

Over-Policing of Racialized Youth in Toronto

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Outline

- Research Context
- Research Questions
- Data Sources
- Analysis
- Findings
- Conclusions

Research Context

Racial Profiling:

- When members of certain racial or ethnic groups are subjected to greater levels of criminal justice surveillance than others
- Typically defined as a racial disparity in:
 - police stop-and-search practices
 - racial differences in custom searches at airports and border-crossings
 - increased police patrols in minority neighbourhoods and undercover activities
 - sting operations which target particular ethnic groups.

Research Context

- **UK and US:** official police data suggest that racial minorities come under greater criminal justice surveillance
- **Canada:** police are not required to report on the race of the people they target for field investigations.
 - Historically, Black people in major Canadian cities, including Toronto, Montréal and Halifax have complained that they are frequently stopped, questioned and searched by the police.
 - A number of ethnographic studies and surveys suggest that racial profiling may also exist in Canada.

Research Context

- Very few systematic studies have examined the experiences of particular demographic groups such as racialized youth.
- Our study addresses this gap by examining the relationship between police stoppages, age, race and location of police stoppages.

Research Questions

Police Stoppages ~ Race

- Do racialized people experience significantly more police stoppages than non-racialized people?
 - Do racialized people experience significantly more police stoppages than non-racialized people for specific, unspecific or heavy crime reasons?

Police Stoppages ~ Race ~ Location

- Do racialized people experience significantly more police stoppages in the 13 priority neighbourhoods or downtown areas than in 'other' neighbourhoods?
 - Do racialized people experience significantly more police stoppages in the 13 priority neighbourhoods or downtown areas than in 'other' neighbourhoods for specific, unspecific or heavy crime reasons?

Police Stoppages ~ Age ~ Race

- Are racialized youth who are stopped by the police significantly younger than non-racialized youth?
 - Are racialized youth who are stopped by the police for specific, unspecific or heavy crime reasons significantly younger than non-racialized youth?

Age ~ Race ~ Location ~ Police Stoppages

- Are racialized youth who are stopped by police in the 13 priority neighbourhoods or downtown areas significantly younger than in 'other' neighbourhoods?
 - Are racialized youth who are stopped by police for specific, unspecific or heavy crime reasons significantly younger in the 13 priority neighbourhoods or downtown areas than in 'other' neighbourhoods?

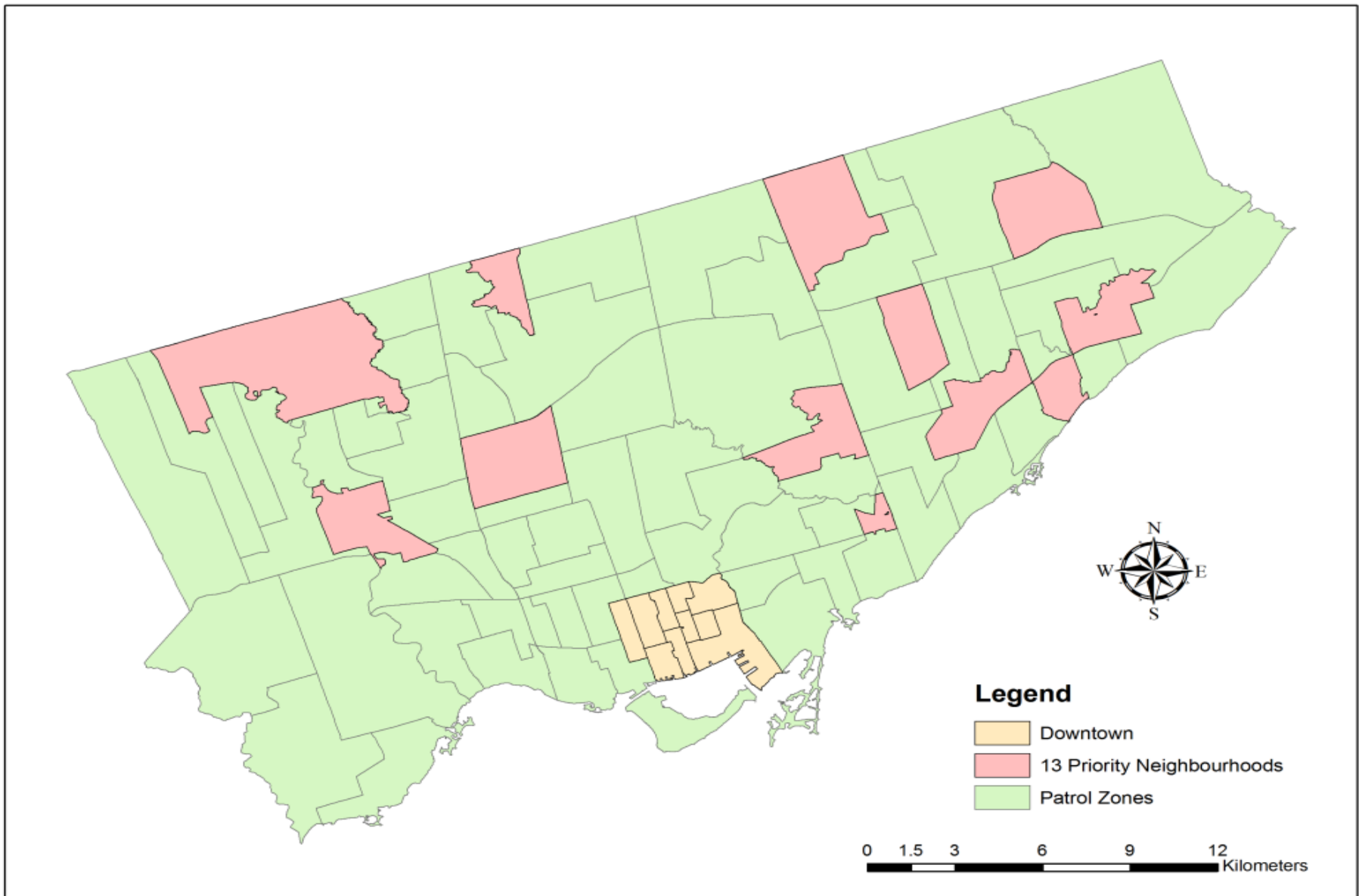
Data Sources

- **Police contact card data:**

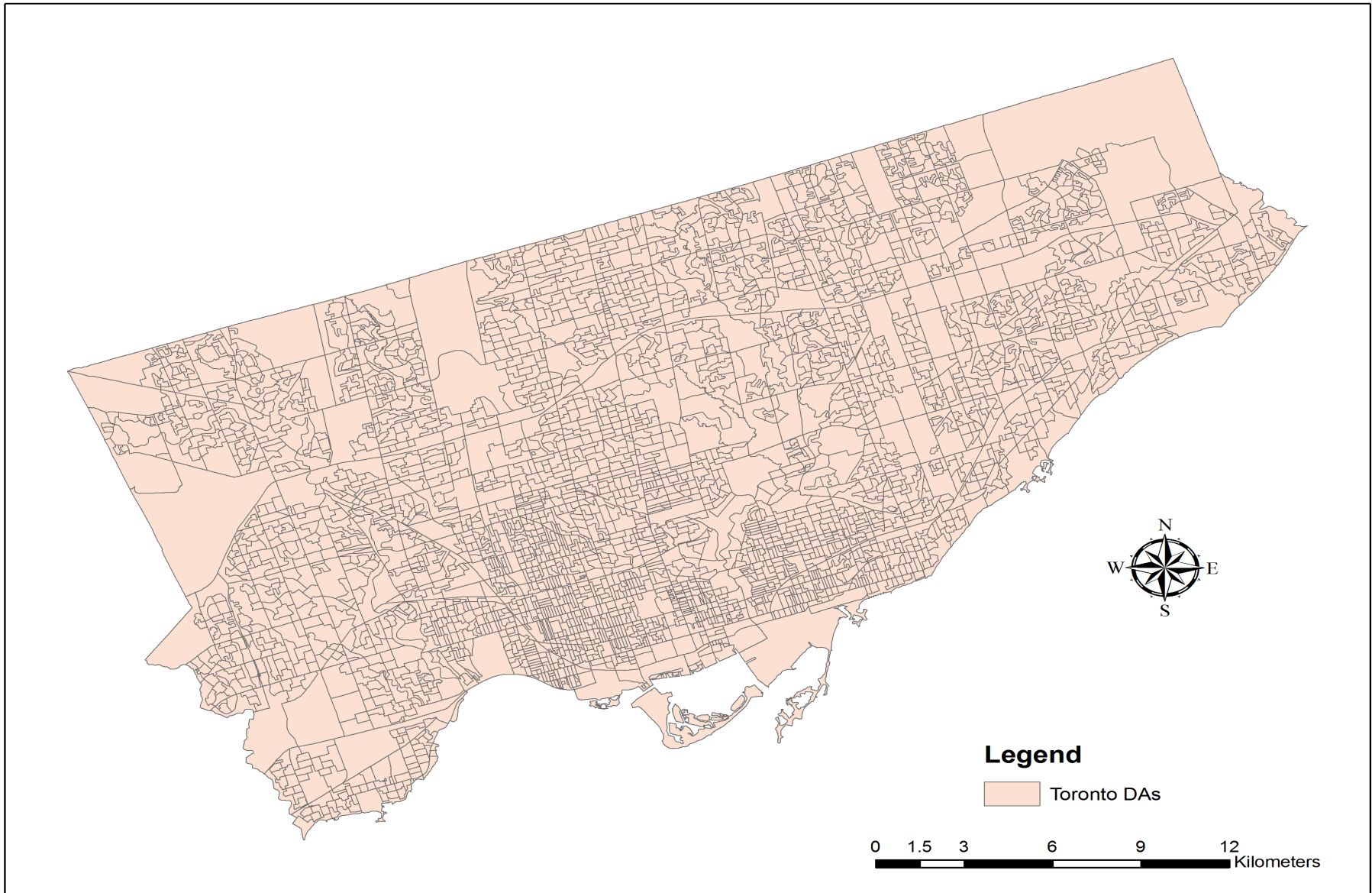
- A secondary data set that details who Toronto police choose to stop and document in encounters that usually result in no arrest or charges known as 208 cards.
 - Age (Youth or not; 15-29)
 - Skin colour (who; black, brown, other, and white)
 - Brown: “Brown” classified as South Asian, West Asian and Arab.
 - “Other” is any visible minority other than Black or South Asian, West Asian or Arab.
 - Reasons (why or for what; specific, unspecific, or heavy crime)
 - Time (when or what time; daytime or night-time, 8 am, 8 pm)
 - Patrol zones (where; totally 73 patrol zones, 13 priority neighbourhoods, downtown, and other neighbourhoods)
- Data was obtained by Toronto Star using the freedom of information act.

Data Sources

- **The boundaries of 13 priority neighbourhoods in Toronto**
 - United Way Toronto
- **The boundary of Toronto Downtown**
 - United Way Toronto
- **Statistics Canada 2006 data** (population and visible minority data)
 - Statistics Canada



Note: Analysis is conducted at the patrol zone level



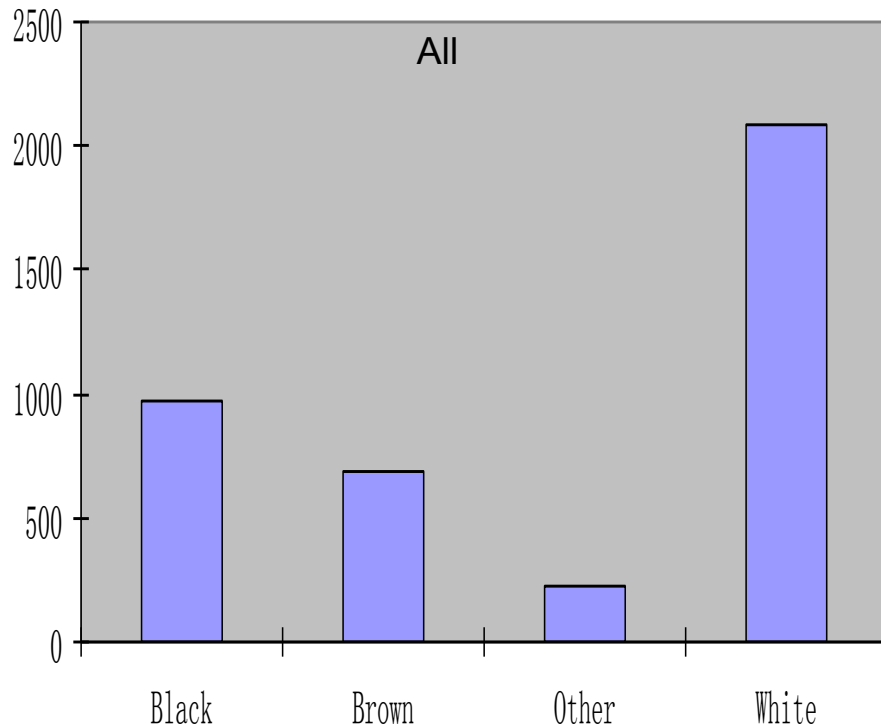
Note: Population and visible minority data are aggregated in the Dissemination Areas (DAs) level

Analysis

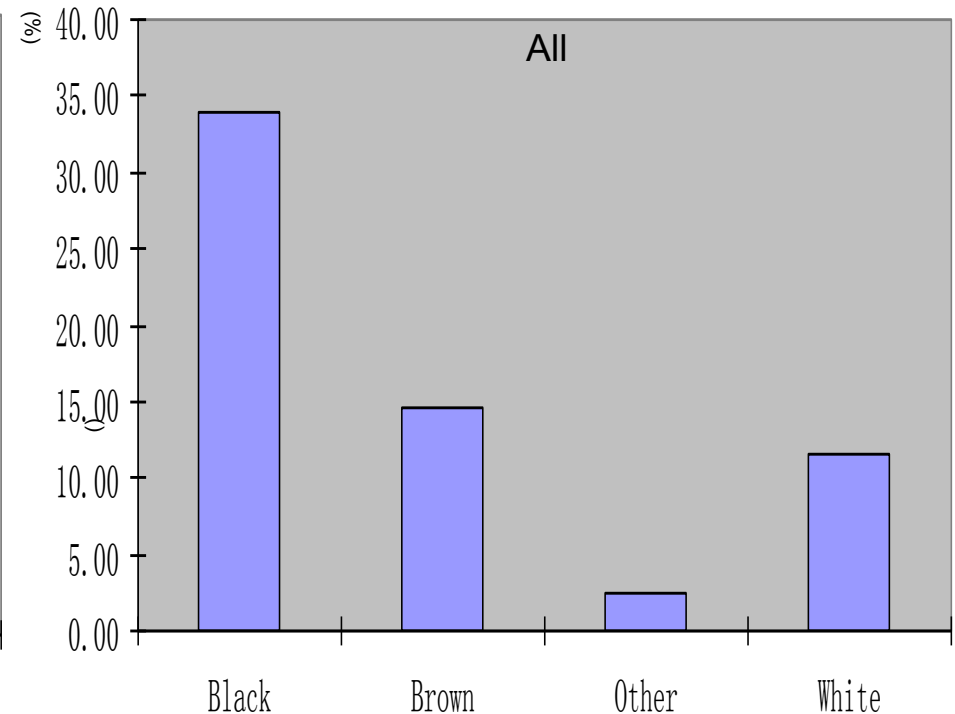
- Geo-spatial analysis
 - Polygon in polygon analysis
- Statistical analysis
 - Kruskal-Wallis Test
- Normalization of data
 - the number of stoppages for each category is divided by the total population for each category in order to get the percentage of the population subjected to stoppages.

FINDINGS

What is Normalization?

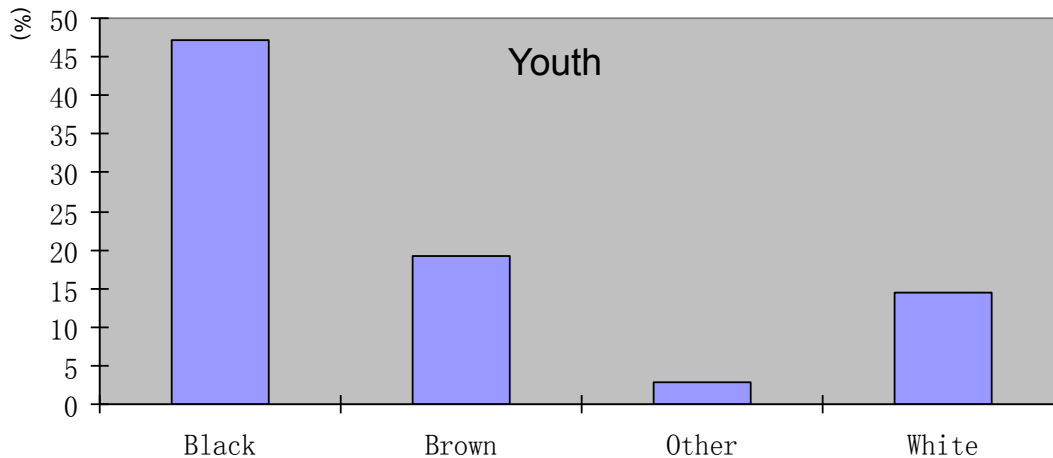
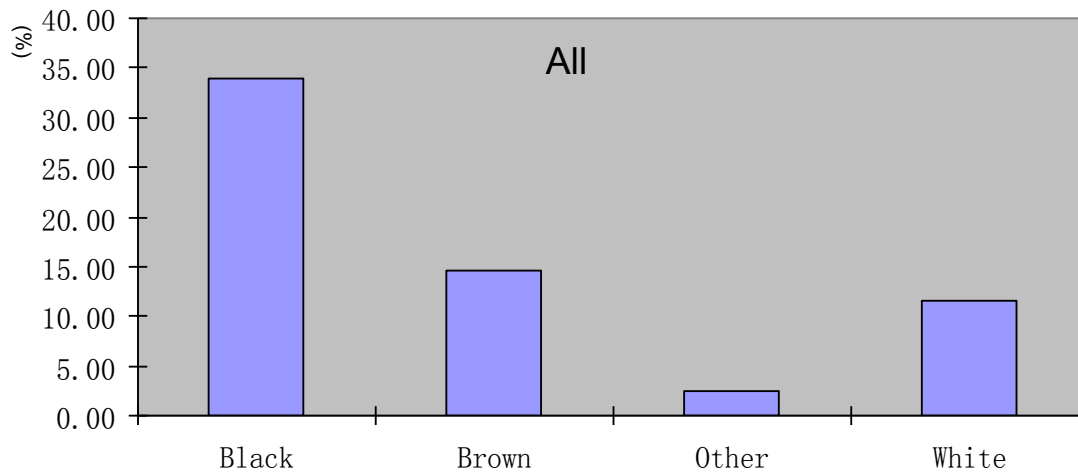


If the number of police stoppages is not normalized by the population
White > Black > Brown > Other



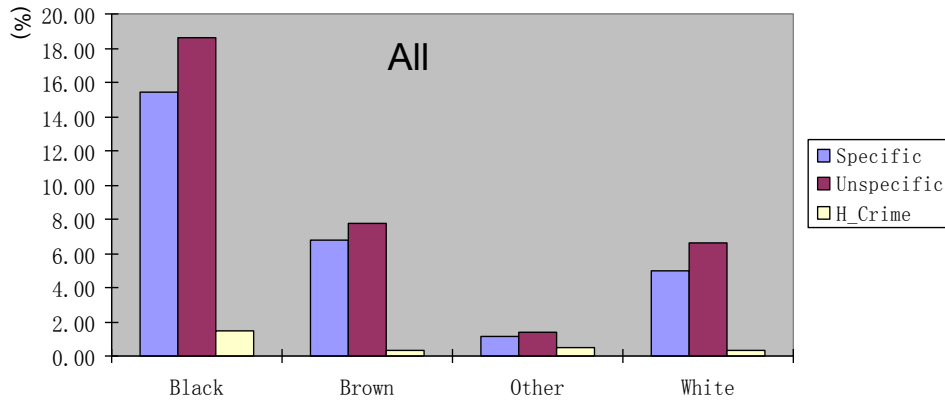
If the number of police stoppages is normalized by the population
Black > Brown > White > Other

Police stoppages ~ Race

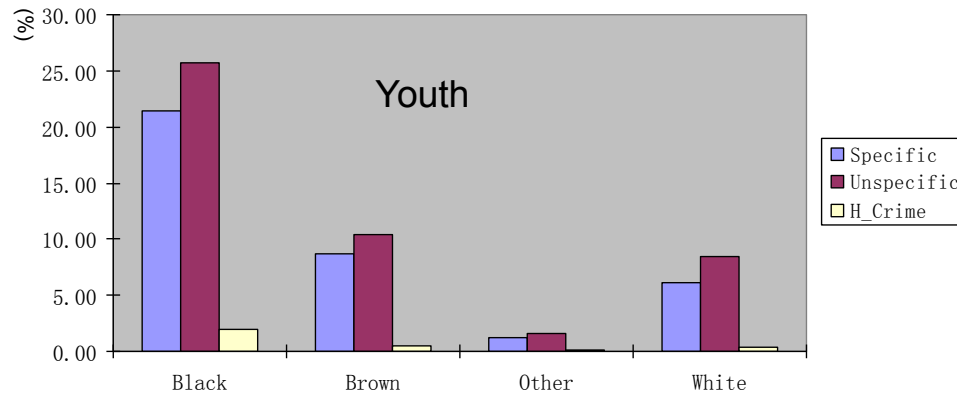


Across all age groups, a higher percentage of racialized groups are subjected to police stoppages.

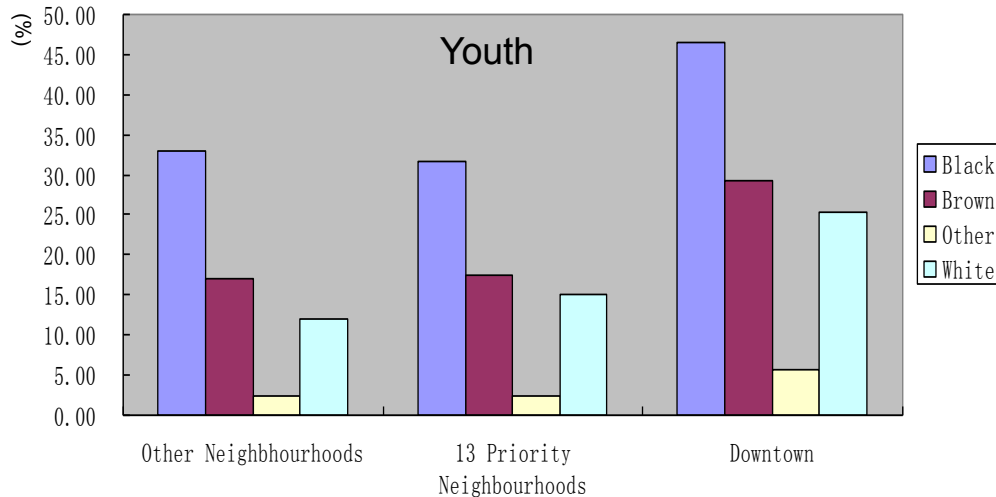
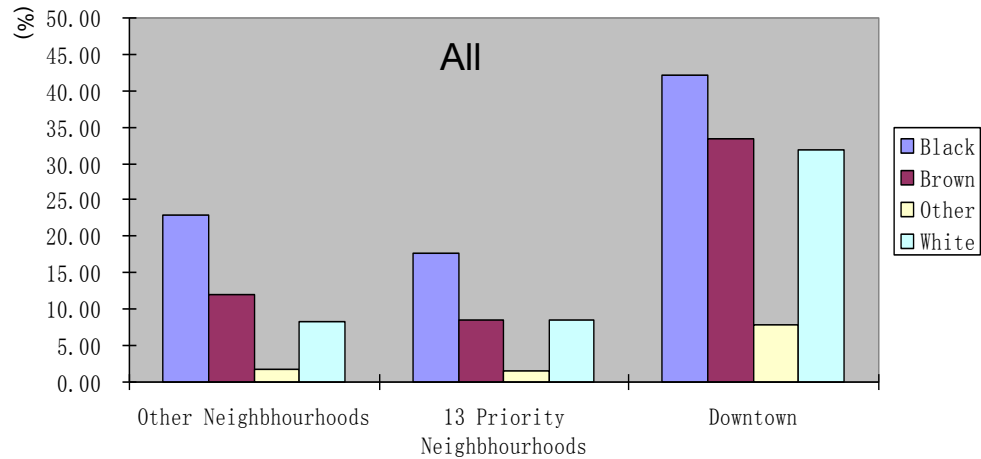
Police Stoppages ~ Reason ~ Race



Across all race categories, police stoppages are most frequently for non-specific reasons (e.g. general investigation or for suspicious activity).

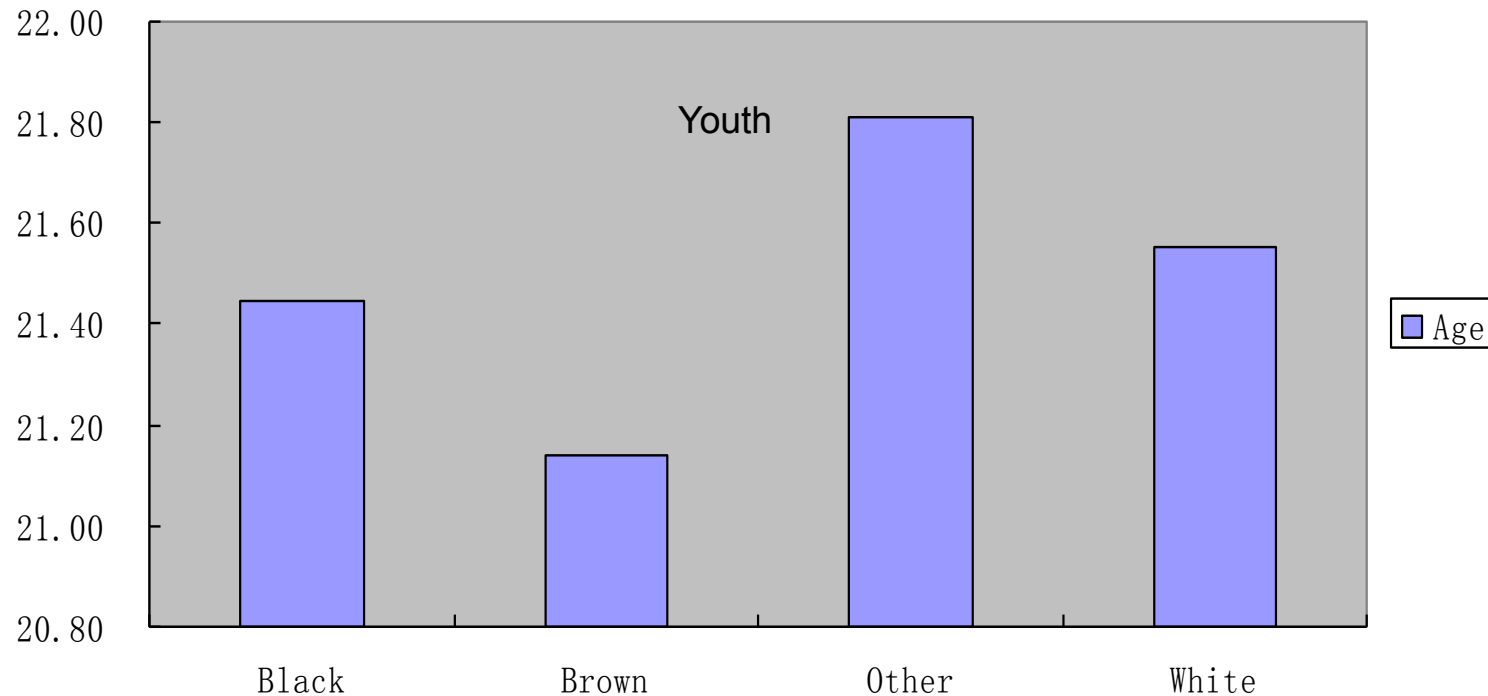


Police Stoppages ~ Race ~ Location



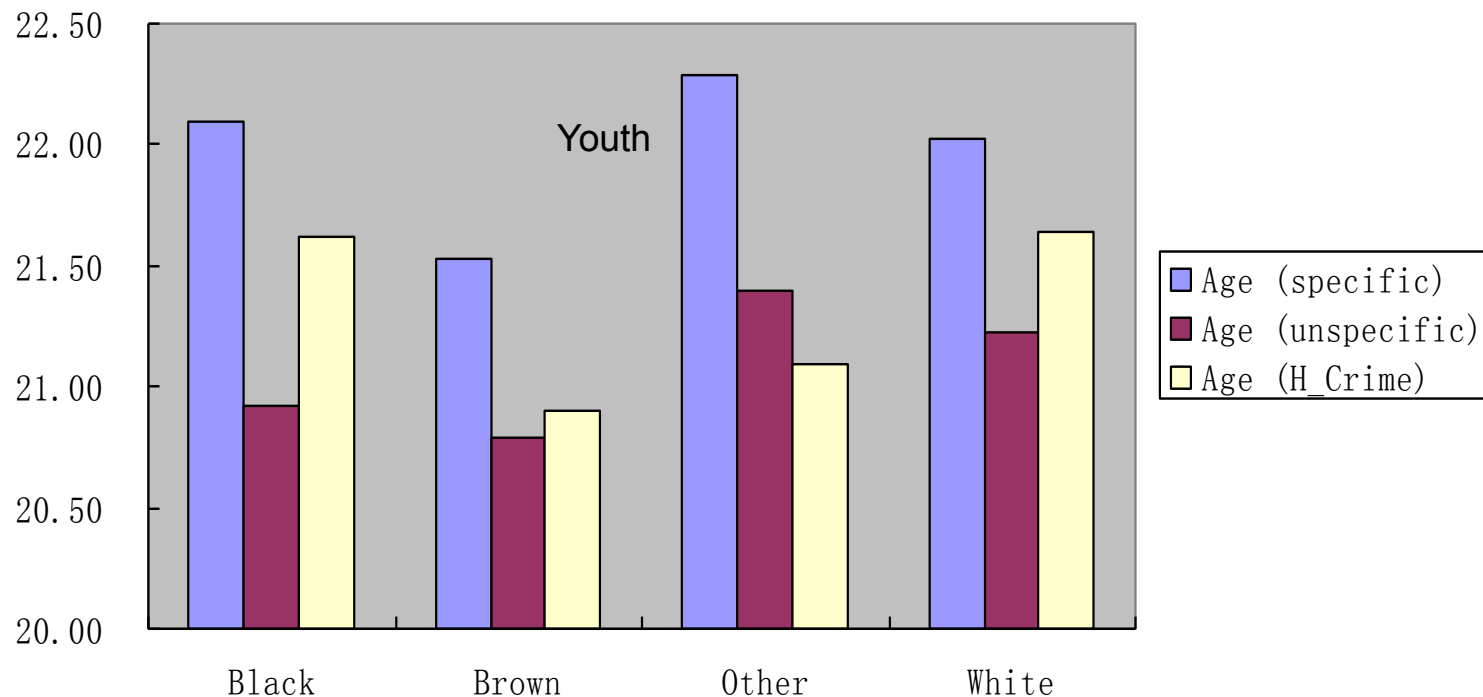
Racialized groups are subjected to a higher rate of stoppages outside of the 13 priority neighbourhoods

Police Stoppages ~ Age of youth ~ Race



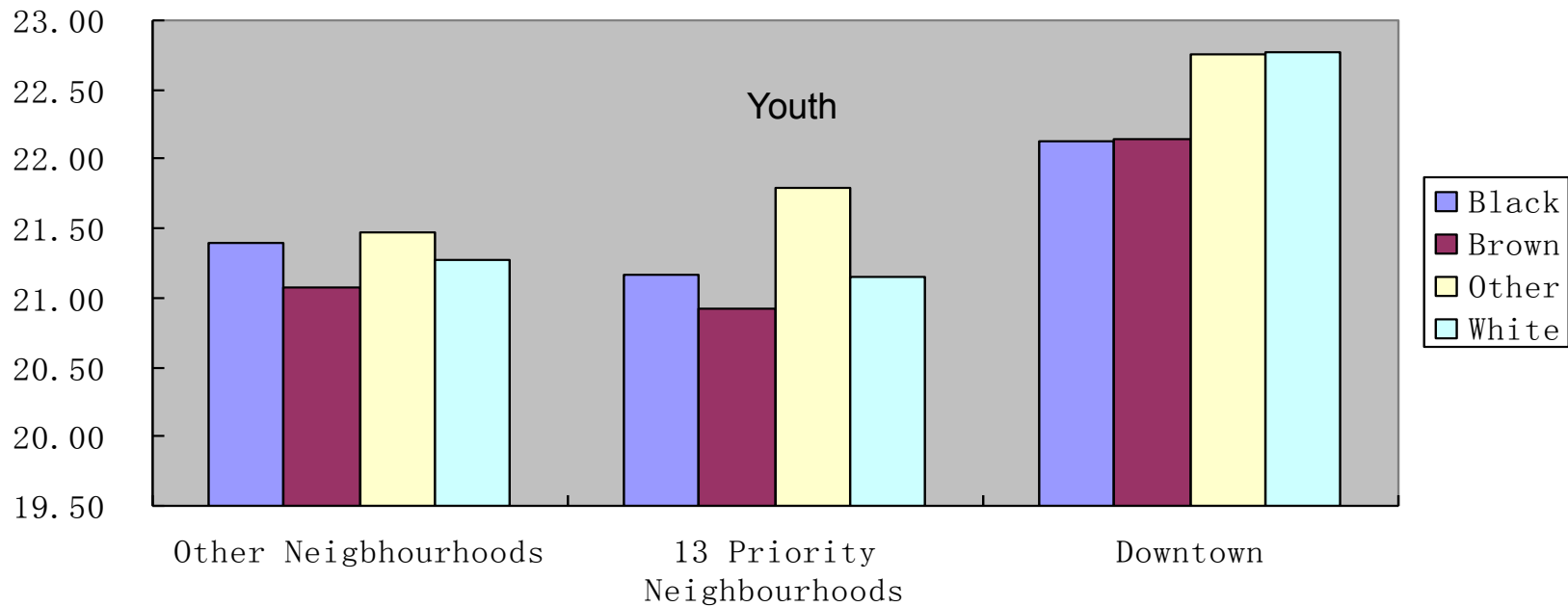
**Age of youth being stopped:
Other > White > Black > Brown**

Police Stoppages ~ Age of youth ~ Race ~Reasons for Stoppage



- Age of youth being stopped for specific and unspecific reasons: Other > White > Black > Brown
- Age of youth being stopped for heavy crime reasons: White > Black > Other > Brown

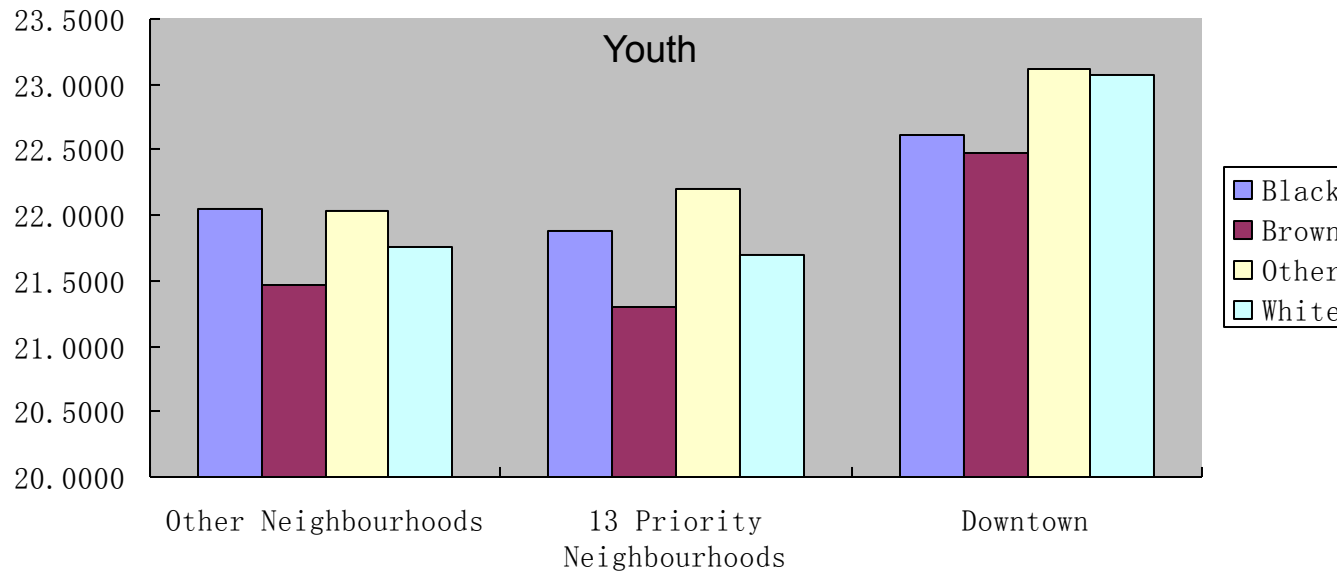
Police Stoppages ~ Age of youth ~ Race ~ Location



Age of youth being stopped:

- For black, brown and white youth: Downtown > other neighbourhoods > 13 priority Neighbourhoods
- For other youth: Downtown > 13 priority Neighbourhoods > other neighbourhoods

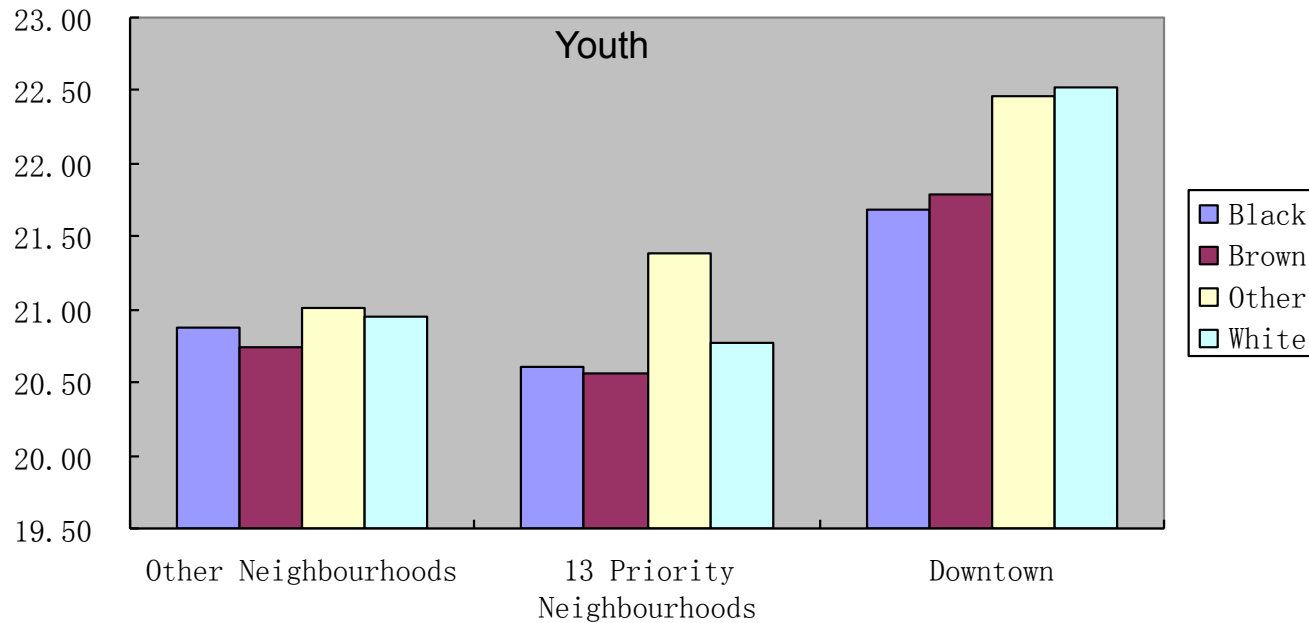
Police Stoppages ~ Age of youth ~ Race ~ Location



Age of youth being stopped for specific reasons:

- For black, brown and white youth: Downtown > other neighbourhoods > 13 priority Neighbourhoods
- For other youth: Downtown > 13 priority Neighbourhoods > other neighbourhoods

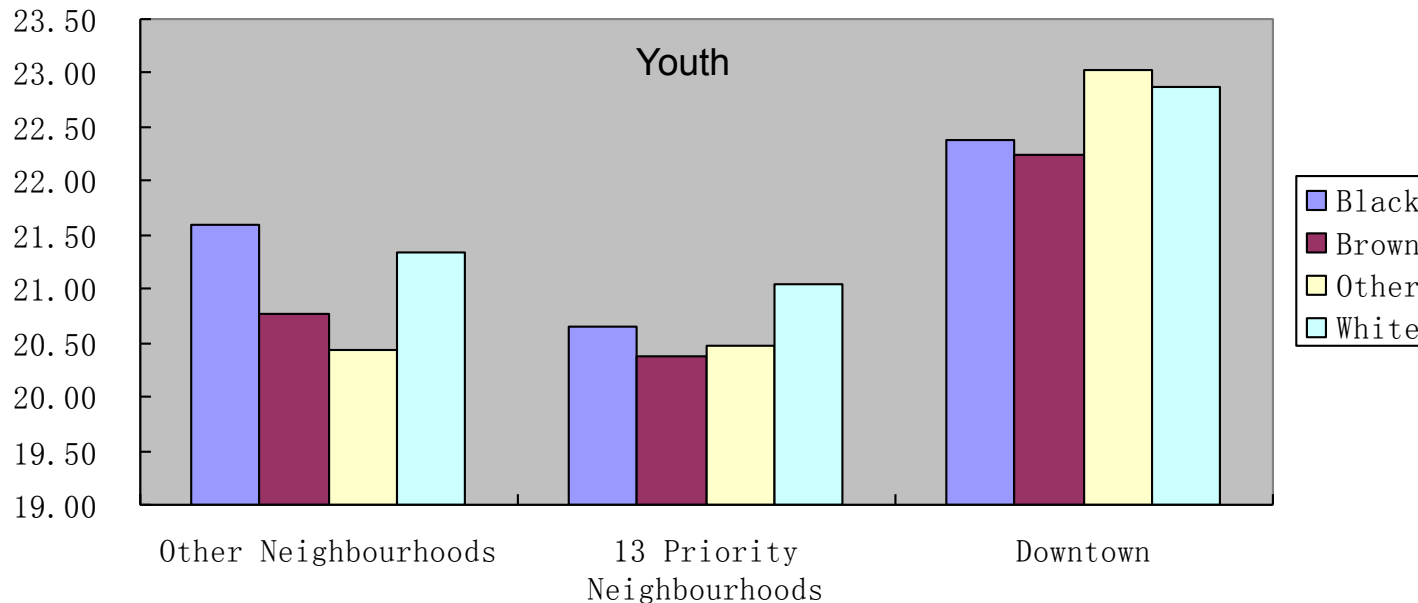
Police Stoppages ~ Age of youth ~ Race ~ Reason ~ Location



Age of youth being stopped for unspecific reasons:

- For black, brown and white youth: Downtown > other neighbourhoods > 13 priority Neighbourhoods
- For other youth: Downtown > 13 priority Neighbourhoods > other neighbourhoods

Police Stoppages ~ Age of youth ~ Race ~ Reason ~ Location



Age of youth being stopped for heavy crime reasons:

- For black, brown and white youth: Downtown > other neighbourhoods > 13 priority Neighbourhoods
- For other youth: Downtown > 13 priority Neighbourhoods > other neighbourhoods

Conclusions

- Racial profiling --- Yes
 - Based on no. of police stoppages and age of youth who are stopped by police
 - Racialized groups are disproportionately subjected to police stoppages
 - Most police stoppages are for non-specific reasons
- Spatial bias --- Yes
 - Racialized groups are subject to a higher rate of stoppages outside of the 13 priority neighbourhoods
- *Please see KM/C plan*

QUESTIONS?

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