

A Snapshot of Racial Profiling Data from the Waco-Temple-Killeen Area

2004 data

Waco Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Waco 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	1.95%	1.3 times
Latinos	1.41%	0.9 times
Anglos	1.55%	

22.2% of WPD searches were consent searches (113 consent searches out of 509 searches).

Temple Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Temple Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	2%	2.1 times
Latinos	1.49%	1.6 times
Anglos	.94%	

53.2% of TPD searches were consent searches (205 consent searches out of 385 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.

Killeen Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Killeen Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	2.06%	3 times
Latinos	.77%	1.1 times
Anglos	.69%	

93.2% of KPD searches were consent searches (178 consent searches out of 191 searches). This percentage far exceeds the statewide average of consent searches conducted at traffic stops (30%).

Belton Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Belton Police Department

The Belton Police Department did not break out searches or consent searches by race, as required by Texas' racial profiling law (S.B. 1074).

However, BPD did provide the total number of searches and consent searches that it conducted. As such, we can calculate that **31.9%** of BPD searches were consent searches (126 consent searches out of 395 searches).

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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.

* 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.