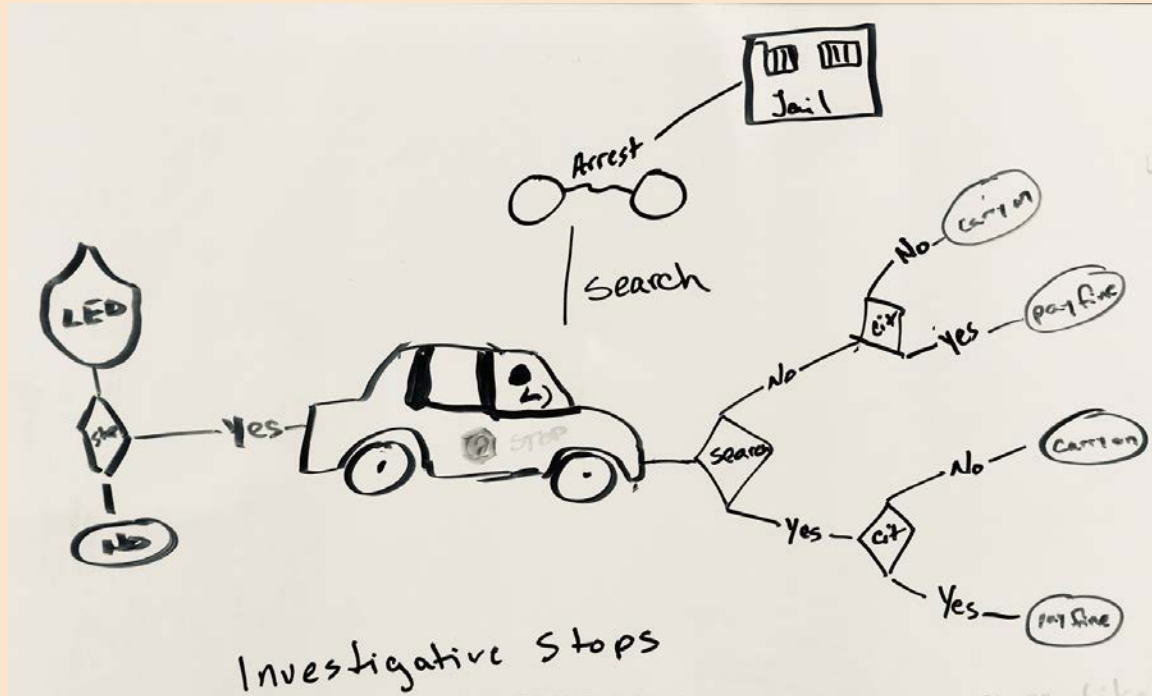


Contextualizing Vehicle Stops



Is There a Cost Benefit to Disproportionate Stops by Race?

Vehicle Stop Report (VSR) Data Committee

13 August 2019

Tara Warne-Griggs, Race Matters, Friends

Summary of Facts

- Since 2000, the disparity index for Black drivers ≥ 2.0 . (CPD website)
- Disparities persist even when we substitute American Community Survey (ACS) population statistics for Census. (Parsons/Milyo)
- At least some level of officer-level racial bias was present in 2016, not shown in 2017. (Parsons/Milyo)
- Statistically analysis of two years worth of data alongside the trend of eighteen (18) years of disparities.
- Feedback from eight (8) [listening tour sessions](#) related to vehicle stops indicated widespread racial profiling in Columbia.

Big Ticket Questions

- **What is the impact of the disparities on:**
 - the drivers?
 - black community?
 - trust of police department?
 - trust of public officials?
 - community-at-large
 - Us vs. Them
- **What is the cost benefit of disproportionate minority contact resulting in racial disparities in stops?**



Two Perspectives on Cause

- **Disparities may** result from either overt or implicit bias on the part of officers (Fridell, 2017)
- **Disparities** reflect *institutional practice emphasizing the investigative stop* (Epp et al, 2017 and Baumgartner et al, 2018).

African Americans
4,062 Stops (35%)

Whites
7,557 Stops (65%)

Citation 469 (11%)
Arrest 502 (12%)

Citation 902 (12%)
Arrest 597 (7%)

3167 (78%)
Stopped No Citation/Arrest

6,218 (82%)
Stopped No Citation/Arrest

Reason for Searches

- Drug Odor 119
- Consent 89
- Weapon 24
- Contraband 23
- Drug Dog 17
- Incident 7
- Other 8

8.3%
Searched

266 Searched
No Citation/Arrest

Reason for Searches

- Consent 118
- Drug Odor 37
- Weapon 19
- Contraband 13
- Drug Dog 13
- Incident 10
- Other 5

3.4%
Searched

210 Searched
No Citation/Arrest

2017 vehicle stop data

Columbia's Population
African American 10%
White 80%

165 contraband

4,062 Stops

23 weapons

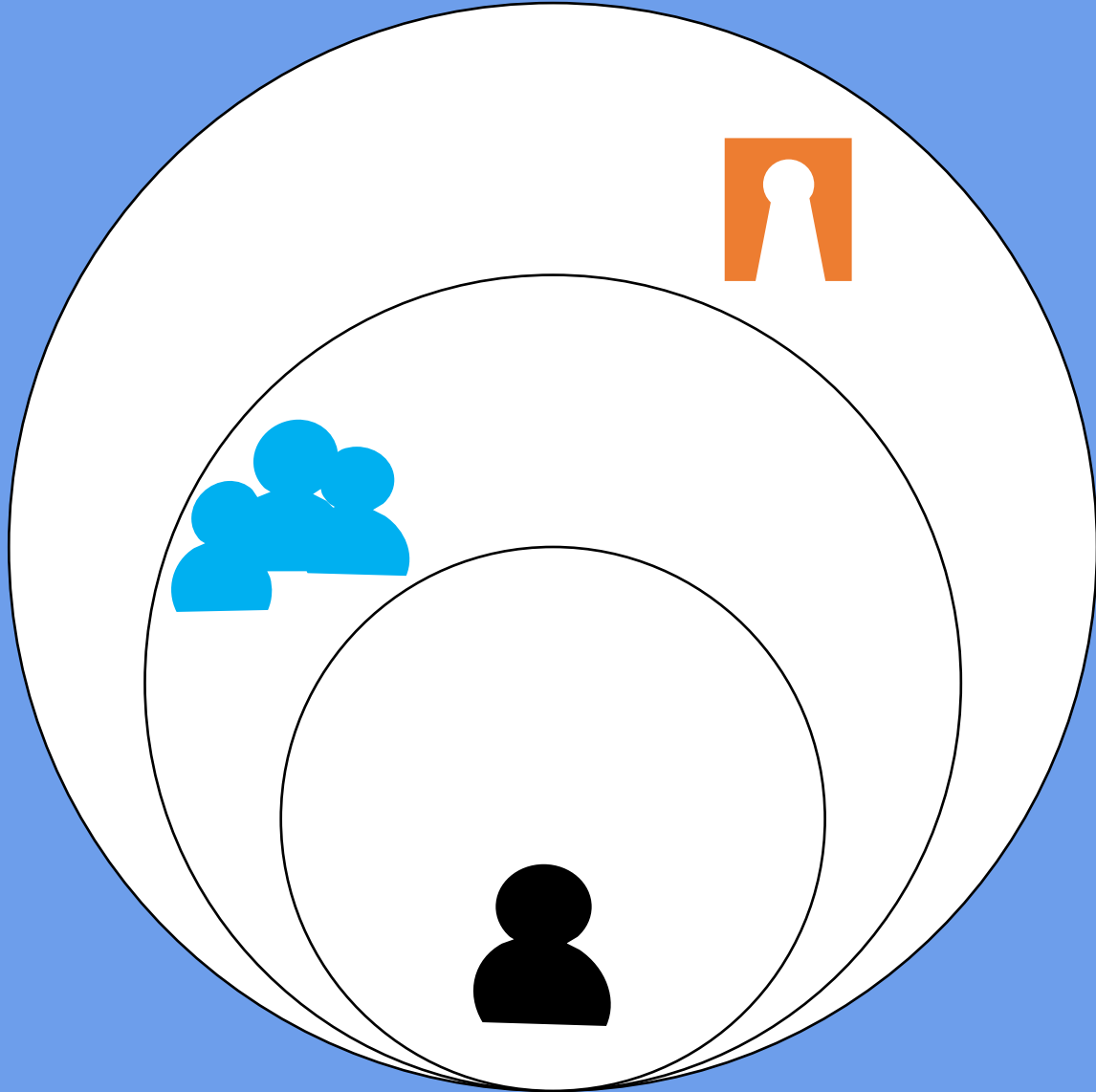
3,167

What is
the cost?

No citation
No arrest



Consequences





Historical
Context

- [The Tale of Two Cities](#) (2016)
- [Our Black Children: The Evolution of Black Space in Columbia, Missouri](#) (Jindrich, 2002)
- [Deep Historical Disparities in Columbia](#) (1981)
 - Housing, Poverty, Health, Employment
 - [School-Discipline](#) (ProPublica, CoMo)
 - Criminal Justice ([Municipal Work Group](#))
 - [School-to-prison pipeline](#)
 - [Educational outcomes](#)

EQUALITY

VS.

EQUITY





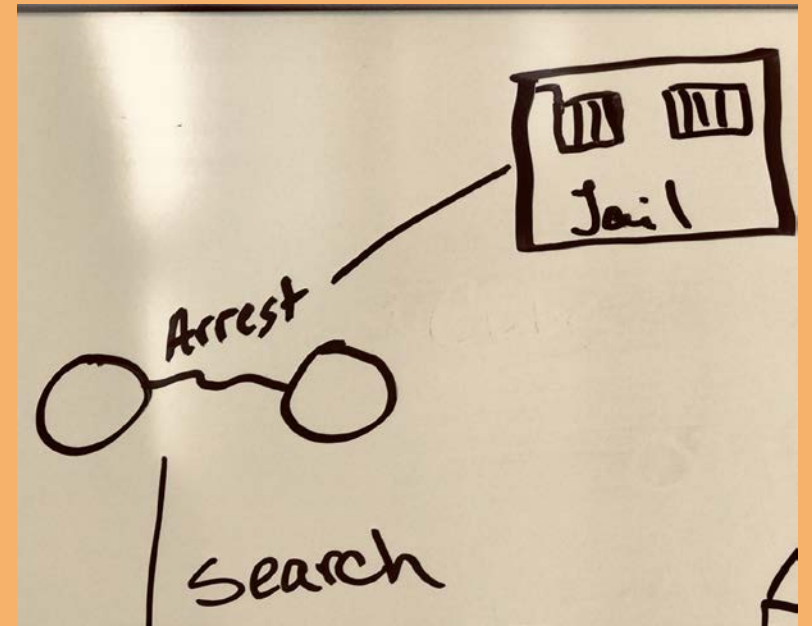
Individual Impact

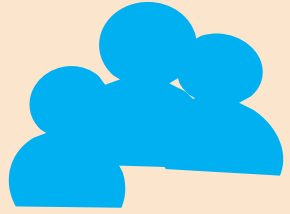
Drivers report changing

- the time of day driving
- routes
- travel plans....to avoid contact with police

Trend of disproportionate stops maintains:

- fear of police,
- sense of violation
- Rude/disrespectful behavior by officer
- increases likelihood of escalation





Community Impact

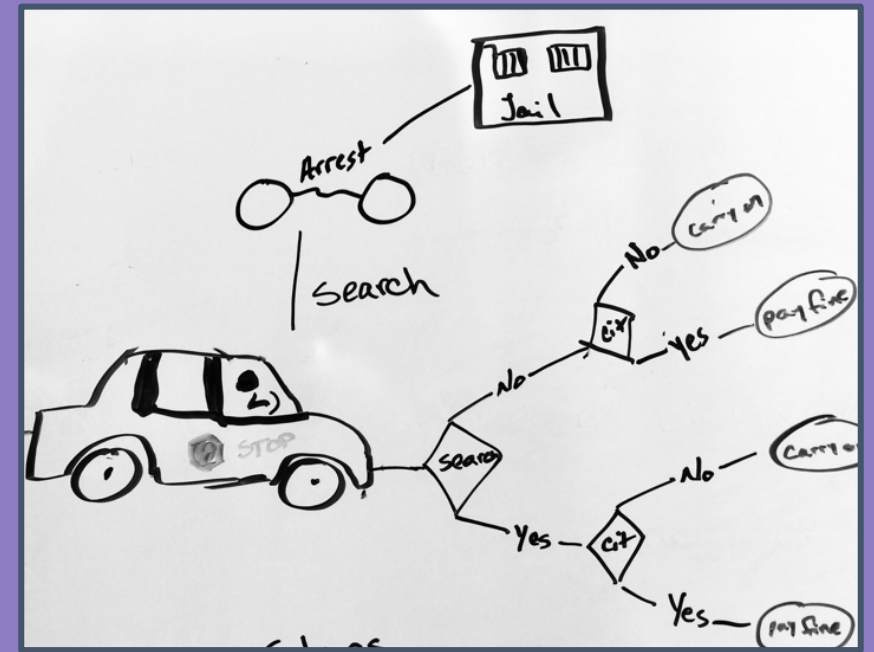
- Maintains deep historical distrust of law enforcement
- Little incentive to cooperate with police
- Snowball effect
 - fines & jail time primarily impact poor
 - job loss, transportation
 - humiliation, depression, family/work stress





Columbia Impact

- Erodes public trust in police
- Fear of police
- Perpetuates mass incarceration “The New Jim Crow”
- Cost to victims
- Stops do not ameliorate violent crime
- Stops do not contribute to public safety

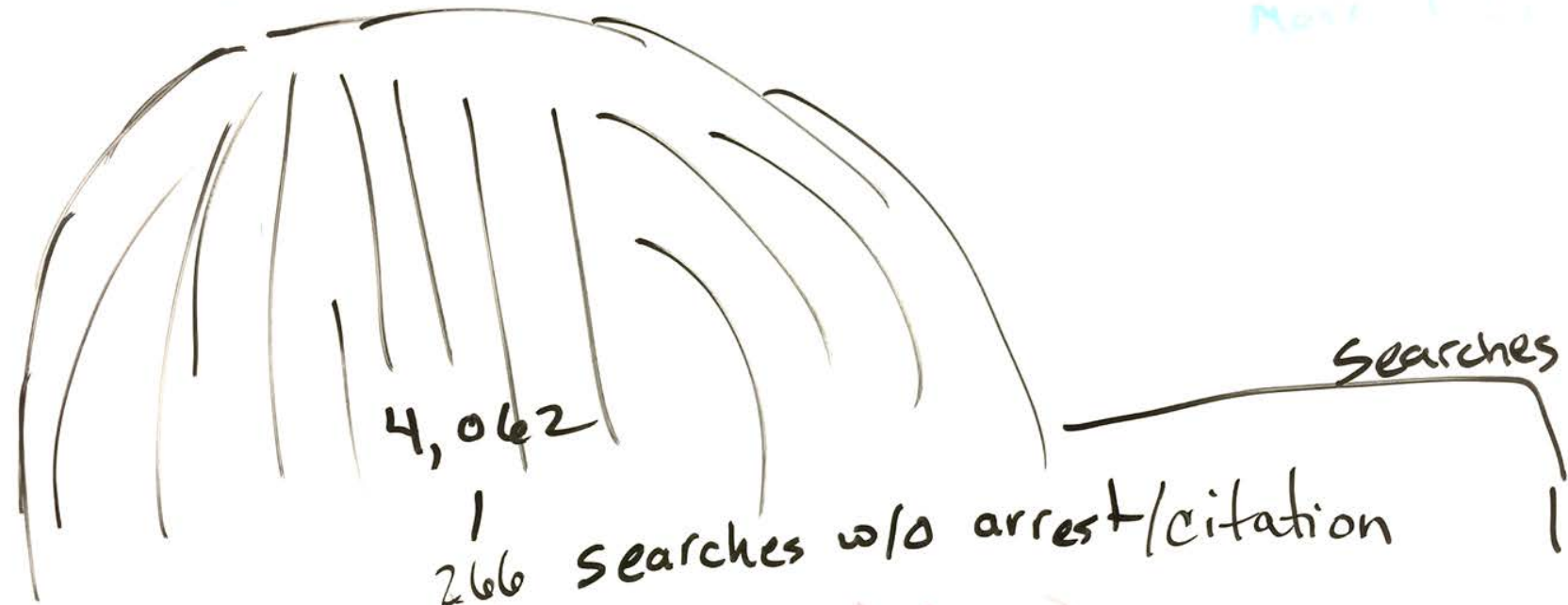


Missing Data

- No data on pedestrian stops (see [DOJ Ferguson report](#))
- Determining variables for pedestrians stopped AND handcuffed
- Missing data on stops with outstanding warrants?
- Types and amounts of drugs and alcohol found (aggregate data)
- Intoxication (reasonable suspicion vs. probable cause)

Investigative Stops

Yes — prob cause



4,062

Searches

1
266 searches w/o arrest/citation

165

102 contraband found

14

- 88 D/A
- 10 weapons
- 2 other
- 1 stolen prop

4062 Stops
603 Searches
276 Contraband

S

165 w/ Arrests (42 had out warrant)

148 D/A 38

23 Weapons 5

6 Stolen 2

6 Other 1

3 Currency 1

Source: CPD 2017 IBR data

Recent Traffic Stop Research Studies

1. An Analysis of the Metropolitan Nashville Police ... (n.d.). Retrieved from https://www.law.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/upload_documents/Shroff_nashville-traffic-stops.pdf
2. Asheville Police Department: Open Data Policing. Retrieved from <https://opendatapolicing.com/nc/agency/13/>
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4. Research on Traffic Stops & Searches | Greensboro, NC. Retrieved from <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/police/crime-data/traffic-stops-searches>
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A Few More Traffic Stop Research Studies

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8. [Tillyer, R.](#), [Engel, R.](#) and [Calnon Cherkauskas, J.](#) (2010), "Best practices in vehicle stop data collection and analysis", [Policing: An International Journal](#), Vol. 33 No. 1, pp. 69-92. <https://doi.org/10.1108/13639511011020601>
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<https://washingtonmonthly.com/magazine/september-october-2018/do-you-know-why-you-pulled-me-over/>

Is It Time to Reconsider Traffic Stops? (6 June 2018)

<https://www.citylab.com/life/2018/06/is-it-time-to-reconsider-traffic-stops/561557/>

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<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/inside-100-million-police-traffic-stops-new-evidence-racial-bias-n980556>

Rodriguez, I., Kelly, W. R., TCR Staff, & Crime and Justice News. (2019, January 30). Why Traffic Stops Don't Stop Crime. Retrieved from

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Thank You!

