

## Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Burlington, 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	84,010	-	61.44	35.45	-
Total Searches	5,554	6.61	5.86	7.83	1.34
Speed Limit	25,140	2.70	2.34	3.42	1.46
Stop Light/Sign	5,700	5.40	4.18	7.17	1.72
Driving Impaired	1,991	39.73	42.73	32.04	0.75
Safe Movement	6,968	8.21	7.62	9.25	1.21
Vehicle Equipment	12,605	6.45	5.51	7.86	1.43
Vehicle Regulatory	15,252	4.87	3.77	6.55	1.74
Seat Belt	5,552	5.10	3.94	6.71	1.70
Investigation	5,998	17.04	15.44	19.72	1.28
Other Vehicle	4,804	7.16	6.17	8.53	1.38

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 34 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 +81 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is -17 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	84,010	-	61.44	35.45	-
Total Searches	5,554	6.61	5.86	7.83	1.34
Consent	1,788	2.13	1.89	2.60	1.38
Search Warrant	23	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	996	1.19	0.83	1.86	2.24
Incident to Arrest	2,643	3.15	3.05	3.12	1.02
Protective Frisk	104	0.12	0.07	0.21	3.00

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

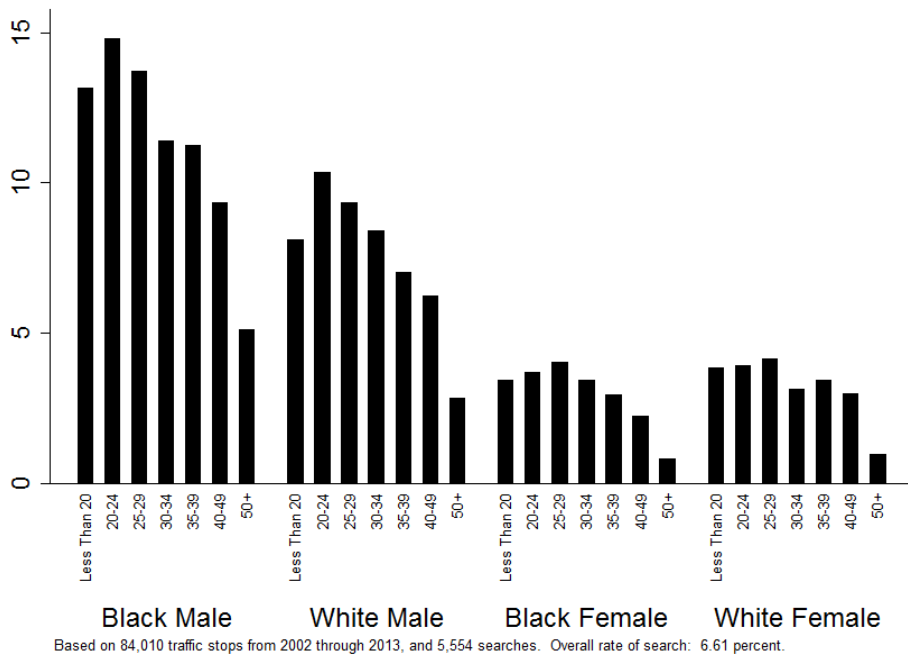


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

