

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

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<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	85,638	-	71.00	22.91	-
Total Searches	3,098	3.62	3.53	4.10	1.16
Speed Limit	35,205	2.51	2.49	2.69	1.08
Stop Light/Sign	6,891	1.65	1.51	2.29	1.52
Driving Impaired	734	65.26	66.50	59.14	0.89
Safe Movement	4,784	4.62	4.77	4.29	0.90
Vehicle Equipment	5,996	3.99	4.25	3.74	0.88
Vehicle Regulatory	23,055	1.70	1.29	3.13	2.43
Seat Belt	2,864	3.46	2.71	7.66	2.83
Investigation	3,295	12.66	13.72	12.30	0.90
Other Vehicle	2,814	9.03	7.87	12.90	1.64

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 16 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 +26 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	85,638	-	71.00	22.91	-
Total Searches	3,098	3.62	3.53	4.10	1.16
Consent	835	0.98	0.89	1.37	1.54
Search Warrant	6	0.01	0.01	0.01	1.00
Probable Cause	524	0.61	0.58	0.78	1.34
Incident to Arrest	1,662	1.94	1.98	1.81	0.91
Protective Frisk	71	0.08	0.07	0.13	1.86

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

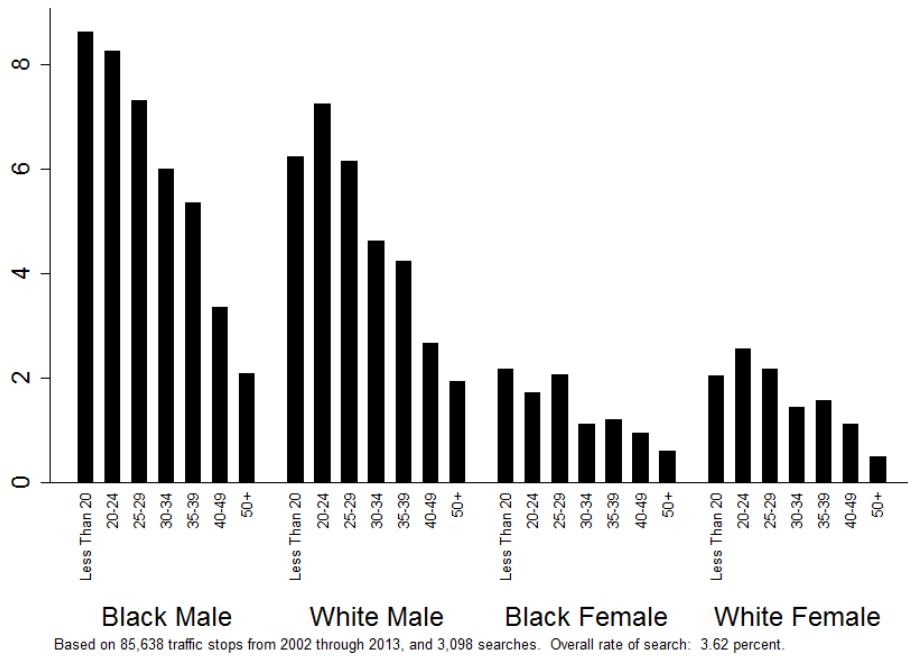


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

