

A Snapshot of Racial Profiling Data from the San Antonio Area

2004 data

San Antonio Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the San Antonio 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	6.95%	3.2 times
Latinos	1.95%	0.9 times
Anglos	2.2%	

12.5% of SAPD searches were consent searches (3,128 consent searches out of 25,075 searches).

Bexar County Sheriff’s Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	1.2%	1.5 times
Latinos	.7%	0.9 times
Anglos	.77%	

20.6% of BCSD searches were consent searches (172 consent searches out of 834 searches).

* 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.



SAN ANTONIO AND BEXAR COUNTY COMPARISONS:

- Anglos are 2.9 times more likely to be consent searched by San Antonio Police Department than by Bexar County Sheriff's Department.
- Blacks are 5.8 times more likely to be consent searched by San Antonio Police Department than by Bexar County Sheriff's Department.
- Latinos are 2.8 times more likely to be consent searched by San Antonio Police Department than by Bexar County Sheriff's Department.

Alamo Heights Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Alamo Heights Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	2.7%	4.9 times
Latinos	1.57%	2.8 times
Anglos	.55%	

64.1% of AHPD searches were consent searches (82 consent searches out of 128 searches). This percentage far exceeds the statewide average of consent searches conducted at traffic stops (30%).

Seguin Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Seguin Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	5.58%	5 times
Latinos	2.37%	2.1 times
Anglos	1.13%	

The Seguin Police Department did not report on total searches, as required by Texas' racial profiling law (S.B. 1074). It reported only on consent searches and incident to arrest searches.

As such, it was impossible to determine the number of consent searches as percentage of all searches.

* Figures in this column are rounded.

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

New Braunfels Police Department

Getting Consent Searched by the New Braunfels Police Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	2.11%	1.2 times
Latinos	3.02%	1.7 times
Anglos	1.73%	

The New Braunfels Police Department did not report on total searches, as required by Texas' racial profiling law (S.B. 1074). It reported only on consent searches and probable cause searches.

As such, it was impossible to determine the number of consent searches as percentage of all searches.

Comal County Sheriff's Department

Getting Consent Searched by the Comal County Sheriff's Department

	CONSENT SEARCH RATES	
	Percentage of those stopped who were consent searched*	More likely than Anglos to be consent searched**
Blacks	4.44%	0.7 times
Latinos	5.36%	0.9 times
Anglos	6.16%	

40.4% of CCSD searches were consent searches (365 consent searches out of 903 searches). This percentage 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.

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