

Summary of Black-White Differences in Traffic Stops and Searches in Wake Forest, 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 | 107,812 | - | 65.59 | 31.57 | - |
| Total Searches | 8,584 | 7.96 | 7.15 | 9.96 | 1.39 |
| Speed Limit | 38,983 | 3.60 | 3.13 | 5.03 | 1.61 |
| Stop Light/Sign | 7,498 | 3.60 | 3.06 | 5.76 | 1.88 |
| Driving Impaired | 2,217 | 46.10 | 49.39 | 36.50 | 0.74 |
| Safe Movement | 9,852 | 10.05 | 9.24 | 11.99 | 1.30 |
| Vehicle Equipment | 10,455 | 11.03 | 10.12 | 12.52 | 1.24 |
| Vehicle Regulatory | 21,260 | 7.68 | 6.59 | 9.58 | 1.45 |
| Seat Belt | 3,111 | 7.97 | 5.14 | 13.95 | 2.71 |
| Investigation | 8,189 | 16.22 | 15.00 | 18.83 | 1.26 |
| Other Vehicle | 6,247 | 8.63 | 7.47 | 10.87 | 1.46 |

Table 3 shows that Blacks have a rate of search 39 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 +68 percent. For female drivers, the increased likelihood is not statistically significant.

Table 4. Type of Search by Race

| Search Type | Number | Total | White | Black | Ratio |
|--------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | | | | | Black:White |
| Total Stops | 107,812 | - | 65.59 | 31.57 | - |
| Total Searches | 8,584 | 7.96 | 7.15 | 9.96 | 1.39 |
| Consent | 4,376 | 4.06 | 3.70 | 4.97 | 1.34 |
| Search Warrant | 21 | .02 | .02 | .02 | - |
| Probable Cause | 1,397 | 1.30 | .88 | 2.23 | 2.53 |
| Incident to Arrest | 2,579 | 2.39 | 2.38 | 2.50 | 1.05 |
| Protective Frisk | 211 | .20 | .17 | .24 | 1.41 |

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

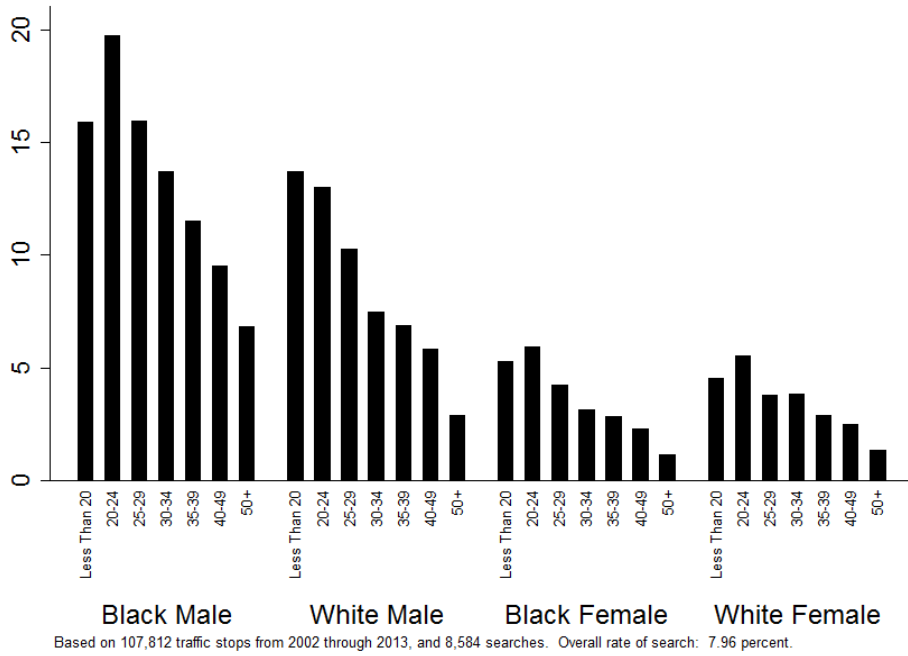


Figure 12. Percent of White and Black Drivers Searched, by Officer

