

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in the NC Division of Motor Vehicles, 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	57,686	-	67.24	25.47	-
Total Searches	857	1.49	1.21	1.95	1.61
Speed Limit	13,689	0.77	0.62	1.04	1.68
Stop Light/Sign	880	0.57	0.50	0.97	1.94
Driving Impaired	189	39.68	37.68	41.18	1.09
Safe Movement	2,419	2.07	1.54	3.30	2.14
Vehicle Equipment	4,451	1.46	1.04	2.52	2.42
Vehicle Regulatory	21,054	1.72	1.42	2.02	1.42
Seat Belt	4,704	0.53	0.37	1.04	2.81
Investigation	1,605	5.30	4.65	7.29	1.57
Other Vehicle	8,695	0.97	0.74	1.39	1.88

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 61 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 +78 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is +52 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	57,686	-	67.24	25.47	-
Total Searches	857	1.49	1.21	1.95	1.61
Consent	433	0.75	0.61	0.88	1.44
Search Warrant	2	-	-	-	-
Probable Cause	113	0.20	0.15	0.35	2.33
Incident to Arrest	262	0.45	0.39	0.62	1.59
Protective Frisk	47	0.08	0.06	0.10	1.67

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

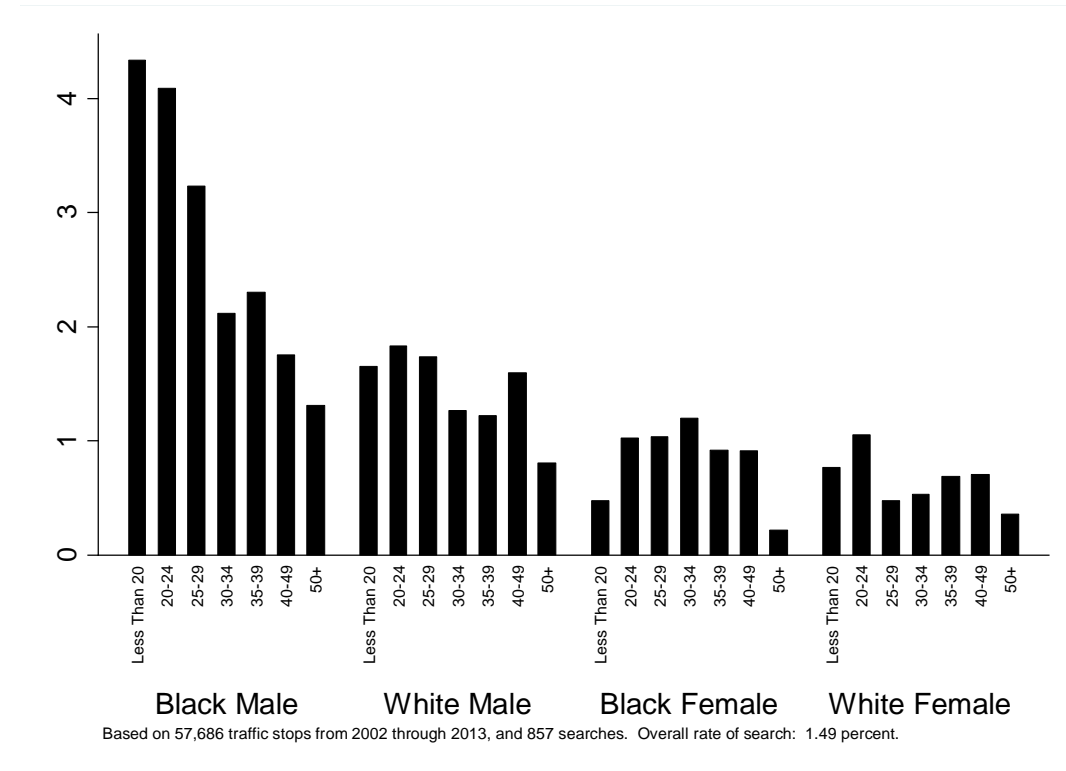


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

