

Summary of Traffic Stops Statistics State Highway Patrol

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This report compiles and presents statistical summaries of traffic stops statistics drawn from the NC State Bureau of Investigation database to which each police agency reports their statistics each month.¹ Data in this report cover the period of 2002 through 2020. The data exclude checkpoint stops because such stops are not recorded systematically. The data also include only the driver of the vehicle, excluding any passengers. Passenger information is generally recorded only in the event of an adverse outcome (e.g., search, arrest).²

This report provides the following summary statistics.³

First is a table providing summary statistics on numbers of stops, searches, contraband hits, and arrests, as well as relevant rates of these outcomes.

Second is a series of graphics as follows:

1. Number of stops
2. Percent of stops by race-gender category
3. Percent of stops for “safety” purposes (speeding, stop sign, DUI, unsafe movement)
4. Percent of stops resulting in a search, by race-gender category
5. Percent of stops resulting in arrest, by race-gender category
6. Percent of searches resulting in contraband, by race-gender category
7. Percent of searches resulting in contraband and arrest, by race-gender category
8. Percent of stops resulting in contraband and arrest, by race-gender category
9. Percent of consent searches resulting in contraband and arrest, by race-gender category
10. Percent of probable cause resulting in contraband and arrest, by race-gender category
11. Percent of contraband hits resulting in arrest, by race-gender category
12. Black-White Ratio of search rates, arrest rates, hit rates, and arrest rates per hit, for males

¹ For more information about this database, see: <https://trafficstops.ncsbi.gov/>.

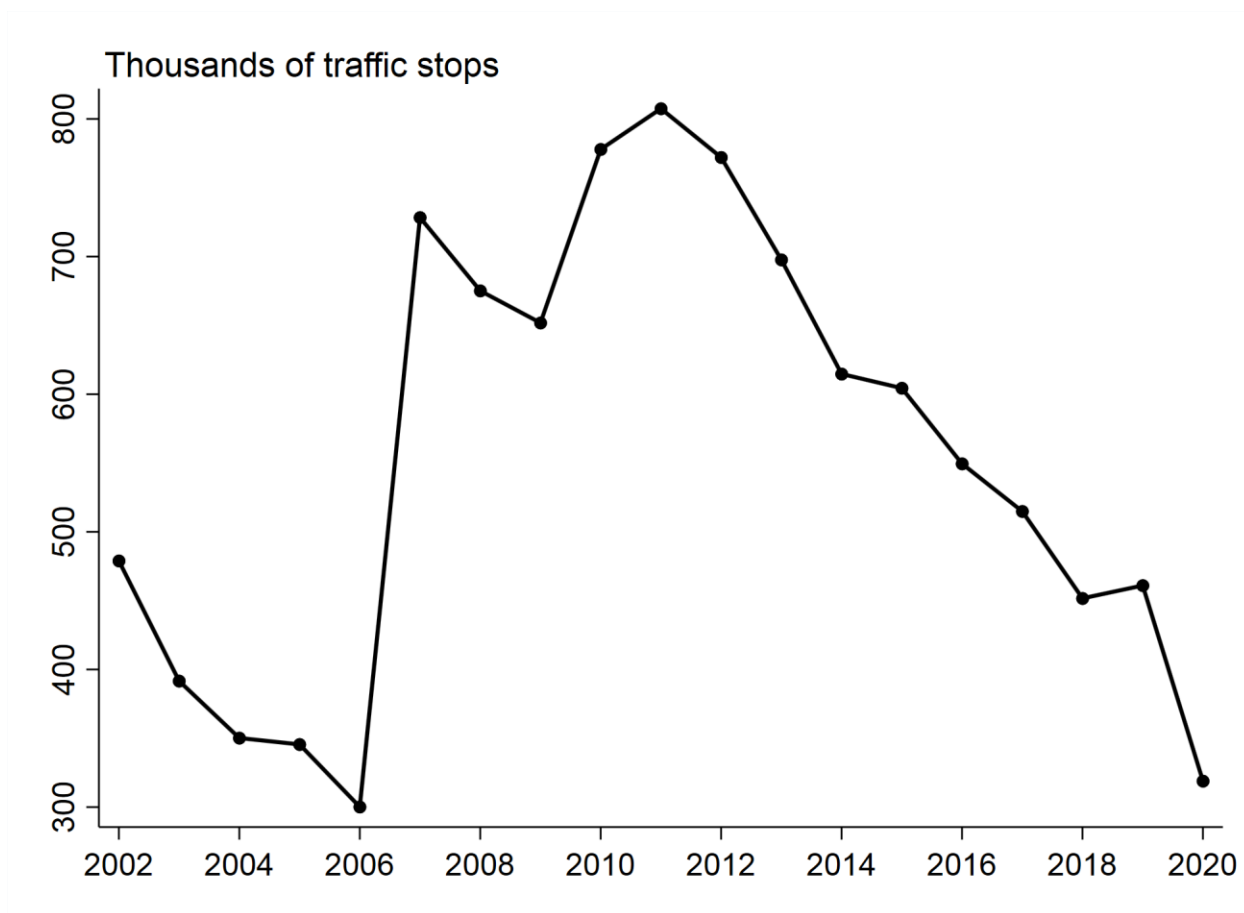
² For a copy of the SBI-122 form filled out by officers following a traffic stop, see: <http://fbaum.unc.edu/TrafficStops/SBI-122-form.pdf>.

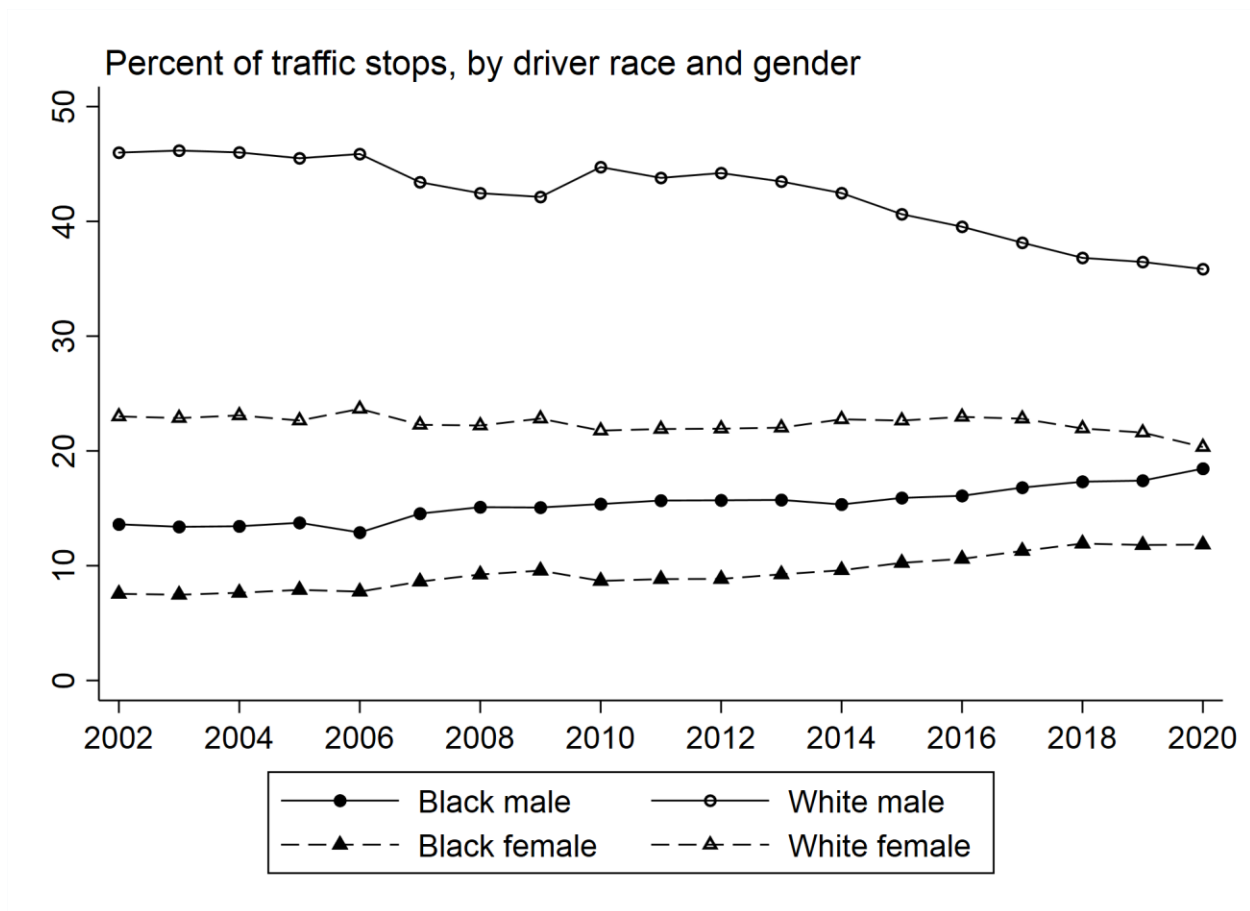
³ All of the data associated with this report is / will be made available at the following website: <http://fbaum.unc.edu/traffic.htm>. Summaries for every agency in North Carolina are available, and the data are presented at three levels of aggregation: All data for that agency; yearly; and monthly. This report uses the yearly data and provides graphical summaries. Percentages are calculated only if there are 100 observations in the relevant category; this avoids erratic findings based on small numbers of observations.

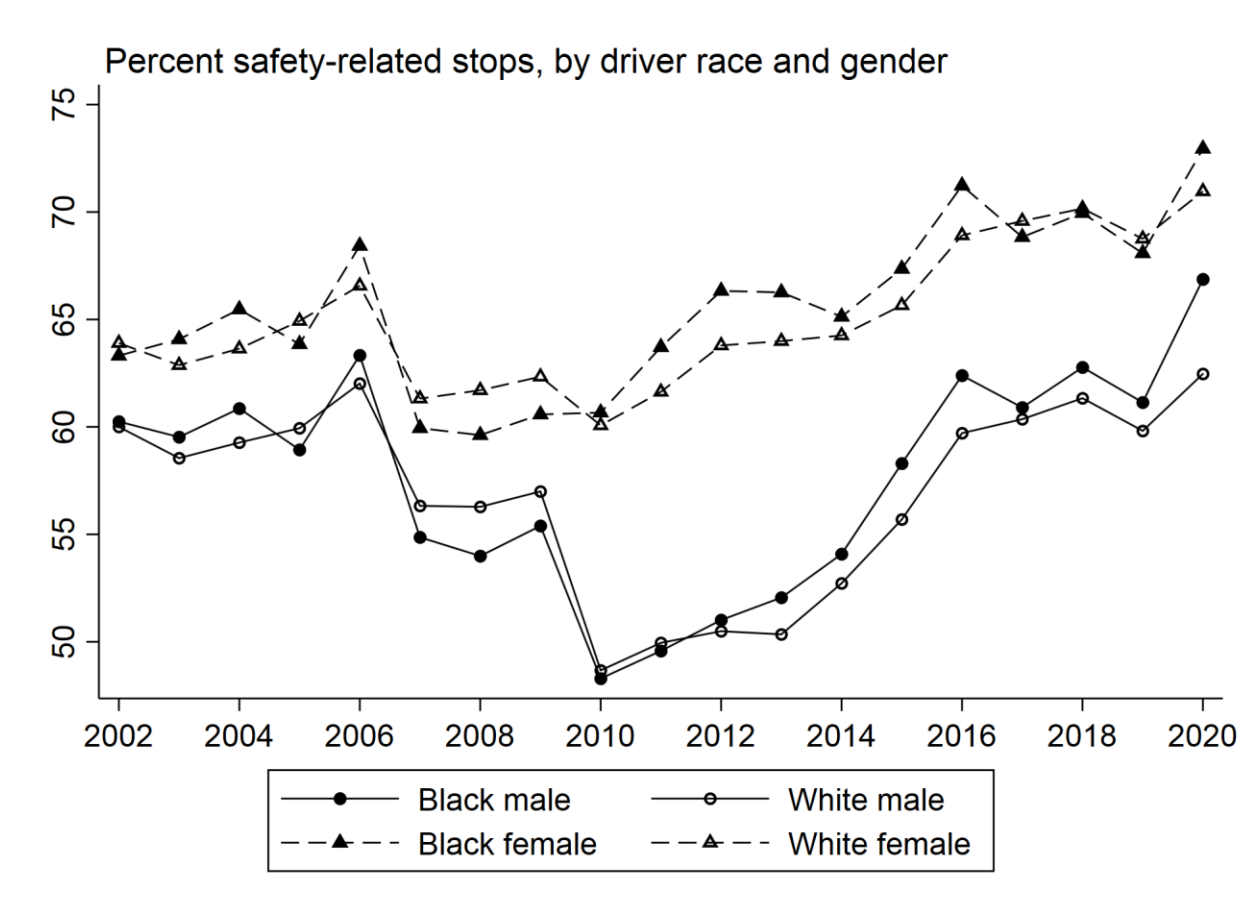
13. Black-White Ratio of search rates, arrest rates, hit rates, and arrest rates per hit, for females
14. Summary of stops over the year: Stops, percent safety-related, percent ending in citation, search, and arrest
15. Test of the “end of month quota” hypothesis. This compares outcomes for the last three days of the month compared to all other days of the month.
16. Note: No data are presented by time of day because the hour is generally missing for this agency.

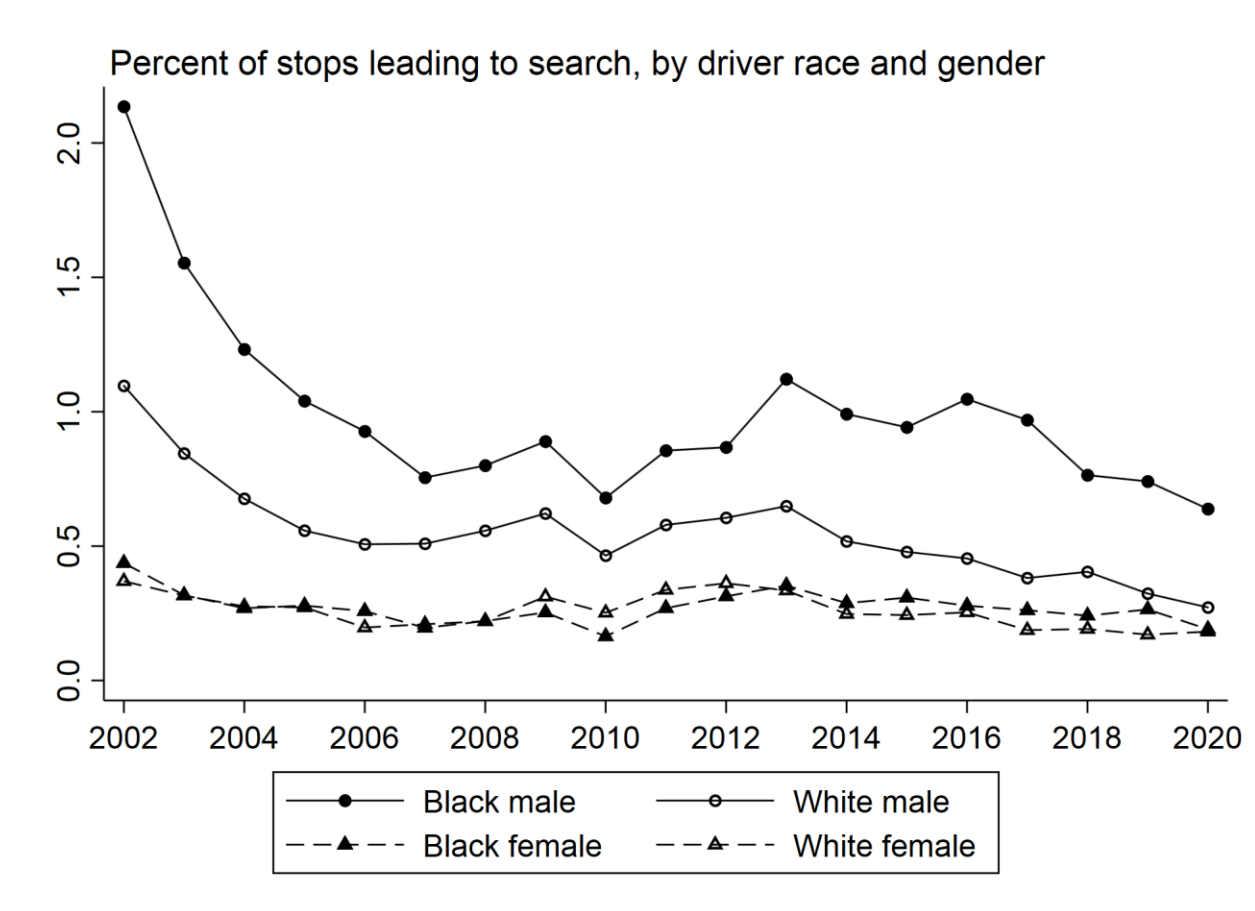
Summary of outcomes

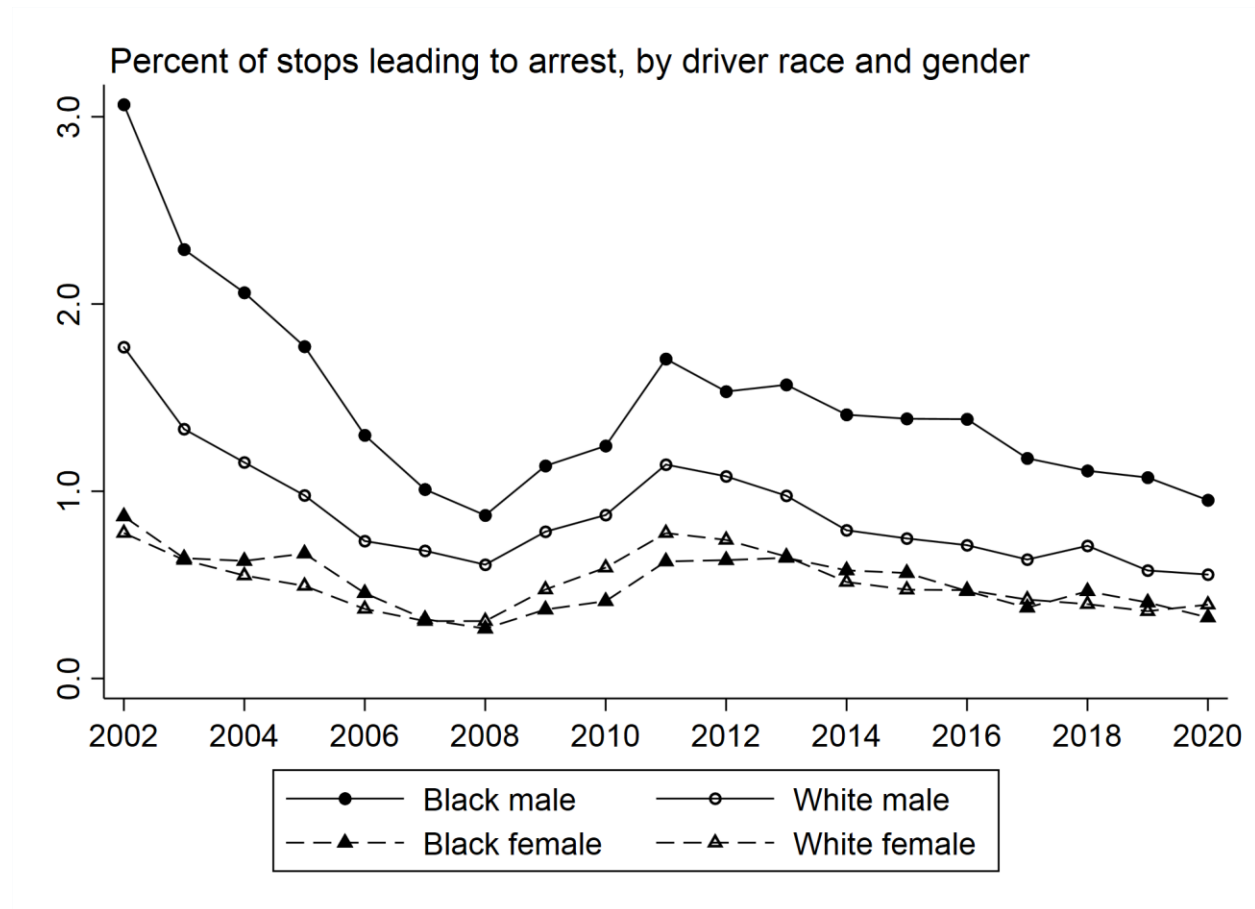
Category	State-wide	SHP
Stops	24,980,776	10,492,456
Traffic Safety Stops	13,365,910	6,194,745
Searches	763,343	60,163
Hits	280,152	11,686
Arrests	500,040	97,185
Arrest From Hit From Search	105,784	6,363
Consent Searches	346,475	7,070
Arrest From Hit From Consent Search	20,759	578
Probable Cause Searches	264,963	9,192
Arrest From Hit From Probable Cause Search	54,326	1,943
Percent Traffic Safety Stops	53.50%	59.04%
Search Rate Per Stop	3.06%	0.57%
Hit Rate Per Search	33.48%	18.09%
Arrest Rate Per Hit	38.85%	56.02%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Search	13.86%	10.58%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Probable Cause Search	20.50%	21.14%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Consent Search	5.99%	8.18%
Arrest Rate Per Stop	2.00%	0.93%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Stop	0.42%	0.06%

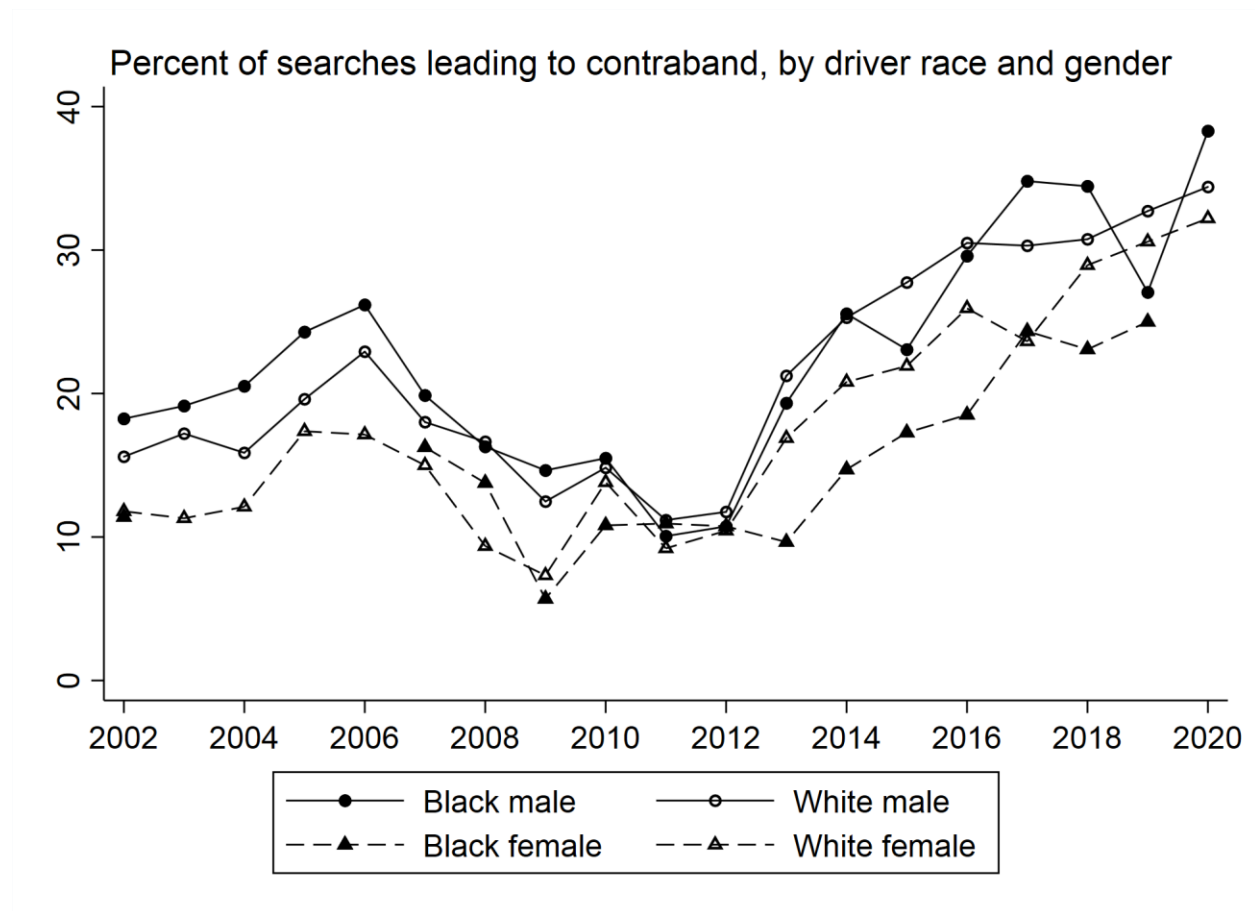


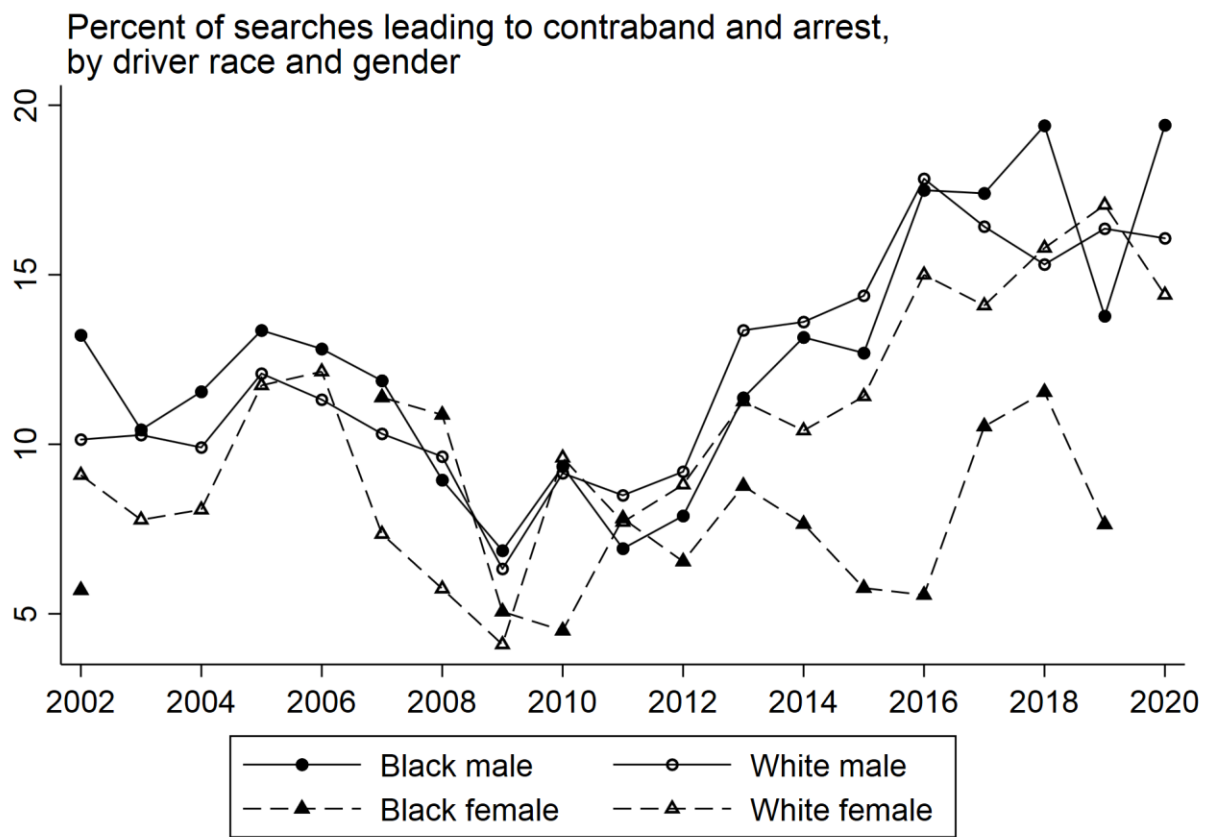


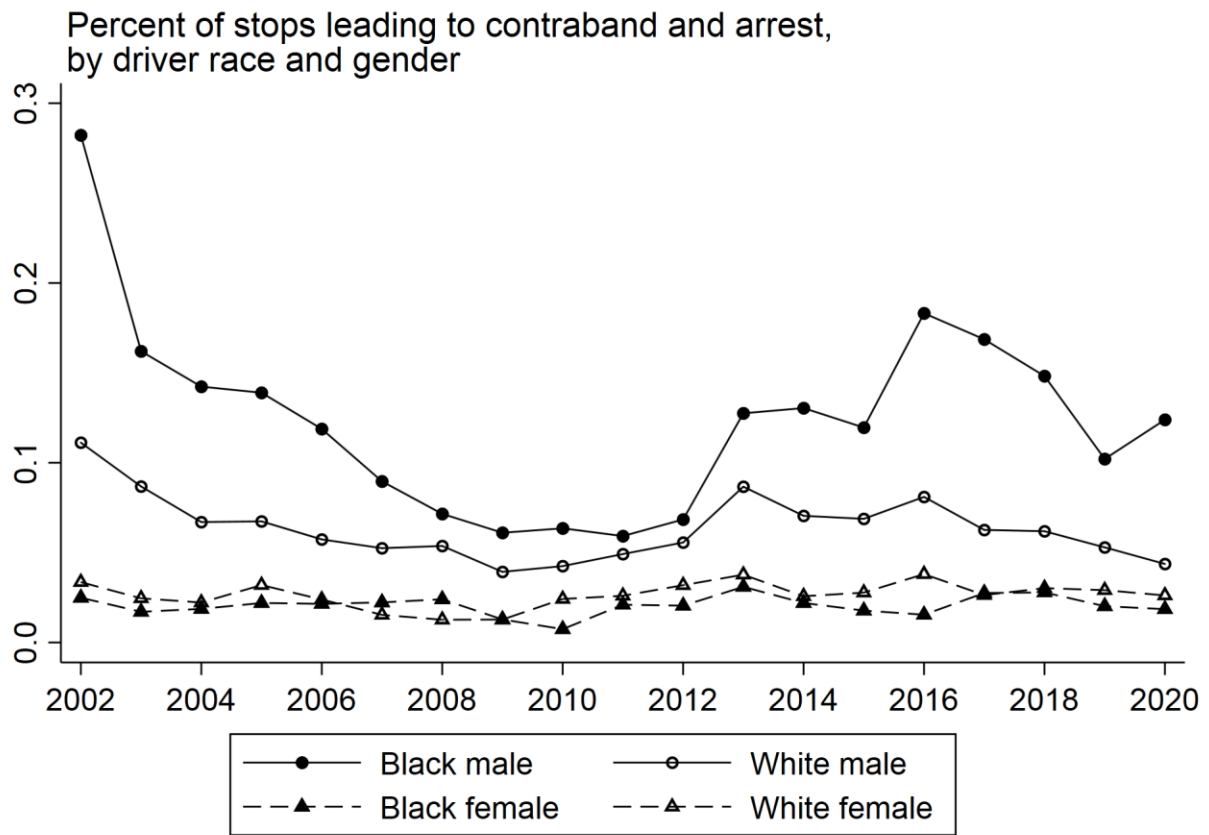


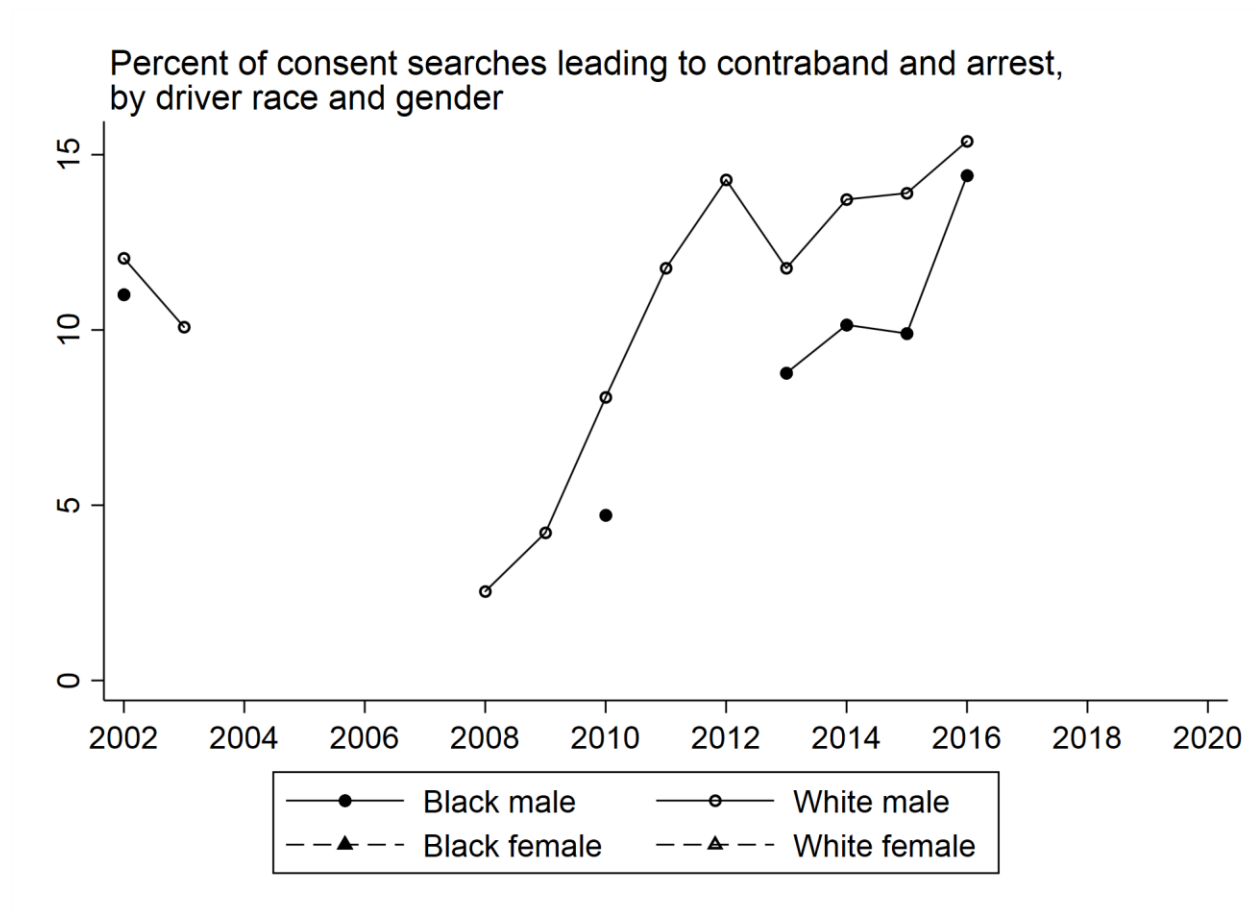


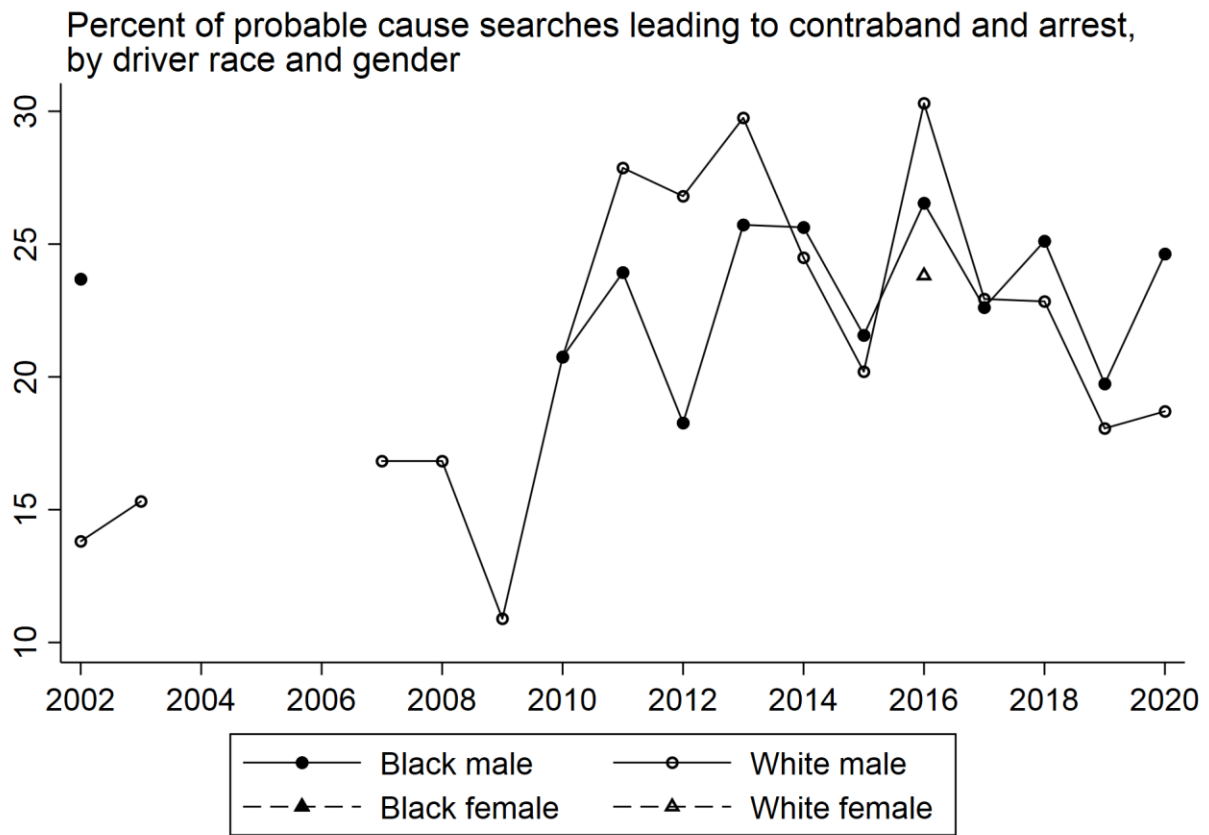


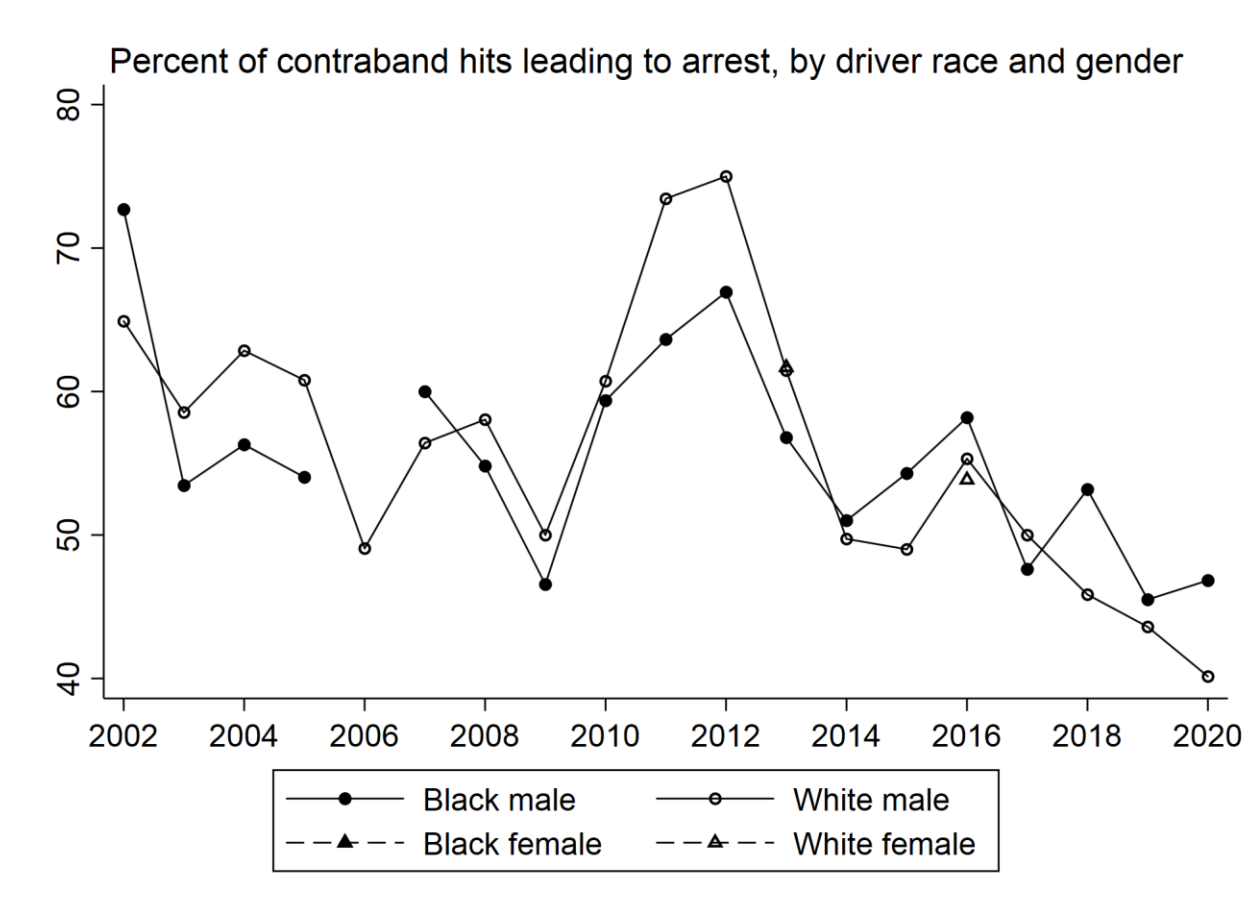


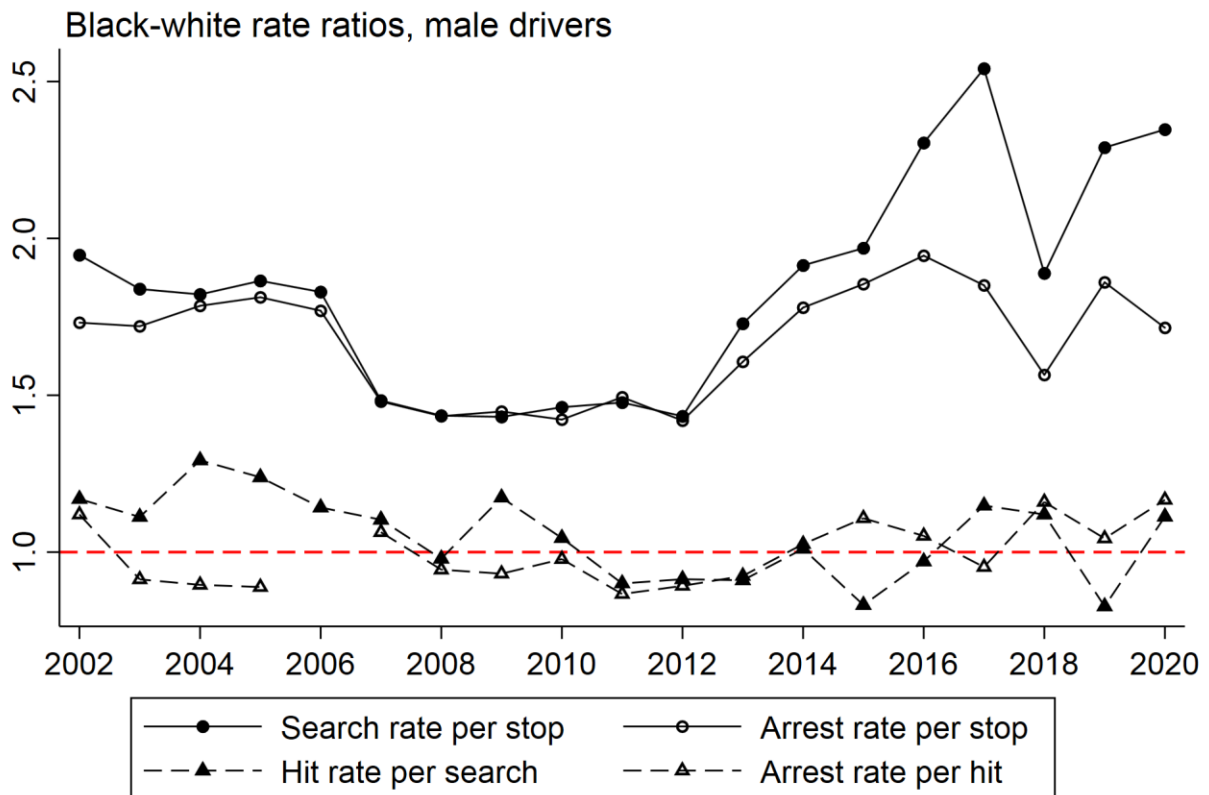




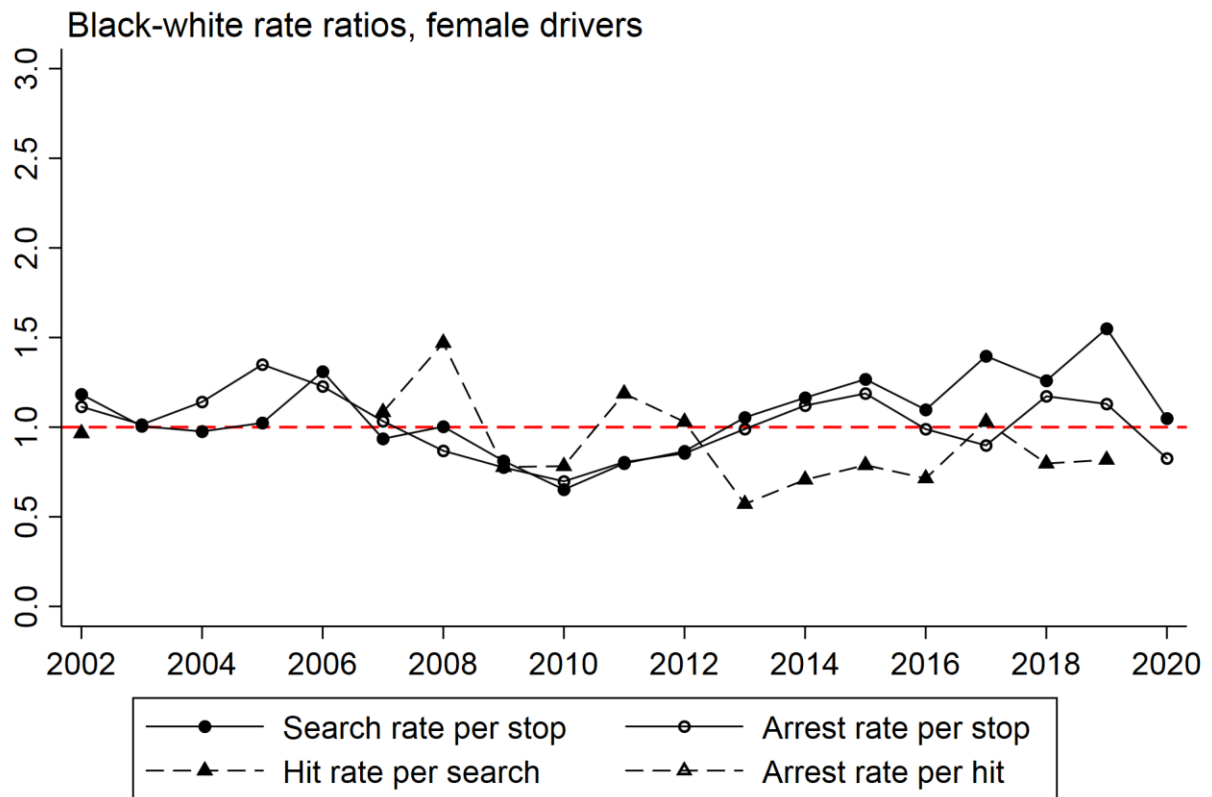






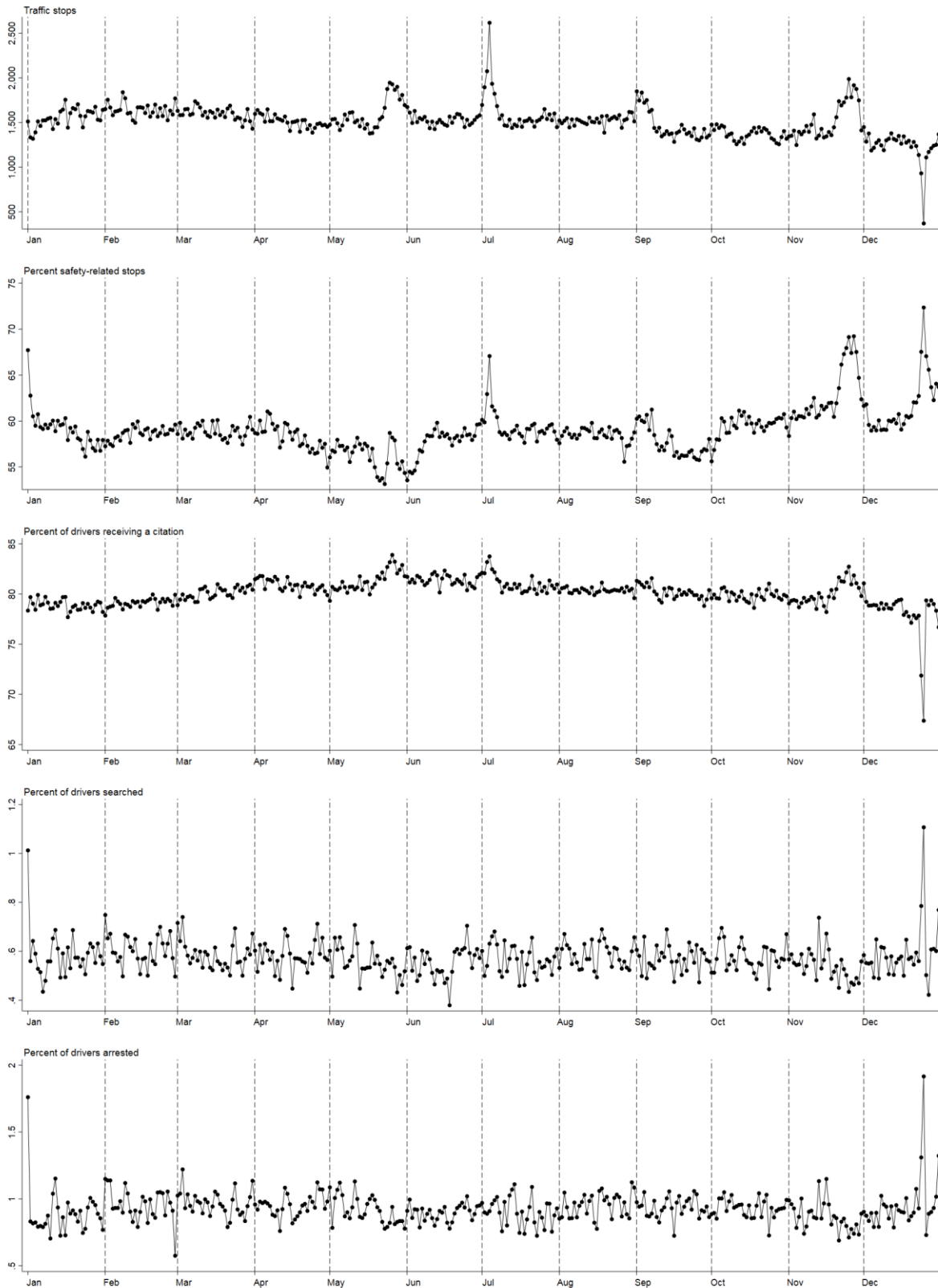


A value of 1.00 indicates racial equity; higher numbers indicate adverse outcomes for black drivers.

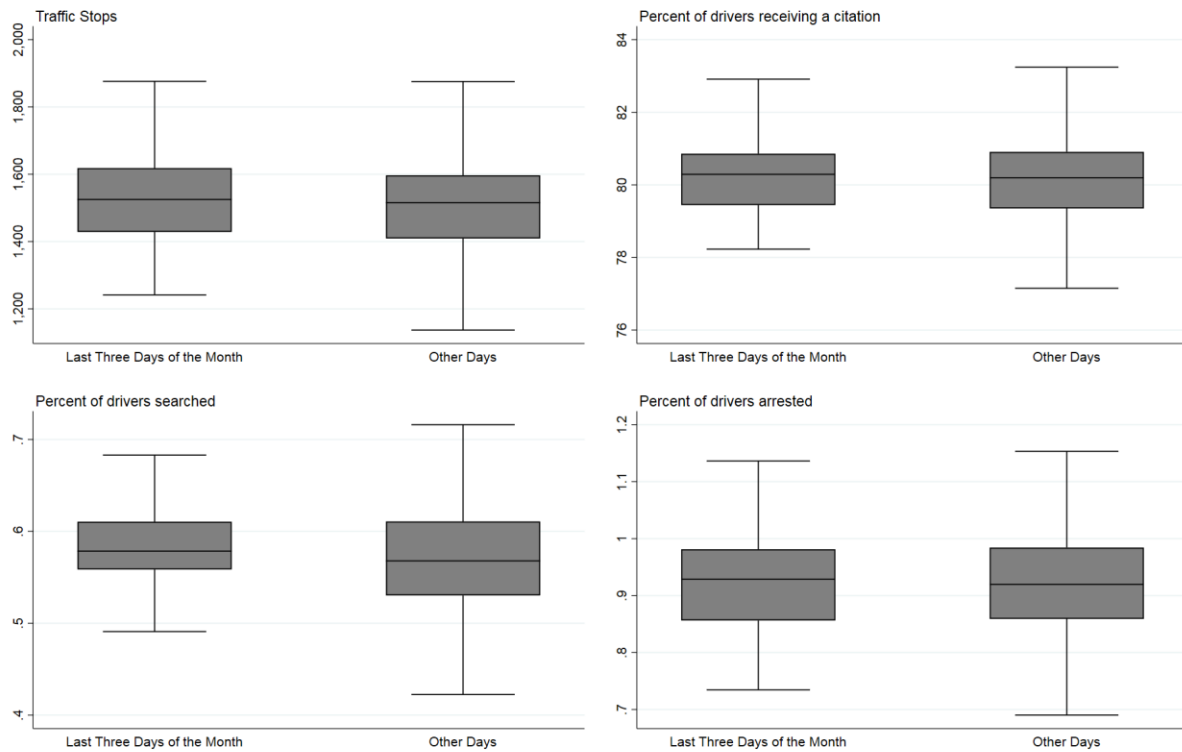


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Traffic stops over the year



Testing the 'end-of-month quota' hypothesis



Central line shows median value; shaded area shows 25th to 75th percentiles; vertical lines show the range of contiguous values. None of the four comparisons shows a significant difference, state-wide.