

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

January 31, 2015

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

Contact: Frankb@unc.edu

Table 3. Percent Searched by Race and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	87,393	-	79.72	17.01	-
Total Searches	3,779	4.32	3.69	7.42	2.01
Speed Limit	29,297	1.69	1.38	3.51	2.54
Stop Light/Sign	8,561	2.83	2.35	5.59	2.38
Driving Impaired	631	39.30	39.76	38.10	0.96
Safe Movement	6,746	6.42	5.82	10.53	1.81
Vehicle Equipment	12,119	4.78	4.26	7.04	1.65
Vehicle Regulatory	13,662	3.67	3.12	6.19	1.98
Seat Belt	5,343	2.71	2.20	5.07	2.30
Investigation	5,752	13.49	12.17	17.49	1.44
Other Vehicle	5,282	6.78	5.43	12.07	2.22

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 101 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 +117 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is +26 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	87,393	-	79.72	17.01	-
Total Searches	3,779	4.32	3.69	7.42	2.01
Consent	1,859	2.13	1.86	3.49	1.88
Search Warrant	11	0.01	0.01	0.03	-
Probable Cause	849	0.97	0.75	2.09	2.79
Incident to Arrest	1,010	1.16	1.02	1.72	1.69
Protective Frisk	50	0.06	0.05	0.09	1.80

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

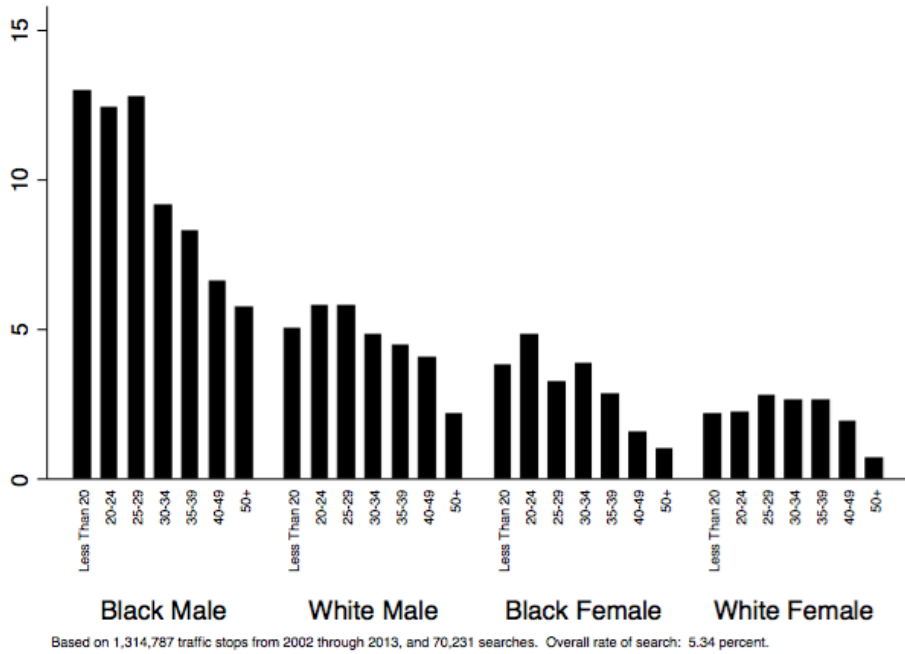


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

