

Example #1

New York City's stop-and-frisk policy is a hotly debated topic with strong arguments in favor and against the legitimacy of the policy. When the policy ended due to a court decision in 2013, drastic changes were observed in the number of police stops and arrests within the city. In the years before the court decision, the police were stopping around 600,000 individuals each year, but this fell to fewer than 50,000 in 2014 and 2015 after policy was ended. A major factor in the ending of the policy was disproportionate impact it had on different racial and ethnic groups. A large majority of the 600,000 people stopped each year were either Black or Hispanic. However, the proportion of stops that led to an arrest was consistent around 5% across all racial/ethnic groups during this time. After the policy ended, we see much higher percentages of stopped Black and Hispanic individuals being arrested relative to Whites and individuals from other races. Thus, the policy as it was originally constituted seems more effective in terms of impact on people of different racial or ethnic backgrounds.

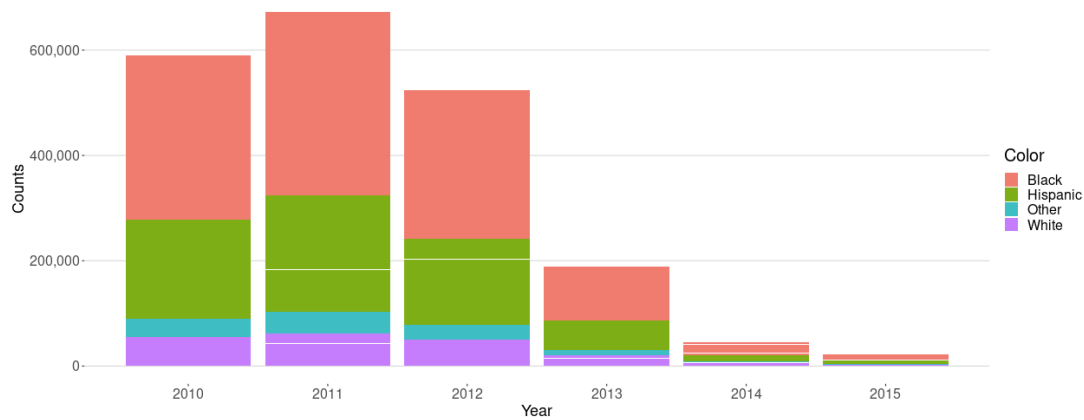


Figure 1: number of stops each year by racial/ethnic group

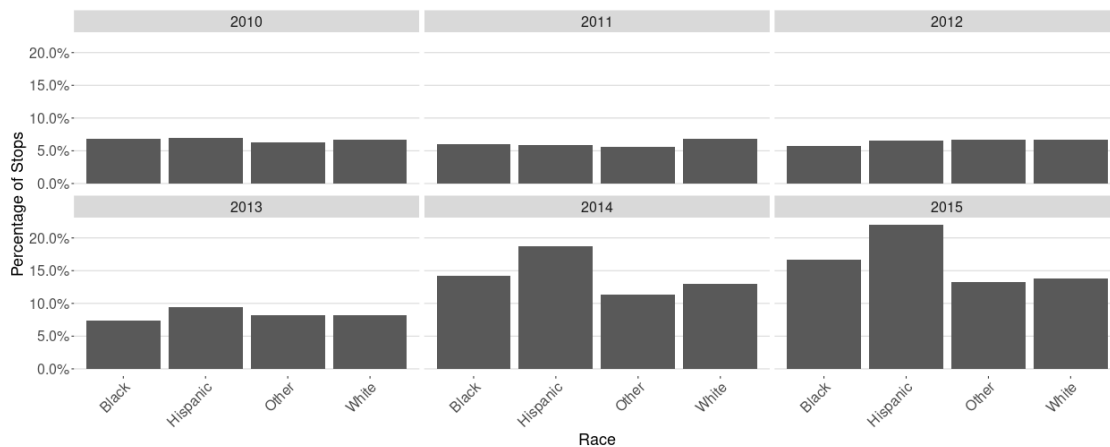


Figure 2: percentage of stops that led to an arrest each year by racial/ethnic group.