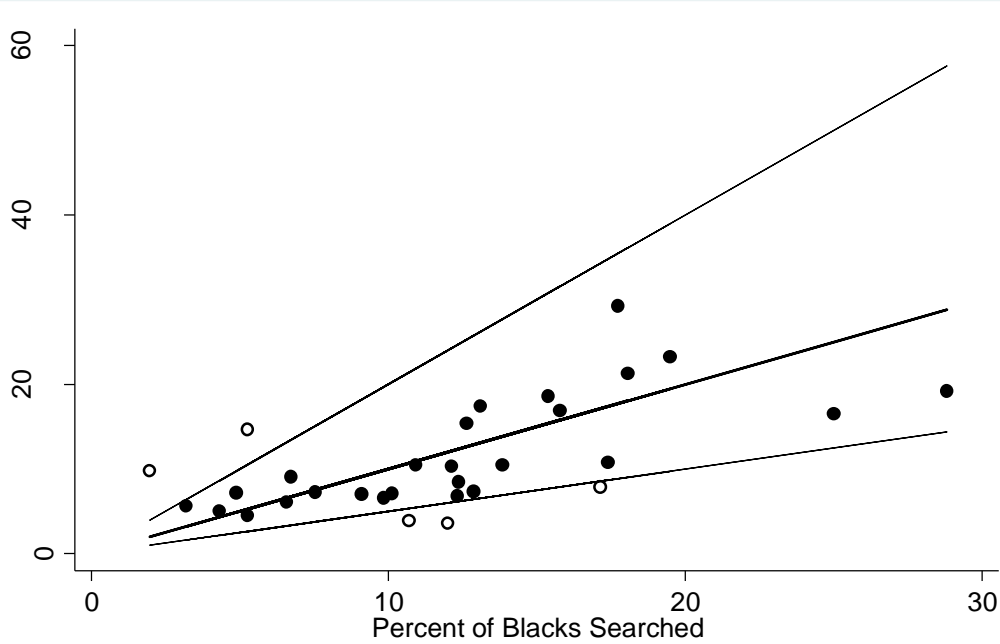


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer



Includes 31 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Black stops, and a search rate above the department average of 4.69. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 3 officers search Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Blacks. 2 officers search Blacks at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.