

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

March 23, 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	88,835	-	46.74	50.27	-
Total Searches	3,562	4.01	2.86	5.03	1.76
Speed Limit	35,647	2.13	1.57	2.76	1.76
Stop Light/Sign	4,879	3.48	1.95	4.86	2.49
Driving Impaired	1,442	21.71	22.27	21.44	0.96
Safe Movement	4,180	6.10	4.76	7.25	1.52
Vehicle Equipment	8,409	5.47	3.78	6.38	1.69
Vehicle Regulatory	15,183	3.47	2.19	4.59	2.10
Seat Belt	9,838	1.74	1.21	2.28	1.88
Investigation	4,984	13.52	10.92	14.99	1.37
Other Vehicle	4,273	5.41	3.79	6.59	1.74

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 76 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 +106 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is +24 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	88,835	-	46.74	50.27	-
Total Searches	3,562	4.01	2.86	5.03	1.76
Consent	934	1.05	0.85	1.24	1.46
Search Warrant	20	0.02	0.01	0.03	3.00
Probable Cause	1,469	1.65	1.08	2.18	2.02
Incident to Arrest	1,043	1.17	0.85	1.43	1.68
Protective Frisk	96	0.11	0.06	0.15	2.50

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

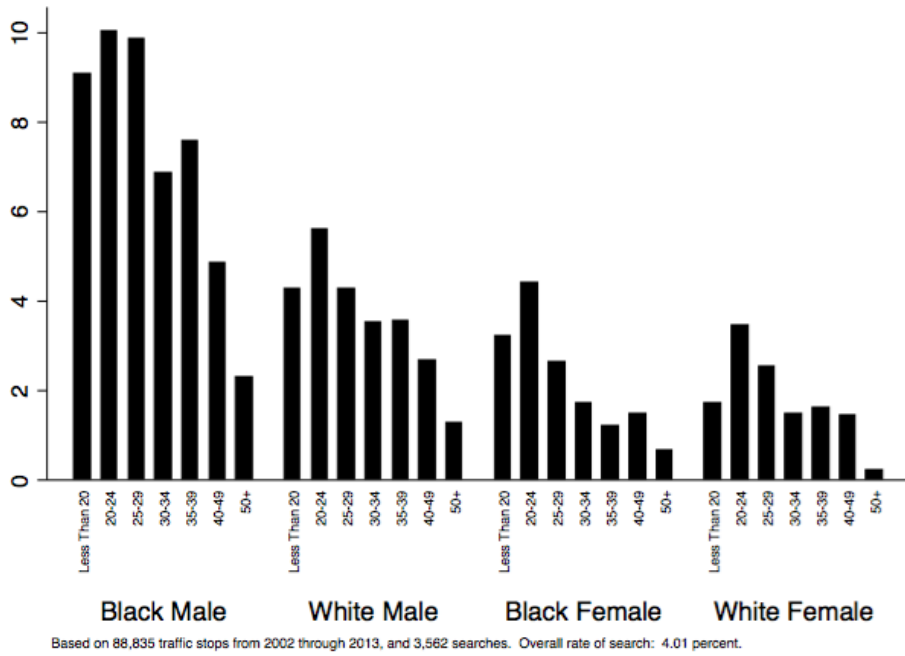


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

