Contact Cards in Cincinnati:
A Review of Racial Bias in Police Stops, 2009–2025

CAMPAIGN ZERO JUNE 23, 2026 REPORT ADDENDUM

Task Forces

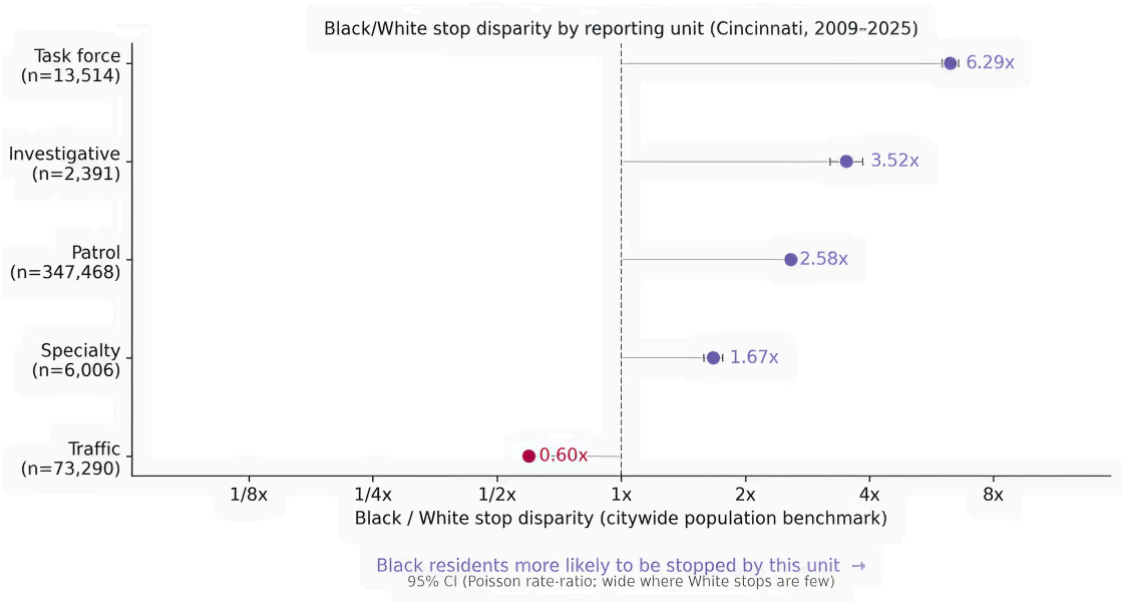
Disparities by reporting unit category and by task force

Using the `reporting_officer_assignment` field in the Cincinnati Contact Cards dataset, we analyzed stop disparities by assignments.

First, we made the following groupings:

TASK FORCE	INVESTIGATIVE	PATROL	SPECIALTY	TRAFFIC
SAFE STREETS, SS, CGIC, PIVOT, VICE, GENERAL VICE ENFORCEMENT UNIT, NARCOTICS UNIT, DISTRICT 4 VIOLENT CRIMES UNIT, DISTRICT 3 VIOLENT CRIMES SQUAD, MAJOR OFFENDERS UNIT, FUGITIVE APPREHENSION, INTELLIGENCE UNIT, SWAT/TACTICAL PLANNING, STSU	DISTRICT 1 INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, DISTRICT 2 INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, DISTRICT 3 INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, DISTRICT 4 INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, DISTRICT 5 INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, CENTRAL BUSINESS INVESTIGATIVE UNIT, HOMICIDE UNIT, PERSONAL CRIMES UNIT, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, INFORMATION FUSION	DISTRICT 1, DISTRICT 2, DISTRICT 3, DISTRICT 4, DISTRICT 5, CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, PATROL, DOWNTOWN SERVICES UNIT, PARK UNIT, COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING	CANINE UNIT, MOUNTED SQUAD, YOUTH SERVICES UNIT, COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT, SPECIAL EVENTS, EVENT PLANNING UNIT, EPU, IMPOUND UNIT	TRAFFIC UNIT, TS

Based on these groupings, we calculated Black/White stop disparities. **Stops by a task force are 3.05% of all stops** where this data is available (n=442,669).



Here we see that **task forces stop Black people 6.29x more than White people**, substantially higher than average in the dataset as a whole.

To compute confidence intervals (CIs), we treat the Black and White stop counts (B, W), on a $\log_2$ scale, as Poisson with the underlying populations fixed, so the variance of the log ratio is the sum of the inverse counts. The interval is built on the log scale and exponentiated back.

The rate ratio (RR) is:

$$\mathrm{RR} = \frac{B/P_B}{W/P_W}$$

where P_B, and P_W are the Black and White populations.

The standard error of the rate ratio is:

$$\mathrm{SE}\left(\log_2 \mathrm{RR}\right) = \frac{\sqrt{1/B + 1/W}}{\ln 2}$$

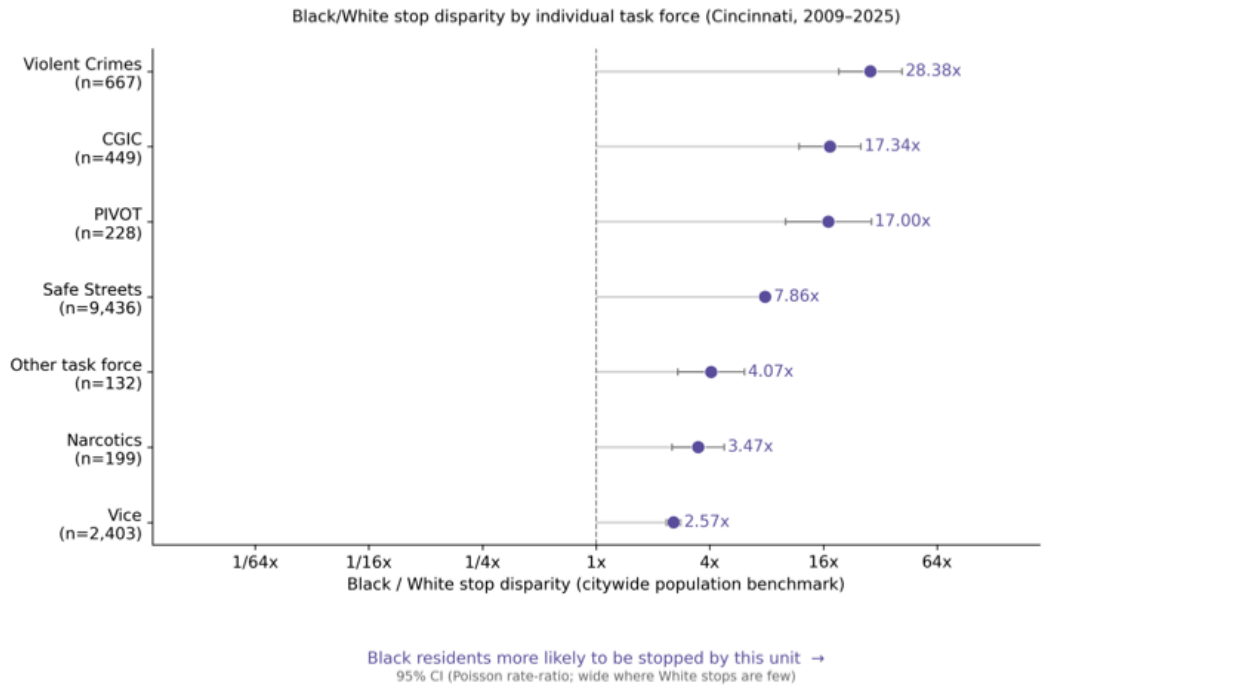
The 95% confidence intervals are:

$$95\%\ \mathrm{CI} = \mathrm{RR} \times 2^{\pm 1.96\,\mathrm{SE}(\log_2 \mathrm{RR})}$$

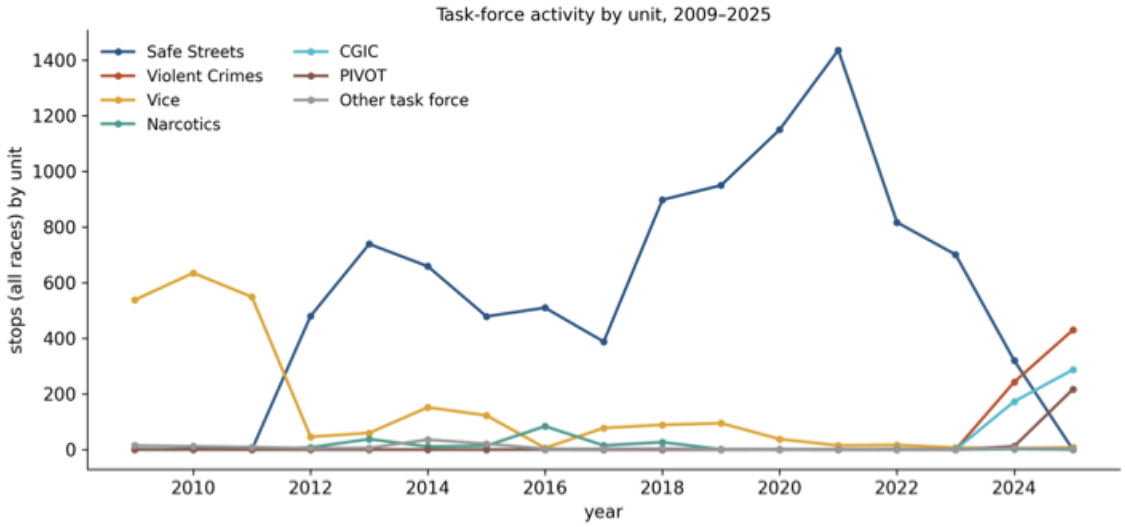
The populations are treated as fixed (no sampling error), so only the Poisson variance of the counts enters — that's why the denominators drop out and the SE depends only on $1/B + 1/W$. The ln 2 converts the natural-log delta-method variance to a base-2 ($\log_2$) scale so it matches the plotted axis.

Working in log space keeps the interval multiplicatively symmetric around the ratio (symmetric on the plotted $\log_2$ axis) and guarantees a positive lower bound. Intervals widen automatically where either race contributes few stops, which is why small task forces and thin neighborhood-year cells (below) show visibly larger bars.

Examining individual task forces, we find all task forces other than Vice as having substantially higher disparities compared to Patrol stops (78.5% of all stops).



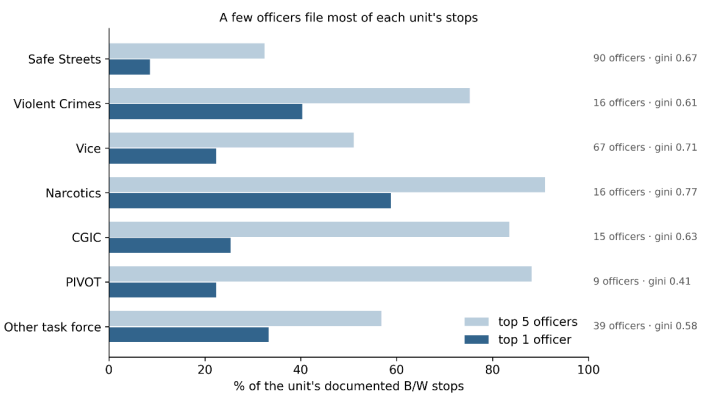
Task force stop counts vary year by year

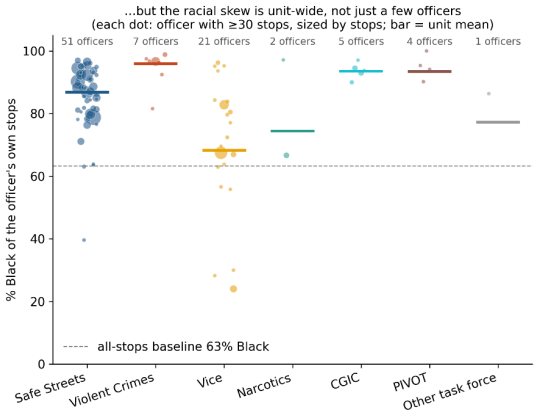


Task force size and officer variability

Task forces also vary in number of officers. Some task forces' stops are heavily influenced by a small number of officers (left). For example, roughly 90% of the Narcotics stops were filed by 5 officers; nearly 60% were filed by a single officer.

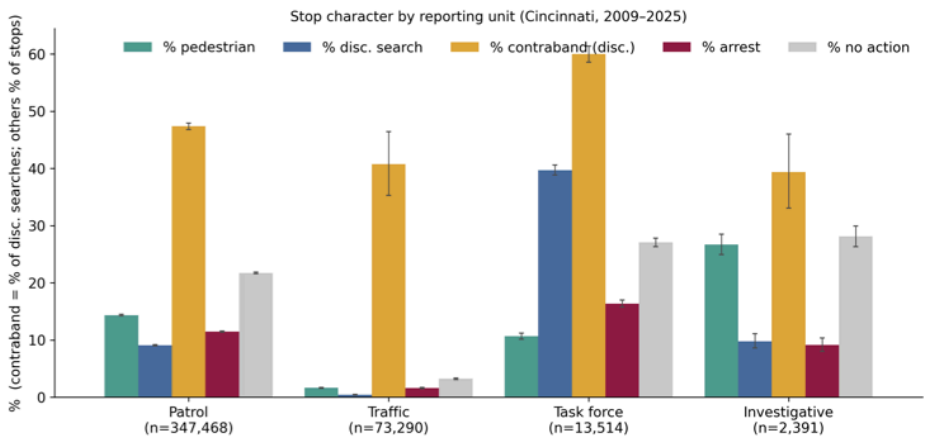
Stops by officers in each task force tend to be consistently more disparate as compared to the baseline level of all stops in the data set (right).





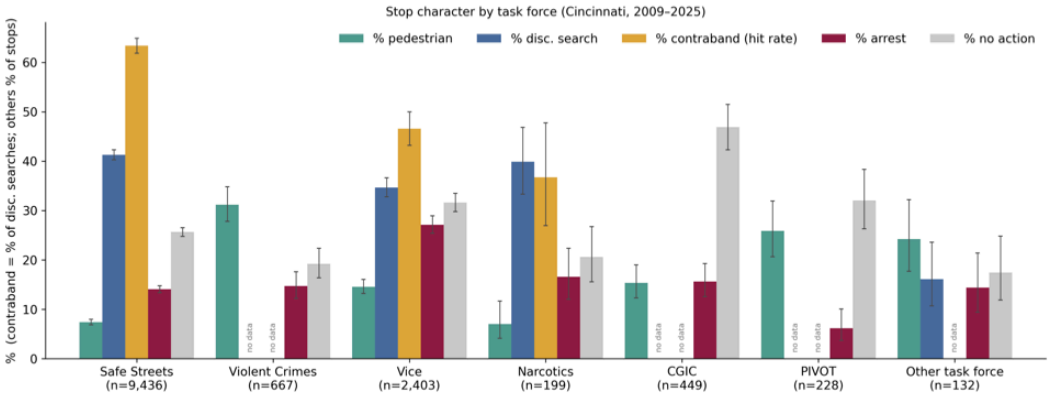
Outcomes by reporting unit category and task force

Task forces as a category have the highest discretionary search rates and arrest rates.



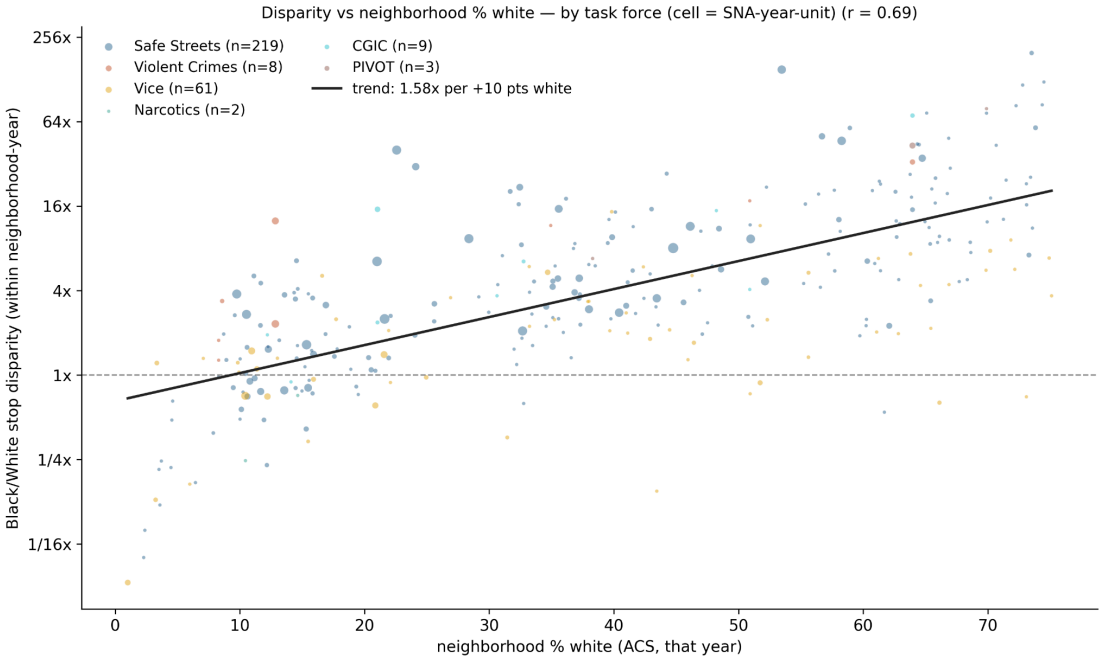
Task forces conduct searches at much higher rates (39.6%) than Patrol (9.0%), Investigative (9.7%), or Traffic (0.4%). They also have the highest "hit rate" – given the number of searches they make, how many turn up contraband – 59.9%, as compared to Patrol (47.2%), Investigative (39.4%), or Traffic (40.1%). Task forces have the highest arrest rates (16.3%), compared to Patrol (11.4%), Investigative (9.1%), or Traffic (1.6%).

Each bar is a proportion — the share of a unit's stops with a given outcome (e.g. % pedestrian, % discretionary search, % contraband among discretionary searches, % arrest). Because these are binomial rates and several denominators are small, we use Wilson score intervals (`statsmodels.stats.proportion.proportion_confint, method='wilson'`, 95%) rather than the normal/Wald approximation. The Wilson interval stays inside [0, 1] and remains well-behaved near 0% and 100% and at small n, where Wald intervals can run off the ends or collapse. Each interval is computed from the recorded count of positive events over the recorded denominator for that unit; cells with no recorded data (e.g. search basis/contraband not collected 2024-25), or fewer than 30 samples, are shown as "no data" rather than as a zero.



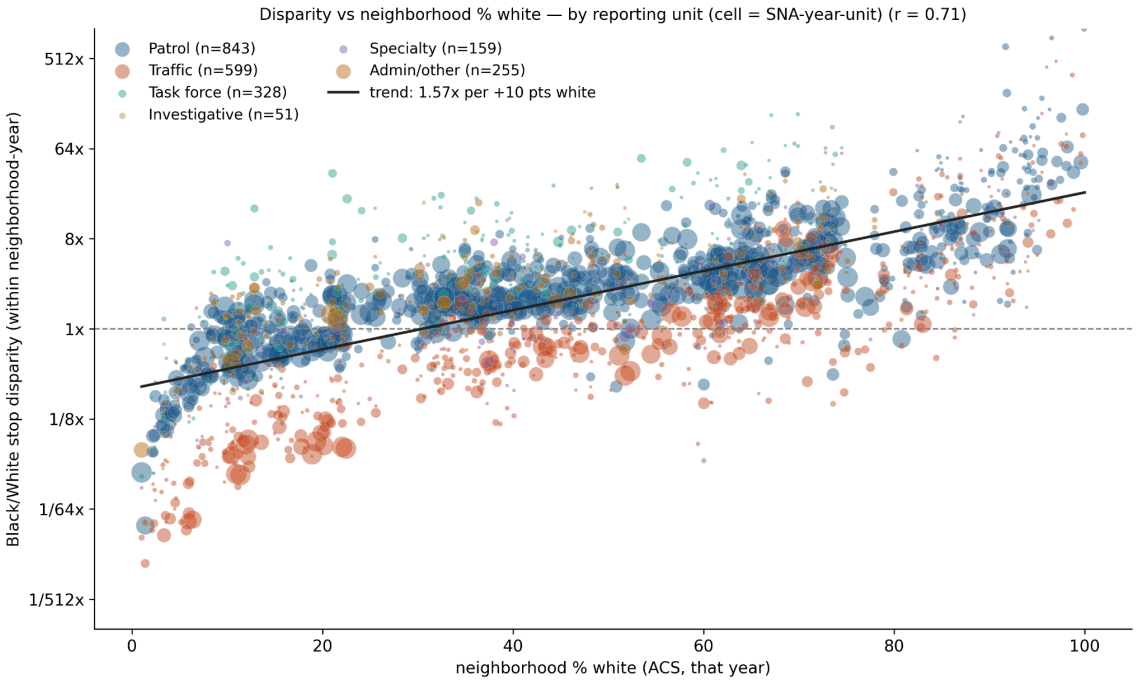
Stop disparities by neighborhood racial composition

This is a replication of the result in figure 12 (page 19), showing a relationship between increased Black/White disparities in neighborhoods with a higher proportion of the population being White. When looking at only task forces, the correlation is high (r =0.69). The size of each dot corresponds to the number of stops, and the legend shows how many neighborhood-years are included for each task force.



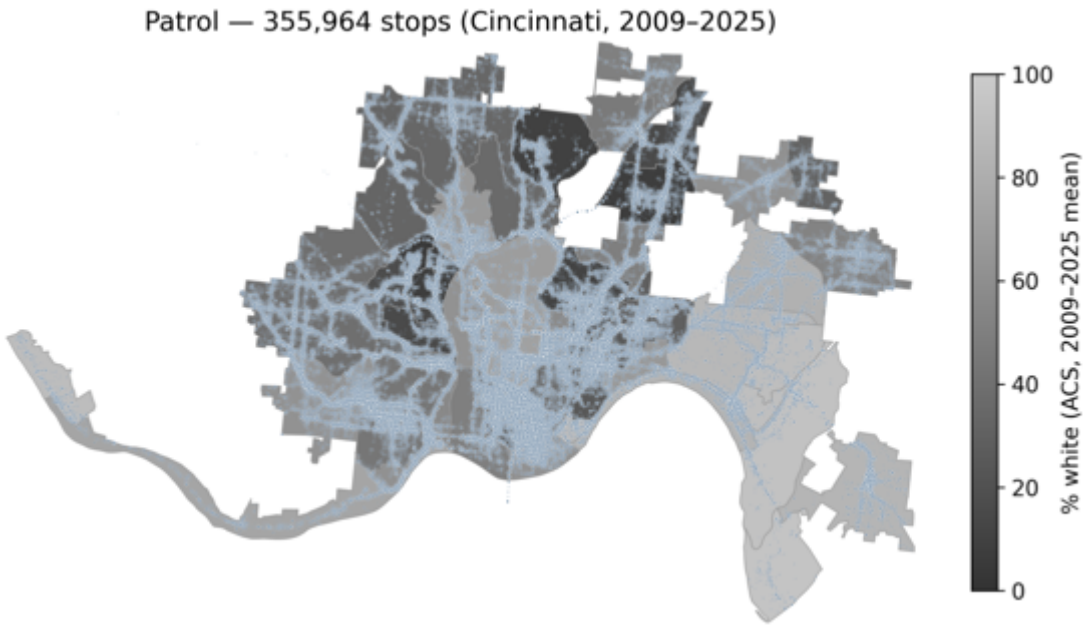
Point size ∝ the cell's number of Black/White stops (SNA-year-unit) — larger = more stops; capped.

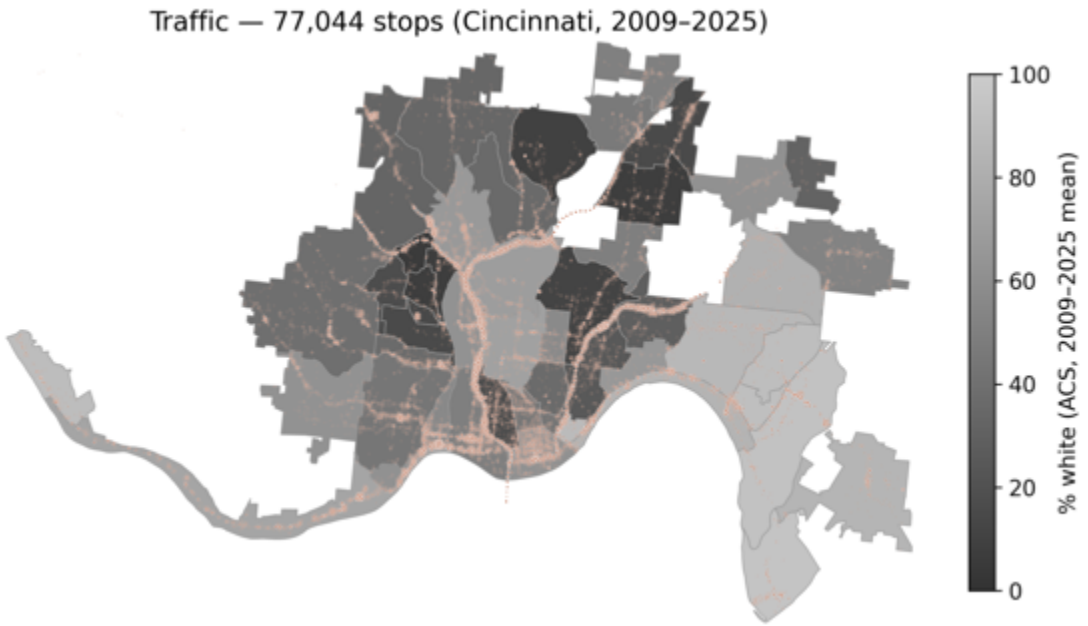
When splitting by, and including all, reporting unit categories, the relationship holds (r=0.71). Note that despite traffic stops (red) being shifted downwards in the graph (meaning lower disparities), the relationship still holds.

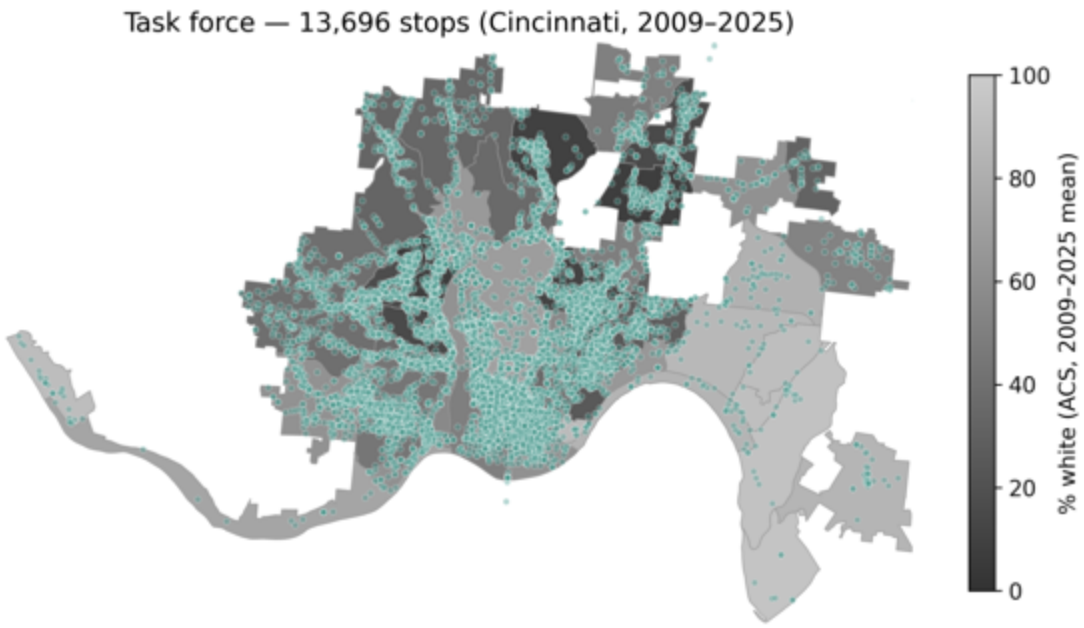


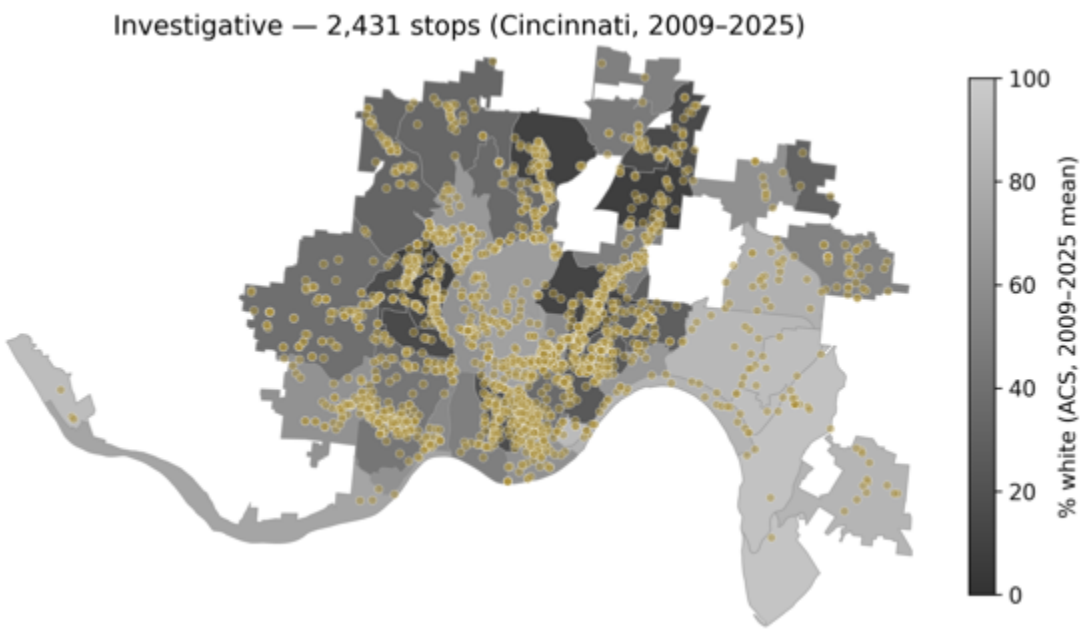
Point size ∝ the cell's number of Black/White stops (SNA-year-unit) — larger = more stops; capped.

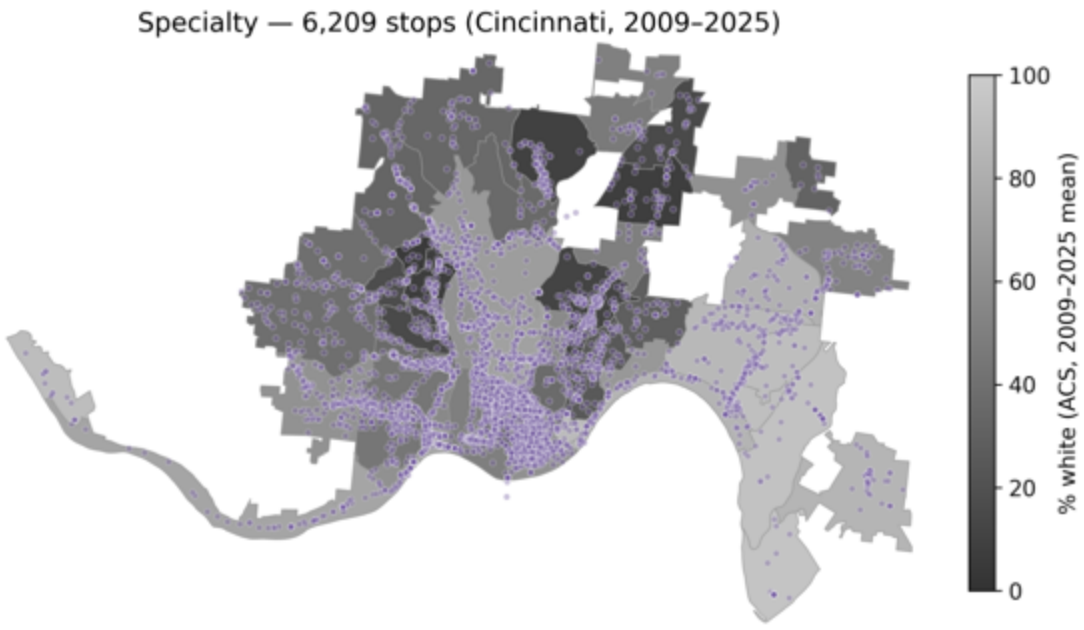
Stops mapped by category

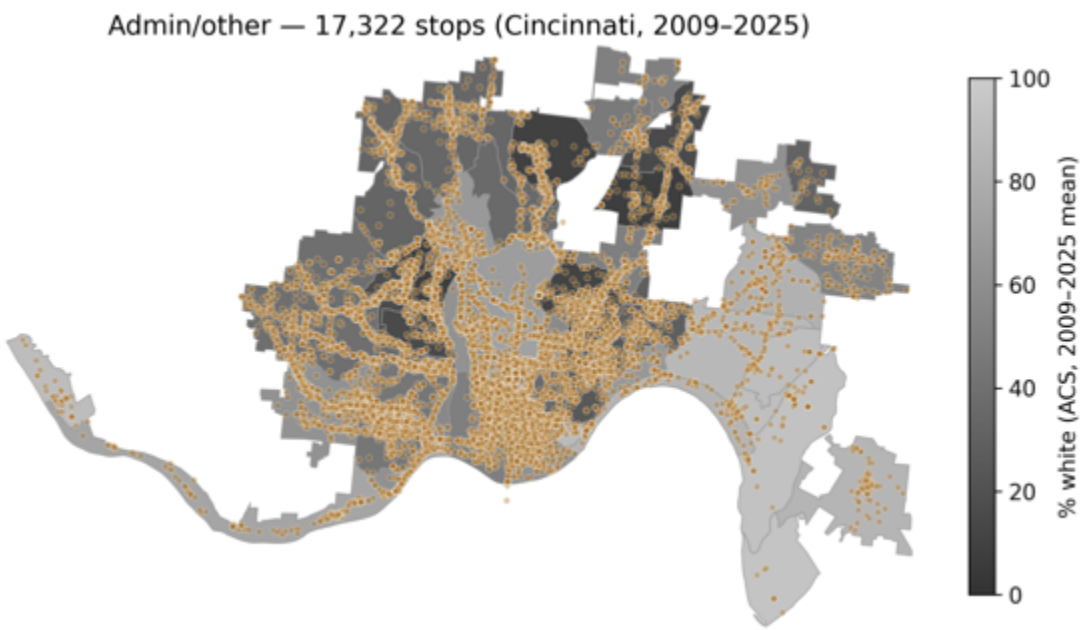




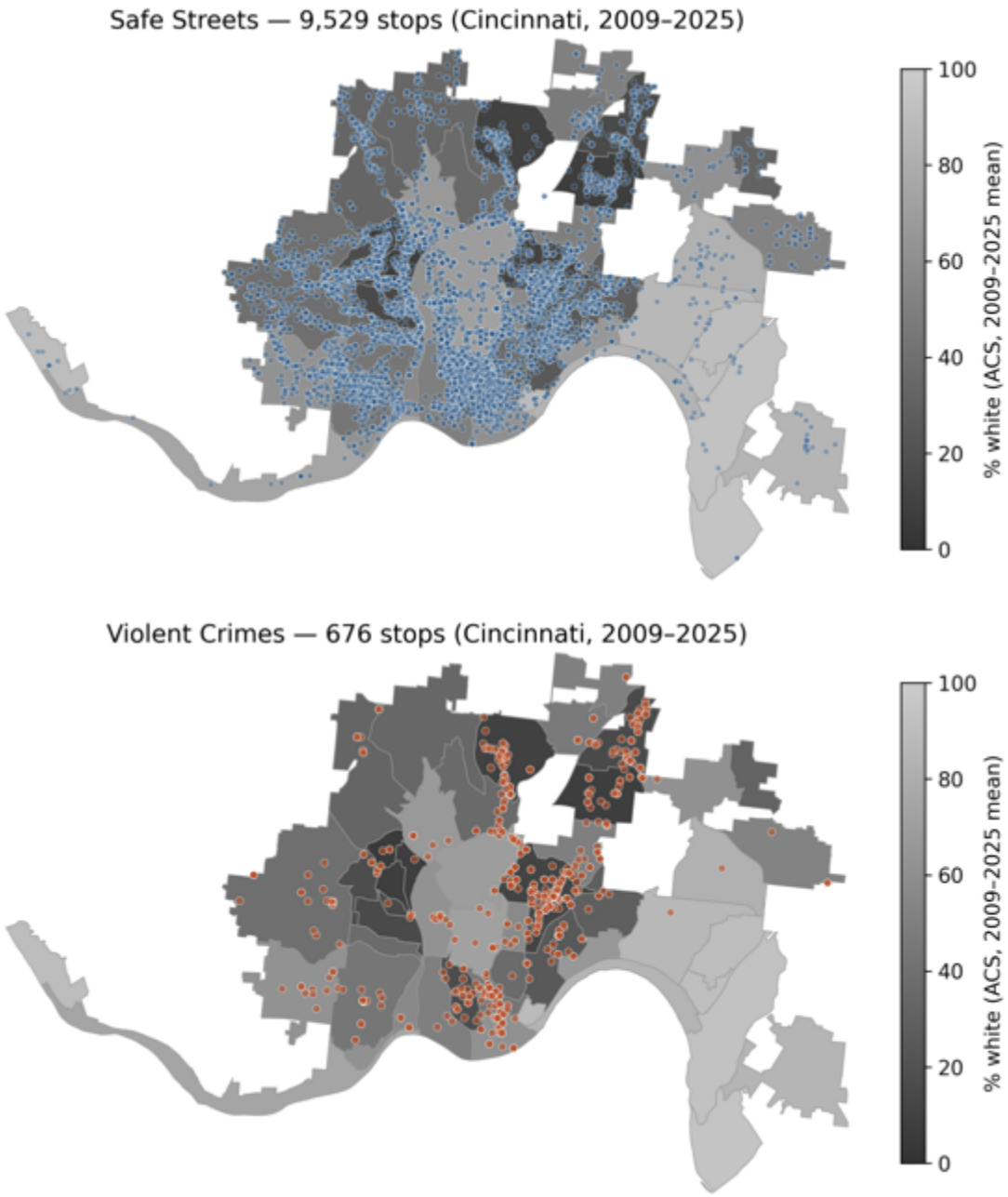

Task force — 13,696 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)

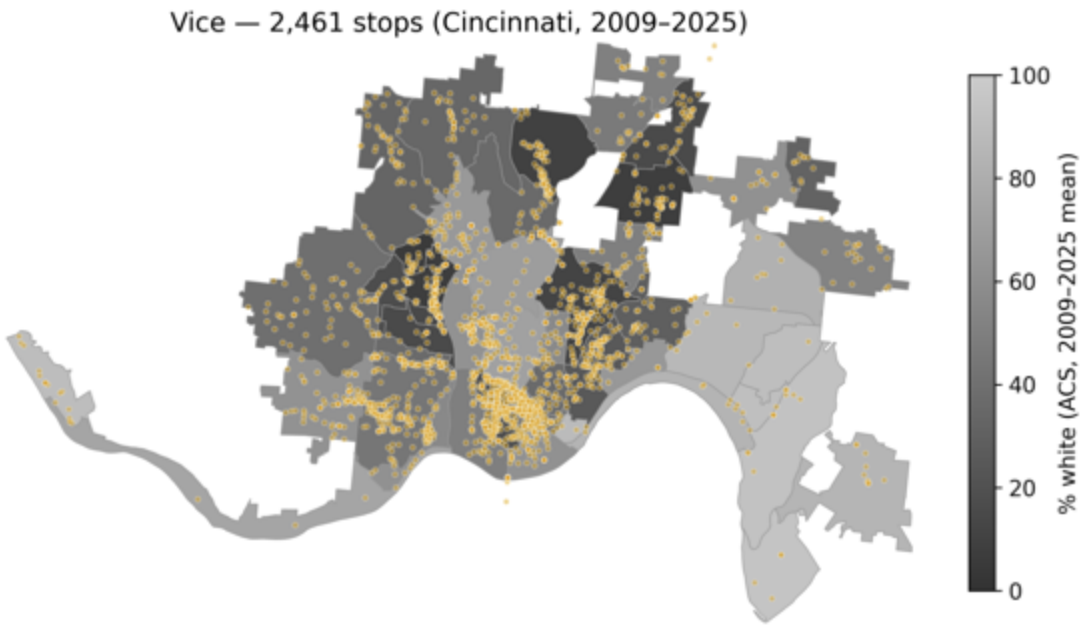

Investigative — 2,431 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)

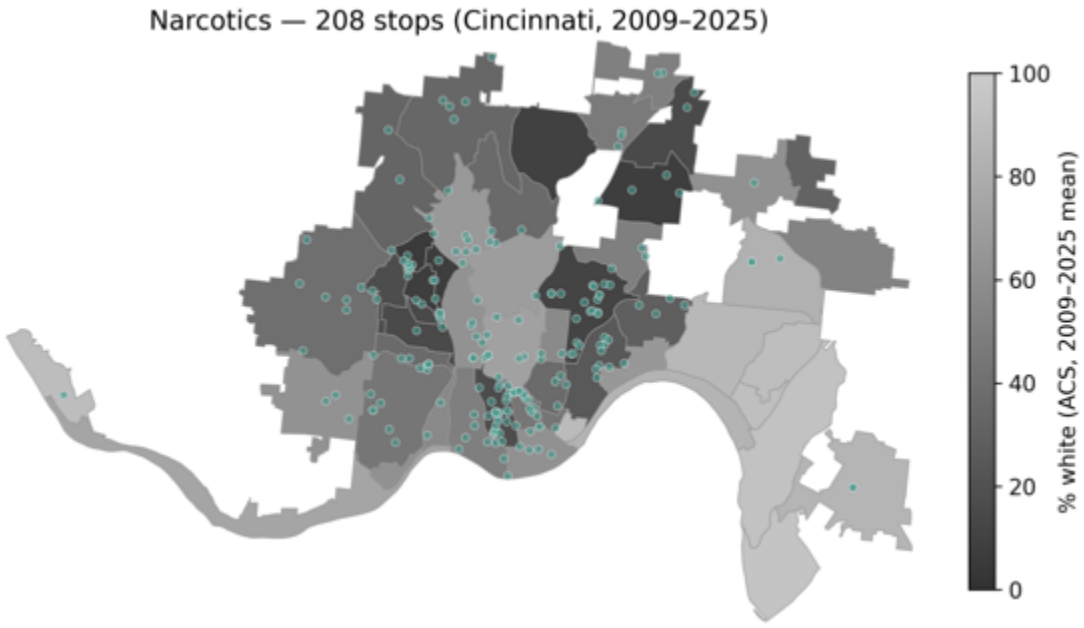

Specialty — 6,209 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)

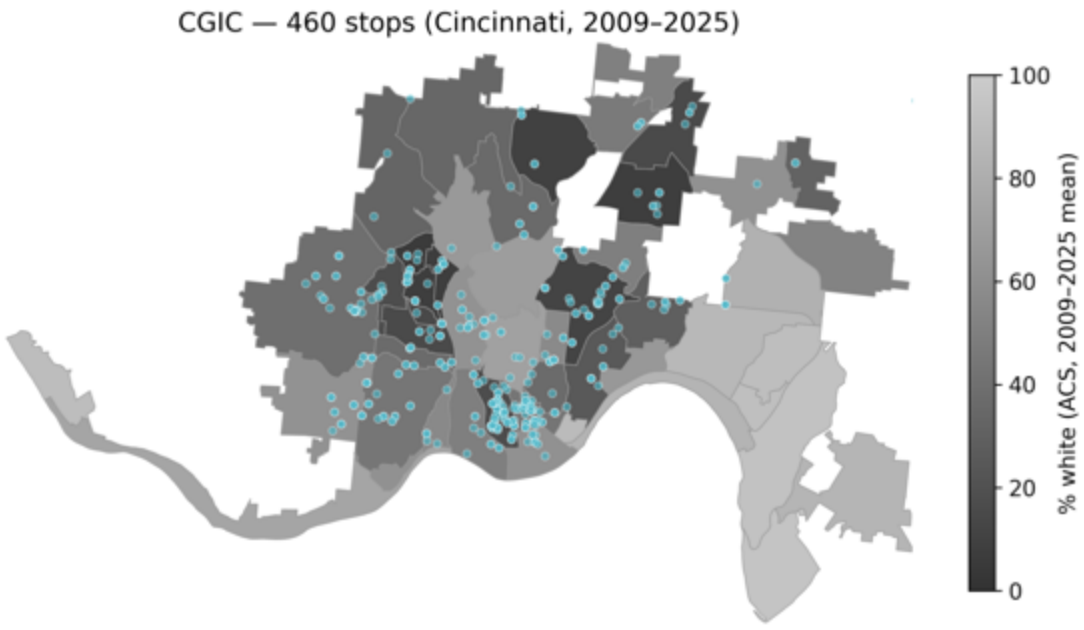

Admin/other — 17,322 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)

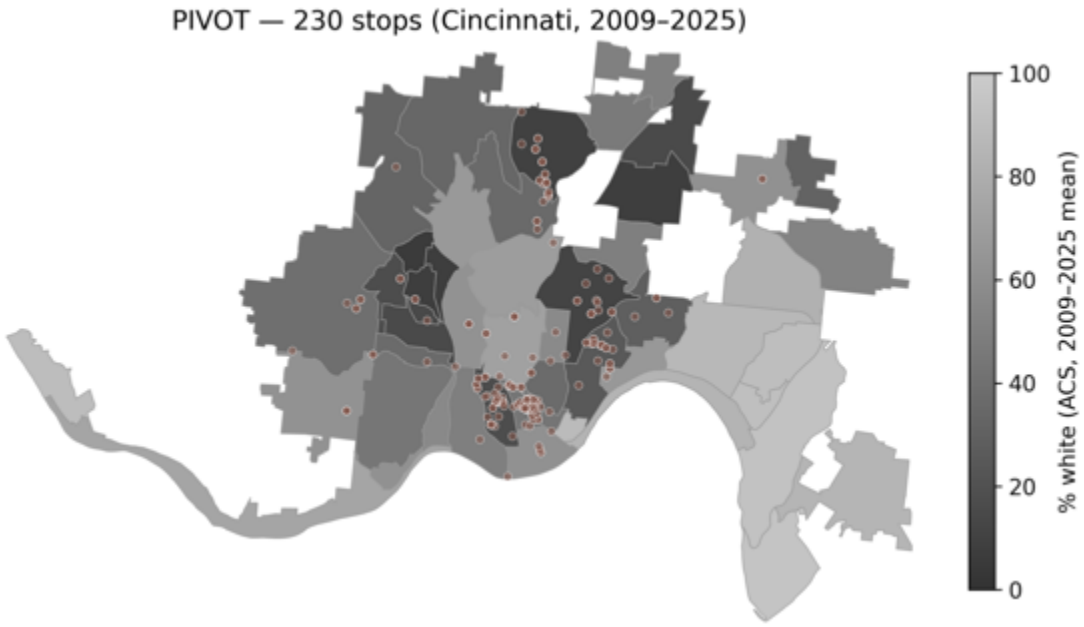
Stops mapped by task force

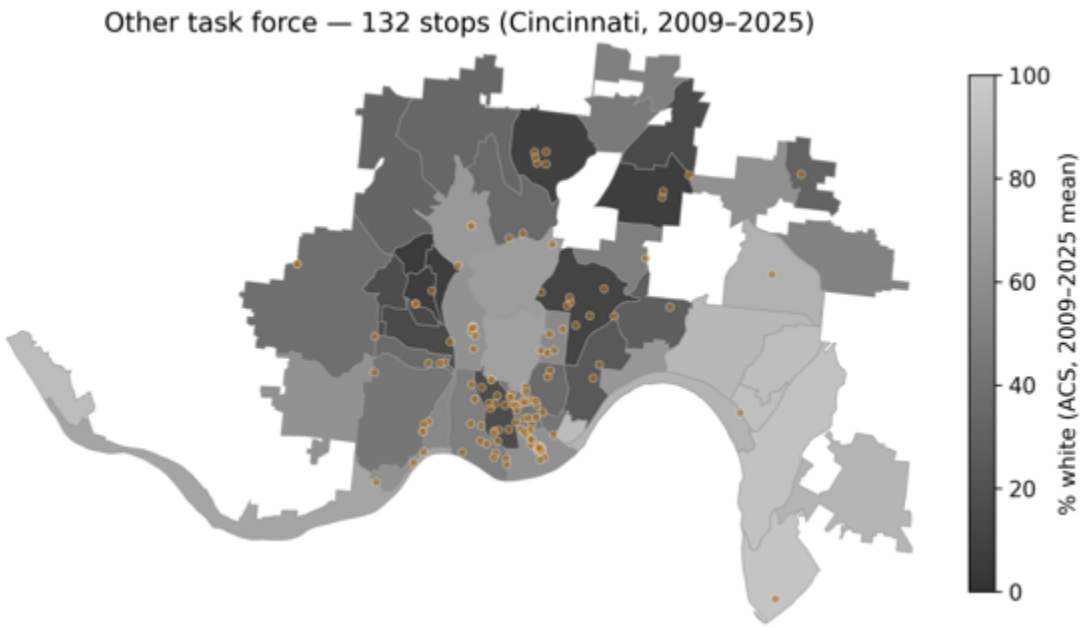



Vice — 2,461 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)


Narcotics — 208 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)


CGIC — 460 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)


PIVOT — 230 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)


Other task force — 132 stops (Cincinnati, 2009–2025)
100
80
60
40
20
0
% white (ACS, 2009–2025 mean)