



POSITIVE FEEDBACK LOOPS IN POLICE DECISIONS TO STOP

An Agent-Based Model

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Background

Racial Profiling



Ratchet Effect

- Definition: the target population is surveilled at a level that is disproportionate to the distribution of offending by that group

Lack of Data

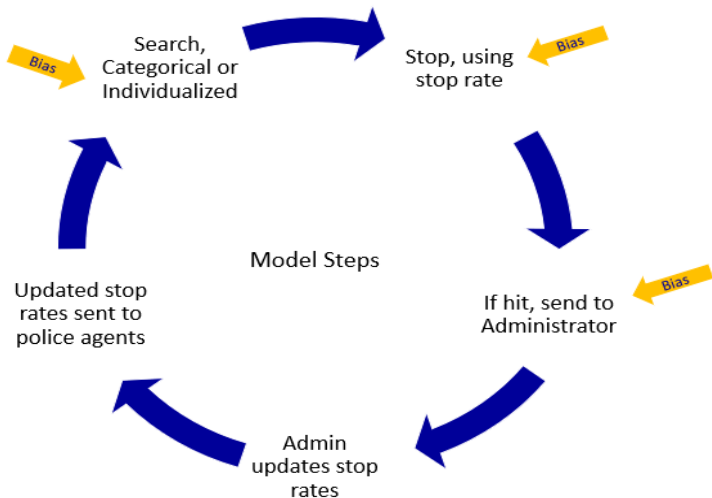
- Very few laws requiring recording data (*ACLU, 2015; Harcourt, 2004*)
 - Demographics not recorded
 - Only "Hits"
 - Positive Feedback loop in info sharing within departments

Aims

- Tests the theoretical mechanisms underlying police decision to stop
 - Categorical Stop - BOLO
 - Individualized Stops - no predetermined criteria
- Demonstrate how information sharing across police
 - Leads to emergence of ratchet effect
 - Allows individual bias to invade system

Model

Flowchart



- Population composition
- # Police Bias toward red

Results & Discussion

Equal Population Composition Density Changes

Figure 1: Caption



References

References I



ACLU. (2015). Report on the state of profiling in Chicago and other major US cities.



Harcourt, B. E. (2004). Rethinking racial profiling: A critique of the economics, civil liberties, and constitutional literature, and of criminal profiling more generally. *The University of Chicago Law Review*, 71(4), 1275–1381.