

A Snapshot of Racial Profiling Data from the Beaumont Area

2004 data

Beaumont Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Beaumont Police Department

Consent searches take place when an officer has no legal basis (or “probable cause”) to search either an individual or his/her vehicle, but he asks that individual for permission to do so. Because consent searches are performed entirely at the discretion of the individual officer, the data that these searches produce may provide a more accurate measure of racial profiling than the data produced by non-discretion searches, which results from situations in which officers are required to perform searches.

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	1.65%	2.5 times
Latinos	.59%	0.9 times
Anglos	.67%	

57.2% of BPD searches were consent searches (214 consent searches out of 374 searches). This percentage far exceeds the statewide average of consent searches conducted at traffic stops (30%).

Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	1.97%	0.7 times
Latinos	3.27%	1.1 times
Anglos	2.99%	

35.2% of JCSD searches were consent searches (89 consent searches out of 253 searches). This percentage exceeds the statewide average of consent searches conducted at traffic stops (30%).

* Percentages in this column are rounded.

** Rates in this column are not rounded and represent the actual consent search disparity, derived by dividing un-rounded consent search percentages.



BEAUMONT AND JEFFERSON COUNTY COMPARISONS:

- Anglos are 4.5 times more likely to be consent searched by Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department than by Beaumont Police Department.
- Blacks are 1.2 times more likely to be consent searched by Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department than by Beaumont Police Department.
- Blacks are 5.5 times more likely to be consent searched by Jefferson County Sheriff’s Department than by Beaumont Police Department.

Port Arthur Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Port Arthur Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	3.2%	2.2 times
Latinos	2.47%	1.7 times
Anglos	1.47%	

72.4% of PAPD searches were consent searches (113 consent searches out of 156 searches). This percentage far exceeds the statewide average of consent searches conducted at traffic stops (30%).

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Statewide, consent searches comprised 30% of all searches conducted at Texas traffic stops. Departments that conducted consent searches more frequently than this statewide average should provide local government officials and community members with legitimate and mitigating factors to explain their over-searching practices.

* Figures in this column are rounded.

** Figures in this column are not rounded and represent the actual consent search disparity.