

The Racial Divide of Police Stopplings

Research Questions

- Are there racial and ethnic differences in experiences of being stopped by the police?
- Do these differences differ for men and women?

Significance

- In the media, we have seen African-Americans, Hispanics/Latinos, and other minorities being treated acutely by police officers throughout several occurrences.
- Racial profiling in police stopplings is one factor contributing to institutional racism.

Background

- Officers generally stop Black drivers at higher rates than White drivers. Also stop Hispanic drivers at similar or lower rates than Whites (Kahn & Martin, 2016).
- When they account for gender, race and location, officers ticket, search, and arrest Black and Hispanic drivers more often than Whites (Pierson et al., 2017).

Hypothesis

- Black and Hispanic respondents are more likely than White or other race respondents to be stopped or detained by police officers.
- These differences are greater for males than females.

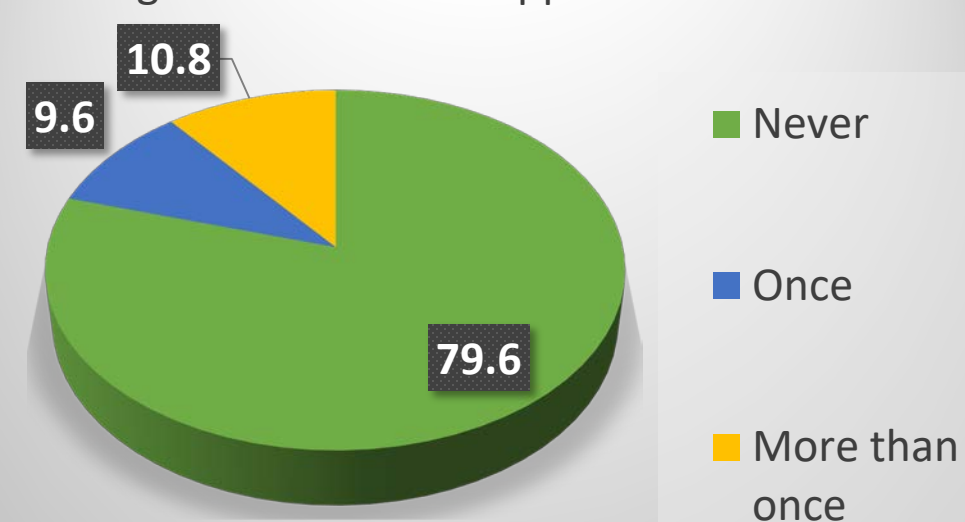
Data and Sample

- National Longitudinal Survey of Youth and Adult Health
- Public Use Data Wave 3 (2001 – 2002).
- A total of 4,882 respondents aged 18 – 26

Dependent Measure

- How many times have you been stopped or detained by the police for questioning about your activities?

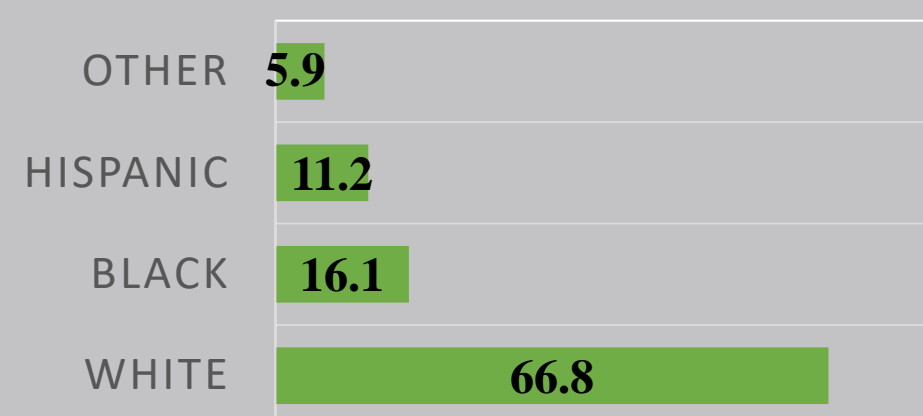
Figure 1. % Police Stopped or Detained



Independent Measure

- ▶ Race and Ethnicity

Figure 2. % Distribution for Race/Ethnicity



Control Measure

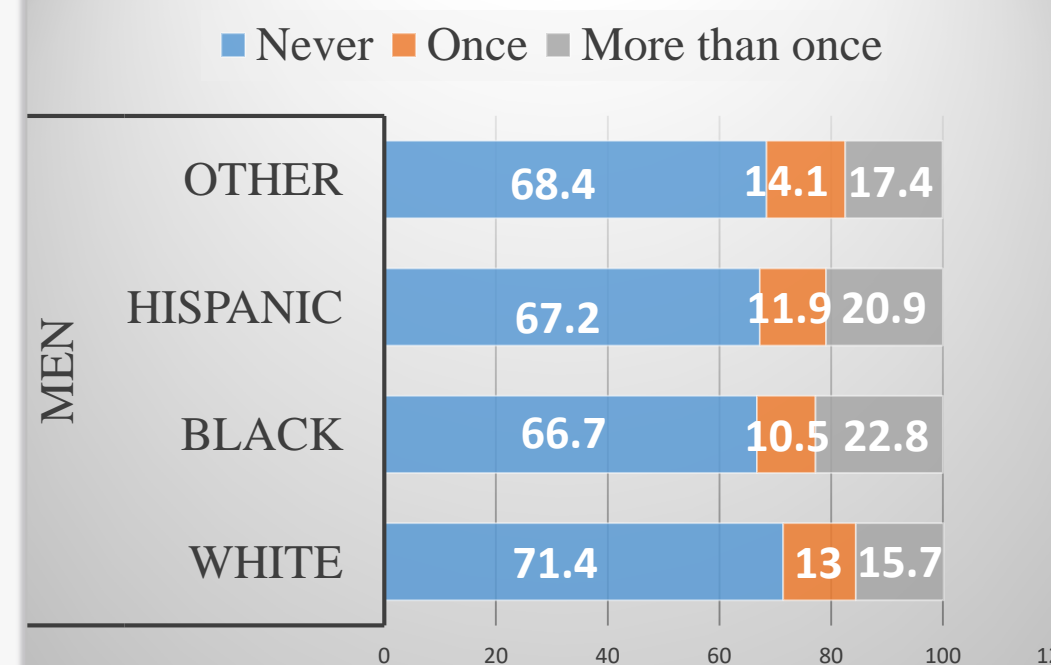
- ▶ Biological Sex
 - ▶ Male = 50.7%
 - ▶ Female = 49.3%

Analysis

- ▶ Cross tabulation and Chi-square test using SPSS.
- ▶ Data are weighted to correct the oversampling of higher SES Black people.

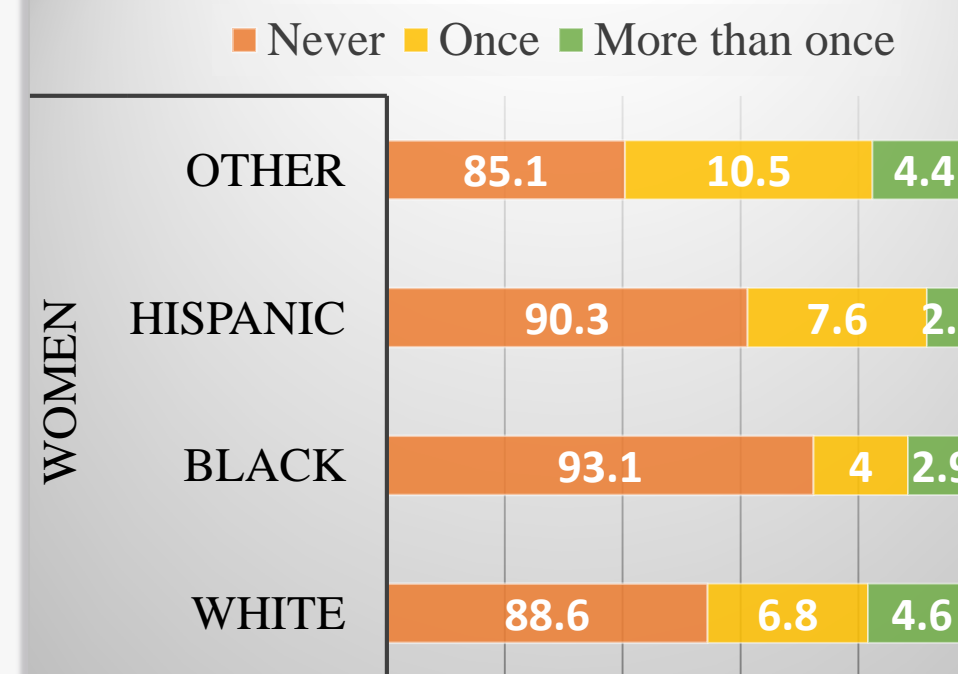
Results

Figure 3. Police Stopping by Race/ethnicity: Men



Chi-square test was significant at $p < .001$.

Figure 4. Police Stopping by Race/Ethnicity: Women



Chi-square test was significant at $p < .001$.

Summary of Findings

- ▶ Black males are more than likely to be stopped or detained by police officers more than once at 22.8%. Hispanic males are right behind them at 20.9%.
- ▶ White males are more likely than racial minorities to never be stopped or detained by police officers at 71.4%.
- ▶ Other race males are more than likely to be stopped or detained once by police officers at 14.1% than White, Black or Hispanic males.
- ▶ Black females are least likely to never be stopped or detained by police officers at 93.1%.
- ▶ Hispanic females are more than likely to be stopped by police at 7.6% than White, Black or other females.
- ▶ White females are more than likely to be stopped or detained by police officers at more than once at 4.6% than Black, Hispanic or other females.

Policy Implications

- ▶ There needs to be more programs like "Stop and Frisk" in New York to end racial bias.

References

- ▶ Pierson, E., Simoiu, C., Overgoor, J., Corbett-Davies, S., Ramachandran, V., Phillips, C., & Goel, S. (2017). A large-scale analysis of racial disparities in police stops across the United States. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1706.05678*.
- ▶ Kahn, K. B., & Martin, K. D. (2016). Policing and race: Disparate treatment, perceptions, and policy responses. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 10(1), 82-121.