

Analysis of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches by the Wake County Sheriff's Department, NC, 2002-2013

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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	107,812	-	65.59	31.57	-
Total Searches	8,584	7.96	7.15	9.96	1.39
Speed Limit	38,983	3.60	3.13	5.03	1.61
Stop Light/Sign	7,498	3.60	3.06	5.76	1.88
Driving Impaired	2,217	46.10	49.39	36.50	0.74
Safe Movement	9,852	10.05	9.24	11.99	1.30
Vehicle Equipment	10,455	11.03	10.12	12.52	1.24
Vehicle Regulatory	21,260	7.68	6.59	9.58	1.45
Seat Belt	3,111	7.97	5.14	13.95	2.71
Investigation	8,189	16.22	15.00	18.83	1.26
Other Vehicle	6,247	8.63	7.47	10.87	1.46

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 39 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 likelihood is -12 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	107,812	-	65.59	31.57	-
Total Searches	8,584	7.96	7.15	9.96	1.39
Consent	4,376	4.06	3.70	4.97	1.34
Search Warrant	21	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.00
Probable Cause	1,397	1.30	0.88	2.23	2.53
Incident to Arrest	2,579	2.39	2.38	2.50	1.05
Protective Frisk	211	0.20	0.17	0.24	1.41

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

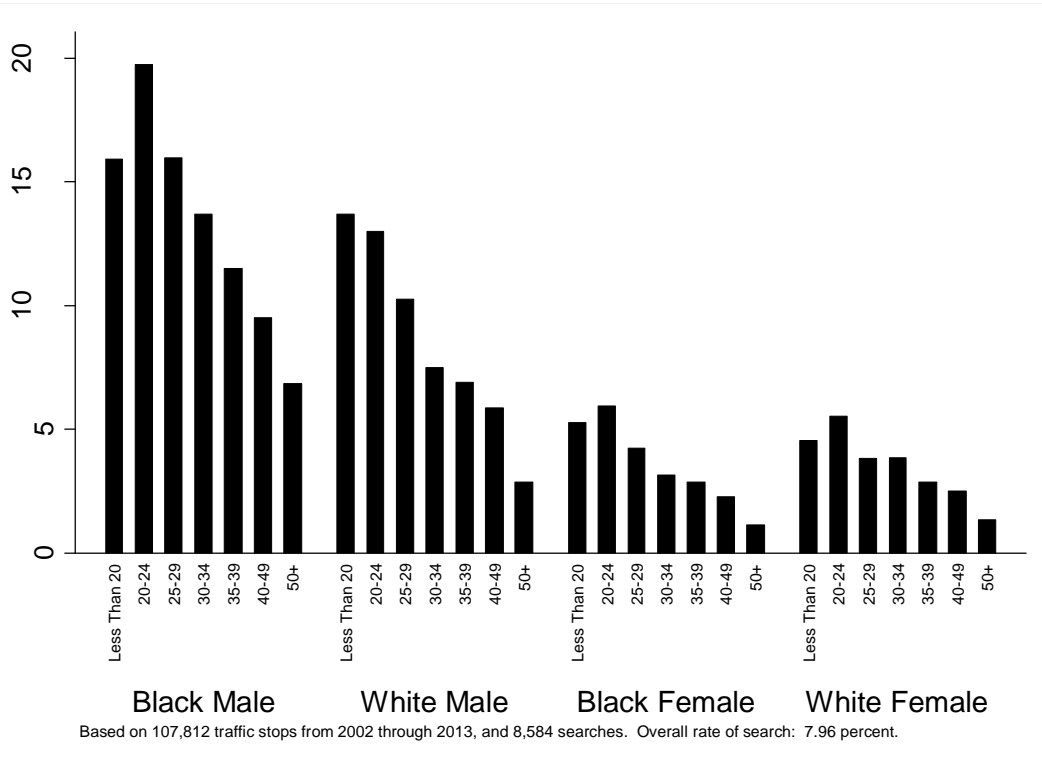
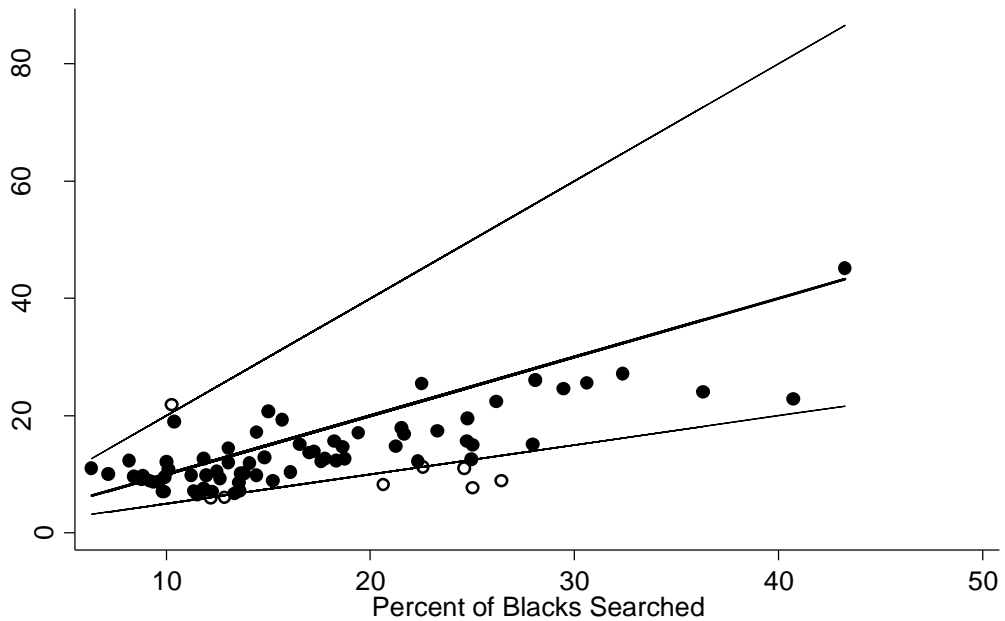


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer



Includes 77 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Black stops, and a search rate above the department average of 7.96. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 7 officers search Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Blacks. 1 officers search Blacks at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.