

Stop and Search Police Authority Report

October 1st – December 31st 2006

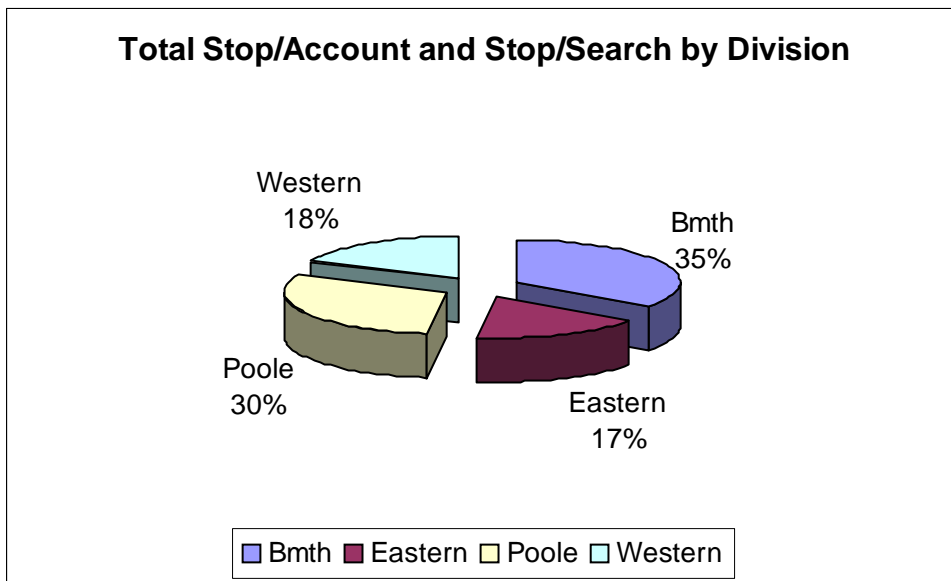


1. Introduction

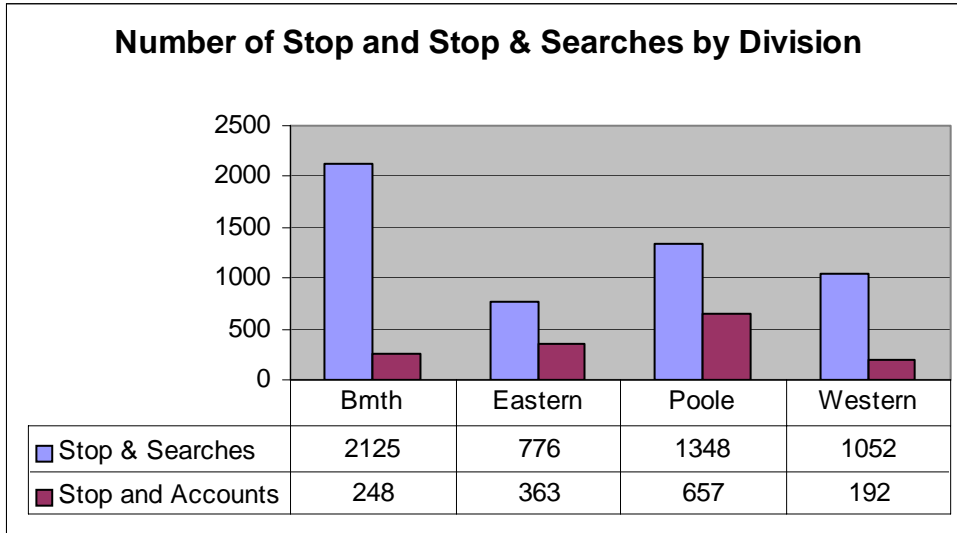
This report has been compiled in order to consider the number of people from minority ethnic groups who have been involved in either a stop and account or a stop and search at a force-wide and divisional level during the last three quarter periods (01/04/2006 – 31/12/2006). These findings will help identify whether any disproportionality appears to be occurring with regards to stop and account or stop and search, which minority ethnic groups are particularly targeted and where (if at all) this is most prominent.

2. Stop/Account and Stop/Search

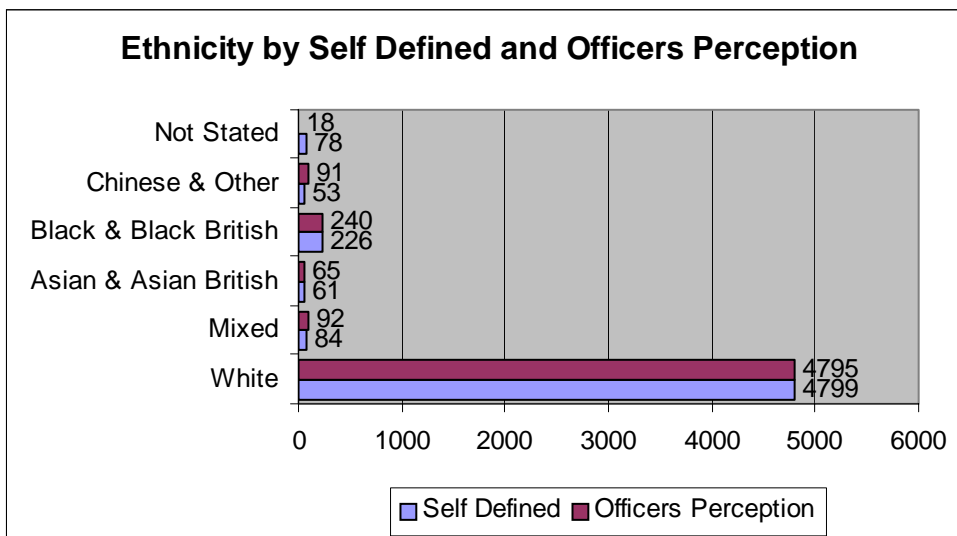
For the three month period 6761 records were found in total for both Stop/Account and Stop/Searches in Dorset, of these: 2373 occurred in Bournemouth, 1139 in Eastern Division, 2005 in Poole and 1244 in Western Division. The following chart represents this breakdown:



Of the total 6761 records, 1460 related to Stop and Account and 5301 to Stop and Search. The records of Stop and Account made up 10.45% of the total in Bournemouth, 31.9% in Eastern division, 32.7% in Poole and 15.4% in Western division. The following graph demonstrates the breakdown of data by Stop/Account and Stop/Search:



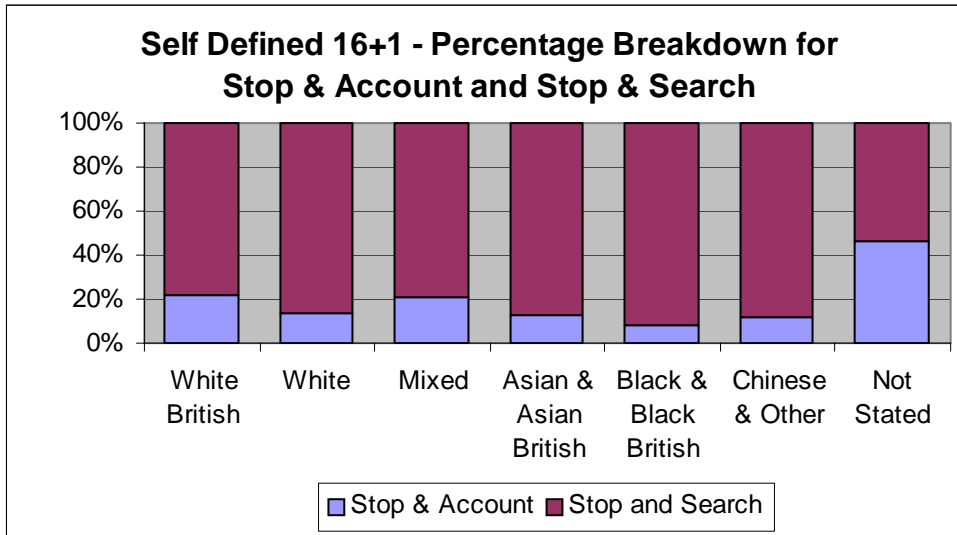
Of the total 6761 records, only 145 had missing self-defined and officer perception 16+1 data, which represents 2.14% with both ethnicity fields incomplete. Of the completed self-defined 16+1 information, 90.1% classified themselves as White British, 1.6% as Mixed, 1.1% as Asian or Asian British, 4.3% as Black or Black British, 1% as Chinese or Other and 1.5% Not Stated (a further 0.4% are accounted for by blank fields). The Officer perception 16+1 data differed from this slightly; this is demonstrated in the breakdown of the Main Group data, shown in the graph below:



The above information only gives the data in main group categories, the table below provides the 16+1 information breakdown within the main groups, to give the best idea of the ethnicity of those people involved in Stop and Searches for this six month period:

Stop and Search 16+1 Data			
Main Groups	Description	Number of Records	
		Self-Defined	Officer Perception
White	White British	4678	4665
	White Irish	10	5
	Any Other White Background	111	125
Mixed	White and Black Caribbean	37	36
	White and Black African	10	10
	White and Asian	8	11
Asian or Asian British	Any Other Mixed Background	29	35
	Indian	14	14
	Pakistan	7	6
Black or Black British	Bangladeshi	8	8
	Any Other Asian Background	32	37
	Caribbean	124	131
Chinese or Other	African	45	44
	Any Other Black Background	57	65
	Chinese	43	75
Not Stated	Any Other Ethnic Group	10	16
		78	18

It may be valuable to consider the self-defined ethnicity of people who were subject to stop and account, compared to those who were stopped and searched. This may provide further understanding about any disproportionality found. The following graph shows the 16+1 Self-defined ethnicity data as a percentage broken down into Stop/Search and Stop/Account records:



Total Number of Records by 16+1 Main Groups		
Main Group	Stop and Account	Stop and Search
White British	1317	4678
White	19	121
Mixed	22	84
Asian or Asian British	9	61
Black or Black British	19	226
Chinese and Other	7	53
Not Stated	67	78

The number of people whose self-defined 16+1 ethnicity classification was anything other than “White British” was very small for the Stop/Account records. Of the total number of Stop/Account records which include self-defined 16+1 ethnicity data, 90.2% self-defined as “White British”. Therefore only 3.9% of Stop and Account records gave non-white British self-definition, compared with 8% of Stop and Search records. Therefore, for the purposes of looking at divisional breakdowns in the following section, the data will be combined to look at divisional trends for both Stop/Account and Stop/Search combined.

The gender breakdown during this period for the total number of Stop/Account and Stop/Search records was found to be 88% involving men and only 12% involving women. All records are now complete showing gender. The following table shows the actual number of records created by gender:

Gender	Stop and Account	Stop and Search	Total
Male	4655	1278	5933
Female	646	182	828

Therefore, the data for this 9-month period indicates that the majority of people being either subject to stop/account or stop/searched force-wide are those who classify themselves as Male and White British. There is some missing information, but the numbers are very small comparatively, with 145 records detailing no 16+1 classification for either self-defined or Officer perception, and these make up a figure of 2.1%.

Work is currently ongoing regarding enabling access to more detailed location and time-specific data; this will allow further scrutiny if any additional information is required as a result of this report. This information, regarding the location of Stop/Account and Stop/Search by Beat and information regarding the time at which the Stops have taken place (which will also relate to location, date range and ethnicity data); will be made available on the Dormis II system.

3. Comparison with Community Population Percentages

The force-wide percentage breakdown for the data shows that, using 16+1; according to self-definition 8% of those people questioned defined themselves as something other than White British; according to Officer perception 9.3% were considered non-White British; compared with 4.4% of the population from the Census data. However, the figure rises when taking into account the number of reports containing "Not Stated" for 16+1 Information, or blank fields.

Having now presented and compared the 16+1 information collected at a force-wide level, the following section will consider the self-defined ethnicity by division and in comparison to the actual believed Community Breakdown within Dorset (using the figures collected in the 2001 Census). The following table compares the 16+1 figures according to their Main Groups by Division:

Main Groups	Bmth		Eastern		Poole		Western		FORCE	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White British	1922	81.0%	1054	92.5%	1886	94.1%	1133	91.1%	5995	88.7%
White	69	2.9%	16	1.4%	35	1.7%	20	1.6%	140	2.1%
Mixed	55	2.3%	11	1.0%	17	0.8%	23	1.8%	106	1.6%
Asian & Asian British	44	1.9%	0	0.0%	16	0.8%	10	0.8%	70	1.0%
Black & Black British	204	8.6%	6	0.5%	16	0.8%	19	1.5%	245	3.6%
Chinese & Other	29	1.2%	0	0.0%	15	0.7%	16	1.3%	60	0.9%
Not Stated	51	2.1%	52	4.6%	19	0.9%	23	1.8%	145	2.1%
	2374		1139		2004		1244		6761	100.0%

This shows that, the percentage of people who have been the subject of either Stop/Account or Stop/Search during the last 9 months and define themselves within one of the Minority Ethnic Groups, are consistently greater in Bournemouth than in any of the other divisions. This may have been expected, as Bournemouth is believed to have a greater Minority Ethnic population, however, due to a lack of reliability of local census data and the nature of transitory populations, particularly in the large urban areas of Dorset, it is extremely difficult to reliably quantify the level and reason for this apparent disproportionality. However, despite these problems, the data will now be compared with the 2001 Census figures in order to gain some perspective on the findings, for this purpose Eastern and Western division will be combined and their figures compared with the Dorset Unitary Authority Census data:

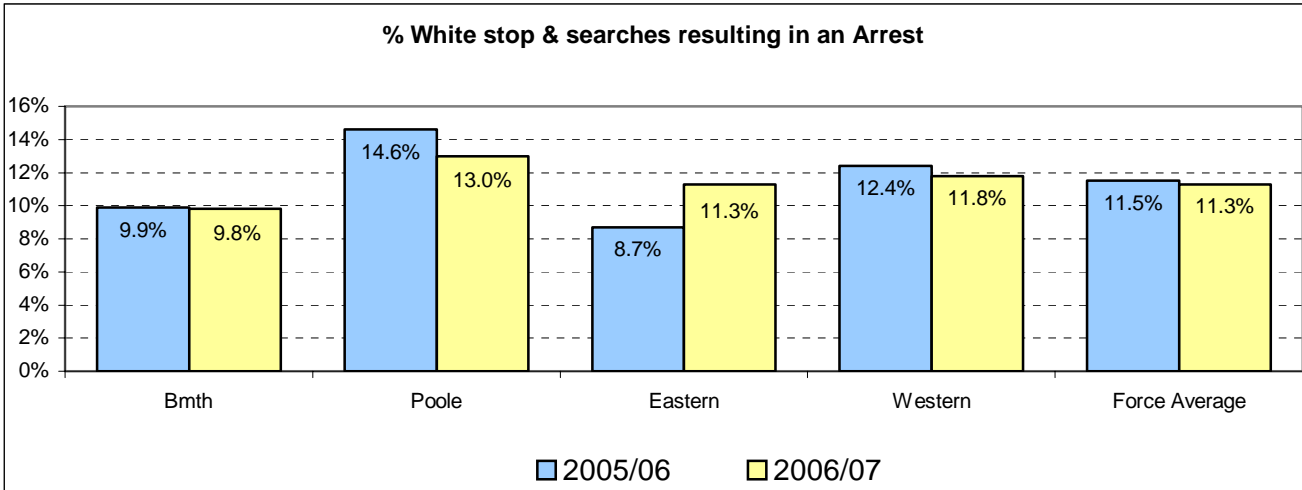
Main Groups	Bournemouth		Poole		Dorset	
	Census	Stops	Census	Stops	Census	Stops
White	96.68%	83.9%	98.2%	95.9%	98.74%	93.3%
Mixed	1.19%	2.3%	0.67%	0.8%	0.5%	1.4%
Asian or Asian British	0.7%	1.9%	0.52%	0.8%	0.24%	0.4%
Black or Black British	0.42%	8.6%	0.18%	0.8%	0.15%	1.0%
Chinese and Other	1.01%	1.2%	0.25%	1.3%	0.21%	0.7%
Not Stated	0%	2.1%	0%	0.9%	0%	3.1%

This comparison suggests that the number of people defining themselves as Black or Black British by 16+1 classification is disproportionately high across all divisions, but specifically within Bournemouth where the difference seems particularly significant. The search reason reported for the majority of the Black or Black British people during the last nine months has been Drugs, specifically within the Bournemouth division.

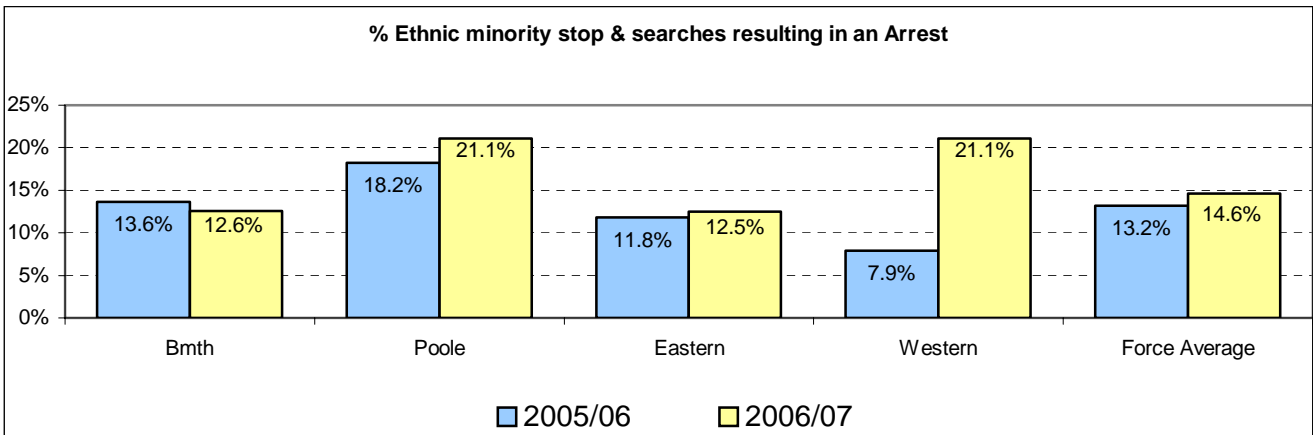
Therefore the findings in this report do show a certain amount of disproportionality at face value, particularly within Bournemouth division. However, because of the lack of reliability of local census data as previously discussed, it is extremely difficult to quantify the level and reason for any perceived disproportionality. Even when taking into account the findings of the “*Stop and Account Survey: Bournemouth*” which estimates an ethnic population of 10.4% (rather than the 3.32% found by the 2001 Census), the Stop/Account and Stop/Search data showing that 7.1% of those stopped were Non-White continues to appear somewhat disproportionate for this period. The following section will present the proportion of arrests per Stop/Search broken down by 16+1 Self-defined Ethnicity; this may help to identify which searches contain the most disproportional data.

4. Stop and Searches Resulting in Arrest

For the 9-month period a total of 553 arrests were recorded as a result of Stop/Searches force wide. Of these: 179 occurred in Bournemouth, 86 in Eastern Division, 170 in Poole and 117 in Western Division. The overall arrest rate for people defining themselves as “White” by 16+1 was 11.3%, which compares to an 11.5% arrest rate for the comparable quarter period in 2005/06. The following chart represents this arrest-rate breakdown across the four divisions:



The overall arrest rate for people defining themselves within a minority ethnic group by 16+1 was 14.6%, which compares to a 13.2% arrest rate for the comparable quarter period in 2005/06. The following chart represents this arrest-rate breakdown across the four divisions:



Due to the relatively small number of ethnic minority people stopped and searched the percentage arrest rate can appear significantly affected by only a small change in the actual figures.

Overall, at Force level, the arrest rate for both White and Minority Ethnic Stop Searches is similar, showing just over 2.3% variance.

5. Divisional Updates

At the time of preparing this report no updates were available. However, information has been requested and will be provided for the Police Authority Professional Standards and Diversity Committee meeting on 25th January.

6. Conclusions

- Overall there have been 6761 stop/account and stop/search recorded during this 9-month period (between April 1st and December 31st 2006). Bournemouth division accounts for 35% with Poole and Western divisions 30% and 18% respectively and Eastern division recording only 17%.
- Overall approximately 21.6% of the 6761 recorded total were accounted for by the new legislation relating to Stop and Account.
- Overall 90.1% of recorded stop/account and stop/search records related to people who defined themselves at White British 16+1 classification.
- The number of records relating to stop/account during the April-September period 2006/07 shows that 3.9% self defined themselves as other than "White British" in comparison to stop/search where 8% self defined themselves other than "White British". When making a comparison with the figures for 2005/2006 it appears that disproportionality in general towards the minority groups appears to have slightly decreased, although some searches continue to record an apparently disproportionate number of people belonging to minority ethnic groups.
- The overall arrest rate during this 9-month period was 11.3% for "White" stop searches and 14.6% for minority ethnic records. The number of arrests from "White" stop/searches has increased very slightly on the comparable quarter last year, whilst the number of ethnic minority stop/searches resulting in arrest have decreased slightly on the comparable quarter last year.