

PART 1: WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO BE SEARCHED WHEN PULLED OVER BY POLICE?

Researchers from Stanford University conducted a study on the Oakland Police Department, looking for racial bias in how the police interacted with people. The researchers looked at videos from body cameras the police were wearing, as well as the data from police records. The following data come from 981 times police stopped drivers in Oakland in April 2014. Only interactions with Black and white drivers were analyzed in this study.

1. Complete the two-way table by finding the totals.

	Black	white	Total
Searched	113	2	
Not Searched	569	297	
Total			

2. Make two observations. What do you notice about who is and is not likely to be searched when they are pulled over while driving?
 -
 -
3. Create an expected frequency table that you believe would be fair using the same totals.

	Black	white	Total
Searched			
Not Searched			
Total			

4. What percentage of white and Black people stopped were searched?
5. Are the frequencies of who was stopped and searched drastically different from what you would expect?

6. Is this evidence of police bias? Why or why not? What other information might you need to better answer this question?

7. Complete the following sentences:

In this study, _____ percent of the people stopped were Black, while _____ percent were white. In the previous activity,¹ we learned that looking at only Black and white people in Oakland, _____ percent are Black and _____ percent are white.

From this I can conclude / wonder / observe (choose one)

because _____

¹ Note: Students should be encouraged to look back to data on race from the prior activity (from 2014, since this study data is from 2014) to ascertain the percentages of Black and white people in Oakland, out of total Black and white people in Oakland.

PART 2: WHO IS MORE LIKELY TO BE ARRESTED, CITED, OR GIVEN A WARNING?

The Stanford study also recorded the results of each police stop interaction.

- Use the following information to fill in the entire two-way table. Note that the number of Black and white people in the study is the same as in the previous table.
 - In total, 41 people were arrested.
 - 369 Black people received a citation.
 - 386 people received a warning. Of those, 113 were white.

	Black	white	Total
Arrest			
Citation			
Warning			
Total			

- Make two observations. What do you notice about the results of police stops in this study?
 -
 -
- Create an expected frequency table using the totals from above.

	Black	white	Total
Arrest			
Citation			
Warning			
Total			

- Compare the percentage of Black versus white people stopped, versus the percentage of each receiving an arrest, citation, or warning. Use evidence (numbers!) to construct an argument about these police interactions.