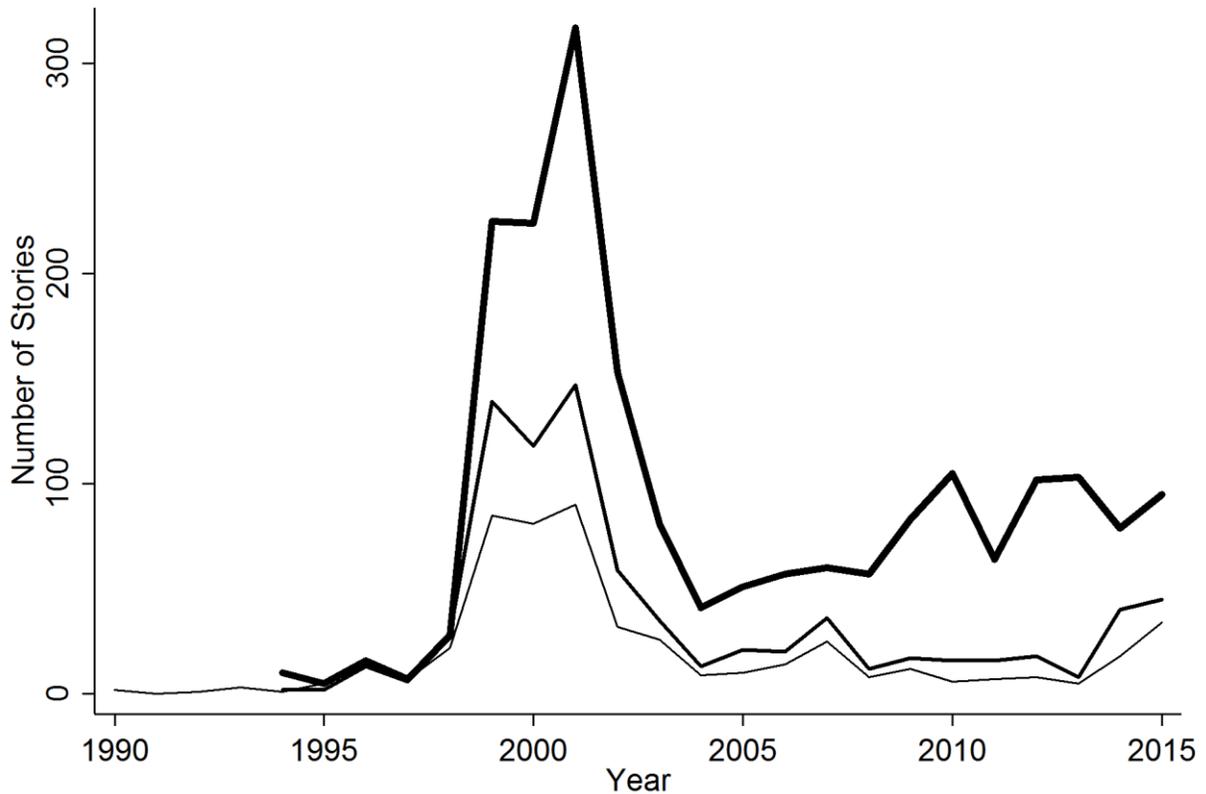


DWB In The News

Figure 2.1. Driving While Black in the News.



The graph uses three different keyword strings for driving while black.

Appendix on keyword searches.

We used three different keyword strings for the analysis in Figure 2.1. We then read the stories to verify the percent that were “true hits”, sampling 20 stories in years when there were more than 20 stories, reading all of them in years with fewer than 20 stories. Below we show the keywords, newspapers, and accuracy tests for each of the three series.

#1

(SUBJECT("racial profiling" AND (police OR "law enforcement")) AND BODY((police AND "traffic stop") OR "driving while black" OR "driving while brown")) OR (SUBJECT("race and racism") AND BODY((police w/5 "traffic stop") OR "driving while black" OR "driving while brown"))

Newspapers used: The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, and USA Today.

Total hits, 1977 to 2015: 527, 270 true / 294 tested = 92%. Note that there were no hits from 1977 through 1988; 3 in 1989, so we start the series in 1990.

#2

((racial w/5 disparit!) OR (racial w/5 profil!)) AND ((traffic w/5 police) OR (traffic w/5 stop) OR ("driving while black") OR ("driving while brown") OR (minority driv!))

Newspapers used: The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, the Baltimore Sun, and USA Today.

Total hits, 1994 to 2015: 812; 317 true / 343 tested = 92%

#3

SUBJECT("racial profiling" AND ((police) OR ("traffic stop")))

Newspapers used: Baltimore Sun, Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, New York Times, USA Today

Total hits, 1994 to 2015: 1,963; 75% true

Ideas for taking this forward:

Let's analyze the movement from "DWB" to "hands up don't shoot", #blacklivesmatter, police violence, unarmed black men being shot, body cameras, all the current discussion.

This might involve searches for words related to the words above, and / or the related names of victims: Freddie Gray, Trayvon Martin, and the others.

Make an overall time-line of these related terms.

As a group project, each student could take a particular aspect of this, either one individual victim, or a theme that is more timeless, such as shooting, internal investigations, whether there was a court case, riots and protests, etc. The goal is to "map" the entire discussion around these issues, and the challenge is to develop meaningful keywords that trace attention to each different element of this huge and complicated debate.

To do this as a term paper project, each student would take a particular aspect of it and compile the time line, USING COMPARABLE METHODS to the other students (that is, you have to coordinate). Then, to write up the results, you share the data and write the results on your particular aspect, and how it fits into the debate.

Since this would involve shared work as well as independent work, we'd need to meet several times to coordinate the project. We could do that in office hours right before class once a week for example.