Introduction

In 2012 there were 533,042 stop question and frisks in New York City. The frequency of minorities being stopped has made the tactic a controversial issue many people view the tactic as racial profiling.

We believe stop and frisk allows officers to adapt a style of proactive policing. In other words instead of officer’s just simply walking the beat; they are more observant of suspicious behavior.

Statistics

What Happens During Stops, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frisk</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop had question</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop and Frisk</td>
<td>28.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pros and Cons

Pros

- According to police commissioner Ray Kelly “...we ended 2011 with the lowest murder rate total in half a century and the lowest rate of auto theft.”
- The Majority of gun violence occurs in minority neighborhoods.
- According to police report filed by victims of violent crime, blacks committed 66 percent of all violent crimes in first half of 2009.
- Blacks and Hispanic commit 98 percent of all shootings.
- Whites committed only 5 percent of all violent crimes in the first half of 2009.
- Blacks and Hispanics represent 89% of murder victims.
- Violent crime fell in NYC 29% from 2001 to 2010.

Cons

- NYPD does not have an inspector general to provide an outside overlook of the department.
- Over 4 million New Yorkers have been stopped since 2002 and 9 out of 10 were completely innocent.
- 0.2% of guns have been recovered in 2012 from blacks and Hispanics.
- Stop and frisk targets minority neighborhoods.
- Blacks and Hispanic account for about 83% of the stops. However they only make up 52% of the city’s population.

Background Info

- Terry v. Ohio 1968 supreme court decision allowing officers to stop question and frisk. If they have reasonable suspicion.
- Reasonable suspicion: “is the legal standard by which a police officer has the right to briefly detain a suspect for investigatory purposes and frisk the outside of their clothing for weapons, but not drugs. While many factors contribute to a police officer’s level of authority in a given situation, the reasonable suspicion standard requires facts or circumstances that would lead a reasonable person to believe that a suspect has, or will commit a crime.”
- Stop and frisk started under mayor Giuliani in 1994 due to his “broken windows “ theory, which enforced the law aggressively.

Data

What justifies a lawful stop and frisk?

- In the process of committing a crime
- About to commit a crime
- Or has committed a crime
- Carrying suspicious objects in plain view
- Wearing cloths commonly used in a crime
- Suspiscious bulge
- Acting as a lookout
- Fits a description
- Furtive movements

References

http://www.flexyourrights.org/tags/what-is-reasonable-suspicion/