
Performance Information Unit



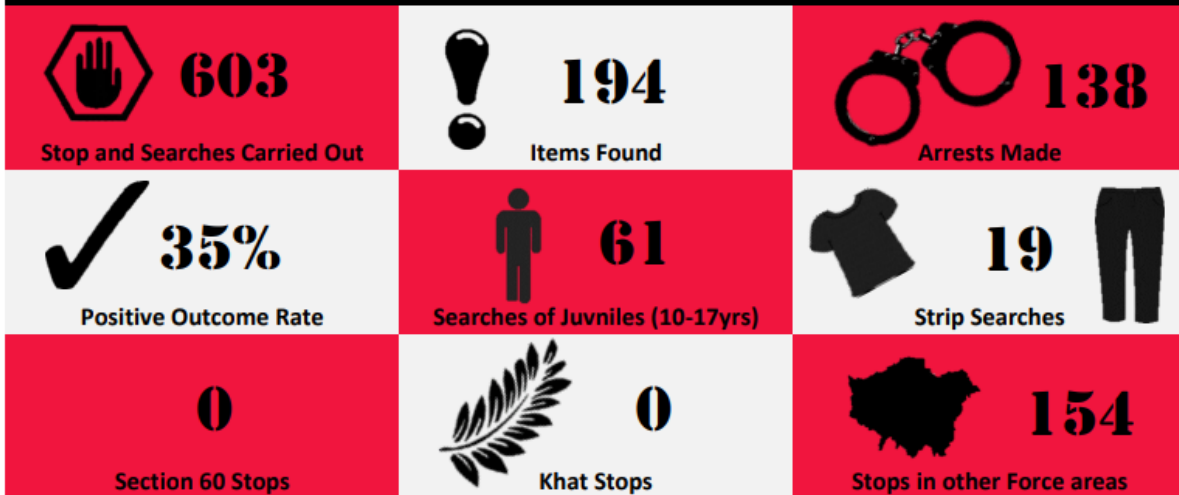
Stop and Search

Quarter 4 2020/21

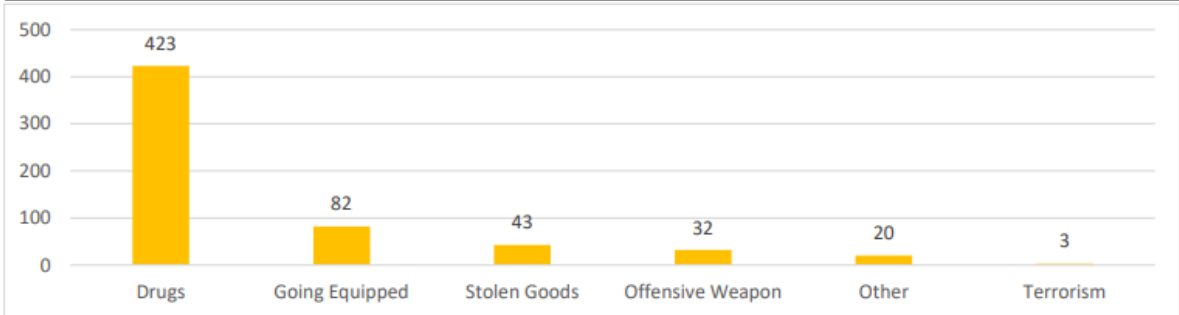
1st January – 31st March 2021

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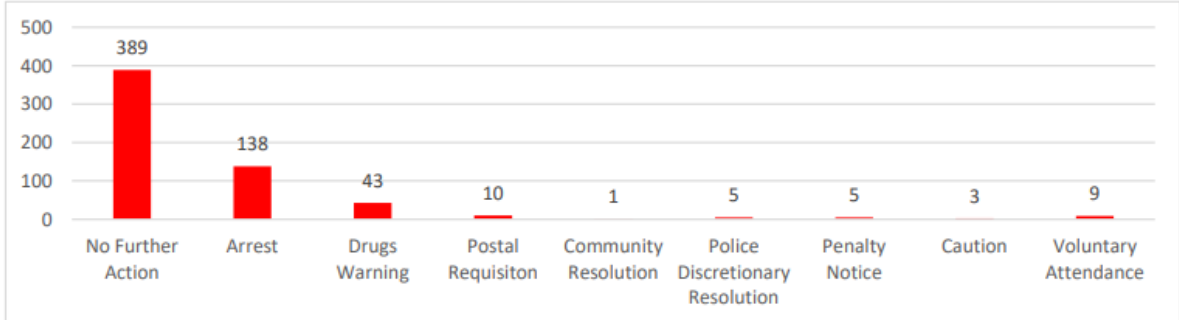
Stop and Search Summary Q4 2020/21 (1st January - 31st March 2021)



Reason for Stop

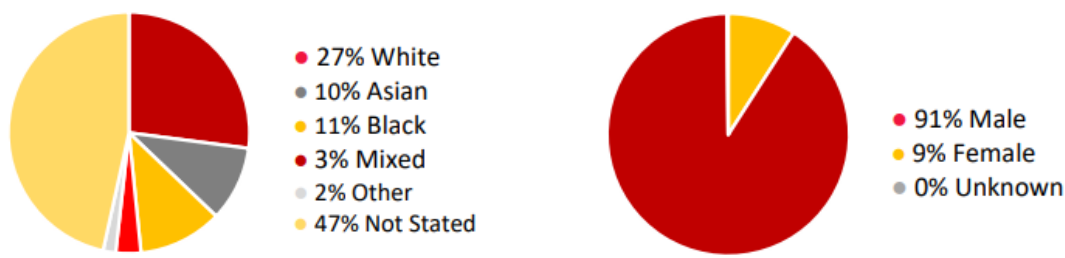


Outcome of Stop



Subject Self Defined Ethnicity

Subject Gender

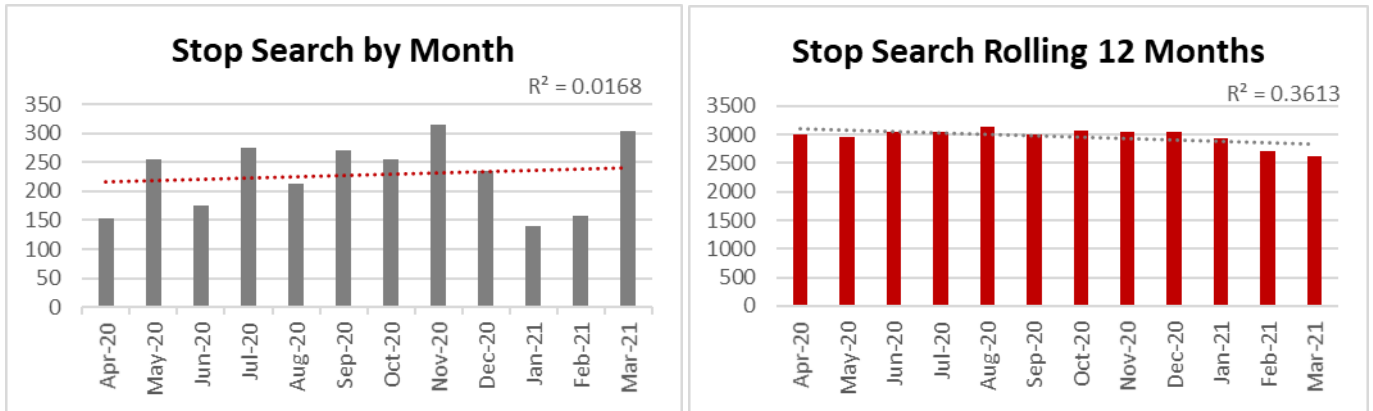


Stop and Search – Quarter 4 20/21

1.1 Key Findings

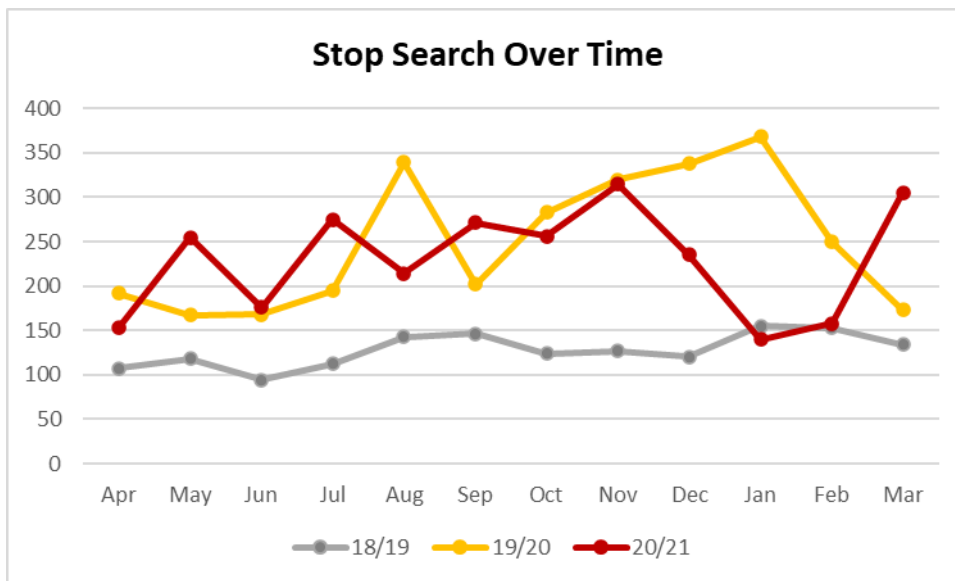
- There has been a decrease in the number of searches carried out this quarter (-25%, n=203) with January and February seeing particularly low numbers and then a sharp increase in March.
- On average 201 stops were carried out each month this quarter, below the average for the last 12 months of 229 stops a month.
- For the 20/21 financial year there has been a decrease in stops of 8% (n=-242) which is a smaller decrease than we have seen in other areas such as crime or use of force suggesting that stop search is one of the few areas that carried on nearly as 'normal' throughout the pandemic.
- Searching for drugs continues to be the main reason stops are made. Most searches relate to cannabis and there were no stops for Khat this quarter.
- Most stops took place on Fridays and Wednesdays, the peak times this quarter was Friday between 16:00-18:00 and 22:00-23:00.
- For the current period a 26% of stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (n=154) which is slightly higher than last quarter. Most MPS stops related to drugs (75%, n=116).
- The most common repeat locations for stops were Bishopsgate, London Wall and Middlesex Street
- The group most commonly stopped and searched in terms of perceived and self-defined ethnicity is white individuals. Although 277 people stopped did not self-define their ethnicity (47%).
- Levels of disproportionality have increased slightly across this quarter from 1.8 to 1.9 for Black individuals and decreased from 1.5 to 1.4 for Asian individuals, the level for other ethnicities has decreased from 0.8 to 0.6.
- There were 61 stops of under 18s this quarter with most stops related to drugs. The youngest people stopped was a 12 year-old white male stopped in relation to potential offensive weapons, nothing was found and he was released no further action.
- There were 15 full strip searches this quarter, objects were found on 7 occasions and five arrests made.
- The find rate this quarter is 32% and the arrest rate is 23%.
- The overall positive outcome rate this quarter is 35%.

1.2 Monthly Breakdown



There has been a decrease in the number of searches carried out this quarter with January and February having particularly low levels due to the return to national lockdown. Levels have however increased in March as with other areas so we should expect activity to continue to increase in the coming months if restrictions continue to ease.

On average over the last 12 months there have been 229 stops a month with this quarter averaging 201 a month, January saw the lowest level of reported stops all year whilst February was similar to the previous lockdown period and March seems to signal more of a return to pre pandemic levels.

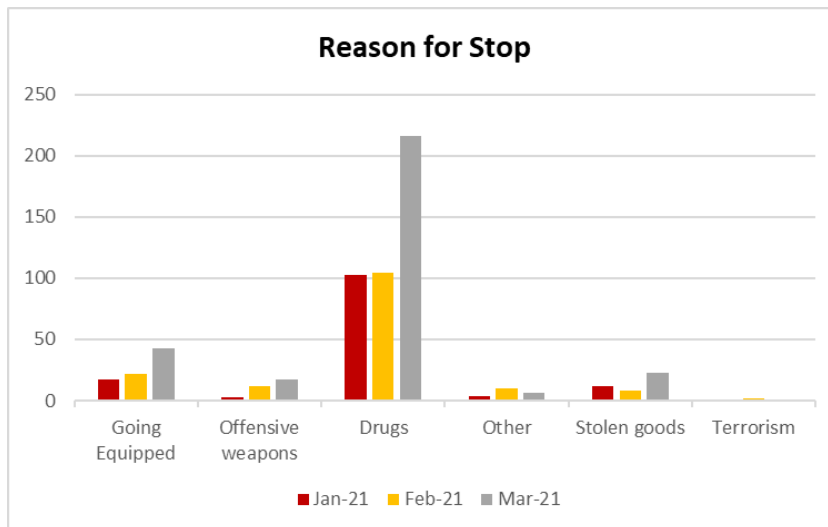


When looking at the last couple of years levels for this quarter January and February showed similar levels to 2018/19 and then increased back to a level similar to the last two years in March. For the 20/21 financial year there has been a decrease in stops of 8% (n=-242) which is a smaller decrease than we have seen in other areas such as crime or use of force suggesting that stop search is one of the few areas that carried on nearly as ‘normal’ throughout the pandemic.

2.1 Reason for Stop

The most common legal basis for searches this quarter was Misuse of Drugs Act (71%, n=429) followed by PACE (28%, n=167). There were no Section 60 stops in this period.

The reasons for the stops this quarter are shown in the below graph;



Drug stops continue to be the most common as observed in previous quarters. Most stops related to cannabis and a smaller number for other controlled drugs (n=352 to n=71 respectively). There were no stops relating to Khat possession this quarter.

Under the offensive weapons category there were 11 searches for a bladed article and 20 for a general offensive weapon along with 1 firearm search. Most stops ended with no objects being found and no further action taken but two individuals were found to be in possession of crow bars and there were four arrests made for other reasons such as drugs possession.

There were three terrorism stops this quarter all separate occasions where people were behaving in a way that caused alarm to members of the public or were filming key locations in the City without a reasonable explanation. All individuals were released with no further action taken.

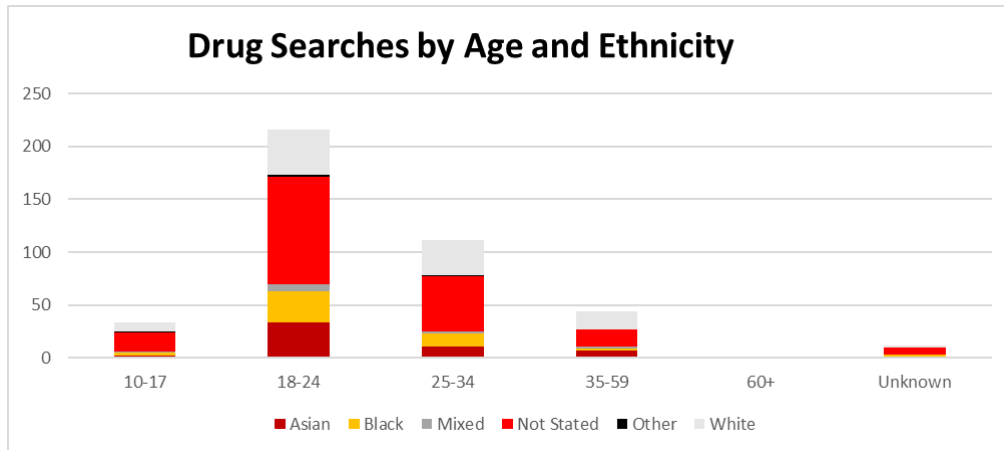
2.2 Reason for Stop – Drugs Searches

Drugs searches most commonly took place on Fridays and Wednesdays this quarter, with activity peaking in the afternoon between 16:00-18:00 both days. There was another peak late on Saturday evening into Sunday morning. Just over a quarter of drug stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (27%, n=116).

Breaking the categories of stops down 352 related to Cannabis (83%) and 71 (17%) to other drugs, 117 searches (28%) involved both persons and vehicles.

The find rate for drugs searches for this quarter is 33% with 140 out of 423 searches finding something, in 113 cases this was the object searched for and in 27 a different object. This is just a slight decrease from last quarter when the find rate was 36%. There were 86 arrests made as a result of drugs stops (20%), 41 drugs warnings were issued, 3 cautions, 9 postal requisitions and 5 penalty notices. The overall positive outcome rate for drug searches is 37% (n=157).

Common repeat locations for drugs related stops this quarter were London Wall, Middlesex Street and Bishopsgate, and Liverpool Street Station.



The graph above shows the demographic breakdown of individuals stopped with regards to drugs.

They were mainly male (89%, n=375), did not state their ethnicity (46%, n=194) and between 18 and 24 years old (51%, n=216). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be white (34%, n=70). When perceived ethnicities for those who did not state are added to the self-defined ethnicities the most common ethnic group stopped for drugs is white individuals (40%, n=169).

Aside from these searches there were six further vehicle only searches.

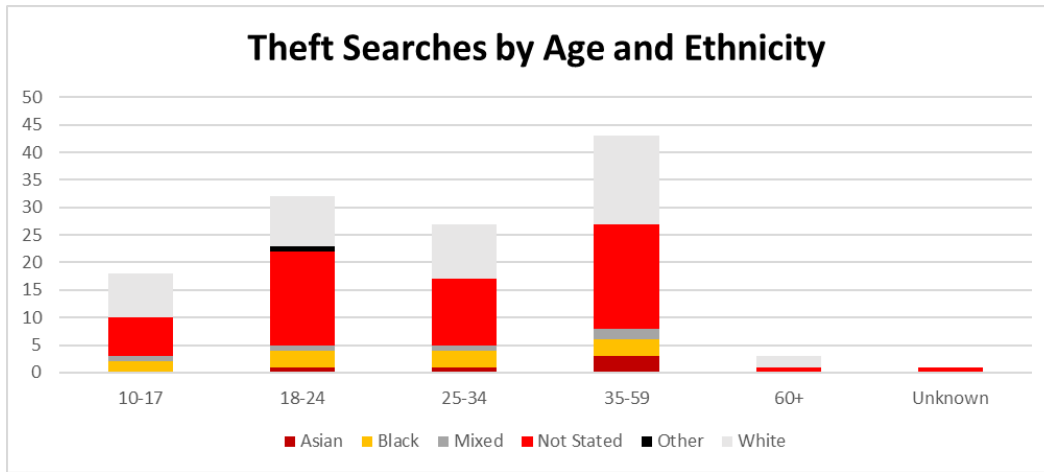
2.3 Reason for Stop – Going Equipped and Stolen Goods

Stops relating to going equipped or stolen goods most commonly took place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, peaking on Thursday afternoons between 13:00-17:00.

The find rate for theft related searches this quarter is 33% with 26 searches finding the object(s) they were searching for and a further 15 finding other objects. This has increased from 24% last quarter.

There were 42 arrests resulting from these stops (34%), when other outcomes are included the positive outcome rate is 37% this includes 1 community resolution, 1 postal requisition, 1 drugs warning and 1 police discretionary resolution.

The most common locations for these searches this quarter were Middlesex Street and Liverpool Street Station and Tesco Metro on Bishopsgate,



The graph above shows the demographic breakdown of individuals stopped with regards to going equipped or stolen property.

They were mainly male (92%, n=114), did not state their ethnicity (45%, n=56) and between 35 and 59 years old (35%, n=43). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be white (36%, n=20). Looking at self-defined and perceived ethnicities together shows that white people were most commonly stopped in relation to theft (52%, n=65).

There was one vehicle only search for theft this quarter.

2.4 Reason for Stop – Offensive Weapons

Stops relating to weapons (bladed, offensive or firearms) most commonly took place on Saturdays this quarter.

The find rate for weapons related searches this quarter is 16% with 3 searches finding the object(s) they were searching for and a further 2 finding other objects. In the main the objects found were crowbars.

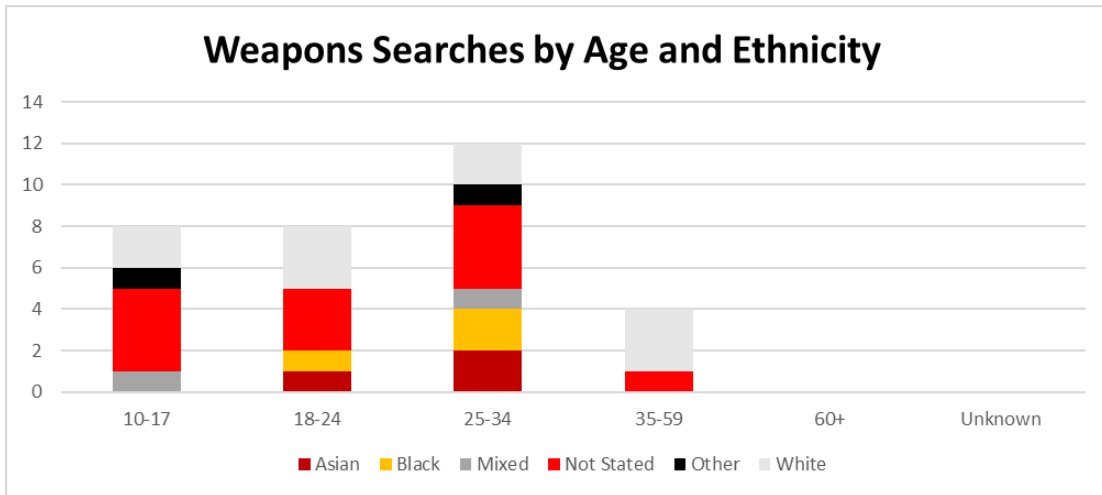
There were 4 arrests resulting from weapons stops this quarter mostly in relation to other matters such as finding drugs or the individual being wanted (13%) and all other stops were no further action

The most common street location for these searches this quarter was London Wall.

The below graph shows the demographic breakdown of individuals stopped with regards to weapons.

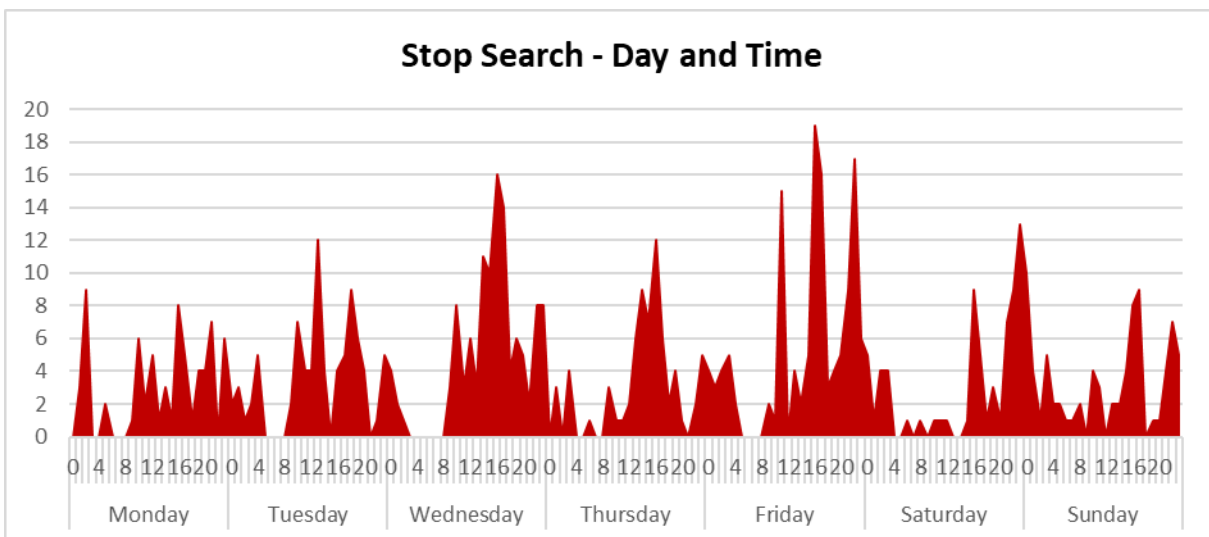
They were nearly all males (94%, n=30) who mainly did not state their ethnicity (38%, n=12) and were between 25 and 34 years old (38%, n=12). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be white (50%, n=6), when this is added to self-defined ethnicities people of white ethnicities were most commonly stopped (50%, n=16).

There were eight vehicle only stops in relation to weapons this quarter.



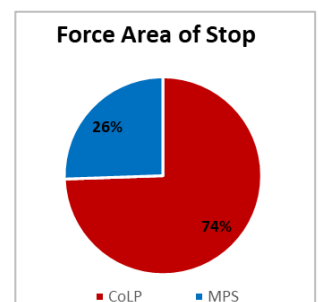
2.5 Time and Location of Stop

Most stops took place on Fridays and Wednesdays, the peak times this quarter was Friday between 16:00-18:00 and 22:00-23:00. Levels are noticeably lower between 04:00-11:00 most days and Saturday and Monday were the quietest days overall.



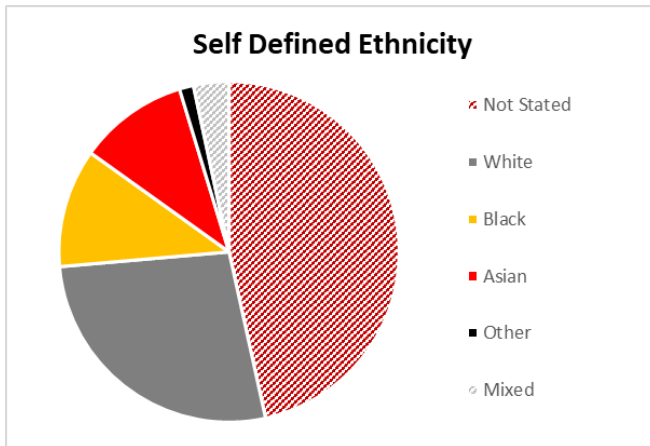
For the current period a 26% of stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (n=154) which is slightly higher than last quarter.

The most common locations for stops were Bishopsgate, London Wall and Middlesex Street. All the top 10 locations this quarter are street records.



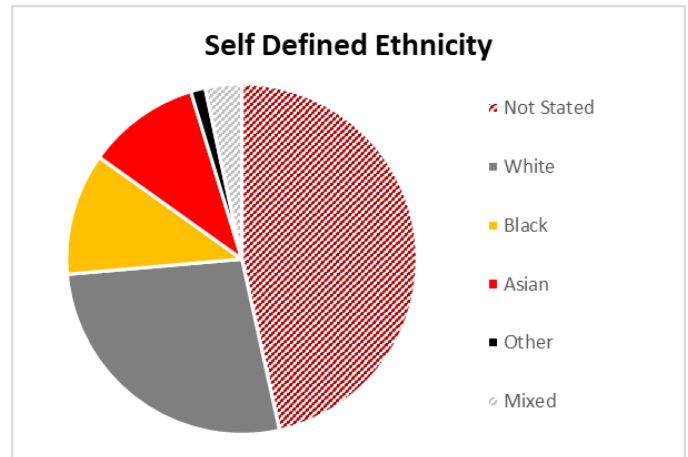
3.1 Ethnicity

The group most commonly stopped and searched in terms of perceived ethnicity is White – North European individuals (31%, n=187), for self-defined ethnicity the most common group is those who do not state their ethnicity (47%, n=277) then white individuals accounting for 27% of searches (n=161).



In terms of self-defined ethnicity the largest group is those who did not wish to state their ethnicity (47%, n=277). When compared to their perceived ethnicity the majority of these individuals were perceived to be white (33%, n=92) or black (32%, n=89). The majority of people who chose not to state their ethnicity are between 18 and 24 years of age (45%, n=125).

The biggest discrepancy between self-defined and perceived ethnicity is seen with black individuals with 29% of people stopped perceived to be black but only 11% defining themselves as such. The gap for white individuals is 16%, 43% were perceived to be black but only 27% defined themselves as such. These gaps are mainly due to these individuals choosing not to state their own ethnicity on the stop and search form.



Comparisons across the two recorded ethnicities are however somewhat difficult as categories do not match exactly. For example a number of individuals perceived as black (n=11) or white (n=3) self-defined as mixed ethnicity but this is not an option the officer can select for perceived ethnicity.

3.2 Disproportionality

3.2.1 What is disproportionality?

When the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published their Stop and Think report in 2010 looking in to the use of stop search by UK police forces they used two measures to assess fairness in terms of ethnicity; a disproportionality ratio and a count of excess stops.

Since then disproportionality has become a key measure for forces when examining the use of stop and search. The ratio looks at how much more likely black and Asian people are to be searched than white people based on their prevalence in the local population. Calculating the figure in this way allows for comparisons between forces of different sizes and ethnic diversity.

3.2.2 Disproportionality and the City

Due to the relatively small resident population compared to the large transient one in the City it is not easy to address questions of disproportionality. Traditionally this is calculated using the resident population of an area and the officer perceived ethnicity. In the current period however there were only nine people stopped who gave their address as being within City grounds and a number of these were people in temporary accommodation in youth hostels or similar.

Another option available is to use the workday population which includes all people who gave a fixed work place in the City and those residents who are at home during the day however given that 57% (n=344) of stops occur outside of a typical working day (Monday-Friday 08:00-18:00) this is also unlikely to give an accurate representation of the available street population. Particularly during the current climate of coronavirus with many people working from home this is likely not to be relevant.

When we look at the residential addresses of people stopped this quarter 66% live in the greater London area, 5% are of no fixed abode, 8% are from other areas and 20% did not give their address.

Based on this disproportionality has been calculated using the residential population figures for the whole London region.

In terms of population data the most recent finalised census data is from 2011 so that has been used here. The most recent midyear estimates for 2018 were also checked but did not offer much difference in terms of results.

Levels of disproportionality have increased slightly across this quarter from 1.8 to 1.9 for Black individuals and decreased from 1.5 to 1.4 for Asian individuals, the level for other ethnicities has decreased from 0.8 to 0.6.

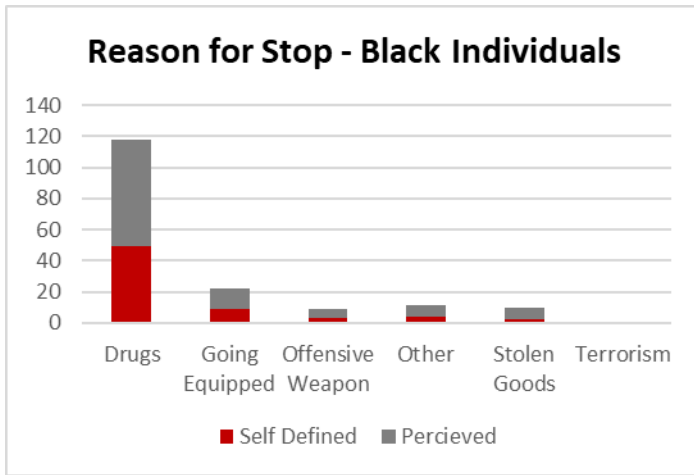
For the last year the average figures are 1.6 for black individuals, 1.3 for Asian individuals and 0.7 for individuals from other ethnic groups.



Across the same period the figures for the Metropolitan Police are 4.6 for Black individuals and 1.5 for Asian individuals.

3.3 Breakdown by Ethnicity – Black (Self Defined and Perceived)

There were 67 individuals stopped this quarter who self-defined their ethnicity as black, nearly all of whom were perceived to be black by officers. A further 104 people were perceived as black and either did not state their ethnicity (89) or self-defined as coming from mixed (11) or other ethnic group (4).

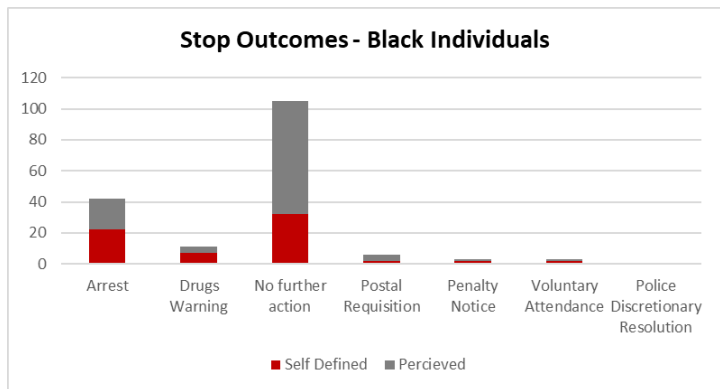


The number of black individuals stopped in relation to each reason all double when perceived ethnicity is included alongside self-defined. The largest percentage increase is seen with stolen goods which rises from 2 stops with self-defined ethnicity to 10 when perceived ethnicity is included

Compared the whole stop cohort for the quarter black individuals (self-defined and perceived) were generally stopped

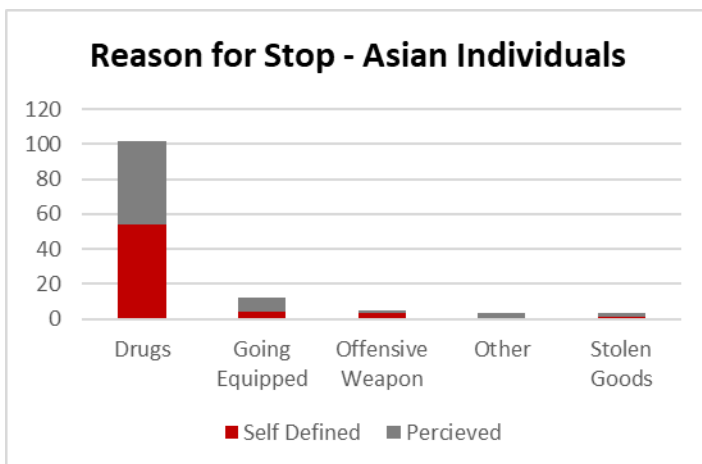
at a similar rate to the whole group for all stop reasons.

Stop outcomes for both perceived and self-defined black ethnicity show that 62% of individuals were no further actioned (n=105) and 25% were arrested (n=42). This is broadly in line with the rates for all stops with the overall rates being 65% for NFA and 23% for arrest.



3.4 Breakdown by Ethnicity – Asian (Self Defined and Perceived)

There were 62 individuals stopped this quarter who self-defined their ethnicity as Asian, most of whom were also perceived as Asian by officers. A further 64 people were perceived as Asian but 59 did not state their ethnicity or self-defined as coming from mixed (4) or other ethnic group (1).

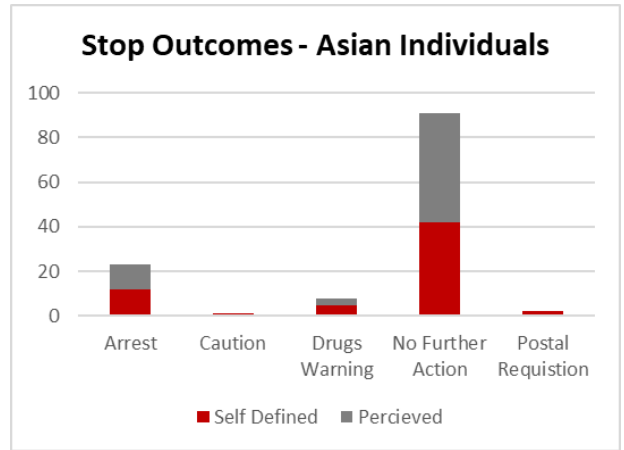


The majority of stops involving Asian individuals relate to drugs (82%, n=102) with numbers of stops in other categories being very low. The inclusion of perceived ethnicity significantly increases the number of stops for drugs and going equipped.

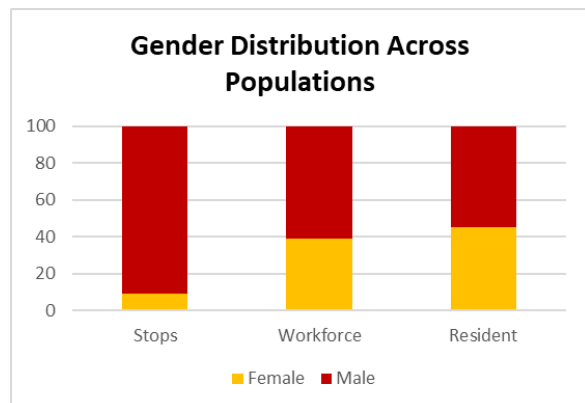
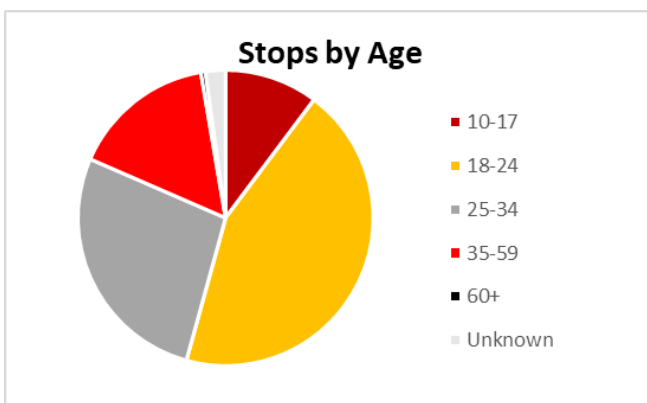
Asian individuals are more likely to be stopped in relation to drugs (82% compared to 70%) than the overall cohort but less likely to be stopped for

stolen goods (2% compared to 7%).

Most stops of Asian individuals resulted in no further action (73%, n=91) this is higher the overall rate of 65%. The percentage arrested (18%, n=23) is conversely lower the overall arrest rate of 23%. The only other outcomes issued to Asian individuals this quarter were cautions, postal requisitions and drugs warnings.



3.5 Age and Gender



Most people stopped are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (44%, n=262), then 25-34 years old (27%, n=162) with few being under 18 (10%, n=61) or over 60 (n=3).

There were 61 stops of under 18s this quarter, 54 males and 7 females. The majority of under 18s stopped were between 15 and 17 (84%, n=51). The youngest person stopped was a 12 year-old white male in relation to potential offensive weapons possession, no objects were found and he was released with no further action.

Most juvenile stops related to drugs (56%, n=34), there was one arrest made from these stops and a further arrest for going equipped giving an arrest rate of 3% for juveniles this quarter, much lower than the overall rate and previous levels for juveniles which is usually around 15%.

The no further action (NFA) rate for children was 85% (n=52) which is much higher than that for all stops (65%).

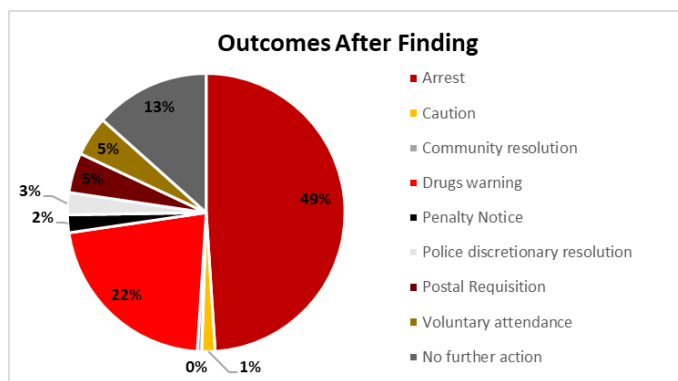
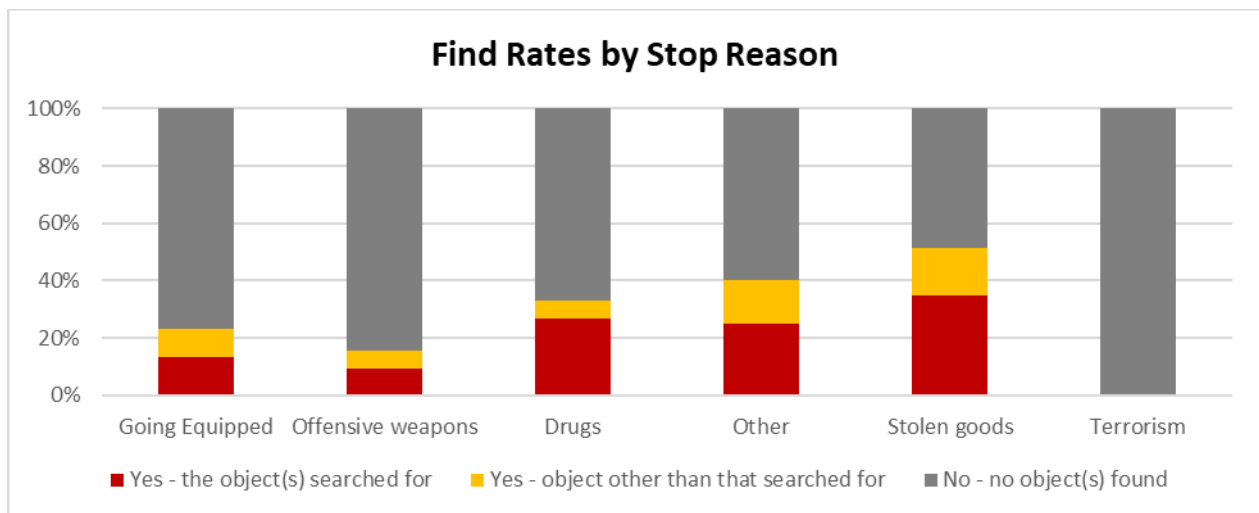
This quarter all age groups were mostly stopped in relation to drugs, perhaps due to the nature of the pandemic making these activities more conspicuous on emptier streets.

The majority of individuals stopped are male (91%, n=540) with 9% being female (n=54). This distribution is not similar to either the work force profile (61% male and 39% female) or the resident one (55% male and 45% female) with females far less likely to be stopped.

Most females (42 out of 54) were stopped in relation to drugs and the most common outcome was no further action (70%, n=38), the arrest rate for females is 22% slightly lower than that for all stops (n=12). The age profile for females was like that for males with the majority of those stopped being between 18-34 (41%, n=22).

4.1 Outcomes – Find Rates

There were 194 searches this quarter which resulted in an object being found, 147 where the object of the search was found and 47 where something different was discovered giving a find rate of 32%. Find rates in general were highest for stolen goods searches (51%, 22 out of 43 stops) this was also the type of stop where the item searched for was most commonly found (35%, 15 out of 43 stops). No items were found as a result of a terrorism stop and after this find rates were lowest for offensive weapons stops with only 9% resulting in an item being found (n=5).



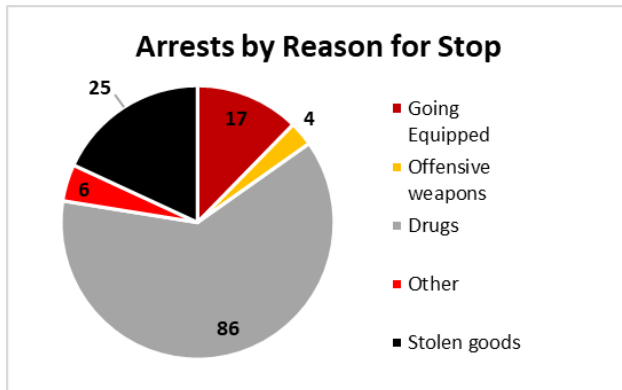
The most common outcome after finding an object was to arrest the subject of the stop (49%, n=95) then to issue a drugs warning (22%, n=42), the no further action rate after finding was 13% (n=26).

Subjects were asked to remove their outer clothing for 111 stops this quarter, mainly for drugs searches (84 stops) or going equipped searches (14 stops).

There were 12 drugs searches, 2 going equipped and one offensive weapon search that required full strip searches. One subject was female the remaining 14 male. Seven of the full strip searches resulted in objects being found (47%) and there were 5 arrests made. The youngest person strip searched was 18 and the oldest 53.

4.2 Outcomes – Arrests

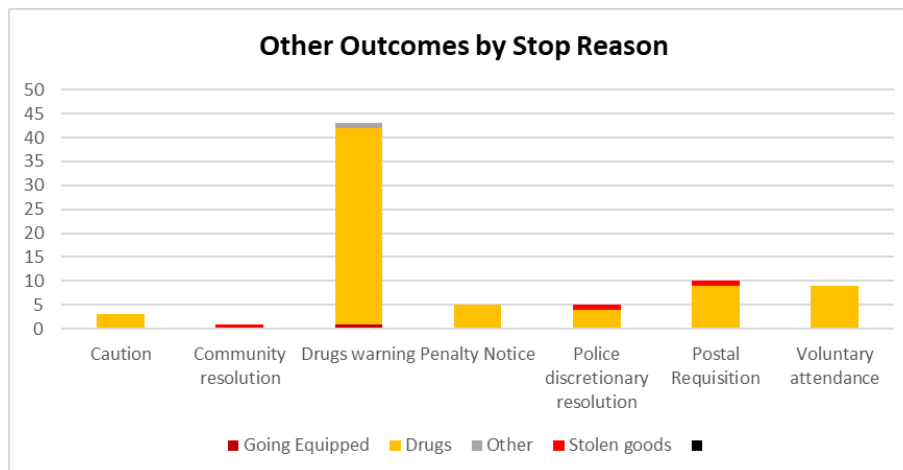
There were 138 arrests resulting from stop search this quarter, 23% of all stops. This is the same as last quarter but remains lower than the average 30% level across the last year with rates continuing to be significantly lower than previous years where the arrest rate has been 36% or 37%.



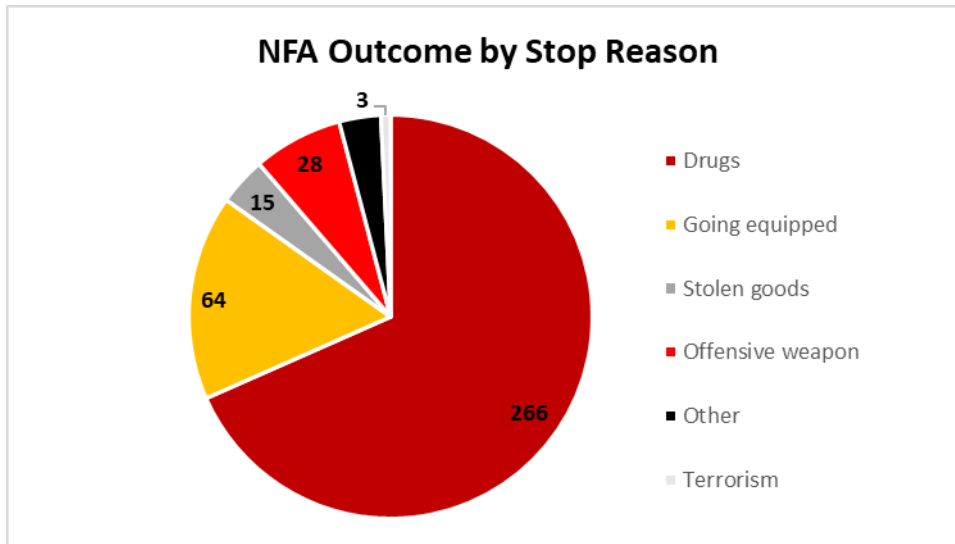
Most arrests in the current quarter resulted from drug stops (62%, n=86) or stolen goods (18%, n=25). When we look at arrest rates instead of volume the arrest rate was highest for stolen goods stops (58%) followed by going equipped (21%).

Just under half of all arrests (47%, n=65) were the secondary outcome of the stop and as such were not related to the object of the search, this most commonly happens in the case of drug stops (n=44) and the rate of secondary arrests was highest for offensive weapons as 3 out of 4 arrests were related to other matters such as the subject being wanted on warrant or found in possession of stolen goods or drugs.

4.3 Outcomes – Other



The positive outcome rate this quarter is 35% (n=214) down 1 percentage point from last quarter. Outside of arrests the most common resolution was to issue a drugs warning (n=43) at the point of the stop. The widest range of outcomes can be seen for drugs stops where every available outcome was used this quarter.



The overall No Further Action (NFA) rate for stops this quarter is 65% (n=389), the highest NFA rate this quarter is for offensive weapons stops (88%, 28 out of 32 stops) then going equipped (78%, 64 out of 82 stops). The NFA rate is lowest for stolen goods stops (35%, 15 out of 43 stops).

4.4 Outcomes – Age, Gender and Ethnicity Summary

4.4.1 Perceived Ethnicity

The arrest rate is highest amongst black individuals (25%, 42 out of 171 stops) after this the arrest rate is highest amongst white individuals (23%, 57 out of 253 stops).

Drugs warnings were most commonly issued to white individuals whilst Postal Requisitions were used more often with black individuals. Middle Eastern individuals had no other outcomes apart from arrest and no further action this quarter.

No further action rates were highest for Asian individuals (73%, 91 out of 125 stops) then white individuals (63%, 159 out of 253 stops).

Find rates were highest amongst white individuals (35%, 89 out of 253 stops).

4.4.2 Age

There were three males aged over 60, stopped this quarter in relation to stolen goods (2) or going equipped (1), two were arrested after items were found and one was no further actioned.

Arrest rates were then highest amongst 35-59 year olds at 29% (27 out of 94 stops).

No further action rates were highest for 10-17 year olds (85%, 52 out of 61 stops).

Drugs warnings were most commonly issued to those between 18-24 years old. Those aged 25-34 received the widest range of diversionary outcomes this quarter.

Find rates were highest for 24-34 year olds (36%, 59 of 162 stops). The find rates for 10-17 year olds is 16% (10 out of 61 stops).

There were 13 stops this quarter where the age of the subject is unknown.

4.4.3 Gender

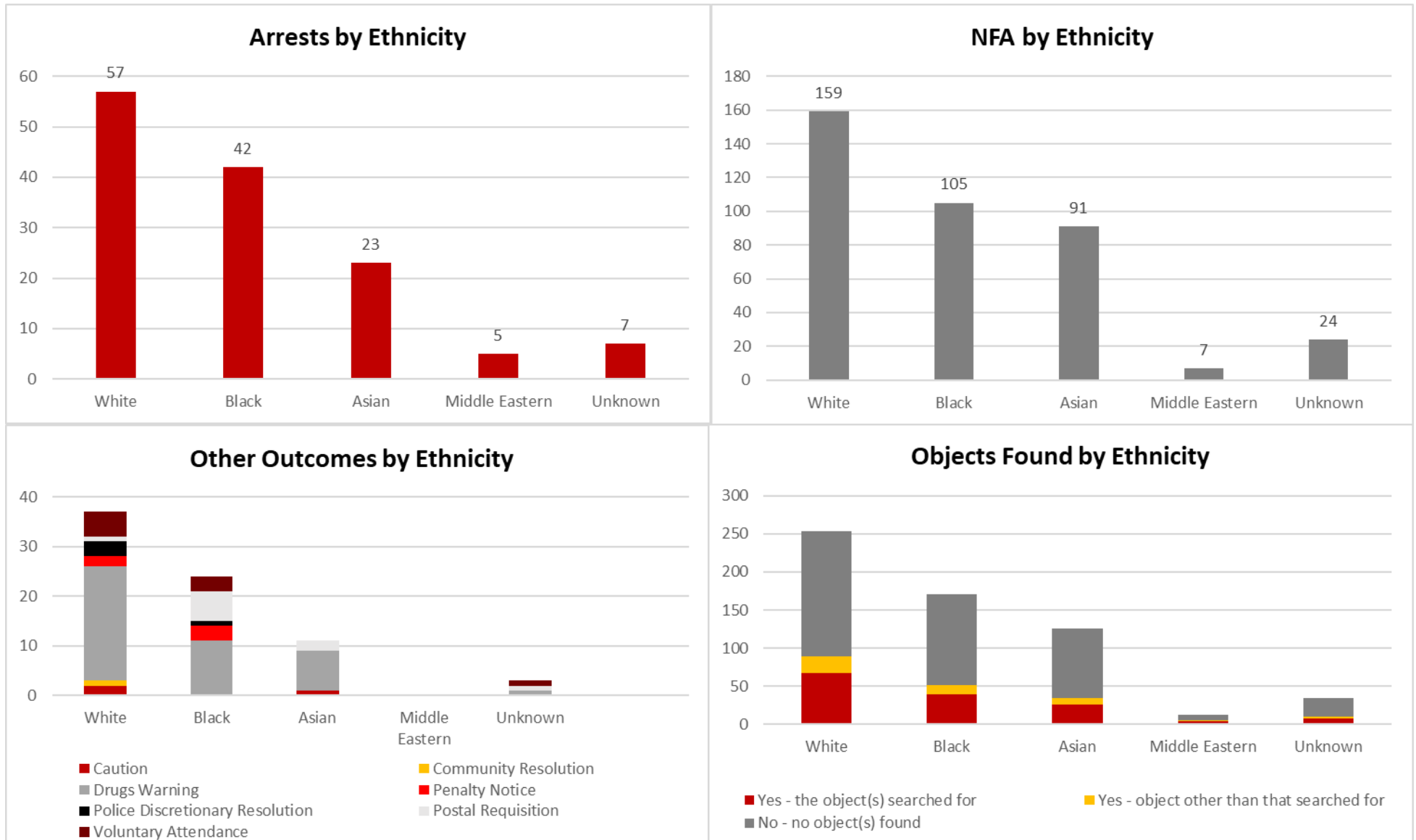
The arrest rate for females is 22% and for males 23%, the NFA rate for females is 70% and for males 64%.

No women had a stop resulting in a caution, community resolution, penalty notice or postal requisition this quarter.

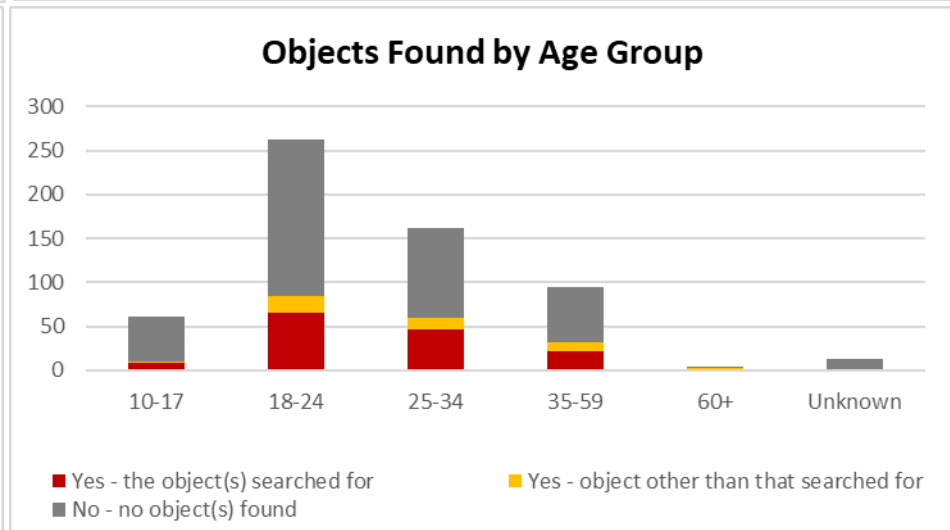
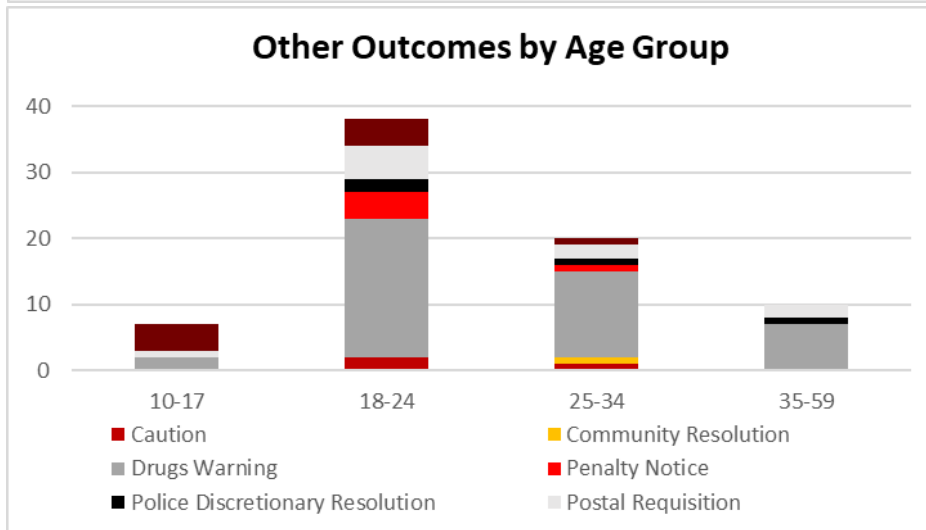
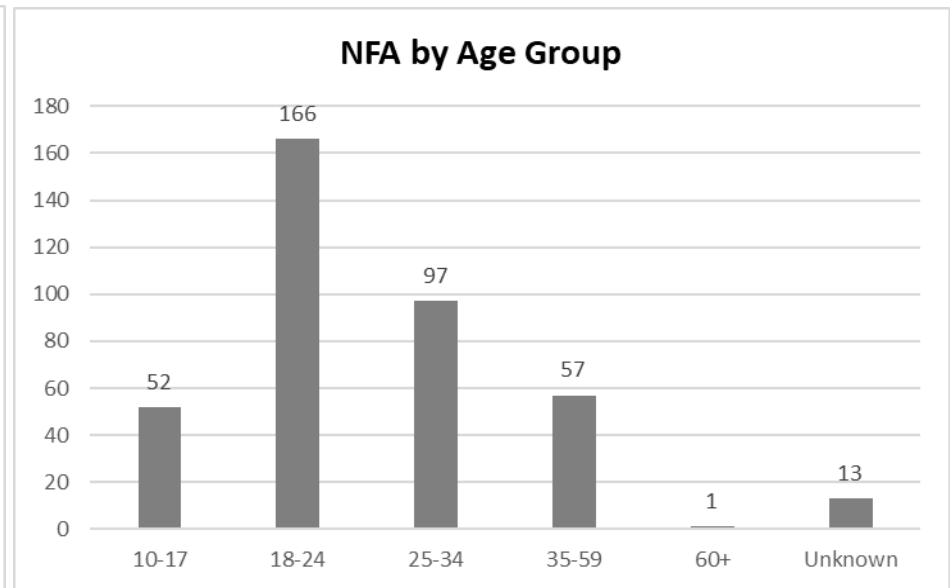
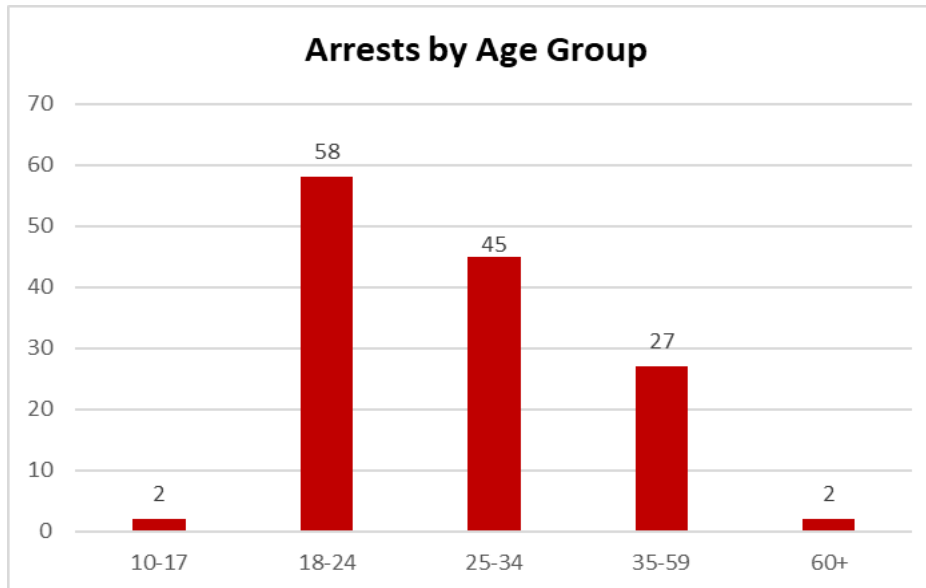
The find rate for females (30%, n= 16) is similar to that for males (31%, n=173).

There was one stop where the person's gender was unknown this quarter and they received an NFA outcome.

4.5 Outcomes – Perceived Ethnicity Breakdown



4.6 Outcomes – Age Breakdown



4.7 Outcomes – Gender Breakdown

