

A Snapshot of Racial Profiling Data from the McAllen Area

2004 data

McAllen Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the McAllen 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.

The McAllen Police Department reported no consent searches of Blacks. The table below shows the rate at which Anglos and Latinos were consent searched.

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	x	x
Latinos	1.68%	0.9 times
Anglos	1.85%	

11.3% of MPD searches were consent searches (241 consent searches out of 2,140 searches).

Edinburg Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Edinburg Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	10%	1.5 times
Latinos	5.67%	0.9 times
Anglos	6.59%	

65.5% of EPD searches were consent searches (329 consent searches out of 502 searches). This percentage far 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.

Harlingen Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Harlingen Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	1.39%	1.3 times
Latinos	1.08%	equally as likely
Anglos	1.08%	

30.1% of HPD searches were consent searches (109 consent searches out of 362 searches).

Brownsville Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Brownsville Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	10%	11.1 times
Latinos	.94%	1.1 times
Anglos	.9%	

100% of BPD searches were consent searches (123 consent searches out of 123 searches). This percentage far exceeds the statewide average of consent searches conducted at traffic stops (30%).

* * * * *

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.