

Analysis of Hispanic-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Forsyth County, NC, 2002-2013

Frank R. Baumgartner, Derek Epp, and Kelsey Shoub¹
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Political Science
<http://www.unc.edu/~fbaum/traffic.htm>

Contact: Frankb@unc.edu

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¹ Baumgartner is the Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Political Science at UNC-Chapel Hill. Epp and Shoub are graduate students in political science. We thank UNC undergraduates Katherine B. Elliott, Amirah Jiwa, Morgan Herman, and Reena Gupta for assistance on the logistics of this project. We also acknowledge the assistance of the NC Department of Justice and State Bureau of Investigation for making available the official statistics on which this analysis relies, and for answering technical questions about the organization of this complex database.

Table 1. Overview of the Data

Data Subsets	Observations
Total stops	101,539
-2014	2,326
-Passengers	2,289
-Checkpoint stops	549
Stops for analysis	96,440
Searches	4,522

Search Rate = 4.69

Figure 1. Number of Traffic Stops per Year

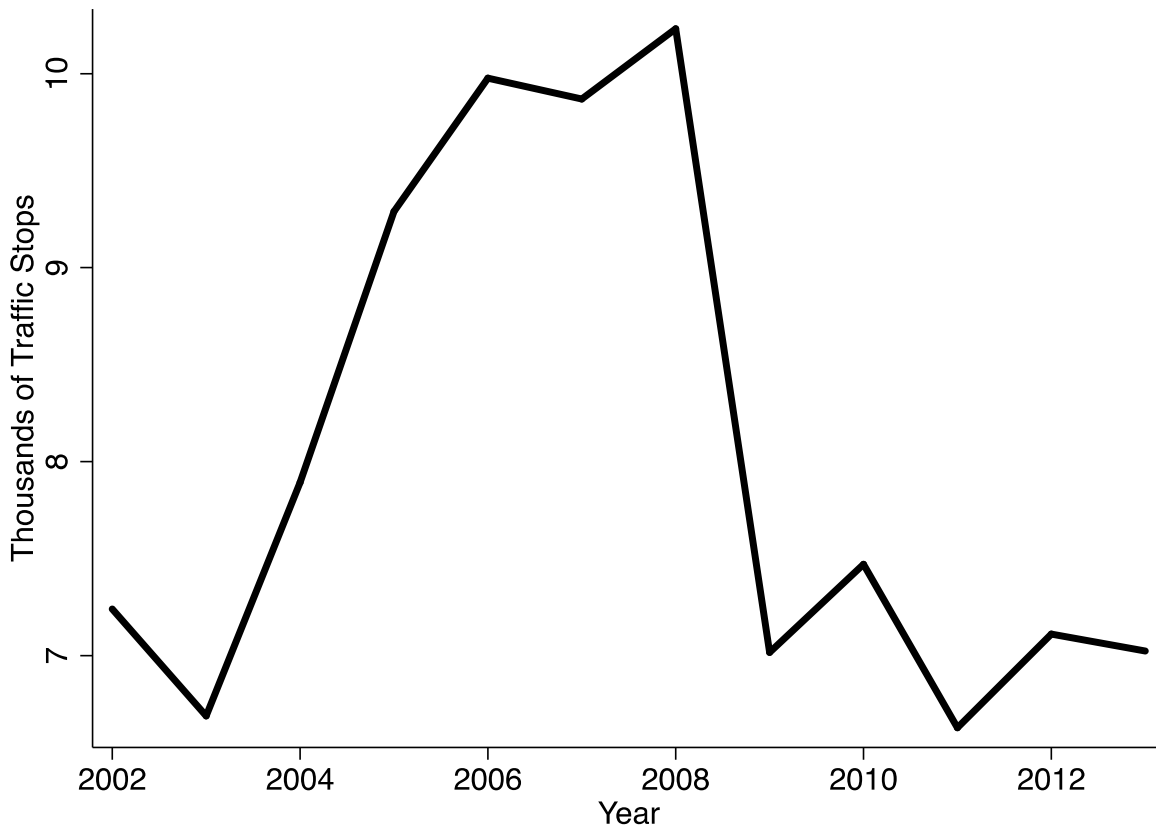


Figure 2. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Year

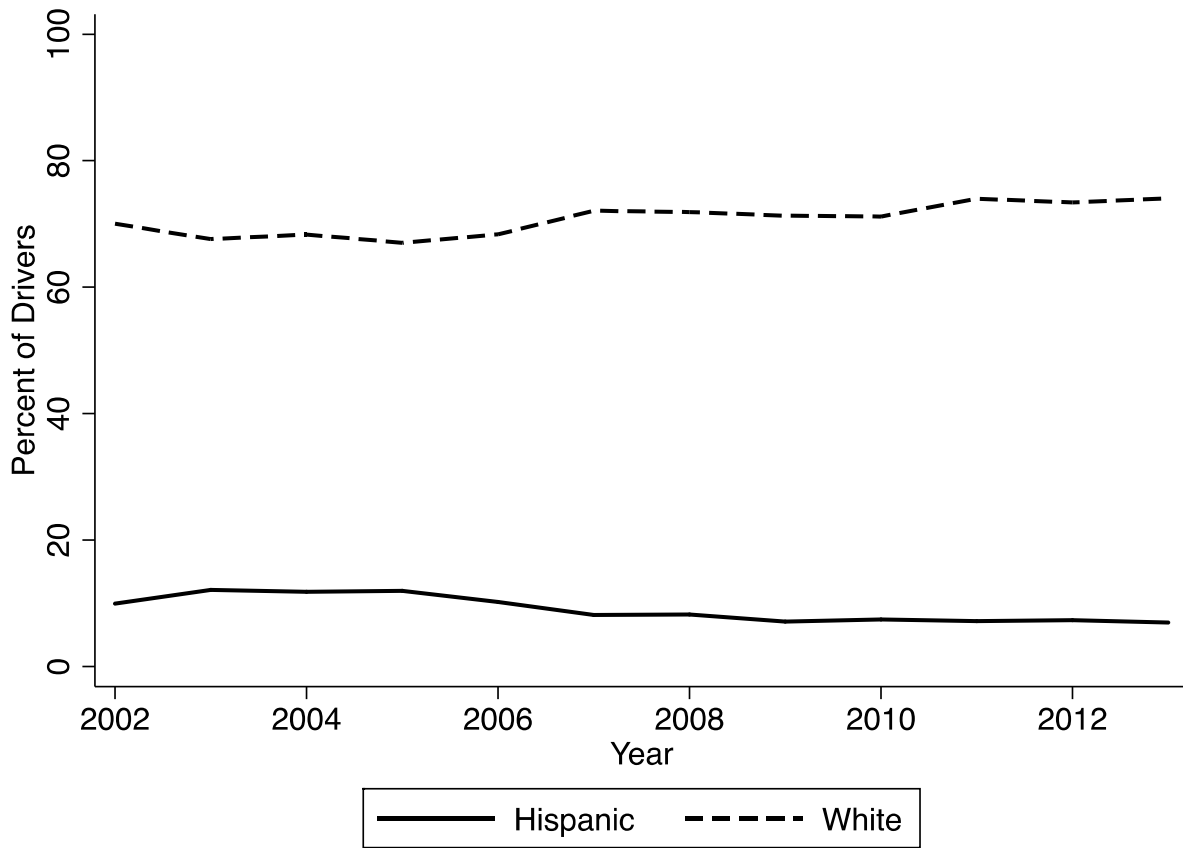


Table 2. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Purpose, Drivers

Purpose	Number	Percent	
		White	His.
Total Stops	96,440	77.74	9.11
Speed Limit	37,024	82.30	6.11
Stop Light/Sign	6,460	81.12	7.03
Driving Impaired	839	73.87	20.62
Safe Movement	11,081	74.29	14.62
Vehicle Equipment	9,367	75.17	10.22
Vehicle Regulatory	18,602	73.22	7.65
Seat Belt	2,466	80.07	7.83
Investigation	6,187	72.73	17.25
Other Vehicle	4,414	71.46	14.50

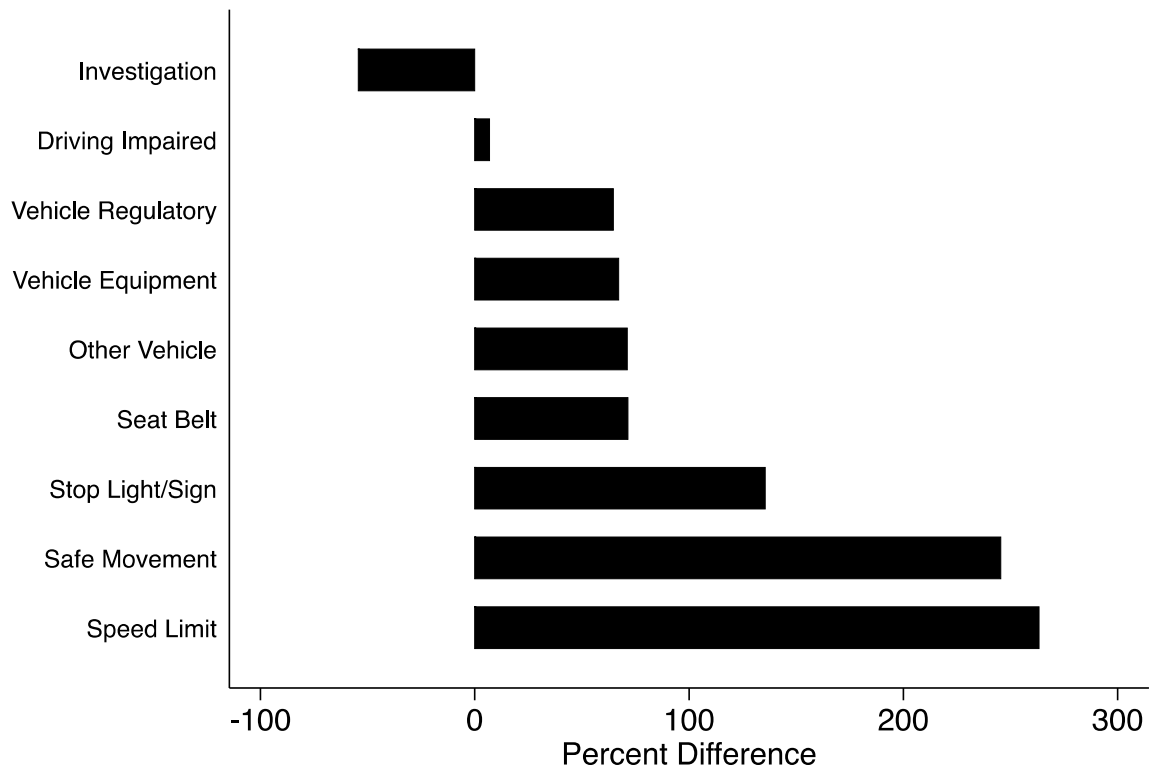
Note: Includes only drivers. Excludes 549 checkpoint stops. Excludes 2,289 passengers.

Table 3. Percent Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% His.	Ratio
					His.:White
Total Stops	96,440	-	77.74	9.11	-
Total Searches	4,522	4.69	3.87	10.27	2.65
Speed Limit	37,024	2.44	1.97	7.16	3.63
Stop Light/Sign	6,406	1.83	1.68	3.96	2.36
Driving Impaired	839	56.97	57.32	61.27	1.07
Safe Movement	11,081	8.47	6.15	21.23	3.45
Vehicle Equipment	9,367	5.43	5.19	8.67	1.67
Vehicle Regulatory	18,602	3.20	2.56	4.22	1.65
Seat Belt	2,466	4.87	4.23	7.25	1.71
Investigation	6,187	9.07	10.47	4.78	0.46
Other Vehicle	4,414	6.71	5.93	10.16	1.71

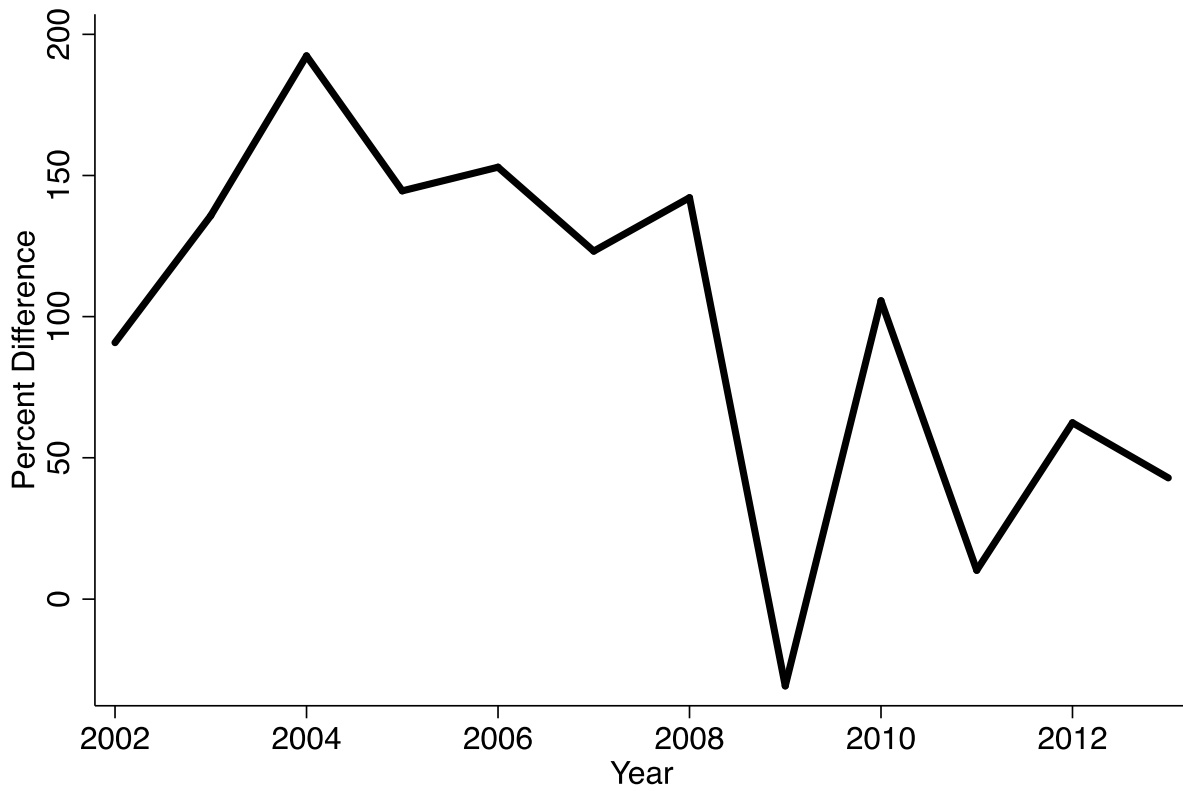
Note: See the appendix for this same table broken down for Men and Women.

Figure 3. Difference in Likelihood of Being Searched, by Ethnicity and Type of Stop



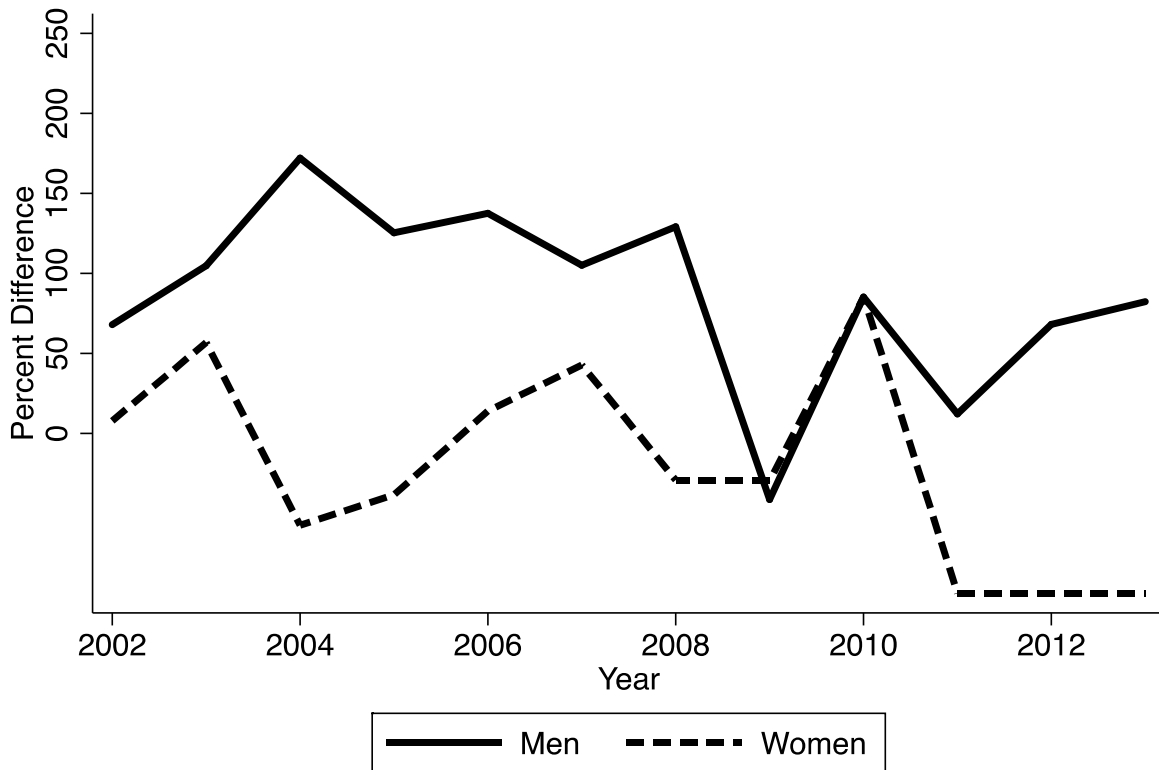
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by purpose of stop.

Figure 4. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search



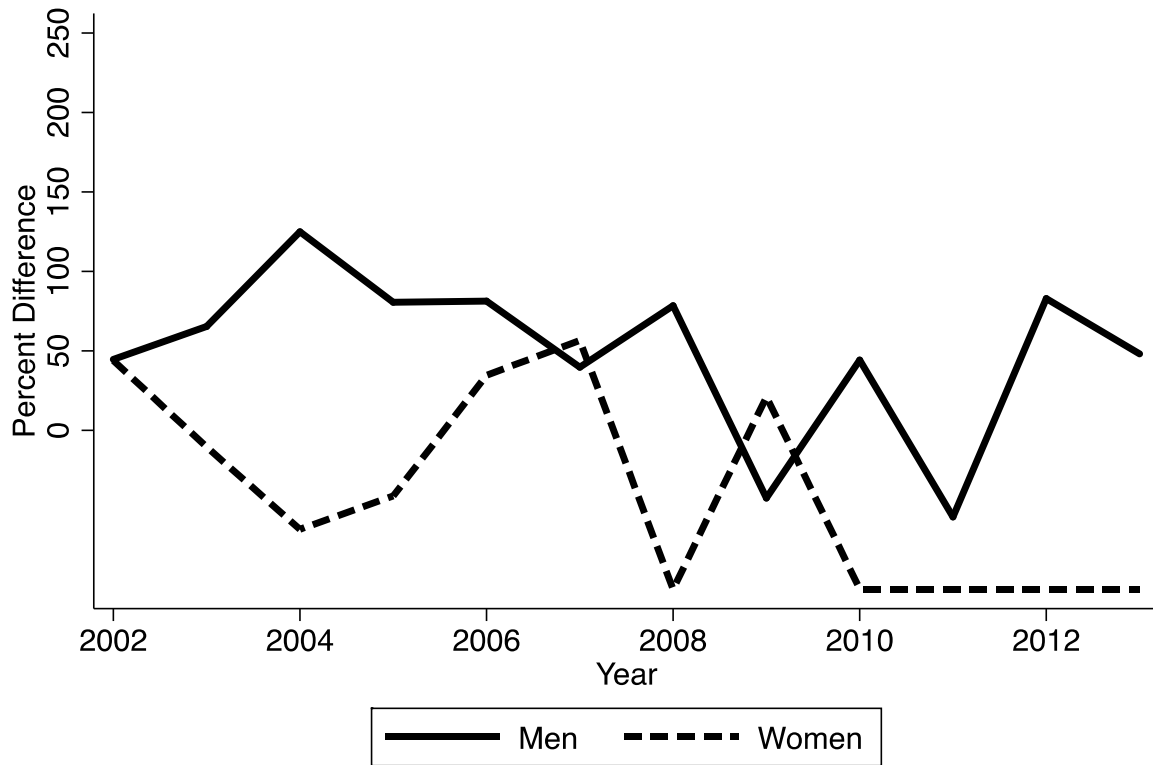
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites.

Figure 5. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search by Gender



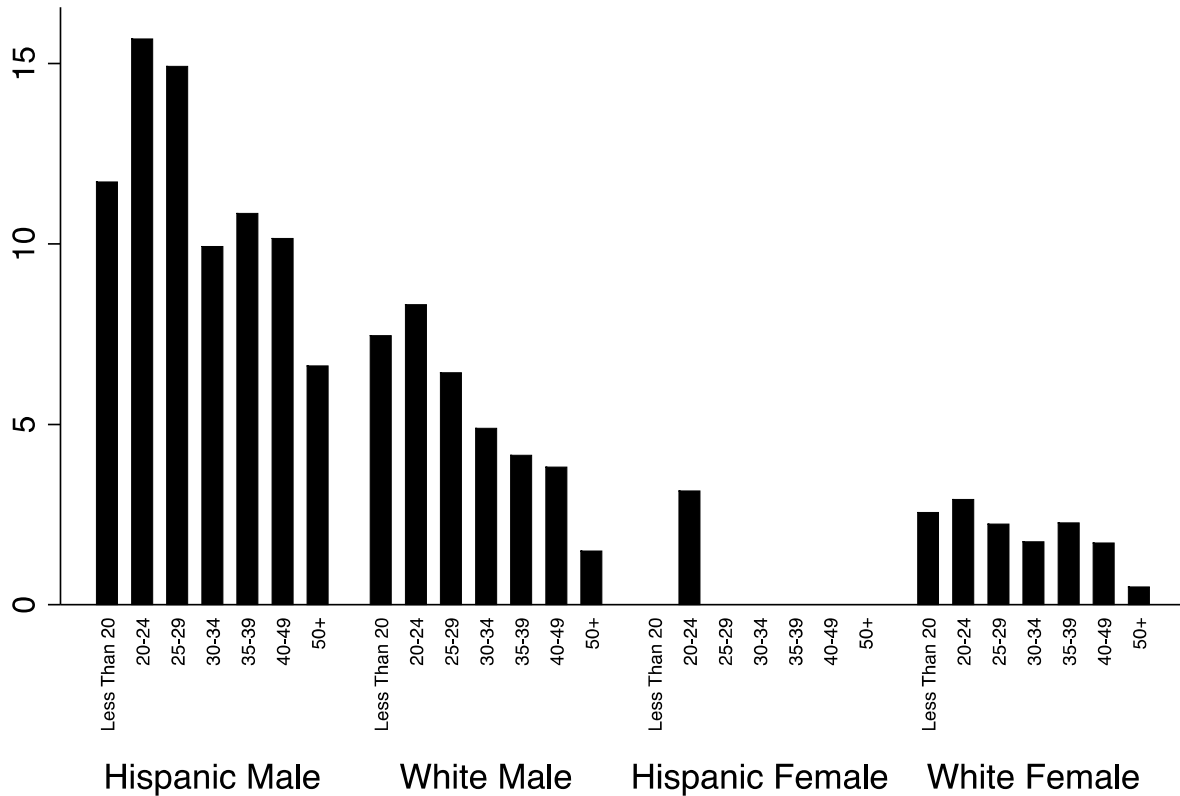
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by gender.

Figure 6. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search by Gender, for Drivers Under 30



The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by gender for motorists under 30.

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



Based on 96,440 traffic stops from 2002 through 2013, and 4,522 searches. Overall rate of search: 4.69 percent. No data are presented for categories with fewer than 10 searches.

Figure 8. Number of Stops, by Ethnicity and Gender

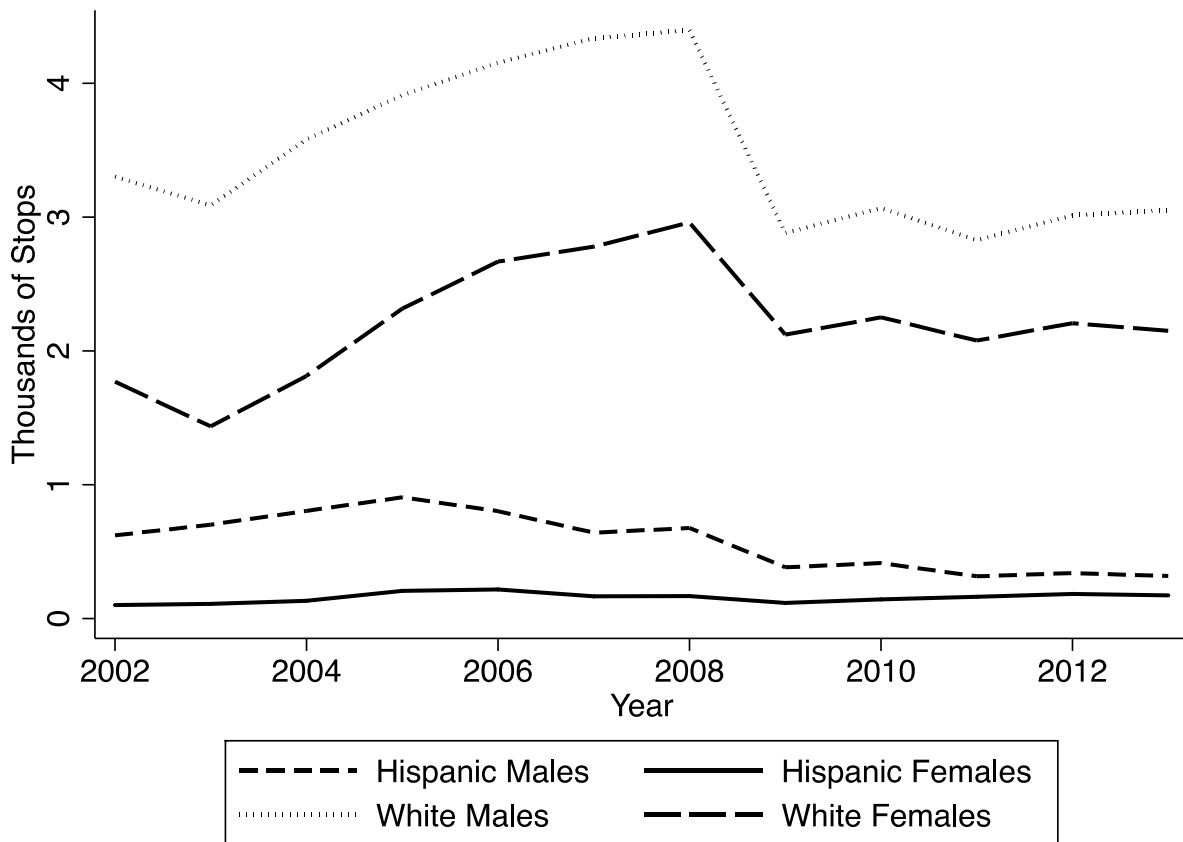


Figure 9. Percent of Stops Resulting in a Search, by Ethnicity and Gender

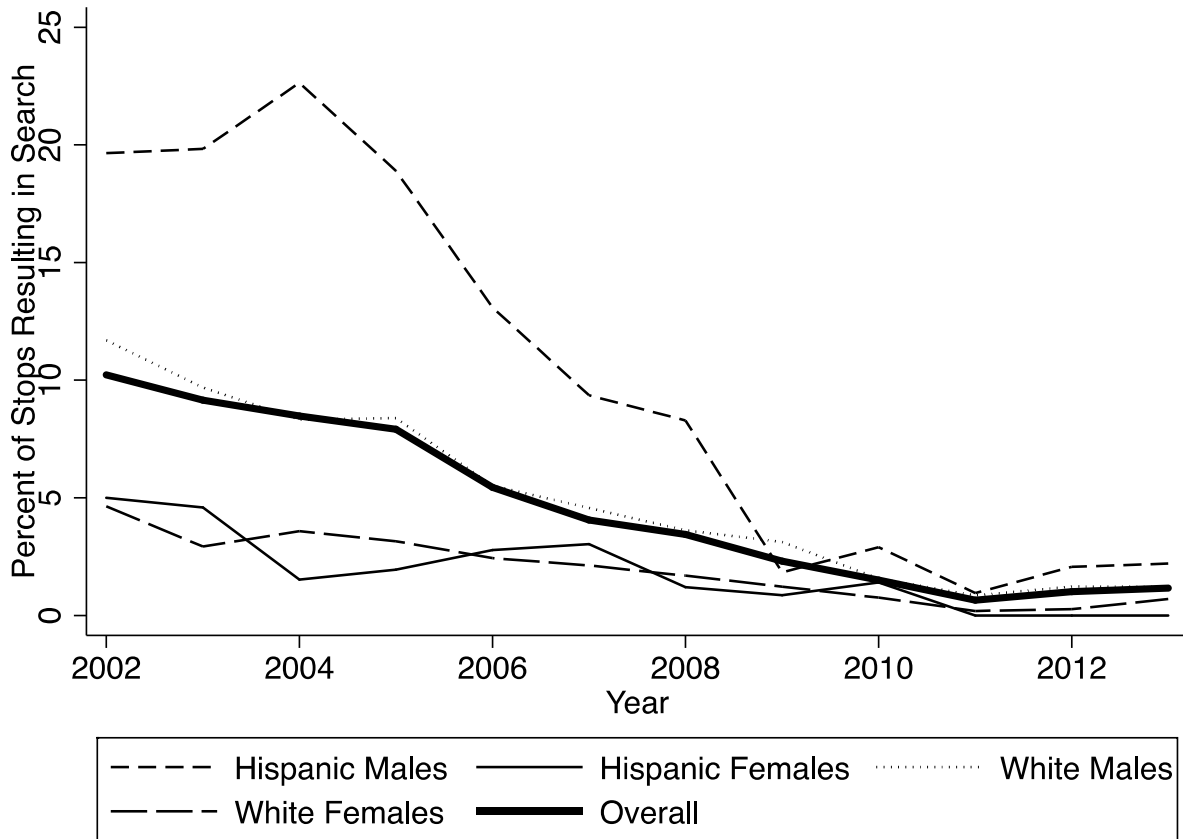


Table 4. Type of Search by Ethnicity

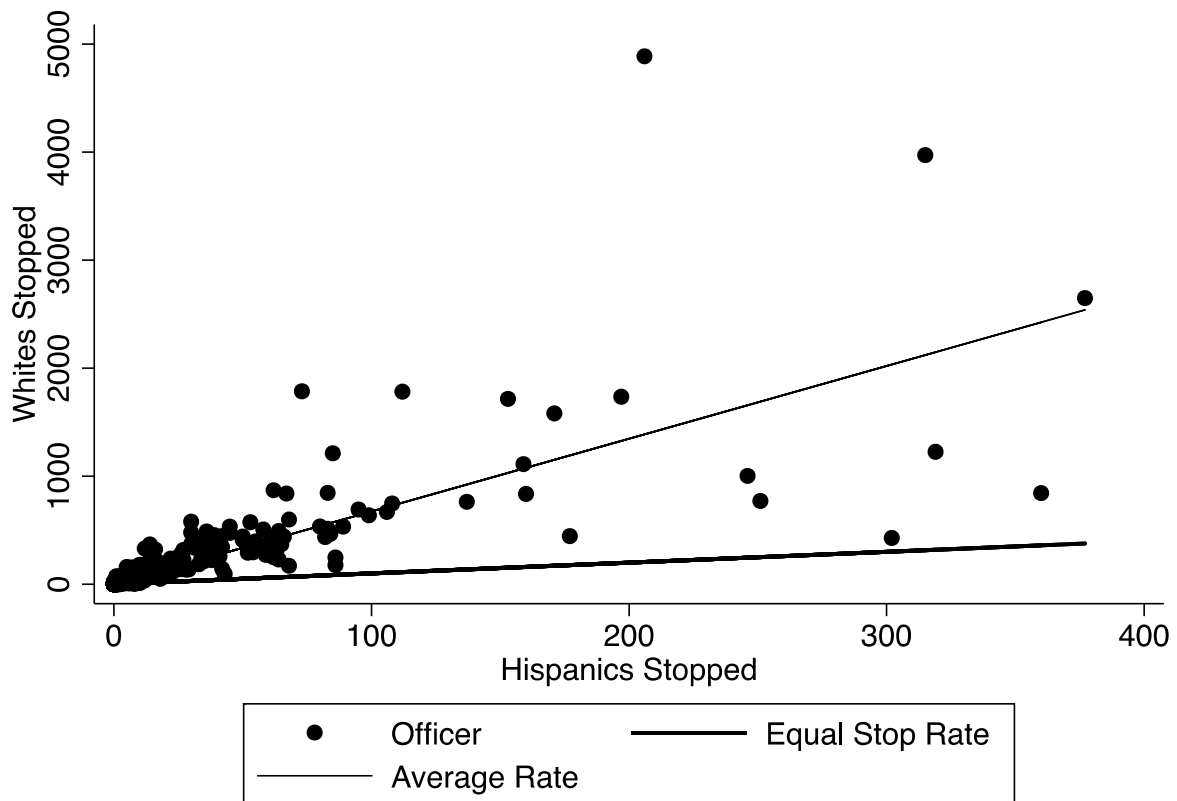
Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% His.	Ratio
					His.:White
Total Stops	96,440	-	77.74	9.11	-
Total Searches	4,522	4.69	3.87	10.27	2.65
Consent	2,469	2.56	2.10	6.46	3.08
Search Warrant	21	0.02	0.02	0.05	-
Probable Cause	601	0.62	0.55	0.79	1.44
Incident to Arrest	1,299	1.35	1.09	2.76	2.53
Protective Frisk	132	0.14	0.11	0.22	2.00

Note: See the appendix for this same table separately for Men and Women.

Table 5. Distribution of Officer IDs by Stop

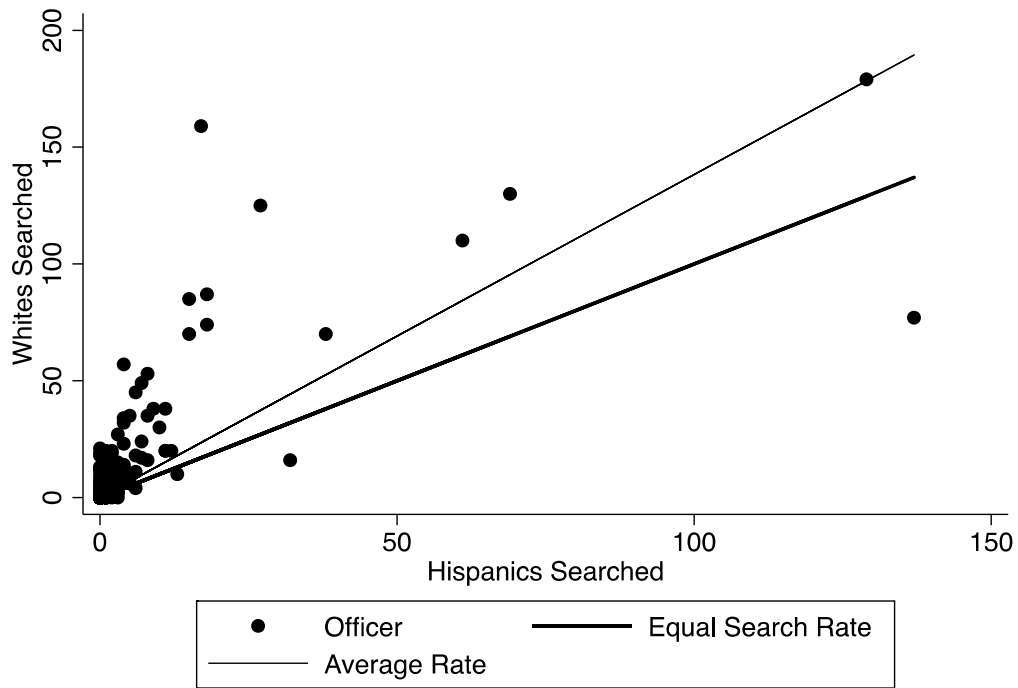
Number of Stops	Officers w/ this many Stops	Percent of Officers	Cumulative Percent	Percent of Stops	Cumulative Percent
1	350	42.12	42.12	0.36	0.36
2 – 10	197	23.71	65.82	0.88	1.24
11 - 100	140	16.85	82.67	5.83	7.07
101 – 1,000	124	14.92	97.59	48.39	55.46
1,001 +	20	2.41	100.00	44.54	100.00
Total	831	100	-	100	-

Figure 10. Number of Hispanic and White Motorists Stopped, by Officer



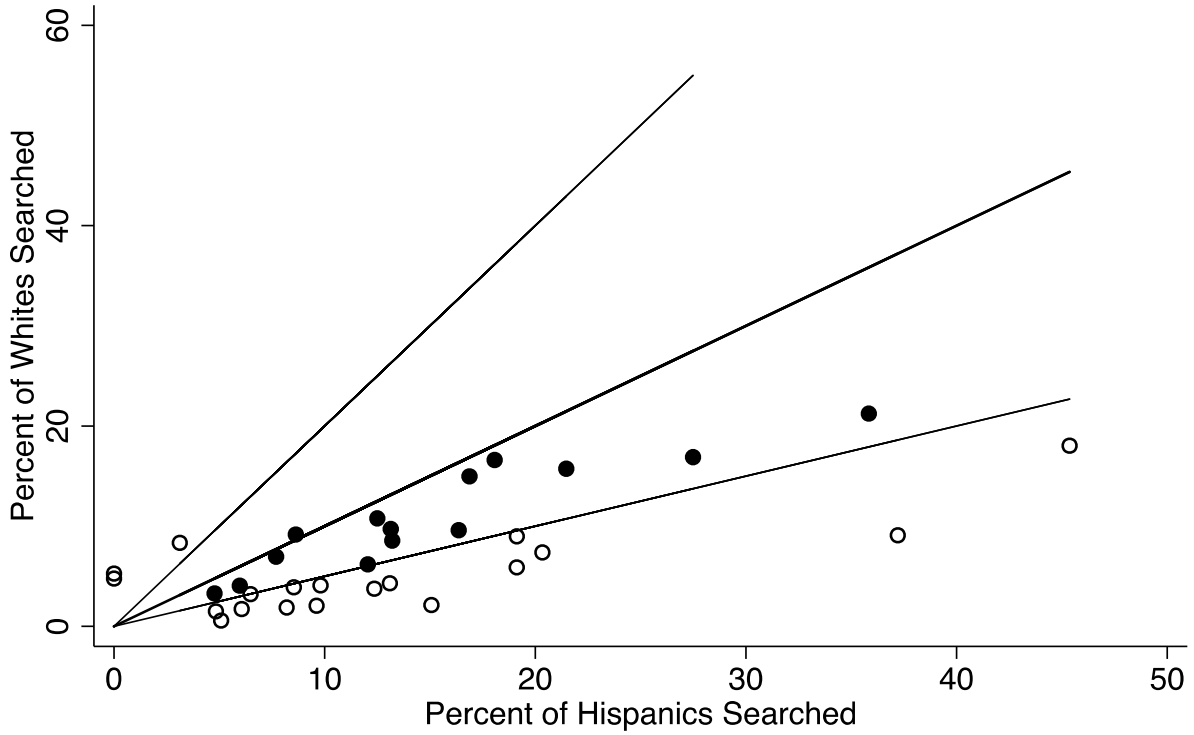
On average, officers stop 6.73 Whites for each Hispanic stopped.

Figure 11. Number of Hispanic and White Motorists Searched, by Officer



On average, officers search 1.38 Whites for each Hispanic searched.

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



Includes 33 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Hispanic stops, and a search rate above the department average of 4.69 for either ethnicity. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 3 officers search Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Hispanics. 17 officers search Hispanics at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.

Appendix

Table A1. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Purpose, Passengers

Purpose	Number	Percent	
		White	Hispanic
Total Stops	2,274	73.66	20.18
Speed Limit	447	78.27	19.69
Stop Light/Sign	53	76.00	5.66
Driving Impaired	89	92.31	26.97
Safe Movement	497	73.90	31.39
Vehicle Equipment	291	75.64	19.59
Vehicle Regulatory	267	68.35	11.24
Seat Belt	95	61.73	14.74
Investigation	378	70.66	11.64
Other Vehicle	157	71.05	27.39

Table A2. Percent of Men Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% His.	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	60,670	-	77.40	11.40	-
Total Searches	3,871	6.38	5.13	12.59	2.45
Speed Limit	22,038	3.57	2.90	9.02	3.11
Stop Light/Sign	3,807	2.39	2.03	5.16	2.54
Driving Impaired	652	60.74	60.51	63.52	1.05
Safe Movement	7,678	10.86	7.65	24.37	3.19
Vehicle Equipment	6,368	6.80	6.35	10.12	1.59
Vehicle Regulatory	11,267	4.38	3.29	5.37	1.63
Seat Belt	1,582	6.26	5.17	10.37	2.01
Investigation	4,366	10.97	12.44	6.04	0.49
Other Vehicle	2,912	8.86	7.58	12.52	1.65

Table A3. Percent of Women Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% His.	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	35,770	-	78.30	5.23	-
Total Searches	651	1.82	1.90	1.71	0.90
Speed Limit	14,986	0.79	0.69	1.13	1.64
Stop Light/Sign	2,653	1.02	1.19	1.39	1.17
Driving Impaired	187	43.85	49.29	35.71	0.72
Safe Movement	3,403	3.09	3.10	4.96	1.60
Vehicle Equipment	2,999	2.53	2.83	2.27	0.80
Vehicle Regulatory	7,335	1.39	1.51	0.58	0.38
Seat Belt	884	2.38	2.58	0.00	-
Investigation	1,821	4.50	6.21	0.00	-
Other Vehicle	1,502	2.53	2.99	0.00	-

Table A4. Type of Search by Ethnicity: Men

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% His.	Ratio Hispanic:White
Total Stops	60,670	-	77.40	11.40	-
Total Searches	3,871	6.38	5.13	12.59	2.45
Consent	2,138	3.52	2.81	7.91	2.81
Search Warrant	18	0.03	0.02	0.06	-
Probable Cause	520	0.86	0.75	0.98	1.31
Incident to Arrest	1,075	1.77	1.39	3.37	2.42
Protective Frisk	120	0.20	0.16	0.27	1.69

Table A5. Type of Search by Ethnicity: Women

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% His.	Ratio Hispanic:White
Total Stops	35,700	-	78.30	5.23	-
Total Searches	651	1.82	1.90	1.71	0.90
Consent	331	0.93	0.99	1.12	1.13
Search Warrant	3	0.01	0.01	0.00	-
Probable Cause	81	0.23	0.24	0.05	0.21
Incident to Arrest	224	0.63	0.63	0.53	0.84
Protective Frisk	12	0.03	0.03	0.00	-

Figure A1. Stops by Day of the Week

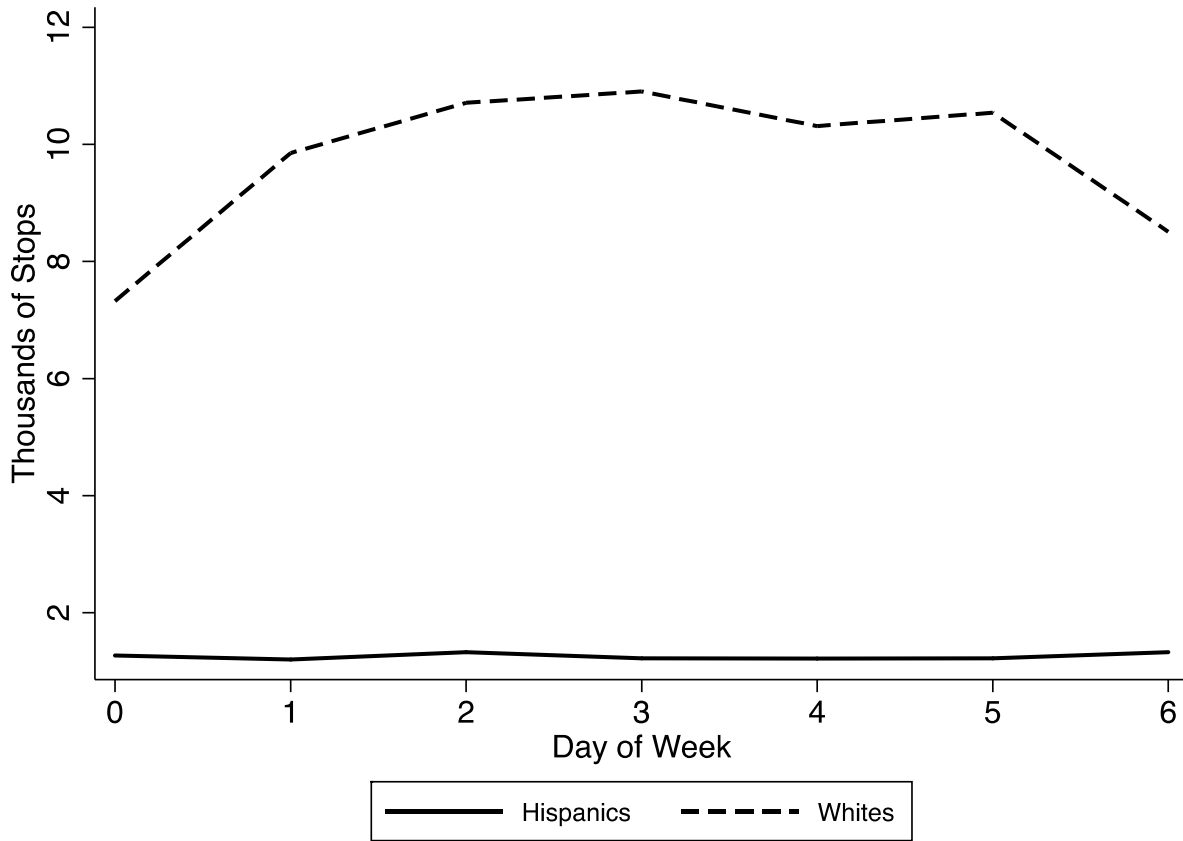


Figure A2. Searches by Day of the Week

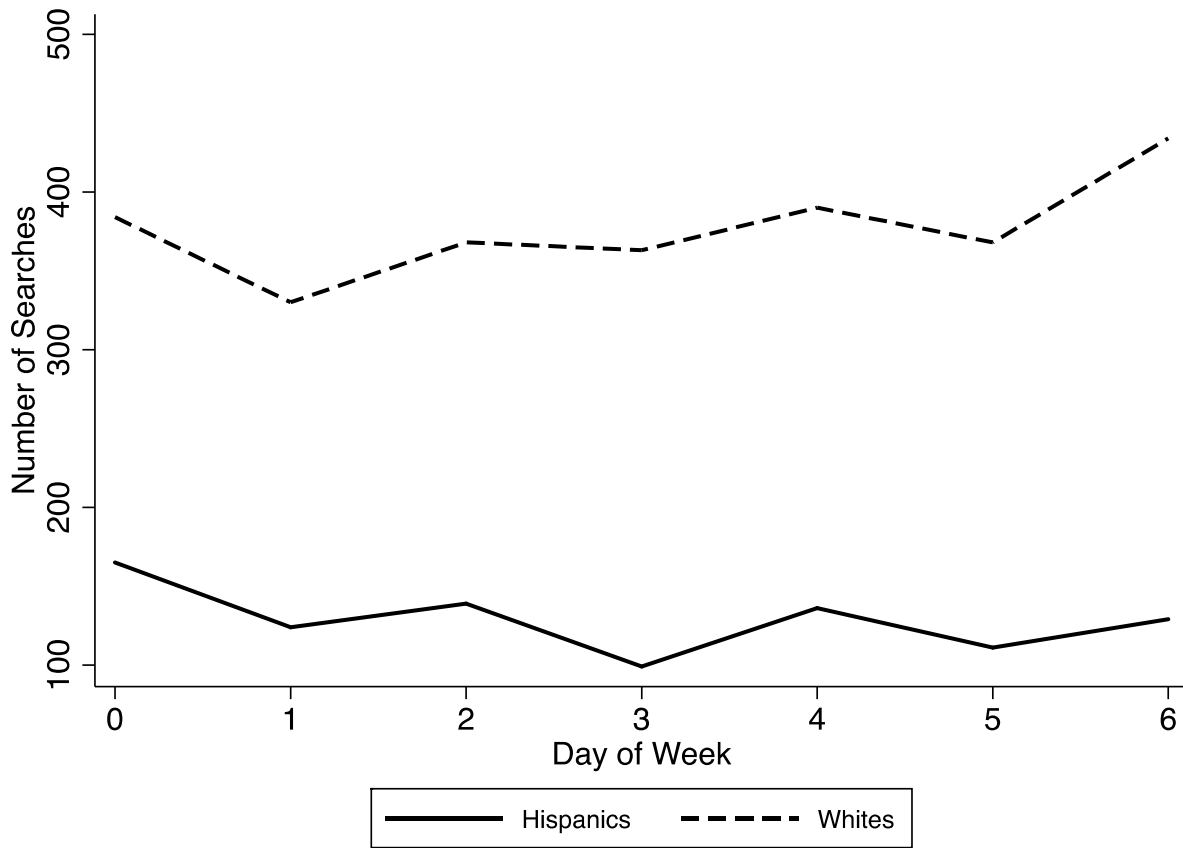
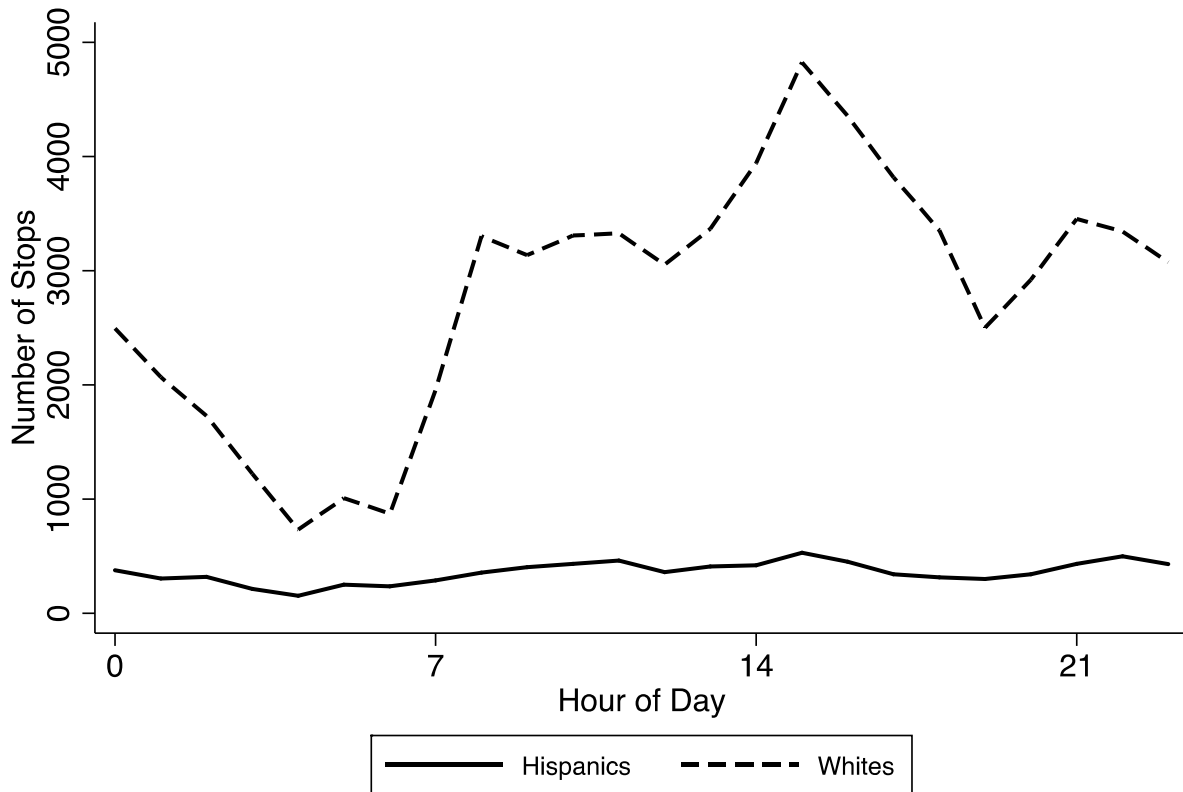
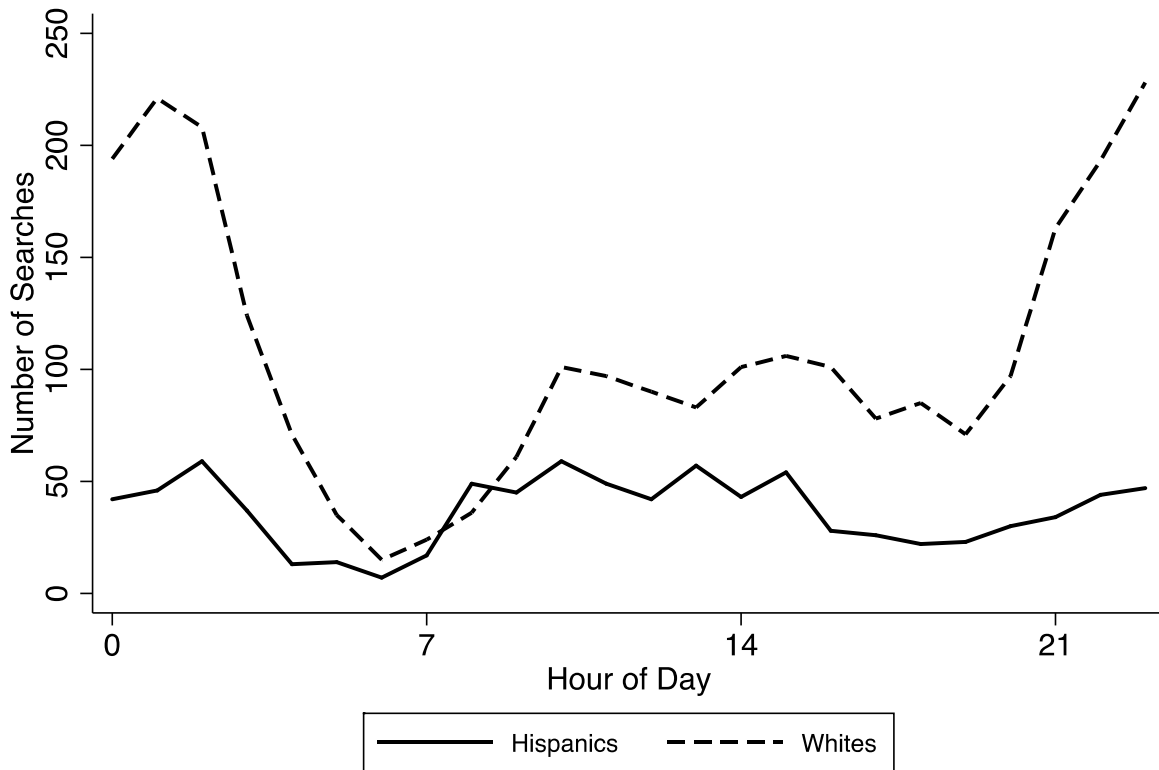


Figure A3. Stops by Hour of the Day



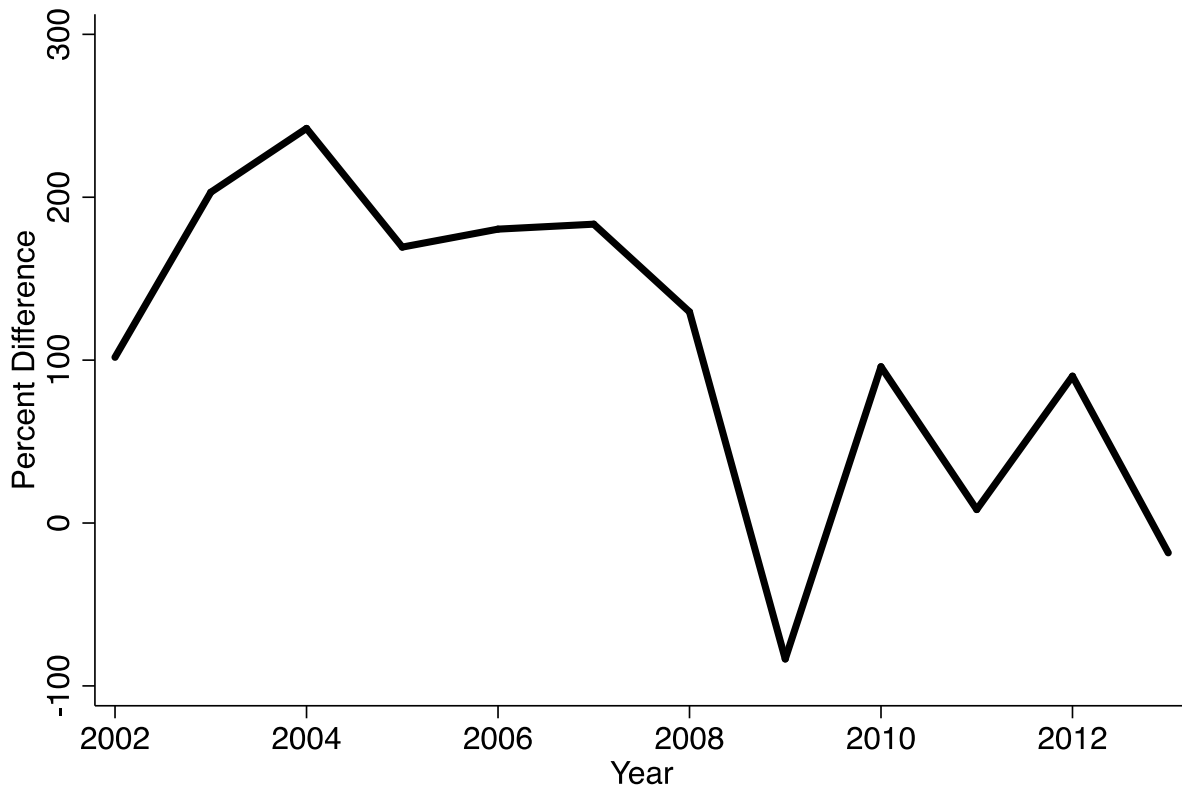
The figure excludes cases where the hour and minute was exactly 0:00. These cases were presumed to be missing data.

Figure A4. Searches by Hour of the Day



The figure excludes cases where the hour and minute was exactly 0:00. These cases were presumed to be missing data.

Figure A5. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search: Consent Searches Only



The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites; consent searches only.

Table A6. Likelihood of Finding Contraband Given a Search, by Ethnicity

Contraband	Number	% Total	% White	% His.
Yes	1,284	28.39	32.76	14.40
No	3,238	71.61	67.24	85.60
Total	4,522	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table A7. Differential Outcomes by Whether or not a Search Occurs

Ethnicity	Search Occur	N	No Action				Arrest	Total
			No Action	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation Issued		
White	No	65,507	2.80	31.85	20.72	44.31	0.33	100.0
His.	No	7,886	2.84	29.48	9.68	57.19	0.81	100.0
Total	No	91,918	2.85	32.36	18.47	45.92	0.39	100.0
White	Yes	2,637	3.60	15.02	8.34	39.17	33.86	100.0
His.	Yes	903	1.66	21.71	23.26	25.58	27.80	100.0
Total	Yes	4,522	3.23	15.81	11.21	37.00	32.75	100.0