

News

Report: Minorities Much More Likely to Be Frisked by NYPD

[by WNYC Newsroom](#)

NEW YORK, NY May 13, 2010 —A group's analysis of police department data found blacks and Latinos were nine times as likely as whites to get stopped and frisked by New York City police last year, but they were no more likely to get arrested.

Darius Charney, with The Center for Constitutional Rights, says these so-called stop and frisks can hurt police relationships within a community.

"Community members are going to know better than anybody, you know, who the bad guys are, where the streets that the criminal activity is taking place. And so there really has to be a trustful relationship between the police and the community in order for the police to really do their work effectively," Charney says.

A record number of people, more than 575,000, were stopped and frisked, according to Charney's group. Police listed "furtive movements" as the top reason for stopping and frisking someone.

Charney says officers can check this category without elaborating further, making it difficult to assess whether they had good reason to stop an individual.

The police department has defended stop and frisks as an important tool in keeping the city's crime rate at record lows. Police officials say officers do these searches in high-crime neighborhoods with high concentrations of minorities who are likely to be both victims and perpetrators of violent crime.