

Stop and Frisk: Introduction to the Numbers

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/lessons_plans/lesson-plan-stop-frisk/

The Washington Post

Here's what you need to know about stop and frisk

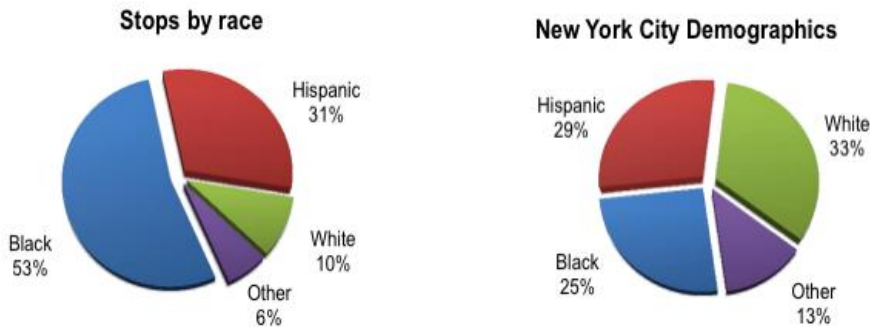
By Dylan Matthews

What is stop and frisk?

"Stop, question and frisk" is an NYPD policy wherein police will detain and question pedestrians, and potentially search them, if they have a "reasonable suspicion" that the pedestrian in question "committed, is committing, or is about to commit a felony or a Penal Law misdemeanor."

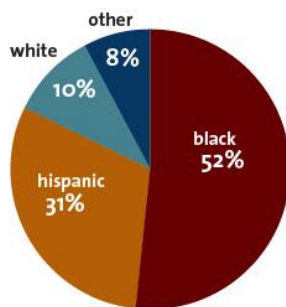
How many stops are conducted? Who gets stopped?

According to a report from the Public Advocate's office, 532,911 stops were conducted in 2012, down from 685,724 in 2011. The vast majority of those stops were of black or Hispanic people:



The racial breakdown in 2012 is keeping with patterns over the past decade, according to this chart from Adam Serwer and Jaeah Lee at Mother Jones:

NYPD Stops by Race, 2004-2012



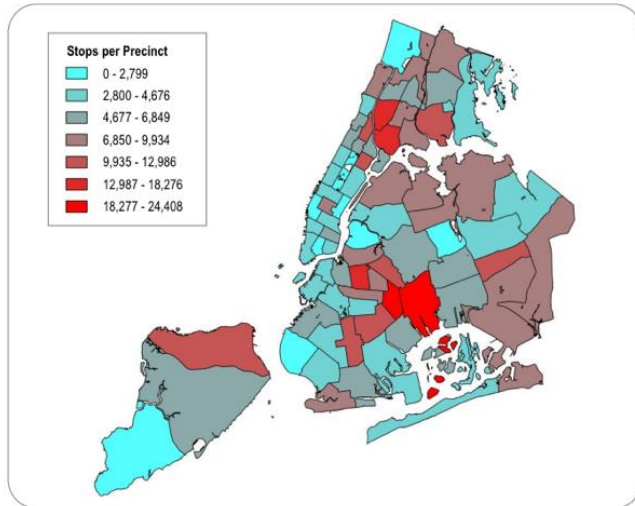
Source: Center for Constitutional Rights

Mother Jones

Note that the number of stops does not capture how many individual people are stopped, as many individuals are stopped multiple times.

Where are people stopped?

Concentration of stops, by precinct



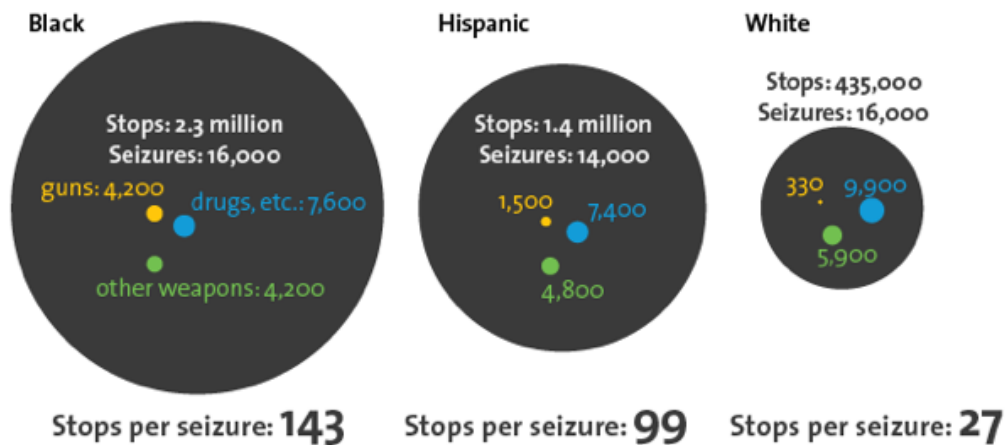
The precincts doing the most stops tend to be in Brooklyn — particularly East New York, Starret City, Brownsville and Ocean Hill, but also Bed-Stuy, Bushwick and Flatbush — and the Bronx, with a few in Staten Island, Jamaica in Queens and Harlem thrown in for good measure. By contrast, the areas with the least stops tend to be ones with lots of white people: Midtown, Little Italy, Chelsea and Central Park in Manhattan, and Greenpoint in Brooklyn.

How many stops result in arrests or tickets?

Not a whole lot. Serwer and Lee have another chart:

The NYPD's Low Yield

Police stops vs. seizures of illicit goods, 2004-12



Source: Center for Constitutional Rights

Mother Jones

(Source: Washington Post Article <http://wapo.st/1bsSx1c>)