

Racial Profiling

KEY QUESTION

Should law enforcement officers be allowed to use race, ethnicity, age, or other physical characteristics as a key factor in deciding whether to engage in enforcement?

Activity 1—Quickwrite

What do you know about racial profiling? What is it? What do you think about it? Do you know someone who has experienced it? Write for five minutes.

Activity 2—Exploring Key Concepts

WHO is Jim Crow?

WHAT is Jim Crow?

Activity 2—Exploring Key Concepts

Read your short narrative. Write down your initial response to what you read.

You will be sharing your story.

Activity 2—Exploring Key Concepts

Write a sentence starting with the words “I noticed...” It can be about the stories you heard, the way you felt listening to them, something that shocked or surprised you, or something else.

Activity 2—The Civil Rights Act of 1964

The **Civil Rights Act of 1964** (enacted July 2, 1964) is a landmark piece of civil rights legislation in the United States that outlawed discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. It ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, at the workplace and by facilities that served the general public.

Activity 2—A Civil Rights Timeline



Race and Ethnicity—What's the difference?

Race—

A group of people who share similar and distinct physical characteristics. Race is determined by the region of the world from which one ancestors originate.

Ethnicity—

A group of people who identify with each other based on common ancestral, social, cultural or national experience. Ethnicity is evident through common religion, values, ritual, cuisine, dressing style, physical appearance, etc.

Prejudice and Stereotype—What's the difference?

Prejudice—

Prejudgment, or forming an opinion before becoming aware of the relevant facts. The word is often used to refer to preconceived, usually unfavorable, judgments toward people or a person because of gender, age, disability, religion, sexuality, race/ethnicity, or other personal characteristics.

Stereotype—

A widely held but oversimplified image or idea of a particular type of person or thing.

Profiling and Discrimination—What's the difference?

Profiling—

The use of an individual's race or ethnicity as a key factor in deciding whether to engage in enforcement (e.g. stop and search or arrest). The practice is legal in some jurisdictions and illegal in others.

Discrimination—

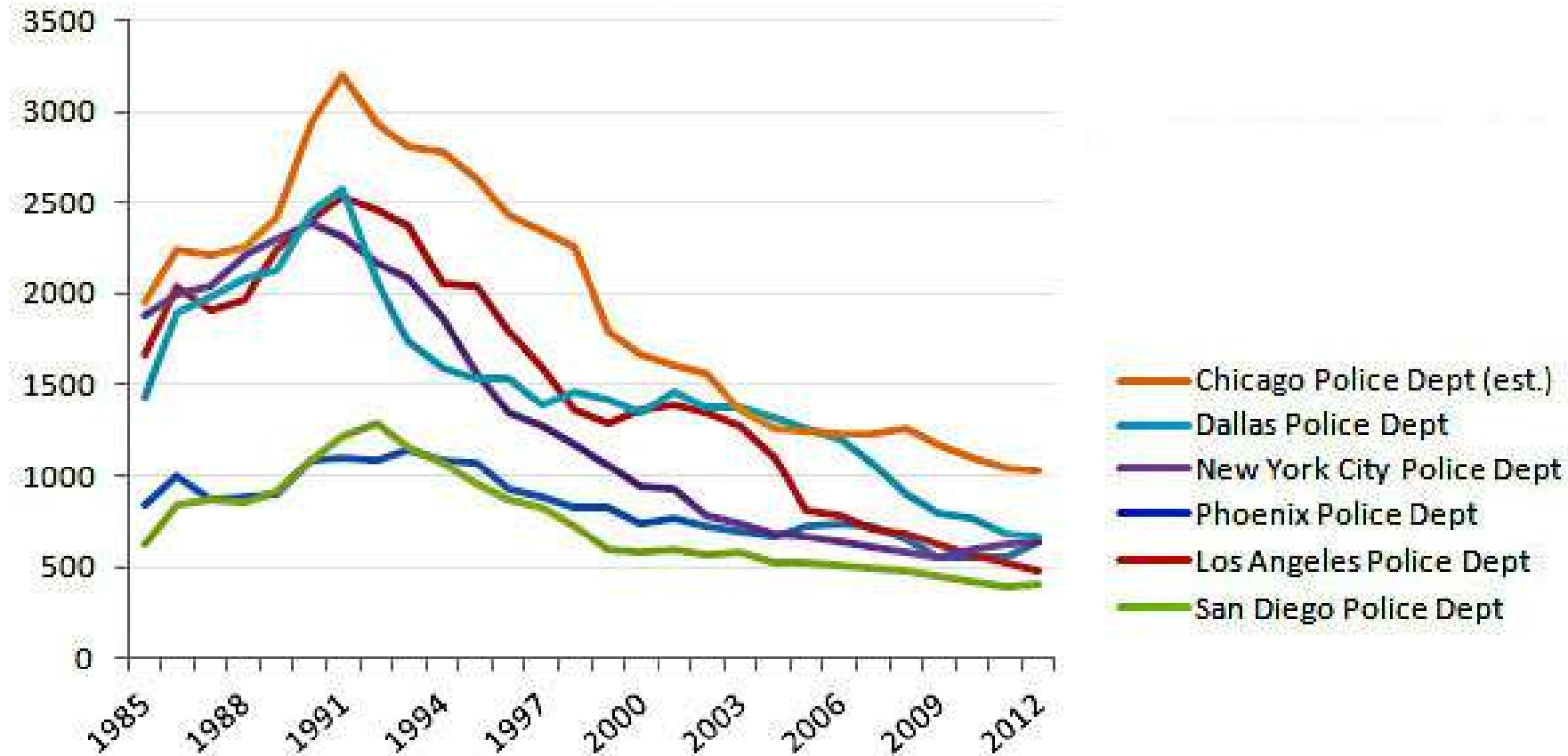
Action that denies social participation or human rights to categories of people based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, sexuality, or characteristics. Discrimination was made illegal by the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Stop and Frisk--

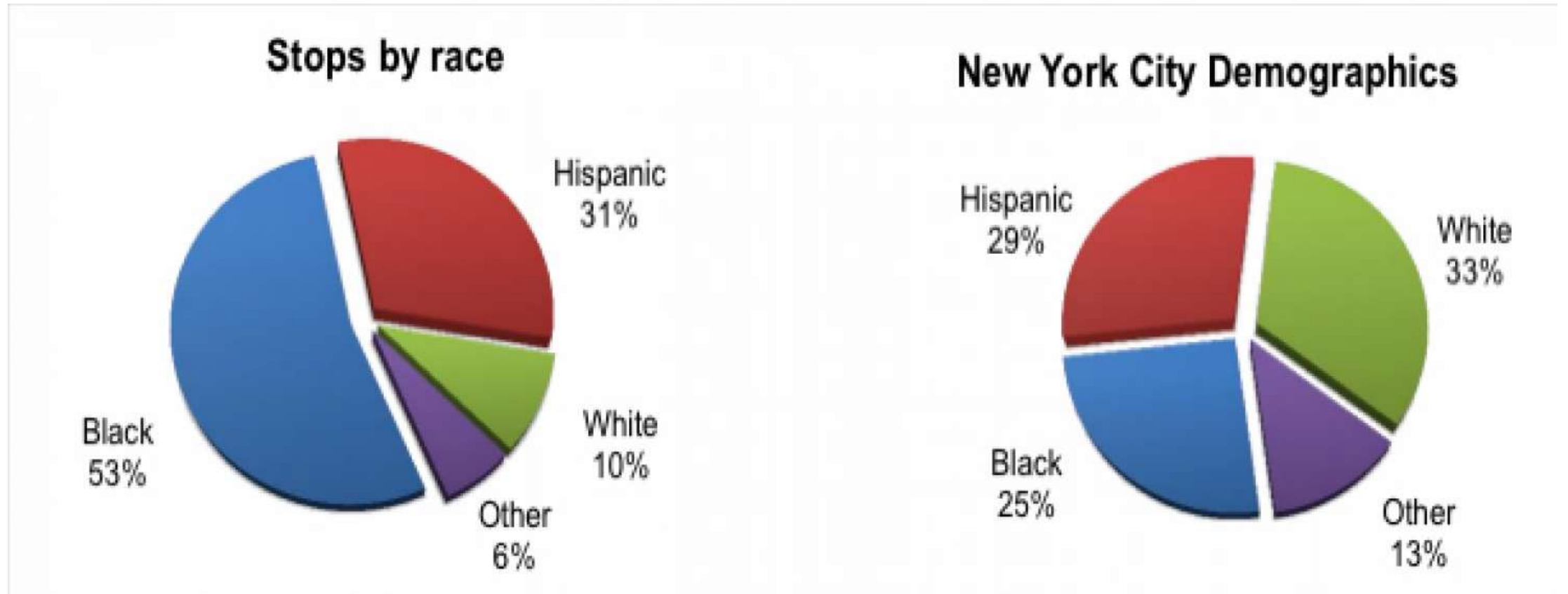
- "Stop, question and frisk" is an NYPD policy wherein police will detain and question pedestrians, and potentially search them, if they have a "reasonable suspicion" that the pedestrian in question "committed, is committing, or is about to commit a felony or a Penal Law misdemeanor."

Stop and Frisk seems to work...

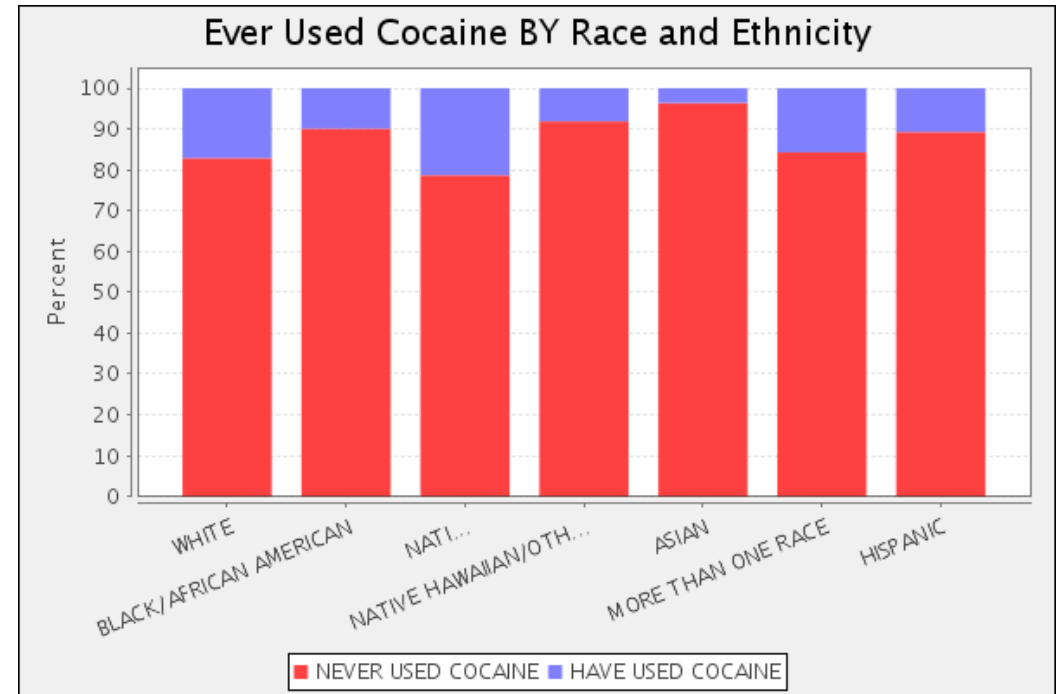
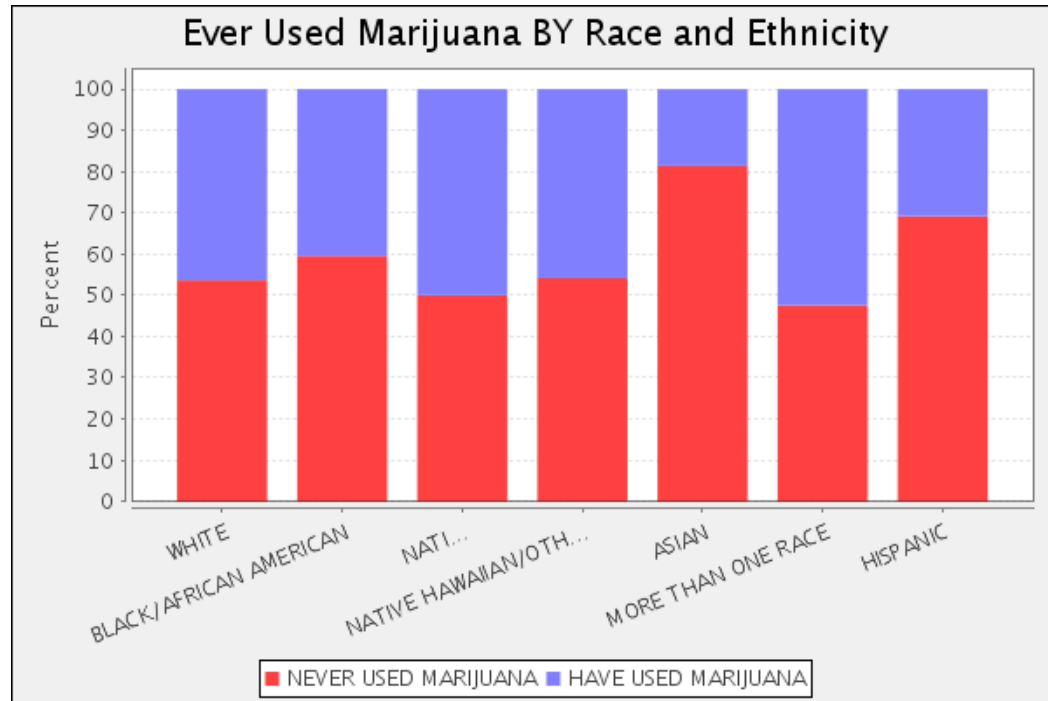
Violent Crime Per 100,000 Residents
Six Large American Cities



Stops by Race vs. NYC Demographics



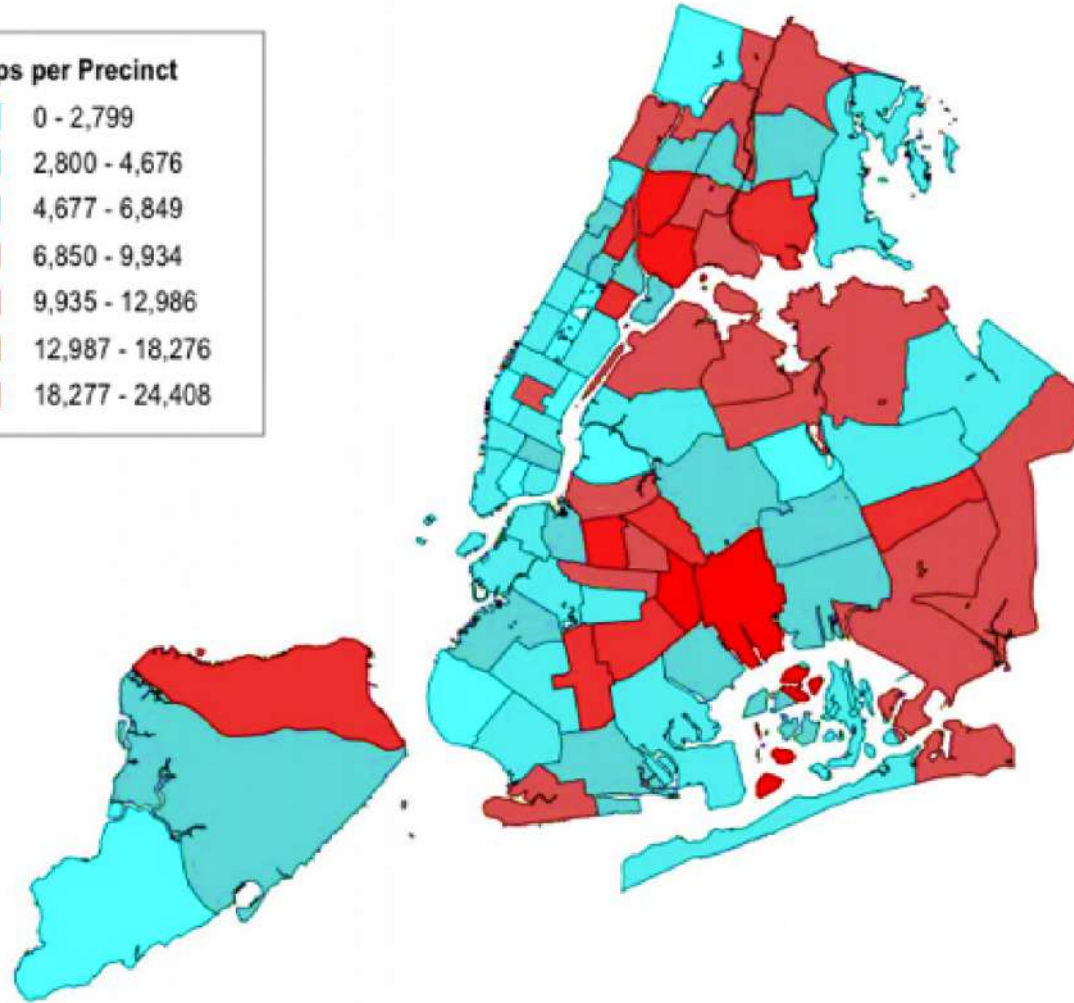
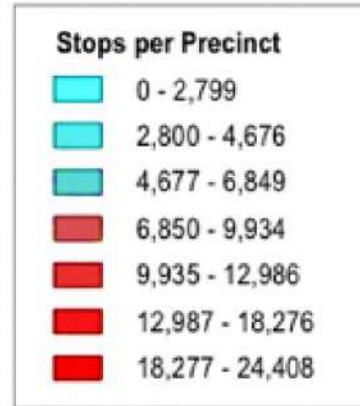
Drug Use by Race



Statistics from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Data Archive, University of Michigan, 2011

Stops by Neighborhood

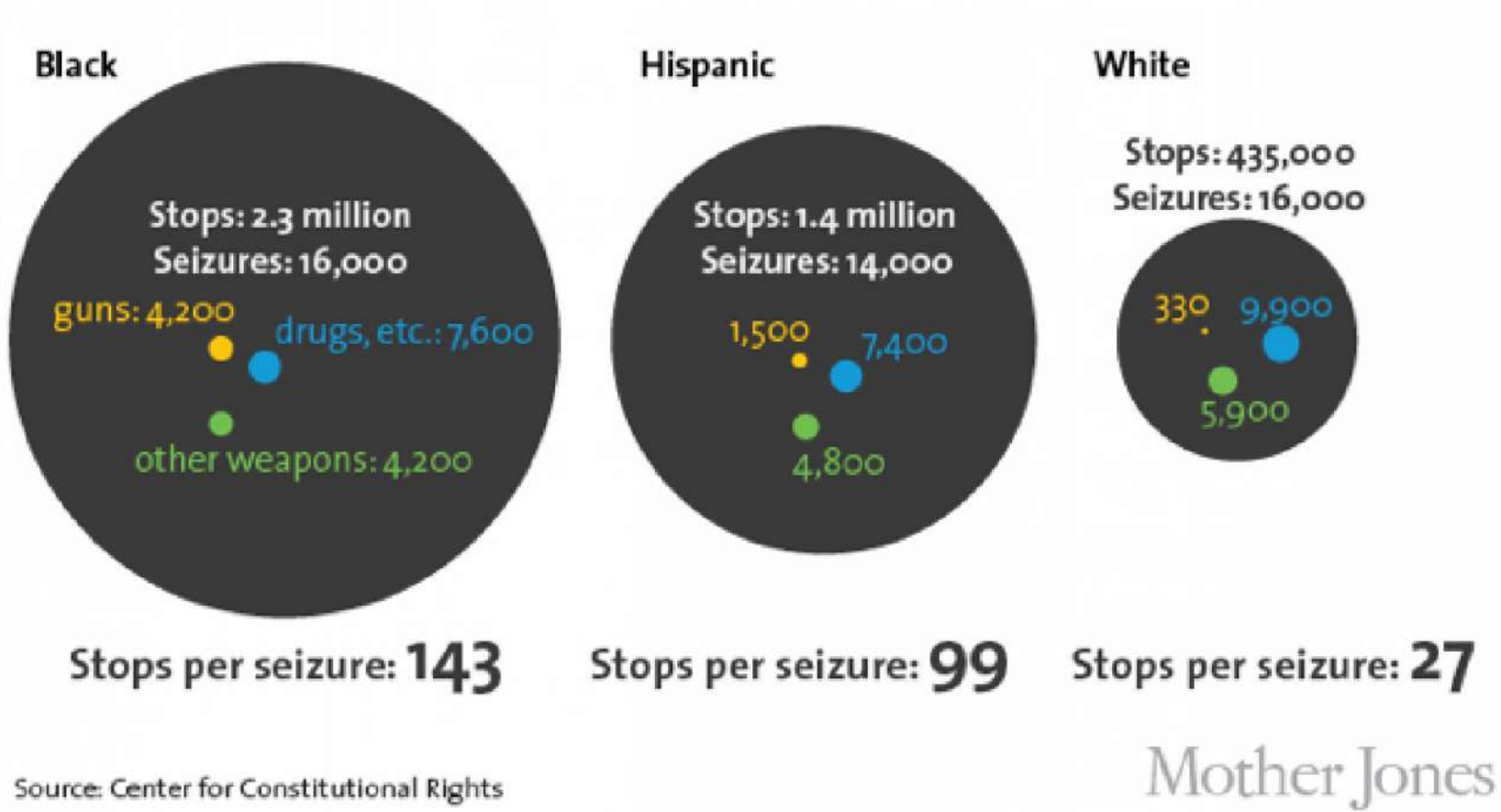
Concentration of stops, by precinct



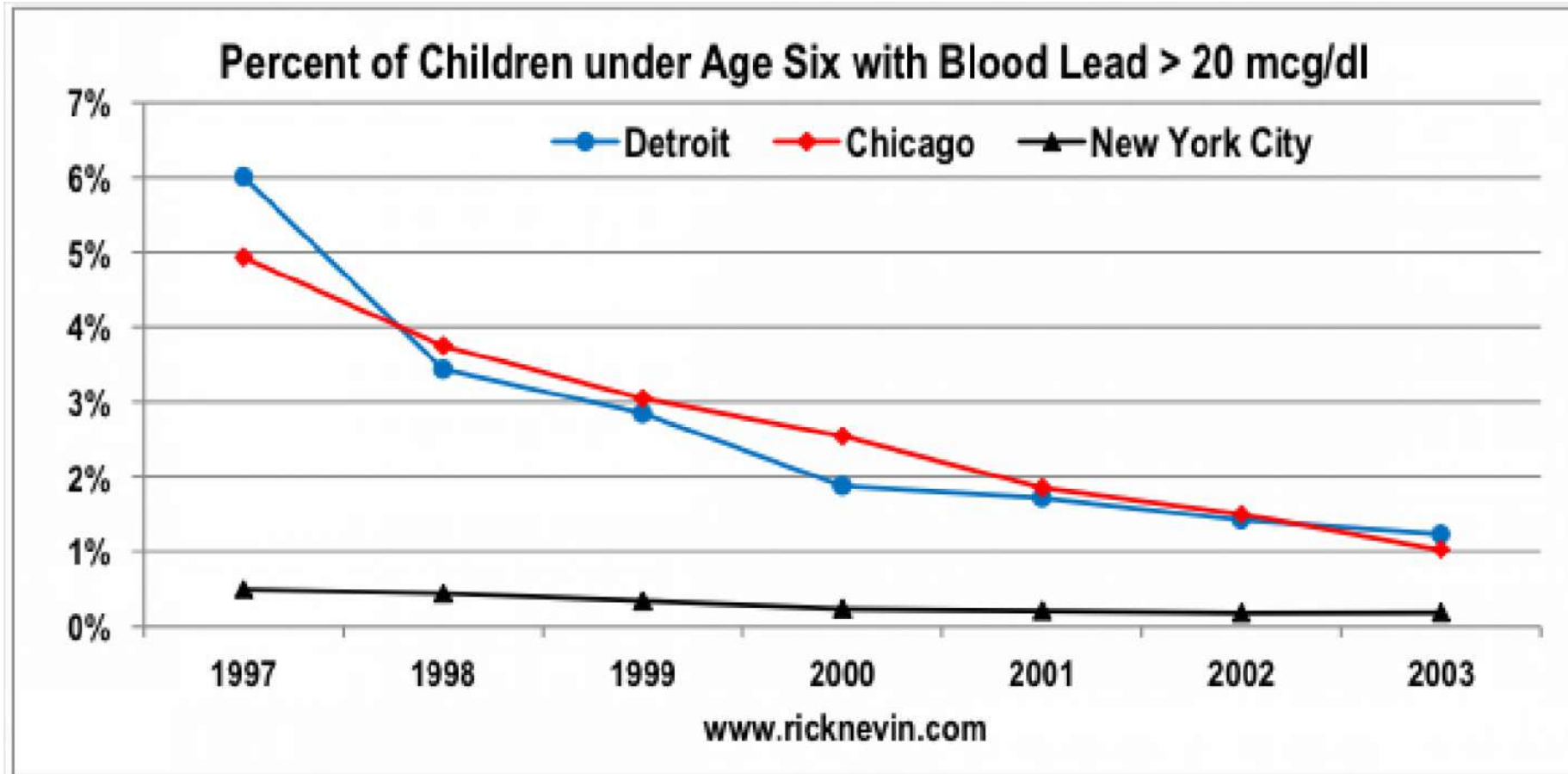
Results of stops

The NYPD's Low Yield

Police stops vs. seizures of illicit goods, 2004-12



Lead Paint and Children



Activity E—First Hand Experience

Watch this interview with Kasiem Walters, a high school senior from Brooklyn, NY. Think about and write responses to these questions as you watch.

- What shocks or surprises you about Walters’s story?
- How is the way this interview approaches Stop and Frisk different than the article you read?
- What is the purpose of this text? Is it effective?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01rsXYIXOrU>