



Bureau of Justice Statistics

Contacts between Police and the Public

Findings from the 2002 National Survey

In 2002 —

21% of surveyed residents had a contact with police

40% of contacts were in traffic stops

26% of contacts were to report a crime or problem

1.5% of contacts involved police use of force

9% of white drivers were stopped

9% of black drivers were stopped

9% of Hispanic drivers were stopped

84% of drivers considered stop legitimate

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Findings from the 2002 National Survey

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Data presented in this report can be obtained from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan, 1-800-999-0960. The archive Internet site can be accessed through the BJS site.

Electronic versions of this and other reports are available from the BJS Internet site:

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Foreword

This publication represents the annual report to the Congress as required by Section 210402 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, which mandates the collection of data by the Attorney General on the “use of excessive force by law enforcement officers.” The report’s findings are based on the *Police-Public Contact Survey* (PPCS), a survey designed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to document contacts between police and the public that culminated in police using force.

To date, national surveys of the public concerning its contacts with police have been conducted three times by BJS:

- The first survey – described in the BJS publication *Police Use of Force: Collection of National Data* (NCJ 165040) – documented levels of contacts with police during 1996.
- The second survey – described in *Contacts between Police and the Public: Findings from the 1999 National Survey* (NCJ 184957) – recorded police-citizen contacts in 1999.
- The third survey – described here under the publication title *Contacts between Police and the Public: Findings from the 2002 National Survey* (NCJ 207845) – covered interactions between police and the public in 2002.

In addition to the three surveys, data collection activities undertaken by BJS pertaining to police use of force include the following:

- In 2000 BJS published *Traffic Stop Data Collection Policies for State Police, 1999* (NCJ 180776), which summarized results of a survey documenting, for example, the number of State police agencies in 1999 that routinely keep administrative records on police use of force in traffic stops.
- In 2001 BJS updated its information regarding the maintenance of administrative records on police use of force with results summarized in *Traffic Stop Data Collection Policies for State Police, 2001* (NCJ 191158).
- In 2001 BJS published *Policing and Homicide, 1976-98: Justifiable Homicide by Police, Police Officers Murdered by Felons* (NCJ 180987), which summarizes and analyzes historical data on the number of persons killed by police in the line of duty.

- In 2003 BJS fielded a revised version of the national survey titled *Sample Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies*, which included for the first time a battery of questions to State and local police agencies about the annual number of complaints they receive regarding excessive force by police (and the disposition of those complaints). Survey results are expected in 2005 under the publication title *Citizen Complaints about Police Use of Force, 2002*. This survey will be repeated in 2006 and every 3 years thereafter.
- In 2004 BJS expanded its annual Web publication *Homicide Trends in the United States* to include the latest national statistics on justifiable homicides by police.
- In 2005 BJS published *State and Local Law Enforcement Training Academies, 2002* (NCJ 204030), summarizing results from the first survey of training academies ever conducted by BJS. Among other things the publication includes considerable information about the types of training police recruits receive on the use of force.

Over the years, BJS has vastly expanded its production of statistical data on police use of force. BJS will continue to look for new and creative ways to meet the information needs of the public, policymakers, and criminal justice practitioners concerning this most vital topic.

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics

Highlights

Incidence and prevalence of contact with police

- In 2002 an estimated 45.3 million U.S. residents age 16 or older — about 21% of all persons of this age — had at least one face-to-face contact with a police officer. This is the same rate of contact between police and residents found in the 1999 Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS).

- On a per capita basis in 2002, the rate of police-resident contact for whites was about 15% higher than for blacks and about 26% higher than for Hispanics. The rate of contact for males was about 20% higher than for females.

- In 2002 a total of about 76 million encounters, or about 1.7 contacts per person, occurred between the police and the 45.3 million persons with at least one contact that year.

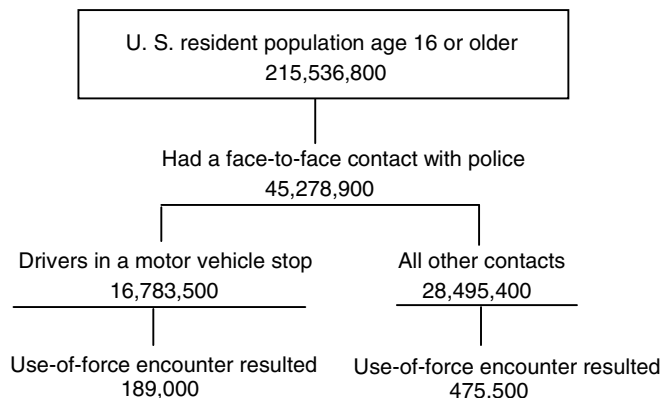
- Seventy-one percent of persons experiencing a contact with police during 2002 had no more than one contact. The remaining 29% of those with contacts reported having multiple contacts.

Reasons for contact with police

- Among the 45.3 million persons who had at least one police contact during 2002, 58.5% reported their latest (that is, most recent) contact that year was initiated by police. The remaining 41.5% of contacts between the public and the police were initiated by the resident or someone other than the police (such as a family member or acquaintance of the resident).

- In 2002 the most common reason for police contact was being the driver of a motor vehicle that was pulled over by police, accounting for almost 17 million contacts.

Among the 45.3 million residents age 16 or older who had a contact with police in 2002, about 1.5% (664,500 persons) had a contact in which police used or threatened force against them.



- About 25% of the 45.3 million persons with a face-to-face contact indicated the reason for the contact was to report a crime or other problem.

Contacts culminating in arrest

- In 2002 about 1.3 million residents age 16 or older — 2.9% of the 45.3 million persons with contact — were arrested by police. Similarly, just over 1.3 million residents were handcuffed during their contact with police.

Resident opinion on whether police acted properly

- In 2002 the vast majority of the 45.3 million persons who had a contact with police felt the officer(s) acted properly (90.1%).

Contacts with police in traffic stops

- In 2002 approximately 192.7 million persons age 16 or older said they drive a few times a year or more. Of these 192.7 million drivers, an estimated 8.7% were pulled over by police in a traffic stop. The 8.7% represents 16.8 million stopped drivers.

- Of the 16.8 million stopped drivers, an estimated 60.8% (10.2 million) were

male and 39.2% (6.6 million) were female; 76.5% (12.8 million) were white, 11% (1.9 million) were black, 9.5% (1.6 million) were Hispanic, and 2.9% (.5 million) were drivers of other races.

- The likelihood of being stopped by police in 2002 did not differ significantly between white (8.7%), black (9.1%), and Hispanic (8.6%) drivers.

- An estimated 9.3% of drivers stopped by police said the reason for the stop was a burned out headlight, a loud muffler, or some other vehicle defect; 11.5% said the reason was a check for vehicle registration, insurance coverage, driver's license, or some other record; 1.3% said a roadside check for drunk drivers; 7.1% said a stopsign or stoplight violation; 4.4% said a seatbelt violation; 4.9% said they made an illegal turn or an illegal lane change; 54.8% said speeding; and 4.2% said they were stopped for some other traffic offense.

- Of the 16.8 million stopped drivers, police issued a ticket to 58.6%, carried out a search of some kind (a physical search of the driver and/or a search of the vehicle) on 5%, handcuffed 2.8%, arrested 2.7%, used or threatened force against 1.1%, and used or threatened

force that the driver deemed excessive against 1%.

- During the traffic stop, police were more likely to carry out some type of search on a male (7.1%) than a female (1.8%), and more likely to carry out some type of search on a black (10.2%) or Hispanic (11.4%) than a white (3.5%).

- The vast majority of drivers stopped by police (84%) said they had been stopped for a legitimate reason, and 88% of stopped motorists felt police had behaved properly during the traffic stop.

Contacts with police involving force or the threat of force

- Among the 45.3 million residents age 16 or older who had a contact with police in 2002, about 1.5% (664,500 persons) had a contact in which police used or threatened force against them. The 1.5% in 2002 is greater than the percentage in 1999. In 1999, 1% (0.98%) of persons with contact experienced force or the threat of force.

- Among those with police contact, blacks (3.5%) and Hispanics (2.5%) were more likely than whites (1.1%) to experience police threat or use of force during the contact.

- Force was used against 2.5% of 16-to-29 year olds who came into contact with police. The percentage was lower — 0.9% — for persons over age 29.

- “Pushed” or “grabbed” by police was the type of force that characterized 42% of the 664,500 contacts in which force occurred. An additional 19% of the 664,500 force incidents involved police pointing a gun at the resident.

- Of the 664,500 persons against whom force was used, about three-quarters characterized the force as excessive.

- About 14% of the 664,500 persons who experienced force were injured as a result of the police action.

- About 24% of the 664,500 persons involved in a police force incident argued with, cursed at, insulted, or verbally threatened the officer(s) during the incident.

- An estimated 38% of the 664,500 persons involved in a force contact were arrested during the incident.

- About 87% of the 664,500 persons experiencing the threat or use of force felt the police acted improperly. Less than 20% of these persons took formal action, such as filing a complaint or lawsuit with authorities.

Force in the PPCS

Force includes contacts in which the police officer pushed, grabbed, kicked, or hit the resident. Hitting was defined as striking with a hand or an object held in the officer's hand. Included in the definition of force were police dog bites, spray with pepper spray or a chemical, and a firearm pointed in the resident's direction. Also included was the threat to carry out any of these types of force.

The survey provided an opportunity for respondents to express their opinion as to whether any police force or threat of force used against them was "excessive." The survey did not define "excessive" for the respondent. Respondents who said they had experienced police use or threat of force were asked whether they felt any of the physical force used or threatened against them was excessive. If a respondent said the force was excessive, he or she was asked about the specific type of physical force considered excessive.

Incidence and prevalence of police-public contact

In 2002 an estimated 45.3 million residents — about 21% of the 216 million U.S. residents age 16 or older — had at least one face-to-face contact with a law enforcement officer (table 1). In 2002 rates of contact between residents and the police translate into about 1 person with a contact for every 4.8 residents age 16 or older. These findings come from the 2002 Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS) which was conducted during the last 6 months of that year.

Characteristics of residents having face-to-face contact with police

Gender

Males had a per capita rate of contact about 20% higher than females. About 1 out of every 4.3 males age 16 or older had a contact with a police officer in 2002. Among female residents age 16 or older, there was about 1 with a contact for every 5.2 females.

Race/Hispanic origin

Per capita rates of contact between residents and the police vary by the race and Hispanic origin of the residents. Whites experienced contact with law enforcement officers at the highest rate: about 1 person for every 4.5 non-Hispanic white residents age 16 or older experienced a contact. By contrast, about 1 person for every 5.2 black residents had contact, and at a lower rate, about 1 Hispanic for every 5.7 persons of Hispanic origin had a direct contact with a law enforcement officer. Per capita, the white rate of police-resident contact was about 15% higher than that for blacks and about 26% higher than that for Hispanics. Other races (primarily Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, and Alaska Natives) experienced contact with police at lower rates than whites

Table 1. Rate of face-to-face contact between police and persons age 16 or older, by demographic characteristics of residents, 2002

Demographic characteristic	Persons age 16 or older			Rate of contact per 1,000 persons
	Contact with police	No contact with police	Total U.S. population	
Total	45,278,884	170,257,897	215,536,780	210
Gender				
Male	23,884,649	80,104,070	103,988,719	230
Female	21,394,234	90,153,827	111,548,061	192
Race/Hispanic origin				
White	34,743,452	122,630,261	157,373,713	221
Black	4,966,388	20,727,682	25,694,070	193
Hispanic	4,191,712	19,763,470	23,955,182	175
Other race	1,377,332	7,136,483	8,513,815	162
Age				
16-17	1,720,202	6,538,046	8,258,248	208
18-19	2,594,029	5,409,595	8,003,624	324
20-24	6,074,822	13,310,410	19,385,232	313
25-29	4,842,871	12,902,332	17,745,203	273
30-34	4,573,911	14,990,944	19,564,855	234
35-39	5,171,387	15,936,835	21,108,222	245
40-44	5,024,133	18,024,443	23,048,576	218
45-49	4,470,583	16,640,416	21,110,999	212
50 or older	10,806,946	66,504,876	77,311,822	140
Size of jurisdiction where resided				
Under 100,000	34,580,825	128,879,160	163,459,985	212
100,000-499,999	6,763,356	23,105,379	29,868,735	226
500,000-999,999	1,818,598	6,150,199	7,968,797	228
1 million or more	2,116,106	12,123,158	14,239,264	149

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

and blacks; on average, there was about 1 person with a contact for every 6.2 residents of other races.

Age

Residents in the youngest age groupings generally had higher rates of contact with police than those in the oldest age groups. Residents in the age groups of 18 to 19 and 20 to 24 had the highest rates of contact with police (about 1 for every 3.1 persons and about 1 for every 3.2 persons, respectively). By contrast, among those 50 or older, rates of contact equal about 1 person with a contact for every 7.1 persons of this age.

Size of jurisdiction

Residents of jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 residents had a rate of

contact with police which was 42% higher than those residing in jurisdictions of 1 million or more residents (212 versus 149 per 1,000 residents).

Number of contacts residents had with police

In 2002 a total of 75.7 million encounters occurred between the police and the 45.3 million persons with at least one contact that year (table 2).

Of the 45.3 million persons with police contact during 2002:

- 71% had one contact
- 29% had 2 or more contacts
- the average number of face-to-face contacts was 1.7.

Resident gender

In 2002 males were 48% of the U.S. population age 16 or older but 53% of the persons experiencing a face-to-face contact with police and 55% of those with two or more contacts that year (table 3).

Resident race/Hispanic origin

Whites made up 73% of the U.S. population age 16 or older but 77% of persons with a police contact in 2002. Black residents age 16 or older made up about the same percentage of persons having police contact (11%) as their percentage of the U.S. population (12%).

Resident age

Residents in their twenties had relatively high rates of contact with police. In 2002 persons age 20 to 29 were 24.1% of persons with police contact but 17.2% of the U.S. population age 16 or older. The mean age of persons age 16 or older with at least one face-to-face police contact during 2002 was 39; the median was 37 (not shown in table).

Resident's description of contact with police during 2002

Survey respondents who said they had face-to-face contact with police during 2002 were asked to describe the nature of the contact. If persons had more than one contact, they were asked only about their latest (that is, most recent) contact that year.

Table 2. Annual number of face-to-face contacts between police and persons age 16 or older, by demographic characteristics of residents, 2002

Demographic characteristic	Total number of police contacts in 2002 (in millions)	Percent of persons 16 or older with police contact					Average number of contacts per person
		1 time	2 times	3 times	4 times	5 times or more	
Total	75.7	71.3%	16.2%	6.3%	2.4%	3.8%	1.67
Gender							
Male	40.4	70.3%	16.0%	6.7%	2.9%	4.1%	1.69
Female	35.3	72.3	16.5	5.8	1.9	3.5	1.65
Race/Hispanic origin							
White	58.3	71.3%	16.1%	6.4%	2.3%	3.8%	1.68
Black	8.5	71.4	16.1	6.3	2.2	4.0	1.71
Hispanic	6.8	70.6	17.0	5.8	3.5	3.1	1.61
Other race	2.2	71.8	16.0	5.3	2.2	4.6	1.59
Age							
16-29	27.8	65.9%	17.8%	7.7%	3.2%	5.3%	1.83
30-59	41.1	72.4	16.2	6.0	2.2	3.2	1.63
60 or older	6.8	82.2	11.2	3.4	1.1	2.1	1.42

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 3. Characteristics of persons with and without face-to-face police contact, 2002

Demographic characteristic	Total U.S. population	Percent of persons age 16 or older			
		Total	With police contact		Without police contact
			One contact	Two or more contacts	
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Gender					
Male	48.2%	52.8%	52.1%	54.5%	47.0%
Female	51.8	47.2	47.9	45.5	53.0
Race/Hispanic origin					
White	73.0%	76.7%	76.8%	76.6%	72.0%
Black	11.9	11.0	11.0	10.9	12.2
Hispanic	11.1	9.3	9.2	9.5	11.6
Other race	4.0	3.0	3.1	3.0	4.2
Age					
16-17	3.8%	3.8%	3.6%	4.4%	3.8%
18-19	3.7	5.7	4.9	7.8	3.2
20-24	9.0	13.4	12.2	16.5	7.8
25-29	8.2	10.7	10.5	11.2	7.6
30-34	9.1	10.1	10.2	9.8	8.8
35-39	9.8	11.4	11.3	11.6	9.4
40-49	20.5	21.0	21.2	20.4	20.4
50 or older	35.9	23.9	26.1	18.2	39.1
Estimated number	215,536,780	45,278,884	32,274,859	13,004,024	170,257,897

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Reason for contact

Among the 45.3 million persons who had at least one police contact during 2002, 58.5% reported their most recent contact that year was initiated by police (table 4). The remaining 41.5% of contacts between the public and the police were initiated by the resident or someone other than the police (such as a family member or acquaintance of the resident).

In 2002 the most common reason for police contact was driving a motor vehicle that was pulled over by police, accounting for almost 17 million contacts. Another 1.2 million persons had police contact as a passenger in a stopped vehicle.

The second most frequent reason for face-to-face contact with police was to report a crime or problem. Among the 45.3 million persons with police contact, about 1 in 4 contacted police because of a crime or other problem.

Handcuffing or arresting the resident

When an arrest occurs, the police do not always handcuff the suspect, and not all persons who are handcuffed are subsequently arrested. Handcuffs can be used to detain someone for a short time while police determine how to handle the situation. In 2002 about 1.3 million residents age 16 or older — 2.9% of the 45.3 million persons with contact — were arrested by police (table 5). Similarly, just over 1.3 million residents were handcuffed during their contact with police.

During the 26.5 million contacts initiated by police, 4.3% of residents were placed under arrest. Less than 1% (0.8%) of residents were arrested during the 18.8 million contacts that were not police-initiated.

Table 4. Number of residents age 16 or older with police contact, by type of and reason for contact, 2002

	Contact with police	
	Number	Percent
Total	45,278,884	100%
Type of contact		
Police-initiated	26,483,794	58.5%
Not police-initiated*	18,795,090	41.5
Reason for contact		
Traffic accident	5,891,645	13.0%
Driver during traffic stop	16,783,467	37.1
Passenger during traffic stop	1,218,470	2.7
Reported crime or problem to police	11,959,548	26.4
Police provided assistance or service	3,264,503	7.2
Police were investigating crime	2,615,255	5.8
Suspected of something by police	1,158,167	2.6
Other reason	2,387,828	5.3

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*Includes contact initiated by the resident or someone other than the police, such as a family member or acquaintance of the resident.

Table 5. What police did during the contact, by type of and reason for contact, 2002

	Characteristics of police contact		
	Handcuffed the resident	Arrested the resident	Resident felt officer(s) acted properly
Total	2.9%	2.9%	90.1%
Type of contact			
Police-initiated	4.3%	4.3%	87.6%
Not police-initiated*	0.9	0.8	93.6
Reason for contact			
Traffic accident	2.0%	2.0%	93.1%
Driver during traffic stop	2.8	2.7	89.3
Passenger during traffic stop	5.8	5.5	80.6
Reported crime or problem to police	0.6	0.6	93.0
Police provided assistance or service	0.6	0.3	96.1
Police were investigating crime	8.3	8.2	86.7
Suspected of something by police	21.3	22.1	68.9
Other reason	4.2	5.1	83.6
Estimated number	1,301,987	1,302,417	40,790,830

*Includes contact initiated by the resident or someone other than the police, such as a family member or acquaintance of the resident.

About 1 in 5 persons suspected of criminal wrongdoing were either handcuffed (21.3%) or arrested (22.1%) by police. Persons who contacted police to report a crime or other problem experienced handcuffing or an arrest less than 1% of the time.

Resident opinion on whether police acted properly

In 2002 the vast majority of residents with police contact felt the officer(s) acted properly (90.1%). Persons whose contact was not initiated by police (93.6%) were more likely than those whose contact was police-initiated (87.6%) to feel the officer(s) acted properly during the encounter.

Traffic stops

Number of drivers pulled over by police in 2002

The number of drivers age 16 or older pulled over by police in a traffic stop in 2002 totaled 16.8 million persons (table 6). The 16.8 million includes stops of all kinds of motor vehicles — for example, motorcycles, buses, and private and commercial cars and trucks — and both personal and business travel.

Driver gender

Of the 16.8 million drivers stopped during the year, approximately 10.2 million, or 61%, were male, and 6.6 million, or 39%, were female.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Of the 16.8 million stopped drivers, 12.8 million, or 77%, were white; 1.9 million, or 11%, were black; and 1.6 million, or 10%, were Hispanic.

Driver age

Most stopped drivers were adults under age 40. Ten percent were under age 20, and 50% were between 20 and 39 years of age. Stopped drivers between ages 40 and 49 accounted for 19%, and those age 50 or older, 21%.

Likelihood of driver being stopped

The 2002 U.S. population age 16 or older totaled 215.5 million persons (table 7). An estimated 89%, or 192.7 million, indicated they drive a few times a year or more. On at least one occasion in 2002, 16.8 million of these drivers were driving a car or other motor vehicle when it was pulled over by police in a traffic stop. The 16.8 million stopped drivers represent 8.7% — nearly 1 out of 11 — of the Nation's 192.7 million drivers. In other words, an estimated 8.7% of all U.S. drivers age 16 or older who say they drive a few times a year or more were pulled over by police in 2002.

Driver gender

Ninety-three percent of males and 86% of females age 16 or older said they drive a motor vehicle at least a few times a year. Male drivers (10.6%) were more likely than female drivers (6.8%) to be stopped by police in 2002.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Among persons ages 16 or older in 2002, 93% of whites, 79% of blacks, and 78% of Hispanics indicated that they drive a motor vehicle at least a few times a year.

The likelihood of being stopped by police in 2002 did not differ significantly among white (8.7%), black (9.1%), and Hispanic (8.6%) drivers.

Table 6. Gender, race/Hispanic origin, and age of drivers stopped by police, 2002

Demographic characteristic	Drivers age 16 or older stopped by police in 2002	
	Number	Percent
Total	16,783,467	100.0%
Gender		
Male	10,210,452	60.8%
Female	6,573,015	39.2
Race/Hispanic origin		
White	12,842,254	76.5%
Black	1,852,086	11.0
Hispanic	1,595,872	9.5
Other race	493,256	2.9
Age		
16-19	1,653,563	9.9%
20-29	4,707,381	28.0
30-39	3,741,421	22.3
40-49	3,235,073	19.3
50-59	2,074,389	12.4
60 or older	1,371,640	8.2

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Table 7. Gender, race/Hispanic origin, and age of all drivers compared to drivers stopped by police, 2002

Demographic characteristic	U.S. population age 16 or older	Population who drive a few times a year or more		Drivers stopped by police in 2002	
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	215,536,780	192,687,190	89.4%	16,783,467	8.7%
Gender					
Male	103,988,719	96,291,891	92.6%	10,210,452	10.6%
Female	111,548,061	96,387,512	86.4	6,573,015	6.8
Race/Hispanic origin					
White	157,373,713	146,779,643	93.3%	12,842,254	8.7%
Black	25,694,070	20,260,621	78.9	1,852,086	9.1
Hispanic	23,955,183	18,619,405	77.7	1,595,872	8.6
Other race	8,513,815	7,000,729	82.2	493,256	7.0
Age					
16-19	16,261,872	12,125,184	74.6%	1,653,563	13.6%
20-29	37,130,435	33,569,980	90.4	4,707,381	14.0
30-39	40,673,077	38,194,094	93.9	3,741,421	9.8
40-49	44,159,575	41,588,887	94.2	3,235,073	7.8
50-59	32,907,951	30,628,017	93.1	2,074,389	6.8
60 or older	44,403,872	36,552,985	82.3	1,371,640	3.8

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Whites were 76.2% of vehicle drivers and 76.5% of those pulled over; blacks were 10.5% of drivers and 11% of drivers stopped; and Hispanics were 9.7% of drivers and 9.5% of drivers stopped by police.

In short, survey results indicated that in 2002, white, black, and Hispanic drivers had an equal chance of being pulled over by police in a motor vehicle stop.

Driver age

In 2002, 75% of all persons age 16 to 19 indicated they were drivers of a motor vehicle. Among persons in their twenties, thirties, forties, or fifties, 90% or more said they drove. Of those age 60 or older, 82% operated a vehicle.

Generally, the younger the driver, the greater the likelihood that he or she was pulled over by police in 2002. The one exception was for teenage drivers and drivers in their twenties, who did not differ in their likelihood of being stopped by police — 13.6% of drivers age 16 to 19 and 14% of drivers age 20 to 29. For those over age 30, the probability of being stopped by police in 2002 decreased with age: 9.8% of those in their thirties were pulled over by police, 7.8% of those in their forties, 6.8% of those in their fifties, and 3.8% of drivers age 60 or older.

Reason for being stopped

Surveyed drivers were asked what reason the officer gave for the stop:

- Most (54.8%) said "speeding" (table 8).
- 9.3% said a "vehicle defect" (burned out taillight, loud muffler, and so forth).
- 1.3% said a "roadside check for drunk drivers." (Police may not stop motorists randomly at roadblocks to search for drugs but may stop motorists randomly to search for drunken drivers.)
- 11.5% said a "record check" of some sort (for example, a check for driver's license or insurance coverage or vehicle registration).
- 4.4% said they were stopped for a "seatbelt violation" (for example, a passenger in the vehicle was not wearing a seatbelt, or a small child was not secured in a child safety seat).
- 4.9% said "illegal turn/lane change" (for example, the driver did not use his/her signal properly, or turned the wrong way down a one-way street).
- 7.1% said a stopsign or stoplight violation.
- 4.2% said "some other traffic offense" (following too closely, reckless driving, lights not on, loud music, curfew violation, throwing a cigarette out a window, and so forth).
- A small percentage of stopped drivers (2.1%) said police had not given a reason for the stop.

Driver gender

Females were more likely than males to say the reason for the stop was "speeding" (females 57.9%, males 52.8%). Males were more likely than females to indicate "vehicle defect" (males 10.6%, females 7.4%) and somewhat more likely to say "seatbelt violation" (males 4.8%, females 3.7%). Otherwise, there were no significant differences between the genders. For example, males (1.4%) and females (1.1%) were not significantly different in giving "roadside check for drunk drivers" as the reason.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Whites were more likely than blacks and Hispanics to say the reason for the stop was "speeding" (whites 57%, blacks 50%, and Hispanics 44.4%). Hispanics were more likely than whites and somewhat more likely than blacks to say they were stopped for a "vehicle defect" (Hispanics 14%, whites 8.7%, and blacks 10.3%). Blacks (17.4%) were more likely than whites (11.3%) or Hispanics (7.8%) to say the reason they were stopped was for a record check.

Driver age

Speeding — The most consistent finding was that drivers in the youngest age category (age 16 to 19) were more likely (59.6%) than drivers in their forties (53.4%), fifties (49.1%), and sixties or older (51.4%) to give "speeding" as the reason for being stopped.

Vehicle defect — Drivers in their teens (14.1%) and twenties (11.9%) were more likely than drivers in each of the older age categories to say the reason they were stopped was a "vehicle defect."

Record check — The most consistent finding was that teenage drivers (5.2%) and drivers in their twenties (8.8%) were less likely than drivers in each of the older age categories to say they were stopped for a "record check."

Driver opinion on being stopped

The vast majority of drivers pulled over by police (84%) felt they had been stopped for a legitimate reason. That opinion was not uniform across the different segments of the population.

Driver gender

Females (86%) were more likely than males (82%) to say that the stop was for a legitimate reason.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

The vast majority of blacks stopped by police (73%) felt they had been stopped for a legitimate reason. Nevertheless, blacks were less likely than whites (86%) and somewhat less likely than Hispanics (82%) to say the police had a legitimate reason for stopping them.

Driver age

There were no significant differences between drivers of one age and drivers of another age in terms of their opinion about whether they had been stopped for a legitimate reason.

	Percent of stopped drivers who felt that they had been stopped for a legitimate reason
Total	84%
Gender	
Male	82%
Female	86
Race/Hispanic origin	
White	86%
Black	73
Hispanic	82
Other race	83
Age	
16-19	84%
20-29	83
30-39	85
40-49	84
50-59	85
60 or older	83

Table 8. Reasons police gave for stopping vehicle, by gender, race/Hispanic origin, and age of stopped drivers, 2002

Characteristic of stopped driver	Reason police gave for traffic stop									
	Total	Speeding	Vehicle defect	Roadside check for drunk drivers	Record check	Seatbelt violation	Illegal turn/ lane change	Stop sign/light violation	Other traffic offense	Other
Total	100%	54.8%	9.3%	1.3%	11.5%	4.4%	4.9%	7.1%	4.2%	2.5%
Gender										
Male	100%	52.8%	10.6%	1.4%	11.5%	4.8%	4.9%	6.7%	4.4%	2.9%
Female	100	57.9	7.4	1.1	11.5	3.7	4.9	7.6	3.9	1.9
Race/Hispanic origin										
White	100%	57.0%	8.7%	1.3%	11.3%	4.4%	4.5%	6.5%	4.0%	2.3%
Black	100	50.0	10.3	1.1*	17.4	3.5	5.1	5.9	3.7	2.9
Hispanic	100	44.4	14.0	1.6*	7.8	5.5	5.7	11.2	6.2	3.5
Other race	100	50.0	6.9	0	7.7	4.2*	11.9	12.9	4.4*	1.8*
Age										
16-19	100%	59.6%	14.1%	1.1%*	5.2%	2.4%*	2.6%	5.6%	6.5%	2.9%
20-29	100	56.1	11.9	1.1	8.8	4.0	5.3	7.3	3.3	2.3
30-39	100	56.7	7.3	1.3	12.8	4.8	4.4	5.8	4.4	2.6
40-49	100	53.4	7.8	1.5	12.2	4.3	5.4	8.8	4.1	2.5
50-59	100	49.1	8.2	1.6	16.0	5.2	5.2	7.3	4.5	2.8
60 or older	100	51.4	6.0	1.2*	16.2	6.1	5.8	7.2	3.9	2.1
Estimated number	16,783,467	9,199,342	1,567,312	215,326	1,930,284	740,136	817,543	1,186,578	708,918	418,028

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. Table excludes 2.1% of stopped drivers who said the police had not given a reason for the stop.

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Warnings and tickets issued during traffic stops

Police issued a traffic ticket to 58.6% of the drivers they stopped (table 9). Another 25.3% received some type of warning, either written or verbal. The remaining 16.1% did not receive a ticket or warning.

Driver gender

Females (26.9%) were more likely than males (24.2%) to receive a warning from police after being pulled over. Males (59.8%) were more likely than females to be ticketed (56.8%).

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Compared to black drivers (18.3%), Hispanic drivers (18.2%), and drivers of other races (20.3%), white drivers (27.4%) were more likely to be issued a warning during a traffic stop.

Blacks (58.4%) were not significantly more likely than whites (56.5%) to be ticketed during a traffic stop. Hispanics (71.5%) were more likely than both whites (56.5%) and blacks (58.4%) to be issued a ticket.

Hispanics were 9.5% of stopped drivers but 11.6% of those given a ticket. Comparatively, whites were 76.5% of stopped drivers and 73.8% of those ticketed, and blacks were 11% of drivers stopped by police and 11% of ticketed drivers.

Driver age

Generally, the older the driver, the lower the likelihood of receiving a ticket during a traffic stop. For example, teenage drivers (58.6%), and drivers in their twenties (64.3%), thirties (61.3%), or forties (58.5%) were each more likely than either drivers in their fifties (50.2%) or drivers age 60 or older (44.9%) to be ticketed.

Time of day of traffic stop

All other things being equal, if police practice racial profiling of black drivers, blacks as a percentage of all daytime traffic stops should be greater than blacks as a percentage of all nighttime stops. Why? Because police can identify the race of drivers more easily during the day than at night.

To investigate the issue, daytime traffic stops were compared to nighttime stops. Of the 10.1 million white and black drivers stopped during the day

in 2002, about 1.1 million — 11% — were black.

Of the 4.6 million white and black drivers stopped at night, approximately 700,000 — 15% — were black. These results indicate that blacks were a smaller — not greater — percentage of daytime (11%) than nighttime (15%) traffic stops, providing no specific evidence of differential stops based on the visibility of the driver's race.

Race of stopped driver	Drivers stopped —			
	During the day		At night	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total	10,100,000	100%	4,600,000	100%
White	9,000,000	89%	3,900,000	85%
Black	1,100,000	11%	700,000	15%

Arresting the driver

Among drivers stopped by police, 2.7% were arrested (table 9). Arrests occurred for a variety of reasons, such as —

- Failing a sobriety test
- Having drugs or an illegal weapon on the driver or in the vehicle
- Having an outstanding warrant for arrest
- Assaulting the police officer.

Driver gender

Stopped males (3.7%) were more likely than stopped females (1.1%) to be arrested.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Blacks (5.8%) and Hispanics (5.2%) stopped by police were more likely than whites (2%) to be arrested.

Blacks were 11% of drivers stopped by police but 23.8% of drivers who were arrested, and Hispanics were 9.5% of stopped drivers but 18.4% of those arrested. Whites were 76.5% of stopped motorists and 58% of drivers arrested.

Driver age

Drivers in their twenties (3.7%) or thirties (2.9%) were more likely than drivers in their fifties (1.5%) to be arrested by police during a traffic stop. No other significant differences in the likelihood of arrest were found between drivers of different age groups.

Handcuffing the driver

Police handcuffed 2.8% of the drivers they stopped.

Driver gender

Males (3.8%) were more likely than females (1.1%) to be handcuffed during a traffic stop.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Blacks (6.4%) and Hispanics (5.6%) stopped by police were more likely than whites (2%) to be handcuffed.

Blacks were 11% of drivers stopped by police but 25.7% of drivers who were handcuffed, and Hispanics were 9.5% of stopped drivers but 19.4% of those handcuffed. Whites were 76.5% of stopped drivers and 55.1% of drivers were handcuffed.

Driver age

Drivers in their twenties (3.9%) were more likely than drivers in their forties (2.3%) or fifties (1.8%) to be handcuffed during a traffic stop.

Police use of force against driver

Based on survey results, 16.8 million drivers were stopped by police at least once in 2002. Surveyed drivers were asked whether, in their opinion, police had used or threatened to use "force" against them at any time during the traffic stop. Approximately 1.1% — about 189,000 of the 16.8 million stopped by police — indicated police had used or threatened to use force against them.

Driver gender

Males (1.6%) were more likely than females (0.4%) to say police used or threatened force against them during a traffic stop.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

During a traffic stop in 2002, police were more likely to use force against a black (2.7%) or Hispanic (2.4%) driver than a white (0.8%) driver.

Driver age

The younger the driver, the greater the likelihood that police used force. That is, where significant differences existed between younger and older drivers, they were generally in the direction of a greater likelihood of younger drivers experiencing police use of force. For example, drivers in their teens (2.9%) were somewhat more likely than drivers in their thirties (1.2%) and significantly more likely than drivers in their forties (0.8%) or fifties (0.5%) to experience force.

Table 9. What police did during the traffic stop, by gender, race/Hispanic origin, and age of stopped drivers, 2002

Characteristic of stopped drivers	What police did during traffic stop								
	Issued a warning	Ticketed the driver	Searched —			Handcuffed the driver	Arrested the driver	Used force against the driver ^a	Used excessive force against the driver ^a
			Driver or vehicle	Driver	Vehicle				
Total	25.3%	58.6%	5.0%	3.6%	4.0%	2.8%	2.7%	1.1%	1.0%
Gender									
Male	24.2%	59.8%	7.1%	5.4%	5.6%	3.8%	3.7%	1.6%	1.4%
Female	26.9	56.8	1.8	0.9	1.6	1.1	1.1	0.4*	0.3*
Race/Hispanic origin									
White	27.4%	56.5%	3.5%	2.5%	2.9%	2.0%	2.0%	0.8%	0.7%
Black	18.3	58.4	10.2	8.1	7.1	6.4	5.8	2.7	2.5
Hispanic	18.2	71.5	11.4	8.3	10.1	5.6	5.2	2.4	2.0*
Other race	20.3	73.1	2.9*	1.3*	2.3*	0*	0*	1.1*	0.5*
Age									
16-19	31.0%	58.6%	8.9%	6.1%	8.2%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.9%
20-29	24.8	64.3	6.6	5.4	5.0	3.9	3.7	1.3	1.1
30-39	23.8	61.3	6.4	4.5	5.0	3.1	2.9	1.2	1.0
40-49	23.3	58.5	3.4	1.9	2.8	2.3	2.5	0.8*	0.6*
50-59	26.5	50.2	1.5	1.2*	1.1*	1.8	1.5	0.5*	0.4*
60 or older	26.7	44.9	0*	0*	0*	0*	0.5*	0*	0*
Estimated number	4,241,229	9,843,043	837,809	609,278	671,957	461,582	448,094	188,882	164,255

^aEstimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aForce includes threat of force.

Police use of excessive force against driver

Of the estimated 189,000 drivers who had force used against them by police during a traffic stop, about 164,000 felt the force was "excessive" (table 9). The 164,000 represent about 87% of the 189,000 drivers who experienced police use of force and about 1% of the 16.8 million drivers stopped by police.

Driver gender

Males (1.4%) were more likely than females (0.3%) to say police had used excessive force during a traffic stop.

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Black drivers (2.5%) stopped by police were significantly more likely than stopped white drivers (0.7%) to say that police used excessive force against them.

Stopped Hispanics (2%) were somewhat more likely than stopped whites (0.7%) to feel that excessive force had been used.

Driver age

The younger the driver, the greater the likelihood the driver would indicate that police used excessive force against them. That is, where significant differences existed between younger and older drivers, they were always in the direction of a greater likelihood of younger drivers saying that excessive force had been used. For example, stopped drivers in their teens (2.9%) were somewhat more likely than drivers in their twenties (1.1%) or thirties (1%) to say excessive force was used during a traffic stop. Similarly, drivers in their teens (2.9%) were more likely than drivers in their forties (0.6%) or fifties (0.4%) to report excessive force during a motor vehicle stop.

Race of officers in traffic stops

The 2002 PPCS uncovered evidence of black drivers' having worse experiences — more likely to be arrested, more likely to be searched, more likely to have force used against them — during traffic stops than white drivers. Were these worse experiences occurring regardless of the race of the officer who made the traffic stop? To answer this question, black and white drivers stopped by white officers should be compared, and black and white drivers stopped by black officers should be compared.

Results from the 1999 PPCS suggested that the various racial dispari-

ties in traffic stop outcomes had no measurable relationship to the race of the officer who made the stop. In 1999 black drivers stopped by police generally had a worse outcome than white drivers, whether they were stopped by a white or a black officer.

However, in the 2002 PPCS, the sample size of drivers stopped by black officers was too small for reliable analyses. Because of the small sample size, this report is not able to estimate whether the race of the officer who made the traffic stop was related to what occurred during the stop among drivers stopped in 2002.

Driver opinion on whether police acted properly

An estimated 88% of the 16.8 million drivers stopped by police felt police had behaved properly during the stop.

Driver gender

Opinion was divided between the males and females stopped by police. When asked if police had behaved properly or improperly, males (87%)

were less likely than females (90%) to say "properly."

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Of the nearly 12.8 million white drivers stopped by police, 90% felt police had behaved properly during the traffic stop. That compares to 78% of the 1.9 million black drivers and 85% of the 1.6 million Hispanic drivers stopped. Though vast majorities of blacks and Hispanics felt police had behaved properly, black and Hispanic drivers were less likely than white drivers to hold that opinion.

Driver age

While the percentage of drivers age 60 or older (93%) did not differ statistically from that of drivers in their fifties (90%), in believing that the police had acted appropriately, the older drivers were more likely than drivers in their teens (87%), twenties (86%), thirties (89%), or forties (88%) to feel police had behaved properly.

	Percent of stopped drivers who felt that the police had behaved properly during the traffic stop
Total	88%
Gender	
Male	87%
Female	90
Race/Hispanic origin	
White	90%
Black	78
Hispanic	85
Other	87
Age	
16-19	87%
20-29	86
30-39	89
40-49	88
50-59	90
60 or older	93

Searching the driver, vehicle, or both *Driver age*

During a traffic stop police sometimes conduct a search for drugs, open containers of alcohol, stolen property, or other evidence of criminal wrongdoing. The search may be of the vehicle, of the driver, or of both the vehicle and the driver.

In 5% of the 16.8 million traffic stops documented in the 2002 national survey, police searched the driver, the vehicle, or both. The 5% represent approximately 838,000 drivers who were physically searched and/or had their vehicle searched by police. Of the nearly 838,000 searches, 28% were searches just of the vehicle, 19% were searches just of the driver, and 53% were searches of both the driver and the vehicle.

Driver gender

Police were more likely to conduct a search of the vehicle and/or the driver in traffic stops of males (7.1%) than of females (1.8%).

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Black (10.2%) and Hispanic (11.4%) motorists stopped by police were more likely than whites (3.5%) to be physically searched or have their vehicle searched.

Blacks were 11% of drivers stopped by police but 22.5% of drivers who were physically searched or whose vehicle was searched, and Hispanics were 9.5% of stopped drivers but 21.7% of those searched. Whites were 76.5% of stopped drivers and 54.1% of those who had some type of search.

Drivers under the age of 40 had a greater likelihood than drivers age 40 or older of being frisked or having their vehicle searched. Drivers in the youngest three age categories — teenage drivers (8.9%), drivers in their twenties (6.6%), and drivers in their thirties (6.4%) — were all more likely than drivers in their forties (3.4%) and fifties (1.5%) to be physically searched or have their vehicle searched.

Searching the driver

Overall, 3.6% of stopped drivers were physically searched by police (table 9). Such body searches often involve the driver being frisked or lightly patted down by the officer. Sometimes, the search is more invasive, involving, for example, the officer's reaching into the driver's clothing.

Driver gender

Driver searches (as distinct from vehicle searches) were more common among male drivers (5.4%) than female drivers (0.9%).

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Black (8.1%) and Hispanic (8.3%) motorists stopped by police were more likely than white motorists (2.5%) to be subjected to a search of the driver.

Blacks were 11% of drivers stopped by police but 24.6% of drivers who were physically searched, and Hispanics were 9.5% of stopped drivers but 21.9% of those physically searched. Whites were 76.5% of stopped drivers and 52.5% of the ones who were physically searched.

Driver age

The younger the driver, the greater the likelihood of a search of the driver. That is, where significant differences existed between younger and older drivers, they were always in the direction of a greater likelihood of younger drivers being physically searched. Drivers in their teens (6.1%), twenties (5.4%), and thirties (4.5%) were more likely than drivers in their forties (1.9%) to be frisked by police during a traffic stop in 2002.

Searching the vehicle

Police searched the vehicle in 4% of traffic stops (table 9).

Driver gender

Police were more likely to search a vehicle driven by a male (5.6%) than a female (1.6%).

Driver race/Hispanic origin

Police were more likely to search a vehicle driven by a black (7.1%) or Hispanic (10.1%) driver than by a white (2.9%) driver.

Blacks were 11% of drivers stopped by police but 19.6% of drivers whose vehicle was searched, and Hispanics were 9.5% of stopped drivers but 24% of drivers of searched vehicles. Whites were 76.5% of stopped drivers and 54.9% of those whose vehicle was searched.

Driver age

The younger the driver, the greater the likelihood of a vehicle search. More specifically, where significant differences existed between younger and older drivers, they were always in the direction of a greater likelihood of a vehicle search for the younger drivers. Vehicles driven by teenage drivers (8.2%) were more likely to be searched than vehicles driven by those in their twenties (5%), thirties (5%), forties (2.8%), or fifties (1.1%).

Searches and racial profiling

One definition of racial profiling is "using race as a key factor in deciding whether to make a traffic stop." Another definition is "using race as a key factor in deciding whether, during a traffic stop, to search the vehicle or the driver." Survey findings reported above indicated the following about the likelihood of searches and the race or Hispanic origin of the driver:

1. Black (10.2%) and Hispanic (11.4%) motorists stopped by police were more likely than whites (3.5%) to be physically searched or to have their vehicle searched.

2. Black (8.1%) and Hispanic (8.3%) motorists were more likely than white (2.5%) motorists to be subjected to a physical search of the driver.

3. Police were more likely to search a vehicle driven by a black (7.1%) or Hispanic (10.1%) than by a white (2.9%).

However, while the survey data can reveal these racial disparities, they cannot answer the question of whether the driver's race, rather than the driver's conduct or other specific circumstances surrounding the stop, was the reason for the search. The survey asked few questions about circumstances or driver conduct. For example, having drugs in plain view of police is a circumstance that would normally warrant a legal search of the vehicle. But since the survey did not ask drivers whether any drugs within plain view were in the vehicle, the analysis is necessarily limited.

Searches conducted by police during traffic stops

Of the estimated 837,800 searches conducted by police in 2002, more than half — 458,300 — were apparently justified because police had obtained the driver's consent prior to performing the search. The remaining 45% (379,500) of searches occurred without the driver's consent. The percentage of these 379,500 nonconsent searches that may or may not be justified depends on the specific circumstances of each search.

To determine how many of the 379,500 non-consent searches were potentially

justified, two circumstances that typically warrant a nonconsent search were investigated: 1) a search conducted after a person has been placed under arrest, and 2) a search conducted when police have probable cause to believe the suspect committed a crime. To determine the latter, a search was treated as a probable-cause search anytime a search uncovered evidence of criminal wrongdoing, such as drugs, an open container of alcohol or other evidence.

Analysis of the survey data indicated that 131,200 of the 379,500 non-consent searches were potentially justified. Of these 131,200 searches, 84,900 were searches conducted after the driver was arrested, and 46,300 were probable-cause searches that revealed evidence of a crime.

For the remaining 248,300 non-consent searches, the driver was not searched following an arrest and the search did not uncover evidence of criminal wrongdoing.

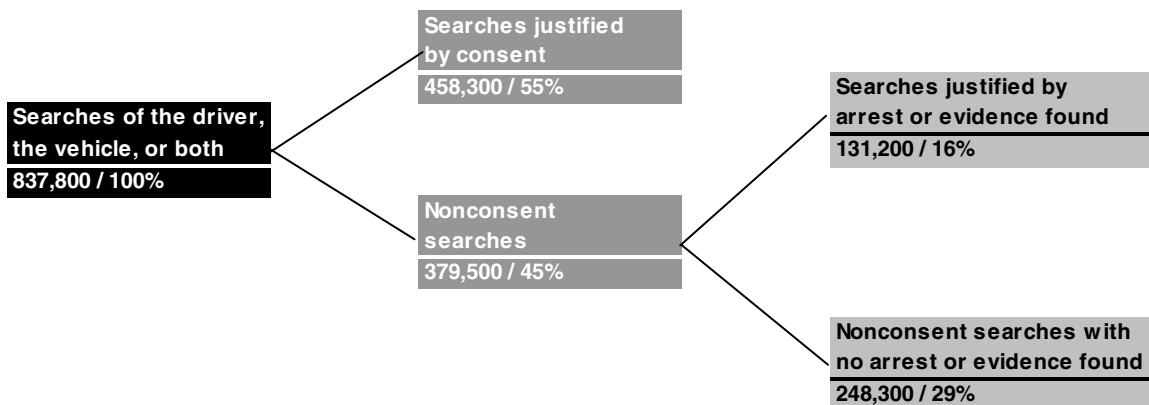


Figure 1

Table 10. Type of search of vehicle or driver and the outcome, 2002

	Search of —					
	Driver, vehicle, or both		Driver		Vehicle	
	Estimated number	Total	Estimated number	Total	Estimated number	Total
All searches	837,809	100%	609,278	100%	671,957	100%
Type of search						
With consent	458,338	54.7%	329,051	54.0%	413,226	61.5%
Without consent	379,471	45.3	280,227	46.0	258,730	38.5
Outcome of search						
Evidence found	98,394	11.7%	87,385	14.3%	96,739	14.4%
No evidence found	739,415	88.3	521,893	85.7	575,218	85.6

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. A total of 447,009 drivers had both types of searches. For that reason the sum of the number of searches under the "driver" column and the number under the "vehicle" column is greater than the number under the "driver, vehicle, or both" column. Note also that some of the 447,009 drivers consented to one type of search but not the other. In those cases they were classified as a search "without consent" in the "driver, vehicle, or both" column.

Search of driver, vehicle, or both

Search with or without driver consent

In some jurisdictions an officer need not have any suspicion to ask for permission to conduct a search. In other jurisdictions police departments require that the officer have at least a "reasonable suspicion" before asking for permission to conduct a search. In all jurisdictions, if the officer has "probable cause" to believe that the person or the vehicle contains evidence of a crime, the officer does not need to ask for permission.

Of the 837,800 searches conducted during traffic stops in 2002, just over half, or about 458,300, were by consent (table 10). The 458,300 consent searches take one of two forms: 1) either the officer asked permission to search and the driver then granted it; or 2) the driver told the officer he/she could conduct a search without the officer first asking for permission. The remaining 45% of searches (379,500) were not by consent; either the officer had not asked permission before conducting the search, or the officer asked but the driver reported saying "no."

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

In 11.7% of the 837,800 searches, police found drugs, an illegal weapon, open containers of beer, or other evidence of a possible crime. The likelihood of finding criminal evidence was not significantly different between the 379,500 searches without consent (12.2%) and the 458,300 searches with consent (11.4%) (not shown in table).

Search of driver

Search with or without consent

Nearly half (46%) of all body searches were without the driver's consent, according to surveyed drivers.

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

Of the 609,300 physical searches, 86% found no criminal evidence, according to surveyed drivers.

The likelihood of finding criminal evidence was not significantly different between the 280,200 physical searches without consent (14.6%) and the 329,100 physical searches with consent (14.1%) (not shown in table).

Search of vehicle

Search with or without consent

More than a third of all vehicle searches (38.5%) were conducted without driver consent.

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

Approximately 86% of vehicle searches found no evidence of criminal wrongdoing, according to surveyed drivers.

Vehicle searches without consent (17.6%) were not significantly more likely than searches with consent (12.4%) to uncover evidence (not shown in table).

Small sample sizes

This report has presented separate statistics on each of four categories: physical searches with consent, physical searches without consent, vehicle searches with consent, and vehicle searches without consent. Within each of the four, it would be desirable to have comparative statistics by gender, race, and age — for example, for physical searches without consent finding criminal evidence, comparing white and black drivers. But such detailed estimates would be based on samples too small to form reliable statistical comparisons. Only by combining physical searches and vehicle searches can additional comparisons be made.

Searching the driver, vehicle, or both: Gender

Search with or without consent

The proportion of all searches (both physical and vehicle) that were without consent was not significantly different for males (46.4%) and females (38.6%) (table 11).

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

The proportion of searches yielding criminal evidence was not significantly different for males (10.5%) than for females (19.2%).

Searching the driver, vehicle, or both: Race/Hispanic origin

Search with or without consent

Searches (physical or vehicle) of black drivers (58.6%) were more likely to be without consent than searches of white drivers (39.1%).

The percentage of all physical or vehicle searches conducted without the driver's consent was not significantly greater for Hispanics (46.2%) than for whites (39.1%).

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

Searches of black drivers or their vehicles were less likely to find criminal evidence (3.3%) than searches of white drivers (14.5%), and somewhat less likely than searches of Hispanic drivers (13%).

Searching the driver, vehicle, or both: Age

Search with or without consent

Among drivers who were searched, those in their fifties (75.3%) were more

Table 11. Type and outcome of searches conducted by police during traffic stops, 2002

Demographic characteristic of searched driver	Search of the driver or the vehicle				
	All searches	Type of search		Outcome of search	
		With consent	Without consent	Evidence found	No evidence found
Total	100%	54.7%	45.3%	11.7%	88.3%
Gender					
Male	100%	53.6%	46.4%	10.5%	89.5%
Female	100	61.4	38.6	19.2*	80.8
Race/Hispanic origin					
White	100%	60.9%	39.1%	14.5%	85.5%
Black	100	41.4	58.6	3.3*	96.7
Hispanic	100	53.8	46.2	13.0*	87.0
Other race	100	51.9*	48.1*	26.5*	73.5*
Age					
16-19	100%	49.4%	50.6%	21.6%*	78.4%
20-29	100	60.2	39.8	11.6*	88.4
30-39	100	58.0	42.0	7.8*	92.2
40-49	100	47.6	52.4	4.6*	95.4
50-59	100	24.7*	75.3*	21.7*	78.3*
60 or older	—	—	—	—	—
Estimated number	837,809	458,338	379,471	98,394	739,415

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

—No case in the sample.

likely to report a non-consent search than drivers in their twenties (39.8%) or thirties (42%). No other significant differences between age categories were found.

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

No comparisons are made between drivers of different ages because many of the samples on which the separate age categories are based are too small to form reliable estimates.

Searching the driver, the vehicle, or both; arresting stopped drivers

Survey data indicate that approximately 450,000 drivers were arrested after being pulled over by police in 2002. After an arrest is made, the police will often conduct a search of the arrestee. After an arrest is made during a traffic stop, the type of search conducted

could be a physical search of the driver, a search of the driver's vehicle, or both.

Of the nearly 450,000 drivers arrested during a traffic stop in 2002, three-quarters (74%), or slightly more than 329,000 drivers, also experienced a search of the driver, the vehicle, or both (table 12). An estimated 26% of these 329,000 searches were physical searches of the driver, 9% were vehicle searches, and 65% of drivers had both a physical and vehicle search conducted (not in a table).

Table 12. Among drivers arrested by police, percent searched, 2002

	Number	Percent
Total arrested	448,094	100%
Driver was searched	329,347	74%
Driver was not searched	118,748	26

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. The 329,347 include searches of the driver, the vehicle, or both.

Table 13. Among drivers arrested and searched by police, percent of searches that occurred before or after the arrest, 2002

	Drivers searched and arrested	
	Number	Percent
Total	329,347	100%
Search occurred —		
Before arrest	137,421	42%
After arrest	191,926	58

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding. The 329,347 include searches of the driver, the vehicle or both.

Searches subsequent to arrest

In 2002, of the 329,000 drivers who were searched and arrested, 58% were searched after being arrested (table 13). Twenty-three percent of the 192,000 searches conducted subsequent to arrest were physical searches of the driver, 12% were vehicle searches, and 65% were searches of both the driver and the vehicle (not in a table).

The remaining 42% of drivers searched and arrested were searched before being arrested (table 13). Of these 137,000 drivers who were searched prior to their arrest, 17% were physically searched, 7% had their vehicle searched, and 76% had both a physical and vehicle search conducted (not in a table).

Search with or without consent

Among the 329,000 drivers searched and arrested in 2002, 144,000, or 43.7%, were searched without their consent (table 14).

Searches following an arrest (53%) were somewhat more likely than searches prior to arrest (30.9%) to be conducted without the driver's consent. This difference may be attributed to the common police practice of searching an arrestee and his or her belongings following an arrest; for those searches, police do not need to seek or obtain the driver's permission.

Likelihood of search finding criminal evidence

Evidence was found during a search of the driver, vehicle, or both for about a fifth of the 329,000 drivers who were searched and arrested in 2002 (table 14).

No comparisons of the likelihood of finding criminal evidence were made between drivers searched before an arrest and those searched after an arrest because the sample sizes for these categories were too small to form reliable estimates.

Table 14. Among drivers arrested and searched by police, type and outcome of searches, by whether the search occurred before or after the arrest, 2002

	Search of the driver or the vehicle				
	All drivers searched and arrested	Type of search		Outcome of search	
		With consent	Without consent	Evidence found	No evidence found
Total	100%	56.3%	43.7%	20.9%	79.1%
Search occurred —					
Before arrest	100%	69.1%	30.9%	26.9%*	73.1%
After arrest	100	47.0	53.0	16.5*	83.5
Total searched and arrested	329,347	185,481	143,865	68,819	260,527

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

*Estimate is based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Police use of force

In the 2002 PPCS, respondents who said they had a face-to-face contact with police were then asked whether the police officer(s) used or threatened to use physical force against them during this contact.

In 2002 an estimated 664,500 persons age 16 or older had a contact with police in which force was used or threatened against them (table 15). This estimate is about 1.5% of the 45.3 million people reporting face-to-face police contact during 2002 (table 16). The estimate of 664,500 in 2002 represents an increase from 1999, when the PPCS that year estimated approximately 422,000 persons age 16 or older having a contact in which police used or threatened force. Also, the 2002 estimate of 1.5% experiencing the use or threat of force by police represents an increase from less than 1% (0.98%) in 1999.

About three-quarters (75.4%) of those experiencing force in 2002 felt the force used or threatened by the police was excessive (table 20).*

Among all persons who had a police contact in 2002, 52.8% were male. However, among those who reported that they were threatened with force or against whom force was used, 78.3% were male (table 15).

Persons age 16 to 29 were 33.6% of the estimated 45 million who had a police contact but 57.5% of those experiencing force during a contact. The median age of those experiencing force was 26.

Whites comprised 76.7% of all persons with a police contact, blacks 11%, and Hispanics 9.3%. About 56% of those

experiencing force were white, 26% black, and 15.5% Hispanic.

Likelihood of experiencing force

Gender

Among persons 16 years or older with a face-to-face contact, females (0.7%) were less likely than males (2.2%) to have had a contact with police that resulted in force (table 16).

Race/Hispanic origin

Among those persons age 16 or older with a face-to-face contact, blacks (3.5%) and Hispanics (2.5%) were more likely than whites (1.1%) to have reported that the police used or threatened force against them.

*In this report "use of force" includes threat of force unless otherwise indicated.

Table 15. Demographic characteristics of residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002

Demographic characteristic	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
	Number	Percent
Total	664,458 ^a	100%
Gender		
Male	520,178	78.3%
Female	144,281	21.7
Race/Hispanic origin		
White	373,847	56.3%
Black	172,658	26.0
Hispanic	102,670	15.5
Other race	15,284	2.3*
Age		
16-19	152,118	22.9%
20-29	230,028	34.6
30-39	116,774	17.6
40-49	95,285	14.3
50-59	49,717	7.5
60 or older	20,537	3.1*
Size of jurisdiction where resided		
Under 100,000	434,142	65.3%
100,000-499,999	112,213	16.9
500,000-999,999	54,489	8.2
1 million or more	63,614	9.6

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. See Appendix table for distribution of unweighted cases.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.
^aThe standard error of the estimate of the total number of persons reporting the use or threat of force is 50,658.

Table 16. Among residents age 16 or older who had contact with police in 2002, percent whose contact involved police use of force, by demographic characteristics of residents

Demographic characteristic	Number of persons with police contact	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
		Number	Percent
Total	45,278,884	664,458	1.5%
Gender			
Male	23,884,649	520,178	2.2%
Female	21,394,234	144,281	0.7
Race/Hispanic origin			
White	34,743,452	373,847	1.1%
Black	4,966,388	172,658	3.5
Hispanic	4,191,712	102,670	2.5
Other race	1,377,332	15,284	1.1*
Age			
16-19	4,314,231	152,118	3.5%
20-29	10,917,693	230,028	2.1
30-39	9,745,298	116,774	1.2
40-49	9,494,716	95,285	1.0
50-59	6,006,828	49,717	0.8
60 or older	4,800,117	20,537	0.4*
Size of jurisdiction where resided			
Under 100,000	34,580,825	434,142	1.3%
100,000-499,999	6,763,356	112,213	1.7
500,000-999,999	1,818,598	54,489	3.0
1 million or more	2,116,106	63,614	3.0

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Age

Persons age 16 to 29 (2.5%) with police contact were more likely than those over age 29 (0.9%) to have had force used against them (not in table).

Reason for contact

Persons whose contact was police-initiated (such as a traffic stop) were more likely than those whose contact was not initiated by the police (such as asking police for assistance) to experience police use or threat of force (2.1% versus 0.6%) (table 17). Police-initiated contacts were 58.5% of the 45.3 million contacts in 2002 but 83.5% of the 664,500 contacts involving police force (table 18).

Persons whom police suspected of something or who had contact through a criminal investigation represented a relatively large percentage of the 664,500 force incidents, as compared to their representation of all persons with contact in 2002. Residents suspected of something by police accounted for a percentage of the force incidents (18.6%) that was 7 times higher than their portion of all contacts (2.6%). Persons whose contact occurred because of a criminal investigation accounted for a percentage of force incidents (13%) that was twice as high as their percentage of all contacts (5.8%).

Type of force used

Residents who experienced force or the threat force were asked to describe the type of force. An estimated 42% of the 664,500 force incidents involved the police pushing or grabbing the resident (table 19). An additional 8% of the force incidents involved the police kicking or hitting the resident.

Among those persons involved in a force-related incident, 18.9% had police

Table 17. Among residents age 16 or older who had contact with police in 2002, percent whose contact involved police use of force, by type of and reason for contact

	Number of persons with police contact	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
		Number	Percent
Total	45,278,884	664,458	1.5%
Type of contact			
Police-initiated	26,483,794	555,129	2.1%
Not police-initiated ^a	18,795,090	109,330	0.6
Reason for contact			
Traffic accident	5,891,645	30,610	0.5%*
Driver during traffic stop	16,783,467	188,822	1.1
Passenger during traffic stop	1,218,470	35,279	2.9*
Reported crime or problem to police	11,959,548	68,008	0.6
Police provided assistance or service	3,264,503	17,925	0.5*
Police were investigating crime	2,615,255	86,480	3.3
Suspected of something by police	1,158,167	123,516	10.7
Other reason	2,387,828	113,818	4.8

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes contact initiated by the resident or someone other than the police, such as a family member or acquaintance of the resident.

Table 18. Type of contact and reason for contact with police among residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002

	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened		Percent with police contact in 2002
	Number	Percent	
Total	664,458	100%	100%
Type of contact			
Police-initiated	555,129	83.5%	58.5%
Not police-initiated ^a	109,330	16.5	41.5
Reason for contact			
Traffic accident	30,610	4.6%*	13.0%
Driver during traffic stop	188,822	28.4	37.1
Passenger during traffic stop	35,279	5.3*	2.7
Reported crime or problem to police	68,008	10.2	26.4
Police provided assistance or service	17,925	2.7*	7.2
Police investigating crime	86,480	13.0	5.8
Suspected of something by police	123,516	18.6	2.6
Other reason	113,818	17.1	5.3

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding.

*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

^aIncludes contact initiated by the resident or someone other than the police, such as a family member or acquaintance of the resident.

Table 19. Type of force police used or threatened against residents age 16 or older during face-to-face contact in 2002

Type of force used or threatened by police	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
	Number	Percent
Total	664,458	100%
Pushed or grabbed by officer(s)	277,433	41.8%
Kicked or hit by officer(s)	54,682	8.2
Officer(s) pointed gun at resident	125,872	18.9
Used or threatened to use any other force	377,628	56.8

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. Percents do not sum to 100 because some respondents reported more than one type of force or threat of force.

point a gun at them. Over half of the 664,500 residents experienced other types of force or threats, such as the threat to fire a gun or use chemical spray.

Amount of force

Residents involved in a force incident were asked if they felt any of the physical force used or threatened against them was excessive. Most (75.4%) of the 664,500 people involved in a police-use-of-force incident thought the force used or threatened was excessive (table 20). Whites (71.6%) involved in force incidents were not more likely than blacks (77.7%) to say the force was excessive. Among Hispanics with force used against them, 84.6% felt it was excessive. The differences between estimates for whites (71.6%), blacks (77.7%), and Hispanics (84.6%) were not statistically significant.

Injuries from force

Overall, about 14% of the approximately 664,500 persons involved in a force or threat-of-force incident were injured as a result of the police action (table 21). Twelve percent of whites, 21.5% of Hispanics, and 15.4% of blacks in force incidents were injured. These differences were not statistically significant.

Characteristics of incident

More than half of those involved in a force or threat-of-force incident were physically searched or, if they were in a traffic stop, had their vehicle searched. About 7% of the persons with force reported that during the course of the force incident the police found possible evidence of a crime (such as drugs, an open alcohol container, or a weapon on or near them or in their vehicle after a traffic stop) (table 22).

Forty percent of the 664,500 persons involved in a contact with force had at least one charge filed against them —

Table 20. Among residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002, percent who felt the force used or threatened was “excessive,” by race/Hispanic origin of residents

Race/Hispanic origin of resident	Number of persons against whom force was used or threatened	Contacts with police in which force used or threatened was excessive	
		Number	Percent
Total	664,458	500,806	75.4%
White	373,847	267,664	71.6%
Black	172,658	134,075	77.7
Hispanic	102,670	86,908	84.6
Other race	15,284	12,159	79.6*

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 21. Among residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002, percent who were injured, by race/Hispanic origin of residents

Race/Hispanic origin of resident	Number of persons against whom force was used or threatened	Persons injured during contact in which force was used or threatened	
		Number	Percent
Total	664,458	92,268	13.9%
White	373,847	43,637	11.7%
Black	172,658	26,530	15.4*
Hispanic	102,670	22,101	21.5*
Other race	15,284	0	0*

Note: Detail may not sum to total because of rounding. Zero represents no cases in sample.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 22. Type of criminal evidence found on or near residents age 16 or older during contact that involved police use of force in 2002

Type of criminal evidence found	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
	Number	Percent
Total	664,458	100%
Persons with any evidence found		
Weapons	43,309	6.5%
Drugs	19,580	2.9*
Open alcohol container(s)	15,316	2.3*
Other evidence of crime	10,491	1.6*
	10,633	1.6*

Note: Included are items found in the vehicles of stopped drivers. Respondents could report more than one item found in a search.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

ranging from a traffic offense to possessing a weapon (table 23). A traffic-related offense was one of the most common charges (13.9%).

Table 23. Type of charge filed against residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002

Type of offense charge	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
	Number	Percent
Total	664,458	100%
Persons with at least one charge filed		
Assaulting an officer	262,342	39.5%
Resisting arrest	6,311	0.9*
Drug offense	30,095	4.5
Possession of a weapon	16,463	2.5*
Disorderly conduct	3,460	0.5*
Traffic offense	64,717	9.7
Other charge	92,159	13.9
	96,448	14.5

Note: Respondents could report more than one type of charge.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Ten percent were charged with disorderly conduct. About 5% were charged with resisting arrest, and 2.5% were charged with a drug offense.

Conduct of resident during force incident

Persons who had contact with police were asked about their behaviors during the encounter that could have provoked the officer(s) to use or threaten force. Among the 664,500 persons experiencing police use or threat of force, 1 in 4 self-reported that they argued with, cursed at, insulted, or verbally threatened the officer(s) (table 24). About 6% of those involved in a force incident resisted being handcuffed, arrested, or searched.

Other actions reported by persons experiencing police force included disobeying or interfering with the officer(s) (6%), trying to get away (3%), and fighting the police (0.5%).

There were too few cases of white, black, and Hispanic residents involved in a force incident to provide reliable estimates about their conduct during the police contact.

Conduct of resident and the likelihood that police used or threatened force

Persons who engaged in behavior that could have provoked police to use force were significantly more likely to experience the use or threat of force. Police used or threatened force against 1.1% of the 44.5 million persons who did not engage in behavior that could have provoked the officer(s) compared to:

- 23% of the estimated 706,000 persons who argued with, cursed at, insulted, or verbally threatened the police (table 25)
- 34% of those who disobeyed or interfered with the officer(s)
- 41% of those who tried to get away or escape
- 30% of persons who pushed, grabbed or hit the officer(s)

Table 24. Conduct of residents age 16 or older during contact that involved police use of force in 2002

Conduct of resident during contact	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
	Number	Percent
Total	664,458	100%
Residents who engaged in at least one type of behavior	177,146	26.7%
Argue with, curse at, insult, or verbally threaten the police	161,057	24.2
Disobey or interfere with officer(s)	39,664	6.0
Try to get away from police	20,254	3.0*
Push, grab, or hit officer(s)	3,460	0.5*
Resist being handcuffed, arrested, or searched	38,651	5.8
Other physical behavior against police	3,071	0.5*

Note: Respondents could report more than one type of behavior.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 25. Among residents age 16 or older who had contact with police in 2002, percent whose contact involved police use of force, by conduct of residents during contact

Conduct of resident during contact	Number of persons with police contact	Contacts with police in which force was used or threatened	
		Number	Percent
Total	45,278,884	664,458	1.5%
Residents who engaged in at least one type of behavior	792,060	177,146	22.4%
Argue with, curse at, insult, or verbally threaten the police	706,156	161,057	22.8
Disobey or interfere with officer(s)	117,157	39,664	33.9
Try to get away from police	49,533	20,254	40.9*
Push, grab, or hit officer(s)	11,662	3,460	29.7*
Resist being handcuffed, arrested, or searched	56,575	38,651	68.3
Other physical behavior against police	11,235	3,071	27.3*
Residents who did not engage in any of the above behaviors	44,486,824	487,312	1.1%

Note: Respondents could report more than one type of behavior.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Table 26. Among residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002, characteristics of force incident, by race/Hispanic origin of residents

Characteristic of force incident	Race/Hispanic origin of resident				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Other race
Total	664,458	373,847	172,658	102,670	15,284
Person or vehicle searched	54.0%	46.0%	69.1%	58.1%	64.2%*
Handcuffed	43.7	41.1	46.9	47.5	45.1*
Arrested	37.6	33.5	42.8	42.5	45.1*
Resident felt officer(s) acted improperly	87.3	83.2	93.5	94.6	72.7*

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

- 68% of persons who resisted being handcuffed, arrested, or searched
- 27% of those who used some other physical behavior towards police.

Force and arrests

About 4 in 10 persons who had force used or threatened against them were arrested during the incident (table 26). Blacks (42.8%) and Hispanics (42.5%)

who experienced police force were not significantly more likely than whites (33.5%) to be arrested.

Force and handcuffing

Forty-four percent of the persons experiencing force were also handcuffed during the incident — including 41.1% of whites, 46.9% of blacks, and 47.5% of Hispanics. These differences were not statistically significant.

Resident opinion on whether police acted properly

The vast majority (87.3%) of the persons involved in police-use-of-force incidents felt the police acted improperly (table 26). There was some indication that blacks (93.5%) and Hispanics (94.6%) were more likely than whites (83.2%) to contend that the police acted improperly.

Although 87% of persons reporting police use of force felt that the police had acted improperly, less than 20% of the total (about 102,000) took formal action (table 27). Formal actions include filing a complaint or a lawsuit.

Selected responses to the 2002 PPCS question: “What force was excessive?... Describe briefly”

In 2002 about 501,000 of the 664,500 (75.4%) residents age 16 or older who experienced force felt the physical force used or threatened against them was excessive. Persons who characterized the force as “excessive” were asked to describe the type of force they considered excessive. The following are nine examples of what interviewers recorded:

- Grabbed and forced resident into back of police car
- Gun pointed at resident
- Handcuffs put on too tight
- Resident was running and police grabbed him by the arm and pushed him against a car
- Officers used insulting words and did not read resident his rights
- Officer pushed resident to the ground
- Verbal threat to slam respondent’s head into a wall.
- Fight was over and officer kept yelling at resident
- Forcing respondent’s arms behind his back

Table 27. Type of formal action taken against police by residents age 16 or older whose contact involved police use of force in 2002

	Persons taking action against police	
	Number	Percent
Total	101,600	100%
Filing complaint with —		
Civilian complaint review board	7,988	7.9*
Agency employing officer(s)	63,699	62.7
Local prosecutor	13,157	13.0*
Court	7,416	7.3*
Other government agency	10,162	10.0*
Other formal action	24,070	23.7*

Note: Percents do not sum to 100 because some respondents may have taken more than one type of formal action.
*Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases.

Methodology

The 2002 Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS) was conducted as a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). During the last 6 months of 2002 in which interviews were conducted, the NCVS sample consisted of 93,410 individuals age 16 or older. Of these, 10,902, or 11%, were NCVS non-interviews, though someone else in the household was interviewed. In addition to those not interviewed for the NCVS, 2,261 persons either refused to participate in the PPCS or said they were not available for the interview or the interviewer failed to indicate the specific reason for not conducting the interview.

By far the most frequent reason for not completing the PPCS in 2002, accounting for 2,882 respondents, was the exclusion of the proxy interviews conducted for the NCVS when a person was unable, for physical, mental, or other reasons, to participate. BJS staff determined that caregivers and other proxy interviewees would have difficulty describing the details of any contacts between police and the sampled respondent. Another 455 non-English speaking respondents were also excluded from the 2002 PPCS.

The PPCS failed to interview 16,500 persons and interviewed 76,910; this translates into an 82% response rate for the PPCS, compared to an overall response rate of 87% for the NCVS. Among the PPCS interviews conducted, 25,993 (34%) were in person and 50,917 (66%) were by telephone.

The PPCS national sample, after adjustment for nonresponse, weights to a national estimate of 215,536,780 persons age 16 or older in 2002.

Appendix table. Number of survey respondents in the 2002 Police-Public Contact Survey, by demographic characteristics of resident

Demographic characteristic	All survey respondents	Number of persons with police contact	Number of persons against whom force was used or threatened
Total persons	76,910	15,731	209
Gender			
Male	35,049	7,892	158
Female	41,861	7,839	51
Race/Hispanic origin			
White	56,696	12,199	121
Black	8,101	1,492	46
Hispanic	8,929	1,542	37
Other race	3,184	498	5
Age			
16-19	4,455	1,180	41
20-29	11,721	3,407	69
30-39	15,059	3,605	42
40-49	15,805	3,376	30
50-59	12,683	2,322	18
60 or older	17,187	1,841	9
Size of jurisdiction where resided			
Under 100,000	57,167	11,810	138
100,000-499,999	11,331	2,462	34
500,000-999,999	3,111	683	16
1 million or more	5,301	776	21

Other information on survey methodology

Unless indicated otherwise, differences documented in this report were significant at the .05-level. Certain differences were not significant at the .05-level but were significant at the .10-level. The terms "some indication" and "somewhat more likely" refer to differences significant at the .10-level.

Regarding racial designations given in the report, "white" refers to non-Hispanic whites, "black" refers to non-Hispanic blacks, and "other races" refers to non-Hispanics in the "other races" category. White Hispanics, black Hispanics, and Hispanics of "other races" are categorized in the report under the heading "Hispanic."

Due to small samples and concerns about confidentiality, the report does not provide separate statistics on each racial category that makes up "other races" (Asians, Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Native Hawaiians, and Alaska Natives).

NOTICE - We are conducting this survey under the authority of Title 13, United States Code, Section 8. Section 9 of this law requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly **confidential**. We may use this information only for statistical purposes. Also, Title 42, Section 3732, United States Code, authorizes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, Department of Justice, to collect information using this survey. Title 42, Sections 3789g and 3735, United States Code, also requires us to keep all information about you and your household strictly confidential.

ASK OF ALL NCVS SELF-INTERVIEWED PERSONS AGE 16+

FORM **PPCS-1**
(5-16-2002)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
ACTING AS COLLECTING AGENT FOR THE
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PRA Burden Statement - We estimate that it will take between 2 to 10 minutes to complete this interview. If you have any comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of this survey, send them to the Senior Statistician, Research and Public Policy Issues, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC 20531. According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number.

POLICE PUBLIC CONTACT SURVEY
SUPPLEMENT TO THE NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY 2002

Sample	Control number			
J _____	PSU	Segment	CK	Serial

A. Field Representative's Code	B. Respondent's characteristics		Last name _____	
			First name _____	
001 [] [] []	002 [] []	003 Sex 1 <input type="checkbox"/> M 2 <input type="checkbox"/> F	004 Age [] []	005 Race 1 <input type="checkbox"/> White 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Black 3 <input type="checkbox"/> American Indian, Aleut, Eskimo 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Asian, Pacific Islander 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Other
				006 Hispanic Origin 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - Complete a PPCS-1 form for all NCVS interviewed persons age 16+. Do NOT complete a PPCS-1 form for NCVS Type Z noninterview persons, NCVS proxy interviews, or persons in Type A households.

C. Type of PPCS interview

007 1 Personal (Self)
2 Telephone (Self) } **SKIP to INTRO 1**
3 Noninterview - FILL ITEM D
A proxy interview is unacceptable for the PPCS.

D. Reason for PPCS noninterview

008 1 Refused PPCS only
2 Not available for PPCS only
3 Non-English speaking respondent only

E. DRIVING HABITS QUESTIONS

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - Read introduction.
INTRO 1 - **Shortly, I will be asking you some additional questions about any contacts you may have had with the police during the last 12 months. However, before I get to these questions, I have some questions about your use of a motor vehicle.**

1. How often do you usually drive? Is it ... (Read answer categories.)	009 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Almost every day? 2 <input type="checkbox"/> A few days a week? 3 <input type="checkbox"/> A few days a month? 4 <input type="checkbox"/> A few times a year? 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Never? - ASK item 2
2. Even though you never drive, do you have a driver's license?	010 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

F. CONTACT SCREEN QUESTIONS

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE - Read introduction.
INTRO 2 - **The next series of questions is about any contacts you may have had with the police during the last 12 months. Exclude contacts with private security guards, police officers you see socially, or relatives who are police officers. Also, exclude any police contacts that occurred because your employment or volunteer work brought you into regular contact with police officers.**

3a. Did you have any contact with a police officer during the last 12 months, that is, any time since _____, 2001?	011 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No - SKIP to Check Item D
3b. Were any of these contacts with a police officer in person, that is, face-to-face?	012 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No - SKIP to Check Item D
3c. Did you have more than one face-to-face contact?	013 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes - ASK item 3d 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No - SKIP to item 4
3d. How many face-to-face contacts with a police officer did you have during the last 12 months?	014 _____ Number of contacts - Read INTRO 3

G. USE OF FORCE DURING CONTACT

FIELD REPRESENTATIVE – *Read introduction.*

INTRO 3 – **For the rest of the interview, please tell me ONLY about the most recent face-to-face contact you had with the police.**

4. Was this contact initiated by the police?	015	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
5a. During this contact, did the police USE or THREATEN TO USE force against you for any reason?	016	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – <i>ASK item 5b</i> <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know } SKIP to item 6
5b. Did the police officer(s)... <i>(Read answer categories.)</i> <i>Mark (X) all that apply.</i>	017 018 019 020	<input type="checkbox"/> Actually push or grab you? <input type="checkbox"/> Actually kick or hit you? <input type="checkbox"/> Actually point a gun at you? <input type="checkbox"/> Use or threaten to use any other force against you? – Specify <i>↘</i> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
5c. Do you feel any of the force used or threatened against you was excessive?	021	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – SKIP to item 5e
5d. What force was excessive?	022	<i>Describe briefly</i> <i>↘</i> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <hr style="width: 100%;"/>
5e. Were you injured as a result of any force used against you?	023	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
6. During this contact were you arrested?	024	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
7. During this contact were you handcuffed?	025	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
8. At any time during this contact, did you argue with, curse at, insult, or verbally threaten the police?	026	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
9. At any time during this contact, did you... <i>(Read answer categories 1–5.)</i> <i>Mark (X) all that apply.</i>	027 028 029 030 031 032	<input type="checkbox"/> Disobey or interfere with the officer(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> Try to get away? <input type="checkbox"/> Push, grab, or hit the police officer(s)? <input type="checkbox"/> Resist being handcuffed, arrested, or searched? <input type="checkbox"/> Physically do anything else? – Specify <i>↘</i> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <hr style="width: 100%;"/> <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above

H. REASON FOR CONTACT

10. Did this contact occur during a traffic ACCIDENT?	033	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to Check Item A <input type="checkbox"/> No
11a. Did this contact occur during a traffic STOP?	034	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – SKIP to item 12
11b. Were you the driver or passenger of the vehicle that was stopped?	035	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver – SKIP to item 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Passenger – SKIP to Check Item A
12. Did this contact occur because you reported a crime or some other problem to the police?	036	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to Check Item A <input type="checkbox"/> No
13. Did this contact occur because the police were providing some sort of service or assistance to you?	037	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to Check Item A <input type="checkbox"/> No
14. Did this contact occur because the police were investigating a crime?	038	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to Check item A <input type="checkbox"/> No
15. Did this contact occur because the police suspected you of something?	039	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to Check item A <input type="checkbox"/> No

H. REASON FOR CONTACT - Continued

16. What was the reason for this contact?	040	Describe briefly ↘ _____
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CHECK ITEM A	Was force used or threatened against the respondent? Is box 1 marked in item 5a?	041	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 35 on page 5 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No – ASK item 17
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17. Looking back on this contact, do you feel the police behaved properly or improperly?	042	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Properly – SKIP to Check Item D 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Improperly – ASK item 18a 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know – SKIP to Check Item D
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18a. Did you take any formal action, such as filing a complaint or lawsuit against the police?	043	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – ASK item 18b 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know } SKIP to Check Item D
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18b. With whom did you file a complaint or lawsuit? <i>Mark (X) all that apply.</i>	044	045	046	047	048	049	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Civilian Complaint Review Board 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Law enforcement agency employing the officer(s) 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Local prosecutor 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Court 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Some other government agency 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Other – <i>Specify</i> ↘ _____	SKIP to Check Item D
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I. TRAFFIC STOPS

19. Did the traffic stop occur at night?	050	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
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20. How many officers were present? <i>Record actual number.</i>	051	_____ Number of police officers
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21. (Was/Were) the police officer(s) White, Black, or some other race? <i>Mark (X) all that apply.</i>	052	053	054	055	1 <input type="checkbox"/> White 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Black 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Some other race 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know race of any/some
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22. If only one box is marked in item 21, SKIP to item 23. What race were most of the officers?	056	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly White 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly Black 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Mostly some other race 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Equal number of each race 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
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J. TRAFFIC STOP - VEHICLE/PERSONAL SEARCH

23. At any time during this traffic stop, did the police officer(s)... <i>(READ CATEGORIES.)</i>		
a. ASK PERMISSION to search the vehicle?	057	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
b. ASK PERMISSION to search you, frisk you, or pat you down?	058	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

24. Whether or not the police officer(s) asked for PERMISSION, at any time during this traffic stop did you GIVE the police officer(s)... <i>(READ CATEGORIES.)</i>		
a. PERMISSION to search the vehicle?	059	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
b. PERMISSION to search you, frisk you, or pat you down?	060	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

25a. Did the police officer(s)... <i>(READ CATEGORIES.)</i>		
a. Search the vehicle?	061	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know
b. Search you, frisk you, or pat you down?	062	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

CHECK ITEM B	Did the police officer(s) search the vehicle OR the respondent? Is box 1 marked in item 25a, categories a OR b?	063	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – ASK item 25b 2 <input type="checkbox"/> No – SKIP to item 27
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J. TRAFFIC STOP – VEHICLE/PERSONAL SEARCH – Continued

25b. Did the police officer(s) find any of the following items during (this search/these searches)? <i>(Read answer categories 1–4.)</i> Mark (X) all that apply.	064	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal weapons?
	065	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Illegal drugs?
	066	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Open containers of alcohol, such as beer or liquor?
	067	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Other evidence of a crime? – Specify _____
	068	5 <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above

CHECK ITEM C Was the respondent arrested? Is box 1 marked in item 6?	069	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – <i>ASK item 26</i>
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No – SKIP to item 27

26. Earlier you said that you were arrested and you or your vehicle were searched. Did the search occur before you were arrested?	070	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No
		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

K. REASON FOR TRAFFIC STOP

27. Did the police officer(s) give a reason for stopping the vehicle?	071	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – <i>ASK item 28a</i>
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No
		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know } SKIP to item 30

28a. Was the reason speeding?	072	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28b. A vehicle defect?	073	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28c. A record check?	074	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28d. A roadside check for drunk drivers?	075	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28e. A seatbelt violation?	076	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28f. An illegal turn or illegal lane change?	077	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28g. A stop sign or stop light violation?	078	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – SKIP to item 29
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

28h. Was there some other reason?	079	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – <i>Specify</i> _____
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No

29. Would you say that the police officer(s) had a legitimate reason for stopping you?	080	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No
		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

L. OUTCOME OF TRAFFIC STOP

30. During this contact were you... <i>(Read answer categories 1–2.)</i> Mark (X) all that apply.	081	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Given a warning?
	082	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Given a traffic ticket?
	083	3 <input type="checkbox"/> None of the above

31. Were you charged with a non-traffic offense?	084	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – <i>ASK item 32</i>
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> No
		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know } SKIP to item 33

32. Were you charged with... <i>(Read answer categories.)</i> Mark (X) all that apply.	085	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Assaulting a police officer?
	086	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Resisting arrest?
	087	3 <input type="checkbox"/> A drug offense?
	088	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of a firearm or concealed weapon?
	089	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Disorderly conduct?
	090	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Some other offense? – Specify _____

33. Looking back on this contact, do you feel the police behaved properly or improperly?	091	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Properly – SKIP to Check Item D
		2 <input type="checkbox"/> Improperly – <i>ASK item 34a</i>
		3 <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know – SKIP to Check Item D

L. OUTCOME OF TRAFFIC STOP - Continued

34a. Did you take any formal action, such as filing a complaint or lawsuit against the police?

- 092** 1 Yes – ASK item 34b
 2 No
 3 Don't know } **SKIP to Check Item D**

34b. With whom did you file a complaint or lawsuit?
 Mark (X) all that apply.

- 093** 1 Civilian Complaint Review Board
094 2 Law enforcement agency employing the officer(s)
095 3 Local prosecutor
096 4 Court
097 5 Some other government agency
098 6 Other – Specify } **SKIP to Check Item D**

M. OTHER CONTACT - PERSONAL SEARCH

35. At any time during this contact, did the police officer(s) ASK PERMISSION to search you, frisk you, or pat you down?

- 099** 1 Yes
 2 No
 3 Don't know

36. Whether or not the police officer(s) asked for PERMISSION, at any time during this contact did you GIVE the police officer(s) PERMISSION to search you, frisk you, or pat you down?

- 100** 1 Yes
 2 No
 3 Don't know

37a. Did the police officer(s) actually search you, frisk you, or pat you down?

- 101** 1 Yes – ASK item 37b
 2 No
 3 Don't know } **SKIP to item 38a**

37b. Did the police officer(s) find any of the following items on or near you?

(Read answer categories 1-4.)
 Mark (X) all that apply.

- 102** 1 **Illegal weapons?**
103 2 **Illegal drugs?**
104 3 **Open containers of alcohol, such as beer or liquor?**
105 4 **Other evidence of a crime? - Specify**
106 5 None of the above

N. OUTCOME OF OTHER CONTACT

38a. During this contact, were you charged with any offenses?

- 107** 1 Yes – ASK item 38b
 2 No
 3 Don't know } **SKIP to item 39**

38b. Were you charged with . . .
 (Read answer categories.)
 Mark (X) all that apply.

- 108** 1 **Assaulting a police officer?**
109 2 **Resisting arrest?**
110 3 **A drug offense?**
111 4 **Possession of a firearm or concealed weapon?**
112 5 **Disorderly conduct or public drunkenness?**
113 6 **Some other offense - Specify**

39. Looking back on this contact, do you feel the police behaved properly or improperly?

- 114** 1 Properly – **SKIP to Check Item D**
 2 Improperly – ASK item 40a
 3 Don't know – **SKIP to Check Item D**

40a. Did you take any formal action, such as filing a complaint or lawsuit against the police?

- 115** 1 Yes – ASK item 40b
 2 No
 3 Don't know } **SKIP to Check Item D**

40b. With whom did you file a complaint or lawsuit?
 Mark (X) all that apply.

- 116** 1 Civilian Complaint Review Board
117 2 Law enforcement agency employing the officer(s)
118 3 Local prosecutor
119 4 Court
120 5 Some other government agency
121 6 Other – Specify

CHECK ITEM D

Is this the last household member to be interviewed?

- 122** 1 Yes – **END SUPPLEMENT**
 2 No – Interview next household member

NOTES