

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Gaston County Sherriff's Department, 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	84,525	-	80.98	17.14	-
Total Searches	9,306	11.01	10.77	12.22	1.13
Speed Limit	23,408	6.07	5.76	7.96	1.38
Stop Light/Sign	4,255	7.12	7.23	7.00	0.97
Driving Impaired	811	50.55	50.99	48.74	0.96
Safe Movement	6,371	14.36	13.98	15.80	1.13
Vehicle Equipment	15,771	13.06	12.92	13.55	1.05
Vehicle Regulatory	20,330	9.45	9.07	10.94	1.21
Seat Belt	5,545	16.38	16.09	18.12	1.13
Investigation	4,170	21.44	21.75	20.50	0.94
Other Vehicle	3,864	12.27	12.10	13.43	1.11

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 13 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 +20 percent. For female drivers, the likelihood is -29 percent.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Black	Ratio
					Black:White
Total Stops	84,525	-	80.98	17.14	-
Total Searches	9,306	11.01	10.77	12.22	1.13
Consent	6,485	7.67	7.75	7.48	0.97
Search Warrant	7	0.01	0.00	0.03	-
Probable Cause	806	0.95	0.85	1.50	1.76
Incident to Arrest	1,832	2.17	1.98	2.95	1.49
Protective Frisk	176	0.21	0.19	0.27	1.42

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

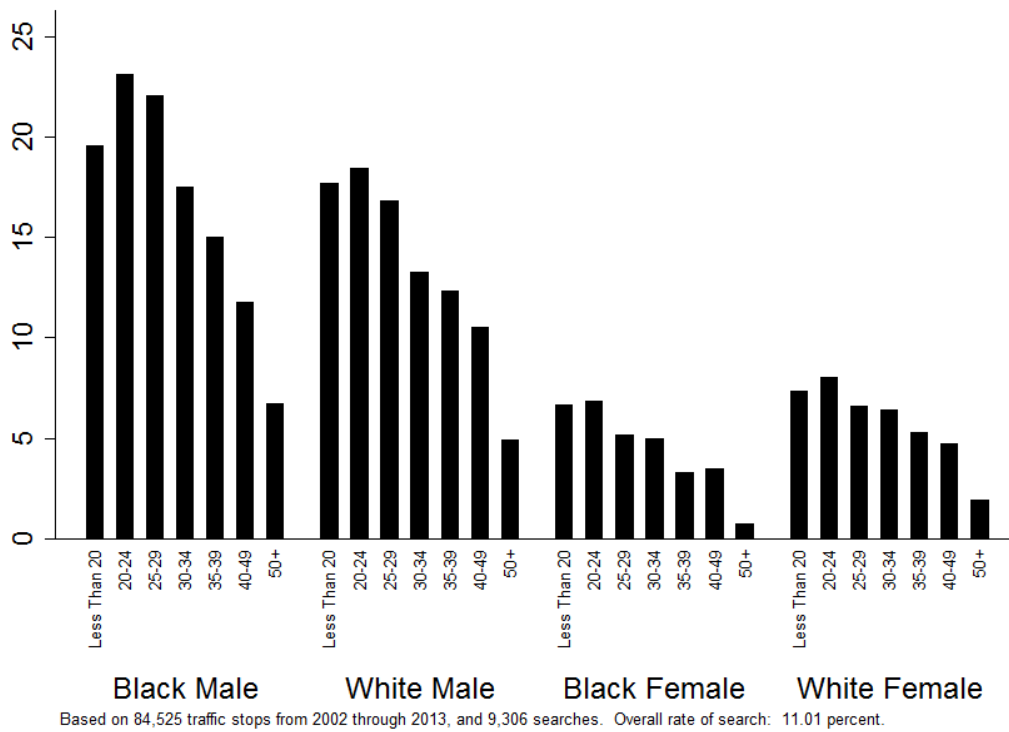
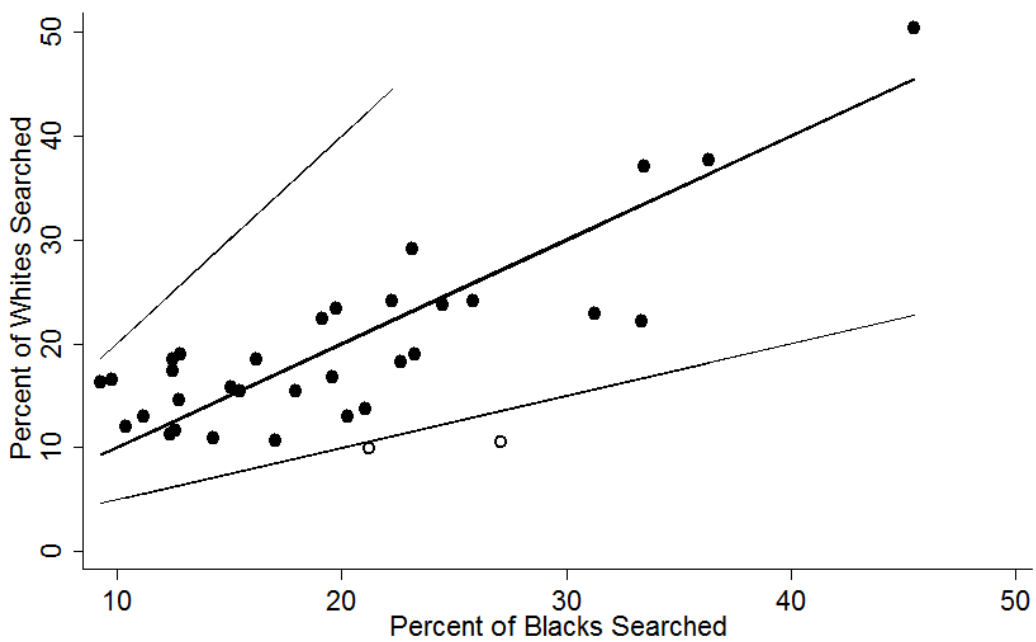


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer



Includes 34 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Black stops, and a search rate above the department average of 11.01. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 0 officers search Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Blacks. 2 officers search Blacks at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.