

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Greenville, 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	105,547	-	55,771	45,866	-
Total Searches	4,044	3.83	2.89	4.96	1.72
Speed Limit	38,144	1.55	1.32	1.85	1.40
Stop Light/Sign	7,940	3.07	2.07	4.75	2.29
Driving Impaired	877	47.55	50.00	39.91	0.80
Safe Movement	4,662	5.19	5.41	4.89	0.90
Vehicle Equipment	8,206	6.21	5.15	6.93	1.35
Vehicle Regulatory	23,092	4.06	2.14	5.89	2.75
Seat Belt	11,648	1.75	1.06	3.00	2.83
Investigation	4,774	11.52	10.25	12.48	1.22
Other Vehicle	6,204	5.63	4.53	6.66	1.47

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 72 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 +68 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is not statistically significant.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	105,547	-	55,771	45,866	-
Total Searches	4,044	3.83	2.89	4.96	1.72
Consent	1,994	1.89	1.29	2.63	2.04
Search Warrant	12	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	348	0.33	0.20	0.49	2.45
Incident to Arrest	1,613	1.53	1.35	1.73	1.28
Protective Frisk	77	0.07	0.04	0.10	2.50

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

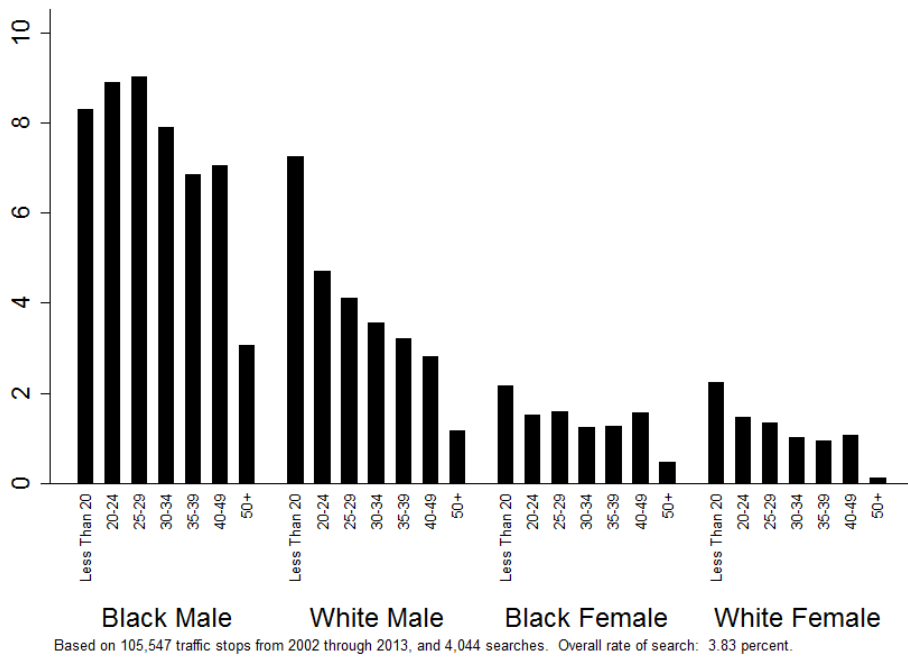


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

