Summary of Traffic Stops Statistics
North Carolina State-wide Summary

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Draft for review and comments
November 6, 2021

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

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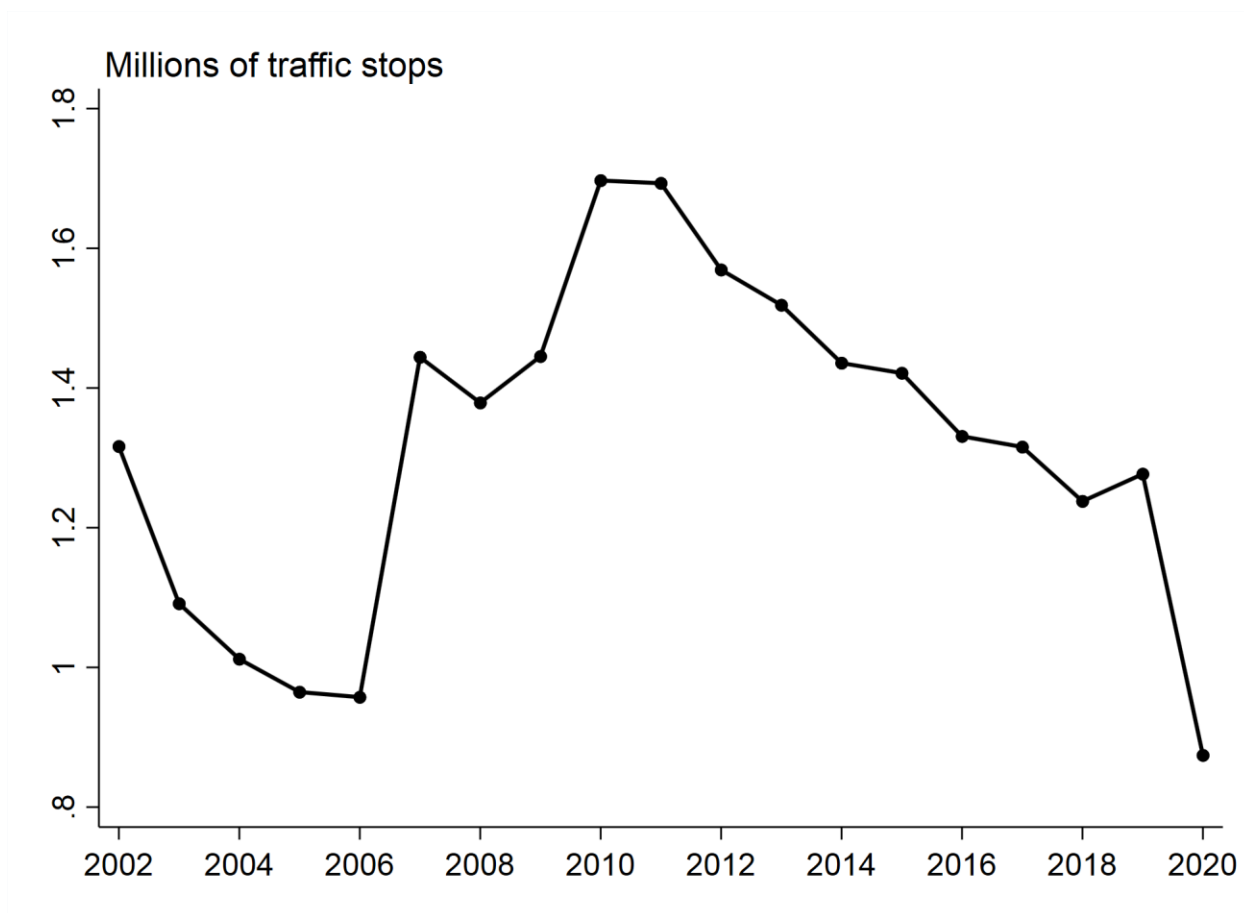[1] For more information about this database, see: https://trafficstops.ncsbi.gov/.

[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.
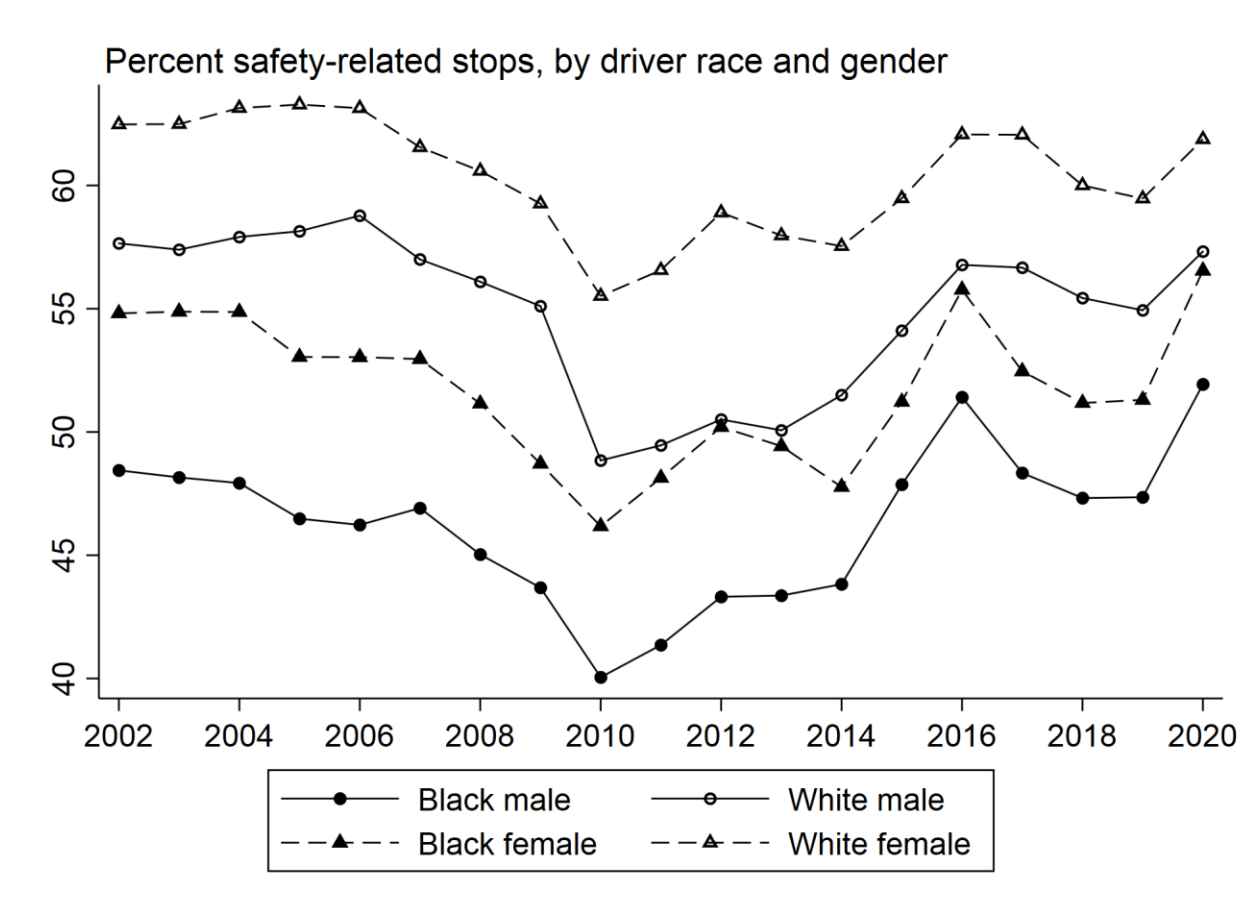
13. Black-White Ratio of search rates, arrest rates, hit rates, and arrest rates per hit, for females
14. Summary of stops over the year: Stops, percent safety-related, percent ending in citation, search, and arrest
15. Test of the "end of month quota" hypothesis. This compares outcomes for the last three days of the month compared to all other days of the month.
16. Summary of stops by hour over the week: Stops, percent safety-related, percent ending in citation, search, and arrest
17. Summary of stops by hour over the day: Stops, percent safety-related, percent ending in citation, search, and arrest
18. Hourly breakdown of percent of stops by race-gender category
19. Hourly breakdown of percent of stops related to traffic safety, by race-gender category
20. Hourly breakdown of percent of stops resulting in search, by race-gender category
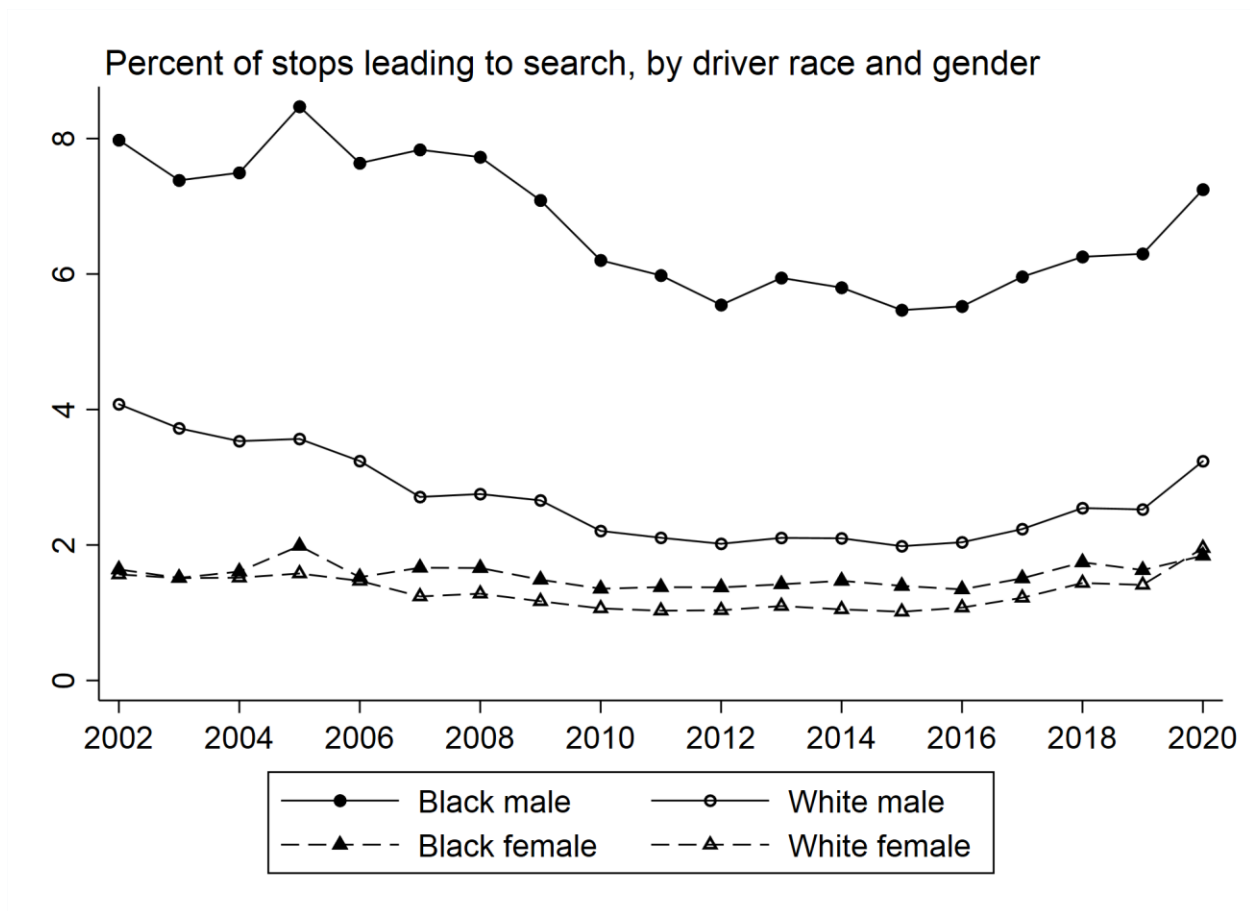21. Hourly breakdown of percent of stops resulting in arrest, by race-gender category
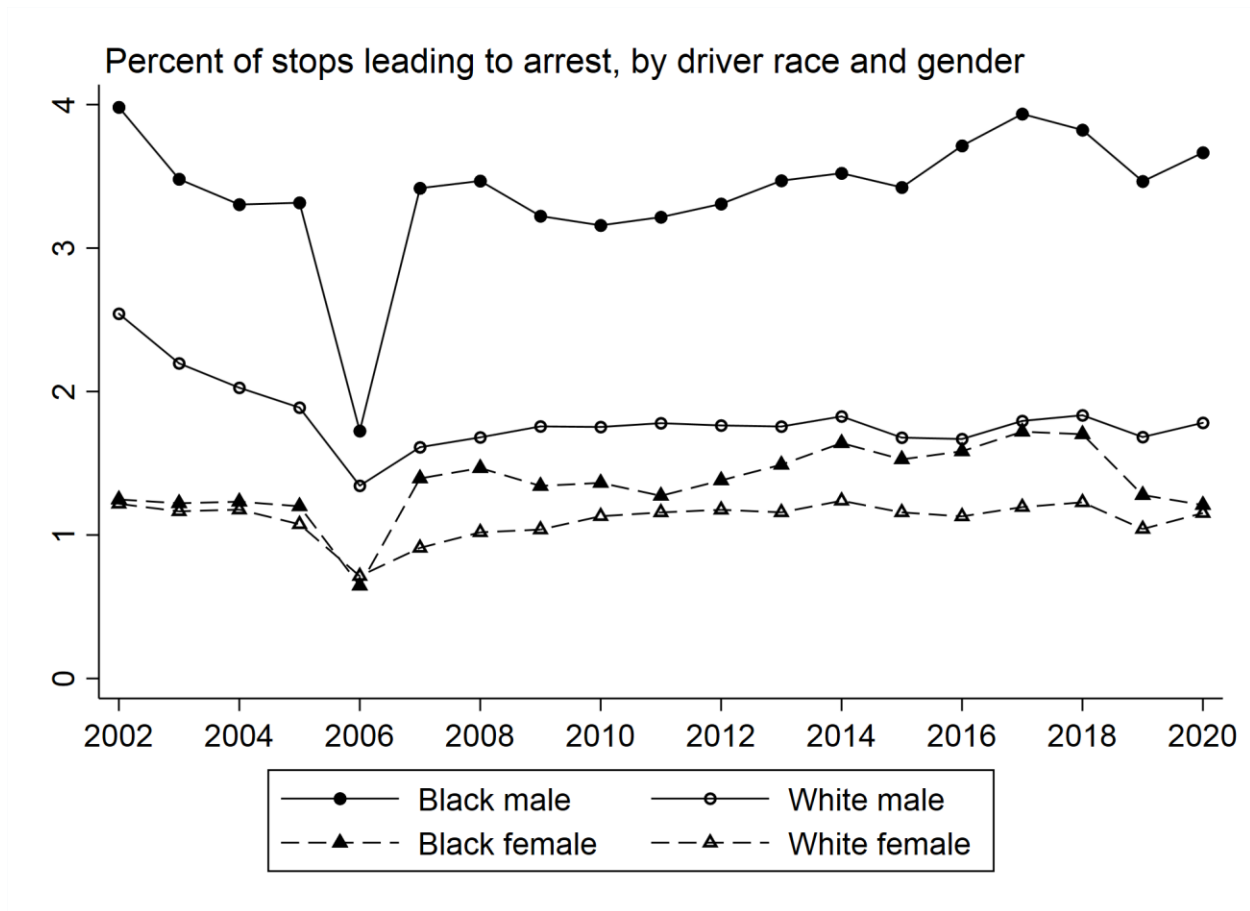
Summary of outcomes

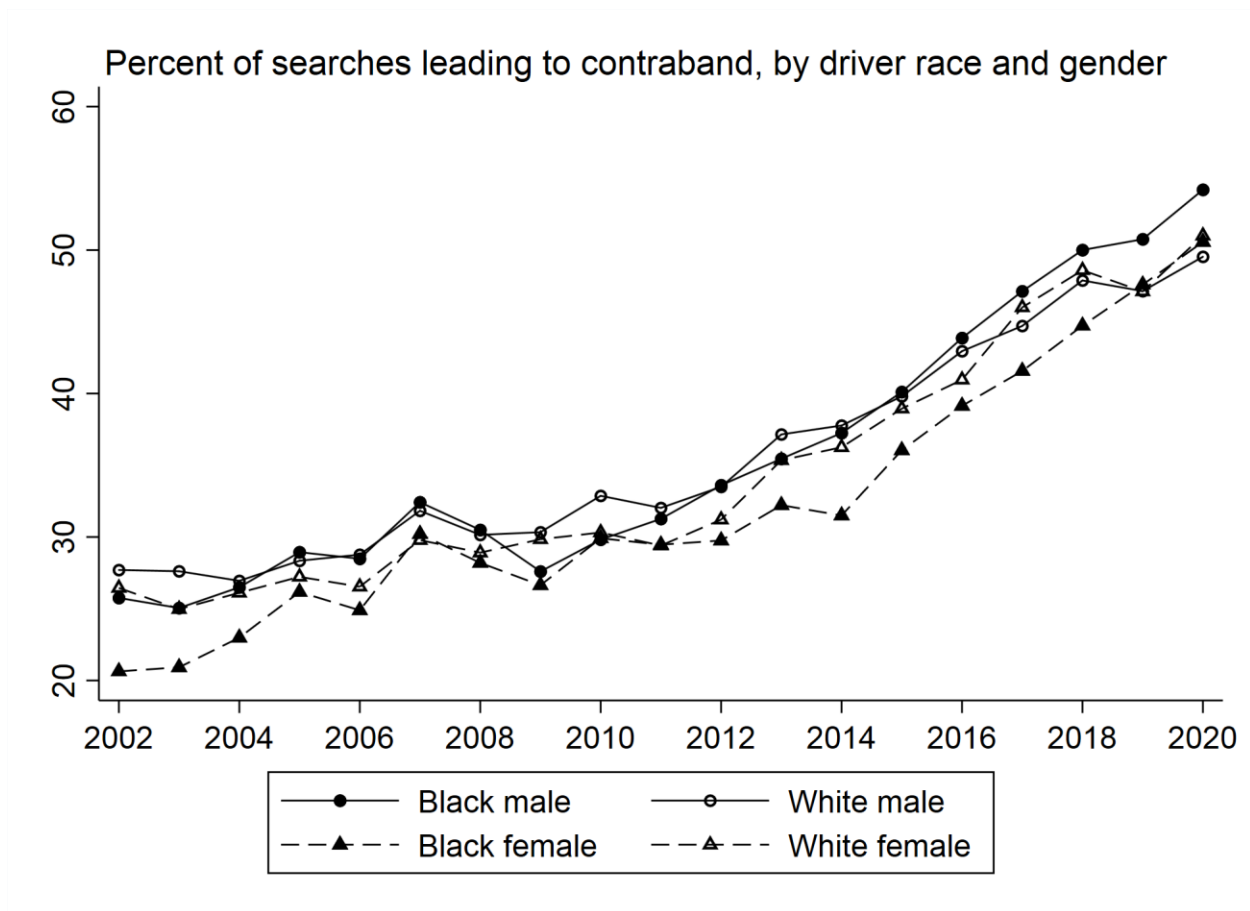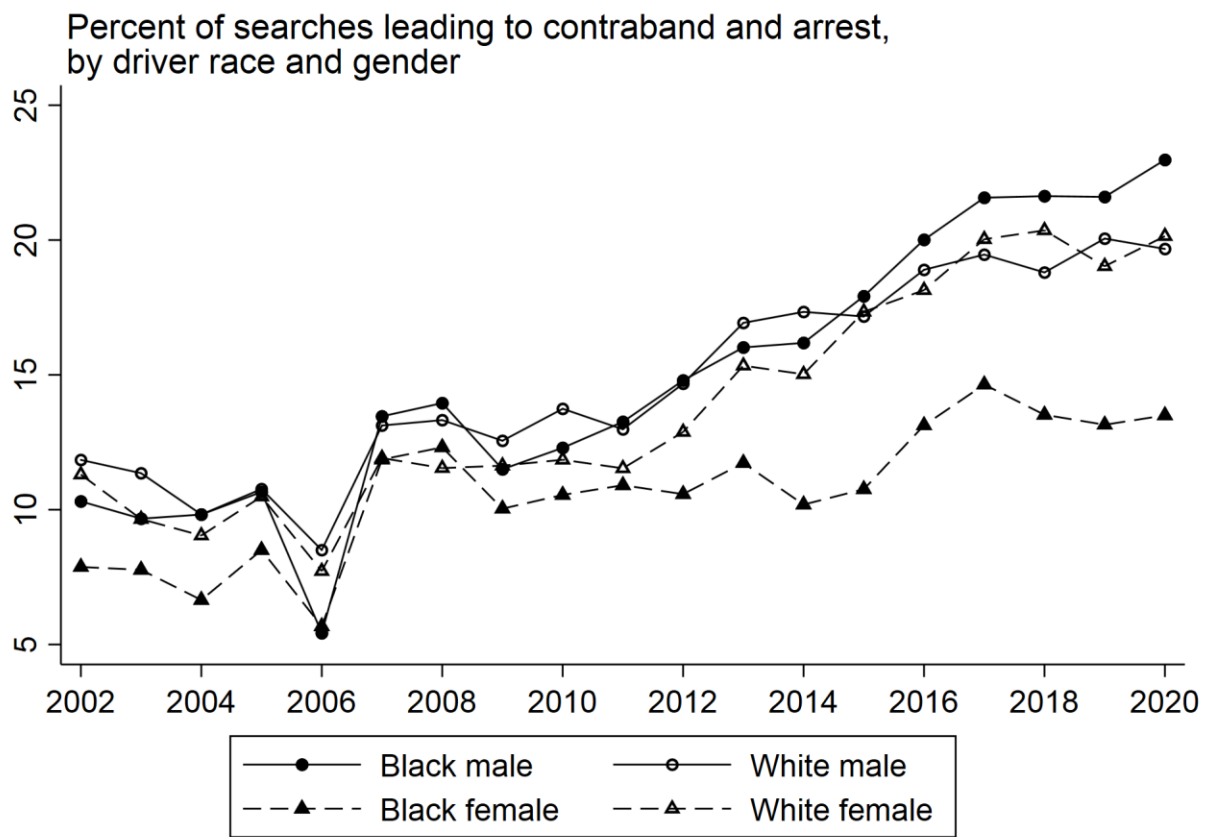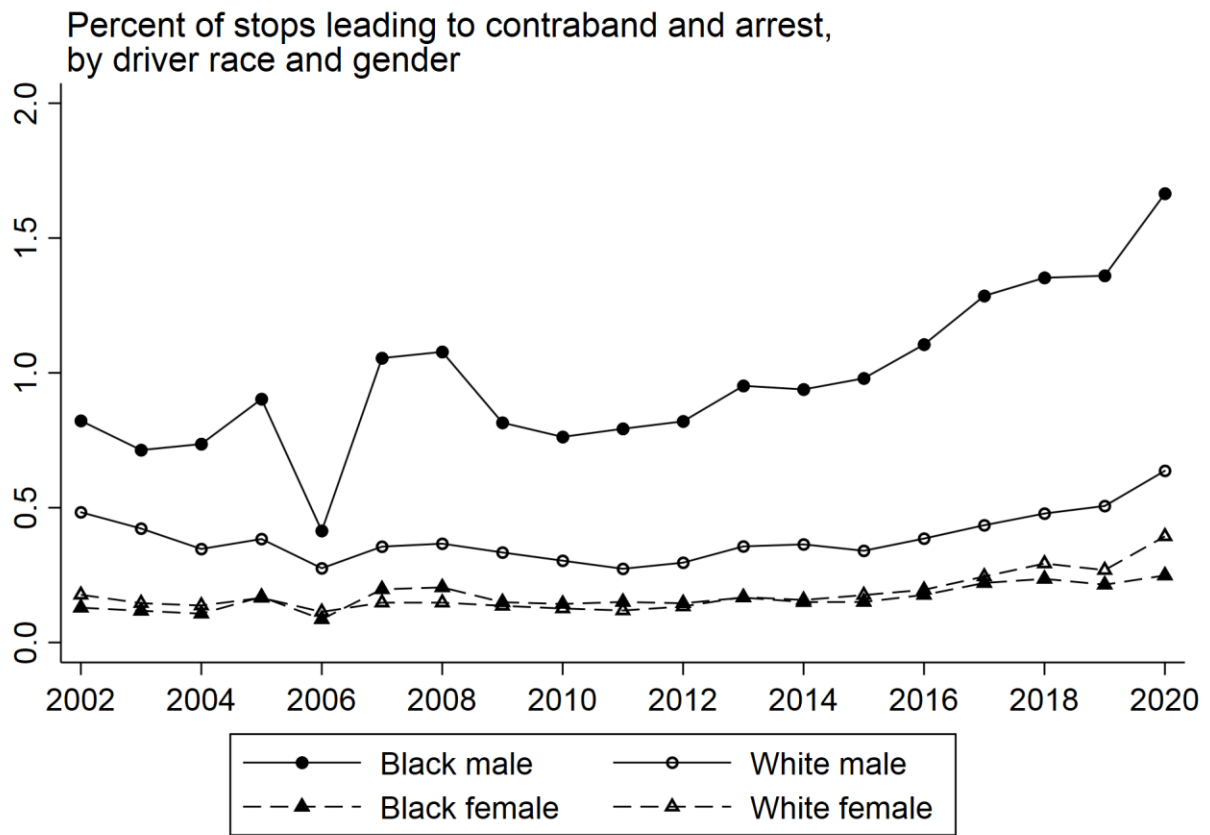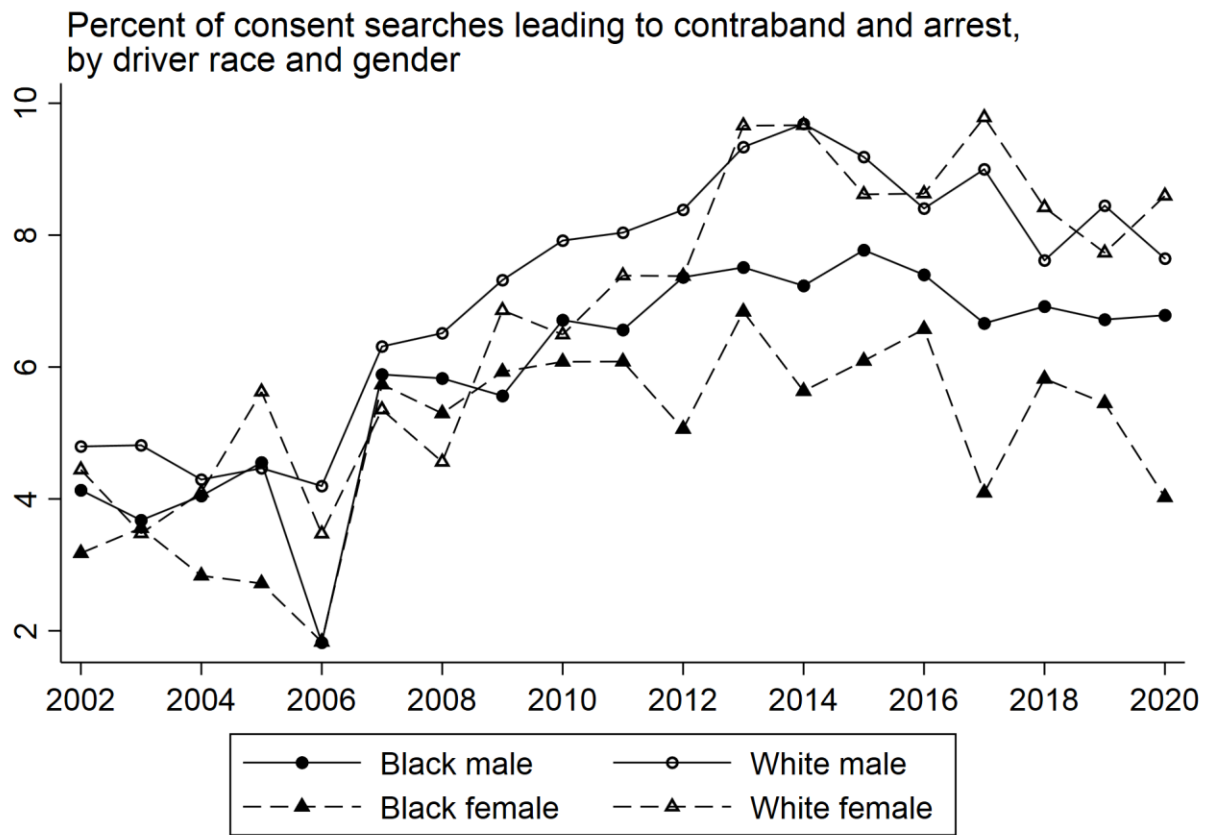| Category	Number
Stops	24,980,776
Traffic Safety Stops	13,365,910
Searches	763,343
Hits	280,152
Arrests	500,040
Arrest From Hit From Search	105,784
Consent Searches	346,475
Arrest From Hit From Consent Search	20,759
Probable Cause Searches	264,963
Arrest From Hit From Probable Cause Search	54,326
Percent Traffic Safety Stops	53.50%
Search Rate Per Stop	3.06%
Hit Rate Per Search	33.48%
Arrest Rate Per Hit	38.85%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Search	13.86%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Probable Cause Search	20.50%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Consent Search	5.99%
Arrest Rate Per Stop	2.00%
Hit-and-Arrest Rate Per Stop	0.42%

Millions of traffic stops

Percent of traffic stops, by driver race and gender

Percent safety-related stops, by driver race and gender

Percent of stops leading to search, by driver race and gender

Percent of stops leading to arrest, by driver race and gender

Percent of searches leading to contraband, by driver race and gender

Percent of searches leading to contraband and arrest,
by driver race and gender

| Black male | White male |
| Black female | White female |

Percent of stops leading to contraband and arrest,
by driver race and gender

Percent of consent searches leading to contraband and arrest, by driver race and gender

Percent of probable cause searches leading to contraband and arrest, by driver race and gender

Percent of contraband hits leading to arrest, by driver race and gender
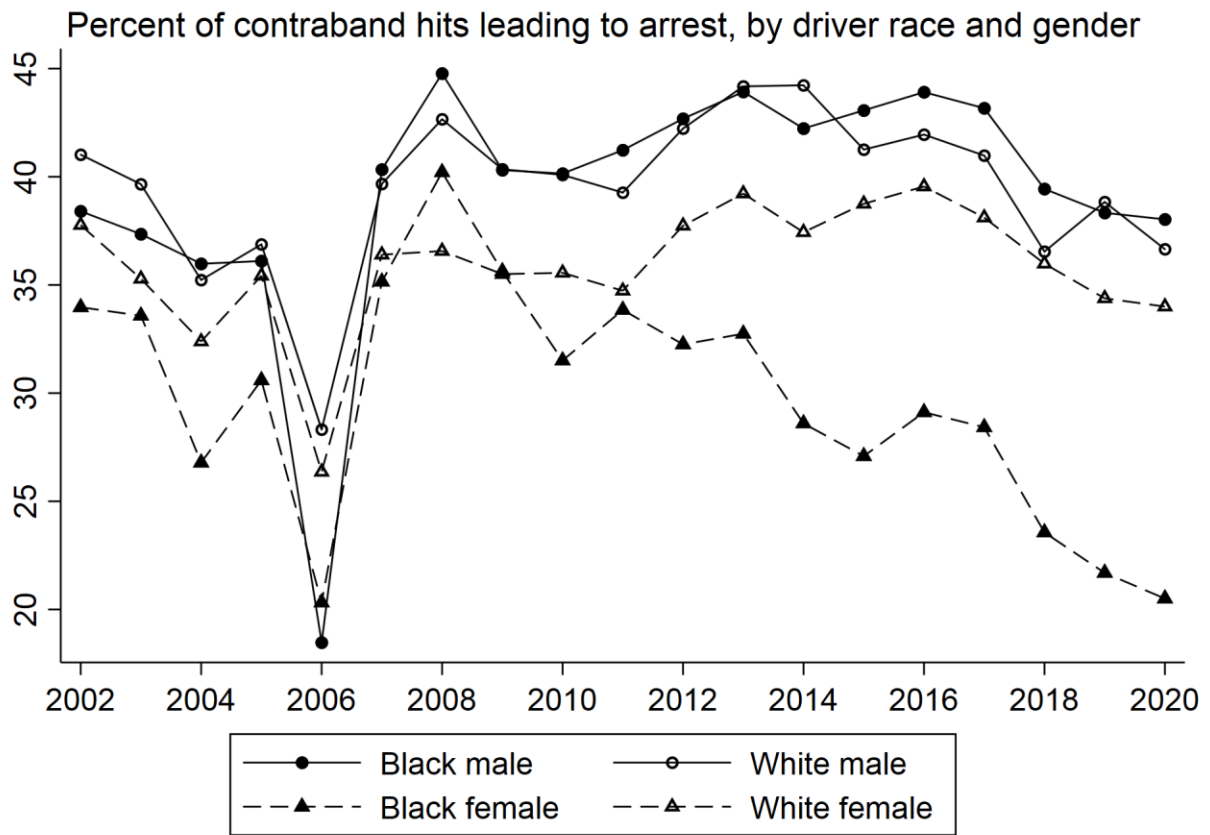
Black-white rate ratios, male drivers

A value of 1.00 indicates racial equity; higher numbers indicate adverse outcomes for black drivers.
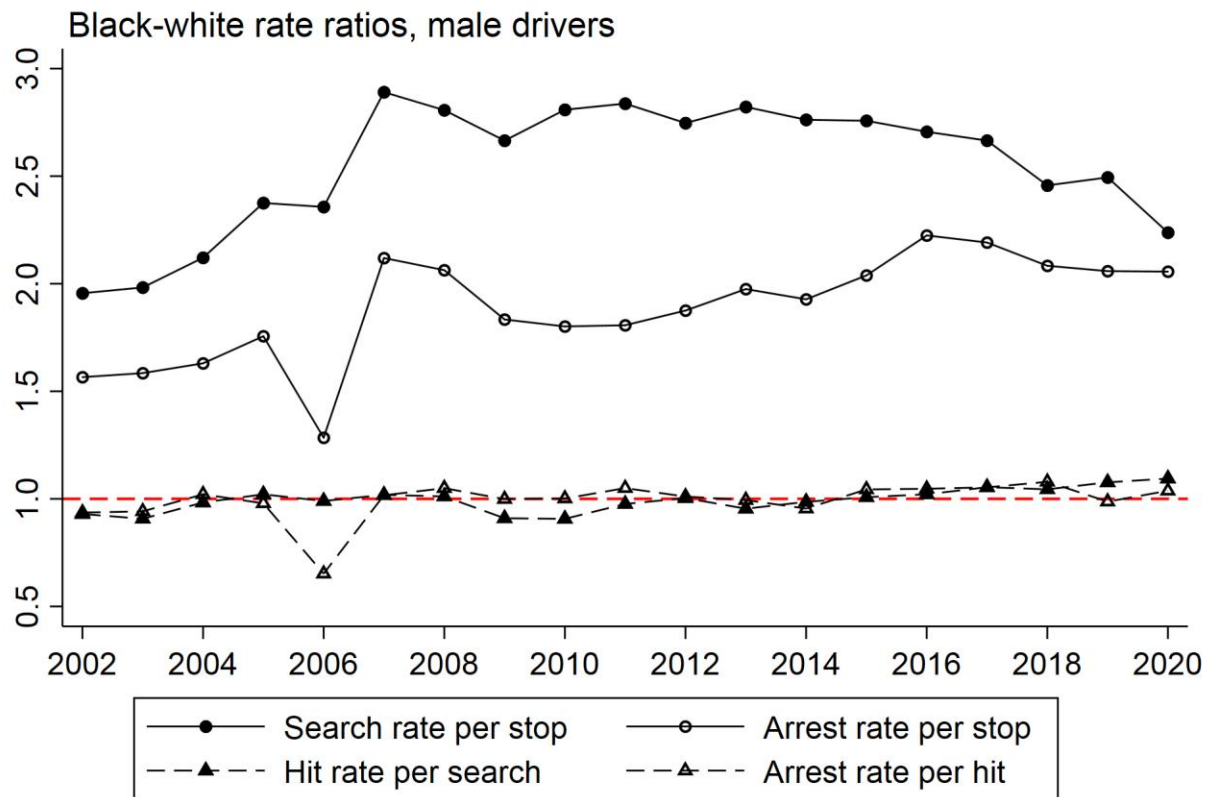
Black-white rate ratios, female drivers

A value of 1.00 indicates racial equity; higher numbers indicate adverse outcomes for black drivers.
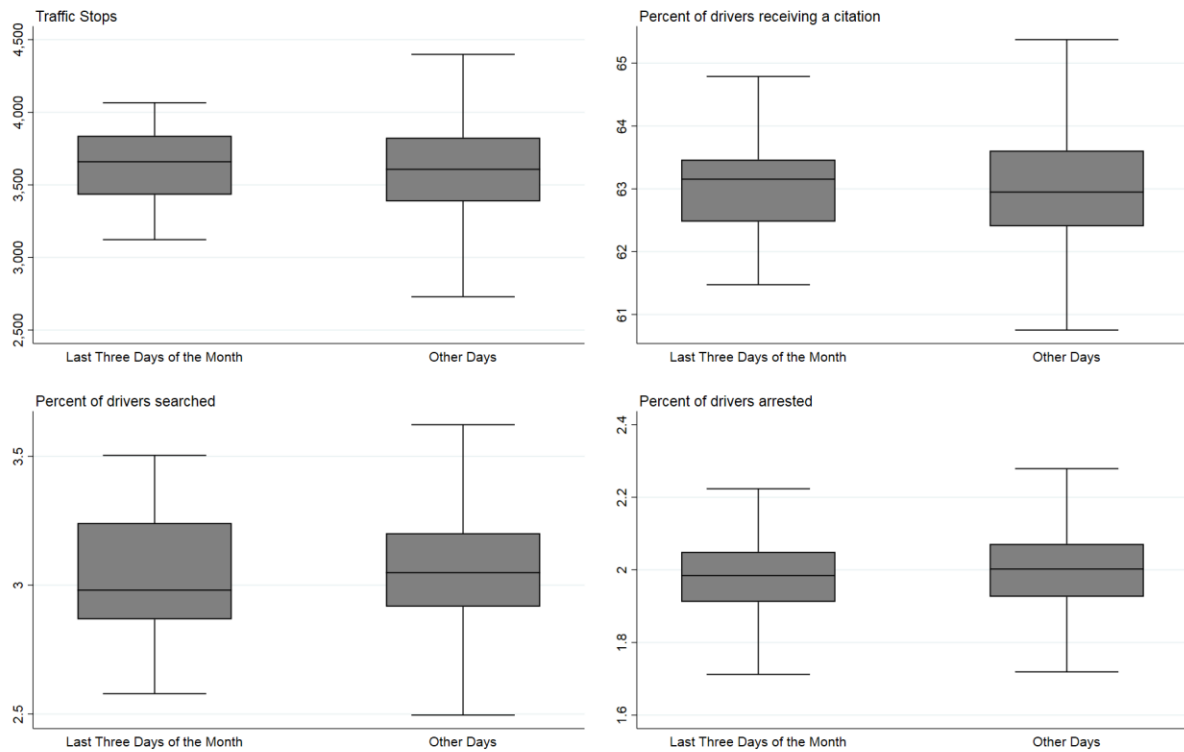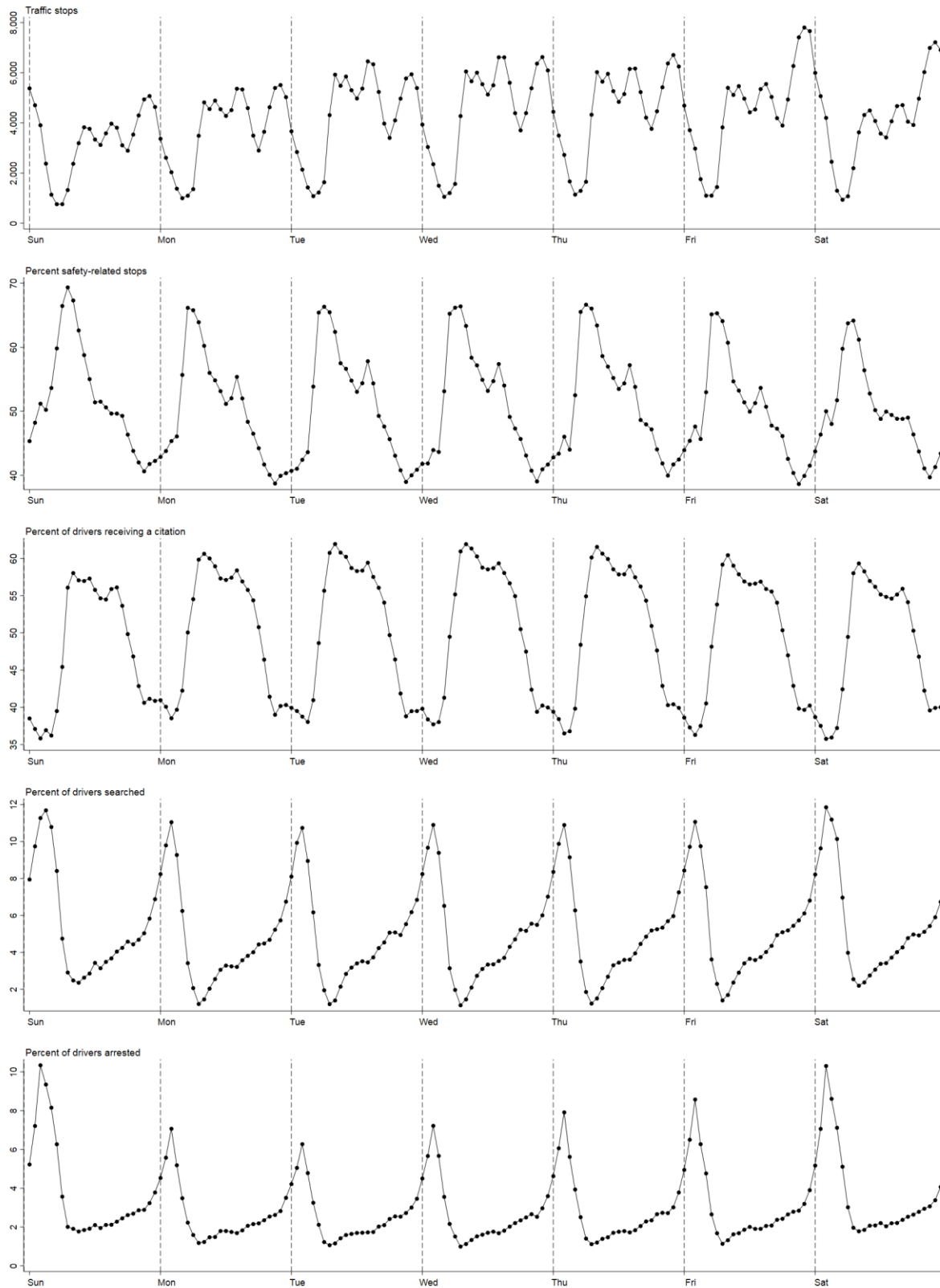
Traffic stops over the year
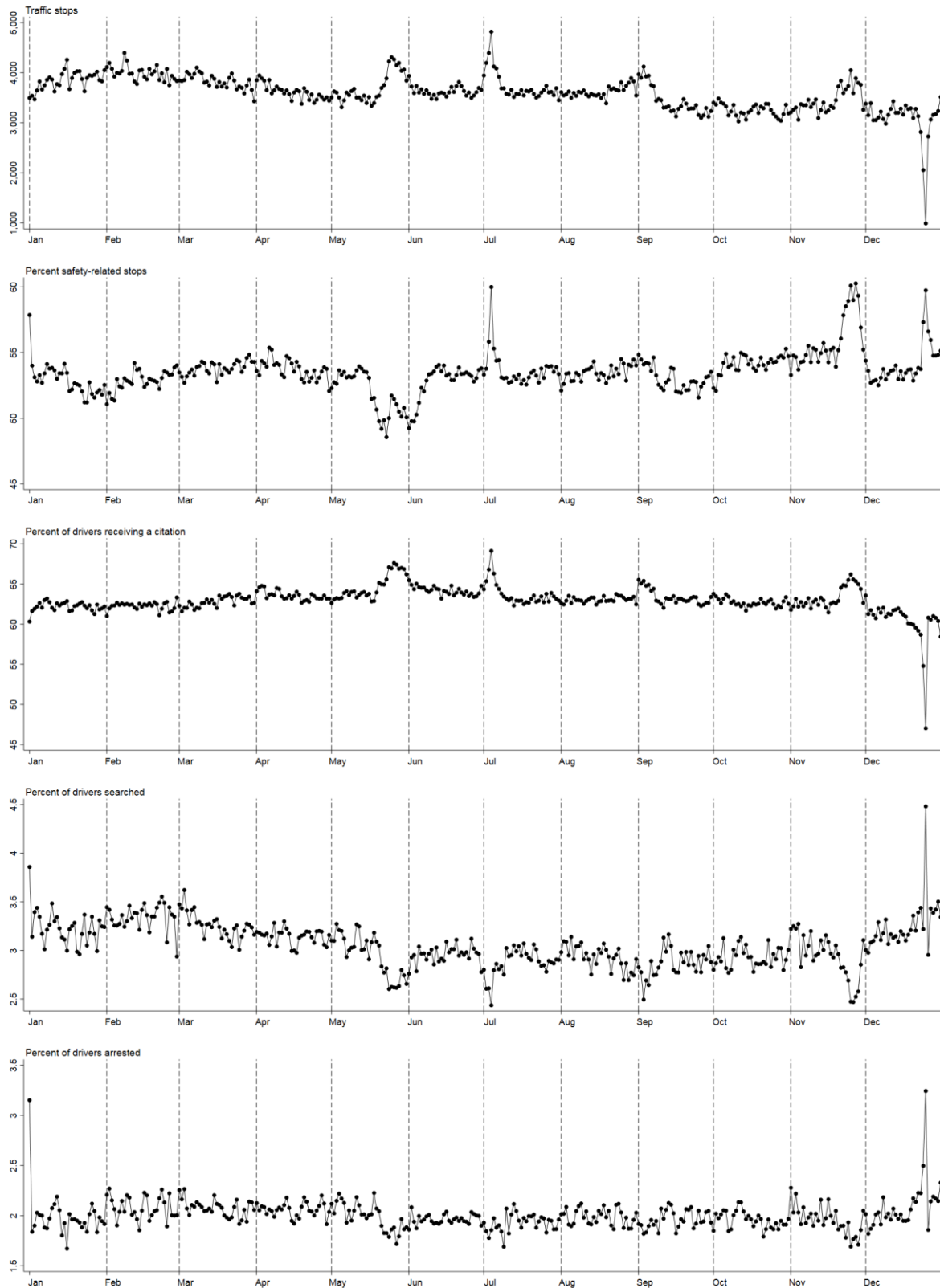
Testing the 'end-of-month quota' hypothesis

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.

Traffic stops by hour across the week

Traffic stops by hour over the day

Percent of stops by hour, by driver race and gender

Percent of stops for safety-related purposes by hour, by driver race and gender

Percent of drivers searched by hour, by driver race and gender

Percent of drivers arrested by hour, by driver race and gender