

The Price of Policing: Uncovering Local Economic Divides in Stop and Search

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Background



Definition of Stop & Search

- A Policing Policy that allows police to stop, detain and search individuals if they have suspicion the individual committed a crime.
- an officer has reasonable grounds for suspicion that a person is in possession of a stolen or prohibited item, or controlled drugs, or if a person is in an area where serious violence is anticipated.

There are several powers of search, but majority of powers used are included in:

- section 1, [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#)
- section 23, [Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#)
- [section 60, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994](#)

Motivation

- **Stop and Search (S&S)** is one of the UK's most **controversial police powers**
- **Low conviction rates** raise questions about its effectiveness
- Evidence of **ethnic disproportionality** fuels public distrust
- Research is largely **London-focused and race-oriented**
- This study shifts focus to **economic inequality and regional context**



Research Question

“To what extent do the spatial patterns of stop and search in Merseyside and Greater London, reflecting their differing social compositions, correlate with localised economic disparities at the LSOA level?”

AIM: to assess whether economic inequality plays a distinct role in stop and search deployment across two very different urban contexts.



How this economic inequality varies in different cultural make-ups

Hypotheses

Hypothesis 1: S&S rates will correlate with higher income deprivation at the LSOA level.

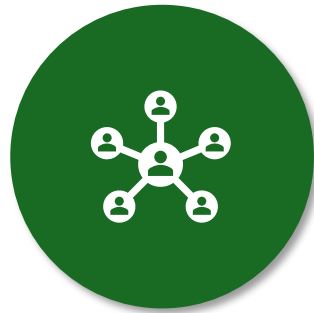
Hypothesis 2: The strength of this correlation will vary significantly between London and Merseyside.

Hypothesis 3: The interaction between income deprivation and ethnic diversity will show that economically deprived, ethnically diverse areas face the highest levels of S&S activity.

Data Sources



**STOP &
SEARCH DATA
(2022)**



**SOCIAL
MAKE-UP**



**INCOME
DEPRIVATION**




**MEAN HOUSE
PRICES**


Data Sources – UK Police


DATA.POLICE.UK


[Home](#) [Data](#) [API](#) [Changelog](#) [Contact](#) [About](#)


Data from 2022


 [December 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Jan 2020 to Dec 2022
83673f0bc85e4f3d52a205e086fa8294


 [November 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Dec 2019 to Nov 2022
a2af6d81dd94b8af9a5f4cf10aae4387


 [October 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Nov 2019 to Oct 2022
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 [September 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Oct 2019 to Sep 2022
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 [August 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Sep 2019 to Aug 2022
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 [July 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Aug 2019 to Jul 2022
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 [June 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Jul 2019 to Jun 2022
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 [May 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Jun 2019 to May 2022
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 [April 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
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 [March 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Apr 2019 to Mar 2022
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 [February 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Mar 2019 to Feb 2022
caad627cbc71adb9fd33a32ffcde717c

 [January 2022](#) (1.5 GB)
Contains data from Feb 2019 to Jan 2022
e68551a5ee47ca254da46e21658bcb95

The analysis uses 2022 stop and search data from the UK Police with the UK Police API to explore spatial patterns and disparities across LSOAs in London and Merseyside.

- Stop & Search
- Crime

Data Sources – Other Variables

The other descriptive variables are collected from the 2021 ONS Census, which provides detailed demographic and socio-economic data at the local authority level, including information on population characteristics, ethnicity, housing, and employment status, among other factors.



Data Sources – Other Variables

[Home](#) > [Society and culture](#) > [Community and society](#)

Accredited official statistics

Indices of Deprivation 2019: income and employment domains combined for England and Wales

The "Indices of Deprivation 2019" are a measure of relative deprivation across England and Wales. The income and employment domains are combined to highlight areas with high levels of economic hardship, helping to identify regions where people may experience greater social and financial challenges.



Methodology

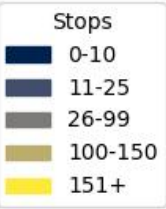
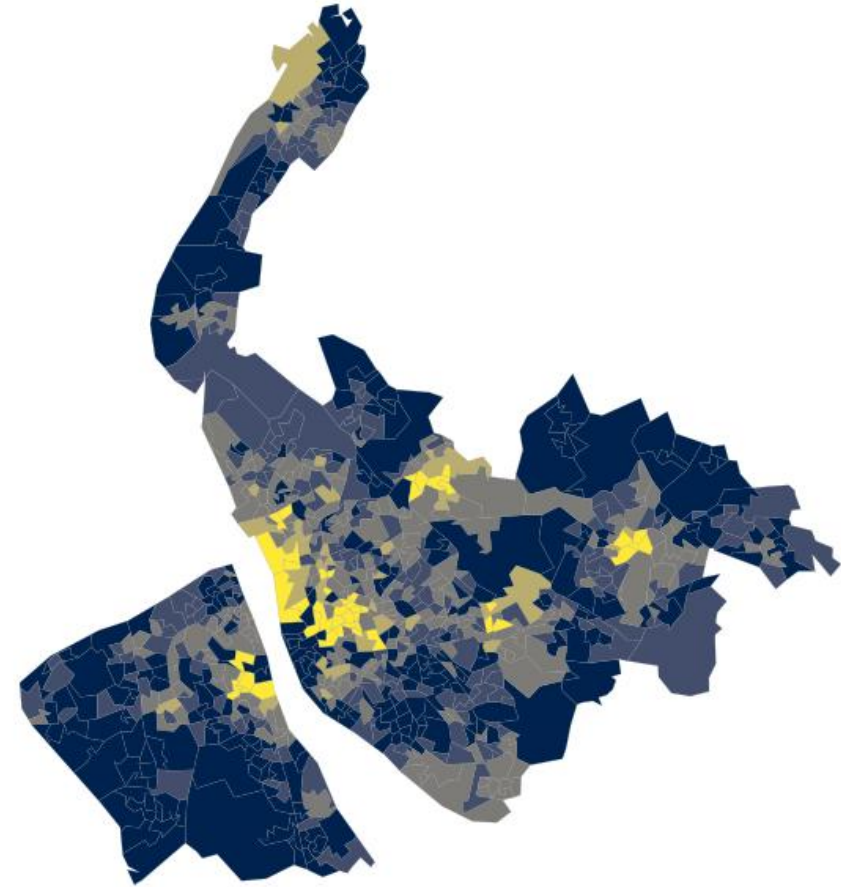
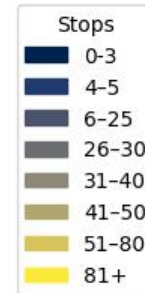
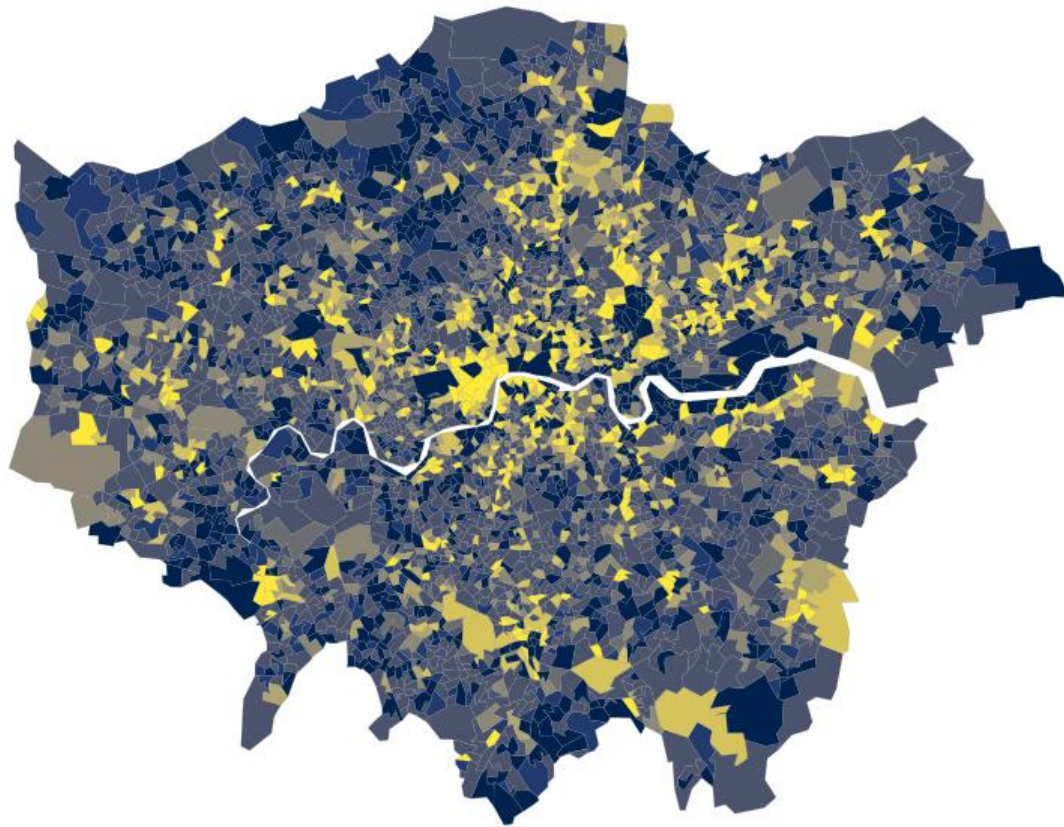
Descriptive spatial analysis:

- Mapping S&S rates across LSOAs to visualise clustering
- Visualise other variables to see if patterns emerge

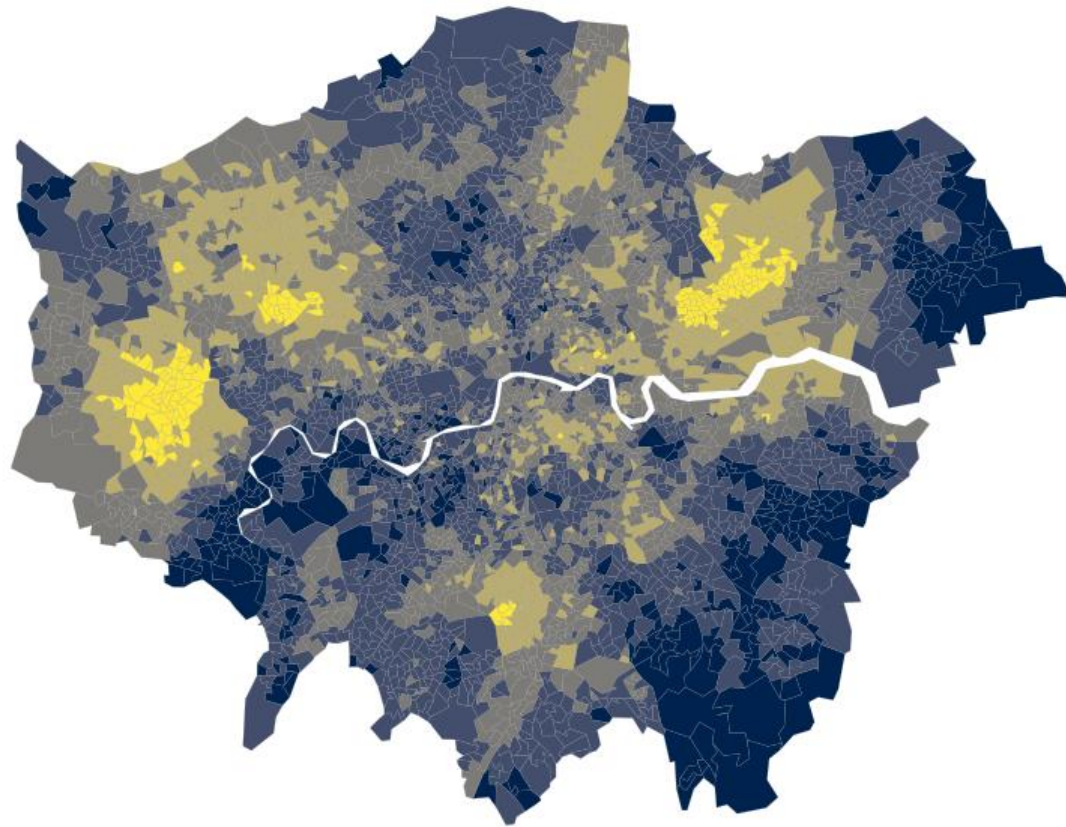
Regression models:

- Regression with Fixed Effects on Borough
- Regression with Interaction terms
- Compare coefficients for London and Merseyside separately

Preliminary Analysis – Stop & Search

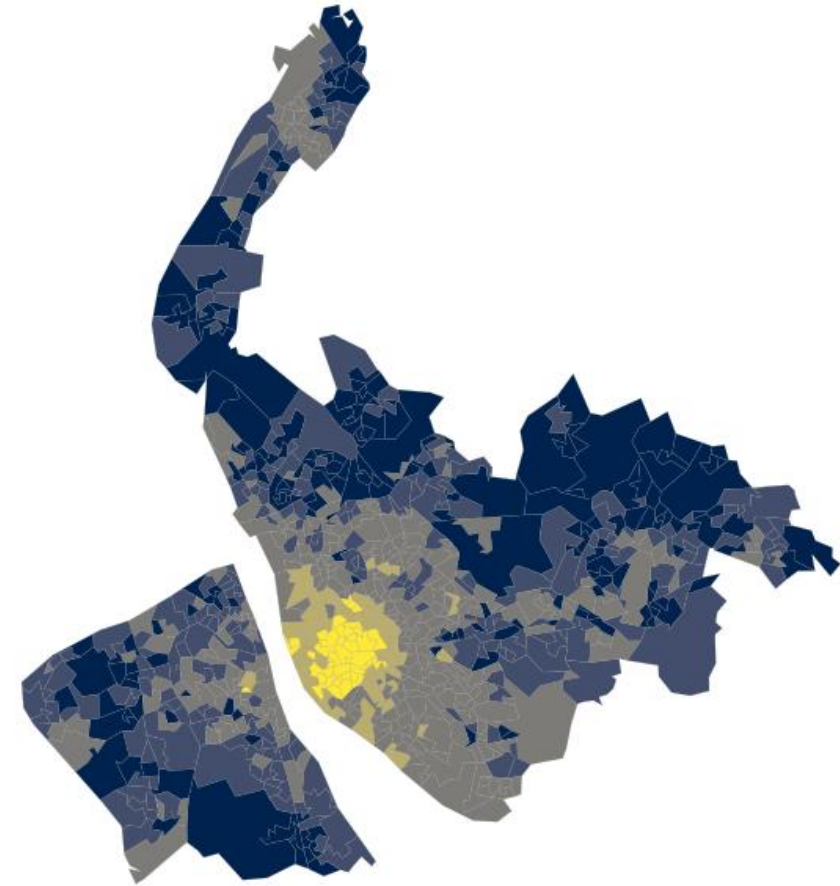


Preliminary Analysis – BAME %



BAME (%)

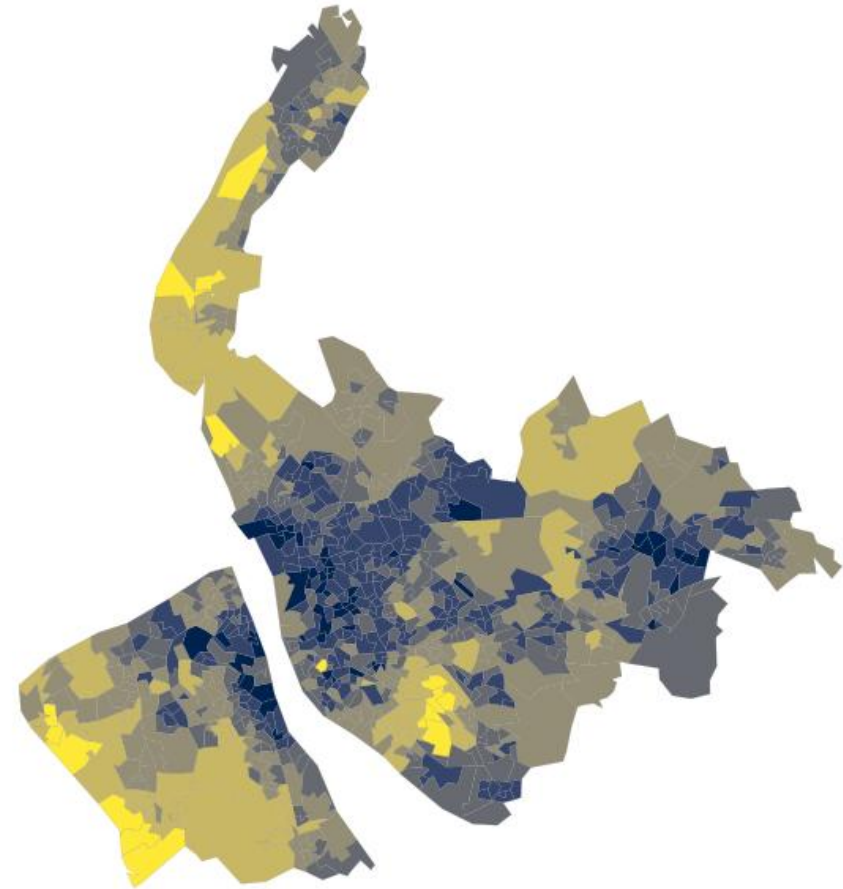
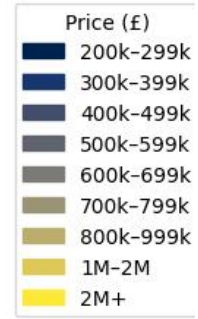
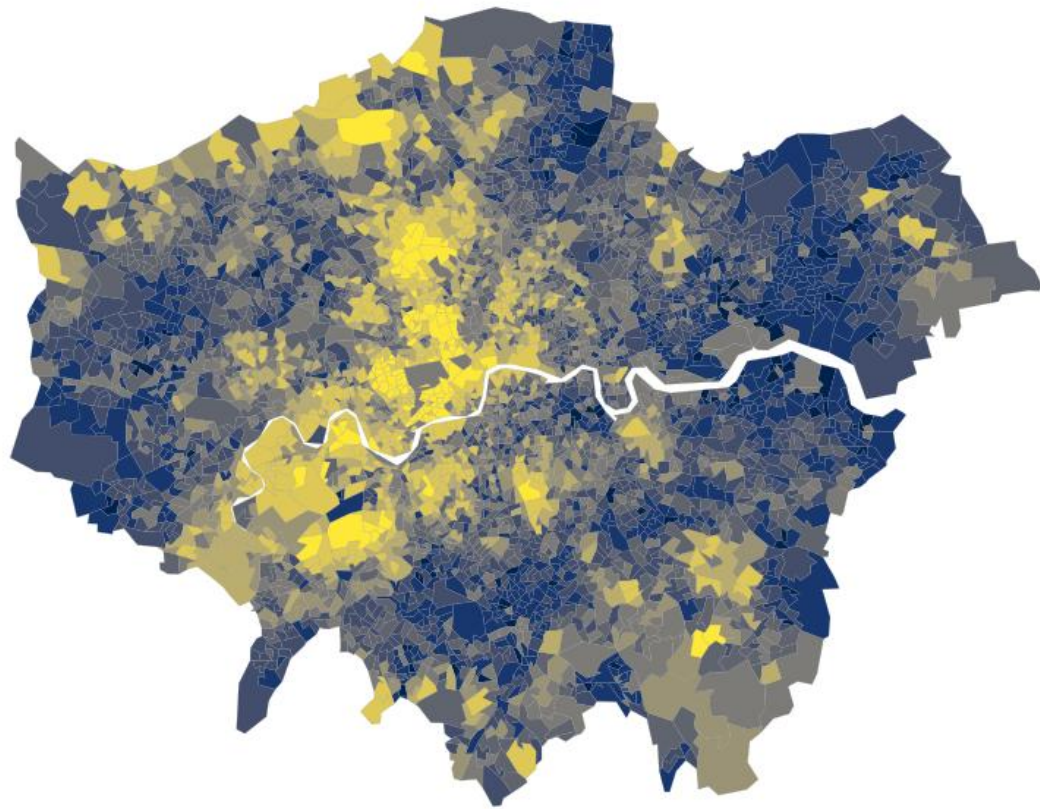
- 0-20%
- 21-40%
- 41-60%
- 61-80%
- 81%+



BAME (%)

- 0-3%
- 4-5%
- 6-15%
- 16-25%
- 26%+

Preliminary Analysis – House Price



Next Steps

1

**Cleaning the
data**

2

**Run full
regression
models with
controls**

3

**Conduct
robustness
checks**

4

**Interpret
comparative
results and
begin writing**

Thank you for listening..