

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in High Point, 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	246,250	-	57.48	39.10	-
Total Searches	11,266	4.58	3.70	6.04	1.63
Speed Limit	90,341	1.52	1.22	2.17	1.78
Stop Light/Sign	14,308	4.27	3.68	5.36	1.46
Driving Impaired	1,764	36.62	38.95	32.41	0.83
Safe Movement	15,371	7.98	6.42	10.99	1.71
Vehicle Equipment	33,910	5.66	4.90	6.73	1.37
Vehicle Regulatory	51,896	4.10	3.16	5.29	1.67
Seat Belt	11,387	5.14	3.13	7.57	2.42
Investigation	18,367	11.78	10.68	13.20	1.24
Other Vehicle	8,906	6.91	4.67	9.90	2.12

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 163 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 +90 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is -9 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	246,250	-	57.48	39.10	-
Total Searches	11,266	4.58	3.70	6.04	1.63
Consent	4,321	1.75	1.60	2.06	1.29
Search Warrant	18	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	2,220	0.90	0.51	1.51	2.96
Incident to Arrest	4,526	1.84	1.53	2.36	1.54
Protective Frisk	181	0.07	0.06	0.10	1.67

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

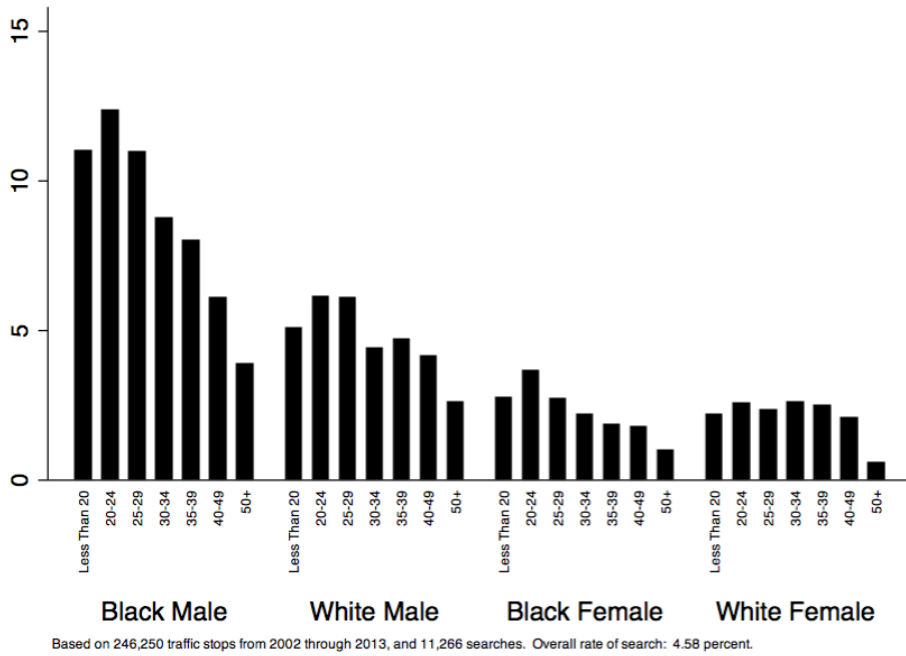


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

