San Diego Police Department Stops by Demographics

Is SDPD Biased?

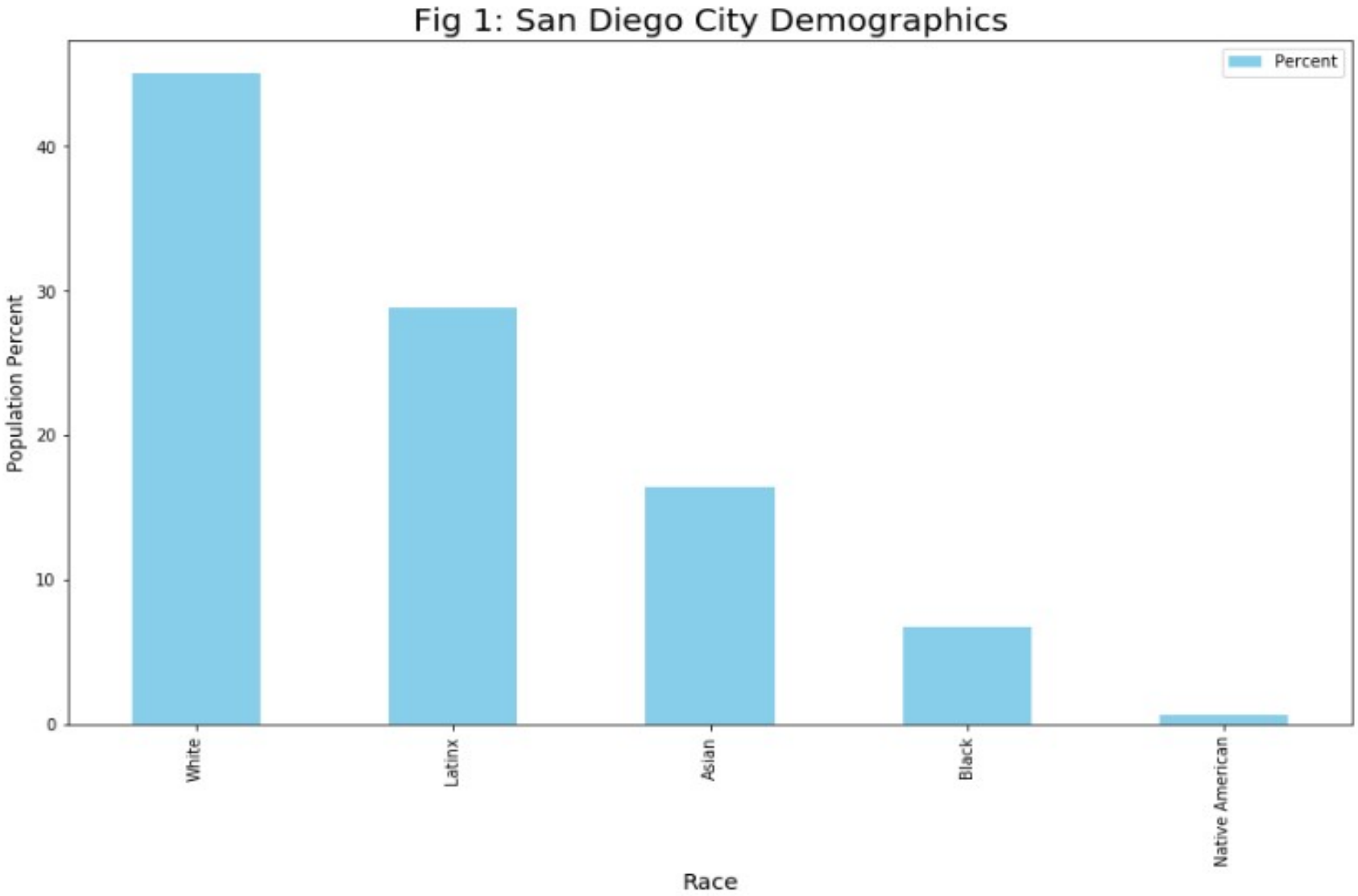
- Does SDPD have a bias towards certain demographic groups?
- What groups, if any, are disproportionately represented in police stops?
- Are certain groups disproportionately stopped for any particular reason?

Data Cleaning and Sources

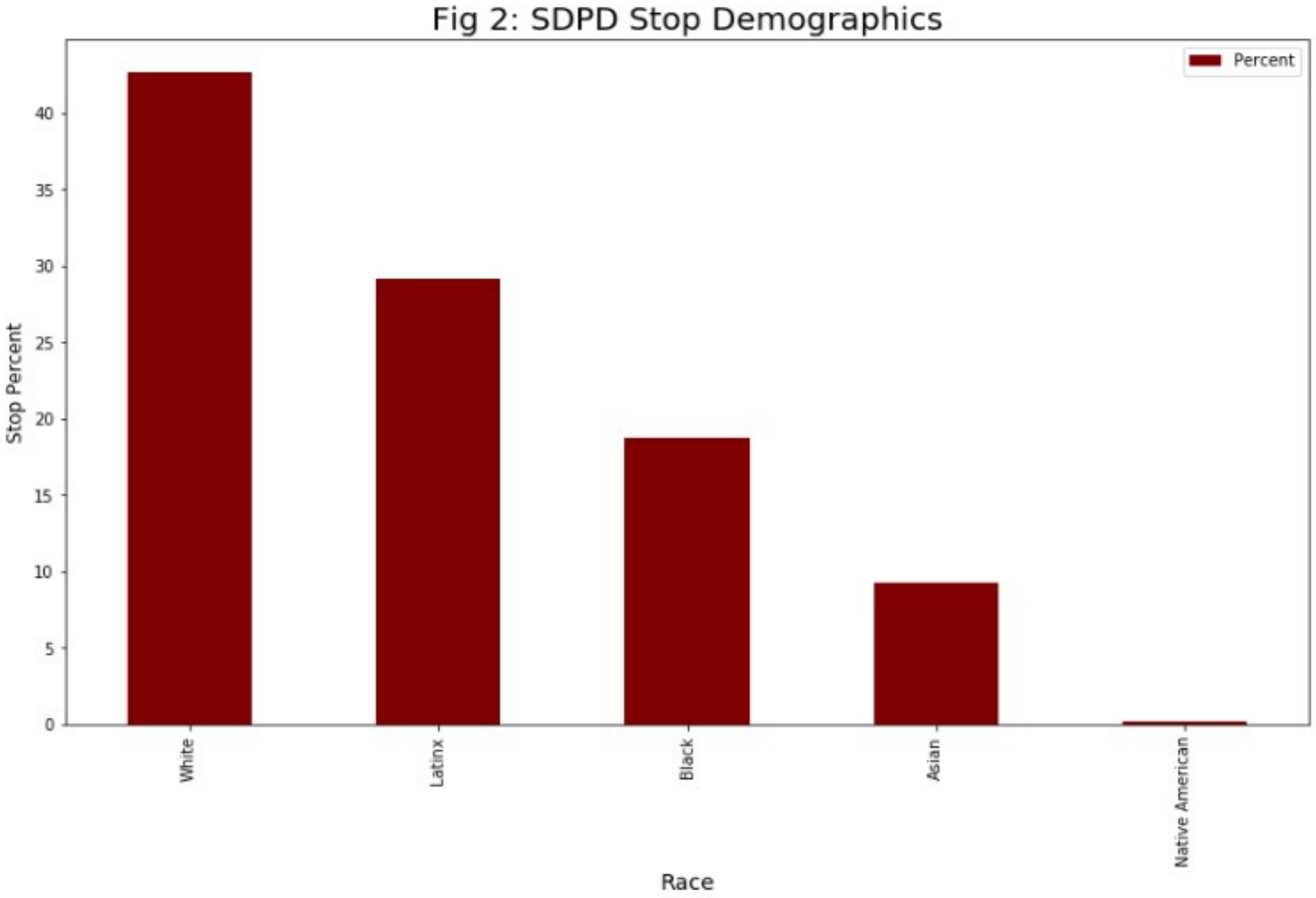
- Listed race in Census data and “Race of Persons Stopped” data modified to fit the catagories of “White,” “Latinx,” “Black,” “Asian,” or “Native American.”
- Stop Identification from “Race of Persons Stopped” and “Reason for Stop” matched; any identification without both values discarded
- Over 93% of all stops are for “Reasonable Suspicion” or “Traffic Violation;” other values account for roughly 1% of stops each and will be discarded

- "Race of Persons Stopped" from (https://data.sandiego.gov/datasets/police-ripa-race/).
- "Reason for Stop" from (https://data.sandiego.gov/datasets/police-ripa-stop-reason/).
- US Census data from (https://web.archive.org/web/20120802190059/http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/0666000.html).

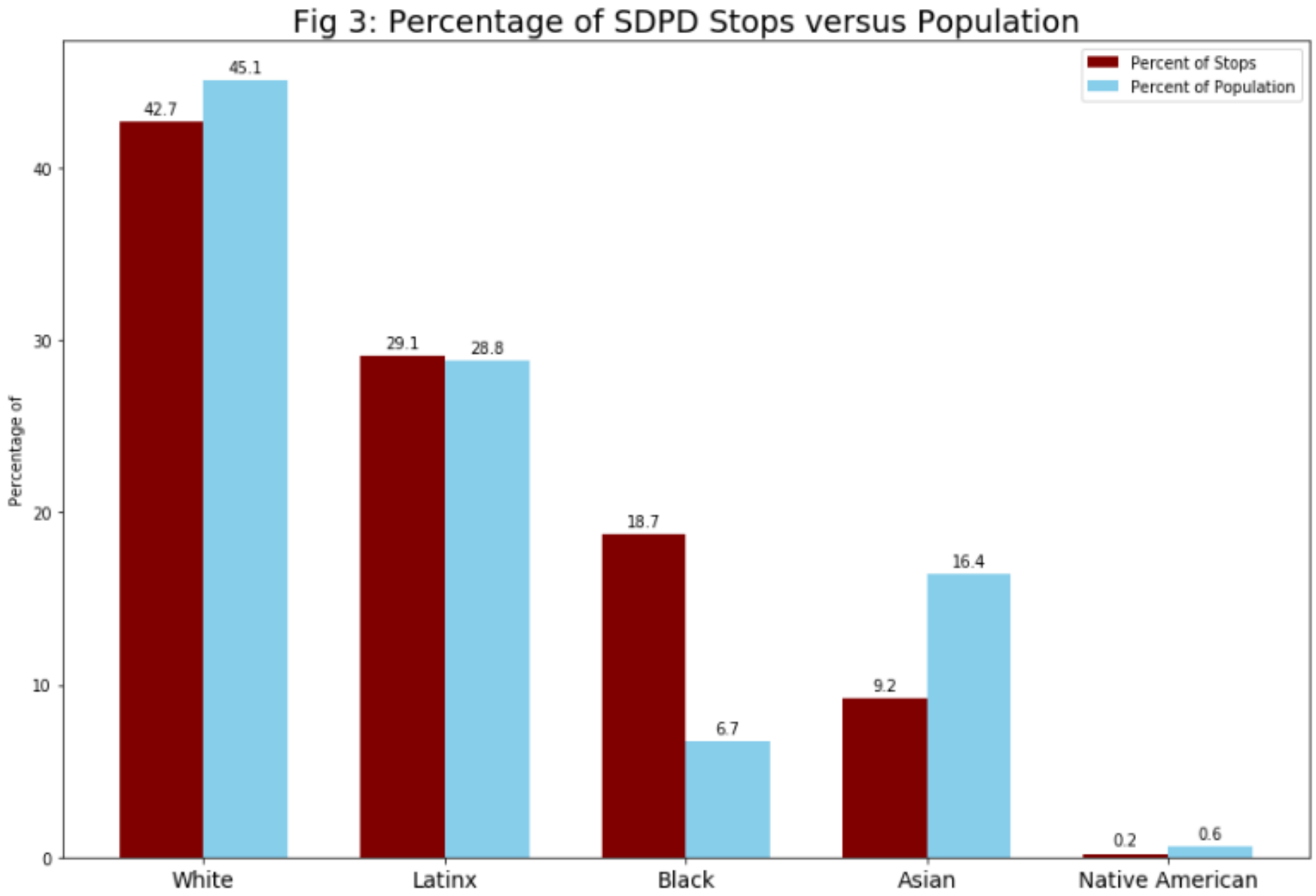
San Diego Demographics



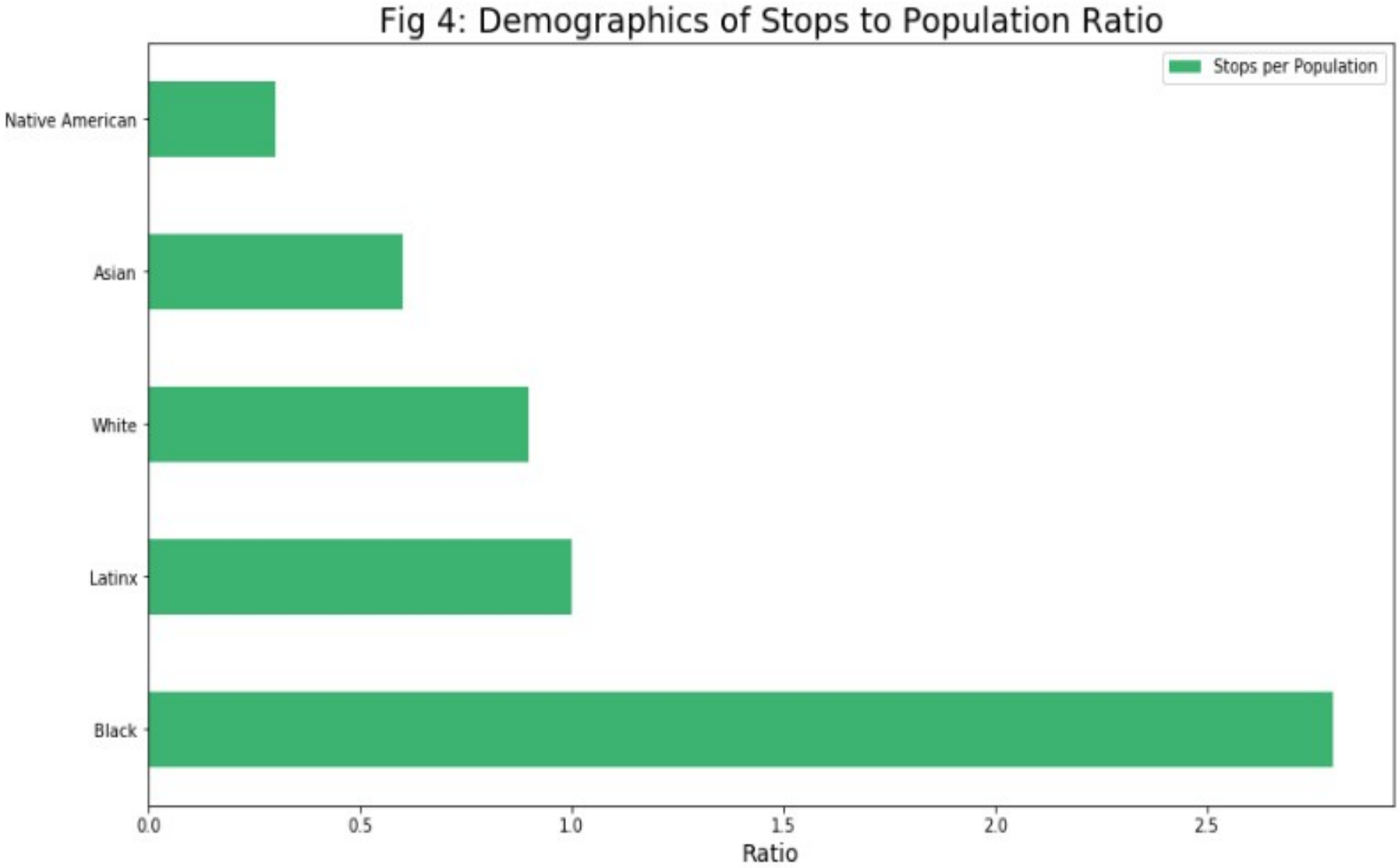
SDPD Stop Demographics



Stop Versus Population



Ratio of Stops to Population



Stop Percent by Reason

Fig 5: Percentage of Stops for Traffic Violation, by Race

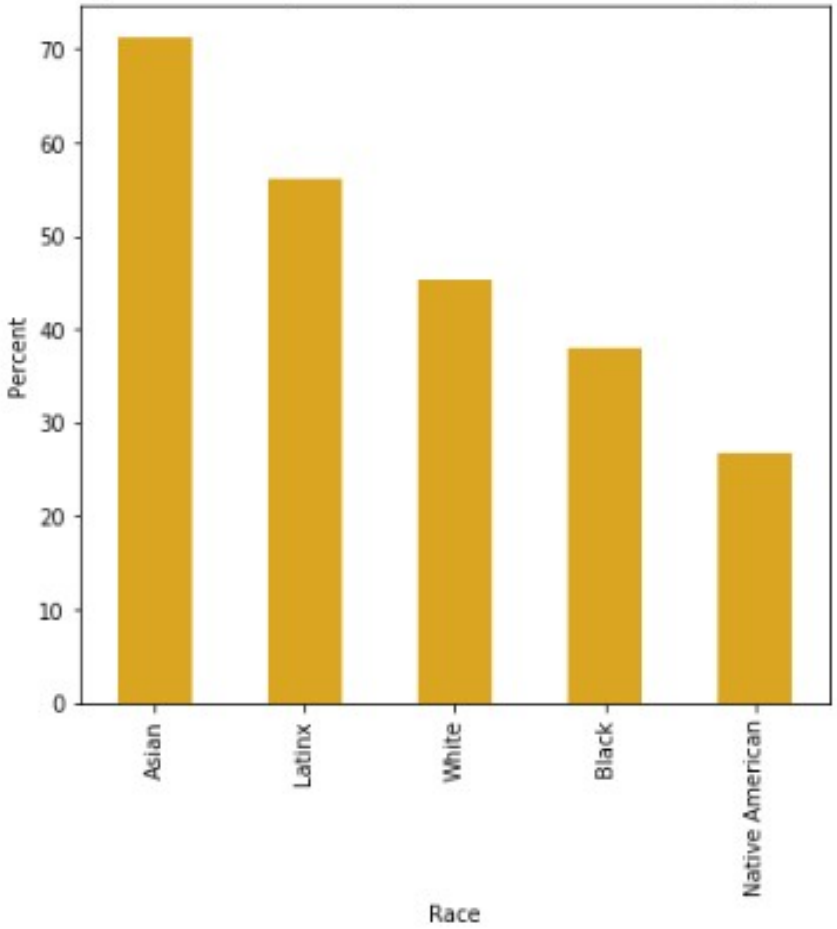
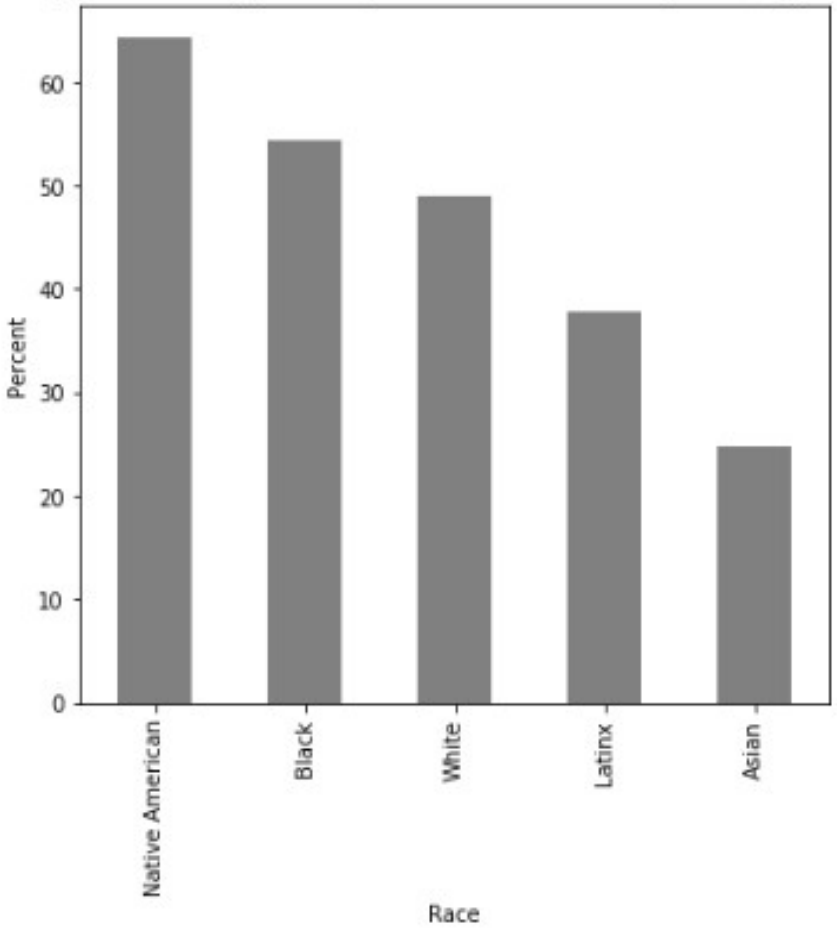
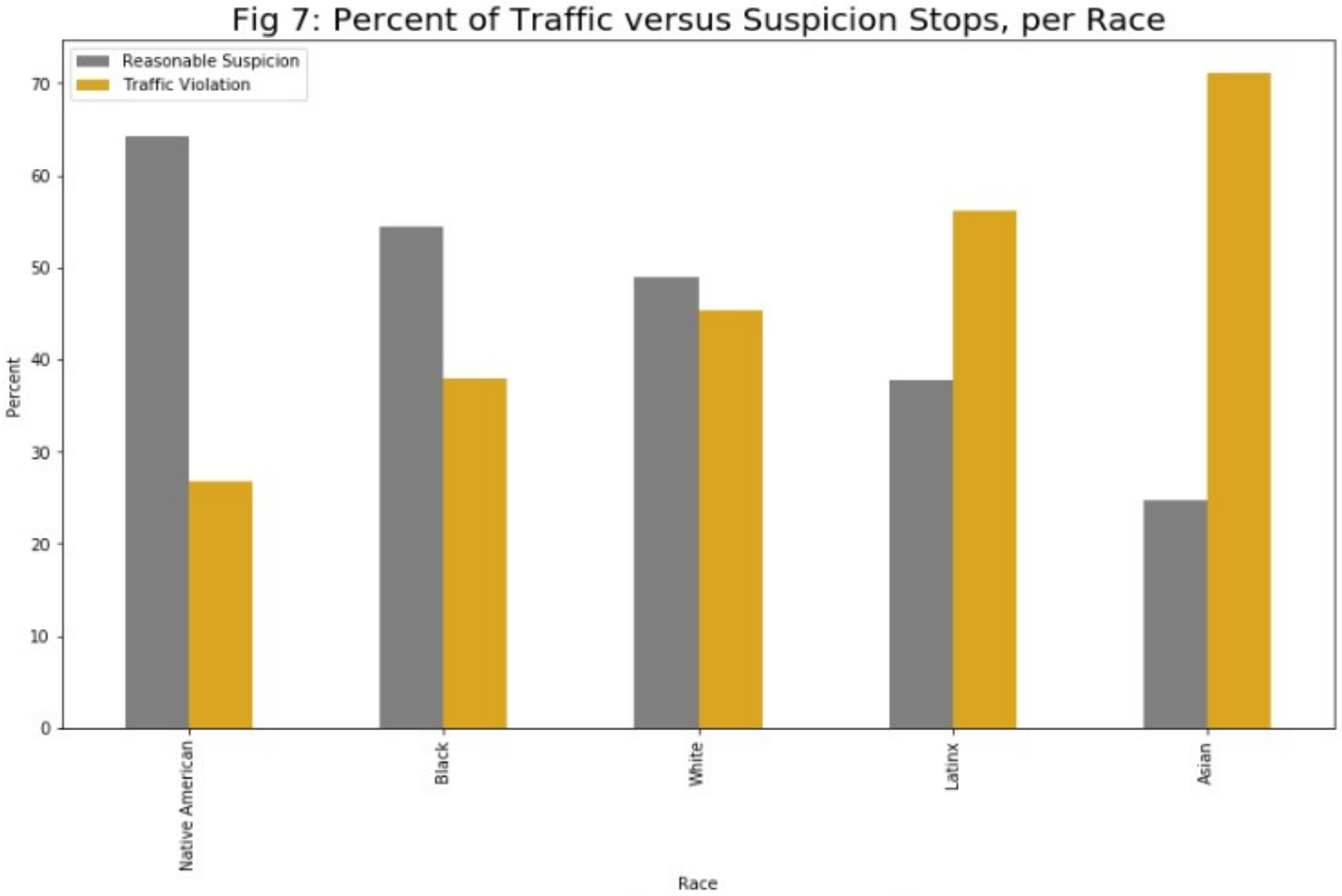


Fig 6: Percentage of Stops for Reasonable Suspicion, by Race



Reason Percents in Comparison



Conclusion and Further Study

- Conclusion:
  - The data shows disproportionate stops for “Black” persons versus the “Black” population (over 2.5 times average)
  - The data shows higher rates of “Reasonable Suspicion” stops for “Black” persons, and lower rates for “Asian” persons
  - The data implies a negative bias against “Black” persons
- Further Study:
  - Updating demographics with 2020 Census data once available
  - Sorting outcomes of stops to determine rate of charges per stop
  - Grouping stops and population by geographic region to determine which neighborhoods have higher rates of stops