

DISPROPORTIONATE LAW PRACTICES

Ferguson Law Enforcement Practices Disproportionately Harm Ferguson's African-American Residents and are Driven in Part by Racial Bias

Ferguson's police and municipal court practices disproportionately harm African Americans. Further, our investigation found substantial evidence that this harm stems in part from intentional discrimination in violation of the Constitution.

African Americans experience disparate impact in nearly every aspect of Ferguson's law enforcement system. Despite making up 67% of the population, African Americans accounted for 85% of FPD's traffic stops, 90% of FPD's citations and 93% of FPD's arrests from 2012 to 2014.

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- African Americans are 2.07 times more likely to be searched during a vehicular stop but are 26% less likely to have contraband found on them during a search. They are 2.00 times more likely to receive a citation and 2.37 times more likely to be arrested following a vehicular stop.

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- African Americans have force used against them at disproportionately high rates, accounting for 88% of all cases from 2010 to August 2014 in which an FPD officer reported using force. In all 14 uses of force involving a canine bite for which we have information about the race of the person bitten, the person was African American.

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- African Americans are more likely to receive multiple citations during a single incident, receiving four or more citations on 73 occasions between October 2012 and July 2014, whereas non-African Americans received four or more citations only twice during that period.

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- African Americans account for 95% of Manner of Walking charges; 94% of all Fail to Comply charges; 92% of all Resisting Arrest charges; 92% of all Peace Disturbance charges; and 89% of all Failure to Obey charges.

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- African Americans are 68% less likely than others to have their cases dismissed by the Municipal Judge and in 2013 African Americans accounted for 92% of cases in which an arrest warrant was issued.

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- African Americans account for 96% of known arrests made exclusively because of an outstanding municipal warrant.

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The ten offenses or offense categories analyzed (that lead to arrests and warrants) include:

1. Manner of Walking in Roadway
2. Failure to Comply
3. Resisting Arrest
4. Peace Disturbance
5. Failure to Obey
6. High Grass and Weeds
7. One Headlight
8. Speeding tickets and Expired License Plate
9. Aggregated data for 14 different Parking Violation Offenses
10. Aggregated data for four different Headlight Offenses including:
 - a. *One Headlight*
 - b. *Defective Headlights*
 - c. *No Headlights*
 - d. *Failure to Maintain Headlights*