
Performance Information Unit



Stop and Search

Quarter 1 2021/22

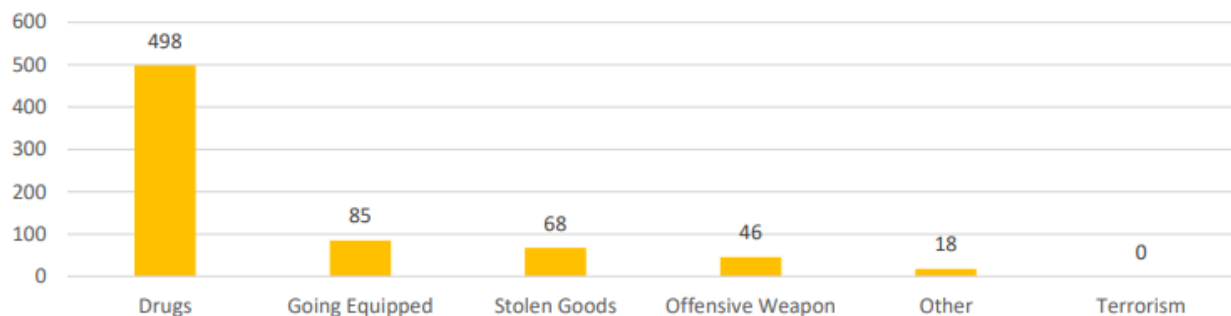
1st April – 30th June 2021

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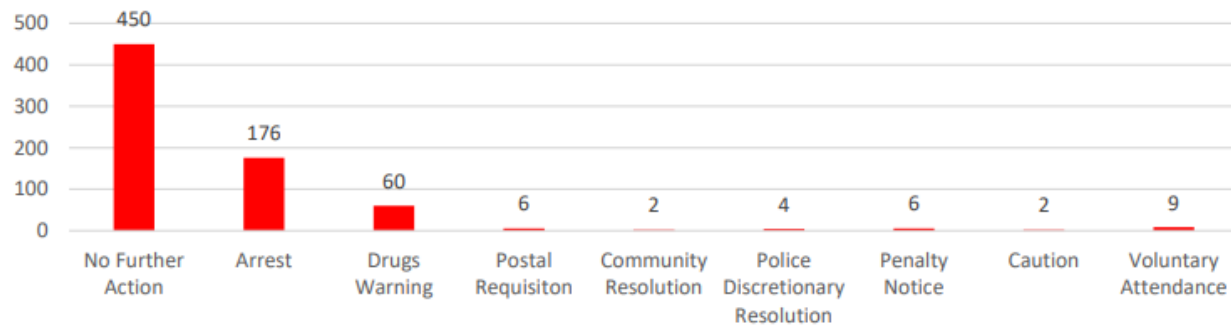
Stop and Search Summary Q1 2021/22 (1st April 2021 - 30th June 2021)



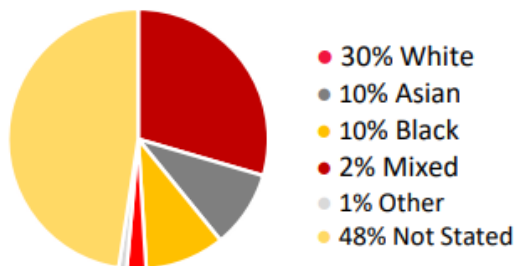
Reason for Stop



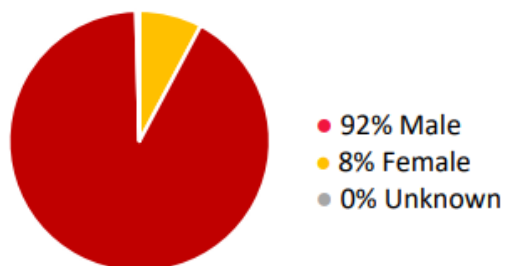
Outcome of Stop



Subject Self Defined Ethnicity



Subject Gender

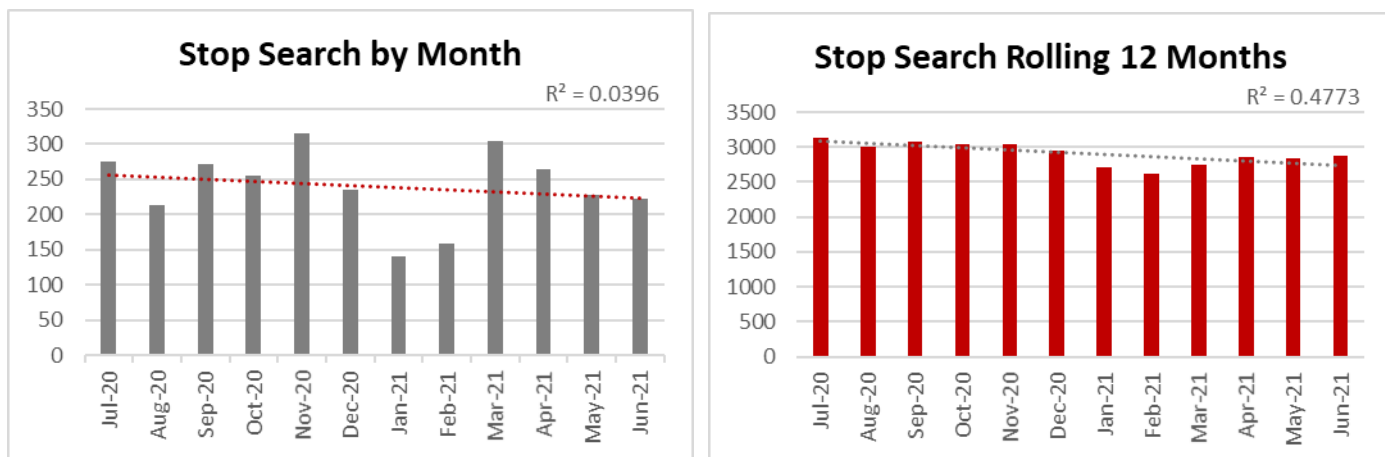


Stop and Search – Quarter 1 21/22

1.1 Key Findings

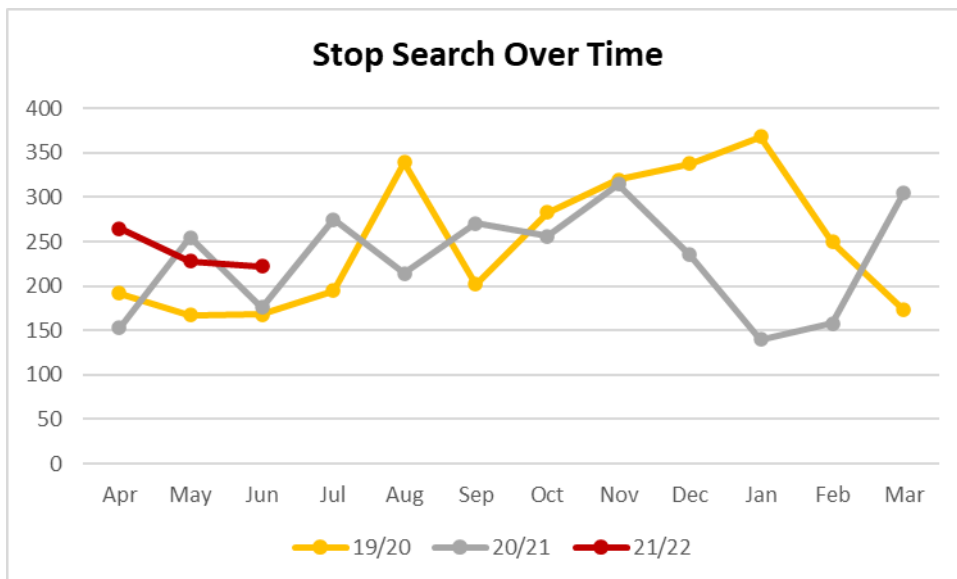
- There has been an increase in the number of searches carried out this quarter (19%, n=112) while numbers were higher in April they have been fairly consistent each month across the quarter.
- On average 238 stops were carried out each month this quarter, similar to the average for the last 12 months of 240 stops a month.
- Numbers this quarter are significantly higher than the same period in both 20/21 and 19/20.
- 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 Thursdays and Tuesdays, the peak times this quarter was Thursday between 14:00-15:00 and Saturday between 15:00-18:00.
- For the current period a 26% of stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (n=183) which is slightly higher than last quarter. Most MPS stops related to drugs (80%, n=146).
- The most common repeat locations for stops were Bishopsgate, Tower Bridge and Cheapside.
- The group most commonly stopped and searched in terms of perceived and self-defined ethnicity is white individuals. Although 46 % of those stopped did not state a self-defined ethnicity (n=327).
- Levels of disproportionality have remained mostly stable this quarter the same for black and other ethnicities as last quarter (1.9 and 0.6) but rising slightly from 1.4 to 1.6 for Asian individuals.
- There were 48 stops of under 18s this quarter with most stops related to drugs. The youngest people stopped were three 14-year-old boys stopped on separate occasions.
- There were 23 full strip searches this quarter, objects were found on 9 occasions and ten arrests made.
- The find rate this quarter is 33% and the arrest rate is 25%.
- The overall positive outcome rate this quarter is 37%.

1.2 Monthly Breakdown



After the low numbers recorded in January and February, we have seen stop searches return to a more expected level this quarter with 715 stops taking place, an increase of 19% on last quarter and an increase of 36% compared to Q1 in 19/20. Both the monthly and rolling graphs are showing decreasing trends but this is likely to begin to change if the current levels continue in to Q2.

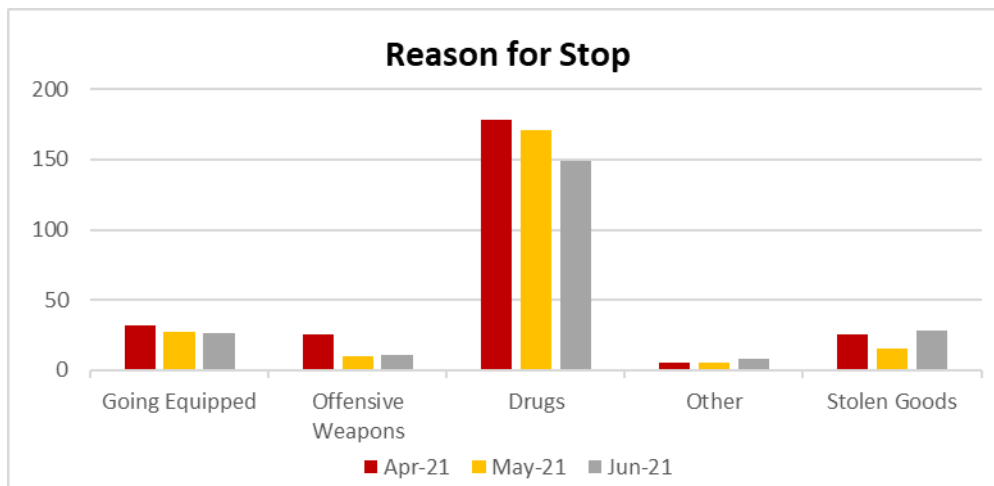
On average over the last 12 months there have been 240 stops a month with this quarter averaging 238 a month, reports were slightly higher in April but generally quite consistent across all 3 months and for all months except May higher than the same month for the last 2 years.



2.1 Reason for Stop

The most common legal basis for searches this quarter was Misuse of Drugs Act (70%, n=497) followed by PACE (29%, n=207). There was 1 Section 60 stop carried out on MPS ground in this period.

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



The percentage of stops relating to each reason continues to be consistent with previous quarters with the main reason being drugs (70% of all stops). Most stops related to cannabis and a smaller number for other controlled drugs (n=360 to n=138 respectively). There were no stops relating to Khat possession this quarter.

Under the offensive weapons category there were 10 searches for a bladed article and 29 for a general offensive weapon along with 7 firearms searches. Most stops ended with no objects being found and no further action taken but two individuals were arrested after being found in a vehicle with a knife and one individual was found with a canister of farb gel self-defence spray. There were eight arrests made for other reasons such as drugs possession.

There were no terrorism related stops this quarter.

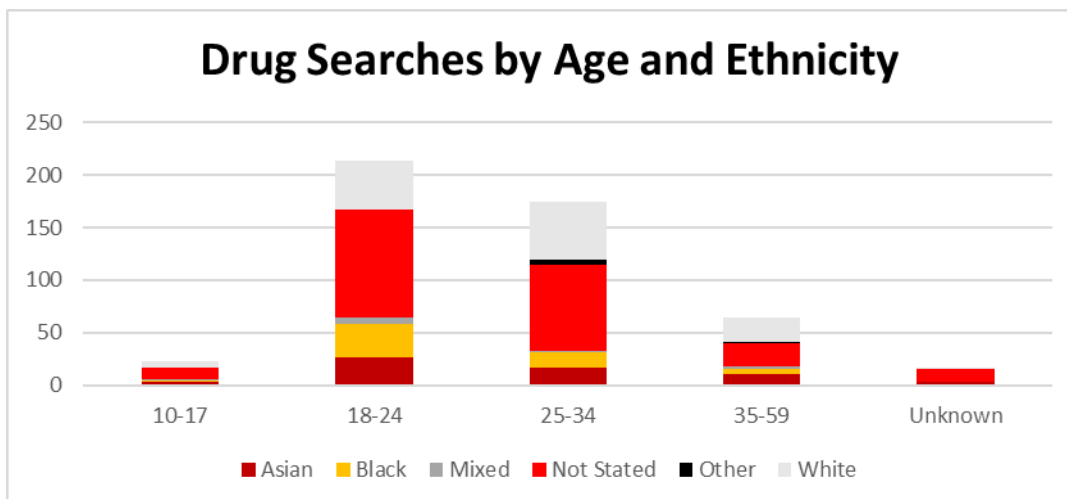
2.2 Reason for Stop – Drugs Searches

Drugs searches most commonly took place on Thursdays and Saturdays this quarter, with activity peaking in the afternoon between 15:00-18:00 and 22:00-01:00. Over a quarter of drug stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (29%, n=116).

Breaking the categories of stops down 360 related to Cannabis (73%) and 138 (27%) to other drugs, 170 searches (34%) involved both persons and vehicles.

The find rate for drugs searches for this quarter is 35% with 176 out of 498 searches finding something, in 157 cases this was the object searched for and in 19 a different object. This is a slight increase from last quarter when the find rate was 33%. There were 120 arrests made as a result of drugs stops (24%), 59 drugs warnings were issued, 2 cautions, 5 postal requisitions and 6 penalty notices. The overall positive outcome rate for drug searches is 40% (n=200).

Common repeat locations for drugs related stops this quarter were Bishopsgate, Tower Bridge and London Wall.



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

They were mainly male (91%, n=455), did not state their ethnicity (46%, n=230) and between 18 and 24 years old (43%, n=214). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be white (33%, n=76). 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 (42%, n=208).

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

2.3 Reason for Stop – Going Equipped and Stolen Goods

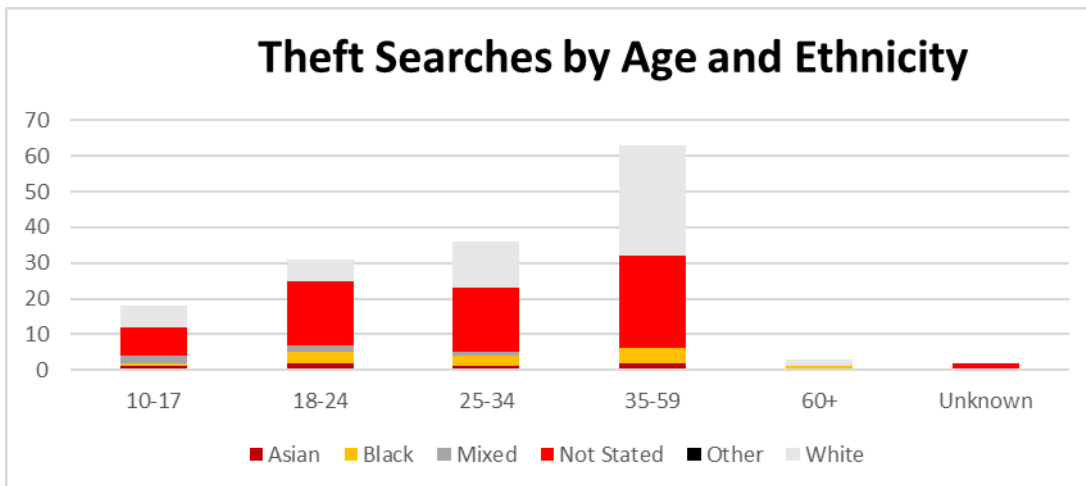
Stops relating to going equipped or stolen goods most commonly took place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, peaking on Tuesday afternoons between 17:00-18:00.

The find rate for theft related searches this quarter is 29% with 33 searches finding the object(s) they were searching for and a further 12 finding other objects. This has decreased from 33% last quarter.

There were 40 arrests resulting from these stops (26%), when other outcomes are included the positive outcome rate is 31% this includes 2 community resolutions, 1 drugs warning 4 police discretionary resolutions and a voluntary attendance.

The most common locations for these searches this quarter were Bishopsgate, Tesco Metro on Bishopsgate, Gracechurch Street and Cheapside.

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



They were mainly male (88%, n=135), did not state their ethnicity (47%, n=72) and between 35 and 59 years old (41%, n=63). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be white (65%, n=47). Looking at self-defined and perceived ethnicities together shows that white people were most commonly stopped in relation to theft (69%, n=105).

There were no vehicle only searches for theft this quarter.

2.4 Reason for Stop – Offensive Weapons

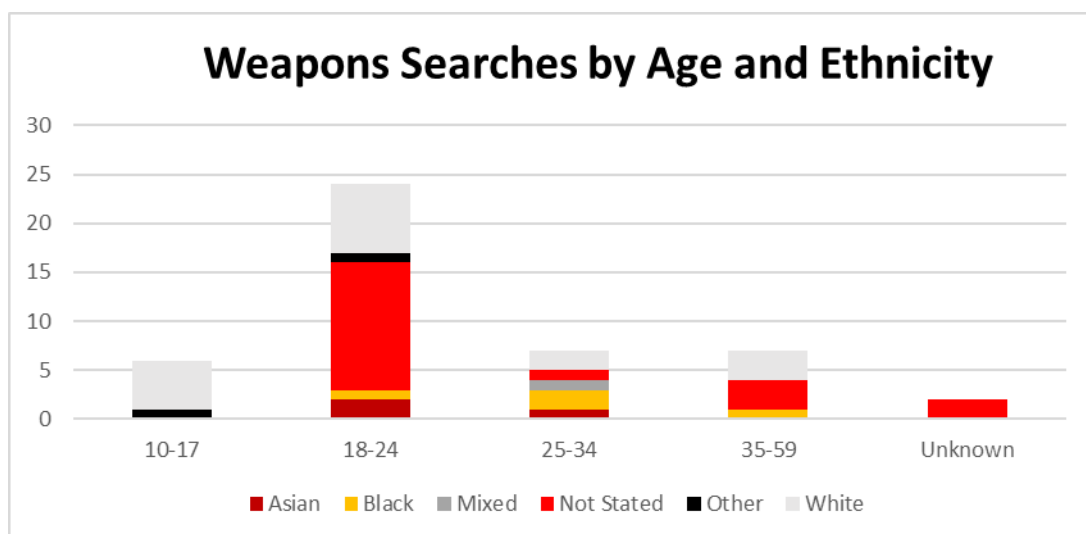
Stops relating to weapons (bladed, offensive or firearms) most commonly took place on Fridays this quarter.

The find rate for weapons related searches this quarter is 19% with 3 searches finding the object(s) they were searching for and a further 6 finding other objects.

There were 11 arrests resulting from weapons stops this quarter (24%) mostly in relation to other matters such as finding drugs or the individual being wanted and all other stops were no further action

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

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

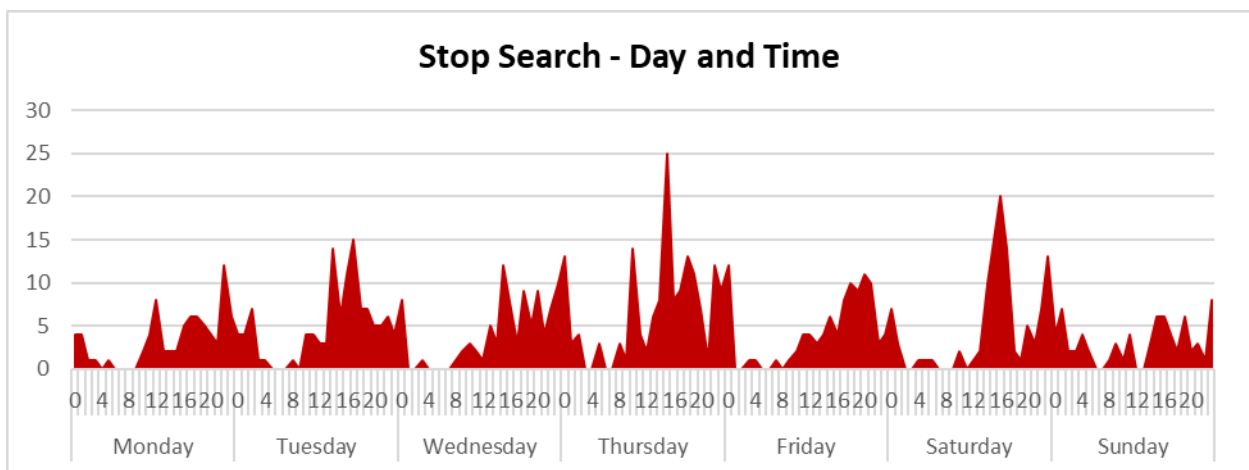


They were nearly all males (94%, n=43) who mainly did not state their ethnicity (41%, n=19) and were between 18 and 24 years old (52%, n=24). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be black (58%, n=11), when this is added to self-defined ethnicities people of white ethnicities were most commonly stopped (56%, n=21).

There were no vehicle only stops in relation to weapons this quarter.

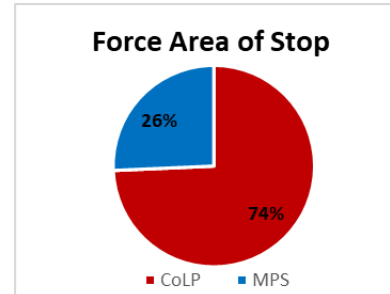
2.5 Time and Location of Stop

Most stops took place on Thursdays and Tuesdays, the peak times this quarter was Thursday between 14:00-15:00 and Saturday between 15:00-18:00. Levels are noticeably lower between 03:00-10:00 most days and Sunday and Monday were the quietest days overall.



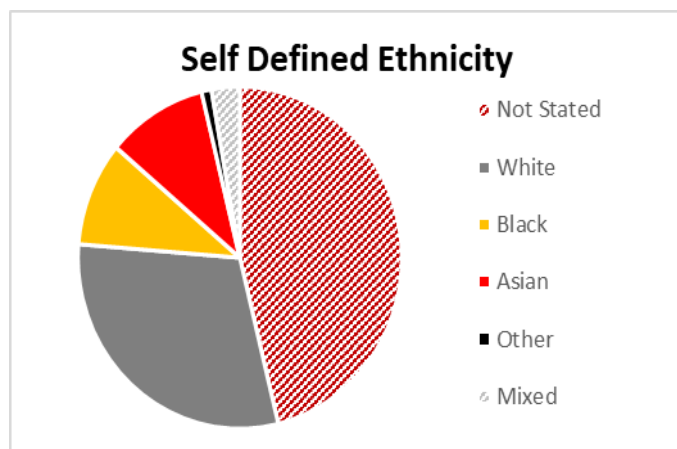
For the current period a 26% of stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (n=183) which is a similar percentage to last quarter.

The most common locations for stops were Bishopsgate, Tower Bridge and Cheapside. All the top 10 locations this quarter are street records.



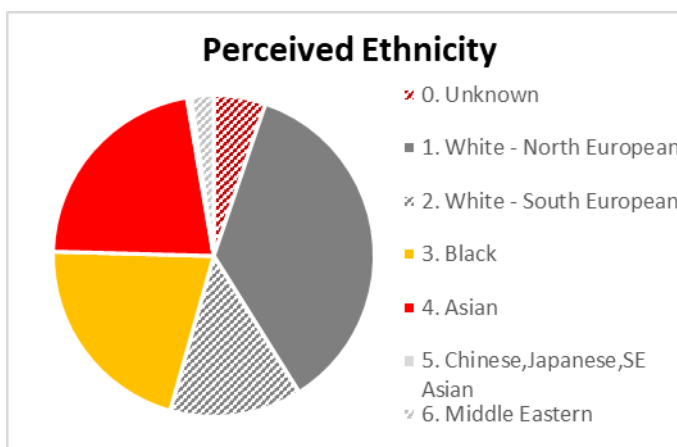
3.1 Ethnicity

The group most commonly stopped and searched in terms of perceived ethnicity is White – North European individuals (36%, n=254), for self-defined ethnicity the most common group is those who do not state their ethnicity (46%, n=327) then white individuals accounting for 30% of searches (n=213).



In terms of self-defined ethnicity the largest group is those who did not wish to state their ethnicity (46%, n=327). When compared to their perceived ethnicity the majority of these individuals were perceived to be white (39%, n=327) or Asian (27%, n=87). The majority of people who chose not to state their ethnicity are between 18 and 24 years of age (42%, n=138).

The biggest discrepancy between self-defined and perceived ethnicity is seen with white individuals with 49% of people stopped perceived to be white but only 30% defining themselves as such. The gap for black individuals is 11%, 21% were perceived to be black but only 10% defined themselves as such, this is similar for Asian individuals with 10% self-defining but 22% perceived. 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=6) or white (n=5) 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 ten 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 65% (n=468) 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 or splitting time between home and office this is likely not to be relevant.

When we look at the residential addresses of people stopped this quarter 59% live in the greater London area, 4% are of no fixed abode, 15% are from other areas and 21% 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 remained mostly stable this quarter the same for black and other ethnicities but rising slightly from 1.4 to 1.6 for Asian individuals.

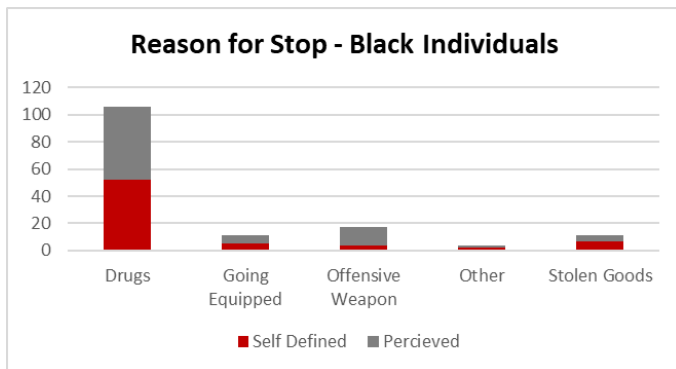
For the last year the average figures are 2.2 for black individuals, 1.6 for Asian individuals and 0.6 for individuals from other ethnic groups.



Across the last quarter the figures for the Metropolitan Police are 4.6 for Black individuals and 1.6 for Asian individuals.

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

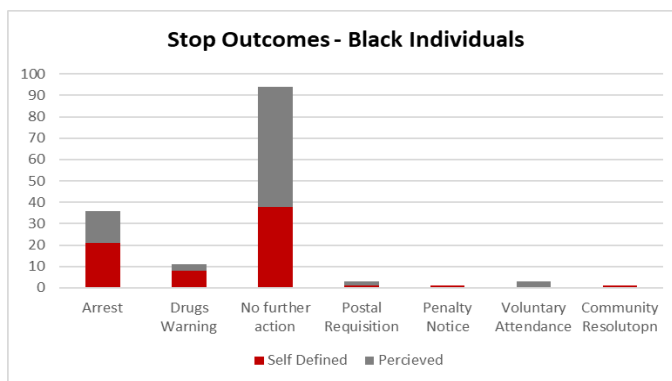
There were 70 individuals stopped this quarter who self-defined their ethnicity as black, nearly all of whom were perceived to be black by officers. A further 82 people were perceived as black and either did not state their ethnicity (75) or self-defined as coming from mixed (6) or other ethnic group (1).



The number of black individuals stopped in relation to almost all reasons at least double when perceived ethnicity is included alongside self-defined. The only reason where this isn't true is Stolen Goods. The largest percentage increase is seen with stolen goods which rises from 4 stops with self-defined ethnicity to 17 when perceived ethnicity is included.

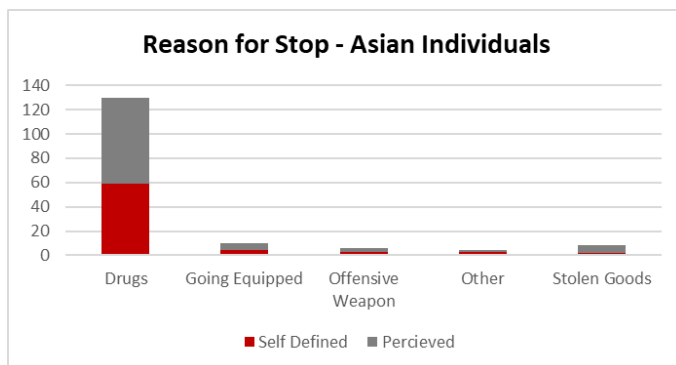
Compared the whole stop cohort for the quarter black individuals (self-defined and perceived) are slightly less likely to be stopped in relation to going equipped (7% compared to 12%) and slightly more likely to be stopped in relation to offensive weapons (11% compared to 6%).

Stop outcomes for both perceived and self-defined black ethnicity show that 64% of individuals were no further actioned (n=94) and 24% were arrested (n=36). This is broadly inline with the rates for all stops with the overall rates being 63% for NFA and 25% for arrest.



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

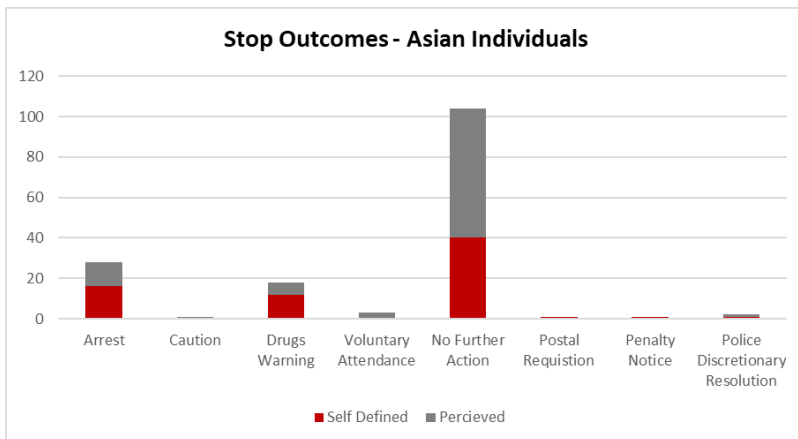
There were 71 individuals stopped this quarter who self-defined their ethnicity as Asian, most of whom were also perceived as Asian by officers. A further 93 people were perceived as Asian but 87 did not state their ethnicity or self-defined as coming from mixed (4) or white ethnic group (1).



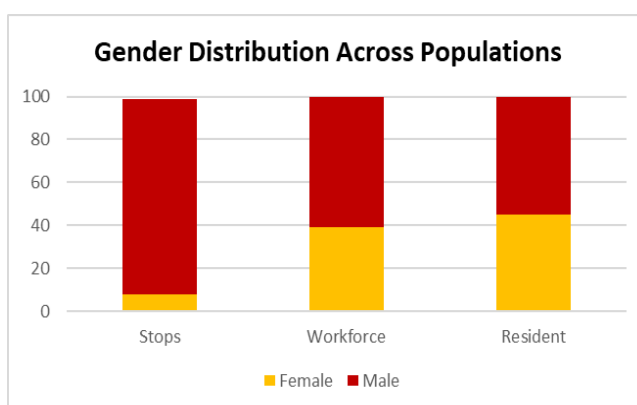
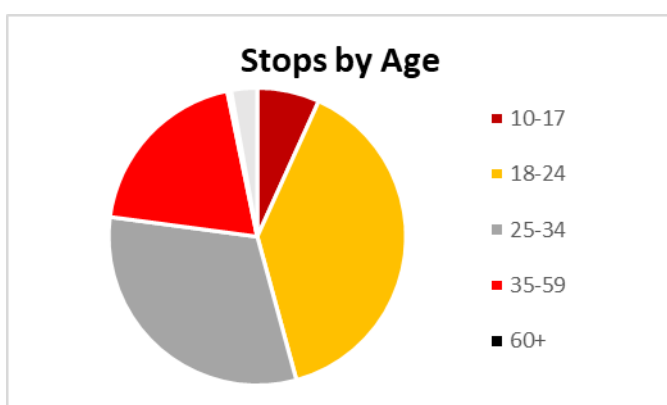
The majority of stops involving Asian individuals relate to drugs (83%, n=130) with numbers of stops in other categories being very low. The inclusion of perceived ethnicity significantly increases the number of stops for drugs, stolen goods and going equipped.

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 going equipped (6% compared to 12%) or stolen goods (5% compared to 10%).

Most stops of Asian individuals resulted in no further action (67%, n=104) this is higher the overall rate of 63%. The percentage arrested (18%, n=28) is conversely lower the overall arrest rate of 25%. All other outcomes were used in small numbers for Asian individuals this quarter.



3.5 Age and Gender



Most people stopped are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (39%, n=276), then 25-34 years old (31%, n=222) with few being under 18 (7%, n=48) or over 60 (n=3).

There were 48 stops of under 18s this quarter, 41 males and 7 females. The majority of under 18s stopped were between 16 and 17 (80%, n=38). The youngest people stopped were three 14 year-old males stopped on separate occasions, 2 were black and one was white, no objects were found and all were released no further action.

Most juvenile stops related to drugs (48%, n=23), there was nine arrests made from these stops and three further juvenile arrests giving an arrest rate of 25% for juveniles this quarter, after a low arrest rate of 3% last quarter this quarter the rate is higher than the usual 15-20%.

The no further action (NFA) rate for children was 71% (n=34) which is higher than that for all stops (63%).

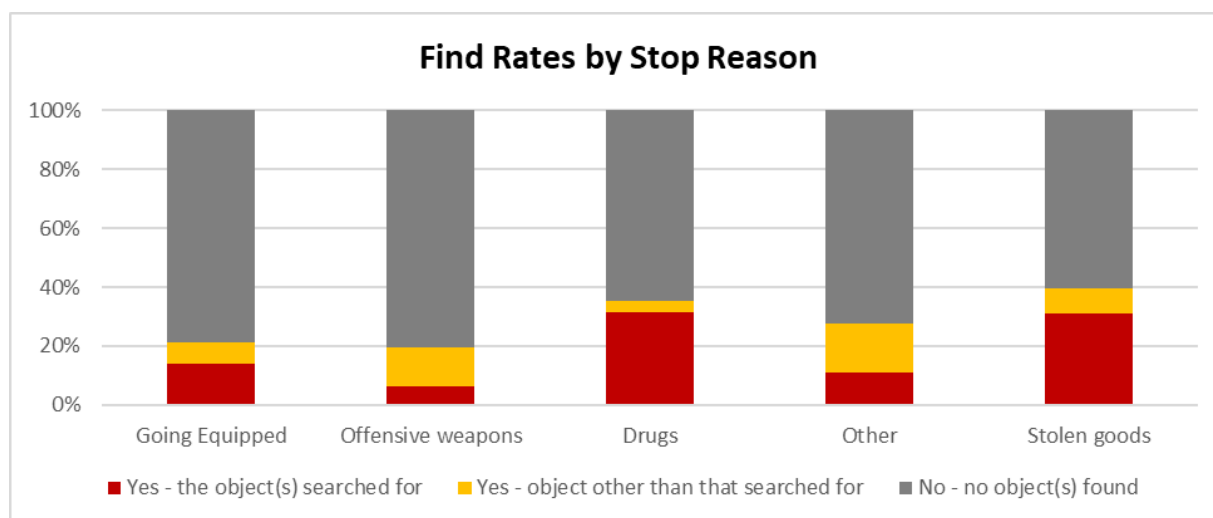
This quarter all age groups were mostly stopped in relation to drugs similar to last quarter, perhaps due to the nature of the pandemic and lower footfall in the City making these activities more conspicuous.

The majority of individuals stopped are male (91%, n=650) with 8% being female (n=55). 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.

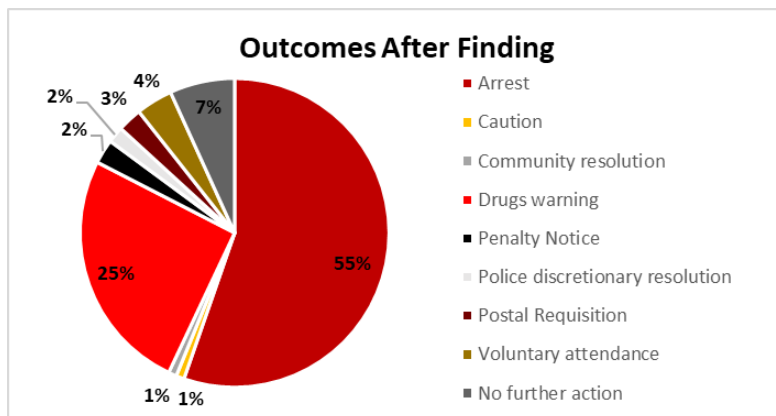
Most females (36 out of 55) were stopped in relation to drugs and the most common outcome was no further action (60%, n=33), the arrest rate for females is 27% (n=15) slightly higher than that for all stops. The age profile for females was like that for males.

4.1 Outcomes – Find Rates

There were 235 searches this quarter which resulted in an object being found, 195 where the object of the search was found and 40 where something different was discovered giving a find rate of 33%. Find rates in general were highest for stolen goods searches (40%, 27 out of 68 stops) however the item searched for was most commonly found in drugs stops (32%, 157 out of 498 stops). Find rates were lowest for offensive weapons stops with only 20% resulting in an item being found (n=9).



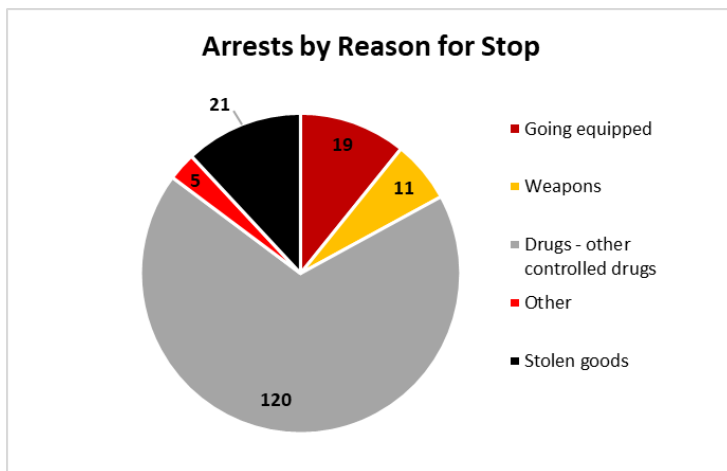
The most common outcome after finding an object was to arrest the subject of the stop (55%, n=130) then to issue a drugs warning (25%, n=60), the no further action rate after finding was 7% (n=16). All outcomes were used at least once after finding an object.



Subjects were asked to remove their outer clothing for 145 stops this quarter, mainly for drugs searches (106 stops) or stolen goods searches (18 stops). There were 20 drugs searches, and 1 offensive weapon, 1 stolen goods and 1 other search that required full strip searches. One subject was female the remaining 22 male. Nine of the full strip searches resulted in objects being found (39%) and there were 10 arrests made. There was also a partial strip search in relation to stolen goods where the items searched for were found and the subject arrested. The youngest person strip searched was 17 and the oldest 52.

4.2 Outcomes – Arrests

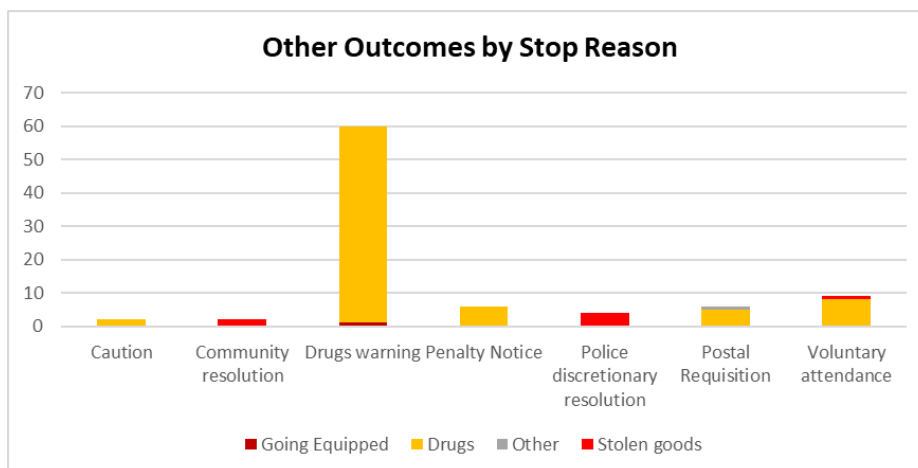
There were 176 arrests resulting from stop search this quarter, 25% of all stops. This is a slight increase from 23% last quarter but remains lower than the average 30% level across the last year with rates continuing to be significantly lower than previous years where the arrest rate has been 36% or 37%.



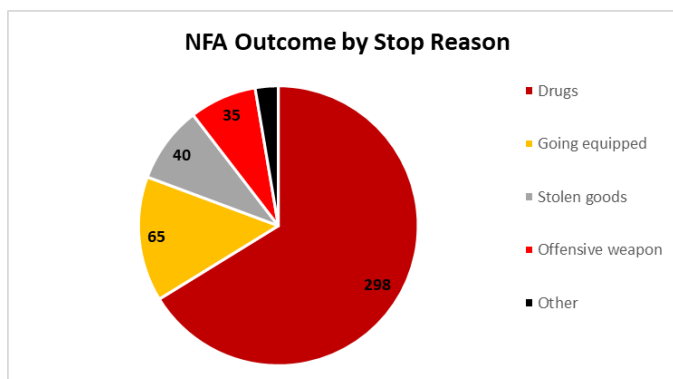
Most arrests in the current quarter resulted from drug stops (68%, n=120). When we look at arrest rates instead of volume the arrest rate was highest for stolen goods stops (31%).

Under half of all arrests (42%, n=74) 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=46) and the rate of secondary arrests was highest for offensive weapons as 8 out of 11 arrests 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 37% (n=265) up 2 percentage points from last quarter. Outside of arrests the most common resolution was to issue a drugs warning (n=60) at the point of the stop. The widest range of outcomes can be seen for drugs stops, whilst community resolutions and police discretionary outcomes were only used in relation to stolen goods.



The overall No Further Action (NFA) rate for stops this quarter is 63% (n=450), the highest NFA rate this quarter is for offensive weapons and going equipped stops (76%, 35 out of 46 stops and 65 out of 85 stops respectively). The NFA rate is lowest for stolen goods stops (59%, 40 out of 68 stops).

4.4 Outcomes – Age, Gender and Ethnicity Summary

4.4.1 Perceived Ethnicity

The arrest rate is highest amongst white individuals (26%, 90 out of 348 stops) after this the arrest rate is highest amongst black individuals (24%, 36 out of 149 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 (66%, 104 out of 158 stops) but levels were roughly consistent with all groups falling within 56-66%.

Find rates were highest amongst white and black individuals (34%, 118 out of 348 stops and 51 out of 149 stops respectively).

4.4.2 Age

There were three males aged over 60, stopped this quarter in relation to stolen goods (1) or going equipped (2), no objects were found and all were released with no further action taken.

Arrest rate was highest amongst 35-59 year olds at 28% (39 out of 139 stops).

No further action rates were highest for 10-17 year olds (71%, 34 out of 48 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 25-34 year olds (36%, 79 of 222 stops). The find rates for 10-17 year olds is 27% (13 out of 48 stops).

There were 20 stops this quarter where the age of the subject is unknown.

4.4.3 Gender

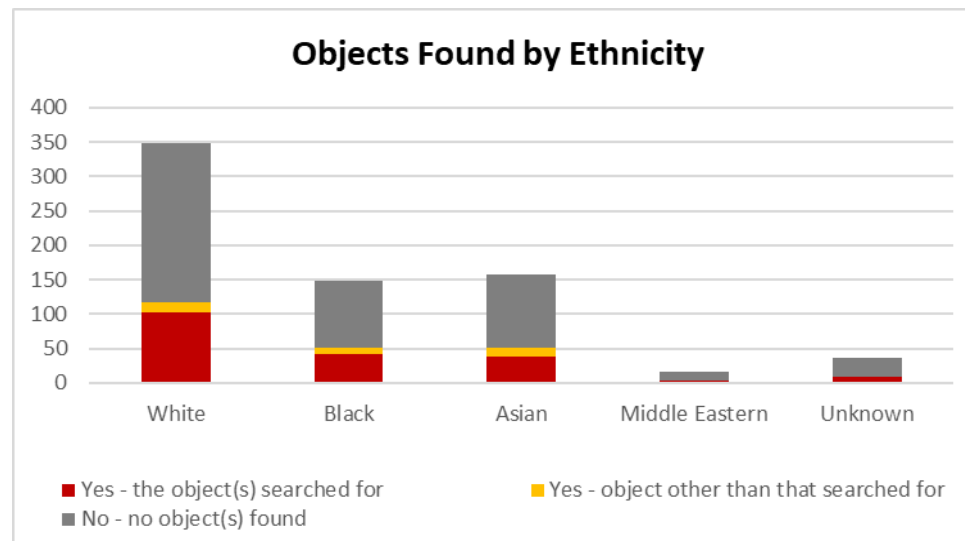
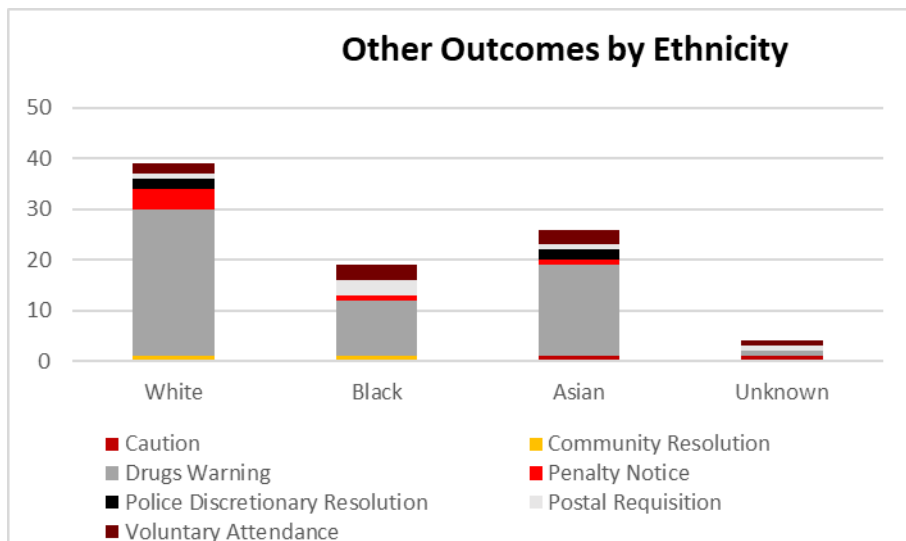
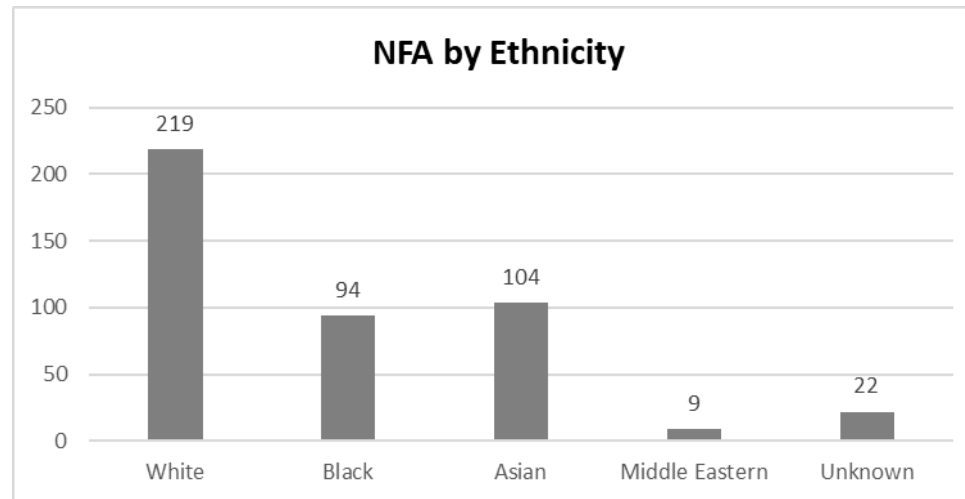
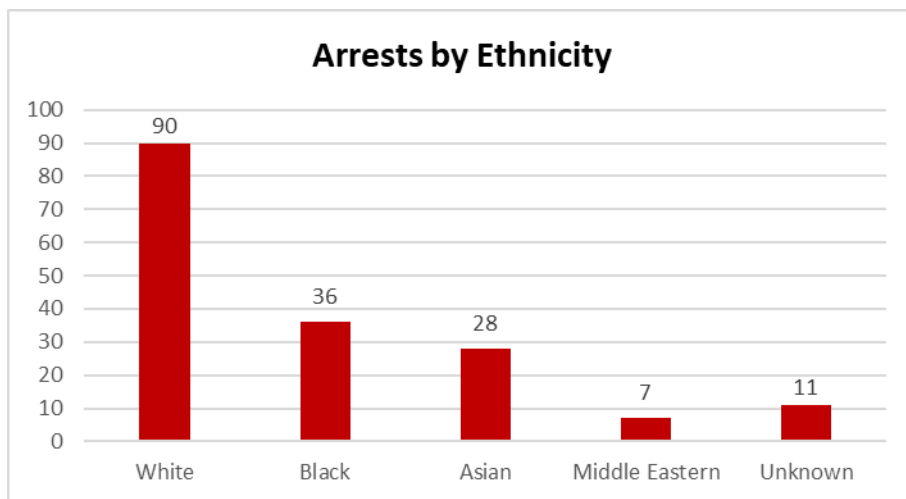
The arrest rate for females is 27% and for males 24%, the NFA rate for females is 60% and for males 64%.

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

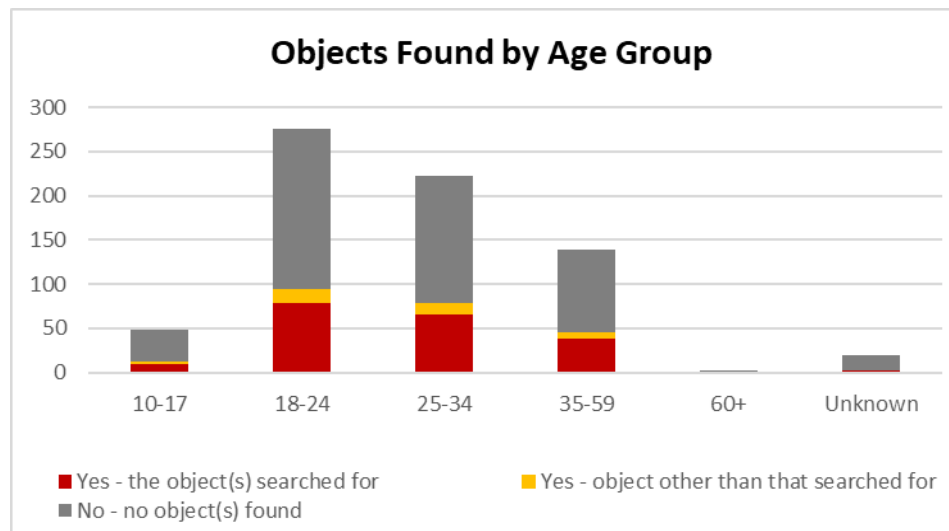
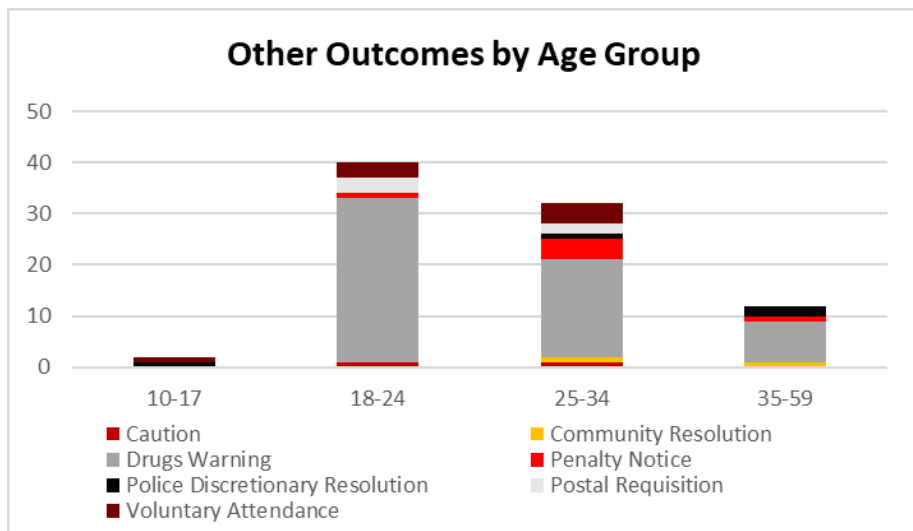
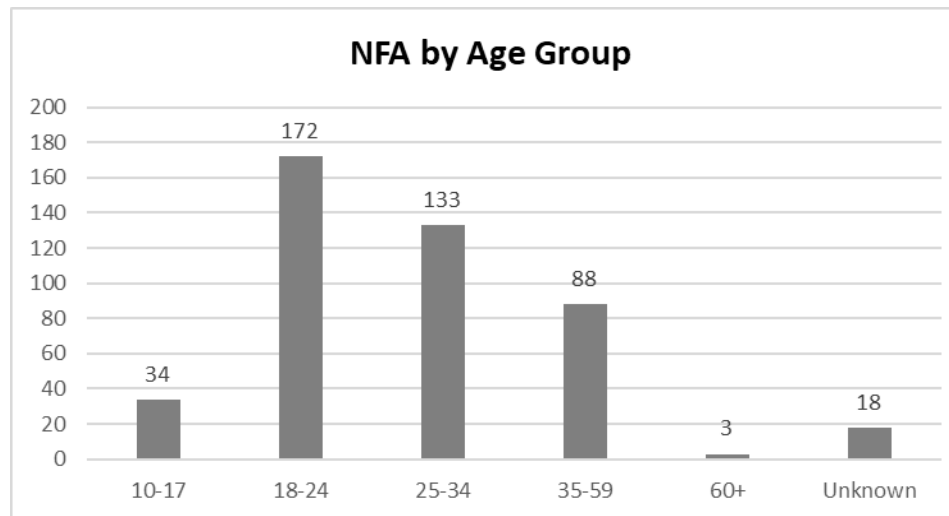
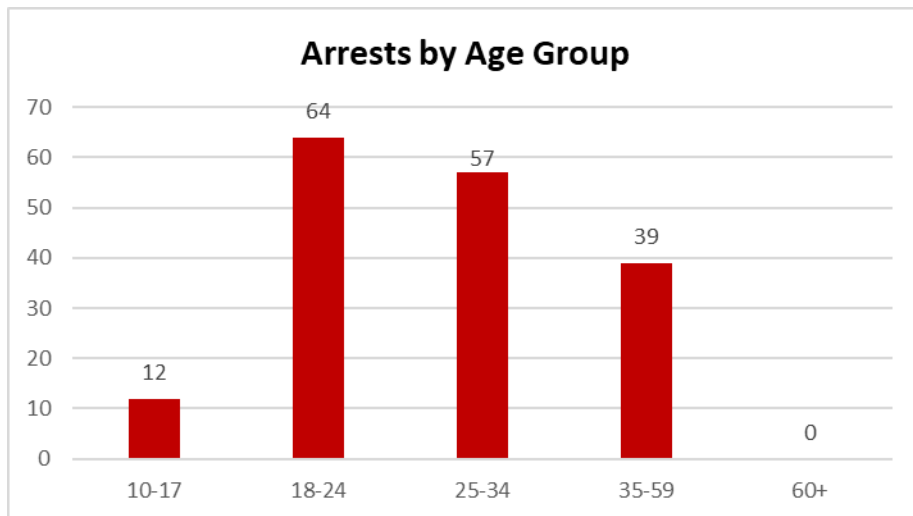
The find rate for females (33%, n= 18) is the same as that for males (33%, n=214).

There were three stops where the person's gender was unknown this quarter; one was arrested, one received a community resolution and the last an NFA outcome.

4.5 Outcomes – Perceived Ethnicity Breakdown



4.6 Outcomes – Age Breakdown



4.7 Outcomes – Gender Breakdown

