

Analysis of Hispanic-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Mooresville, NC, 2002-2013

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Table 1. Overview of the Data

Data Subsets	Observations
Total stops	86,280
-2014	5,034
-Passengers	1,142
-Checkpoint stops	429
Stops for analysis	79,817
Searches	2,085

Search Rate = 2.61

Figure 1. Number of Traffic Stops per Year

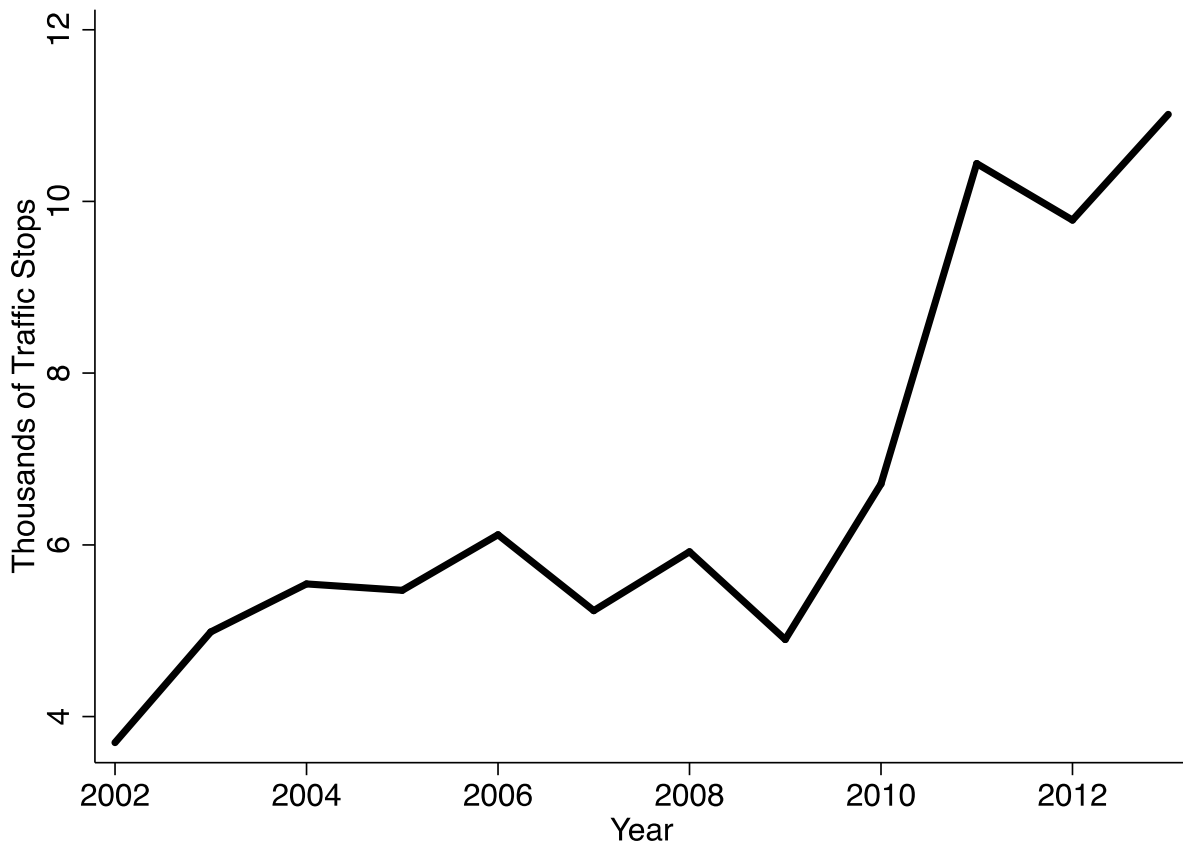


Figure 2. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Year

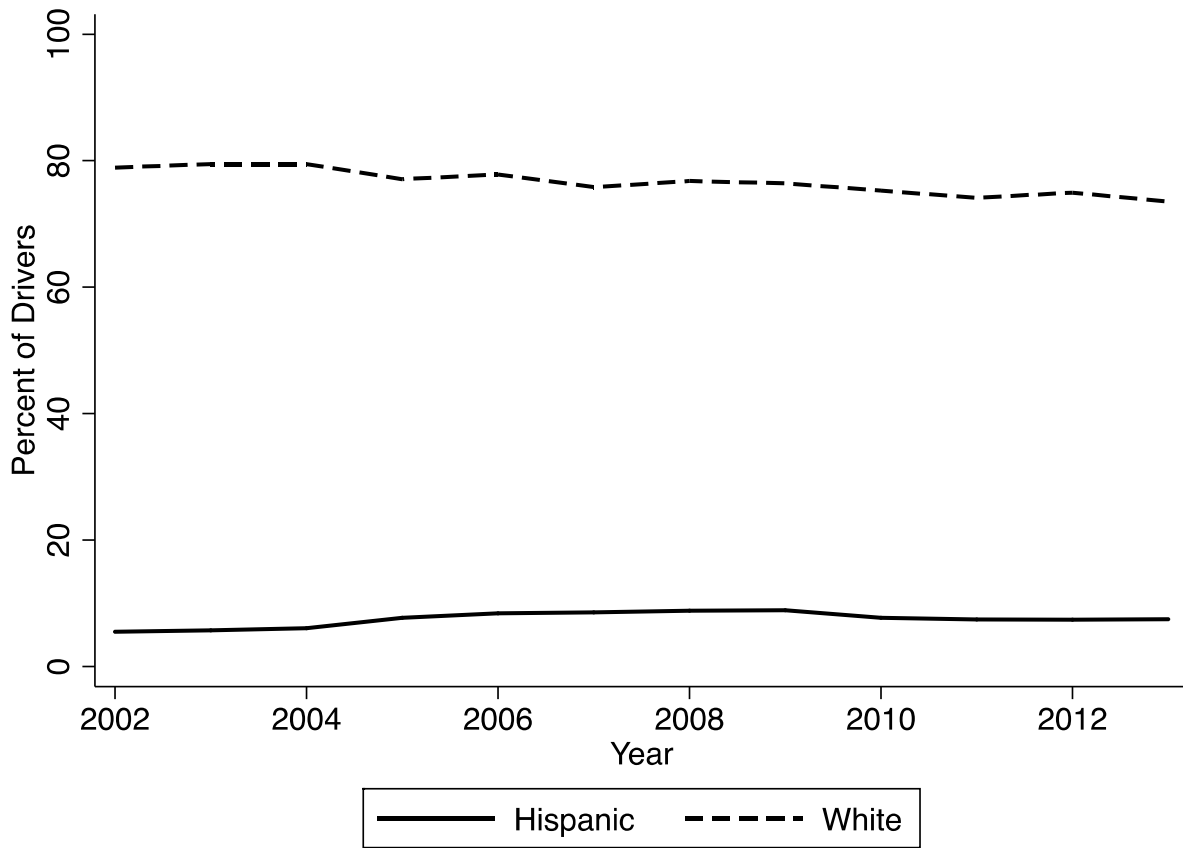


Table 2. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Purpose, Drivers

Purpose	Number	Percent	
		White	Hispanic
Total Stops	79,817	82.31	7.54
Speed Limit	22,920	85.95	5.14
Stop Light/Sign	7,184	85.09	6.89
Driving Impaired	758	86.06	12.93
Safe Movement	5,281	84.79	7.97
Vehicle Equipment	9,562	77.38	7.68
Vehicle Regulatory	19,882	81.64	5.85
Seat Belt	4,757	81.79	6.60
Investigation	4,587	72.97	18.86
Other Vehicle	4,886	72.62	15.41

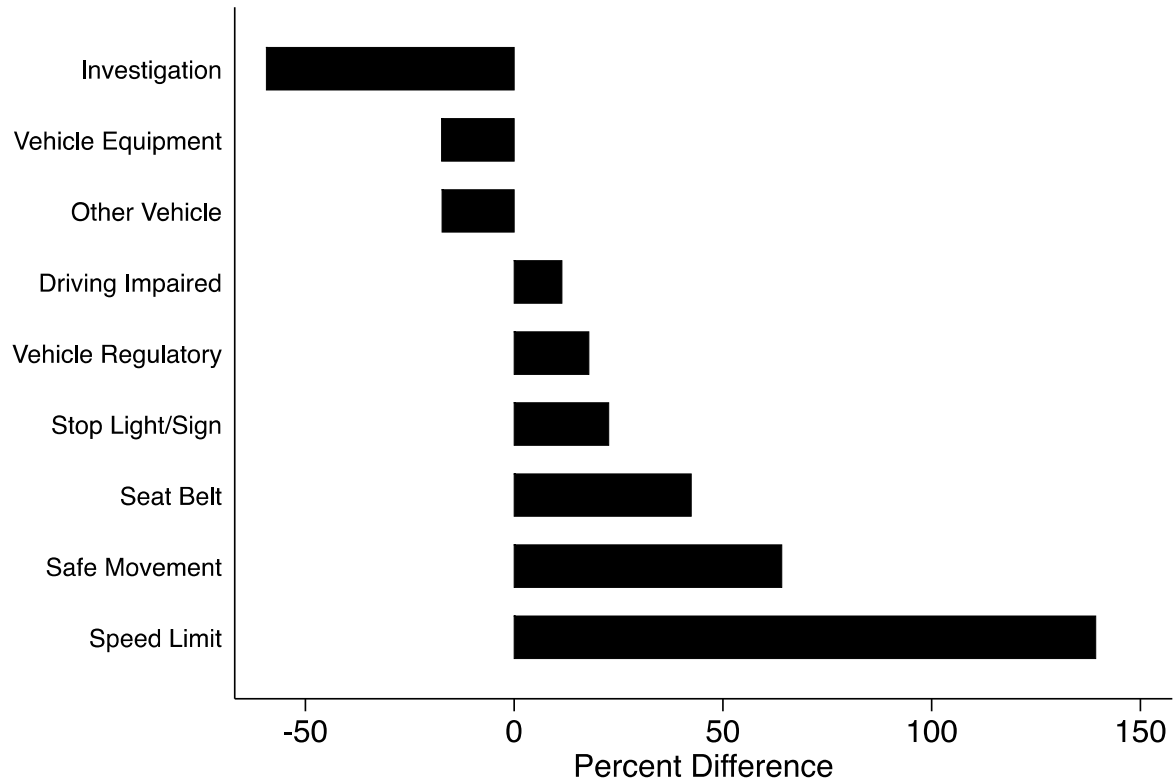
Note: Includes only drivers. Excludes 429 checkpoint stops. Excludes 1,142 passengers.

Table 3. Percent Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio
					Hispanic.:White
Total Stops	79,817	-	82.31	7.54	-
Total Searches	2,085	2.61	2.32	3.21	1.38
Speed Limit	22,920	1.33	1.17	2.80	2.39
Stop Light/Sign	7,184	1.57	1.32	1.62	1.23
Driving Impaired	758	31.27	32.04	35.71	1.11
Safe Movement	5,281	4.28	4.05	6.65	1.64
Vehicle Equipment	9,562	2.77	2.47	2.04	0.83
Vehicle Regulatory	19,882	1.79	1.53	1.81	1.18
Seat Belt	4,757	2.17	1.79	2.55	1.42
Investigation	4,587	6.87	7.11	2.89	0.41
Other Vehicle	4,886	3.40	3.21	2.66	0.83

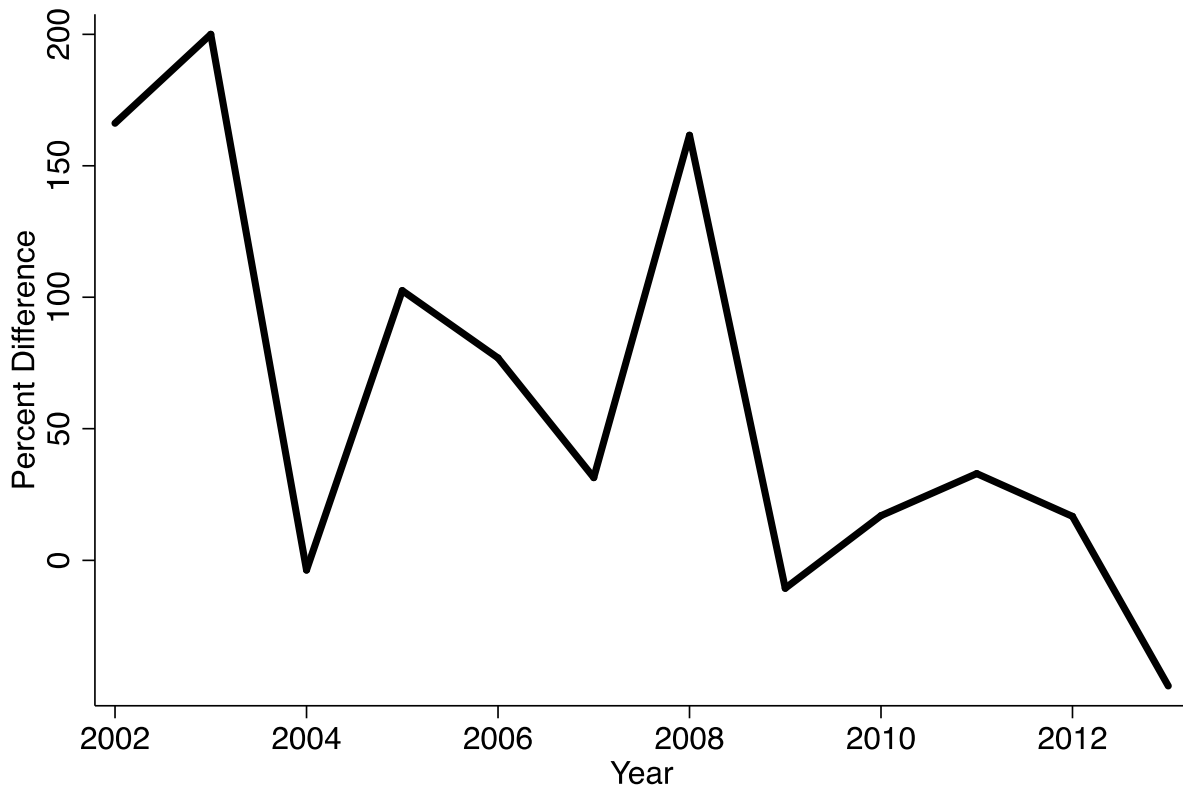
Note: See the appendix for this same table broken down for Men and Women.

Figure 3. Difference in Likelihood of Being Searched, by Ethnicity and Type of Stop



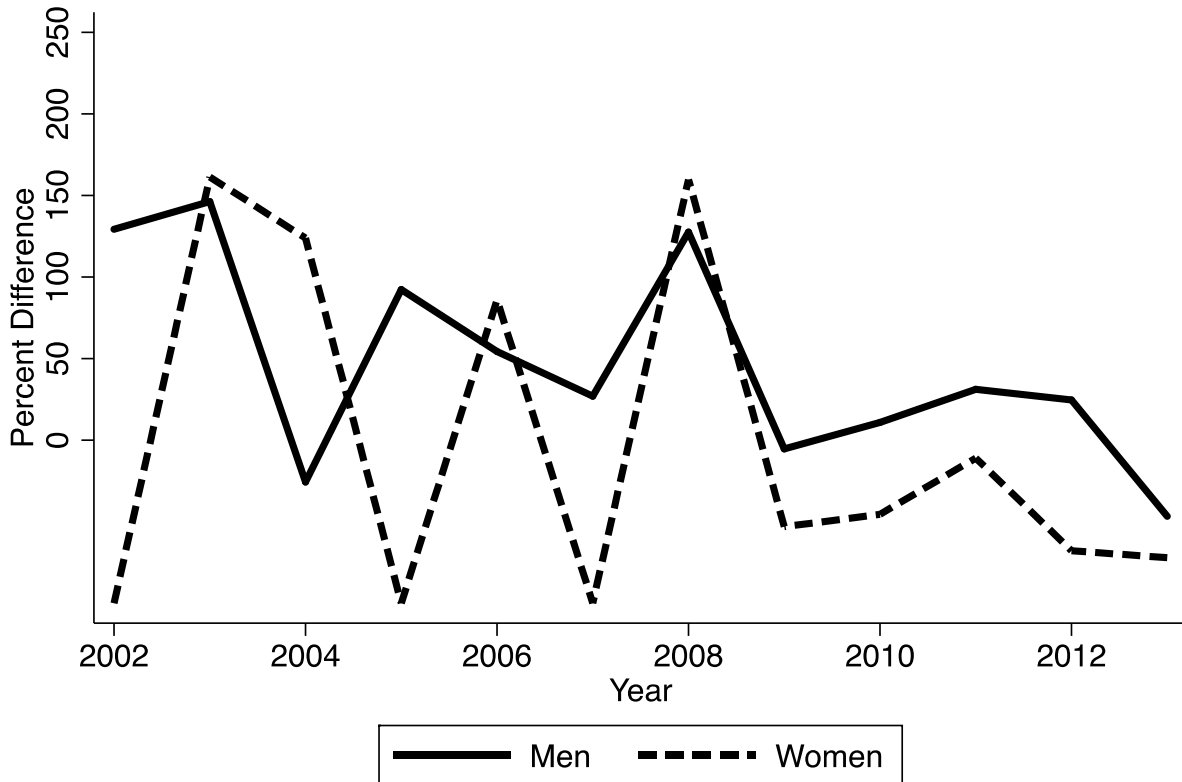
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by purpose of stop.

Figure 4. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search



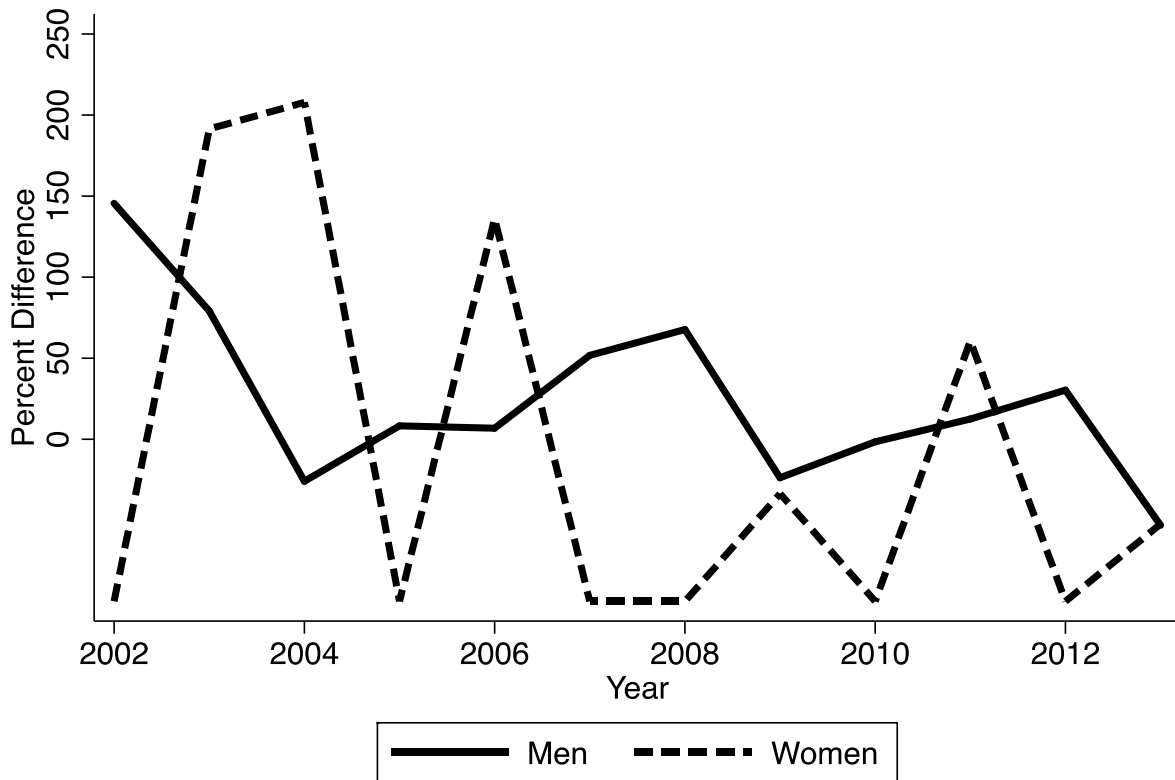
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites.

Figure 5. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search by Gender



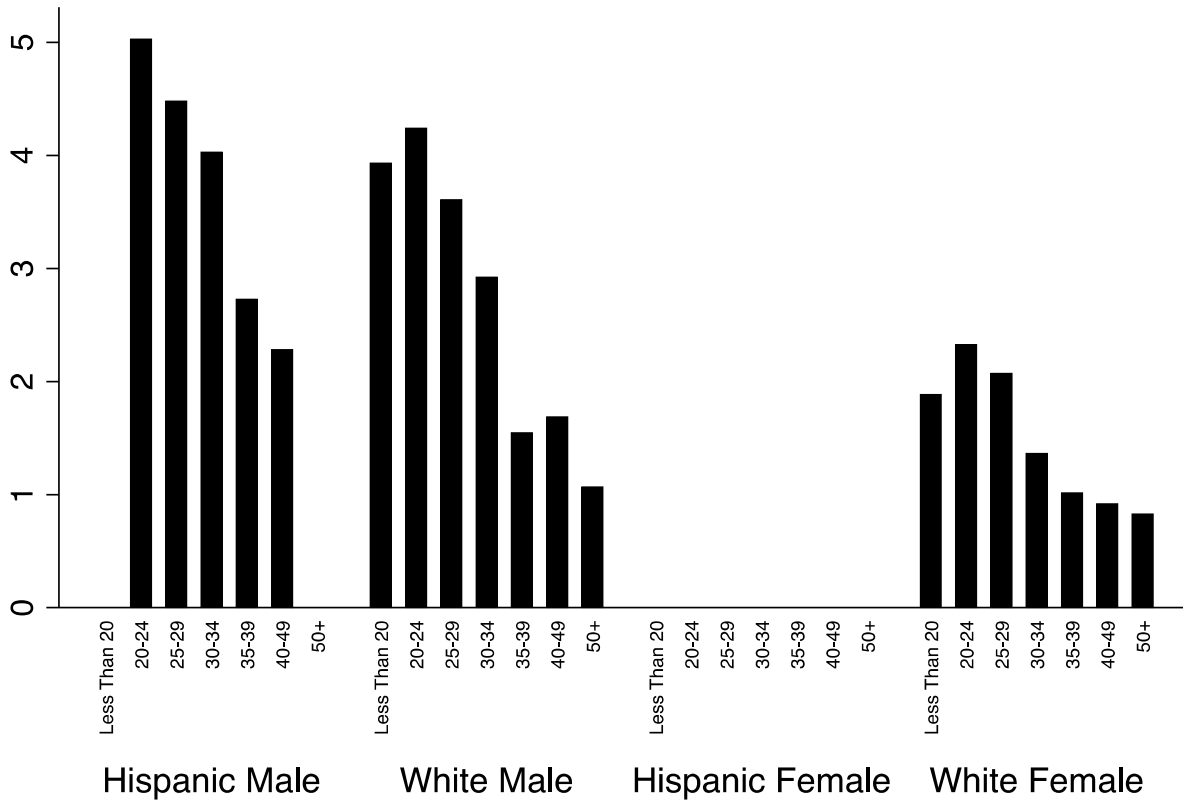
The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by gender.

Figure 6. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search by Gender, for Drivers Under 30



The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites by gender for motorists under 30.

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



Based on 79,817 traffic stops from 2002 through 2013, and 2,085 searches. Overall rate of search: 2.61 percent. No data are presented for categories with fewer than 10 searches.

Figure 8. Number of Stops, by Ethnicity and Gender

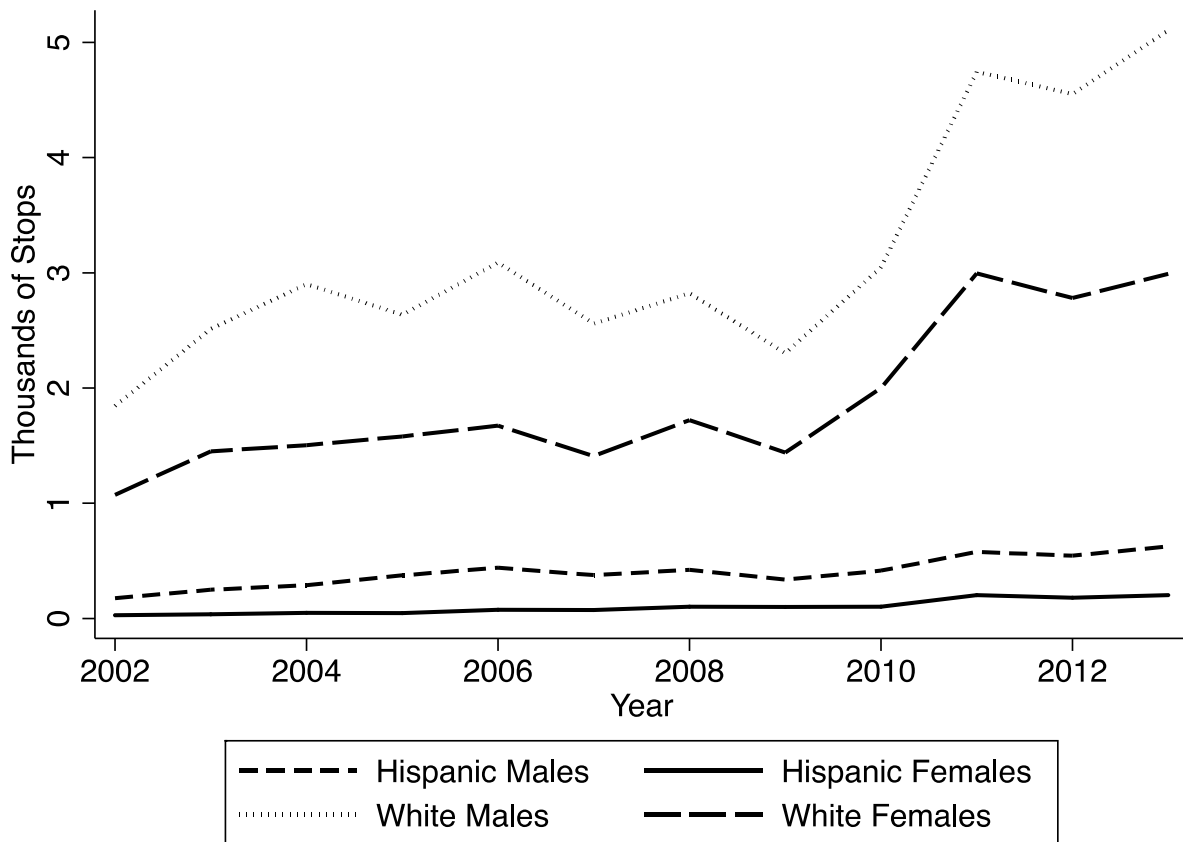


Figure 9. Percent of Stops Resulting in a Search, by Ethnicity and Gender

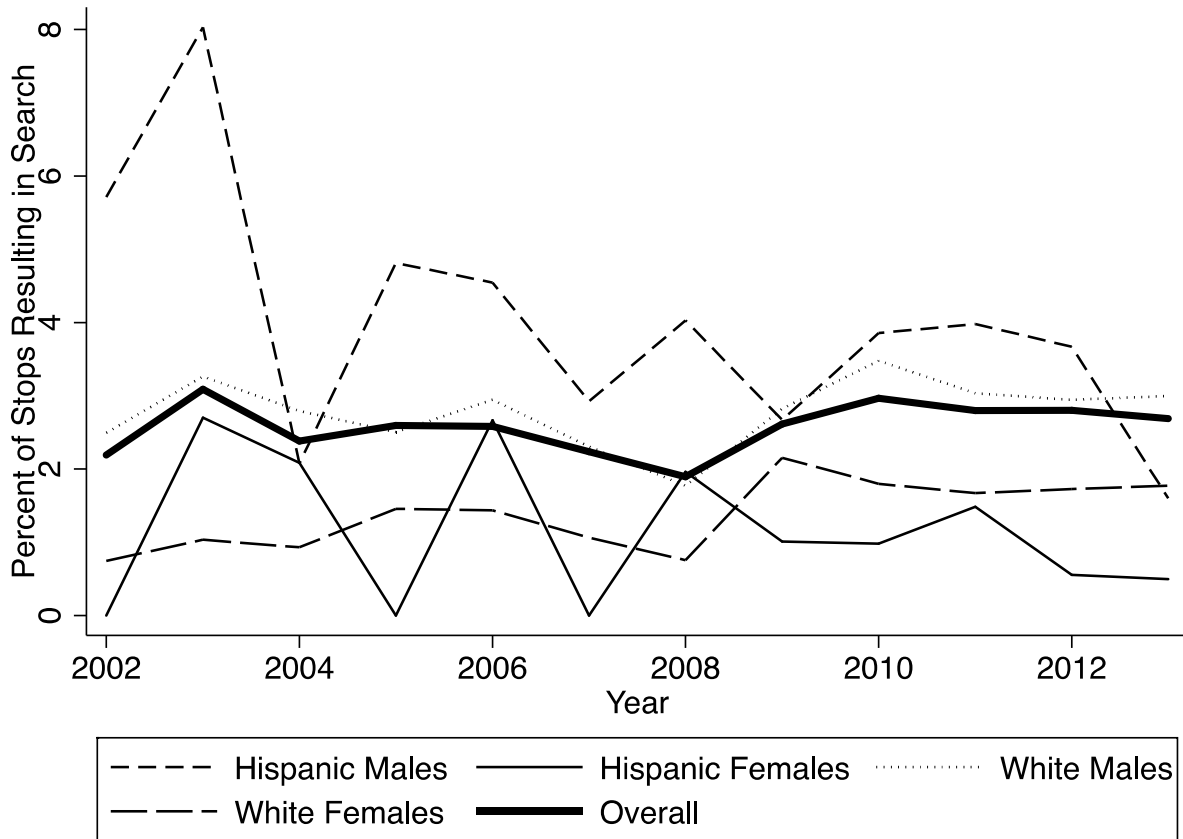


Table 4. Type of Search by Ethnicity

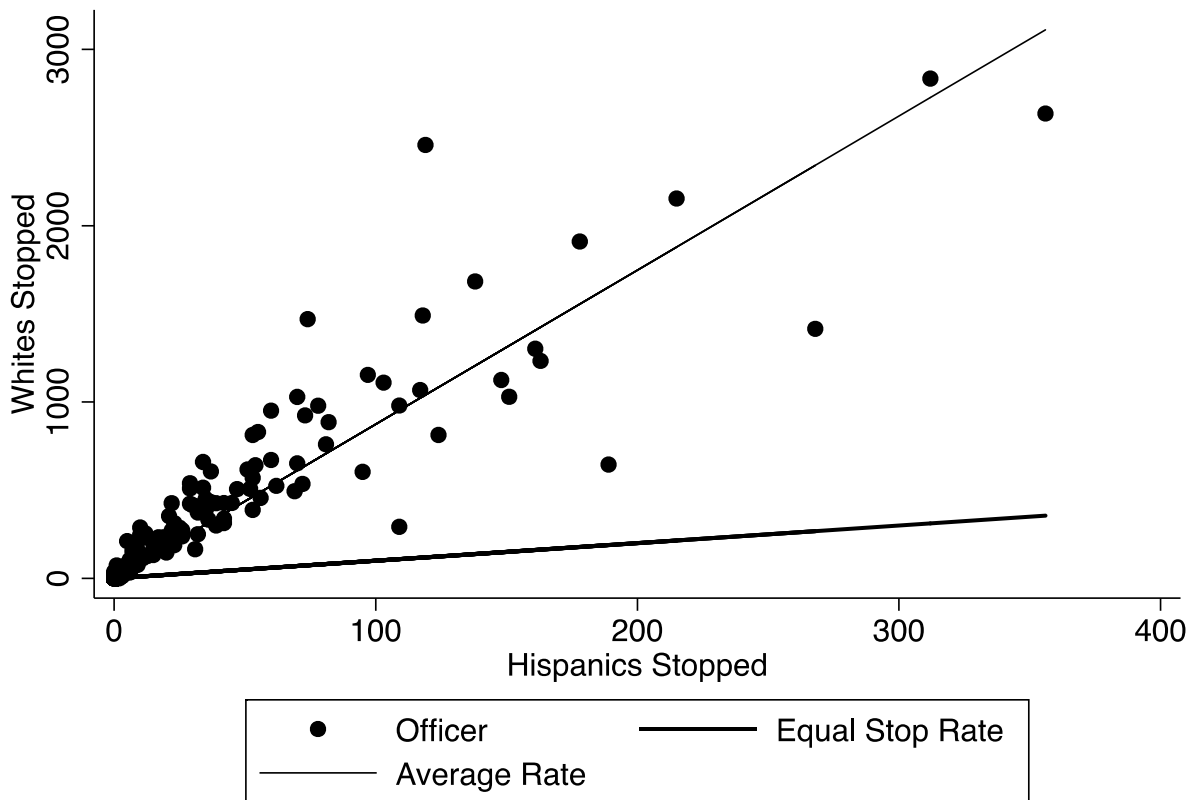
Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio
					Hispanic.:White
Total Stops	79,817	-	82.31	7.54	-
Total Searches	2,085	2.61	2.32	3.21	1.38
Consent	783	0.98	0.88	1.06	1.20
Search Warrant	9	0.01	0.01	0.05	5.00
Probable Cause	453	0.57	0.48	0.37	0.77
Incident to Arrest	796	1.00	0.90	1.61	1.79
Protective Frisk	44	0.06	0.04	0.12	3.00

Note: See the appendix for this same table separately for Men and Women.

Table 5. Distribution of Officer IDs by Stop

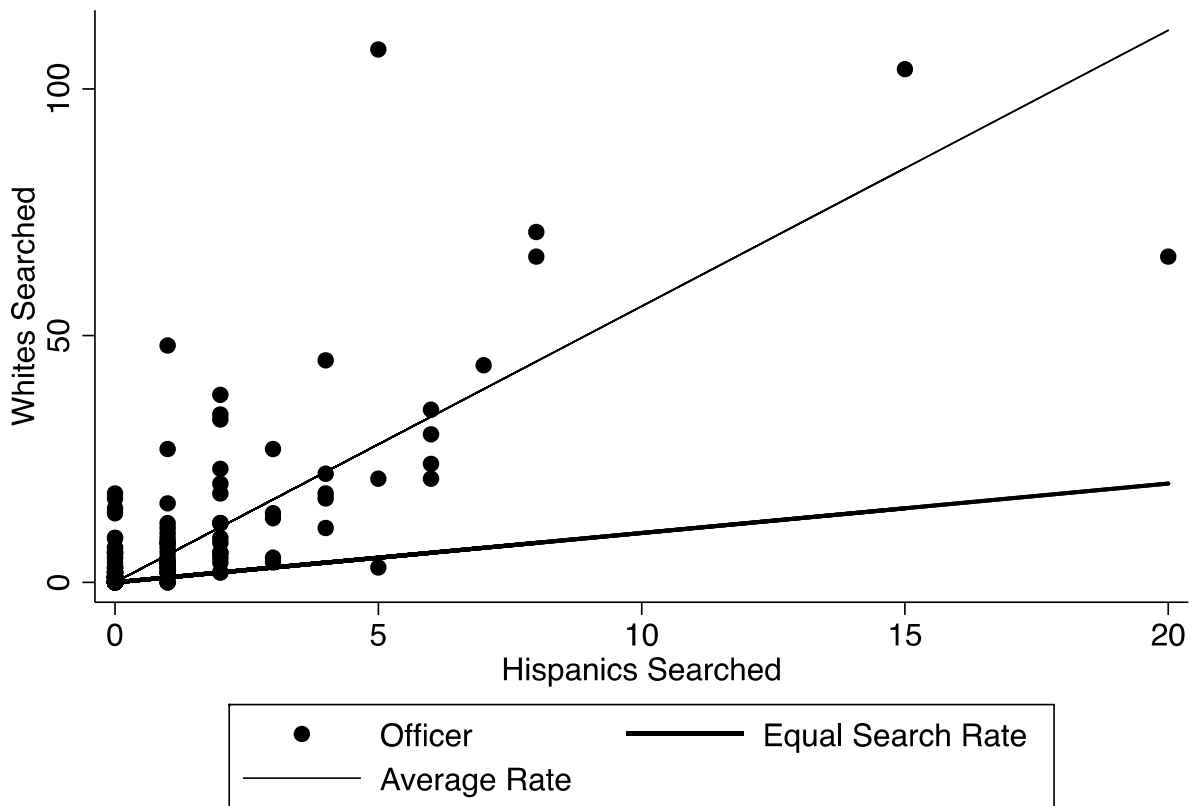
Number of Stops	Officers w/ this many Stops	Percent of Officers	Cumulative Percent	Percent of Stops	Cumulative Percent
1	193	51.88	51.88	0.24	0.24
2 – 10	48	12.90	64.78	0.20	0.44
11 - 100	32	8.60	73.39	1.75	2.19
101 – 1,000	73	19.62	93.01	40.01	42.20
1,001 +	26	6.99	100.00	57.81	100.00
Total	372	100	-	100	-

Figure 10. Number of Hispanic and White Motorists Stopped, by Officer



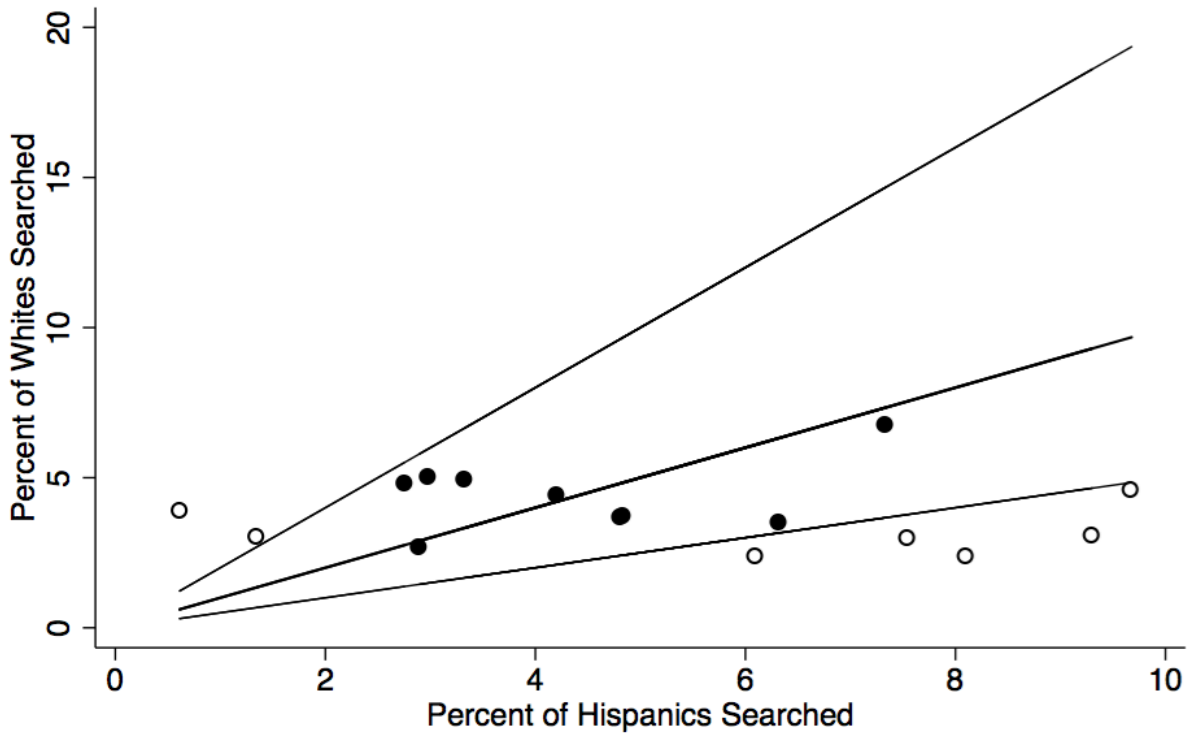
On average, officers stop 8.74 Whites for each Hispanic stopped.

Figure 11. Number of Hispanic and White Motorists Searched, by Officer



On average, officers search 5.59 Whites for each Hispanic searched.

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



Includes 16 officers with a minimum of 50 White stops, 50 Hispanic stops, and a search rate above the department average of 2,61. The hollow circles indicate high disparity officers. 2 officer searches Whites at more than twice the rate that they search Hispanics. 5 officers search Blacks at more than twice the rate that they search Whites.

Appendix

Table A1. Ethnic Composition of Traffic Stops by Purpose, Passengers

Purpose	Number	Percent	
		White	Hispanic
Total Stops	1,142	63.91	7.79
Speed Limit	137	70.08	7.30
Stop Light/Sign	55	75.51	10.91
Driving Impaired	75	89.66	22.67
Safe Movement	126	71.30	8.73
Vehicle Equipment	165	54.72	3.64
Vehicle Regulatory	194	61.67	7.22
Seat Belt	78	54.17	7.69
Investigation	206	61.22	4.85
Other Vehicle	88	56.96	10.23

Table A2. Percent of Men Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic.	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	51,226	-	82.15	9.42	-
Total Searches	1,673	3.27	2.83	3.73	1.32
Speed Limit	14,007	1.75	1.49	3.46	2.32
Stop Light/Sign	4,592	2.00	1.64	2.09	1.27
Driving Impaired	552	33.33	33.84	34.83	1.03
Safe Movement	3,567	5.07	4.72	8.00	1.69
Vehicle Equipment	6,392	3.39	2.95	2.15	0.73
Vehicle Regulatory	11,962	2.37	2.00	2.19	1.10
Seat Belt	3,670	2.48	2.02	2.86	1.42
Investigation	3,147	7.69	7.85	3.45	0.44
Other Vehicle	3,337	4.14	3.88	2.94	0.76

Table A3. Percent of Women Searched by Ethnicity and Purpose of Stop

Purpose	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic.	Ratio
					Hispanic:White
Total Stops	28,591	-	82.57	4.18	-
Total Searches	412	1.44	1.46	1.09	0.75
Speed Limit	8,913	0.66	0.70	0.40	0.57
Stop Light/Sign	2,592	0.81	0.76	0.00	-
Driving Impaired	206	25.73	28.00	44.44	1.59
Safe Movement	1,714	2.63	2.74	2.08	0.76
Vehicle Equipment	3,170	1.51	1.57	1.54	0.98
Vehicle Regulatory	7,920	0.92	0.85	0.40	0.47
Seat Belt	1,087	1.10	1.04	0.00	-
Investigation	1,440	5.07	5.71	0.59	0.10
Other Vehicle	1,549	1.81	1.96	1.43	0.73

Table A4. Type of Search by Ethnicity: Men

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic.	Ratio Hispanic:White
Total Stops	51,226	-	82.15	9.42	-
Total Searches	1,673	3.27	2.83	3.73	1.32
Consent	648	1.26	1.11	1.26	1.14
Search Warrant	8	0.02	0.01	0.06	-
Probable Cause	359	0.70	0.58	0.35	0.60
Incident to Arrest	618	1.21	1.05	1.93	1.84
Protective Frisk	40	0.08	0.07	0.12	-

Table A5. Type of Search by Ethnicity: Women

Search Type	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic	Ratio Hispanic:White
Total Stops	28,591	-	82.57	4.18	-
Total Searches	412	1.44	1.46	1.09	0.75
Consent	135	0.47	0.49	0.25	0.51
Search Warrant	1	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Probable Cause	94	0.33	0.32	0.42	-
Incident to Arrest	178	0.62	0.64	0.33	0.52
Protective Frisk	4	0.01	0.01	0.08	-

Figure A1. Stops by Day of the Week

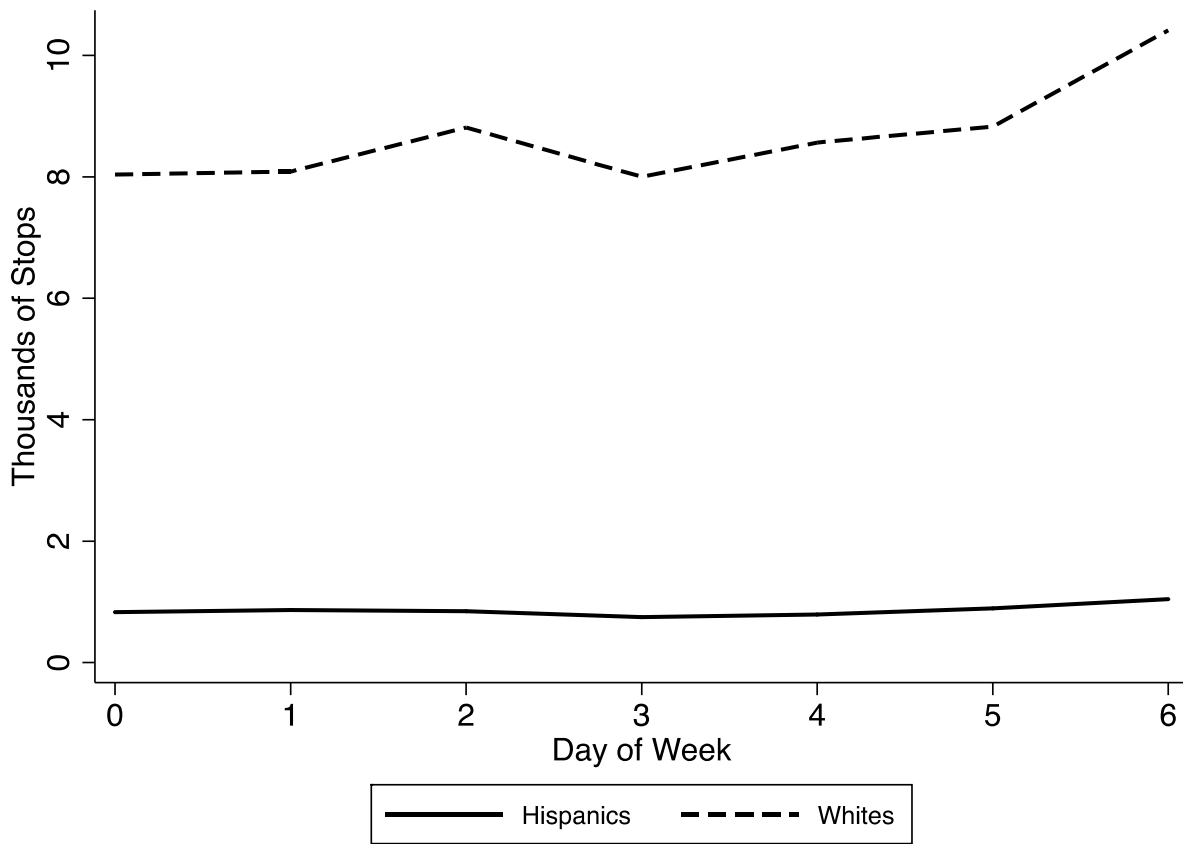


Figure A2. Searches by Day of the Week

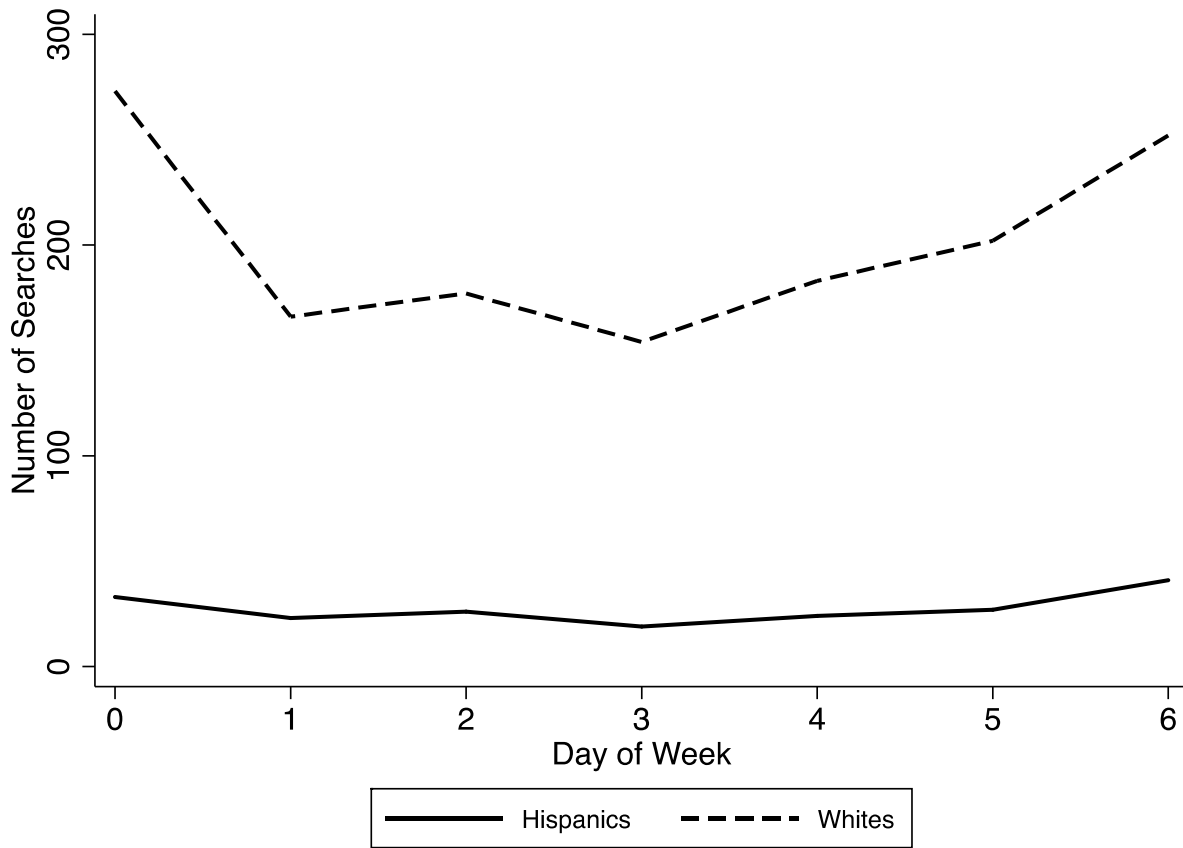
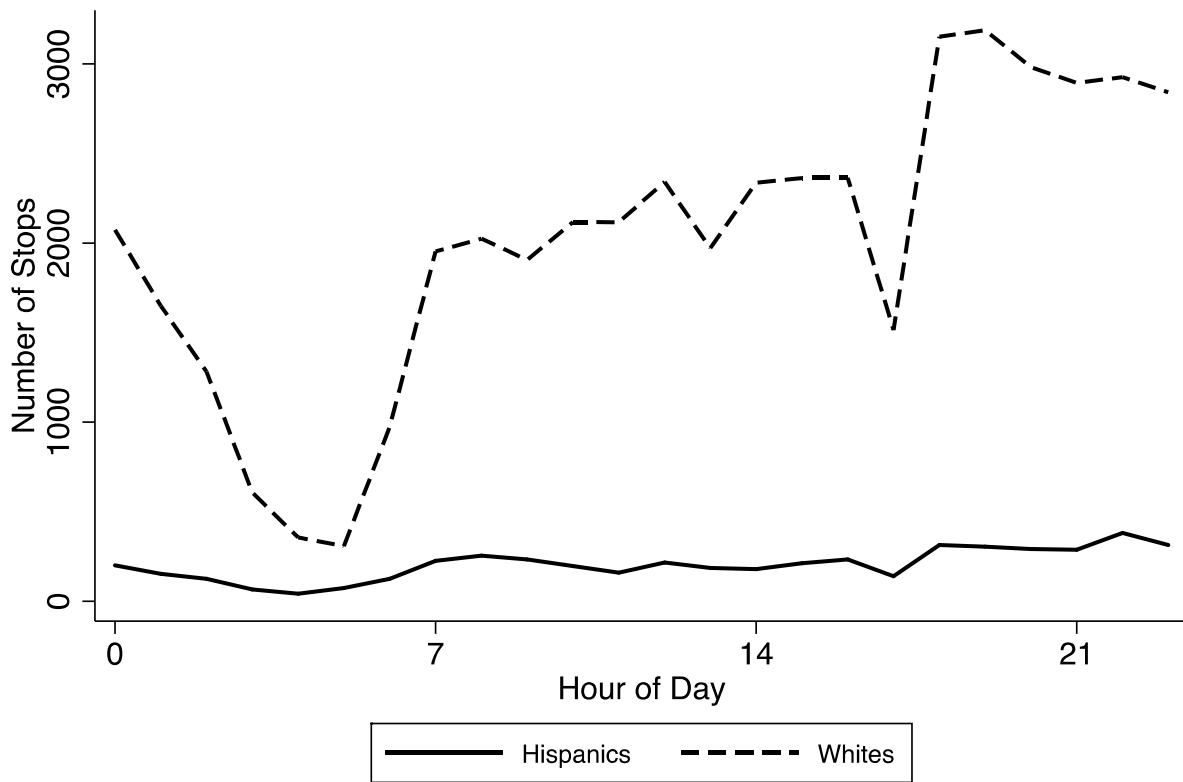
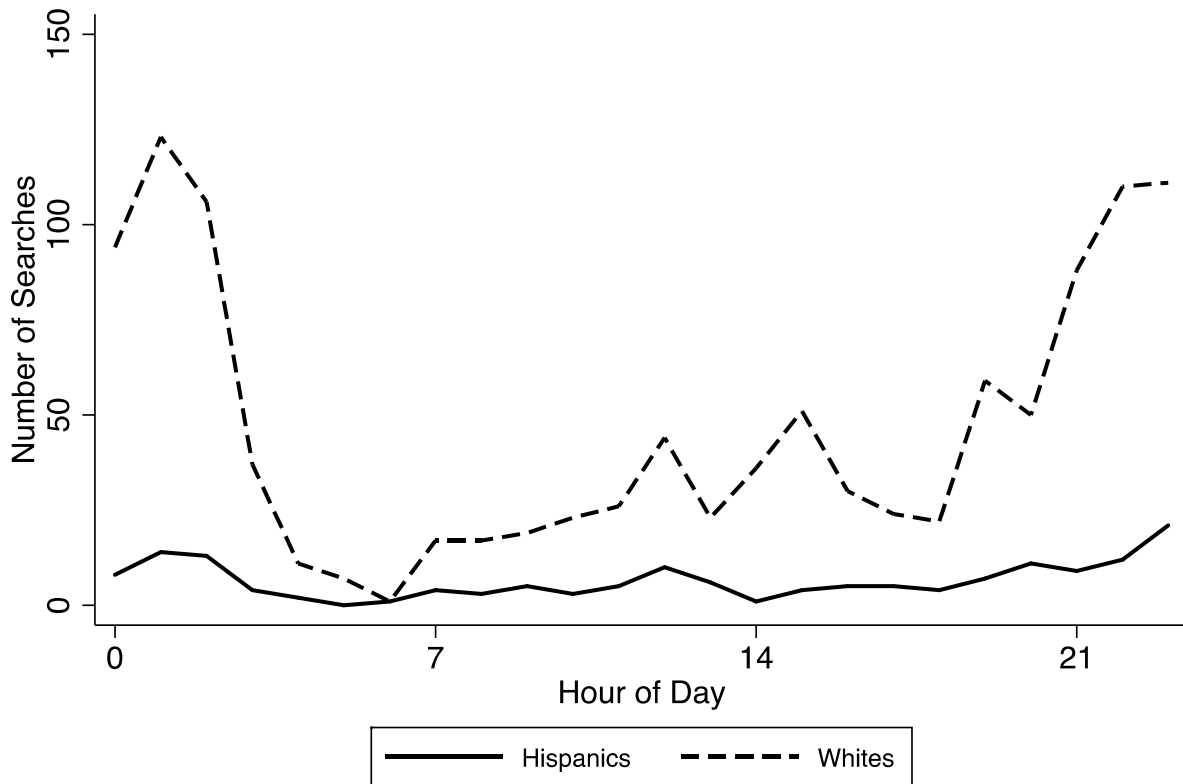


Figure A3. Stops by Hour of the Day



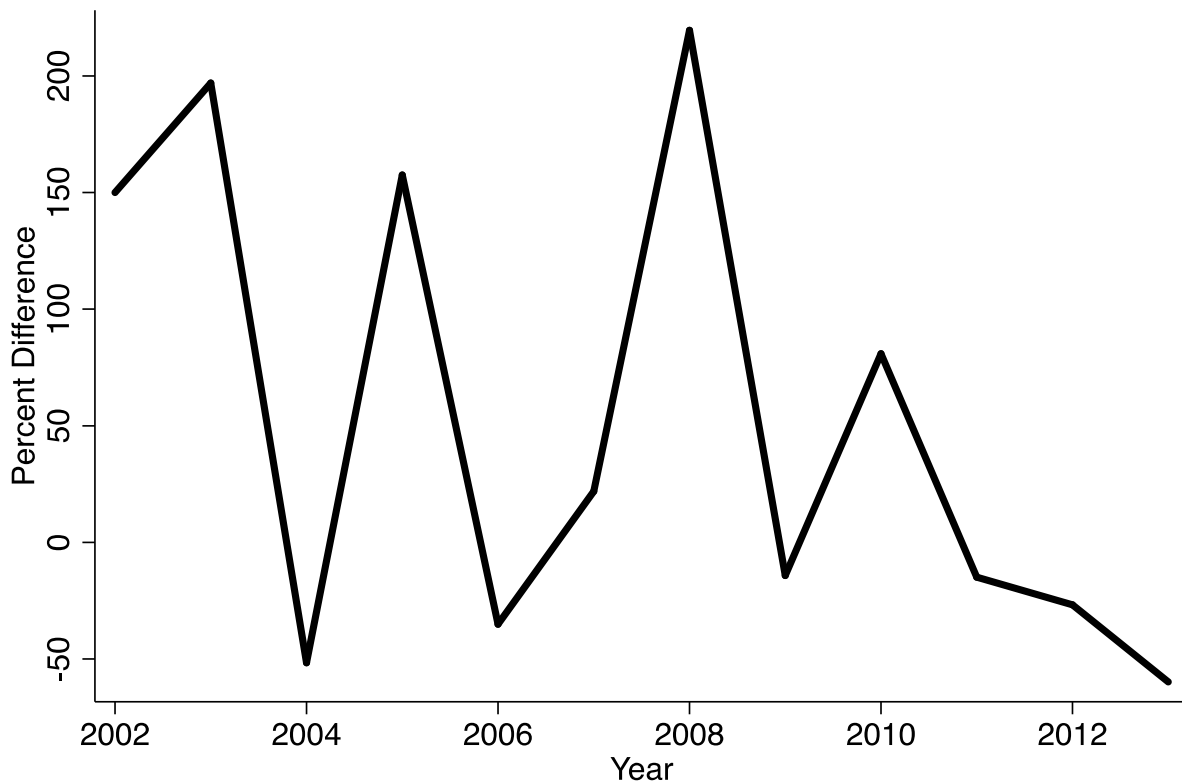
The figure excludes cases where the hour and minute was exactly 0:00. These cases were presumed to be missing data.

Figure A4. Searches by Hour of the Day



The figure excludes cases where the hour and minute was exactly 0:00. These cases were presumed to be missing data.

Figure A5. Ethnic Differences in the Likelihood of Search: Consent Searches Only



The figure shows the percentage difference in the likelihood of Hispanics being searched as compared to Whites; consent searches only.

Table A6. Likelihood of Finding Contraband Given a Search, by Ethnicity

Contraband	Number	% Total	% White	% Hispanic
Yes	586	28.11	30.21	21.24
No	1,499	71.89	69.79	78.76
Total	2,085	100.00	100.00	100.00

Table A7. Differential Outcomes by Whether or not a Search Occurs

Race	Search Occur	N	No Action	Verbal Warning	Written Warning	Citation Issued	Arrest	Total
White	No	59,334	1.75	34.12	4.43	59.09	0.61	100.0
Hispanic	No	5,827	2.21	21.14	1.63	74.10	0.91	100.0
Total	No	77,732	1.91	33.67	4.06	59.71	0.65	100.0
White	Yes	1,407	0.71	9.67	1.78	39.16	48.69	100.0
Hispanic	Yes	193	1.04	5.70	0.00	35.23	58.03	100.0
Total	Yes	2,085	0.96	9.21	1.82	39.71	48.30	100.0