

ANALYSIS OF 2024 TRAFFIC STOPS



The Missouri State Highway Patrol is an equal opportunity employer.

Overview

This report provides an administrative review of 2024 traffic stop data, as well as an analysis of Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) practices and bias-based profiling concerns as required, pursuant to Item II-D of General Order 62-02, Enforcement Contacts. During the annual review process, information from various sources and possible changes in directives, procedures, reporting, and training are considered. Data evolves from enforcement personnel entering traffic stop information into the Automated Field Reporting system (AFR). Data from traffic stop reporting is contained within the MSHP Automated Field Reporting Data Repository and is ultimately reported to the Missouri Attorney General pursuant to Section 560.650, RSMo. MSHP traffic stop data for 2024 was reported to the Attorney General's office prior to March 1, 2025. Trend comparisons, where noted, are from 2020 through 2024.

Traffic Stops

A total of 312,976 traffic stops were conducted by members in 2024, reflecting an 8.7% decrease in total traffic stops from the previous year. This is the first year we've seen a drop in traffic stops since 2020. Statewide traffic stops for the period 2020-2024 are represented within Figure 1.

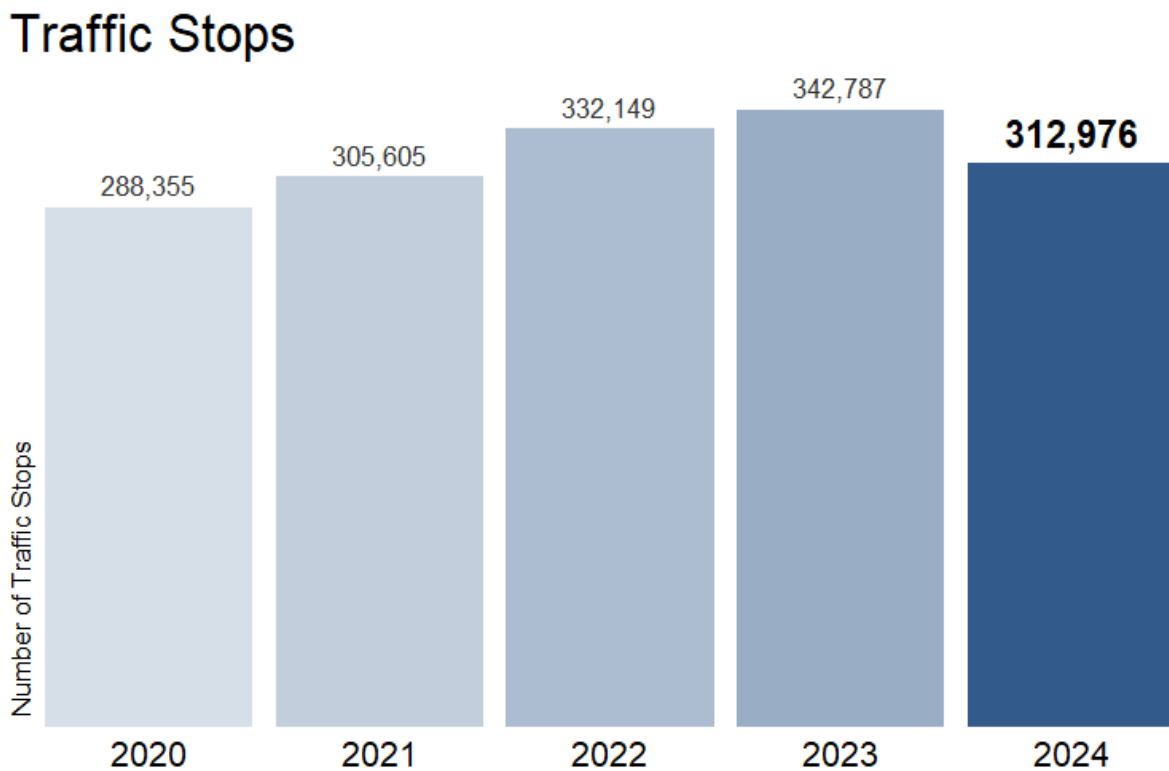


Figure 1: Total Traffic Stops

Figure 2 illustrates the percentage of stop rationale by primary classification.

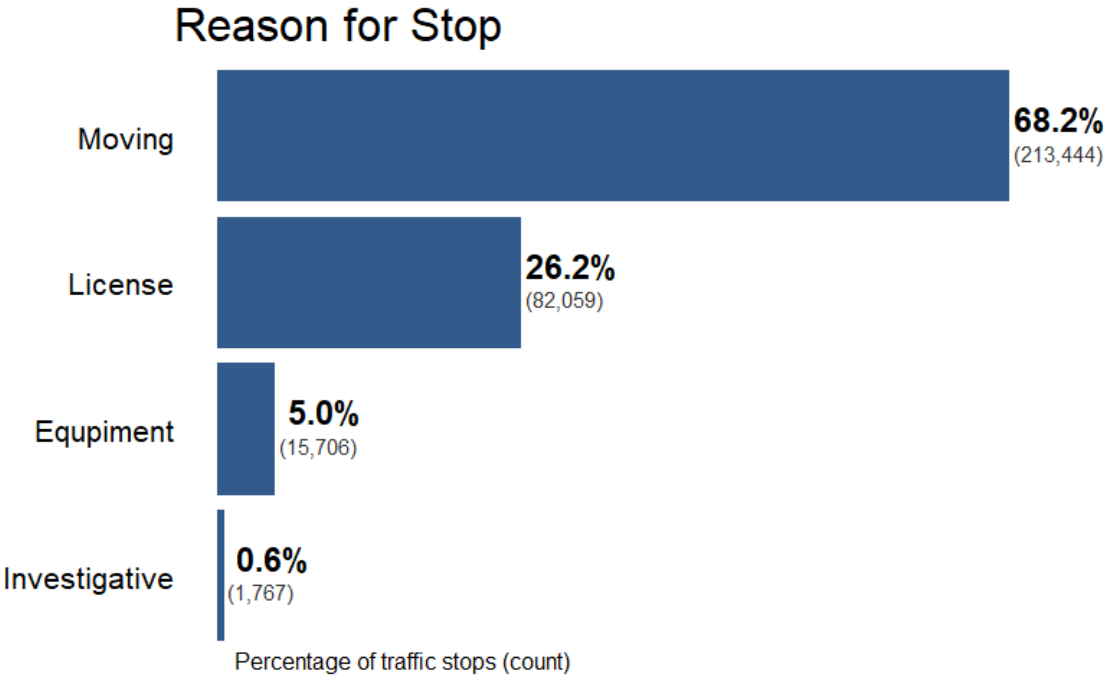


Figure 2: Reason for stop by primary classification

A total of 213,444 moving violations were reported during 2024. Figure 3 illustrates moving violation percentages by classification.

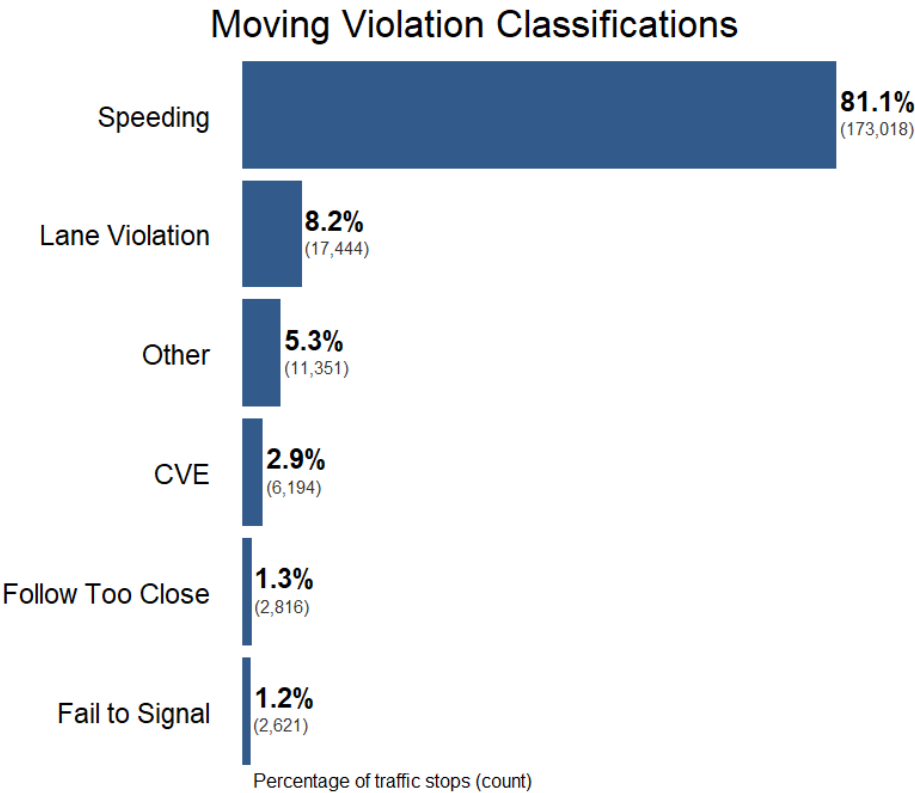


Figure 3: Moving violation percentages by classification

Combined traffic enforcement activities resulted in 578,237 actions stemming from the 312,976 traffic stops conducted during 2024. These activities resulted in citations, warnings, no action, or warrants. Overall enforcement activity is illustrated within Figure 4.

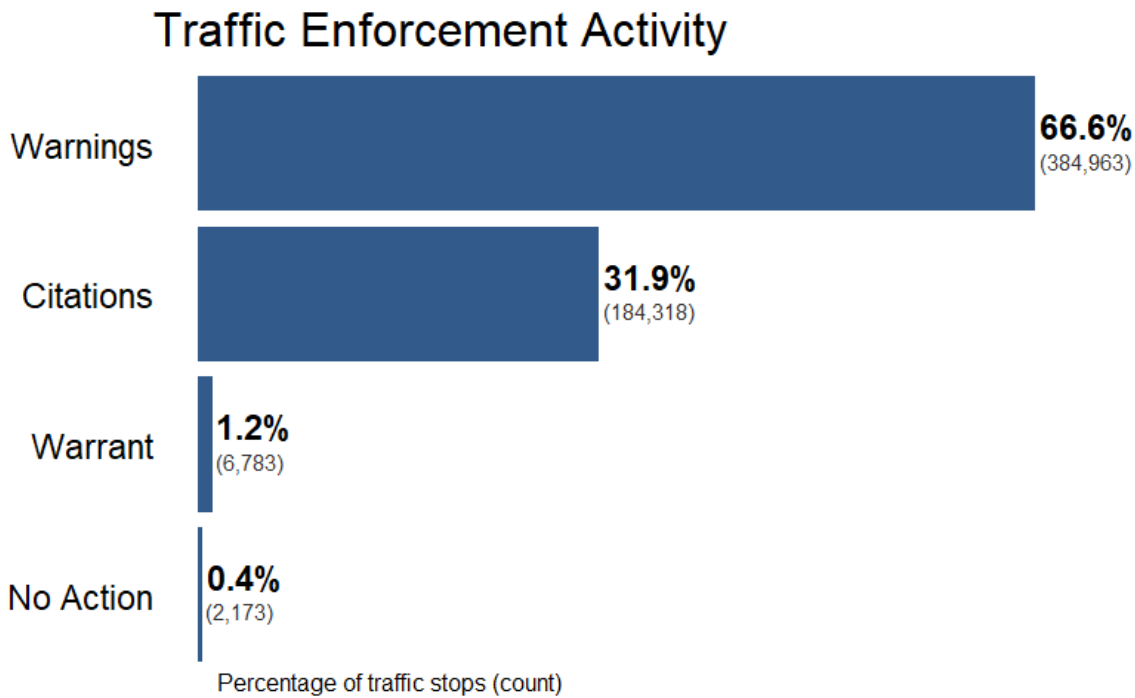


Figure 4: Traffic enforcement activity

Figure 5 illustrates enforcement activity by roadway classification.

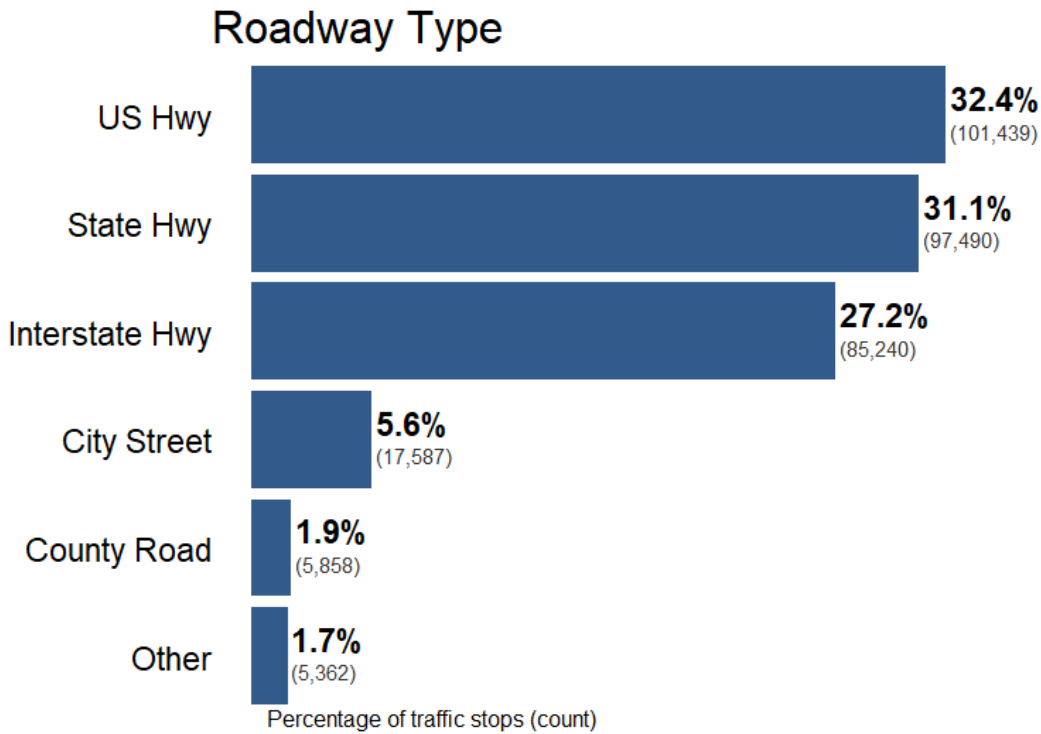


Figure 5: Enforcement activity by roadway classification

Traffic Stops - Demographics

Data collected from vehicle stops during 2024 also provided information necessary to determine if disparity was present in relation to the age and/or gender of the person contacted. The number of stops involving male and female drivers in 2024 were consistent with previous years.

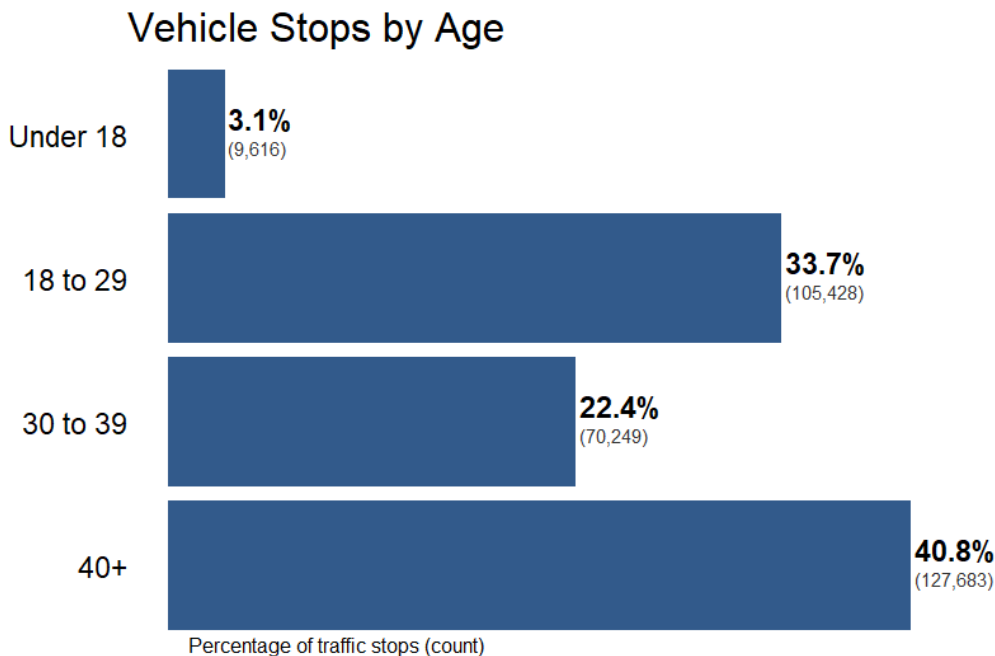


Figure 6: Vehicle stops by age

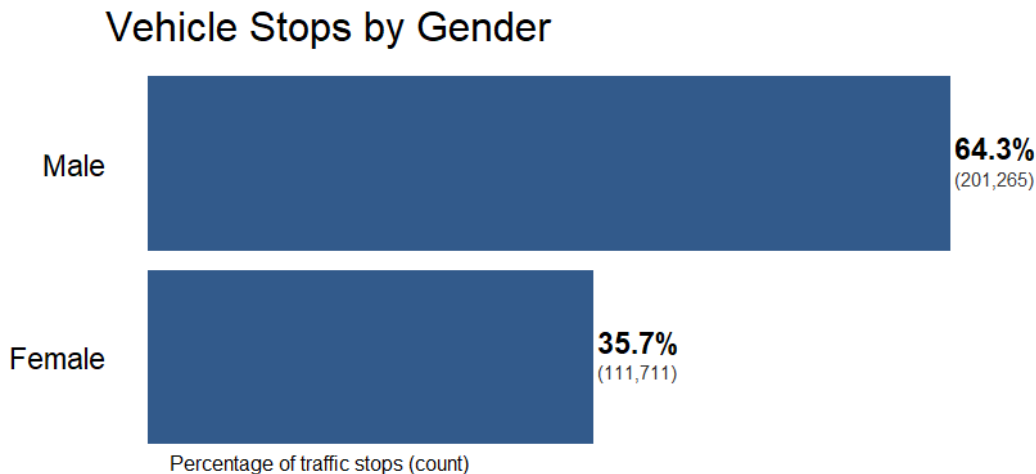


Figure 7: Vehicle stops by gender

During the past five years, percentages associated with each racial group stopped by members of the Missouri State Highway Patrol have remained consistent, as illustrated within Figure 6. When comparing the Missouri demographic estimates to the 2020-2024 United States Census Bureau estimates, vehicle stop percentages are comparable to the percentages of each racial group residing in the state.

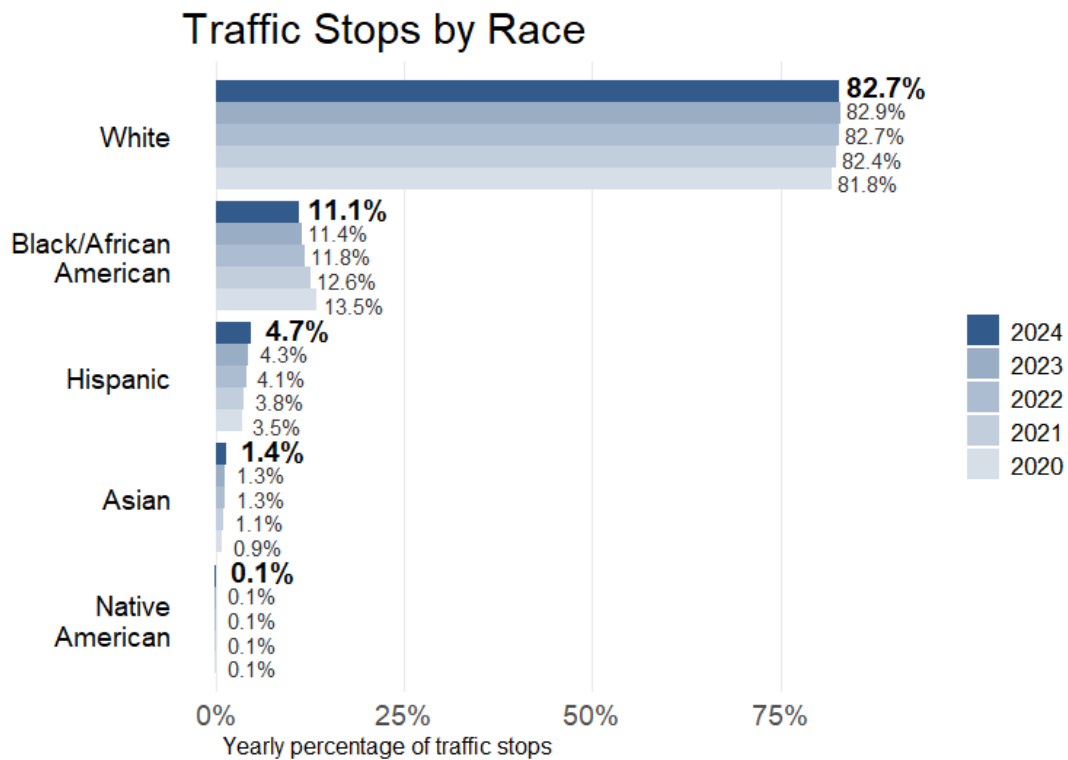


Figure 8: Traffic stop demographics

In 2024, data was available on the drivers involved in traffic stops that were Missouri residents. Out of the 312,976 traffic stops, 249,098 (79.6%) stops involved Missouri resident drivers. The demographic breakdown of these stops of Missouri resident drivers is similar to the demographic breakdown of the entire state, as illustrated in Figure 7.

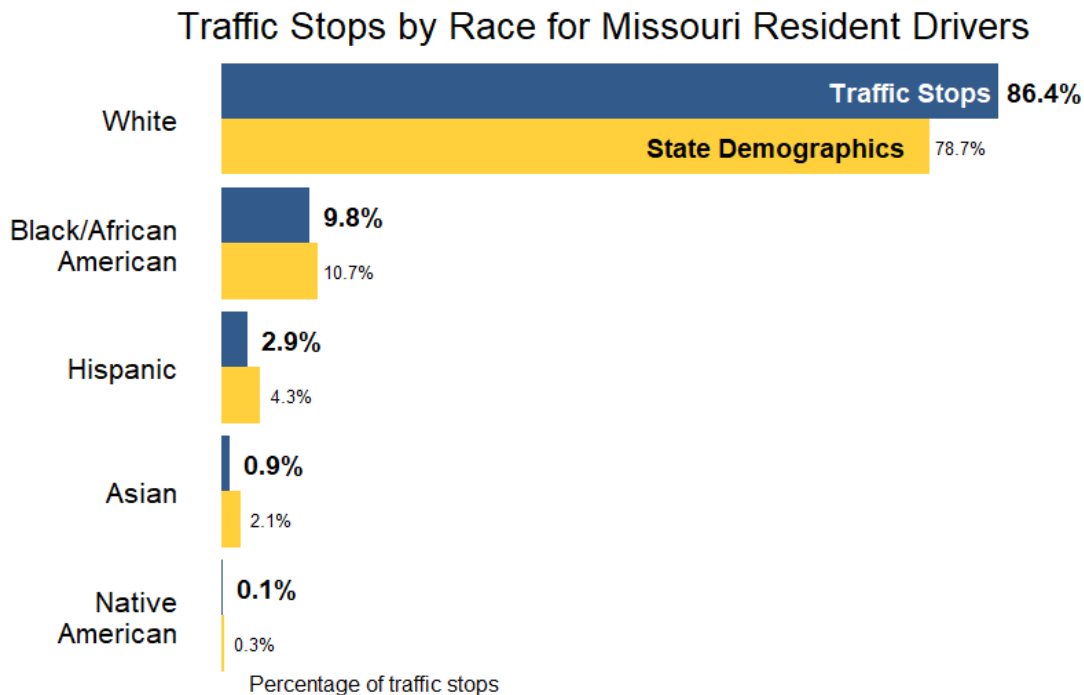


Table 9: Traffic stop demographics - Missouri resident Drivers

Traffic Stops - Searches

Search rates for 2024 were consistent with previous years across all race categories. The Attorney General monitors search rates during required annual reporting and this rate is calculated by comparing the total number of traffic stops for each race with those stops resulting in a search. During 2024, MSHP members conducted 11,300 searches; representing a 12.9% decrease in total searches conducted as compared to the previous reporting period. Figure 10 illustrates total searches compared to traffic stops conducted during 2024 for each race category.

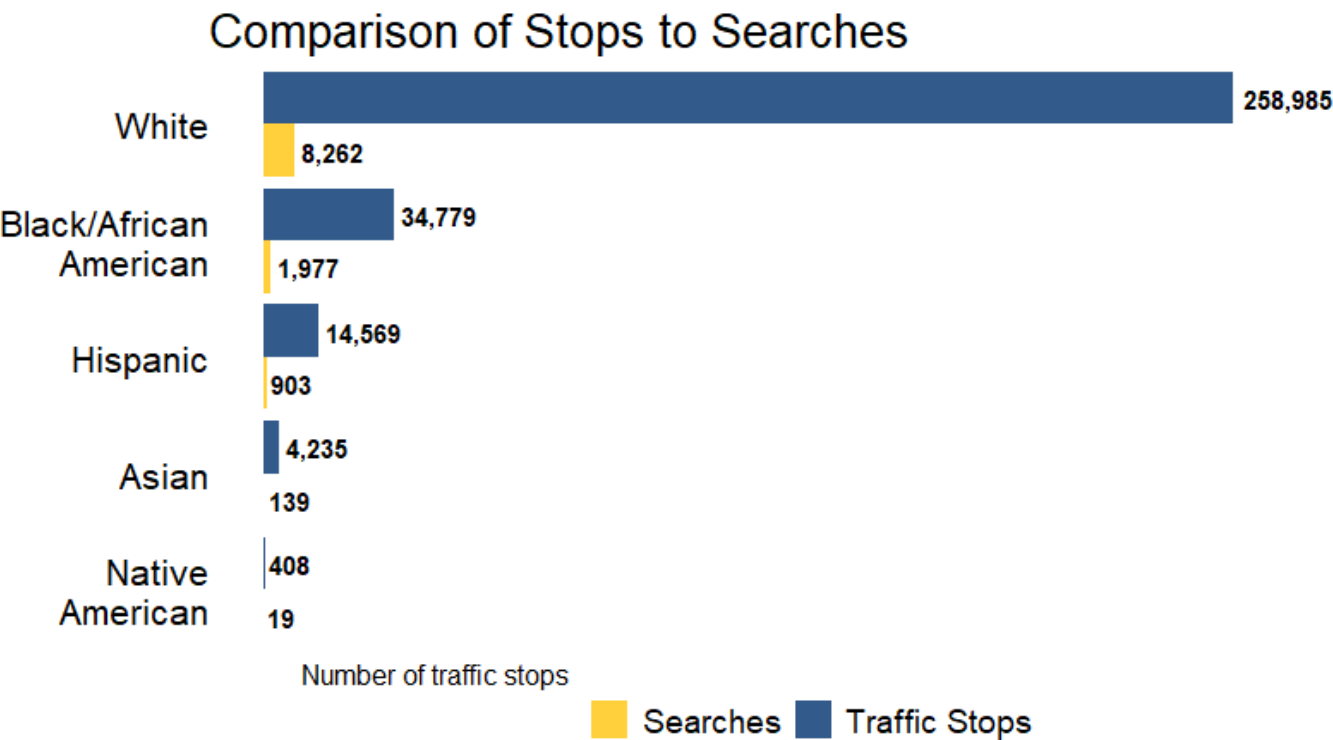


Figure 10: Vehicle search to traffic stop comparison

Search rates per 100 stops for the period 2020-2024 are represented in Table 11 and Figure 12.

Race	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average
White	5.1	4.8	4.5	3.3	3.2	4.2
Black/African American	10.5	10.3	9.9	6.1	5.7	8.5
Hispanic	8.5	8.0	7.9	7.0	6.2	7.5
Native American	10.4	8.9	8.0	6.0	4.7	7.6
Asian	3.8	4.2	4.0	3.2	3.3	3.7

Table 11: Demographic search rate

Search Rates per 100 Stops

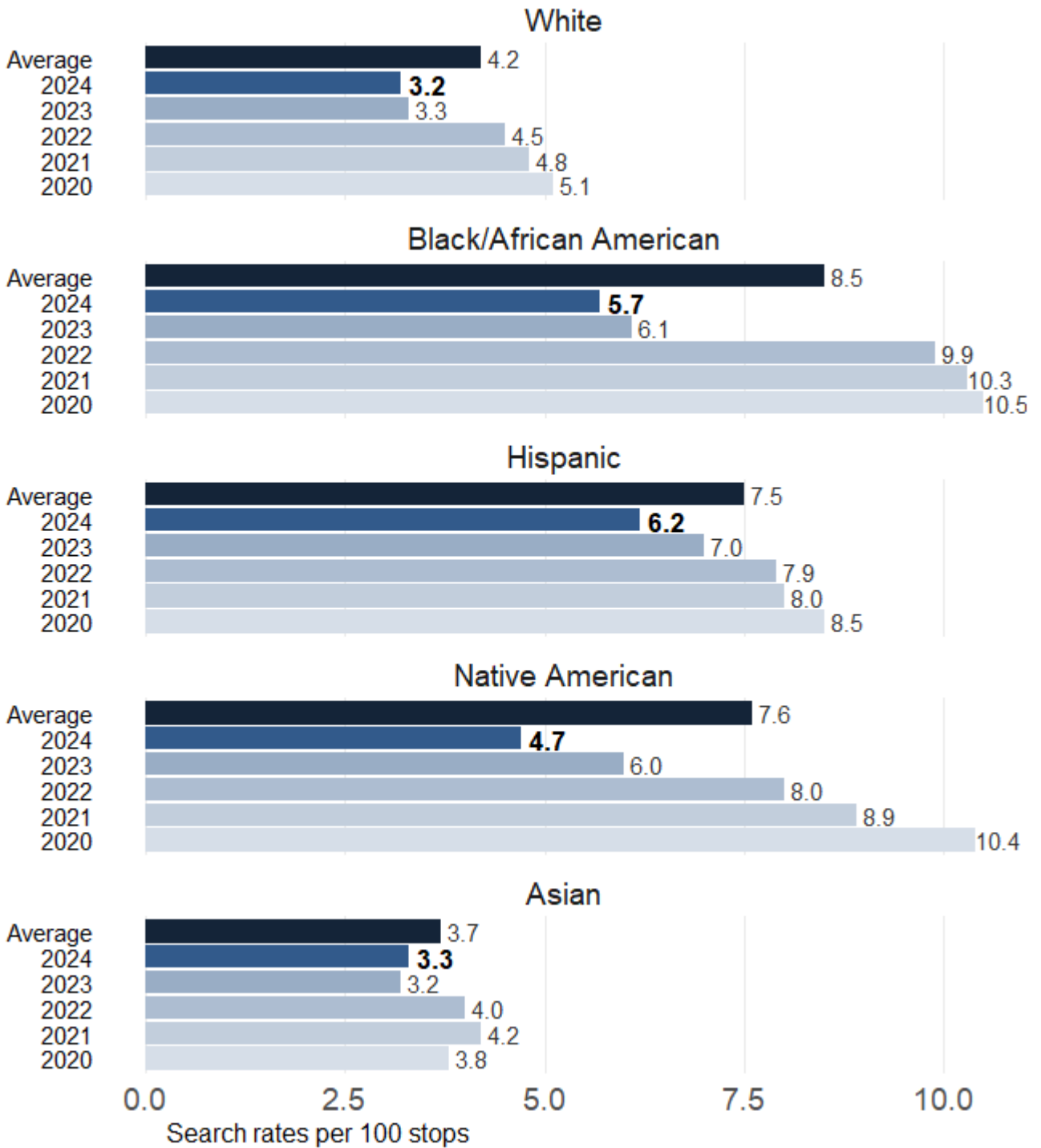


Figure 12: Demographic search rate

Search rationale for 2024 traffic stops resulting in searches are illustrated in Figures 13 and 14.

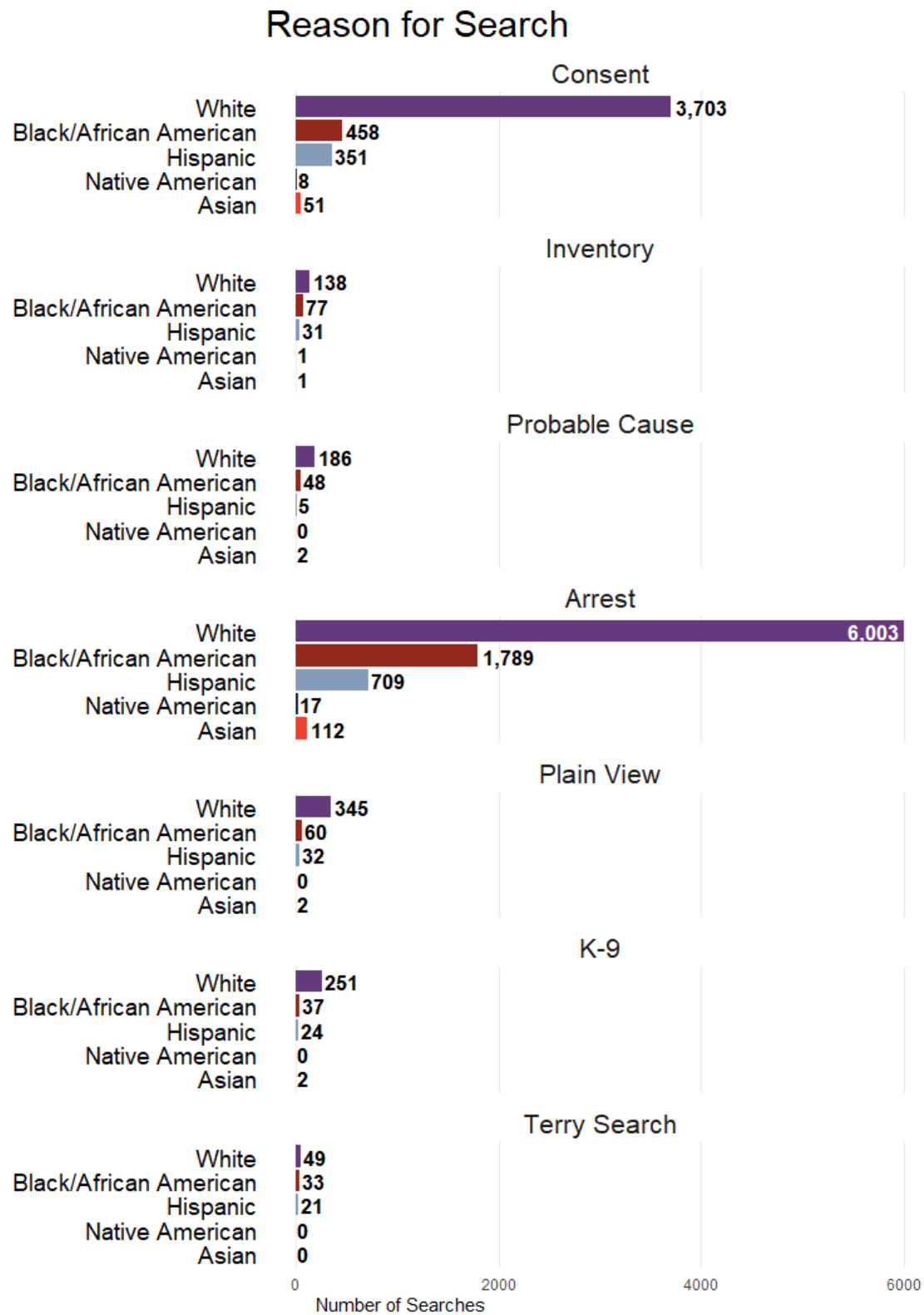


Figure 13: Reason for search by classification

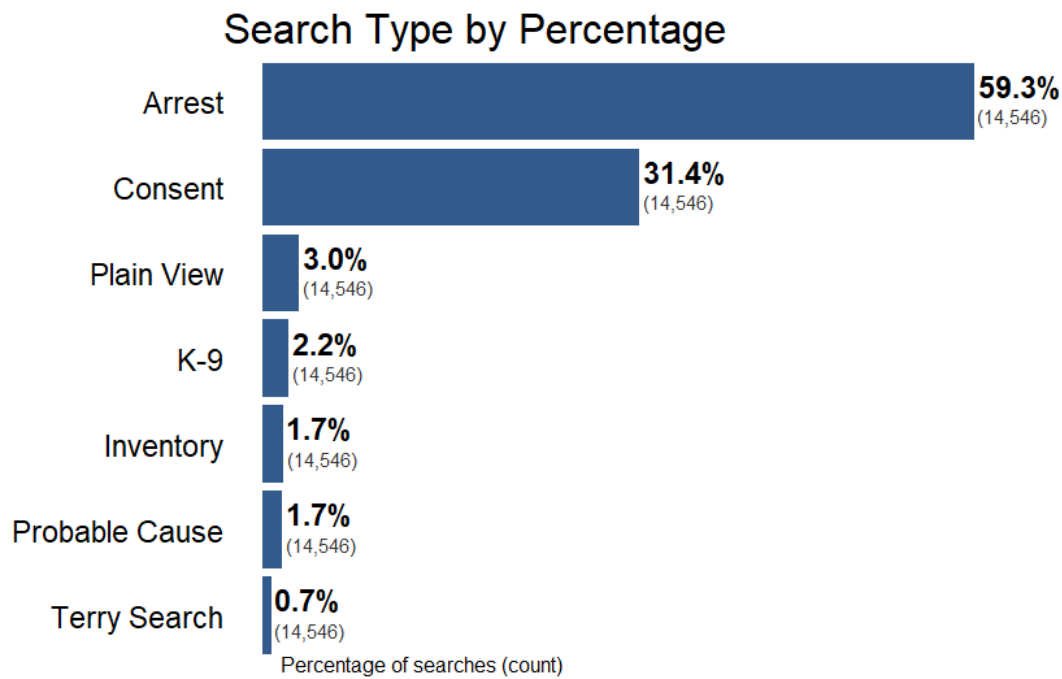


Figure 14: Search classification percentages

Figure 15 illustrates 2024 search classification percentages compared to 2023 demographics. “Other-than-consent” searches include classifications of plain view, K-9, Terry search, vehicle inventory, and incident to arrest. Minority other-than-consent searches accounted for 20.6% of all searches conducted. White other-than-consent searches accounted for 47.9% of all 2024 searches. Additionally, minority consent searches accounted for 6.0% of all 2024 searches, whereas white consent searches accounted for 25.5% of all searches conducted during this reporting period.

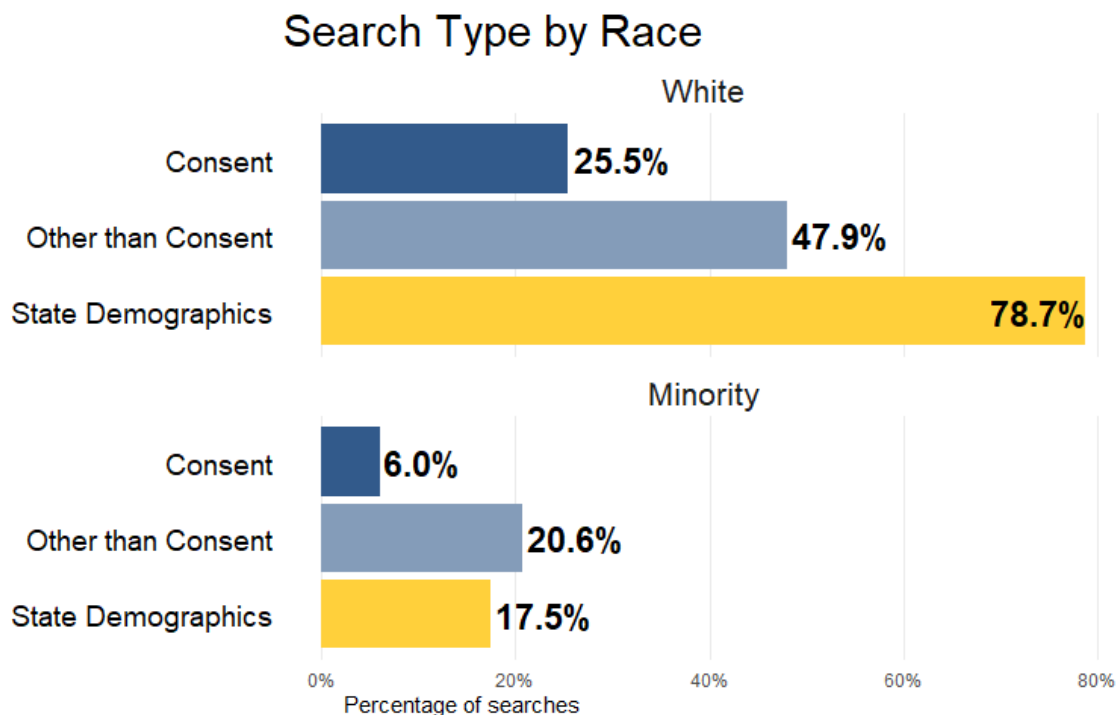


Figure 15: Demographic search percentages

Search duration periods for 2024 traffic stops were consistent with previous years.

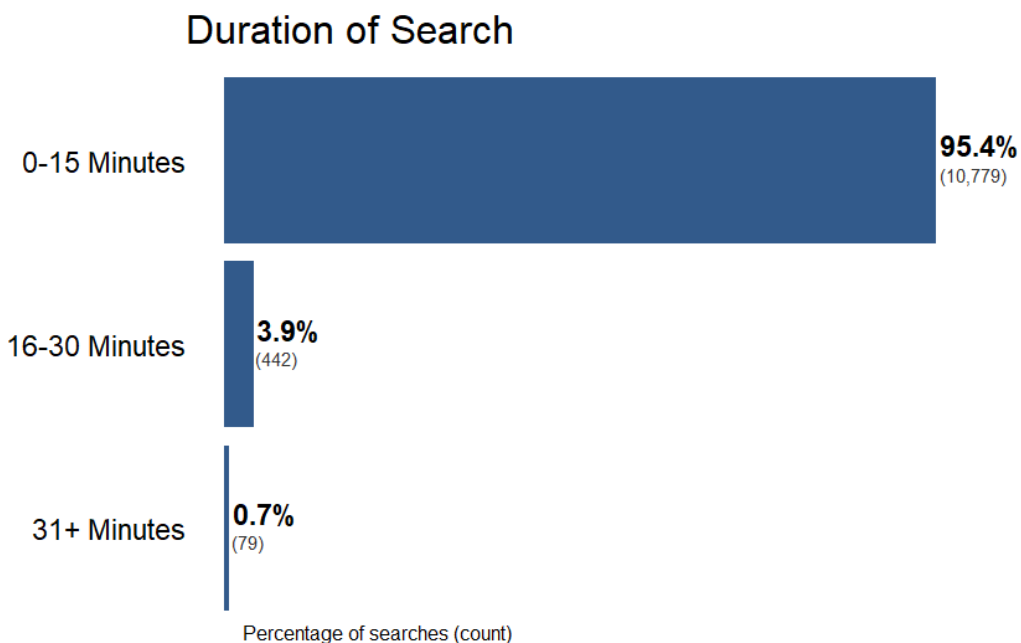
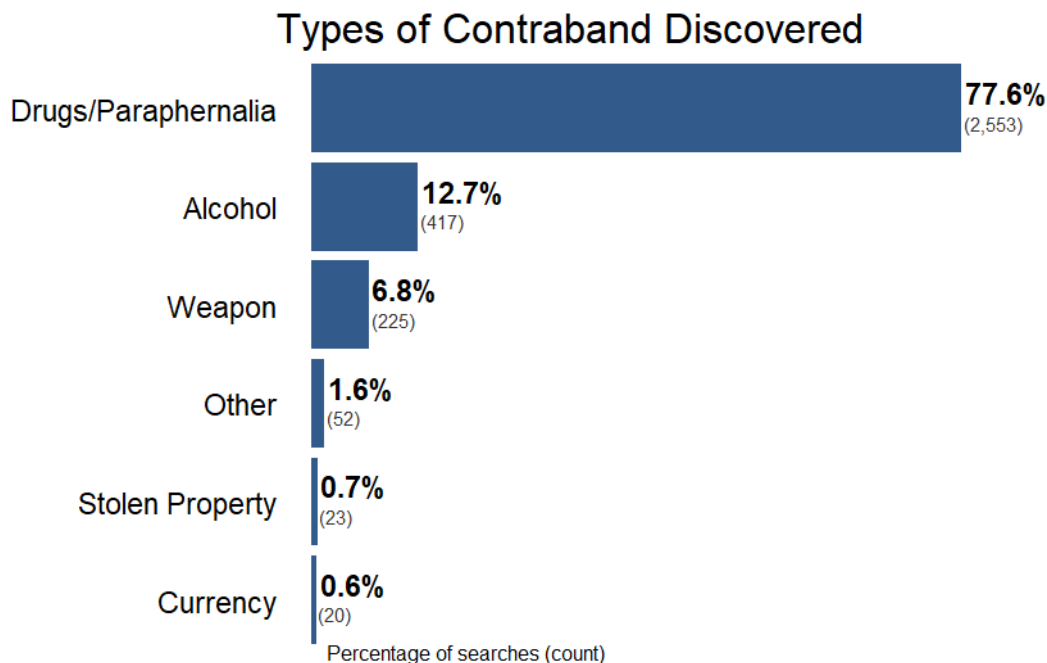


Figure 16: Duration of search by minute

Figure 17 illustrates contraband discovery percentages by category.



*Beginning in 2024 we separated Alcohol from Drugs/Paraphernalia, replicating changes made to the Missouri AG's Vehicle Stops Report.

Figure 17: Classifications of contraband discovered

Traffic Stops - Arrests

Arrest rates for 2024 decreased from previous years across all race categories except Hispanic and Asian. The Attorney General monitors arrest rates during required annual reporting. This rate is calculated by comparing the total number of traffic stops for each race with those stops resulting in an arrest. During 2024, MSHP members arrested 9,949 drivers during traffic stops; representing a 10.9% decrease in total arrests conducted as compared to the previous reporting period. Table 18 illustrates the arrest rates per 100 stops for each race.

Race	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Average
White	2.6	3.4	3.3	2.8	2.7	3.0
Black/African American	5.6	6.8	7.0	6.2	6.0	6.3
Hispanic	2.9	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.1	4.6
Native American	4.3	5.5	4.8	5.2	3.9	4.7
Asian	1.5	2.1	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.1

Table 18: Arrest demographics

Demographic arrest percentages for the period 2020-2024 are represented in Figure 19. The arrest percentage is the number of arrests for each race compared to the total number of arrests that occurred during the reporting period. The arrest percentages represented herein remain consistent over the past five years, as illustrated in Figure 20.

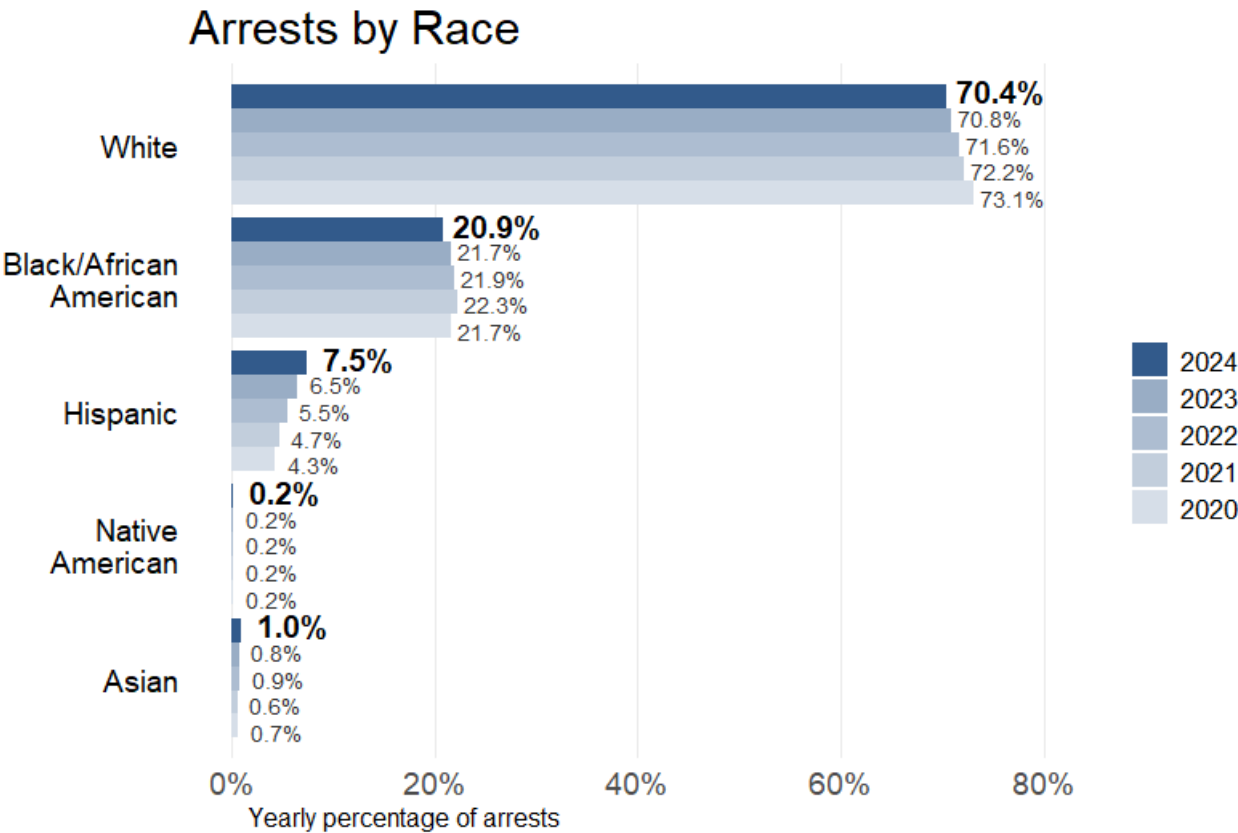


Figure 19: Demographic arrest percentages

Figure 20 illustrates arrests by race for Missouri residents. Warrant arrests contribute heavily to our overall arrest numbers as they constitute 32.2% of White arrests, 49.8% of African American arrests, 19.2% of Hispanic arrests, 13.6% of Native American arrests, and 28.9% of Asian arrests. It's also important to note that MSHP officers are required by law to conduct a physical custody arrest for an outstanding warrant.

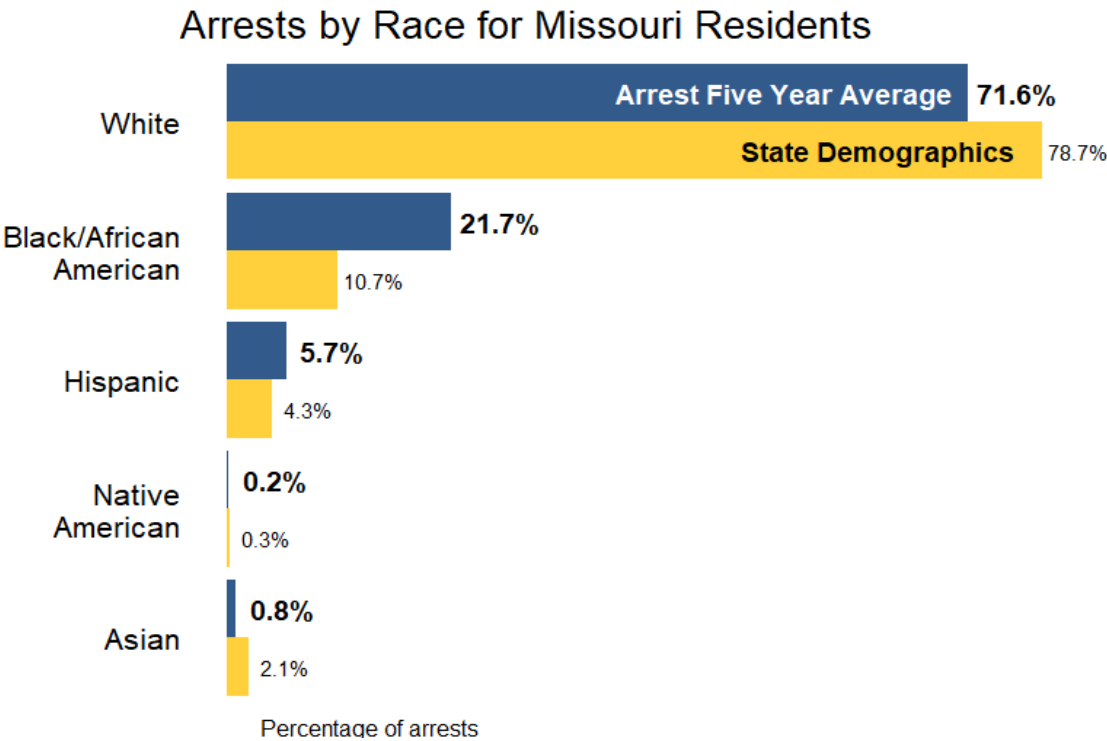


Figure 20: Demographic arrest percentages compared to population

Drivers were arrested for a variety of reasons during 2024 enforcement activities as illustrated in Table 21.

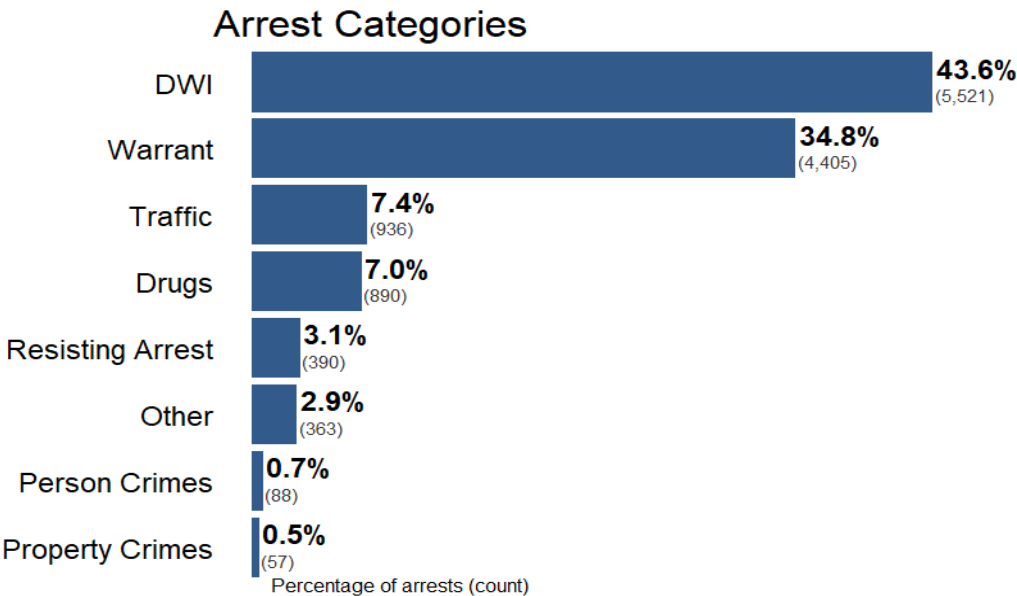


Figure 21: Arrests by classification

Figure 22 illustrates combined demographic percentages for vehicles stopped, drivers arrested, vehicles searched, and contraband discovered during this reporting period.

Comparative Demographic Percentages

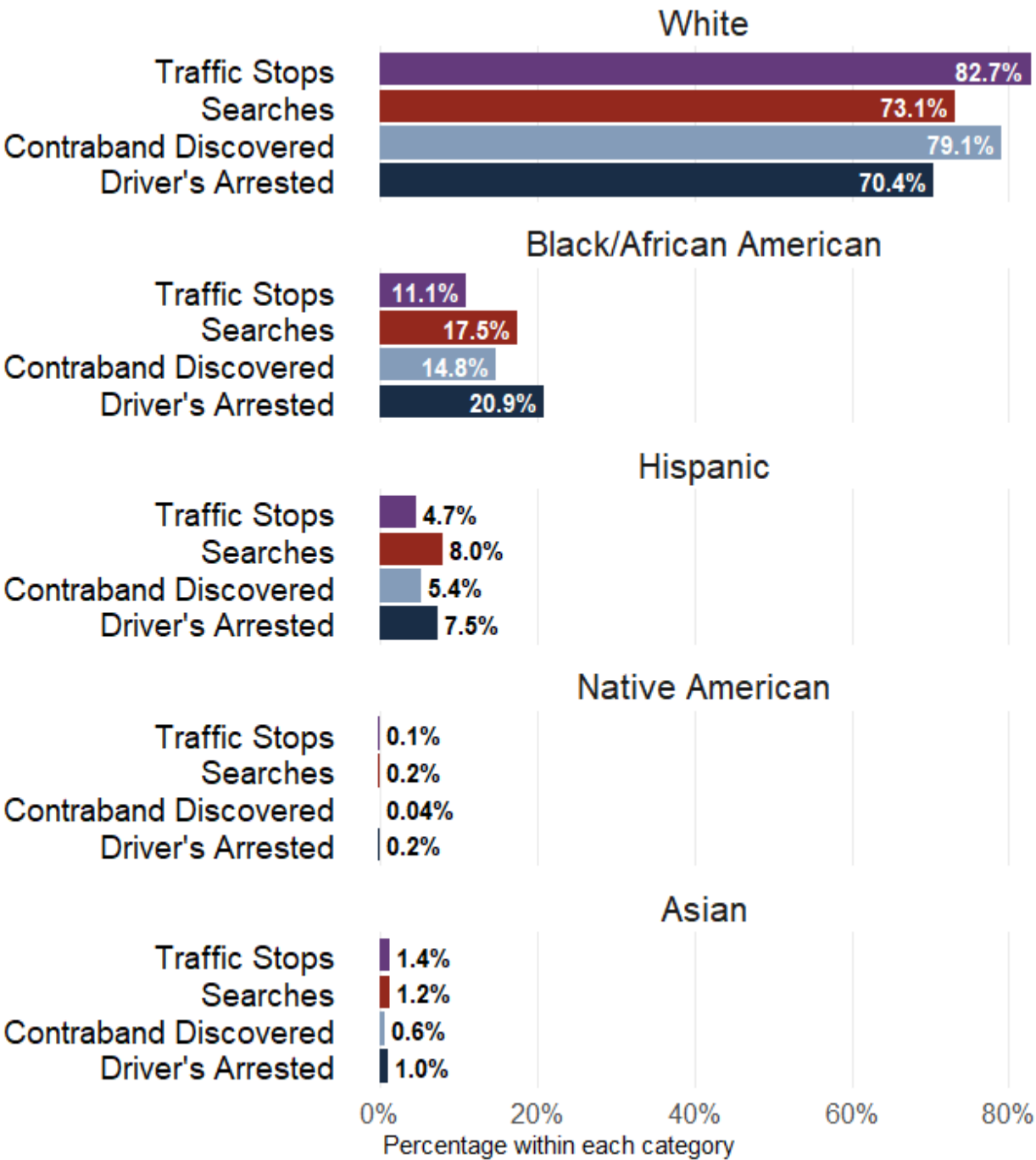


Figure 22: Demographic arrest percentages

Figure 23 illustrates demographic arrest, search, and contraband discovery rates for this reporting period.

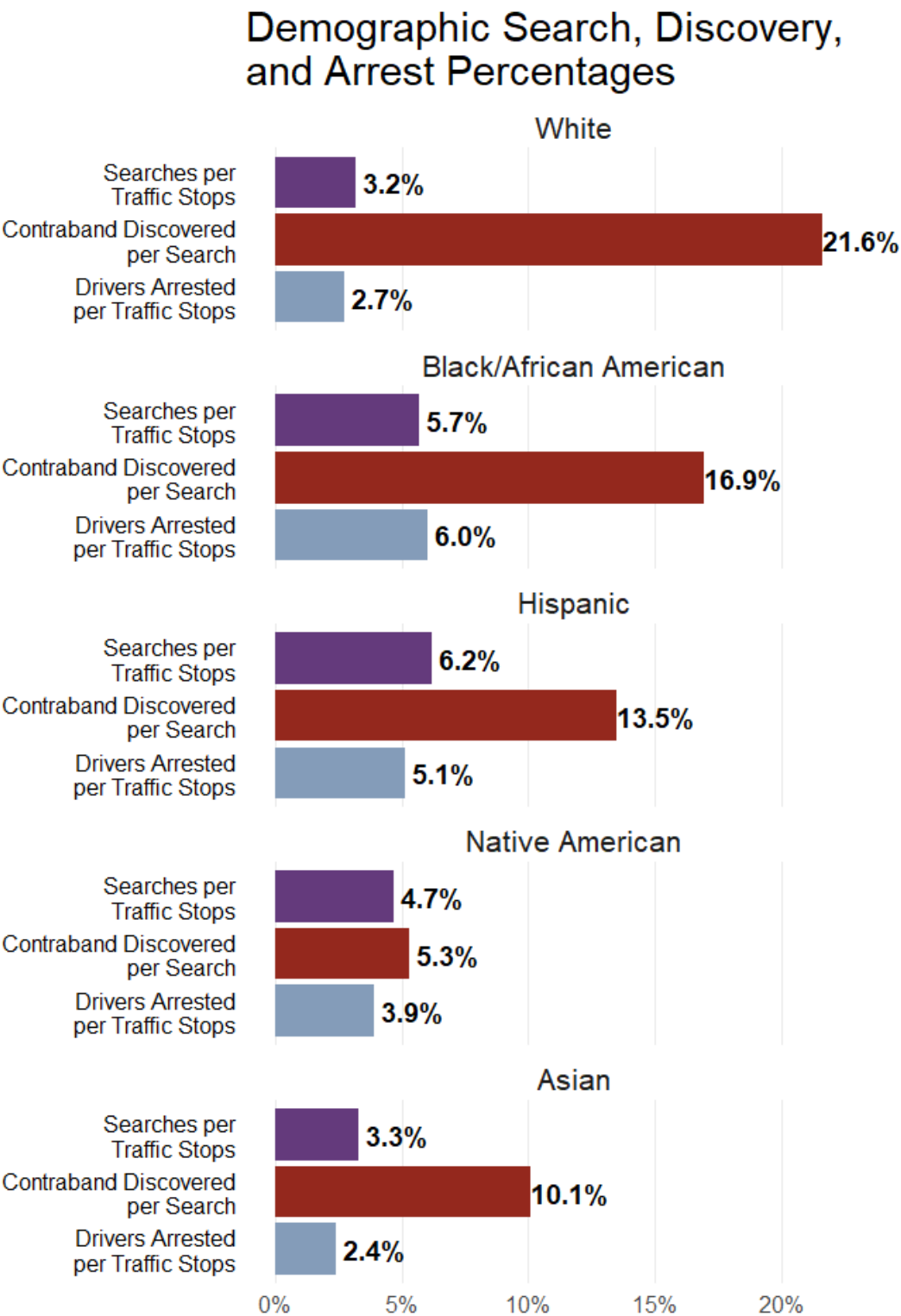


Figure 23: Arrest, search and discovery by demographic