

Analysis of Hispanic-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches by the Gaston County Sheriffs Department, NC, 2002-2013

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Table 1. Overview of the Data

Data Subsets	Observations
Total stops	92,725
-2014	2,029
-Passengers	6,266
-Checkpoint stops	0
Total number of cases deleted	8,200
Stops for analysis	84,525
Searches	9,306
Percent of stops leading to search (search rate)	11.01%

Figure 1. Number of Traffic Stops per Year

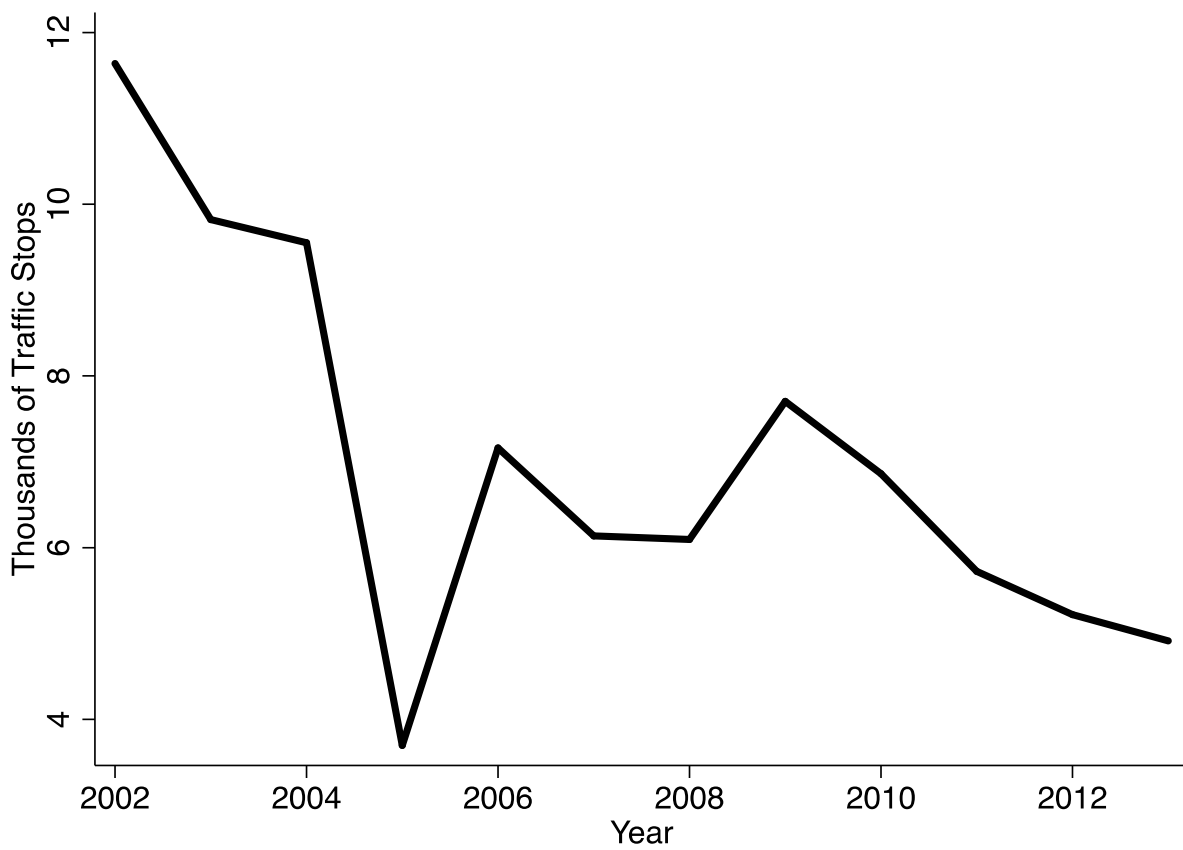


Figure 2. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Year

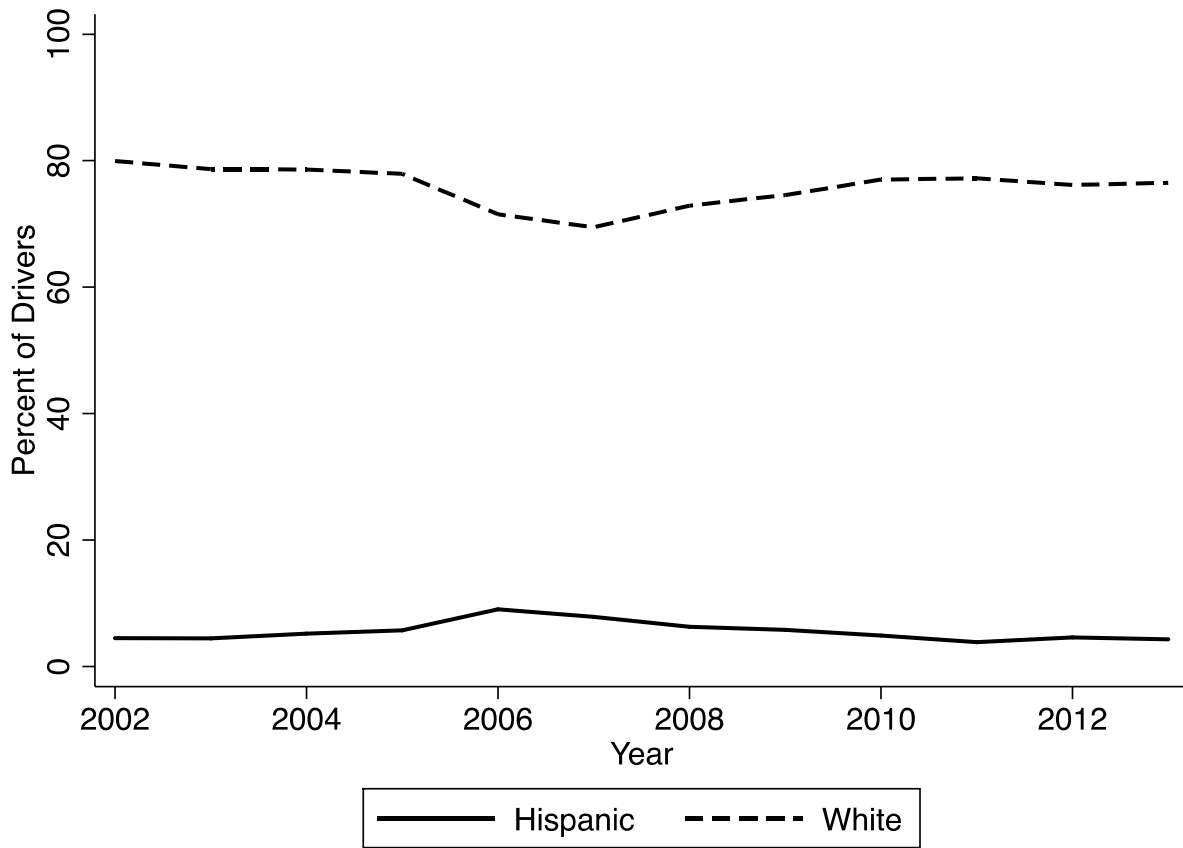


Table 2. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Purpose, Drivers

Purpose	Number	Percent	
		White	Hispanic
Total Stops	84,525	80.66	5.50
Speed Limit	23,408	81.84	5.24
Stop Light/Sign	4,255	84.02	4.86
Driving Impaired	811	81.71	10.36
Safe Movement	6,371	78.05	9.70
Vehicle Equipment	15,771	80.62	5.33
Vehicle Regulatory	20,330	78.99	4.06
Seat Belt	5,545	84.37	3.34
Investigation	4,170	80.25	8.56
Other Vehicle	3,864	77.72	7.79

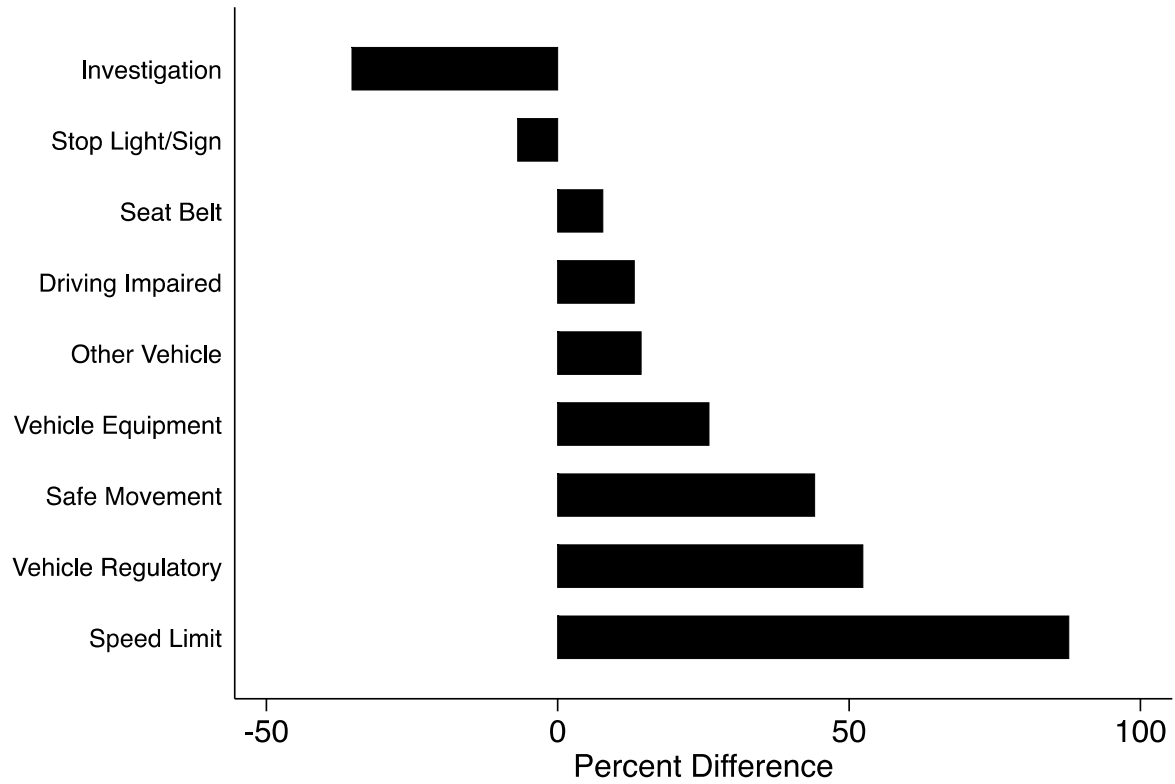
Note: Includes only drivers. Excludes 0 checkpoint stops. Excludes 6,266 passengers.

Table 3. Percent Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	84,525	-	80.66	5.50	-
Total Searches	9,306	11.01	10.53	14.60	1.39
Speed Limit	23,408	6.07	5.47	10.27	1.88
Stop Light/Sign	4,255	7.12	7.26	6.76	0.93
Driving Impaired	811	50.55	50.51	57.14	1.13
Safe Movement	6,371	14.36	13.25	19.09	1.44
Vehicle Equipment	15,771	13.06	12.76	16.07	1.26
Vehicle Regulatory	20,330	9.45	8.90	13.56	1.52
Seat Belt	5,545	16.38	16.05	17.30	1.08
Investigation	4,170	21.44	22.52	14.57	0.65
Other Vehicle	3,864	12.27	11.92	13.62	1.14

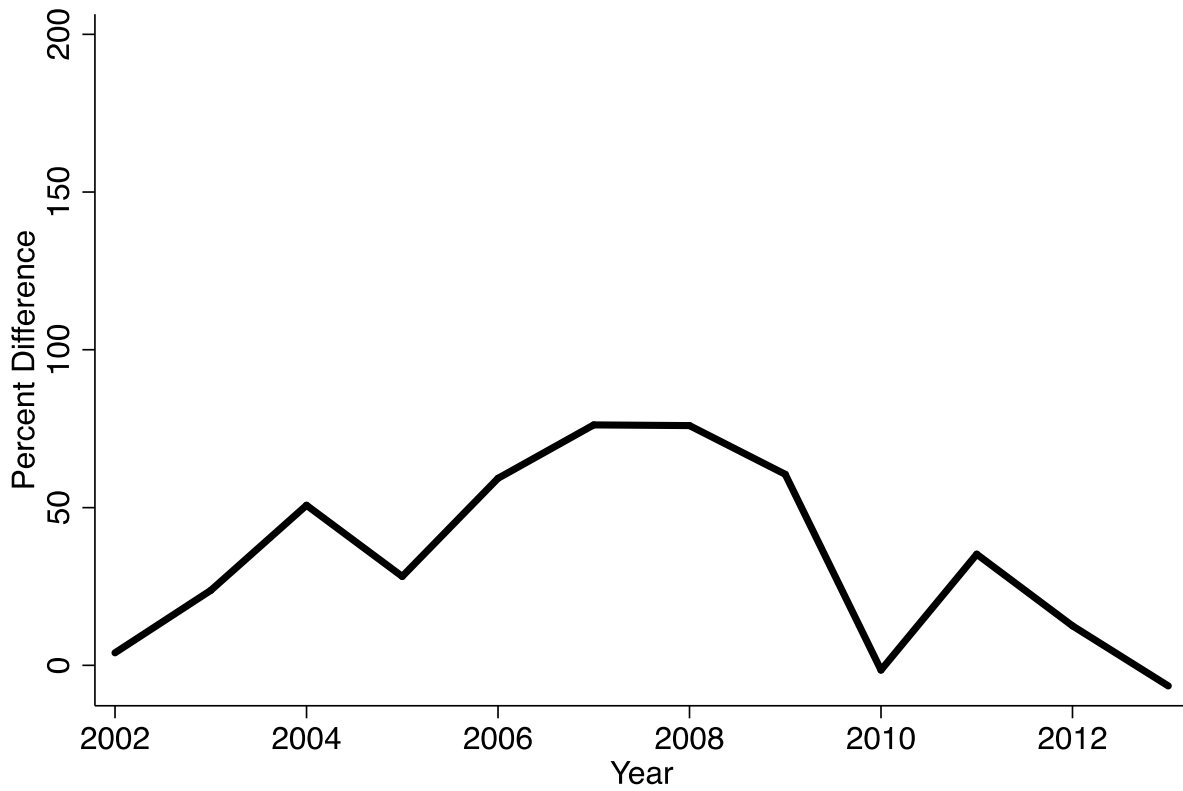
Note: See the appendix for this same table broken down for Men and Women.

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



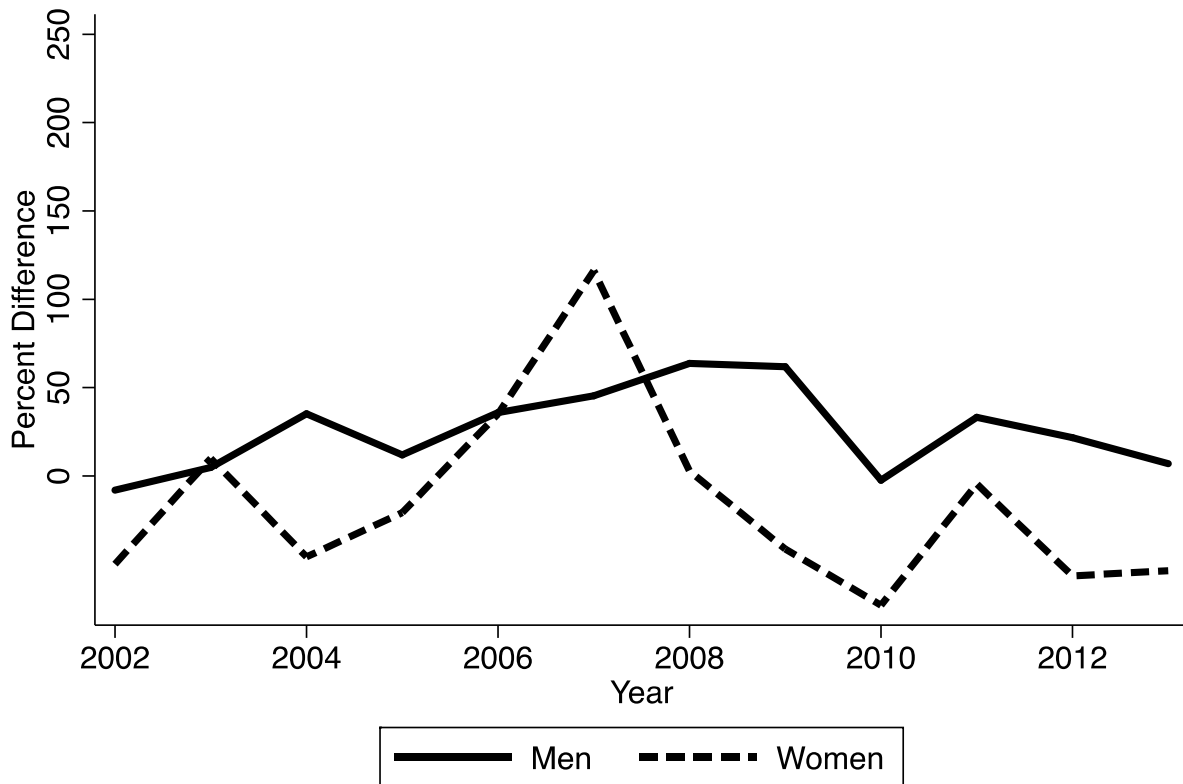
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by purpose of stop.

Figure 4. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search



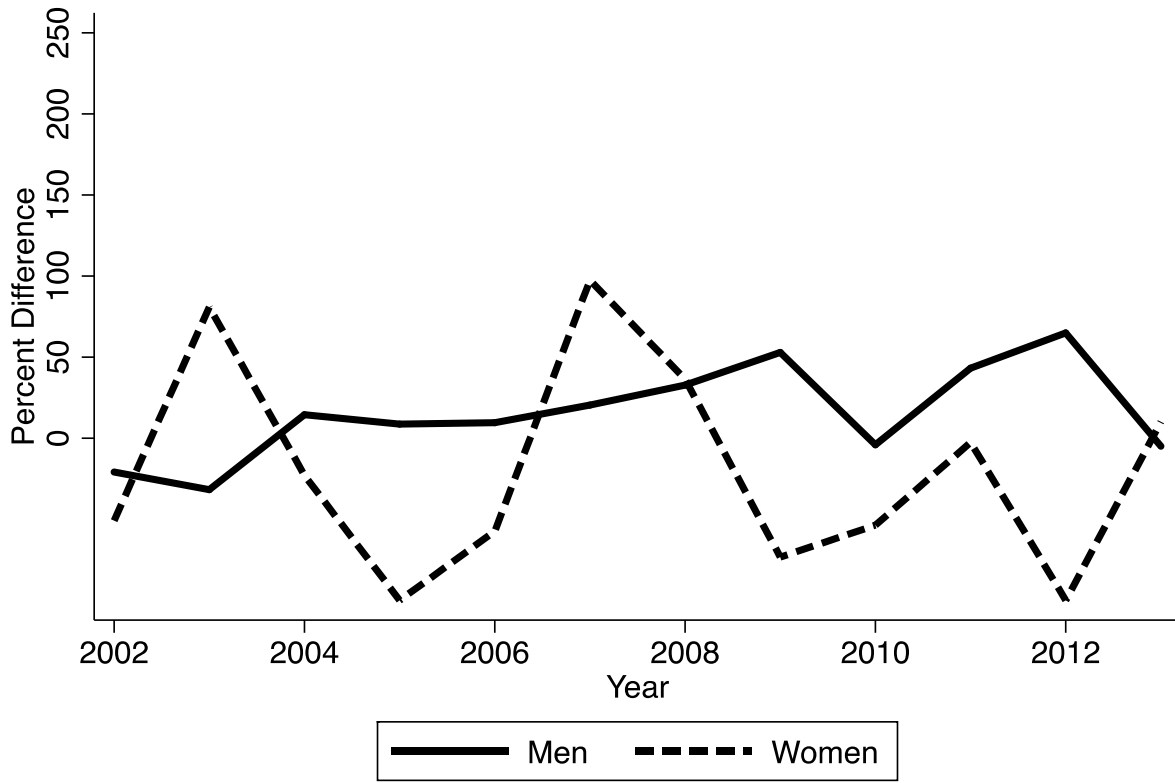
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites.

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



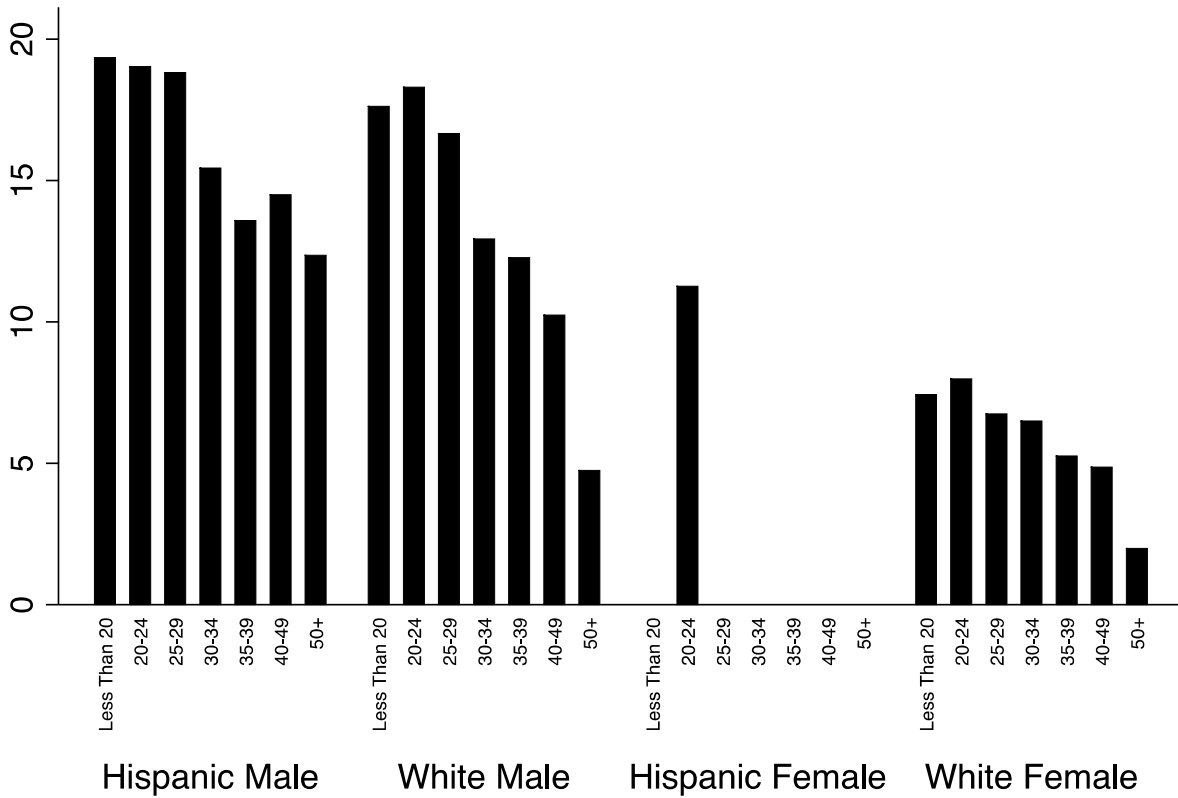
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by gender.

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 84,525 traffic stops from 2002 through 2013, and 9,306 searches. Overall rate of search: 11.01 percent. No data are presented for categories with fewer than 10 searches.

Figure 8. Number of Stops, by Ethnicity and Gender

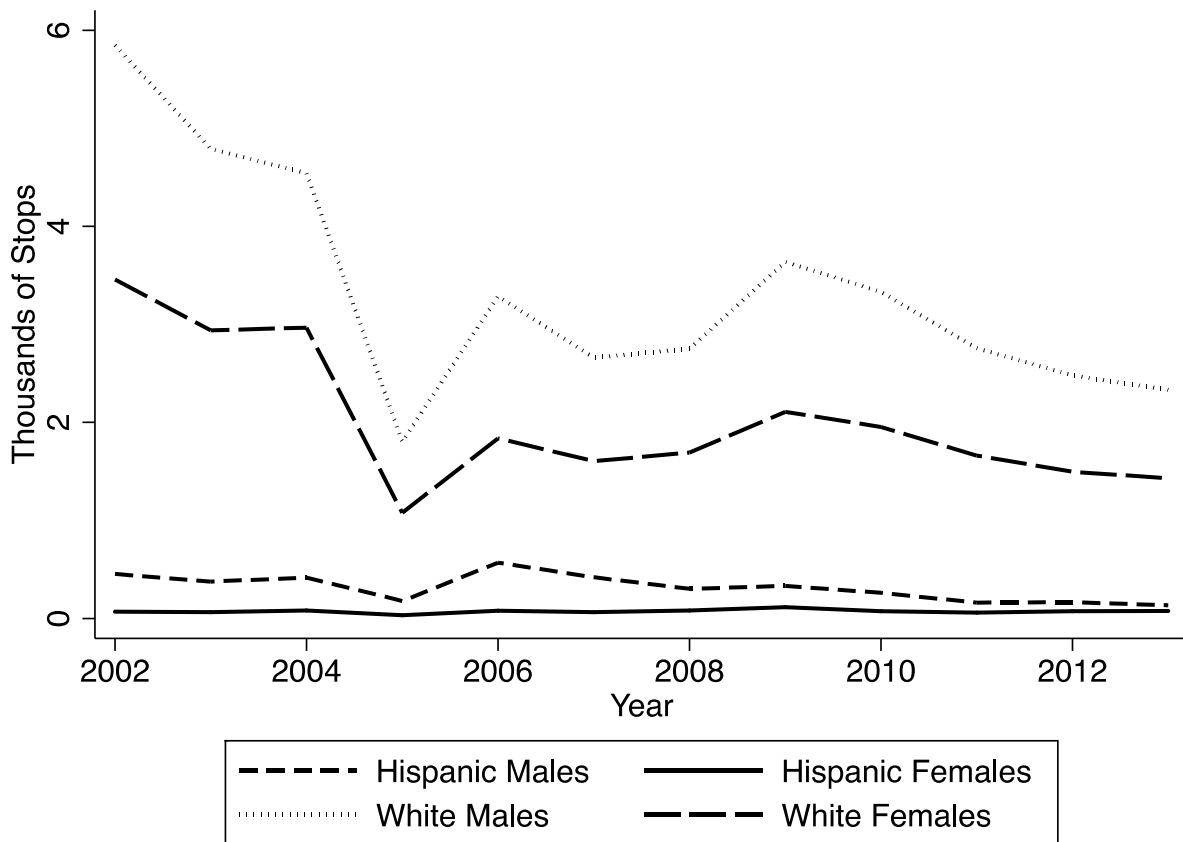


Figure 9. Percent of Stops Resulting in a Search, by Ethnicity and Gender

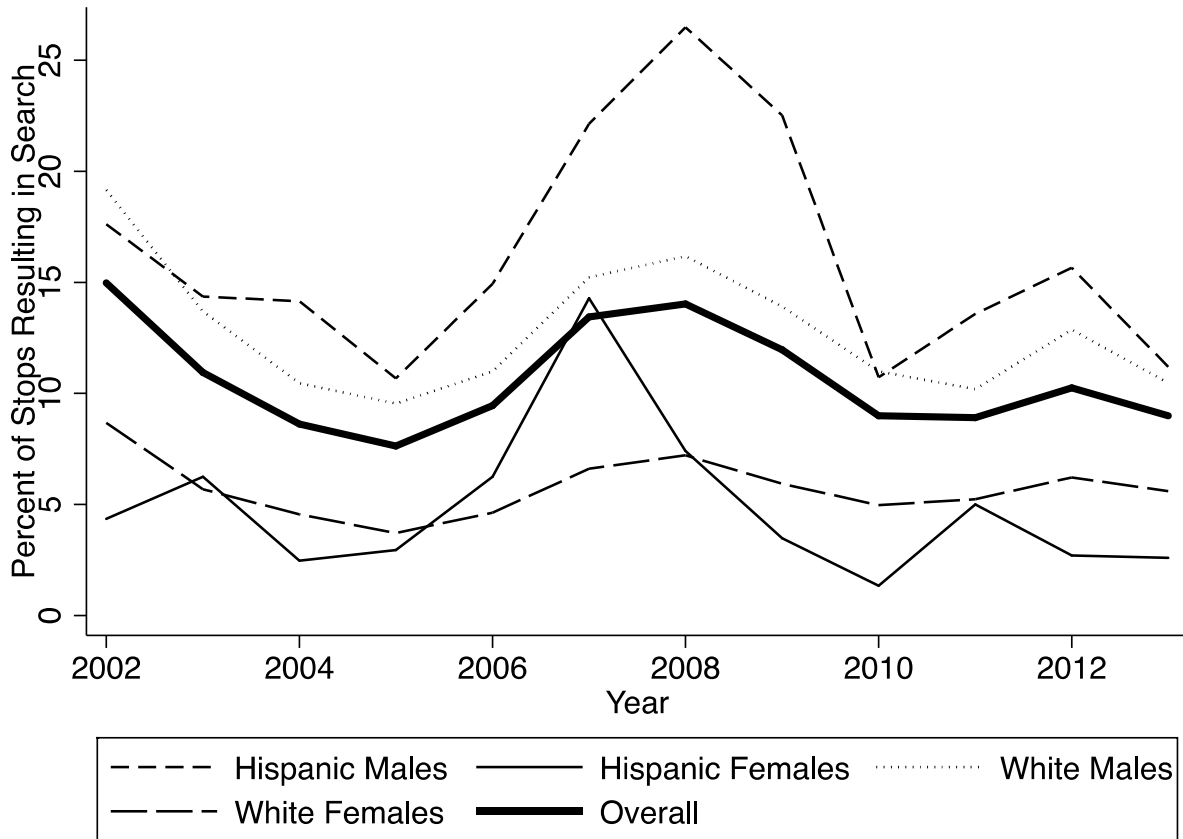


Table 4. Type of Search by Ethnicity

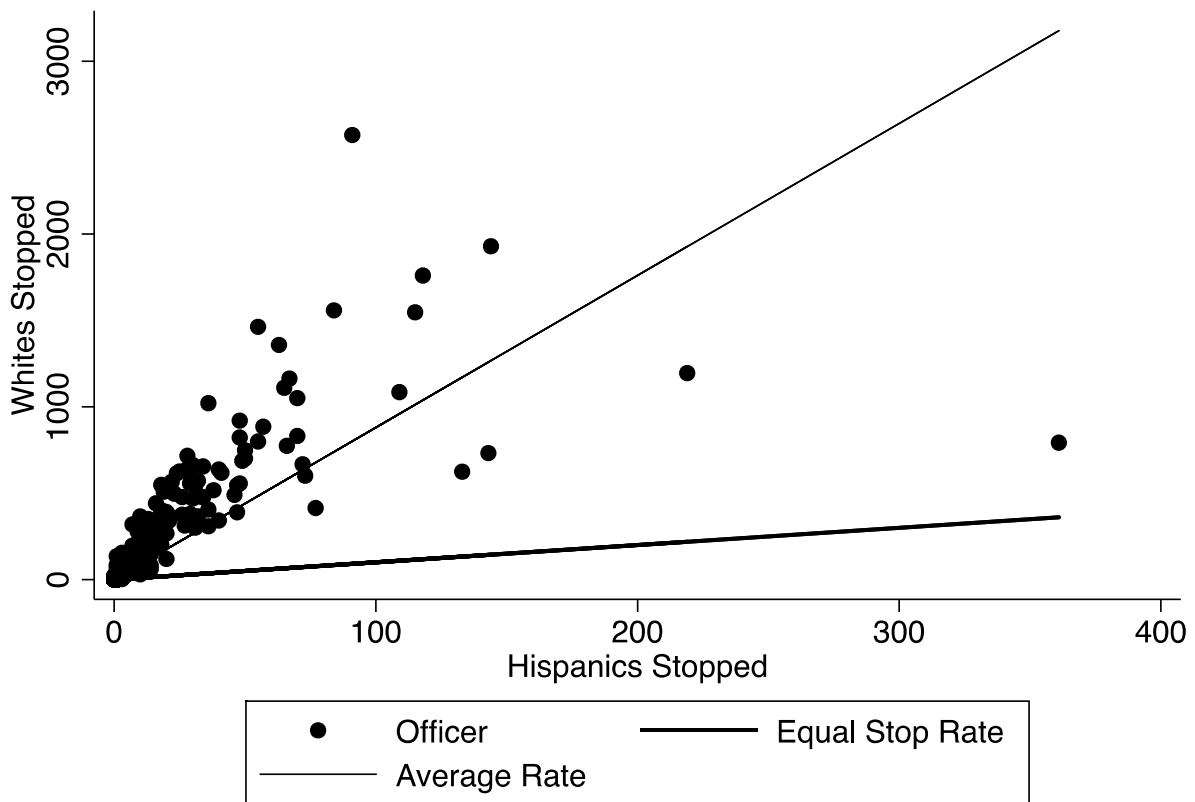
Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	85,638	-	80.66	5.50	-
Total Searches	9,306	11.01	10.53	14.60	1.39
Consent	6,485	7.67	7.60	9.73	1.28
Search Warrant	7	0.01	-	-	-
Probable Cause	806	0.95	0.86	0.60	0.70
Incident to Arrest	1,832	2.17	1.87	3.98	2.13
Protective Frisk	176	0.21	0.19	0.28	1.47

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

Table 5. Distribution of Officer IDs by Stop

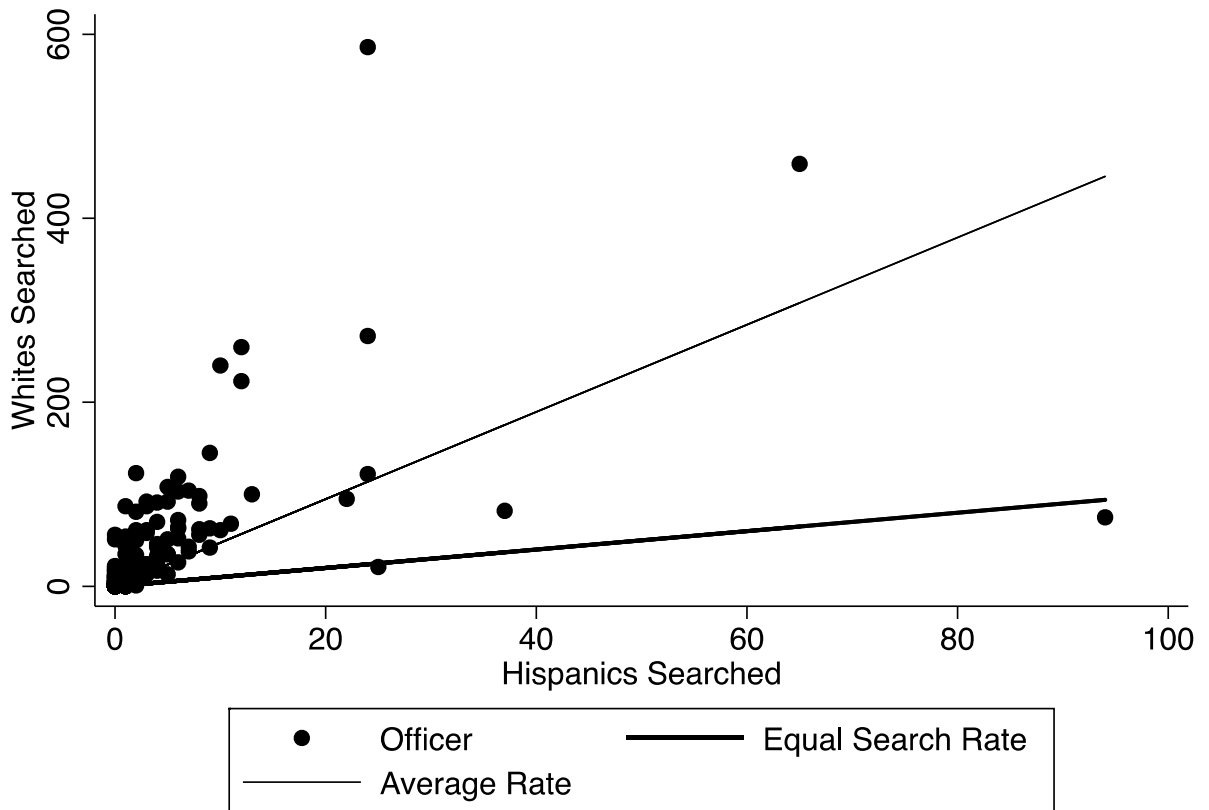
Number of Stops	Officers w/ this many Stops	Percent of Officers	Cumulative Percent	Percent of Stops	Cumulative Percent
1	432	55.67	55.67	0.51	0.51
2 – 10	165	21.26	76.93	0.62	1.13
11 - 100	45	5.80	82.73	2.32	3.45
101 – 1,000	113	14.56	97.29	56.57	60.02
1,001 +	21	2.71	100.00	39.98	100.00
Total	776	100	-	100	-

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



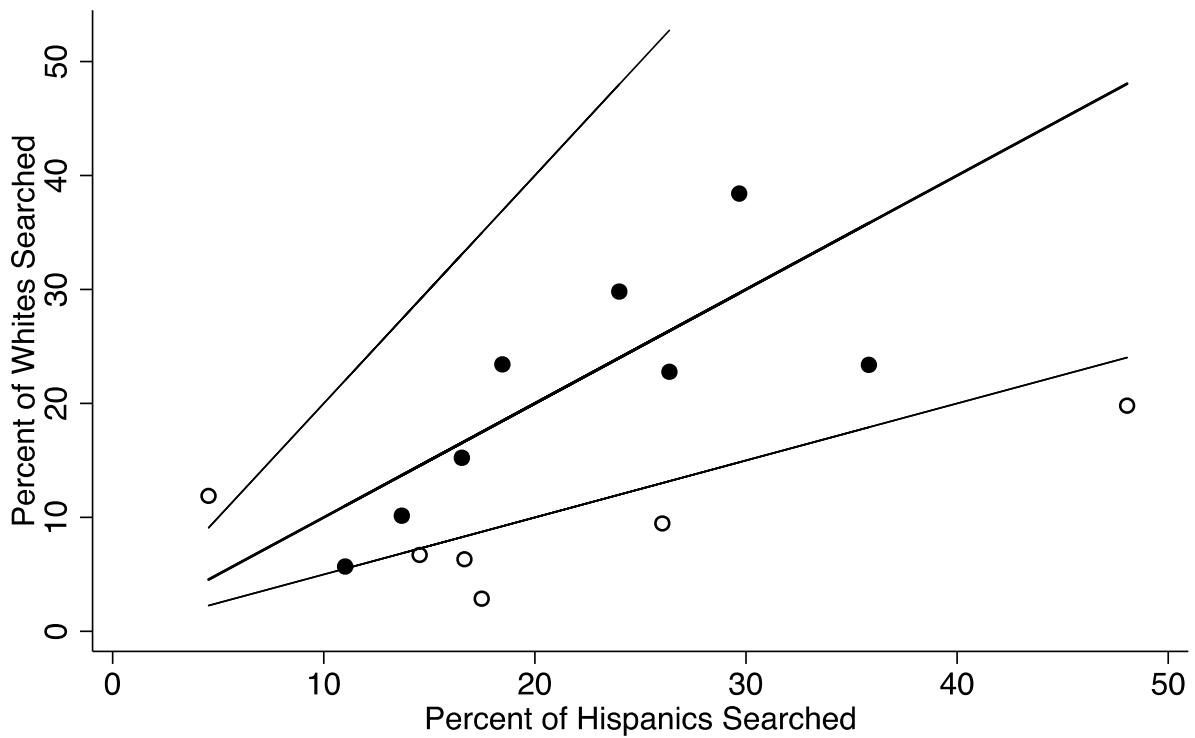
On average, officers stop 8.80 Whites for each Hispanic stopped.

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



On average, officers search 4.74 Whites for each Hispanic searched.

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



Includes 14 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Hispanic stops, and a search rate above the department average of 11.01 for either ethnicity. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 1 officer searches Whites at more than twice the rate that he or she searches Hispanics. 5 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	6,219	77.01	10.07
Speed Limit	815	69.38	15.46
Stop Light/Sign	178	79.65	3.37
Driving Impaired	160	84.25	8.75
Safe Movement	671	73.17	20.57
Vehicle Equipment	1,584	79.66	9.66
Vehicle Regulatory	1,129	75.02	6.38
Seat Belt	679	80.69	5.45
Investigation	717	79.03	8.23
Other Vehicle	286	78.49	7.34

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

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	53,900	-	80.22	7.00	-
Total Searches	7,588	14.08	13.30	16.86	1.27
Speed Limit	14,284	8.42	7.52	12.04	1.60
Stop Light/Sign	2,628	9.25	9.15	8.97	0.98
Driving Impaired	611	54.34	54.57	58.44	1.07
Safe Movement	4,437	17.20	15.65	22.03	1.41
Vehicle Equipment	10,240	15.88	15.16	18.77	1.24
Vehicle Regulatory	12,149	12.35	11.27	16.10	1.43
Seat Belt	4,026	20.17	20.02	17.20	0.86
Investigation	2,966	24.78	26.14	16.01	0.61
Other Vehicle	2,559	14.62	14.21	14.79	1.04

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

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	30,625	-	81.41	2.85	-
Total Searches	1,718	5.61	5.93	4.81	0.81
Speed Limit	9,124	2.40	2.43	3.53	1.45
Stop Light/Sign	1,627	3.69	4.30	-	-
Driving Impaired	200	39.00	39.10	42.86	1.10
Safe Movement	1,934	7.86	8.28	4.76	0.57
Vehicle Equipment	5,531	7.85	8.53	4.43	0.52
Vehicle Regulatory	8,181	5.13	5.50	4.02	0.73
Seat Belt	1,519	6.32	6.18	17.86	2.89
Investigation	1,204	13.21	14.58	5.88	0.40
Other Vehicle	1,305	7.66	7.88	6.82	0.87

Table A4. Type of Search by Ethnicity: Men

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio Hispanic:White
Total Stops	53,900	-	80.22	7.00	-
Total Searches	7,588	14.08	13.30	16.86	1.27
Consent	5,282	9.80	9.62	11.16	1.16
Search Warrant	7	0.01	0.01	-	-
Probable Cause	656	1.22	1.09	0.69	0.63
Incident to Arrest	1,484	2.75	2.33	4.67	2.00
Protective Frisk	159	0.29	0.27	0.34	1.26

Table A5. Type of Search by Ethnicity: Women

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio Hispanic:White
Total Stops	30,625	-	81.41	2.85	-
Total Searches	1,718	5.61	5.93	4.81	0.81
Consent	1,203	3.93	4.26	3.55	0.83
Search Warrant	-	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	150	0.49	0.50	0.23	0.46
Incident to Arrest	348	1.14	1.12	1.03	0.92
Protective Frisk	17	0.06	0.06	-	-

Figure A1. Stops by Day of the Week

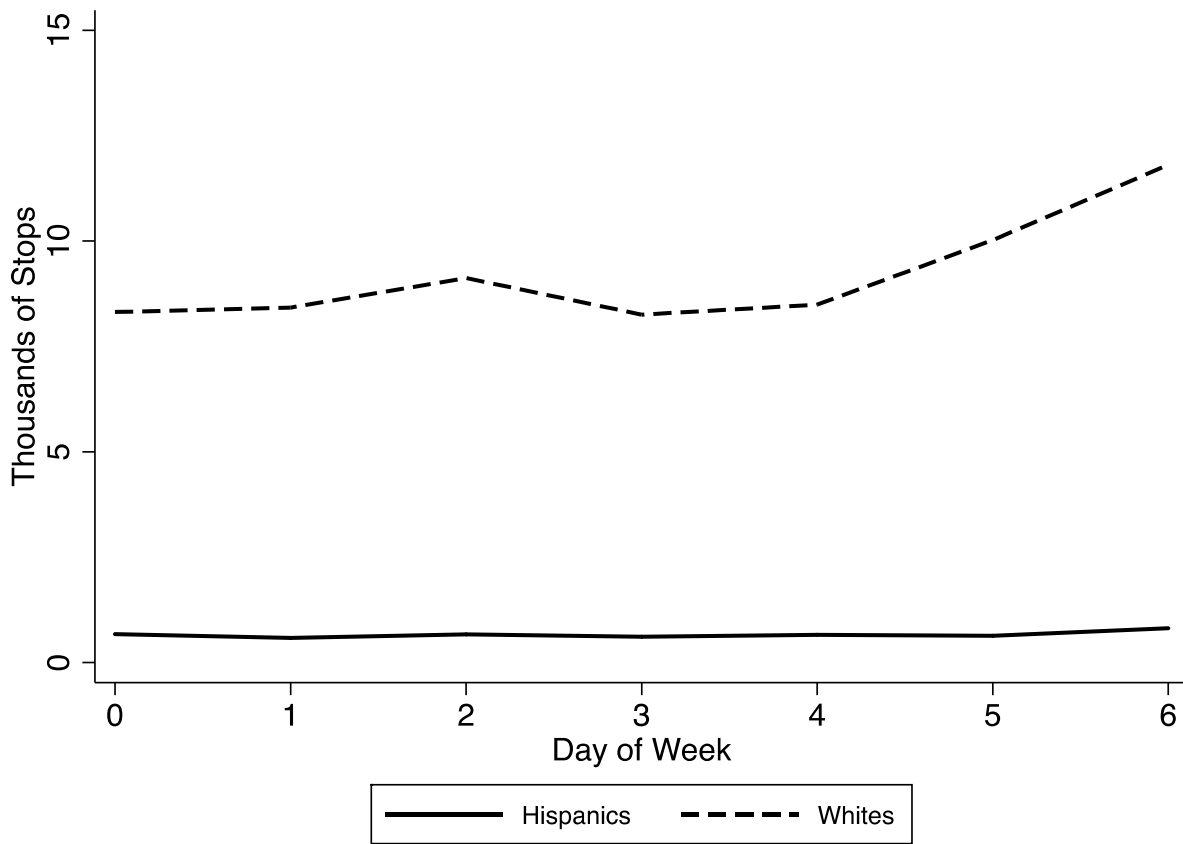


Figure A2. Searches by Day of the Week

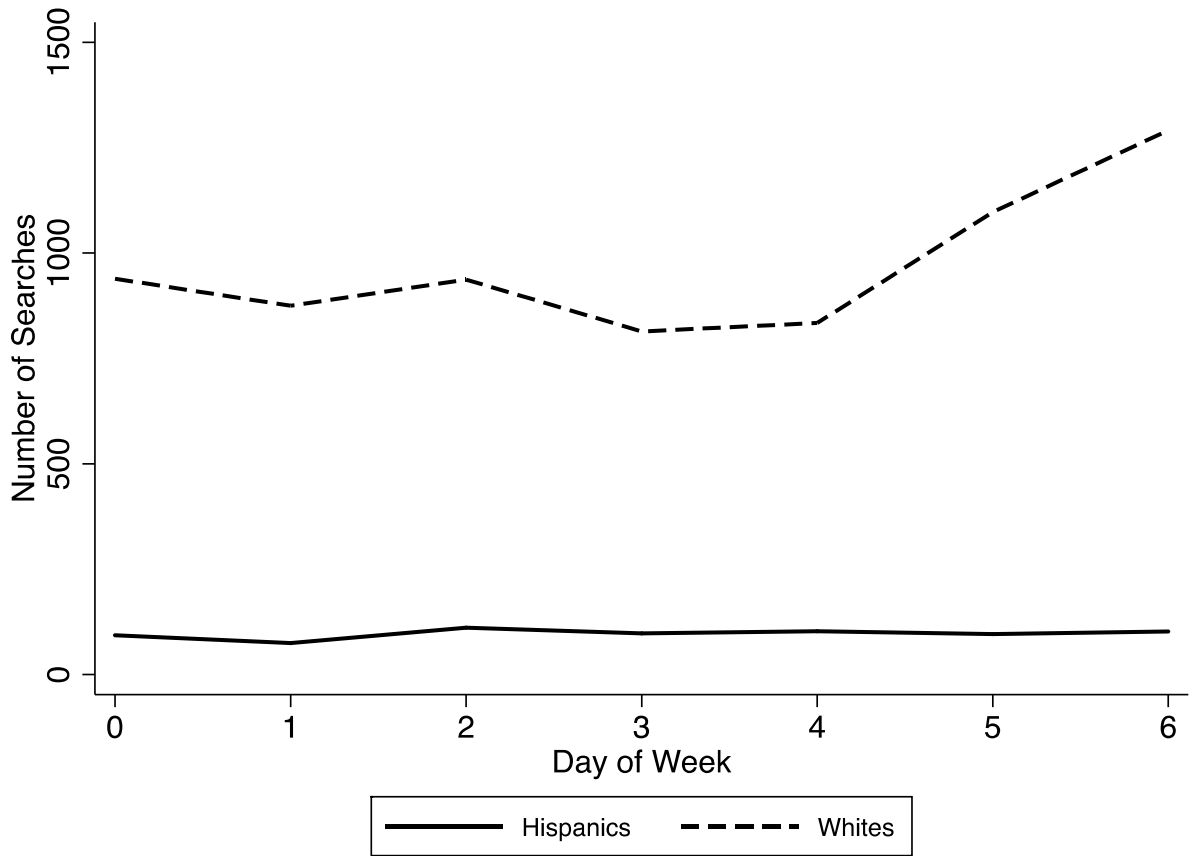
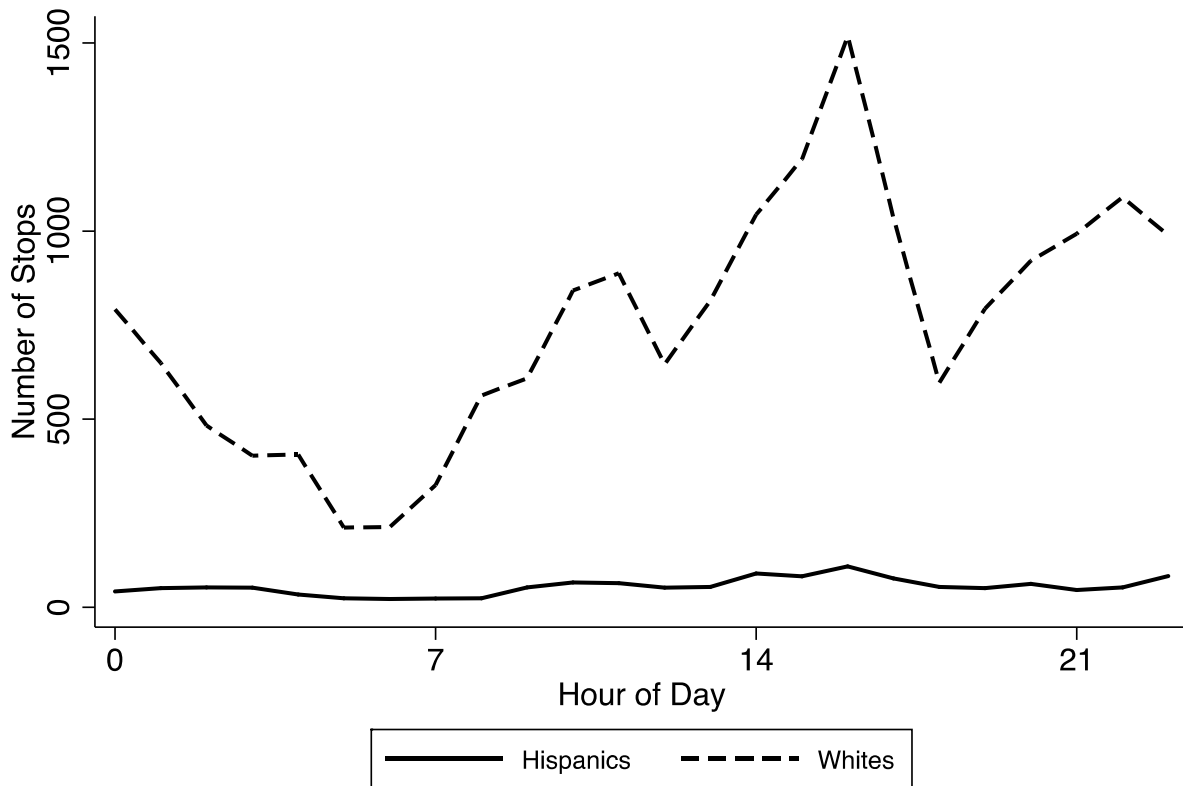
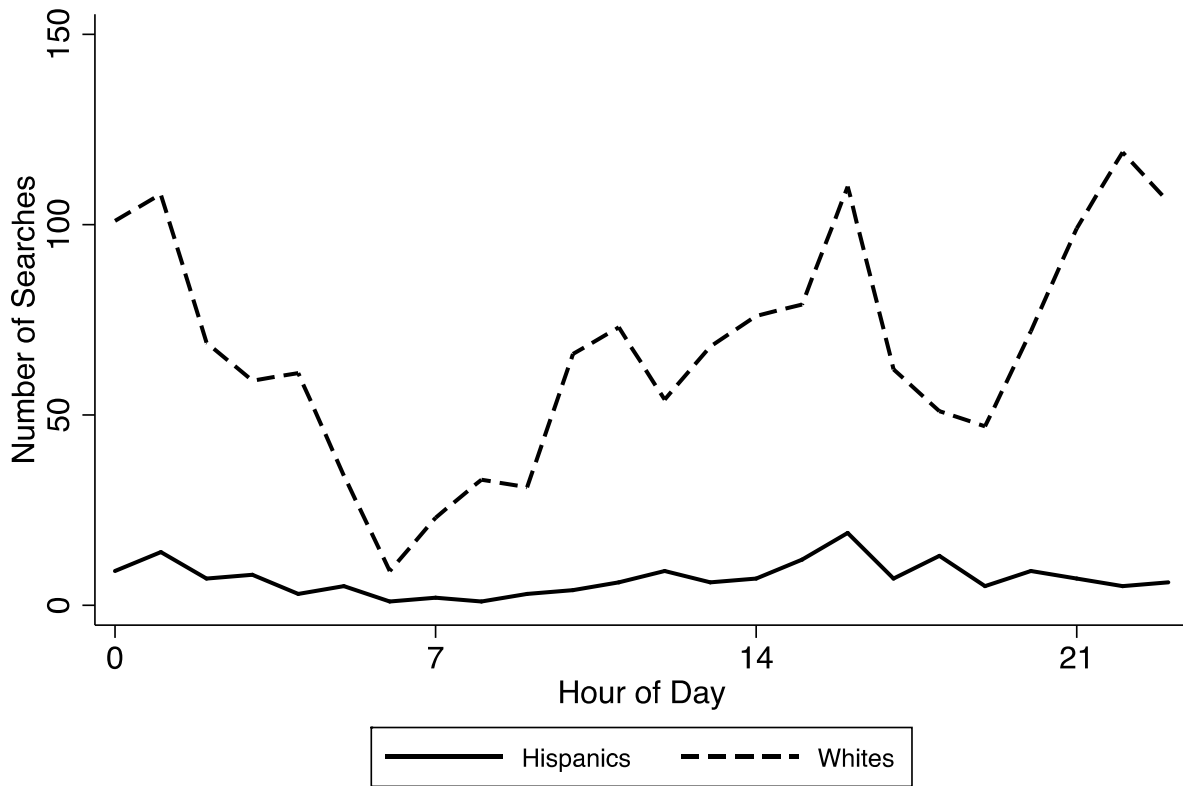


Figure A3. Stops by Hour of the Day



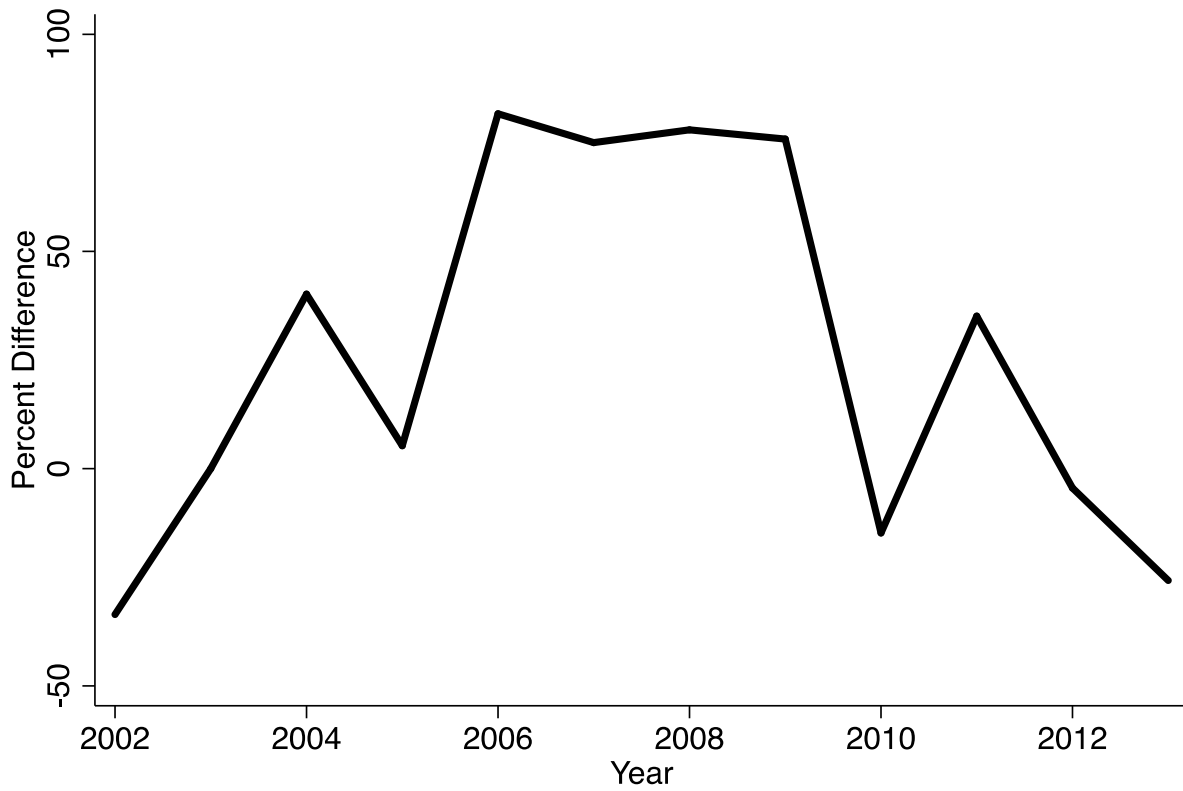
The figure excludes cases where the hour and minute was exactly 0:00. These cases were presumed to be missing data.

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	% Hispanic
Yes	4,673	50.21	48.12	58.41
No	4,633	49.79	51.88	41.59
Total	9,306	100.00	100.00	100.00

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

Race	Search Occur	N	No Action	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation Issued	Arrest	Total
White	No	57,645	2.51	13.01	37.96	45.89	0.63	100.0
Hispanic	No	3,967	2.19	11.24	29.04	55.46	2.07	100.0
Total	No	75,219	2.55	13.48	37.09	46.13	0.76	100.0
White	Yes	6,787	1.43	4.98	27.15	48.22	18.21	100.0
Hispanic	Yes	678	0.88	3.10	30.83	40.27	24.93	100.0
Total	Yes	9,306	1.23	4.77	27.07	46.97	19.97	100.0