

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches for the NC State Highway Patrol, 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	8,072,228	-	67.54	23.38	-
Total Searches	59,257	0.73	0.62	0.87	1.40
Speed Limit	4,226,735	0.38	0.30	0.53	1.77
Stop Light/Sign	125,266	0.67	0.56	0.87	1.55
Driving Impaired	81,231	24.01	24.60	22.90	0.93
Safe Movement	236,520	1.72	1.52	2.04	1.34
Vehicle Equipment	402,425	0.57	0.46	0.78	1.70
Vehicle Regulatory	701,465	0.30	0.24	0.45	1.88
Seat Belt	1,208,964	0.29	0.24	0.42	1.75
Investigation	691,395	0.97	0.90	1.12	1.24
Other Vehicle	398,227	1.05	1.00	1.22	1.22

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 40 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 +66 percent. For female drivers, the likelihood is -5 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	8,072,228	-	67.54	23.38	-
Total Searches	59,257	0.73	0.62	0.87	1.40
Consent	5,569	0.07	0.06	0.07	1.17
Search Warrant	192	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	4,766	0.06	0.05	0.08	1.60
Incident to Arrest	41,220	0.51	0.42	0.61	1.45
Protective Frisk	7,510	0.09	0.08	0.10	1.25

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

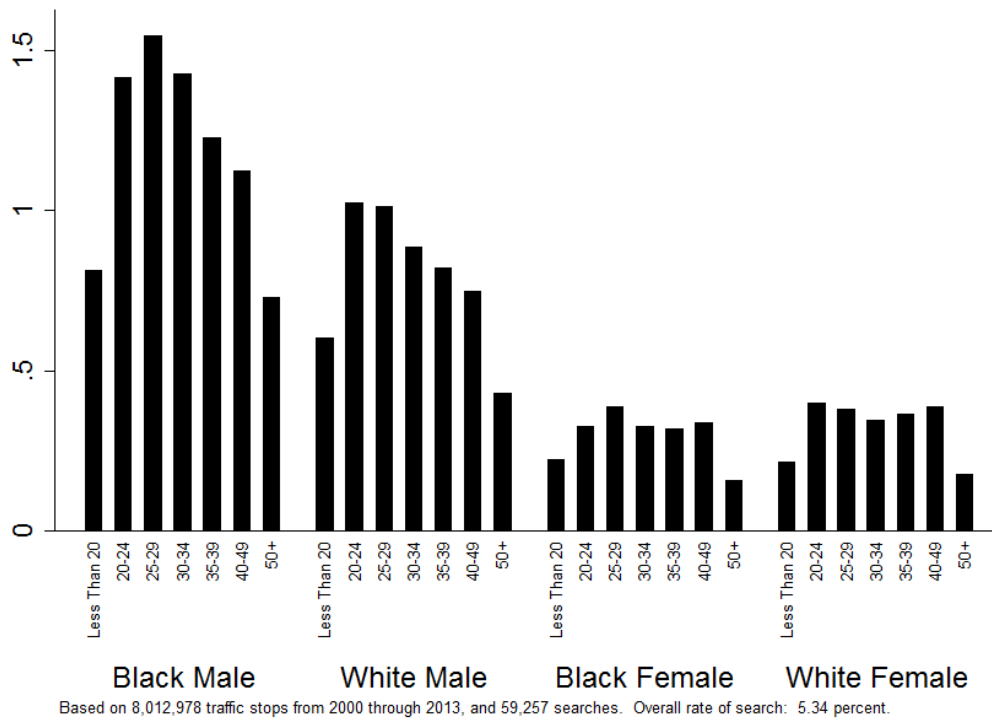
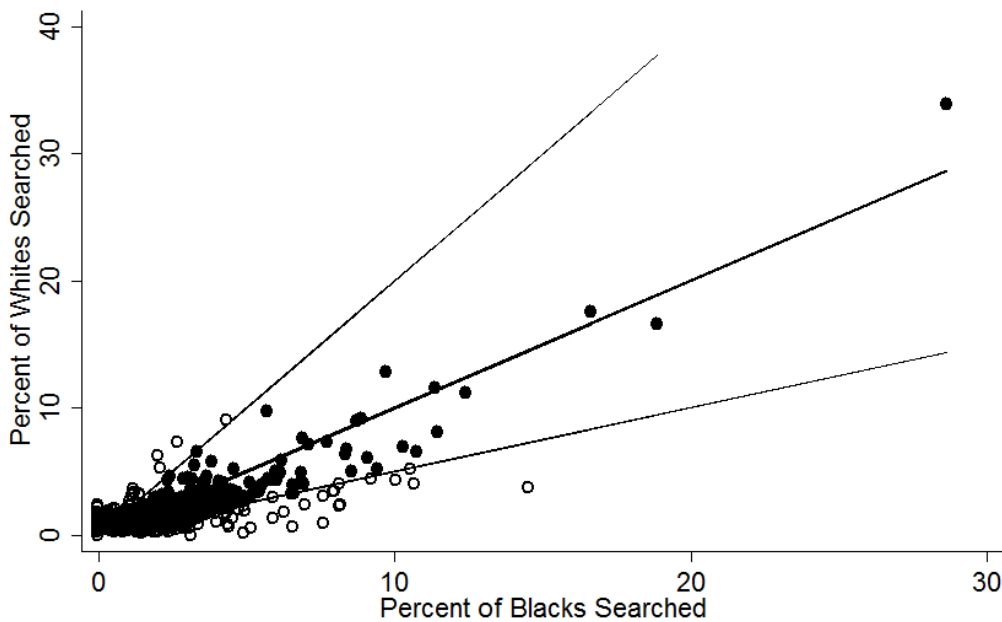


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer



Includes 638 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Black stops, and a search rate above the department average of 0.65. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 70 officers search Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Blacks. 153 officers search Blacks at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.