

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Wilmington, 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	142,714	-	74.40	24.22	-
Total Searches	6,909	4.84	3.65	8.53	2.34
Speed Limit	55,173	1.96	1.61	3.61	2.24
Stop Light/Sign	9,378	3.76	2.74	7.20	2.63
Driving Impaired	1,198	39.15	41.22	26.67	0.65
Safe Movement	9,392	7.22	6.62	9.24	1.40
Vehicle Equipment	15,583	7.96	5.91	11.59	1.96
Vehicle Regulatory	34,126	4.29	2.82	8.14	2.89
Seat Belt	6,977	4.10	2.22	9.73	4.38
Investigation	4,435	20.27	18.23	23.79	1.30
Other Vehicle	6,452	6.77	5.03	10.99	2.18

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 134 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 +143 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	142,714	-	74.40	24.22	-
Total Searches	6,909	4.84	3.65	8.53	2.34
Consent	3,045	2.13	1.60	3.80	2.38
Search Warrant	27	0.02	0.02	0.03	1.50
Probable Cause	640	0.45	0.22	1.17	5.32
Incident to Arrest	3,061	2.14	1.77	3.28	1.85
Protective Frisk	136	0.10	0.05	0.25	5.00

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

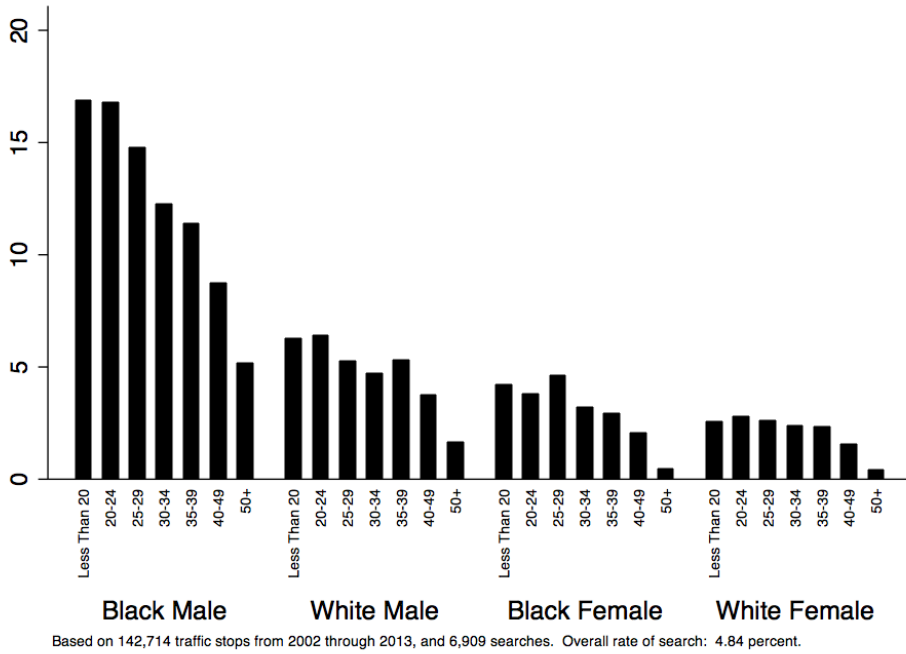


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

