

Archive: Driver Interviews

Charles Epp, Steven Maynard-Moody, and Donald Haider-Markel *Reconstructing Law on the Street: The Influence of Citizen Characteristics on Traffic Law Enforcement*. National Science Foundation, 2002-2005. NSF29720 and NSF29725 (supplement).

Primary Document (PD): 1

Case ID #: 303131
Respondent Name: James
Date/Time of Interview: 7 Dec 04; 7:28 PM
Date of Transcription: 16 Dec 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SMM: OK and I really do appreciate your talking the time for this. It doesn't have to be the stop you talked about when we called you earlier. But if you could just think back over a time when you were stopped by the police while driving. And what I would like you to do is, in your own words, to describe the experience and if you can think back, think it starting when you first realized you were getting pulled over to the time you felt like the time when you could drive away. Do you remember.

P1S1 "Policeman on Your Tail"

D: Yeah, I do. I guess obviously when you get pulled over with a policeman on your tail with the lights blaring the first thing going through your head is what I did. [Right] With me it was probably the same thing. And I just felt after I was pulled over the intimidation. I mean though I was never put in the position where I was, felt threatened, it was just you know the police officer at your door and you have one standing behind you on the other side of the car and they're asking me to get out; telling you that they need to search your car.

SMM: So this was; you had 2 cops pull you over.

D: No. It was actually 2 police officers in one car. [OK] So

SMM: And they did ask you to get out of the car?

D: Oh yea. I was asked to get out of the car. And uh, told that I was speeding and wanted to know what I had in my vehicle. And, asked for consent to search. And obviously I said yes because I knew if I said no there would be, I would be there twice as long. [yeah, if that] So I let them search the car. They didn't find anything but I was there for roughly

20 minutes. I mean because pulled everything out of my car. [Wow] I mean they went up under seats, they went in ash trays, they went into the glove compartment, they went into my side door compartments. [wow] So it was um I was finally issues the ticket. They told me that I could leave. And it was um. I mean I cooperated with them but it wasn't an experience that I would like to go through on a [regular basis] regular basis obviously [right].

SMM: Do you remember actually how you were driving just before you were stopped?

D: Actually I do, I was getting off of work and when I saw them I looked down at my speedometer and I was doing 43 in a 35, so I knew I was wrong. But yeah I knew what I was doing. [OK]

SMM: And, actually getting searched like that is not not common in every police stop.

D: No.

SMM: Do you have any idea why they chose you to give you the 10th degree here.

D: Well at that particular time I had long hair, I looked real scruffy, I just got off of work. You know. They probably just assumed just looking at me that I was either doing drugs or had alcohol on me. So that's what I'm kind of thinking.

SMM: Right, But they never mentioned anything like that?

D: No, no, [OK], no. Just what I'm thinking.

SMM: And you mentioned that the just by the circumstances that you felt intimidated. Did the officers say anything that would you know heighten that feeling?

D: You know, basically, when you try to ask them what is going on and try to talk to them about it you're basically told "Just stand there and be quiet. We'll let you know what's going on. [Gotcha] And then they take their time at telling you what's going on. In the mean time, they're in the car; they're calling in on you. [Right] But by the time they pull you over they've already got your license plate and everything, all the information on the computer right there. [Right] So what I don't understand is why it takes so long. Issue the ticket and lets go. If you have probable cause to search me, then search me. [Right, right] But I mean if you're pulling someone over for a random traffic violation I don't see how that would constitute a search. If they stuck their head in my vehicle and saw some things, smelt some things, such then I understand "go for it."

SMM: So basically, it sounds like from you description really almost from the moment you were pulled over that they we're going to search you.

D: Yes, at that particular time.

SMM: And there were 2 cops, that's interesting.

D: But then again I've been pulled over and treated very courteously and just given a ticket and

told "head on down the road." [Right]

SMM: So you've had both experiences with that.

P1S2 "Nothing but nice"

D: Absolutely. As a matter of fact in January we were going through Louisiana and I was pulled over doing 63 in a 55. And that police officer was nothing but nice. He came up, told me why he pulled me over, and explained to me that I was getting a ticket, and explained to me how it could be paid, when it could be paid. And the court data. And he says, I'll be right with you. And I was out 5 minutes. [wow]

SMM: Now the one when you were searched. that was in the Kansas City Area?

D: That was Kansas City.

SMM: Do you remember about where?

D: 24 HWY and 435. I remember exactly where it was at. [You'll never forget, right!]

SMM: Did you tell other folks about that experience?

D: Hmmm. I'm sure I probably have.

SMM: But nothing specific?

D: No.

P1 INT

SMM: And then just in general, do you think the police treat everyone the same?

D: No.

SMM: Who do you think they treat differently.

D: Actually I think they treat women differently.

SMM: I assume you mean treat them better.

D: Well yea. Because my wife has been pulled over and just been issued a warning. Well for the same violation I would have issued a ticket. I think that there is profiling. I think you for instance send a black man in an all white neighborhood, you know, in a beat up car, guaranteed he's going to get pulled over. [Right] You take the same white man, put me in a junky car and send me to Overland Park around 151st and BlackBob and let me cruise the neighborhood and see how long it takes me to get pulled over. [Right] So yea, there's profiling. But in certain cases I believe they're just.

SMM: And what kind of cases would those be?

D: Well for instance, lets take the airports with the profiling of the Arabs. [Right] Its not blond headed white guys that are blowing up buildings in New York city. [Gotcha] Its not red headed Irishmen blowing up buildings in Oklahoma. [They do it in Ireland sometimes] That's right. [But not in Oklahoma.]

SMM; This has been really helpful. Is there any other thoughts you have on just both your experience and thoughts police stopping people on the streets?

D: Well its like this. I believe that anything, and this is my personal thoughts, there's good and bad. Because I have 2 nieces that are Kansas Highway Patrol and they, I think they would treat everyone fairly. And but you know you've got good and bad with anything. [Gotcha] So me personally I just think when they are hiring these recruits off the streets, I think their background checks should be a little bit more exclusive, to find out what ever they've got to do to find out who these people really are. You know you've got good and bad in anything. You got good restaurants, you've got bad restaurants.

SMM: But if you don't like the restaurant you can leave.

D: Yea, absolutely, absolutely.

SMM: Can't do that when the police pull you over.

D: That's the truth. But overall, I would rather have them there than not. [Yea, I hear you]

SMM: Well, listen James, thank you very much for taking the time.

D: Good luck with it.

PD: 2

Case ID #: 305324
Respondent Name: Linda
Date/Time of Interview: 8 Dec. 04; 8:46 PM
Date of Transcription: 17 Dec 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: Black
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SMM: If you could think back to a time you were stopped and if you could start from that moment when you know you are getting pulled over until the time you were free to drive away if you could just describe, in your own words describe that experience from beginning to end.

P2S1 "Putting the spotlight on me like I was a criminal."

M: Last time I was pulled over I was on State Line and I - before I was pulled over I had noticed a young police officer, very young he was probably in early 20s. And something told me "he is going to stop you." And I had driven about a block or two already when I saw him coming up behind me so I wasn't surprised that he; my first reaction was "well he came anyway?" My second reaction was "Oh, darn." [Yea right] "Why does he have to come after me." It wasn't because I was speeding. It was because my tag had expired and I had neglected to do something about it. And he gave me a - I can't remember how much the ticket was - but I was angry both at him - because to me that's ridiculous, it didn't look like I was a criminal, why should I get stopped for that. To me it is a ridiculous thing. And the second thing was I'm black women with somewhat of an accent. I'm a foreigner. So he's going to stop me because I'm on State Line close to some very ritzy areas and I got upset over that too. A lot of things came to mind. It was a mélange of emotions. But my basic reaction was "I could kick him." And I took a deep breath and said "OK, It is an infraction, I do need to take care of this, and once he gave me a little pep talk - he was trembling.

SMM: He was trembling?

M: He was trembling. I was angry but he was trembling. Cause he was so young; looking at me. He was thinking "Oh my gosh. This woman is" But I concocted a story, not so much a story, it is the truth, I am taking care of my mother who at the time had just come out of the hospital and I myself am in and out of bad health lately for some reason because I'm taking more care of my students and my mother so I told him, "Look I didn't have time to take care of this convoluted, cockamamie thing and so give me the ticket and I'll drive off and go take care of it." And he just gave it to me and I took a deep breadth calmed down and drove. So I was angry because I feel it was a stupid ticket. [Right] But after a

couple of hours I forgot about it. [Gotcha] I didn't take care of it until probably 2 weeks later. Because I was angry because I thought it was a stupid ticket.

SMM: Now do you think that the reason you were stopped was in fact the tags or do you think there was some other reason?

M: I think there was two things. It could have been because of my tags but did notice that he was maybe he was looking at all cars carefully. But it seems that he paid particular attention to my car. I don't know why. And I just felt it. I don't know, call it women's intuition. [Sure] And I felt that the moment I drove next to him that something was going to happen, no matter how many other cars were going by, there was even a guy who had driven faster than me and I was driving the speed limit. Probably one of the reasons why I got so angry, because these were little tags that was really nit picking to me. There were more obvious infractions that I felt needed his attention and why should I have been stopped.

P2 Int

SMM: When someone else did. Which really gets to the one general question that I had, do you think that the police treat people the same or differently?

M: After that experience, I started thinking about it because I had never really had such an experience before. When people told me that there was some profiling and all that I didn't really know what to make of it since I had never really felt it myself although when driving in Lee Summit I kind of felt a little bit. I was looking for somebody's address and there was a police officer who kind of went behind me went behind me for a little bit but then my mother is very light skinned and can actually pass for white. When he noticed my mother I felt OK just took a glance and went off. Since he didn't stop me I didn't make much of it. But this time when that little police officer did stop me it did cross my mind, like this is ridiculous. I've seen worse but I'm the one being stopped. One of the things that came to my mind was could it be because I'm a black women.

SMM: So really it didn't seem fair at that point.

M: At the moment but of course I do realize that now in hindsight I do realize that it was an infraction. But all these things crossed my mind at the moment. [Right OK] I think when one is the primal, how do you say that, the primal [sort of, response or instinct?] response, primal response are always the worse and then you go on [Right] I'm glad I'm not one of the psychopaths who goes off on a rampage based on the first [contact] contact. Because, I was very angry because I thought it was such a stupid thing. I don't know who I was the most angry at though, whether it was me for neglecting it or him for stopping me for such a silly thing.

SMM: Do you think the police officer knew you were pretty angry or upset?

M: No. Because I'm capable of keeping control and I remember they once described Grace Kelly fire under ice. You would think for a person from the island I wouldn't have ice in my veins. I have happen to have ice in my veins.

SMM: So are you from Jamaica?

M: No, I'm from Haiti.

SMM: Well, this has been very helpful and your voice has sounded great throughout. And thank you very much for taking the time.

M: You're welcome.

SMM: Bye Bye.

M: Bye

PD: 3

Case ID #: 313175
Respondent Name: John
Date/Time of Interview: 8 Dec 04; 7:40 PM
Date of Transcription: 17 Dec 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

SMM: So again if you could think back to one time you were stopped by the police and it helps if you could start with that moment when you know when you are being pulled over and then describe what the experience was like from your perspective up to the time that you could drive away and it was over. So anyway, can you think of one?

P3S1 "That Sick Feeling in Your Stomach"

C: Yea. [Great] You get that that sick feeling in your stomach when you see the red lights. You look at your speedometer to see how fast you're going. You have some kind of idea. Then you sit there and wait. And it's a bit unnerving. I just kind of sit there and wait until he tells me what to do, or she.

SMM: So you're thinking back over a specific time?

C: Yea.

SMM: Do you remember how you were driving?

C: Yea, I was speeding.

SMM: Significantly?

C: I was 15 miles over the speed limit.

SMM: Do you remember about where that was?

C: yea, it was Ward Parkway Drive.

SMM: And So there was the flashing lights and you pulled over, what did the officer do at that point.

C: He just asked me for my license and insurance. I didn't say a word to him, I just handed it to him. [OK] And he said, "Since most people try to give me excuses and a bunch of other crud, and you didn't I'm just going to give you a warning."

SMM: OK that's pretty cool. So basically the police officer treated you well throughout the stop.

C: Yea.

SMM: Do you remember anything about him or her?

C: What do you mean?

SMM: Well, manner, appearance, young, old.

C: He's about middle age, probably about the same age as me, late 30s, African American male. KC police officer. That's all I remember.

SMM: Sound like he treated you perfectly professionally and, you know, you got caught speeding and

C: I thought he treated me more than professionally.

SMM: So he treated you well

C: Yea. [OK great]

SMM: Did you talk about this with any of your friends or was this just something you kept to yourself?

C: Not really.

P3 Int

SMM: One last general question, In your view do you think the police treat everyone the same.

C: No.

SMM: Who do you think differently.

C: Oh, I don't know, I mean I can do the cliché that minorities are treated differently. But I think it's a case by case basis, depends on where you're at. Large town, small town, What kind of car you're driving. How you interact with the cop. [Yea, once it happens.] [OK]

SMM: Actually we do sort of know that older white guys don't get pulled over very often, so I was shocked when I was pulled myself about a month ago. But OK. This has been real helpful and I appreciate your taking the time and we won't call you back. How about that for a deal? Take care.

PD: 4

Case ID #: 318132
Respondent Name: Lisa
Date/Time of Interview: 8 Dec 04; 8:07 PM
Date of Transcription: 29 Dec 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: black
Gender: female
Driving behavior: safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

S: Well it doesn't sound like this was a recent stop, but the best place for me to start ...

D: I moved so I really haven't had a problem out here

S: Here in Kansas

D: I'm in Independence

S: O' in Independence.

D: I would get stopped I'd be in the city.

S: Can you describe one of those police stops, one of the times you were stopped that you remember reasonably well.

D: Well actually they followed me home. [OK]

S: What would help if you would think from the moment that you were going to be pulled over or followed, in this case, until the point you were free. If you could just describe for me what happened.

P4S1 "Police Escort"

D: I got off of work and I work in the city. And at that time I was living in the city so they picked me up somewhere on 71 and I exited 39.

S: Was this like, sort of, 5 or 6:00, so that time of day.

D: I get off at 10:30 at night. [That's what I was asking.] And I think it was the car I was driving, because they followed me all the way to the house and I spotted them in the mirror and I knew I wasn't speeding. So I just took my time. When I got home and I pulled in front of the house and they stopped right next too me. [Whoa] And so I'm looking at them and tried to decide if I wanted to get out of the car or sit there. So there is no one else around and I don't want to sit in the car. It took me like 15 minutes to get home; I got

off at 10:30. So I get out of the car and I just looked at them. And they said "Is this your car?" And I said, "Yes." And they just said "OK" and sat there for a minute. I walked on in the house. That was pretty much it. But I thought it was odd and they did it for about couple of weeks.

S: So they followed you for a couple of weeks?

D: Yea, so I assumed, I'm thinking they thought because of the car I drove that maybe in the area I was living.

S: What was it about this car?

D: It's a Corvette. And I'm in the hood. So I didn't know if they thought I was, you know, dealing or what. [Right, yes] But they did this for a couple of weeks. And then it was like every now and then.

S: So now, did the officers say anything to you?

D: They asked me was that my car?

S: Other than that, they didn't ...

D: No they just. They ran the tags [Right while they're sitting there] They, no that was pretty much all it was. And then they just looked. [Interesting]

S: Now, getting followed like this must have pretty upsetting; it would certainly upset me. How did you feel about all this?

D: Well, I didn't like it but you know what can you do. So after a while you know it kind of dangerous in that area and I just got to the point, well if they're going to escort me home then I might as well be happy instead of sad. [Well that's a good attitude.] So I looked at them as being escorts. I mean because I was like a couple of blocks over from 39th and Prospect. So its really not a good area, but they hang out over there and I guess, I found out later that you know that there was a drug house a block over. And I don't know if they thought I was part of it or what. They didn't say.

S: But it must have been hard to drive that Corvette that slow.

D: I drive slow anyway. I got used to it, but I didn't want to get stopped, so I was never speed. But I got followed anyway.

S: Did you tell other people about this experience?

D: Actually people at work we all talk about it. Because it isn't ... If you're in the city you're not going to be the only one. [Right] And I had let my son drive my car before and they pulled him over and made him get out and lay on the ground.

S: And this was about the same time?

D: No that was, I had a white Ultima and they did that to him and my nephew because I let em us it to go to the store.

S: So it wasn't the Corvette?

D: No, no. Not too many people who can drive that car.

P4 Int

S: It sounds like you're kind of answering my next question. Do you think that the police treat people the same or not?

D: No. I get treated totally differently out here.

S: Out in Independence?

D: Right, than I do in the city.

S: And just so we know, what are the differences?

D: In Independence, I still think it's the car, but I get more respect.

S: So you're still driving that Corvette?

D: Yea, I'm getting ready to trade it in and get a 2005. But its like I get a little more respect. But in the city and I still own that house. If we drive it over there - me or my husband - it's a big difference.

S: OK, Well thank you very very much for taking the time to talk with me. And good luck with that Corvette.

D: OK

S: Sounds like it's a lot of fun.

D: Oh it is.

S: Thank you very much.

PD: 5

Case ID #: 400335
Respondent Name: Linda
Date/Time of Interview: 8 Feb 05; 8:20 pm
Date of Transcription: 9 Feb 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L
Transcriber Name: Laura L
Race: White
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I was wondering whether you might think back over the time that you were stopped by the police while driving and, in your own words, describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P5S1 "What'd I Do? What'd I DO?"

M: Oh, just, when you see the red lights coming up behind you, you're like, "Is that me? Or are they after someone? Who are they after? And then when you realize they're after you, you-I started panicking a little, like "What'd I do? What'd I do?" And then the last time, it was a woman police officer, and she pulled up behind me and I said, "What? What's wrong?" And she said, "You were weaving in an out of traffic." And I said, "Well, I guess I was, yeah." "Why were you doing that?" I said, "Well because they were going slower than the speed limit, and I like to go the speed limit. I don't like to go slower." And she was like, "Well, that's reckless driving." And I said, "I passed you..." Oh, she said, "You passed me, too?" And I said, "Yeah, but you were going slower than the speed limit, too." And she goes, "Oh, ok, well, I'll let you go this time, but that could be reckless driving." And I didn't know why. I guess you can't change lanes like that.

LL: What did the officer do when she first pulled you over?

M: She just approached me, you know, how they stand way far back. So I'm like, "What's the problem?" She just told me that I was going back and forth and I even passed her. But I wasn't speeding.

LL: Do you remember how you felt and how you responded when you first began talking to the police officer?

M: Well, at first I was just like, "What's going on? I wasn't speeding. What's the problem?" And then she started to tell me, Why did I, you know, go in an out? And I was kind of like, "Well, I felt like because you were going too slow..." And I almost felt like that was a dumb question, but you have to, you know, be nice and respectful or they get upset

with you, so that's just-I just answered her questions, but I was like, Good grief, I was passing you because you were going too slow.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about this police officer?

M: No, she was probably scared, too.

LL: Did she do anything that indicated that feeling to you?

M: No, she just stood way, you know, back behind my door so I had to crane my neck to talk to her. She wasn't willing to come up to the window, and even when I handed her my driver's license, she didn't make me take it out of the little sleeve. That's all.

LL: Do you, did you have any feelings at the time about-or any idea at the time about why she was behaving that way? Why she was sort of hesitant to come right up to your window?

M: No, just because I'm sure they're not sure what they're facing when they pull someone over.

LL: What do you think was her real reason for pulling you over, since you weren't speeding and hadn't really done anything that you could identify as illegal?

M: Well, after I thought about it, I thought, Well, maybe that going back and forth lanes, maybe would have been considered-no, I don't know why, other than I was switching lanes to get around the slow drivers. And there weren't that many, and there wasn't that-there was like five or six cars, that's all. So I didn't really know. I knew she was a cop. I said, "I knew you were a policeman; I could tell." I said, "I knew you were a police officer; I could tell. I wasn't concerned that I was doing it." But she explained that it could be considered reckless driving. [I see.] "That's how accidents are caused," she said.

LL: So did you feel like that explanation was sufficient?

M: Yeah, it-I mean, I guess it would have to be. I didn't consider it one way or another.

P5 Int

LL: So in general do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

M: Well, since I'm a white female, it's pretty easy for me to answer that. I think I'm treated very fairly, but I have a friend that is a black lady, and she gets pulled over quite a bit. [Really] So no, probably not.

LL: And she believes that it's for the reason of-

M: No, she never commented, but it seems to me in the same area-we drive similar cars-she gets pulled over an awful lot more than I...I mean, I've only been pulled over once in maybe five years. She's been pulled over at least twice a year [my goodness] in our nice

- neighborhood. We live in a pretty nice-my neighborhood is a normal, average neighborhood with homes in, I'd say below 225,000, like between 150- and say, 250-. [Okay] But down the street, the homes just a block away start at 350,000 to 650,000. So that is a bigger, more affluent neighborhood. Not, I mean I could walk across the street to the more affluent neighborhoods, and that's where police sit down there in that corner more than they do up at the-we joke around and call the "slum end"-ours. So she gets pulled over down there the same as everybody. That's why-I wasn't pulled over down there. I was pulled over on the highway. But she's been pulled over down at the corner more and just asked, "Do you live around here?" Which I don't think is a relevant question, but that's just life.
- LL: So does it seem to you that it's just a matter of race, or also a matter of treating people with, who appear to have more money differently as well? Because it's this affluent neighborhood?
- M: I would say race because she was black. [Uh-huh] And it was almost an attitude of "what are you doing in this neighborhood?" [Hmm, have you noticed...] She didn't make that comment. She felt like the policeman was asking her, you know-he point-blank asked her, "What are you doing in this neighborhood? Do you live around here?" [My goodness] And I would have been offended by that point. [Mm-hmm]. You know? [Yes]
- LL: Do you feel that men and women are treated differently?
- M: I don't know. [Hard to say on that one?] Mm-hmm. Kids are. Teenagers are. [Teenagers?] Oh yeah. My daughter gets pulled over. She-my daughter's twenty; she's five foot, and she gets pulled over all the time 'cause she's very short. [Oh, uh-huh] And they always askin' her, "How old are you?" [Hmm]
- LL: So she maybe appears to be a teenager, and
- M: Yeah, she appears to be twelve [Okay!]. I mean, she's been pulled over in that neighborhood three times, in just a couple of years, to see how old she was. If she's old enough to drive. So they are on patrol quite a bit. And it's the one police department in our community.
- LL: Okay, in that neighborhood-that tends to use these methods of identifying drivers by different categories, maybe?
- M: I think so.
- LL: Um, is there anything else that you would want to add about your experiences with-with the police or getting pulled over?
- M: Involving traffic or just in general?
- LL: Either one.
- M: Well, I don't like-for example, we were broken into, um, two years ago January, and we

knew who did it and we knew who had our stuff, and they didn't, would not, do anything. Six, eight months later they called and asked some questions that we had already given them answers to, and names and phone numbers and addresses of where the people were, and they still refused to go and get our belongings back. [Hmm.] So I don't have a whole lot of faith that they can do anything for you, especially the investigators that have the information and should be able to go get one's belongings back.

LL: So it seems like maybe some of your experiences in each of these stories kind of indicate that you have maybe some doubts about the effectiveness of the police-

M: Effectiveness or if they care or not. I mean, I'm sure if your house is on fire, in fact, or a burglar-we one time had a-my daughter was home alone, and she was a little bit younger. She was probably-she didn't drive yet. And we had workers out front, but they were contract workers; they weren't city workers. But they were contracted by the city. And they had come up to the house, came inside the garage, and was trying to enter the basement door. And my daughter was so scared she called me at work, and I called the police department and they came right over. But it's, excuse me, at that time they did say that, they called the city and said, "Do you have workers here?" They said yes, but they had no reason to come up to our house. The workers said they were looking for water. They have their own water in trucks that are provided by the city, so they didn't have a reason. Now in that case, you know, it could have been life-threatening. They were very effective; they were there immediately and searched-you know, made sure no one was in our house, and then made sure the doors were locked again, and waited for me to come home, which was more than twenty minutes away.

LL: So you had a good experience there?

M: So that was good, but I think it was a serious matter. You know, theft is serious, but it's not life-threatening. So, you know, they have better things to do than look for people's belongings. But I didn't like that they couldn't go retrieve my belongings, even though they knew who had them.

LL: Well, I really appreciate your time, and if you have any questions about this research, you can feel free to contact me at the university. And I can give you my number if you'd like.

M: Oh, that's okay.

LL: It's 785-864-

M: You can call again if you want.

LL: Okay, thank you very much.

M: Okay, are you a student?

LL: Yes, I'm a graduate student.

M: You are a graduate student? I an undergrad student at Ottawa University.

LL: Oh you are! How's that going?

M: Great, I'm on my last class.

LL: Oh, wow, so you're very close.

M: And I'm working on my final paper, which is 30 pages, so it's a little taxing with a full-time job and family, but it's all right.

LL: Yeah, that is a lot of work. Well, congratulations! That's really exciting.

M: And congratulations to you. Good job on graduate school.

LL: Thank you. Same to you, and have a great evening. And thanks again for your time.

M: Okay, bye-bye.

PD: 6

Case ID #: 700289
Respondent Name: Keith
Date/Time of Interview: 7 Dec 04; 8:03 PM
Date of Transcription: 29 Dec. 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: wht
Gender: male
Driving behavior: risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

S: Great. What I would like you to do for me this evening is if you could think back to a time when you were stopped by the police. And I would like you to describe the experience in your own words. Start from that moment when you know you're getting pulled over and then just describe the experience until you felt you were free to drive away.

P6S1 "It wasn't any great big deal"

L: Lights came on. Thought I was speeding. Pulled over. You know he whipped a U'y and came in behind me. [Whipped a U'y!] Well yea, he caught me coming at him. He had me dead to rights, there's no running. Didn't have anything to run with. You know, pulled over and as it would happened that particular time I had talked to that officer like an hour earlier. He was on an alarm call at the house next door. And he comes walking up and he saw who it was and he started grinning. I was shaking my head. He was like, "I'm going to have to give you a ticket." And I says, "cool." He got me and it wasn't any great big deal. I didn't get brow beat or rubber hosed or anything like that. So you know he did cut me a little slack. Instead of writing it for the full 72 or 3 or whatever it was. He only wrote it for 70. So, \$25. Which I'm not going to say it was pleasurable but it didn't suck as bad as it could have. [Right, I gotcha] And then he left. I got more ribbing from my daughter and her friend who was in the car - Dad got a ticket.

S: So, do remember anything that the officer said. It sounds like you were having a little bit of a conversation cause you knew him.

L: It was all friendly. It was just like "You know why I stopped you." "Yea, I was going a little fast." It was just typical. Wasn't anything out of the ordinary.

S: You knew you were speeding.

L: Oh yea

S: It sound like the officer told you exactly what was going on.

L: Uh-huh

S: It sounds like - one of the questions we were going to ask - if you told other folks. Sounds like you didn't have chance to keep this one secret.

L: Well, no, not really. For that particular one worked out. It was about a year that I had very similar to it and I made some comment to a lawyer friend of mind and he went, said something about the points. He says, "You don't get a letter until they're ready to pull your tag." So he said, "Come by the office." So, you know, it went from a speeding ticket double the fine to a broken horn. You know how that part goes.

S: So for this one.

L: For that particular one, yea

S: The second one, the one you described. You were worried about your points.

L: Oh, yea.

S: So you did talk to you lawyer and he helped take care of that.

L: Well, yea. He got with the prosecutor and it was instead of having 6 points at the time, then I only had just the 3 from the year before. Because I was like, I didn't know how it works. And apparently

S: Well, I'm learning something too. I'll have to remember this.

L: I thought that if they put points on your license that you'd get something in the mail. You don't get a note until you're within 2 or 3 of getting jerked.

P6 Int

S: Thinking in general, do you think that the police treat everyone about the same?

L: No.

S: Well who do they treat differently?

L: You think. I mean, granted, in the particular county where I got pulled over, I would almost guess that if I was anything other than, you know, the red neck white boy that I am that there is a greater chance that they would be less respected. I'm not saying that all the officers are that way but I think that there would be a greater chance of it. Which isn't right but it just the way it is.

S: Well I promised that I wouldn't keep you very long. Is there anything else that you wanted to add just thinking about what that experience was like. Sounds like you gave me a pretty good description.

L: It was expensive. All in all, its one of those you get your chain jerked hard enough you do the speed limit. And I'm usually really good about it now.

S: OK Well thank you very much. And I'll give you a chance to get back to what you were doing.

PD: 7

Case ID #: 800059
Respondent Name: Mike
Date/Time of Interview: 30 Nov 04; 2:30 PM
Date of Transcription: 31 Dec 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: blk
Gender: male
Driving behavior: safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

[Used "R" to identify the respondent, since we have the same first letter of our names.]

S: OK, so just thinking back to one of the times you were stopped by the police, and if you just describe in your own words from beginning to end, from the first moment you thought you had to get pulled over until the time you were able to drive away. Just describe it as best you can.

P7S1 "70s Blue Lights"

R: Um, one of the worse things I had regarding that was probably back in 70, around 75 or 76. [You've got a good memory.] Trust me it stuck. [OK] And this was in Chicago and I was leaving school, I remember that, and I was stopped at a stop light and this car pulls up real quick next to me on my right hand side and stops just short of me, almost banging into the car in front of them. [Wow] And it turns out it was a detective car.

And they ended up pulling me over within about two blocks from where I was in school. I was going to DeVry at the time in Chicago. And I'm trying to figure out why these guys were pulling me over and it turns out I had these blue lights in the grill of my car that I had put in. They were decorative lights. [Oh, yea cool] Well in Chicago it turns out, at the time it took a while, it turns out its illegal to have em. Because, I guess, that they think that it means people see you in their rear view mirror that they'll think you're police or something. They didn't flash or anything like that, they just stayed on. But anyway so that was the original reason why I got stopped.

Then I got out of the car to walk back to meet the police man to find out why they stopped me. And I left the car door open so one of the cops comes back to talk to me while the other one walks over to the car. And he said, the one that went to the car, says he found a pipe sitting down in my seat. And it was actually it was piece of thick gauge wire. It was real thick, it was about an inch thick. And so they decided, well one em, the one I was talking to already, decided we're going him over to the side of the building and talk to

him while you search the rest of the car. Because now all of a sudden we have probable cause to search the car.

So they searched the car and the next thing I know this guy comes back with a gun. A little bitty small, little small gun.

S: From your car supposedly?

R: Yea. And you know he's like, "what is this?" I'm like "I have no idea." And he was like "Looks like a gun to me. What do you think?" So he sticks the barrel in my mouth. OK. And I'm like, OK what is this stuff going on here. And couldn't really understand much but anyway I know I got handcuffed at that point and taken down to the station. They were reading me my rights right there on the spot. So I knew there was going to be some problems. And at the time I had long hair, because you know right in the middle of the 70s. So basically I had long hair, you know. These guys were rummaging through my hair trying to act like I could a hid a gun in there. And it was weird, it was a really weird situation.

In the end they ended up, once we ended up going to court, I ended up with a court appointed lawyer because the lawyer that I took decided to set the case for a date he was already a court appointed lawyer, so he wouldn't have to make an extra downtown. And so we ended up loosing the case. It took all day for the case to be heard because the cops kept continuing it until they could find the actual law that said you could not those lights in your car. So in essence my lawyer was trying to get the case thrown out because the stop was illegal to begin with. And it took other cops to help them to help them to figure out that in Illinois it was actually {hard to understand} in Chicago city law that it was illegal for you to have those lights, because in Illinois you can have them. So. That was one time that was real memorable.

S: So you said you were guilty of just the lights or all the other stuff?

R: Everything. Once they found me guilty of the lights then there was check for the gun and all that stuff. We had no idea of where the gun came from. The cops said that if it wasn't mine it was in my car and therefore you're responsible for whatever is in your car. So basically I got like no time and I got probation, like a year probation for it. And it was basically a misdemeanor at that time. So essentially may be that it got expunged off my record. So as far as I can tell its not there now. And so I went ahead and did my one year probation, calling my probation officer every month and no problems.

S: Well you certainly described that pretty well. Why do you think the police pulled you over?

R: Originally, the lights in the car were a typical thing that everybody had. Mostly people in the black community, but you know I figured it was because of my hair because I had a lot of hair. And I had it like an Afro, so I'm thinking that that was the main reason that I got stopped.

S: You certainly weren't the only one back then with an Afro.

R: Yea, exactly. I'm mean it was typical in Chicago. It was dime a dozen at that time. But I don't

look like, if you look at me, I'm very light skinned. So other than just I had a lot of hair there was not a major for them to do anything. Those lights in the front of the car, I mean a lot of people had those things.

S: Well do you think the police treat people differently?

R: Um, I, actually, yea. I have, my neighbors are policemen. But they're both African American. But I actually that they do. Sometimes they're not necessarily conscious of it because I'm not going to always say that they are. Because I notice that people do stuff that they're really aren't conscious of the real reason behind it. I'd say that in those days especially but even now people do get stopped for no reason.

P7S2 "Missed Stop Sign"

My wife was stopped; now she's darker skinned. And this about a year or two ago, and the policeman told her that she had missed a stop sign. And this was on the street that she grew up on, on a route that she knew my heart - to death. And there was no stop sign where he was saying there was a stop sign that she would have missed.

S: Was that here in Kansas City?

R: Yea, and its like "what?" What are you talking about; there isn't even a stop sign back there. He was like, "You missed a stop sign." Basically she ended up apologizing and the guy let her go. Because, I mean, I wasn't with her but I was hoping that he would have wrote her a ticket because, I'm like, really you have to show where he wrote it from. Because we take that route all the time and we know exactly where the stops signs are and there is only two between 78th and 86th streets, right on Tyromie {??} and so he was trying to say she missed a third sign. There isn't one.

S: So how did she feel about that?

R: Oh, I wasn't too happy. I was just hoping that he would have made the mistake of writing her a ticket so I could have been like "We're fighting this one dude. Cause you're going to have to explain to me where you found the stop sign that she didn't stop at because I know that she knows that route by heart and knows which place to stop at."

S: Have you been stopped more recently in Kansas City?

R: Um, I haven't been in almost a year.

S: Well think about the one about a year ago.

P7S3 "Everybody was flying"

R: That one I was in Lenexa, it was in that area. And basically I was not paying attention to my speed and a cop pulled me over on I435. So he said I was doing probably 15 over the limit. And I couldn't fault him on it because I have no idea. I wasn't looking, I have no idea.

S: Well, were you driving with the traffic?

R: Yea, everybody was flying. So I saw lights and everybody's out here sailing. I'm not going past anybody. I haven't have to go around people. Like zig zag or anything. I'm just in the left hand lane flying like everybody else. But I'm the one who got snatched over.

S: Why did he snatch you over rather than somebody else?

R: That was my question but he just said "It doesn't matter why I pulled anybody over if you're going over the limit, you're over the limit."

S: So you asked him that?

R: Yea, I'm like "I'm following the flow of traffic." I wasn't conscious of my speed but I wasn't flying past anybody. And was like, you know, "The radar says is that you were over the limit. That's good enough." OK

S: So then what happened?

R: I ended up paying the ticket.

S: So he wrote you a ticket?

R: Oh yea he wrote it, he wrote it. And I was trying to be polite to him and he was trying to be fairly polite but his bottom line was like, "I would let you off but you're at a point where if you had gone two miles less over the limit, I probably would have let you off. Once you get 15 that's it, I pretty much have to write the ticket." "Ok go ahead."

S: But he was OK about it.

P7S4 "My radar doesn't lie; that's it."

R: Yea, I didn't have any insanity happen. He wasn't rude or anything like that. So I did have a case within about 2 months prior to that where I was out by Concordia and a female cop stopped me. And I did the same thing, I was speeding. Its like a little speed trap down to the right past I2040, like state route 23 and I70, where on 23 just north of the highway the speed limit, if you're coming south the speed limits drops from 55 down to like 25 in like a block. You have to hit your breaks and almost stop to get through that area. And it includes all {??} and things like that. So she told me she was coming head on at me and she caught me doing, and I had slowed down because I was getting ready get on the on ramp of I70. She said I was still doing 20 miles over the limit. Lady I not doing still dong 45 mph by now, I was definitely ready to get onto the ramp. But she was pretty rude about. "I just caught you. My radar caught you. My radar doesn't lie; that's it."

S: So she basically just didn't want to talk to you about it.

R: Yea. I mean my wife and kids are in the car. Her bottom line was "were not even going to discuss this." I'm like we should at least talk about it. "You know officer I slowed down to get on the highway." Cause she stopped me on the ramp. I'm like "if I turned the

corner to get on the ramp doing the speed you accused me of I probably would have tipped the car over." I'm like, "I didn't slow down any more at that point." She's like "I think you did, from the time that I clocked you." Well you know we can debate that one forever. But in the end she still ends up writing the ticket and I end up having two tickets in a short period of time."

S: So for the rest of the year I was driving like a mouse. I wasn't speeding, I wasn't doing anything. I constantly kept my eye on the speedometer. So those cases are not typical of the cases I hear from people that are darker skinned and are stopped and cops are just rude to them.

S: So you hear a lot about that talking to your friends and things.

R: Yea

S: When they say "rude" what kinds of things do they say?

R: Usually that the cops doesn't want to engage in much of a conversation. Sometimes they're abusive verbally, sometimes its even gone into name calling. They tell you about blacks but SOB's or something like that. And sometimes it does even get physical cause they're going to get searched when there was not even a reason to get searched. He just pulls them over for speeding but all of a sudden now you're searching the car. And for what? I've heard those cases like from church members and things like that a lot. I'm like "OK."

S: So when you're out there driving you're probably worried about these kinds of things.

R: Yea, I mean its always in the back of your mind. You don't necessarily get in the car expecting it but you do have it in the back of your mind that the bottom line is that you make sure that you don't have anything in your car. That's the thing, don't have any pipes, don't have anything in there that can be construed as a weapon of any sort. Because if they pull you over and they decide, like they can at any given time, that they're going to search your car. Then anything that they find can be evidence against you. And they look. I don't believe that they're above planting anything either. Because as I said, I had no idea that the gun was there.

S: So you think that back in that original case that it was planted?

R: I was possible because the only thing that it would have been left there was this one of my class there was if one of my classmates had of left it from school. And you would think if you had a gun somebody would ask you or tell you "I left my gun in your car. Can I have it back?" Something like that. Nobody ever mentioned a gun. And I was only out for a day. As far as they knew I was sick. And no body ever said, "can I have my gun back." So like I said I don't want to blame someone for something cause I didn't see them put it in there, so I couldn't tell you where he got the thing from. All I know is he came out of my car with something that I didn't think was there. And so I still lost the case. It was still degrading any way you went.

S: Well listen is there anything else you think it would be helpful to add at this point, just in terms of your experience and others experiences with police stops?

P7 INT

R: Not a heck of a lot just its one of those things that I'm not as conscious of because I'm light, lighter skinned, so its hard for someone to look at me and tell the difference. But because my hair is kept shorter these days, fairly well buzzed. So I don't have the same problems that my older brothers or somebody like that they have had. But I have friends and that kind of thing that have had these problems. A lot of the times because they're professional so they driving like Corvettes or Mercedes or something. So there just in the wrong area you get pulled over anyway, whether it's a valid stop or not.

S: So it sounds like you're pretty convinced that appearance of race makes a big difference.

R: Yea. I think it does. I really do think it does. I think that the police department has tried to address especially since the stuff has got publicized. And so even if these guys want to stop you, now they have to have a good reason for it. So now they're trying to be very careful about the stops. But I wouldn't say that they don't do it any more. I would say that they're just a lot more careful about how they do things. It's the same thing. [Not as overt] Yea, just the same thing as over racism and institutional racism, where it doesn't have to be overt anymore we can still jam you. You just have a harder time proving it. So that's the main thing.

S: Right, nobody said they were stupid.

R: And they're not. You look at them somebody's going to figure something out somewhere down the line so that they don't get sued. But the stuff still exists. I'm doing papers on various forms of racism and things like that whether its in the church or whatever. And its always still there it just change. I was looking at a cartoon set up from the recent election. New York Times and these depictions of Condoleezza Rice, very bad situation. And its now "come on." This woman is just doing her job. As a black man I'm not thrilled with the job she's doing. But that doesn't meant that I'm going to say she's either sleeping with the President and/or she's stupid. Because one of the cartoons was acting like she didn't know the difference between those aluminum canisters for bombs and it even made her use like some time older black ink. When I'm like, the woman has a PhD. She's probably got more education that the artist and the editor. OK. I'm like you have a lot of nerve doing this. And publicizing it at that. Because I blame the editor for even letting the thing out. But it just happens that my wife was teaching a class on diversity up at University of St. Mary's in Johnson County. And one of her students brought the cartoons to her, she just did this last semester. And so it was like, "I can't believe this stuff got printed in the first place." It just goes to show that stuff still exists.

S: Its kind of funny because I remember seeing those cartoons, but it didn't strike me. And as you're talking about it, its amazing.

R: And it depends on your perspective. I mean, your white person may look at it and just laugh it off. For all I know Condoleezza Rice could look at it and laugh it off. But just assume that they're idiots and it doesn't mean anything. But my thing is that that's how things happen. Say nothing and it just perpetuate it. And so I'm a minister, my whole thing is whatever you see say something about it. Even if it means that eventually that we have to start back to marching, sit-ins, whatever we need to do. You just have to start to put

a stop to some of this stuff. Because if you say nothing or do nothing they you're helping the situation and not stopping it. And so its kind of interesting.

S: Listen, its been great talking to you.

R: Definitely.

S: And I thank you very much for your time.

PD: 8

Case ID #: 808206
Respondent Name: Douglas
Date/Time of Interview: 29 Nov 04; 9:30 PM
Date of Transcription: 1 Jan 05
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

S: What I would like to start with is if you could just think back over one time you were stopped by the police while driving and, just in your own words, if you could just describe that experience from the moment you were stopped or maybe even the time when you realized you were being pulled over up to the time when it was over and were free to drive away.

P8S1 "A routine traffic stop"

R: It was a routine traffic stop. I was like on 75th and Quivera and I got pulled over by a cop. And he told me that my tags were expired, but it was only like a couple of days. So they just ran my information to make sure I didn't have a warrant and gave me a warning and just let me go.

S: Ok, so it was pretty straight forward.

R: Un-huh.

S: Did the officers say anything to you while this happened?

R: Basically, he just told me gave me the warning and to go ahead get my tags as soon as could, which I did a couple of days later.

S: Doesn't sound like you were too upset by the whole thing.

R: Un-hum

S: That's good. Sometimes, actually I was stopped about a week ago and it is surprising how upsetting that can be some times. But it didn't bother you at all in this case?

R: Un-um [i.e. no]

S: It sounds like the officer told you why you were stopped.

R: Yep

S: And sounds like the officer was pretty professional about the whole thing.

R: Yea, he was cool.

S: So that's great. Alright. And you're pretty sure that was the real reason you were stopped?

R: Yea

S: Just for curiosity, did you tell anyone else about this experience?

R: Un-un [i.e. no]

P8 INT

S: In general do you think the police treat everybody the same?

R: It just depends on where you're at.

S: Meaning, in terms of geography?

R: Un-hah [yes]

S: So what do you mean by that? Driving some places is more likely to get pulled over?

R: yea, I feel you're probably get pulled over more if you're driving in like north Kansas City or in Johnson Co. than you would be in the inner city. Because I feel that the inner city has so much crime going on that the cops aren't, I mean they'll pull you over for like a small traffic infraction but I don't think they're too worried about it like they are out in Johnson Co. and north Kansas City.

S: OK, and then that's all I'm interested in, to get your description of the experience of being stopped. And I really appreciate you're taking the time. So that was short.

{Some comments: When I contacted him first at 7:30 before he made the appointment, he didn't want to speak at that time because he was giving his 6 year old son his dinner and then wanted to work with him on his homework, which is why he waited until 9:30. Clearly this is a responsible dad. And the interview, I thought, however brief, went well and he was very cooperative.}

PD: 9

Case ID #: 808604
Respondent Name: Deana
Date/Time of Interview: 8 Dec 04; 8:20 PM
Date of Transcription: 30 Dec 04
Interviewer Name: Steven M-M
Transcriber Name: Steven M-M
Race: Blk
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

S: So if you can think back to one of the time you were stopped. And if you could start from that moment when you know you're getting pulled over to the point the felt you were free to leave, if you could just, in your own words, describe that experience that would be great.

P9S1 "Stopped for No Reason"

T: OK. I have been like driving home from work at night and get stopped by the police for no reason, just stopped me to see where I was going.

S: Well what time of night was this?

T: Um, I was getting off work at like 11:30, 12 o'clock. [so pretty late] Um-hum.

S: So you were driving home and do you remember how you were driving?

T: Um, I wasn't driving fast; they didn't give me a ticket or anything. They just wanted know where I was going. What I had been and where I was going.

S: So I guess they flashed the lights [Um-hum] and you pulled over. Do you remember about where this was?

T: Yes, I29 and 635. Actually one night I got stopped twice, the same night. [wow] By two different police.

S: Two different police, and do you remember ... so then you're pulled over and what the officer comes up to your window...

T: Right.

S: Do you remember what they said or how they acted?

T: Well, they just wanted to know where I was going. And the second time they stopped me I was pretty upset, you know. The same night, just about 5 minutes apart. And they wanted to know why I was upset. I said, I'm like "You just stopped me up the street." And you know I was scared, I knew they had just stopped me and it was a different police.

S: So they didn't tell you what they thought you were doing, they just said where you going.

T: They just wanted to know where I was going and where I had been.

S: Do you remember how they acted? Were they ...

T: They were nice, they were nice.

S: Do you have any thoughts about the reasons you were stopped. How did you figure this out?

T: Well, I think that every time I change cars. And I'm on this highway I get stopped. And it may be because I'm on the highway that comes into the city. In the I29, from the airport.

S: So what do you mean change cars. Like when you get a new car?

T: Like, right, when I change vehicles. I don't have a new car, but a different car.

S: Is there something about the car that you think makes them suspicious?

T: No because my cars are not any, I don't have anything that would call someone to stop me; anything flashy or anything. First car was a Subaru and the second was a Buick.

S: I don't know, those are pretty flashy cars. Do you have any thought on why they ... so you think just you had a new car or a different car.

T: Well, not a new car, a different call. I just really couldn't figure it out. really

S: Do you talk to you friends about this?

T: Maybe my dad.

S: What did he think about it?

T: He thought because I'm on I29 and that's the highway that comes into the city where a lot of things come into the city.

P9 Int

S: One general question I had, do you think that the police treat every one the same?

T: No, no I don't.

S: And who do you think gets treated better or worse.

T: Well, I know they don't treat everybody the same. I have, I'm a single parent, I have a son and he's been harassed by the police. Right now he's on parole, he's 21 years old, he's on parole for nothing for real. He was at his girlfriend's house, she called the police because she didn't want him there - not because they were fighting or anything, she just didn't want him there. And they came and he had on a big black coat. They felt threatened. And so he's been charged with assault and he said he didn't touch the police. And it was 5 of them and 1 of him. So why would you try to tackle someone, and there's 5 of them and 1 of him and they've got guns. Why would you try to tackle them? And he wasn't drinking; they did a drug test, they took him to jail, they beat him. And he ... there's no way to win in that situation. The best thing for him to do ... if he went to court and found guilty and he could be found guilty. There were 5 police and 1 of him then he would be facing jail time so he took a plea and so I know they don't treat you fair.

S: Well do you have any other thoughts you want to share, especially about police stops on the highway.

T: No. But I've been stopped every time I change vehicles. [That's interesting] And I'm not driving new vehicles, just changed vehicles.

S: That's interesting, I was talking to a lady earlier who drives Corvettes. A little more suspect than Subaru's. Listen I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to us.

T: Is this a study for a class?

S: No this is actually I'm a professor and this is part of our research and we're looking at the way the police treat people on the street. The first survey we asked a lot of questions with narrow answers, yes/no that sort of question. And we just wanted that we got stuff in people's own words. We're just trying to understand this, it's an important issue, how the police treat citizens. And that's what we're looking at.

T: Thank you very much.

S: Take care and good bye.

T: You too.

PD: 12

Case ID #: 204021
Respondent Name: Joe
Date/Time of Interview: 17 May / 7:30
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: To start off, I wonder if you would think back over a time that you were stopped by the police while you were driving. And in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized that you were going to be pulled over to the moment when you were free to drive away.

P12S1 "I felt violated"

R: One time that I particularly remember, it was just, I don't know how to explain. I felt violated. I was doing the speed limit. I got pulled over and was asked for my driver's license and registration and I went and asked, why was I being pulled over for? He just pretty much stated that there was a warrant check. And pretty much ran my license and asked if I had any warrants for my arrest and told him "no." And he ran my plate and driver's license and asked if that was a current address and all that good stuff and then released me.

LL: What did the officer do when he first pulled you over? Do you remember what he did as he was pulling you over and coming up?

R: Nothing in particular on this case and time. I mean, he walked up and just asked for my driver's license and registration and all my paper work. I said "Sure." And then is when I asked him why was I being pulled over. That particular time, no, there wasn't like he was drawing his gun or anything like that [Yeah]. We had had that happened [Oh! That has happened?]. Yeah, I've had officers that had had their guns in their hand and like I am planning on take off or something [My goodness].

LL: What did this officer say when you asked why you were being pulled over?

R: He just stated that he was pulling me over for warrant; he was doing warrant checks or whatever. So, I was just like "Ok." I wasn't given any tickets. He asked me to stop being smart. So I asked for his badge number and all that and I filed a complaint. That didn't

go very well also. I went into the police station and asked for the sergeant and I ended up having to tell the story to like 3 different officers before I even got a report written up. They just say "Ok, we'll file it." And that's the last I heard of it.

LL: Being pulled over by the police can be upsetting under any circumstances. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

R: Like I said, I felt violated. I didn't understand why I was being pulled over because I wasn't speeding at the time; I had my seatbelt on, obeyed all traffic laws. And like I said, he was going the opposite direction and flipped around and came behind me and... Well, there were a couple of cars between us but he particularly grabbed between the car that was behind me and myself and turned on his light and I was like "OK why am I getting pull over for?" you know.

LL: And then you asked for his badge number? Right after he took your license and registration or at some other point?

R: I think it was towards the end of the fact. I was like, "If you don't mind, may I have your badge number and all that?" He said, "Well, we don't carry badges in this district, but this is my name and this is so-and-so." So I walked to the police station.

LL: Yea. Do you recall anything about how you were driving? You said you weren't speeding.

R: No, I had my seatbelt on, no speeding. Like I said, I don't think...he didn't pass me. He was in the oncoming lane, across the median. I am sure I wasn't speeding or anything like that [And then he came back around]. Yeah, he looped around and he ended coming up in the fast line and he got between me and the car... Actually, there were several cars in line; I think I was like the second of 4 cars in the right hand lane and he pulled behind me and then turned on his lights. I was like, "Ok!"

LL: Strange. How did the police officer act through the stop?

R: At first he wasn't hostile or anything like that; he was just very calm about it. But, you know, I think he was getting irritated when I kept on asking all these questions and I then, I just shut up after that. And then I was like, "Do you mind if I get your badge number?" and then he told me that they don't carry badge numbers in this district and his name is officer so and so, and that was it.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him?

R: As in? [Like any description of him or anything?] Tall, I mean he seemed like he was built, dark hair, neatly cut; I mean, typical officer.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. You have mentioned that he said it was a warrant check. What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

R: I really couldn't tell you.

LL: Do you happen to remember anything about the car you were driving?

R: Yeah, I was driving a Durango, my car.

LL: Do you happen to remember anything about what you were wearing?

R: Just had some regular clothes on. I think I had sunglasses on. I remember that I'd just gotten out from work, actually. The windows down, driving home [Just driving home...] Yeah.

P12 INT

LL: And there he was. In general I wonder if you think that the police treat everyone the same.

R: No, I don't think so.

LL: Do you think they treat, say, men and women differently?

R: Yes, I do.

LL: In what way?

R: How can I explain it? Sometimes, they let women get by sometimes. You know, sometimes they don't. I mean, I know that my wife has gotten pulled over and she has never had any problems. But then I've had my friend's wife got harassed or whatever. But then again my wife is Caucasian and my good friend's wife is black.

LL: So, you think there may also be some difference. Do you think they treat different races differently?

R: Yes, of course.

LL: What about, let's say, older versus younger drivers?

R: I don't know.

LL: How about people with more money. Do you think they are treated differently from those with just a little money?

R: That I'm not sure either. I am pretty sure that...of course if I was driving around in a Beemer and had money... I don't know, to tell you the truth. But depends... I don't know. I'm not rich, so I couldn't tell you.

LL: Is there anything else you want to add?

R: No, I feel it's wrong in some cases. Of course, I got that cop that before. You know that if I'm at the wrong, you know, I could admit to it. But if I'm clocked speeding and I know I was speeding I can accept that. But when I'm harassed or, like I said, I've had a gun drawn at

me for any particular reason and wanted me to step out of the car, and raise my hands and all that. And they just released me saying that was a mistaken identity or something like that-I found that very un-soothing.

LL: Was that also on a traffic stop situation?

R: Oh yeah!

LL: Do you happen to remember anything that the officer said or how did the officer act?

P12S2 "Came up to the car blazing"

R: In that particular case the officer was upset and came up to the car blazing, I don't know if this is the proper way to say this, you know with his hands on his gun, and asked me to step out the car. And was asking for what-and he asked if I had any weapons in the car or any drugs. You know, he handcuffed me. He asked me, "Do you have your driver's license?" Got it out of my pocket, and you know, the normal routine. Ran my driver's license while I was sitting on the trunk of my car [Oh my goodness, so you were out of the car?]. Yeah, and could search the car... I didn't know of the rules back then that, you know, I guess, you have some type of reason to search my car. He could but...he didn't find anything. He ran my license, everything was clean. And he released me. No ticket, no nothing.

LL: In that case, what do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

R: Again, I don't know particularly. I don't know why beside of driving a nice vehicle, a nice car in the wrong neighborhood.

LL: Do you remember anything about that officer?

R: Same thing. Caucasian male, older gentleman, glasses, clean cut.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add about anything?

R: No, think that will be it.

LL: All right, thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785-864-3115.

R: Ok

LL: Thank you so much.

R: Thank you.

LL: Good night!

PD: 13

Case ID #: 301049
Respondent Name: Roy
Date/Time of Interview: 27 Feb / 7:30
Date of Transcription: 27 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right. I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words would you describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

Z: Describe my feelings?

LL: Just describe the experience of being stopped; anything you'd like to talk about.

P13S1 "Little Towns"

Z: Well, I guess I drive through like a ... Mission Hills, on my way over to work every day [Okay]. And through like Fairway, and Fairway Hills and all those little bitty towns over there [Right]. And yeah, we see a police officer and... I got several vehicles that I drive and a couple of them are really nice and a couple of them aren't. And whenever I get stopped in my nice vehicles, whenever I got a Missouri tag on and I cross into these little towns and I see a police officer... Let's see, last time I saw one, it just ... I dread when I see them because they are going to find some reason to pull you over in these little towns, because it seems to be that they... I don't know... like a funding generator. [Okay] So you know, whenever you see them it just feels dreadful. Last time I got pulled over, I saw the cop, and he pulled me over; I was nervous, I just, you know-I'm a grown man but every time a police is pulling you over it never feels good because you know, you are wondering "Why are they pulling me over for? What was it this time? Blah, blah, blah." And I got pulled over for a smoky exhaust. And I actually got pulled over in Missouri by this Fairway cop. He followed me over into Missouri and pulled me over there because he said he was in "hot pursuit" at 20 miles an hour. And I just get... I actually sold this old work truck that I had that I would drive to work, but since I sold it, I haven't been pulled over once going through there. But everybody I see over there is either black or has Missouri plates pulled over. I never see anybody with Johnson County Plates or a white person pulled over in that ... along Shawnee Mission Parkway there; I feel terrible.

[Interesting] Yeah.

LL: So, in that particular case, do you remember anything else that the officer did?

Z: Yes, the officer was very, you know very, I don't know. He was an older gentleman and very kind of like, grumpy. [Okay]. Like I asked him some questions, like you know, "We are in Missouri, you know; why did you pulled me over? Blah, blah, blah." You know, like playing 20 questions with him, you know. And he didn't know the law himself. I had to look it up in the website, and he was incorrect on some of the things he said. And just basically all around...but I just waited to get the ticket written and that was about it. He had it written when he got to the car already so he didn't discuss anything with me. Had me pulled over for about 25 minutes. [Oh, my goodness!]. So I didn't quite understand what that is, you know. Anyways, I was in Kansas City, Missouri my entire life and I never get pulled over in Kansas City, Missouri. Only when I crossed over the state line this has happened. [Interesting]. And I was glad you guys called me last time because that was right after it happened, then they sent you the court date like a month away. And they have court on one night, you know, one evening. And you got to go. And it's just easier to pay the fine than send it in because that is what they are hoping you do, you know. [Right]. So anyways, that's my experience in that time.

LL: Do you remember how you were driving just before you were stopped?

Z: Yeah. Obeying the speed limit. I was in a line of traffic in Shawnee Mission Parkway and State Line. I mean, I wasn't speeding, not driving neurotically, you know. So there is no reason to pull one over. And he just cited me for lack of insurance because I don't know where my little card was but I didn't have it on me. And, so I ended up going to court and showing them the little thing they mail you in the mail [Yeah]. The proof of insurance [Right]. I just didn't happen to have it, the updated one, in that car because at that time I had 4 or 5 vehicles.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

Z: You know, I would say neutral but kind of grumpy.

LL: Do you remember anything particular about him?

Z: I guess he was an older gentleman, just kind of like talked to me like I was some kind of criminal.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped? Do you remember what you were told?

Z: Yea, he told me that he pulled me over because my car was smoking, is what he said. Yeah! He asked me if I knew it was smoking and, you know, that kind of stuff.

LL: What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

Z: Oh, I think he pulled me over because of the smoking a little bit. But you know, I just had done

some engine work on my car, and obviously I hadn't gotten it right, so it was smoking a little bit, you know. I think that is why he pulled me over, that was his reason for pulling me over but, you know, I was like 50 feet from Missouri and I really wasn't posing any threats to anybody in Kansas, because if I would have driven another 50 feet I would've been out of his hair. So, you know, he found it critical enough to pull me over right there, you know, in Missouri. You know, because I was posing such a threat to his little town with the smoky exhaust. You know, in a state that has no safety inspection to vehicles to begin with.

LL: Right, right. Do you remember what you were driving? What vehicle it was?

Z: Yeah, it was a 1990 Honda Civic SI.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

Z: Just in work clothes, so like, a polo and khakis, and you know, probably tennis shoes.

P13 Int

LL: In general do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

Z: Say again?

LL: In general do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

Z: No, I do not believe they treat everyone the same. I know for a fact that they treat minorities differently based from what my friends who are minorities have told me about their experiences. I also know that depending what I drive I get treated differently. Could you hold on just one second?

LL: Sure!

Z: Sorry, that was the guy waiting for me.

LL: No problem! How about older versus younger drivers?

Z: Yeah, I think they treat young...I'm 29. I think that I get treated differently than ...I have been with people that are older when they've been pulled over and ...I don't know. I guess I'm speculating. It seems like I get treated like I'm a kid or something when they pull you over.

LL: Do police treat men and women differently?

Z: That I don't know. I don't know, that is a good question. I can't honestly say. My wife seems to get treated pretty fairly when she gets pull over but she speeds so...I, on the other hand, don't speed.

LL: So, when you say she gets treated fairly...

Z: She never tells me that like she got talked down to or anything. [Oh, ok]. She pretty much goes in her hysterical fits and cries; I'm not sure she is aware of how they treat her.

LL: And how about...do you think that people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

Z: Absolutely! I have a ... 2000 Honda. 2000 Honda is a 35,000-dollar car, perfectly clean. There is not a spot on it. I keep it in the garage, I only drive it on Sundays and beautiful days to work, and I've never even gotten a second glance in that car even though it's a high power sports car, pretty racy. When I drive through Johnson and Wyandotte County on my way to work, I never get a second glance, but when I'm in that old truck or in that old Honda Civic I used to have, all the time. I had tinted windows, you know; they were very interested in what I was doing when I was driving one of those cars. You know, I get followed every time I drive through there.

LL: Yeah. Well, is there anything else that you want to add?

Z: No, I think that covers it!

LL: Great! Well, thank you so much for your time and if you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university.

Z: Great!

LL: My phone number there is 785-864-3515.

Z: Great! Well, good luck with your study.

LL: Thank so much.

Z: Thank you. Bye, bye.

LL: Good night.

PD: 14

Case ID #: 301976
Respondent Name: Karen
Date/Time of Interview: 11 April / 5:00
Date of Transcription: 27 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P14S1 "On a Mission to Go Home"

M: I know it always causes anxiety, because I would be speeding, going over the speed limit.

LL: Do you remember a specific time?

M: It was in the morning when I was getting off work, getting home.

LL: Okay. And what did the officer do?

M: He just turned on his lights and followed behind me and then I pulled over.

LL: And what did the officer say?

M: He just asked me for my ID and insurance card. And he went back to his car, and I guess he asked me, Did I know how fast I was going? and I said, "I wasn't paying attention; I'm just trying to get home." So he went back to his car and I guess looked up whatever they look up.

LL: I see. You mention that it can produce anxiety and of course being pulled over by the police can be upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

M: You know, I just tried to act calm but it always makes my heart beat fast and like, "Oh gosh, how much is this going to cost?" and "Is my insurance gonna go up," you know, and all that stuff. That's it.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving right before you were stopped?

M: I was on a mission to go home.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

M: I mean, he was pretty professional, kind, direct. That's all.

LL: Do you remember anything particular about him or her?

M: No.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

M: That I was speeding. Well, he asked me, Did I know how fast I was going?

LL: And what do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

M: Because I was speeding.

LL: So, you thought that that was the correct explanation for what was going on?

M: Yeah.

LL: Yeah. Do you happen to remember what you were driving?

M: Yeah, my truck, an '03 Ford.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

M: I was in my work clothes.

P14 Int

LL: Now, in general do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

M: No, sometimes they don't.

LL: Do police treat men and women differently?

M: I think they could.

LL: And, how do you think that would work?

M: How do I think that would work? Well, I have been... I'm a nurse, so I wear nurse's uniform home and sometimes they would say, "Well, if I'd have known you..." They don't look in

the door, when they see my uniform, you know, they say, "Oh, I didn't know you were a nurse; if I new you were one I would've given you a warning." Just because of a brotherhood type of thing-fire fighters, police, nurses, all those things clubbed.

LL: Yeah. How about older versus younger drivers?

M: Oh, sure. They're trying to teach teenagers to slow down and be respectful.

LL: Do they treat different races differently?

M: Yes.

LL: And how would you see that working?

M: Well, I would say that they have a problem still...I would say that they treat black men differently. I would it has a higher rate of pulling them over for something else.

LL: And do you think they treat people with more money differently from those with little money?

M: Oh sure.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add?

M: No.

LL: Well, thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785-864-3515.

M: Okay.

LL: Thanks and have a good night.

M: Bye, bye.

LL: Bye, bye.

PD: 15

Case ID #: 302683
Respondent Name: Bill
Date/Time of Interview: 10 Mar / 5:00
Date of Transcription: 28 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

T: It's been awhile.

LL: It can be any experience that you'd like to describe.

P15S1 "Not a Bonding Experience or Anything"

T: Usually it's for speeding. You know, typically probably I'm going faster than I normally do and I get pulled over. I usually get a little angry with myself for getting caught speeding. Getting pulled over, on the whole ... I usually get my ticket and leave. I mean it's not a bonding experience or anything. Getting caught speeding usually is.

LL: Yeah. Do you remember a specific example?

T: I was coming into downtown from, it would be KCK, coming from Wyandotte County, you know on 70 it drops from like 70 to 55 pretty quickly there. And I think the cop was sitting up in the hill shooting down and clocked me going, I don't know, 66, I think. And I remember just getting a ticket. That was probably 3 years ago, 4 years ago.

LL: Okay, and what did the officer do?

P15S2 "Take my Lumps and Move On"

T: You know...I do have another time that is a lot more clear, if you would like to hear this one [Sure]. Okay, I was on my way to having some surgery done on, I believe, it was on Mission Road. And I got pulled over; there was a road construction, a road construction

sign up ahead, and there was a cop just waving people over. And I figured that they were just waving people over for the road construction sight. You turn off Mission Road and continue down the side street, and the next I knew, the cop was yelling at me, running down the street. And I stopped and I, they, of course said I was speeding, and I was like, "Where?" and they said, "In the school zone." And I said, "What school?" And they said, "Well, the basketball goal for this private resident is their playground and it was a small private school set far the side, 50 yards up the road. And they, of course, clocked me going 35 in a 25, which is 10 miles over the speed limit. And I got pretty ticked about that one; I thought that was a crock [Yeah]. So, yeah that one really still sticks with me; that was a couple of years ago, too.

LL: What did the officer do in that case?

T: They pulled me over and said they had clocked me going on... right here in this particular point the school zone is from here to here. Of course, they were going to show me with the laser how fast I was going at this certain time and that you know, here is your ticket; thanks for extra tax revenue and we'll see you [Man]. Yeah, I was pretty ticked about that one; it cost me like 300 bucks to get out that one.

LL: Oh my. Now, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting and you're recalling being pretty angry about that or upset?

T: Yeah, a little fired up.

LL: Do you remember how you responded to the police officer?

T: I was kind of-first I was in shock because I didn't know really what they were pulling me over for. [Yeah]. And then it was kind of like "What?" and confusion and then I was kind of like, Okay, you know, I can either contest... I could contest right there, which at the time I kind of figured that this is a speed trap. And... or I can take my lumps and move on. So.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

T: We were, I was driving fine. We were on our way to get my Lasik surgery done. So we weren't in a hurry, we weren't late; we were just typical driving.

LL: Yeah. How did the police acted through the stop?

T: A little arrogant. He didn't say it but it was like, "Ha, ha, ha, we got you."

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him or her?

T: No. Just average cop.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. You were told that you were doing ...

T: Doing 36 in a school zone, which it was supposedly clearly marked.

LL: What do you think it was the real reason you were stopped?

T: Because I was speeding [Okay]. I was probably going 36 in a school zone but it was just like...[Yeah]. You know, most you think of are...there is a big school, and there is a playground and you can see some busses. This is like a house. And being on Mission Road, you are kind of like "Oh, okay."

LL: Do you happen to remember what vehicle you were driving?

T: We had a gold Mercury Cougar.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed at that time?

T: Business.

P15 Int

LL: Now in general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

T: Yeah.

LL: Do police, say, treat men and women differently?

T: Depends if it is a man or woman cop and how the people look like. No, I don't know. I think, I have some friends that are police officers and I've known, I think they treat everybody the same [Okay]. If you try to, you know, fool with a cop they really come down hard on you.

LL: How about younger versus older drivers?

T: I would think. I have to say, it probably depends on the situation. If there are some young kids doing something really stupid, they might be a little bit tougher, a little bit more firm to make the point. You know, like say someone is climbing out of the passenger window into the back of a pickup truck. That might not be the brightest thing to do down the highway; the cops might thump you pretty good for that one. But just, you are speeding; running a stop sign, I think is the same across the board.

LL: Do they treat different races differently?

T: No.

LL: And do you think people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

T: No.

LL: All right. Is there anything else that you would want to add?

T: I can tell you right now I went on a ride long with one of my cops buddies in Independence [Yeah]. Pulled a guy going 15 miles per hour, he was going 15 over the speed limit. Four o'clock in the morning and the guy pulled out a lot of...close to 500 dollars to get his license out, and my buddy just said, "Here is your ticket." So, if you have a lot of money, I don't think it matters. You just hire a better lawyer.

LL: Yeah. That's interesting, an interesting story.

T: Yeah.

LL: All right. Well, thank you so much for your time, and if you have any questions about the research you can feel free to call me at the university at 785-864-3515.

T: Sounds good!

LL: Thanks. Bye.

T: Thank you very much. Bye, bye.

PD: 16

Case ID #: 307665
Respondent Name: Joseph
Date/Time of Interview: 18 March / 8:35
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: Thanks so much. All right. We are good to go. I wondered if you could think back over a time that you were stopped by the police while driving, and in your own words, describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P16S1 "Headlight Out, Handcuffs, 1019 Valid"

M: Ok. I was driving down 24 Highway, and I took a left turn to get onto 291 Highway. Starting on the exit ramp the lights came on and the cop pulled me over, and I figured it was for a light because one of my headlights had burned out earlier that day. And it was...and he made me get out of the car and handcuffed me and stuck me in the back on his car [Oh my]. And told me that I have a warrant out for my arrest and took my passenger and made him get out of the car and searched him. And...Well, you asked for the most memorable one [That sounds memorable]. And he searched him and I heard him run license over his radio and he said I was "1019 valid" and he told me that, "You can get out of the car now." And I said "You are right. You are right, I can." And he is like, "Sir, you need to understand that blah, blah, blah." And I said, "No, no. You need to understand that there are cuffs on me and that there is no reason for it." And he eventually tried to defend himself and I said, "Yeah, whatever, take the cuffs off." And got in my car and left.

LL: Wow. What did the officer do when he first pulled up?

M: Well he shined the light on you that you can't see for a good 10 minutes afterwards. And walked up and asked for my license and proof of insurance and stuff.

LL: And at that point what did he say?

M: I gave it to him and then he asked me to get out of the car, and didn't even run it. He was like, "Your plates come back to someone with a warrant." And I was like, "Oh great, this

is nice." So, I got out and let him do his thing. Bullied is always nice. I figure it must have been a rookie trying to prove something.

LL: Getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting under any circumstances; something like this was an interesting case. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

M: Well, I felt like just that he pulled me over for the headlight. And that it was completely ridiculous that ... I felt pretty much violated sitting in the back of a car waiting for him to search ... well, illegally searched me while I waited it out until he actually did call my name in. Quite violating, but I mean. If he had pulled me over for the ticket, I mean the headlight, and gave me the ticket for the headlight, I would have been like, "Well, you know I did it." Take the ticket and pay it, we're done. But no! And when he kept on going it's more like a violation.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving right before you were stopped?

M: Before I was stopped I was at the left turn red light, and he was approaching me from the other direction. So he hadn't gotten to the light yet. So, when I turned...so when the light turned green and I went and I turned left, he was coming towards me and then just kind of quickly got in the right lane and followed. So I hadn't had time to do any excessive acceleration or whatever the name he can pin on you [Yeah]. I'm sure he would've stuck one of those to me if he could've.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

M: He acted kind of nervous. Well, at first he acted like "I'm the man, you get out, you are coming from... you're within a mile of an area that is known to traffic drugs so I'm going to stop you for your headlight." So he acted pretty cool. But one time during it, right before he put the cuffs on me, he stepped forward and then I told him, "No, I'm not turning around. I don't have a warrant out for my arrest." And he told me, "Yes, you do and you need to come with me to the police station." And I was like, "What the hell did I do?" He stepped towards me to turn me around and I pointed at his hand that like 2 inches...I kind of backed up a second keeping his hand about 2 inches from actually grabbing me. And I said, "This is assault." And he took a step back and he was like, "Well, sir, this, this and this." Trying to explain himself. And I was like "Yeah, that's what I thought. I'll call internal affairs on you, buddy. I didn't do anything wrong." At that point he realized that he was dealing with someone more intelligent than the people, I'm sure, he normally pulls over in that area.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him?

M: No, I don't remember anything about him.

LL: Now, the police officer is supposed to tell you the real reason you were stopped.

M: He said I was stopped for my headlight.

LL: He told you this. What do you think was the real reason?

M: I figure, yeah, I got a headlight, but once he told me to get out the car I was like, "Oh no, here we go. This should be fun." I didn't know what to expect from him after that point.

LL: Do you happen to remember what car you were driving?

M: Yea, I was driving mine.

* Talking to someone on the background he says:

M: No, somebody from KU took a survey from me like months ago and I guess I told them I might call them back but she asked me if...Where are you going? All right, never mind.

*Back talking to LL:

M: She was like "Did you get pulled over?" I started to tell her what I was talking about and then she walked outside.

*Talking to someone on the background he says:

M: Why did you ask me for...?

LL: We'll create a little mystery for you. Anyway, you were telling me that you were driving your car?

M: Yeah. I was driving my car, was a '91 Chevy Cavalier.

LL: And do you happen to remember what you were wearing?

M: Jeans and a t-shirt, I'm sure.

P16 Int

LL: I wonder, in general, if you think the police treat everyone the same?

M: No. If you are anywhere close to a bad area, and you are wearing jeans and a t-shirt and you are in your early teens they'll treat you worse. If they are white and you are black they'll treat you even worse. That's some much statistics and some of the things I've witnessed. But black people tend to get more of the brunt of it all. Actually, they get it worse if the cop is white, and if their cop is black they get it, eh... it's still worse but still is not as bad. I don't know. I guess that is why white people are lucky, but I've been kind of pissed off at some of the situations that I've been in. [That you yourself have been in?] Yeah. I mean, I'm white but they still treated me like I was young and driving a car, so therefore a threat. I think they treat the young pretty bad because of how much drug concentration there is in the city.

LL: Ah, Ok. How about men and women? Did they do...

M: Women... Some day I would love to be able to just ask a cop for their phone number and just have them say "Well, we are just going to let this one go." I've heard too many stories

about ...Some of my female friends have been pulled over and if they were wearing like a tank top they like, probably 7 out of 8 times would get out of it. That's not like one of them; it's like all of them. Only one got a ticket [when] they were wearing something low-cut. And the other ones when they were wearing normal clothe they were able to talk their way out of it more, by just being slightly flirtatious. And I was like, "Man, I want some of that. I want a cop who thinks I'm cute."

LL: Do you think that people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

M: Yeah. I think that, well. If you dress like you have more money, if you are wearing a brand new Addidas shirt as suppose to an old Panther shirt or something. You are definitely are going to get a different treatment. If you look like you could be in the rock-crowd and you're maybe horrendous. If you are wearing a button-down shirt, I doubt you'll have criminal problems with him.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add, either by your experiences or your perspective?

M: No, I think that's about it.

LL: Well, thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number is 785-864-3515.

M: Ok.

LL: Thanks a bunch. Have a good night.

M: You too.

LL: Bye, bye.

PD: 17

Case ID #: 308958
Respondent Name: Donald
Date/Time of Interview: 10 March / 5:25
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right. I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P17S1 "Yes Sir, No Sir, Thank You' and Go"

R: Okay. I was actually running a little bit late and it was like 5 o'clock in the morning. And I was driving down, gosh, I think it was 75th street. And, coming from Missouri to Kansas, and I was kind of speeding. And I saw the lights go on and of course, personally you know, you think they got you and of course you have that sinking feeling. Pulled over, and just kind of tried to find my driver's license, insurance card, and watched him walked up. And of course the closer he got it was more like, you know, wondering why was I even speeding in the first place. And he very politely asked me if I knew what the speed limit was, and I knew on the Missouri side but I had no clue on the Kansas side, so I said, "No, I really have no clue." And he said, "Do you know how fast you were going?" I'm like, "No, I really don't." But I think I was going probably 10 or 15 miles over. He took my license and insurance card back; I guess ran them to see if I had warrants or something. And then he came back to my car and he told me that he was going to write me a basic speeding ticket. And gave me back my information, wrote the ticket up, and asked me to watch my speed and told me I was free to go. And I was really confused because I had no clue what a basic speeding ticket was. But of course I didn't ask 'cause whenever I'm pulled over by a cop I'm just kind of like, "Yes sir, no sir, thank you" and go. So, I started to pull off and I was just kind of kicking myself in the butt for doing it because now, you know, I had to either go to court or pay it before I did so. Or having to pay it... because in Kansas you can pay twice the ticket, and it turns into a non-moving violation. And I think that's what I did with it. And that's about the whole situation.

LL: Getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

R: I always respond, like I said earlier, "Yes sir, no sir," or "ma'am" depending on the sex. Very cordial, I never ever, like, argue. And you know, I knew I was speeding and I was in the wrong and I wasn't pulled over for any other reason so...I had, you know, I knew that the officer was doing his job by pulling me over. I guess I was disgusted with myself for not noticing him. Being honest.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

R: He was very professional. He was actually very cordial to me; it's like I didn't know...my car, because I have 3 different cars, and I couldn't remember what the year was and was kind like, "You don't know the year of your car?" and I was like, "No, I really have no clue; somewhere between 2001-2003. I don't know." I mean, he was very very professional. If I would've been him I probably would've asked me to get out of my car and you know, do a sobriety check, just because of the way I was answering my questions. Because it was early in the morning. I had woke up late and trying to get to work and I was still kind of, you know, half asleep basically [Yeah]. But he just, you know, ran my license and that was it. Yeah, he was very professional.

LL: Do you remember anything particular about him?

R: Physically I can remember that he was kind of a stocky man; that's all about I can really remember. I couldn't...but I have a horrible memory when it comes to faces. So, I mean, he was incredibly nice. So, that's about the only thing that I can actually say. He was really, really very professional and very nice.

LL: Do you happen to remember what vehicle you were driving?

R: It was a ... I can't think of it, color's name, it's almost like a beige green. Sebring convertible 2002. So it's a pretty nice car.

LL: Yeah. Do you happen to remember how you were dressed that day?

R: I was in uniform because I was going to work. Could've been a blue shirt and kaki pants.

P17 Int

LL: Yeah. In general do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

R: No. I mean, you know, I was a white male driving a nice car and I was, like I said, dressed in a kind of a uniform. And he asked me where my store was, because I told him I was a store manager. And he asked me where my store was located, and I just kind of I just kind of chatted with him. And I just think that by the time he got to the car he realized that I wasn't that big of a threat so he was just very polite, and just did his job. I truly don't believe that that happens in every case.

LL: Do police treat, say, men and women differently?

R: You know I've heard...I honestly I have no clue, but I mean I've heard stories of how women can flirt and get out of tickets. I don't know if it's true or not because you know, I had a girl friend and used to-so I mean, maybe if you are attractive enough. And you can flirt or can act all sweet and innocent, I guess possibly yes.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

R: I would honestly believe that they are probably more professional with the older ones than with the younger ones because, you know, they view younger kids, teens running amok, kind of. I think that they are more likely to let an older person or a more mature person go with a warning than they would with a teenager, you know.

LL: Do they treat different races differently?

R: Oh yeah! Just driving...like I said, I drive down 75th street on a daily basis to get to work and 99% (and this is just my opinion and you know is not like statistically proven or anything) but I would say like 99% of the people that I see pulled over on the side of the road are of either African-American or Hispanic descent and not the nicest cars. I mean, it's every day. There is at least once a day as I drive by I see a car pulled over. And I always look because I'm just nosy and I think we all do, to see who they got instead of you [Yeah]. So yeah, 9 times out of 10 it's going to be a person of color.

LL: Do you think people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

R: By the law? Oh god, yeah! Recent cases, in the past couple of years they've shown that one. You know if you look at, I'm not saying that, you know, I know what happens or not, but if you look at Michael Jackson and whoever plays Colombo and O.J. Simpson and all these people getting off on things that most of us kind of still believe they did. Yeah, I think that money has a lot to do with it. And if you are driving a Mercedes or Jaguar, you are less likely to be pulled over. Because I've driven past speed points and I did have a Mercedes and I've driven past a, you know, where they should've stopped me 'cause they have a little radar and I know I'm going on the highway probably ten to fifteen miles over the speed limit and I don't get stopped. So yeah, I think that does definitely happen. And also when you see someone pulled over it tends to be the older type of cars. So yeah, my perception is yes, they definitely do.

LL: Is there anything else you would want to add?

R: No, I just, I know that they say that there is not such a thing as racial profiling, but I really, speaking as a white man looking on, I would definitely agree that there was. There was a time, god, this was like 6 or 7 years ago, I had a girlfriend of mine and she is an African-American female and we were driving from downtown out to where I live which is Ward Parkway and they followed us, and I was actually driving her car, and they followed us, I mean for like 2 to 3 miles and they stopped us because they said I made too wide of a turn. So, I mean that's kind of why I've a perception and why I always look. That was the first time I've ever been stopped by the police.

LL: Wow, that's interesting.

R: And I've only been stopped one other time. [Wow]. And I speed all the time, I mean I truly speed all the time. You know Ward Parkways is like a 45-mile-an-hour but I think that everybody goes like 65 [Yeah, I think so]. Twice in 20 years that I've been driving.

LL: That's interesting. Well, thank you so much for your time and your thoughts. If you have any questions about this research you can feel free to contact me at the university. And my number there is 785

R: Hold on one second let me...785

LL: 864-

R: 864-

LL: 3515

R: Great. And I don't even know if I can ask this questions but like , is this for like a research project for, like, a student or for, like, the actual university.

LL: It's actually being conducted under the auspices of the University of Kansas and the Policy of Research Institute and it is actually a study being conducted by several professors there just in terms of people's interaction with officials and their driving experiences in the Kansas City area. So it is a project that will probably produce some published results.

R: That would be interesting to see the results of it because it's been awhile since the last time I spoke with anyone.

LL: It's an ongoing study that actually is being conducted in several phases. I really appreciate your willingness to participate in another phase of it.

R: Anything that I can do to help.

LL: I appreciate it. Thanks so much.

R: All right, thank you.

LL: Have a good weekend.

R: You too. Bye, bye.

LL: Bye.

PD: 18

Case ID #: 310462
Respondent Name: Elizabeth
Date/Time of Interview: 5 Mar / 5:30
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words, would you please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized that you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P18S1 "It Takes Two of You to Pull Me Over?"

V: Well, first I didn't know they were behind me. And then I've just seen the lights so I pulled over, and I asked the police, Why was he stopping me? He said that I ran a red light. I told him, "I did?" And he said that I was out, like making a left turn, and I was out waiting on traffic to come by so when the last car came by, I went. Okay. So once he pulled me over he said that...There was another policeman that walked upon the passenger side of me and scared me and I said, "It takes two of you to pull me over?" And he said, "Well, I want to see your driver's license and proof of insurance." And I gave him my driver's license but I didn't have proof of insurance, so he went back to his car and then he came back and he said that he wasn't going to write me a ticket for running a red light, which he pulled over for. And he said that he was just going to give me a ticket for not having my card insurance. Well, I felt that I was being racially profiled, I really did. Because he didn't give me the ticket for what he pulled me over for. So he gave me ticket for not having proof of insurance. And he told me what to do as far as getting it lowered. And I did that; he let me go but after awhile I'm sitting up here thinking, Why did he do that? Obviously, you know... to me was racial profile. I think it was. So he let me go and that was the end of that.

LL: What did the officer do during the stop?

V: Like I said, he came up; he asked me for my driver's license. You know, he was kind of nice about it. He wasn't nasty, no, just kind of nice about it. He went back to his car. I guess he ran my, you know, ran my plates and whatever. And when he came back he just said what I said.

LL: Getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

V: Yeah. Well, the first thing was like "Why is he pulling me over?" But what really got me was I made a turn. I was like on 35 and Paseo, and he didn't stop me to like about...I know I had passed Troost and I don't know if the next street coming up was Campbell, but it was like 3 or 4 blocks down. And you know, I believe that it was even more than 3 or 4 blocks down from where I made the turn. That was what really pissed me off the most. I was like, "What did you stop me way down here? [Yeah]. It could've been because I didn't look in my rearview mirror. And maybe seen the lights going, you know, I don't know.

LL: Oh. Do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

V: Normally, because I was... going to see my mother at the hospital I was driving normal because I don't need no more tickets or anything you know. And I think it was kind of misting too, at the end, but that was about it.

LL: Yeah. How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

V: Well, the one that stopped me, he was nice. But the one that was on the driver's side was nosing around and in flashing, putting the spotlight on me was like I was a criminal. But the one that stopped me and asked for my driver's license, he was nice. I have to say he was nice, you know. He wasn't nasty or anything.

LL: What time of day was this?

V: This was like about 6:30 in the evening.

LL: Okay. Do you remember anything in particular about either of the officers?

V: Okay.

LL: I'm sorry now?

V: I can't hardly hear you.

LL: Oh, I'm sorry. This connection! Do you remember anything in particular about either of the officers?

V: No, no. Just the one that was did most of the talking he was tall, dark hair, young guy, I just remember that he was very nice. He wasn't nasty or anything.

LL: And, how about the other one? Do you remember anything about him or about ...?

V: No, I didn't have too much contact with him because he was just flashing his light. After he flashed his flashlight he was for a moment in the car, and he went back to the car.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason that you were stopped. And you were told...

V: That I ran a red light.

LL: That you ran a red light. What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

V: To find out who was driving the car and you know, man or woman. That is the only thing I could figure out. He didn't give me a ticket for...[Yeah] what he stopped me for.

LL: Do you remember what kind of car you were driving?

V: Yes, I was driving my husband's black Escalade.

LL And do you remember anything about what you were wearing?

V: No, I don't.

P18 Int

LL: In general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

V: Do I think they do? [Yeah] No.

LL: Do police treat men and women differently?

V: Oh yes they do. I think they do.

LL: How does that work?

V: Well, I think that for me as a woman and being a black woman, I think they were a little bit more...and I'm just going for me. Just a little bit more, I don't know if it's nice or lenient as towards blacks. I've seen them stop black people, black men and definitely and all I see is everybody is being handcuffed, being patted down, handcuffed in the back of the car. I mean not in the car, but you know in the back, outside of the car in the back. 2 or 3 of them out there with, you know, 2 or 3 more cars, you know.

LL: Yeah. How about older versus younger drivers?

V: Oh yes. Mostly...young ones. To me it's like, you need 5 or 6 cars just to stop them? [To stop younger drivers?] . Yes, to stop younger drivers.

LL: And you think they also treat different races, differently?

V: Oh yeah. Oh yes.

LL: And how about people with more money, are they treated differently than those with little?

V: Probably so. I don't have a lot of money, so. But I do believe if you have money, they probably treat you a little bit better.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add?

V: Well, the only thing that I would like to add is, why do we take, you know, 5 or 6 police cars, you know, to stop somebody [yeah], especially black people. I mean, when they stop white people they don't have 5 or 6 cars. They have 1 car and 2 policemen and ...They might stop the black woman; she must have drugs on her because they had 3 police cars, a white van and she wasn't even out of the car. And then they have another car that, maybe was an undercover car and it just had the red light going so. In a way you need all that? You know, if it's one person you need 10 people. I don't understand it, but this is me.

LL: Yeah. Well, thank you so much. Is there anything else that you want to add?

V: No, that's it.

LL: All right, well thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions about this research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number is 785-864-3515.

V: And what's your name?

LL: My name is Laura.

V: Laura. Ok

LL: All right, have a good night!

V: You too.

LL: Thank you. Bye, bye.

PD: 19

Case ID #: 312260
Respondent Name: Walter
Date/Time of Interview: 23 May / 7:10
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you might think back over a time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words ...I 'm sorry. Are you able to hear me?

M: Oh, yes!

LL: Okay good. If you think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving and in you own words describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P19S1 "Handcuffed, but not really a problem"

M: Well, you...I haven't really have no problem with them because one time my tags were stolen; they thought I was the person that, I guess that took the tags, but I had reported it and showed them the papers but I was still handcuffed and it wasn't really a problem. But, other than that I really haven't really had any past experiences that I, I guess I care to mention. You know, they always do their procedures and really there is no mistreatment or anything. The only thing that I just don't like is that if you are black they just, let's say that you just get pulled over a lot more. And again after you show your proof or whatever and you have no warrant and then they just let you go. But that's basically my answer. If you just follow procedure, they don't mistreat you or anything.

LL: Yeah. You have mentioned a particular time that you were pulled over. In that case, do you remember what the officer did?

M: When I was pulled over because the tags were stolen I don't know. They asked me to get out of the car, and a female officer pulled her gun. Well, she was acting kind of strange at first; I really didn't know what was going on until I remembered that my tags was stolen. After that they told me that they've been stolen. So, she was overly cautious. The male officer was like, "Just calm down; everything is fine, we just have to you know, routine

procedure” and everything. But other than that it was fine. I mean, she just asked to do one thing, and then she told me to put my hands out of the window, when she first pulled me over. And as I pulled my hands out of the window she said, “Well, reach in and get us your ID.” So I was starting to get my ID and then she started to say, “What are you doing?” and I said, “You asked me to get my ID.” So, she was acting like she was a little overly cautious even though there was another officer. But other than that it wasn’t, you know. I just did what they told me to do. And then after that they let me go.

LL: Do you remember which officer came up to the window? It was...

M: It was the female.

LL: The female police officer. And then where was the other one?

M: He was behind the car just kind of making sure everything was going okay.

LL: Okay, so you just mainly talked to the female police officer?

M: That’s right.

LL: Okay. Now, getting pulled over by the police can be really upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

M: Well, you know I was just a little upset that I was being pulled over. But then when I realized that it was, you know, for the tags. You know because it was like they waited for me. I went to the Bread House and I came back and it looked like they were waiting on me to come out so...And I didn’t know what was going on, wonder why they didn’t come to get me right away. But then when I figured out what was going on; it wasn’t that big of a deal. Because the tags have been stolen, so I appreciate them doing that, you know, making sure that the person that had stolen the tags was that person.

LL: Yeah. So somebody else had taken the tags off your car and put some different ones on there?

M: Yes ma’am. [Okay. So you had...] the car had been dormant for about 4 months. It was at my mother’s house. [Okay]. I had gotten new tags for it but I hadn’t gotten them yet. [Okay] Yes, ma’am.

LL: So somebody else had put some different tags on there then when it was dormant.

M: No, no, no, no. They just took my tags. I went and bought some new tags.

LL: Oh, I see okay.

M: I had to give them the old ones but I have reported them, but I hadn’t picked up, it what it was.

LL: Yeah, okay. Now do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

M: Like I said, I had just come out of the Bread House [That's right.]. I just went to my car.

LL: Yeah, that's right. Now, how did the police officer act throughout the stop?

M: Ma'am, say that again?

LL: Oh, how did the police officer act throughout the stop?

M: They, you know. They were just checking my tags. Making sure everything was cool. You know okay. And after that... they did their job you know, they pulled me over and asked me to put my hands on the wheel and things like that. And I just did whatever, you know, I was asked.

LL: Yeah. Do you remember anything particular about either of the officers?

M: No, just that one was a male and the other one was a female and they were both Caucasian.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

M: Yeah. They told that the tag was stolen.

LL: And what do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

M: I'm not really sure because I was in the Bread House and ... so I couldn't really say that particular time. [Yeah]. You know, I just noticed that they waited on me to come out of the Bread House. They have seen me go in and they waited for me to come out.

LL: Do you happen to remember what car that was?

M: I think it was my Oldsmobile. I had an '85 Olds 98.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

M: No, I don't.

P19 INT

LL: Then I wonder also in general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

M: No, like I said, I think people of color a lot time are pulled over a lot quicker, you know, for whatever reason. I think they do, you know. It's like they have a need to check people quite a bit. People of color that is.

LL: Do you think that police treat men and women differently?

M: I can't really say. I mean, all the time that I've ever driven with my kid's mother when we

were married, it didn't seem like it was that much different, you know. She got pulled over as much as I did, I think.

LL: And how about older versus younger drivers?

M: I think it's more so... we were... I'm 40 now, so I was probably like 35 or early 30s when was the last time I remember getting pulled over. I think that probably younger drivers pay more in fines.

LL: Yeah. Do you think people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

M: No, I really don't. I think it's, a lot of time it's you know, kids that run the music really loud, and I think a lot of time that might be some of it [Yeah]. You know, just depends on, you know, the driver. So I don't really think that has to do with it.

LL: Yeah. Now is there anything else you would want to add?

M: No, no...

LL: Okay. Well thank you so much for your time and if you have any questions about this research you can feel free to contact me at the university.

M: Okay.

LL: And my number there is 785-864-3515

M: Okay. Thank you so much.

LL: Thanks. Have a great evening.

M: Thanks; you do the same.

LL: Bye, bye.

M: Bye.

PD:20

Case ID #: 313366
Respondent Name: Darrell
Date/Time of Interview: 5 May / 1:30
Date of Transcription: 21 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right, if you would think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, and you may start from the moment that you realized that you were being pulled over to the moment when you were free to drive away.

J: Think back as far as I can go?

LL: Yes, just back about any time that you were stopped by the police while driving that you'd like to talk about and just describe the experience.

P20S1 "And they put handcuffs on, too"

J: Probably the time when I was a sophomore in high school, me and a couple of buddies of mine were driving through, like a predominately white neighborhood [Oh, ok]. And we got pulled over because, I guess, somebody's house, supposedly, got broken into and whatnot, a couple of days ago and ... I guess it was the circumstances. He really had no reasons to pull us over, but I guess it's because we were all blacks and whatnot! [Oh my!]. Yeah. And they said that we fit the profile for, I guess, for whoever broke into somebody's house that one night [Oh no!]. I mean, it's not like he was pulling us over for a traffic violation. He was pulling us over because we were black and, I guess, we met the profile for whatever had happened whenever it happened. [Yeah, go ahead. I'm sorry...]. I mean, that just like an uncomfortable experience for me [Oh yeah! I bet!] So...

LL: Do you remember what the officer did?

J: He made us get out of the car and made us wait, I guess, for some people to come, and verify if it was us or not. We never found out if they have to retain us or if he could've let us go. He said that it was negative ID. He let us go.

LL: Do you remember what he said when he first came up?

J: I don't remember what I said exactly. I thought he had a reason for pulling me over. I was young at the time. I didn't say anything. I didn't want to make anything worse than what it was. So, I don't remember saying anything.

LL: Do you remember what he said when he came up?

J: Yeah, he asked us for driver's license and all that stuff. Then he said if we lived around here because, I guess, my driver's license address wasn't from around where we was. Then he asked us where we lived and why we were over here? And he made us get out of the car and stuff. [Wow]. Yeah.

LL: Getting pulled over by the police can be really upsetting. I mean, that sounds really upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the cop?

J: I mean I just kept cool about it, I guess. I kept my composure. Because I didn't want to make something out of nothing. I mean it was something, now that I look in it. But I didn't wanna, you know, give him a reason to do anything else. So I just play along with it. But after all, I felt really bad [You felt really mad?]. I felt really bad [Yeah] So...

LL: Do you remember how you were driving right before you were stopped?... Well, Hello...

Note: there was silence and LL called him again.

J: Hello!

LL: Yes, hello. I am sorry. I think we just lost the connection there.

J: Yeah, I think my line dropped.

LL: Mine does that all the time. Anyways, you were telling me that how you were driving just before you were stopped and before he pulled you over?

J: I don't remember what I was saying.

LL: Were you the person actually driving at the time?

J: Oh yeah. I was the person driving.

LL: Ok, and do you remember how you were driving? Can you describe sort of how you were driving?

J: I might have been speeding just a little, or some. But I remember I wasn't doing anything out of the ordinary [Yeah]. I was down the street, and I remember him passing me up the other direction and then he saw me and turned around [Oh my.] yeah.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

J: I don't remember... How did he act during [Yeah, once he pulled you over. Do you remember how he acted?]. I don't remember exactly. I mean, I don't know. It seems like it was normal to me. I mean, I don't feel like he was really doing anything. I don't think that he was waiting on anybody... I don't know.

LL: Do you remember anything...Can you describe anything about him?

J: You mean physically? [Sure]. He was older. He was probably mid to late 30s. He was a white guy. I don't remember how he was or whatnot [Yeah, that probably happened a while ago; it sounds like it]. Yeah, it was about 5 years ago.

LL: It is hard to remember details like that. Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason that you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

J: Yeah, he said that we had fit a profile of a group of people who had broken into somebody's house in the neighborhood. That was nice. And that's what he said.

LL: So, it was pretty brief? He just walked up and said that?

J: Yeah.

LL: What did you think was the real reason you were stopped?

J: Because we were black in a predominantly white neighborhood. [Wow]. Because he just ... he had no reason for pulling us over, because he just parked in the middle of the street and came back. It wasn't like the car was stolen or anything like that. He just said that we as a group of people fit the profile.

LL: Oh my goodness! Do you remember what type of car it was that you were in?

J: It was a green Honda Accord. Like a 93 Honda Accord.

LL: Do you remember anything about how you were dressed?

J: It was summer time, so probably I had some shorts and a t-shirt. I remember getting out of school early that day [Oh.]. I was still in high school.

LL: So, it's kind of the middle of the day, driving with some friends and this guy turns around and comes back

J: Yeah.

P20 INT

LL: Wow. In general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

J: Do I think that they treat everybody the same? No.

LL: Do you think they treat, say, men and women differently?

J: Yes I do. I mean, I hope they don't do it on purpose; if some do, I just think they don't. [When you say not on purpose...]. Like constantly, you know. Every situation has its own...Every person has his own reaction to a situation. I mean, I just think that some people, for whatever reason maybe, you know, they have a different outcome by meeting somebody else, by what they have to say or how the situation happens to go.

LL: So, in the case of men and women. How would you see them treating people differently? How do you think that would work?

J: Like if an attractive women was to do something, like speed or whatnot. And another woman was... both of them were speeding. I bet the one that is more attractive would get off, rather than, the other woman.

LL: How about men?

J: I didn't hear what you said?

LL: How about men versus women?

J: Men versus women? [Yeah. How would men tend to be treated?] I think that would depend if the cop was a man or a woman. Yeah.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

J: Definitely older. That is kind of a hard one because sometimes the police officer would be lenient to a younger driver, while the older driver would probably have more experience. Are you talking about just driving or in general?

LL: Probably both of those; specifically if they pulled you over while you are driving.

J: Oh I see. Oh yeah. I think if the person is older they would probably be more strict on him about it rather than a younger driver.

LL: How about different races? You alluded to the fact that that was a factor in your stop.

J: Yes, I think that is a problem. Like if the cop is black and he doesn't have a present problem with whomever, from a different ethnic diversity. It could be black or the people they pulled over can be Muslim. You know, it could be anything. I think that not because they don't like or they had a bad situation before; they don't have to hold a grudge or whatever with everybody. Because that could be a problem on the outcome of anything that they do.

LL: How about with people with more money versus people with little money? Do you think that they are treated differently?

J: No, I don't think so.

LL: If we could back to the story that you were talking about. You said that they just let you go. Was there anything that happened before they let you go?

J: No, we just had to sit outside on the curb for like an hour [Oh my goodness]. Yeah, we just sat out there. And they put handcuff, too [They what?] Yeah, they put us in handcuffs [You are kidding...]. Nope, and we sat outside for about an hour, and then they just let us go.

LL: Did the people that were supposed to make the identification ever come?

J: They wouldn't tell us. They just said that the ID was negative. So, they just let us go. And I remember one of my friends said, "Did nobody come by?" and he said, "Don't worry about it; you are free to go." All right, whatever.

LL: My goodness. So, you just sat there and...Did they check your ID in the car? Did they go back to the car?

J: I mean, they just asked us some questions. Well, he asked us for our IDs. I thought he was just going to ask for mine since I was the one driving, but he asked for all of our IDs [He asked for everybody's?] Yeah. I thought that was weird. And then he came back and figures that we fit the profile for ... He didn't say specifically who or how we fit the profile; he just said that we fit the profile for a group of people.

LL: That's strange, that is really strange. And they just let you go? Do you remember anything else? Or is there anything else that you would want to add?

J: No.

LL: Well, I really appreciate your time, and if you have any questions about this research or anything, you can feel free to call me at the university and my number there (I think you already have it) it is 785-864-9090.

J: Is that to the secretary? Right?

LL: What's that?

J: This is to the secretary?

LL: Yes, this is to the secretary. And then she can connect you right with me.

J: Ok.

LL: Anyway. I really appreciate it. That is a really strange story, and I really thank you for sharing it.

J: Or you're welcome. I don't remember filling out a survey, though. It most have been a lot time ago.

LL: Yeah. Somebody would've called some, a few months ago and asked you about your experiences driving in the Kansas City area. And I'm not sure who would've called you, but, like you said, it was quite a long time ago. And we really appreciated your answers on that part of the survey and thought you may be willing to help on this part.

J: I hope I did.

LL: You sure did. Thank you very much. You live in Washington now, is that what you said?

J: Yeah.

LL: Cool! Are you working out there?

J: Yea, I work.

LL: Very cool! I've heard it's beautiful. I've never been out there.

J: Yeah. The weather is funny, though. It rains for like ten minutes and it would be hot again and it rains again.

LL: That's a little different from Kansas City where it's hot for 3 straight months and then is cold for 3 straight months.

J: Yeah. I like though it is pretty here.

LL: That's great. Hey, well, thank you again for your time and have a great, I guess it's almost afternoon there. And feel free to call me if you have any questions.

J: Ok. Thank you.

LL: Take care. Bye.

J: Bye!

PD: 21

Case ID #: 316898
Respondent Name: Billy
Date/Time of Interview: 13 April 05/ 4:30
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right, I wonder if you might think over a time that you were stopped by the police while you were driving. And in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P21S1 "Coming off the off ramp"

B: Okay. I guess the last experience that I've had was here in the Grandview area. And I was coming off the off ramp of 71, which it was the speed limit was 65 and then you come off the ramp and it goes down to 35. So, I came off the off ramp; I was decelerating and as soon as I got to the top of the hill, the police pulled me over. And you know, I was going few blocks and seen the light pulling me over and then I asked me why he stopped me. And he said, Because I was speeding. And I said, "Well, how was I speeding?" I said, "I was decelerating coming off the off ramp." And he said, "Well, you were speeding." And it was a black officer and there was another white officer in the car so they were riding in pairs in that time. So, he asked for my driver's license and I gave him that and he went back and you know, did whatever he had to do and come back with a ticket. And then I said, "Well, I don't understand; why did you give me a ticket?" I said, "I was coming off the ramp. I was decelerating." And he said, "Well, you've gone 45 on a 35 miles-per-hour zone." And I did express myself and told him that I didn't feel that was right, because I felt I was decelerating coming off, you know, the off ramp. So, you know, that's what happened and I think eventually they said that they were...They've set up like a speed trap; and they might've had some other complaints later on because I live in the area and I drove back by there and I have seen a couple police and they were doing some type of measurement type of thing, you know, a few days later. And I hadn't had the experience you know, coming off there so...I don't know, maybe they were... you know, I don't think they were treating me any different. And this was with a black officer, but they were riding in pairs. I don't know if that made any difference, I mean. You know. I'm a black guy, so, you know, it didn't make...Just...I guess it was just an officer and a civilian. Whatever. So, that was the last experience I had. I did get a ticket.

Most my experiences with the police have been with traffic stuff.

P21S2 "You got something to say"

There was one prior to that. I was... when I first moved back to Kansas City, I had Des Moines tags. I was moving back from Des Moines, Iowa. And I was on the left- hand lane on 35 and an officer was in the left, not the lane but the, you know where the cars...if you have problems... you know...shoulder [Sure], you know the shoulder. That there's enough room for a car, you know. So he was all in there. So I was traveling 65 and I was going to move over 'cause I've seen his lights on and I was going to move over towards the right, when another little car comes past me. I was driving a 1980 Buick, and as soon I pulled over and pass the police, the police stopped me. He gets behind me with the lights and stuff. And he pulls me over and I said, "Well, why did you pull me over?" and he said, "Well, you were speeding." And I said, "No, I wasn't. I was going 65." He said, "No, you were speeding." So he went back to check on the license and come back for me to sign it and I told him I wasn't going to sign the ticket because I didn't believe I was speeding, and I said, "I believe you made a mistake." And still got a ticket anyway. It didn't matter, but no, I was able....Well, he did ask me one question that I felt it was a little intimidating: he asked me...well, it was kind of the way he did. I was kind of looking like I was upset with it, and he said, "You got something to say?" And I said, "Yeah, I think you made a mistake." I think that is how it went; other than that wasn't much. But I said I wanted to express myself, because I felt he did make a mistake. He had his radar gun, and I don't know if my car was a bigger mass than the car that came to my right. I've seen the car come to my right because I couldn't get over, so he was going a lot faster than I was. And I don't...he might've picked that car up, you know [Yeah. It might've been the other]. Yeah, it could've been the other but that was the only experience.

LL: You know getting pulled over by the police can be pretty upsetting. Do you happen to remember how you felt in either of these cases?

P21S3 "Andy Griffith Show-type Cop"

B: Well, it was in the middle of traffic that day. I didn't feel no more than... Plus, I didn't have my seatbelt on. And he did give me a ticket for that which I, you know, it is my fault for not having it on. So other than that I didn't have a bad experience. You know, years ago, few years back when I was younger, I did have a bad experience in Roeland Park, when a police pulled his weapon on me [Oh my!]. And I was driving a 1976 Buick, and it was winter and I come around, I was on Mission Road, Mission Parkway, I think it was called, going to Roe Parkway or whatever it is, and but anyways, you get around there and it's like a 90 degrees turn right here. There is this Indian Mission just under down at the bottom of the hill down there. So I turned, slowly turned, and headed down towards the hill and there is a stop sign. Well, I turned and I've seen the police car at that time and he had one big...it looked like the Andy Griffith Show-type of cop. He had one big red cherry sat on the car {note: interviewer assumes this means the light}. That was probably in 1989-90 and I come down the hill. I've seen the police car parked, backed up right there, and there's a stop sign and soon as I pulled down there at the stop sign

and turned to make a left hand turn to go to Blockbuster, I think is where I was going, he turns his lights on and comes around and to stop me right there. And he says...it kind of made-intimidated me because he stopped me and he came up to the car. First thing he didn't say anything to me but "Driver's license, registration, and proof of insurance." And I said, "Ok, here is my driver's license." And he said, "Your registration and proof of insurance." He didn't even look at my driver's license. And I said "Well, officer, I'm gonna have to go in my glove box," and I said "I don't have any interior light." [Yeah]. And he said "Well..." So I went in my glove box I got the original registration, you know, and my insurance I had in the car. I didn't have the current one, which I did have, I'd just gotten the updated tags and I'd just left little pack at the house. And I gave him that and I said "You didn't run my...run my license out in the car." And he said, "Well, I need your driver's license and proof of insurance. And I kind of got upset because he just kept...I was trying to say, "Why did you stop me-because I'm a poor man in a ragged car?" and then he said, "Show me your hands, show me your hands!" And then I had this paper in my hands, so I just stuck my hands out of the car. Both hands, so he could have both of my hands. He had his pistol pulled out, and I didn't even turn my head, but I could see it out of the peripheral vision of my eye, its barrel, and he point it right at my head, you know; that was pretty frightening [Wow], and that. But I just stuck my head out of the car and luckily there was some other car coming up, you know, traveling up and down the road, and it was so...you know how sometimes you have, like, an intuition, it was like a voice told me, "You would not die this night." And as soon as that happened ...first he's just telling me, "Cut your car off, cut your car off." And I said, "I'm not stupid to put my hands back in this car." So I didn't want to give him no excuse to shoot me [Sure]. So it just ended like a voice in your mind, you know is like, whatever; it was like, "You would not die this night," and it was a clear night and I was looking up to the stars and as soon as that happened this other police officer, it was almost like the Andy Griffith Show, I mean really, because the other police officer, and this is Roeland Park Kansas, he pulled around kind of in a almost a plain car, and he had, he had a police uniform but he didn't have a tie on, kind of like a blue collar. And the other police officer was pretty press; he didn't have a hat on, but you know, he had a blue tie and badge and the outfit whatever, maybe he was younger; he had like a different tone of clothes. I think the other officer had a darker color officer uniform, maybe he was more veteran or more experienced. And the other one that had the lighter color. And when he pulled around that corner, the guy And then he went back and when the guy came to my car and he was talking to me I asked him, "Why did that guy pull his weapon on me?" I said, "Why did the officer pull his weapon on me?" And he said, "Because you got smart with him." And then when the officer went back to the back of my car and I just sat there and then he came and did, you know, they kind of cooled down, and then he asked me to get out of the car and come over there and he told me why he stopped me. Well, by that time the other officer was standing behind my car and then I said, "I didn't have my sticker on my car." But said didn't have my sticker on my car. I said, "Well, why you didn't run my driver's license through your computer?" And he said, "Well, my computer was down." [Oh my]. It cost me 50 dollars because I ended up going to...at that time right there off 18th Street where it turns into Mission they had a little police building there. And the next week or whatever they had, I had to go there, and I was so upset I called my mom at that time, my stepmother, and dad and I complained to them about it and then he said, "We can call a lawyer." So they have to call this lawyer, and I was talking to them because I was upset about pulling a weapon on me. And he said they have a lot

complaints about the Roe police, the Roe Park police-I think it's Roe Park police, Roe Park police, out there. But he said, "Did they hit you up or anything like that?" and I said "No, they didn't touch me or anything." He said that pretty much, there is not much you can do about that. He said, "You could probably turn into what they call 'Internal Affairs,'" he said, "but I don't think that much is gonna happen if they didn't do anything like that." So I didn't pursue it any further; I just went and paid the 50 dollars. Because at that time when I went there they had pretty much.... It wasn't like just, you know, they weren't picking on one group, I guess. So when I got there to pay my ticket there was a lot of every kind of people there, a couple of people I even know that I was going to school with at that time. They were white and I don't know, they were just, you know, where the police was out that way. But they had a judge, and then you go on the back room with the judge and another guy and, you know, I made sure I brought the current registration and everything I had with me. Because he first told me that I've ran a stop sign. That night he told me I ran the stop sign; he said he stopped me because I ran a stop sign. And I said "I ran a stop sign?" He was parked right there next to the stop sign." [Oh my goodness!]. I came to a complete stop and I turned around, but they didn't get me for running the stop sign and they gave 50 dollars because I didn't have my current insurance stuff. But I brought it with me to show them. And the judge, he asked for all that. And that's what cost me, 50 dollars. That was it. That was about the worse experience I think I've had with the police, if I can really remember, you know. So I just try not to say too much to them, you know, because it's a waste to disagree with them, you know. I usually just try to, you know, be calm, let them run the check on you, whatever. If they don't give me a ticket and they give me a ticket, you know. But I try to ask them in, you know, a non-threatening way of, "Why would you stop me? Or what was I doing?" You know, some of them are cool, you know.

P21S4 "Going 67 in a 65 MPH Zone"

And I was stopped once by ... you know when I was traveling back and forth to Des Moines, I was putting applications out here, resumes, so I was coming down here for a job interview and on the way back to Des Moines before I crossed over to Iowa, a Missouri Highway Patrol stopped me. Boy, he kind of stopped me; I think he just kind of stopped because I passed him. But he was going slower than, at that time I don't if it was 70 miles an hour or 65 or 70; it was 70 miles an hour. And I had set my cruise, and he was following behind this tractor trailer. And I just got in the left lane and rolled past him. Ok, as soon as I rolled past him he turn on his lights, and I had a, at that time I was driving a '79 Cadillac Seville, white, that I was fixing up. And it was the '90s, I think it wasn't 2000 yet, probably '98 or something like that. And he pulled me over, you know, I'd been working on restoring it, you know, it was looking pretty good. I had really taken it down to test it out. So he pulled me over and he said, you know, regular procedure "driver's license and registration" and whatever. And he said that I was going 67 in a 65 mile-per-hour zone, or something like a couple miles over the speed limit, that is the reason why stopped me. And I said, "Well, my speedometer said 65." He said, "Well, because you got bigger tires and stuff like that on the car, the car is traveling a lot...it travels a lot faster." I think he said then that what the speedometer is saying, you are going faster. And he stopped me for that and while he stopped me he was talking to me and he looked in there and I had a cell phone, I had a car phone sitting in there. And

then he said, "Do you have any kind of drugs or guns in the car?" And I said, "No." He said, "Do you mind if I search the car?" and I told him, "No, I don't mind." So, I really didn't have to let him search my car but I didn't feel like delaying any longer or whatever, you know [Yeah]. So I just said, "Yeah, go on and search my car." So he told me to go on the front of the car and put your hands on the front of the car. I don't know if he said put your hands on the front of the car, or go stand in front of the car. So I went and stood in front of the car. And I was on the Interstate 35 going north up there. So he went and looked in the car, and looked in my glove box, popped my trunk looked in my trunk and I had some other clothes, and I had my resume, you know, my change of clothes what I was wearing for my interview. So he looked around and everything, and when he got through he came back and he didn't find anything, and he came back and said, "The reason why we checked your car is we've been having problems with people trafficking drugs up and down the highway." So that was that. I can't remember any other experiences. I hadn't had any experiences in the last couple of years; I think the last one was Grandview, [Sure] and those 2, you know are like, could've been like '98 or '99. I think it might've been '99 because I was trying to drive back to Kansas City. Well, I think my phone is running out. I'm on my mobile...if I can get to this phone [Oh, sure and I'll just maybe ask you a couple of quick questions. Is that ok?] Can you hear me?

LL: A little bit, yeah. Would you like me to call you on a different number? Hello. I'll try you again a little later for the last couple of questions.

Second phone call:

LL: Hello, I was just speaking with a gentleman named Billy.

XX: Ok just a second

LL: Thanks.

B: Oh, yeah. I was having problems with the cordless phone.

LL: No problem. Mine runs out all the time. I wonder if you happen to remember what you were driving in that most recent case in Grandview.

B: What was I driving?

LL: Yeah, remember anything about the car?

B: Yeah, I have, I still have it; I have a 1985 Toyota, small Toyota station-wagon, Toyota Corolla. I think it is a 1985. Could be '85 or '89. [Sure] Because you know small cars save gas, because I work out in Overland Park, I mean in Olathe, and then I live in Grandview [Yeah]. So you know-gas saving when I was driving that.

LL: Do you happen to remember what you were wearing that day?

B: Just probably regular casual clothes, because I work in a technical job. So probably just a shirt and slacks. That's probably what I normally wear, you know. Well, yeah I think...

I do remember one kind of...what was going on. They had this big bright light, you know that they were just beaming in my car in its rearview mirror, and it reflects back on your face too, while they were checking they didn't cut the light. So they just kept the beam light on, so I took the mirror and I put the mirror up, you know, so the light wouldn't affect my eyes, because I was still sitting in the driver's seat. And, you know they had the other cop, you know, he is standing...you know, he opens up his right hand door and he stands behind the door with the light, I guess, beaming into here, while the other police officer was doing his job. And so they had the light on, so I had a newspaper there so I picked the newspaper and started reading the newspaper while the light was on because it was so bright that I could read the newspaper. I don't know if they kind of...that might've made them give the ticket even more because I didn't feel too threatened by them, you know. But I shouldn't have no reason why should I feel threatened by them. I didn't have any warrants or anything on my driver's license, you know. I was coming home from work; it was late because I work nights and I don't get off 'til 12 so by the time I get home it's early morning. Now, I think I'd just moved over into Kansas, because I just had moved back to Kansas City working out here in the Honeywell Corporation and I just moved back here, relocated back to Kansas City, and I'd just gotten an apartment over in Missouri and I hadn't changed my tags or ... I think I had my tags still in the car or something. So, they might've checked for that. I don't know. I think I was moving, you know, was in a midst of transition. And I believe I had different state tags on my car [Sure]. So that might've been the reason why but I don't know; that is the reason they gave me the ticket, because I'd picked up the paper because the light was just beaming, beaming, beaming and it was just so bright, you know, I guess they just want to make sure, you know, look at your hand. I can understand that, so I just grabbed the paper and I started reading the paper-at least he can see my hands. So I don't know, he still gave me the ticket because when the officer came back I said, "Are you going to give me the ticket for that?" He still gave me the ticket. So I felt I was just decelerating off that ramp [Sure]. You know, I go down the hill and then you got to come up. So I was coming out decelerating, but they felt I came off the ramp, I guess, too fast. So that was it. That's about all I can remember.

P21 INT

LL: I wonder, in general, if you think the police treat everyone the same?

B: You know, I really...it's kind of hard because to say, because I got young kids, you know, young adults and it's almost like, the different cultures...I try to warn my sons about, you know traveling too many in the car, you know. The way they dress, you know the hip-hop style. I don't know because you have a lot of crime that's happening and things with the younger generation, you know, especially in certain communities that are a lot of drive-by gun violence. And different things like that, and they can... it is so easy to cross over [Yeah]. You know, they are not going to understand to police these worries on them. I tried to, hopefully show them enough where they can drive safe, you know, keep your seatbelts on, you know, if the police stops you, you know, like keep your hands on the wheel so they can see them, you know. I try to do things to make them feel non-threatening. You know, I've had good officers to stop me, you know. Sometimes I've that I was...like when the police stopped me on the way back to Des

Moines and searched my car and everything, and made the comment that I ...about the drug trafficking...

P21S5 "We didn't get a ticket of anything, but the officer searched the car"

Oh yeah, I also remember, we've gone, well it was my wife, and my cousin, and myself-we have driven a rental van, and this has probably been the most recent that we have come to Missouri and we've gone to Detroit, but I was going east on 70 through St. Louis. And we'd gone to Detroit to pick my aunt who was gonna come back down to Memphis anyways. Because I had an uncle, at that time that was terminally ill there. And we've gone, you know, trying to get the family down there. So we left Kansas City and we got to Windsor, I think, County? If you go from Kansas City out 70 east before you get to St. Peters and St. Charles towards 70. Well, it was kind of raining and my cousin was driving at that time and they don't have what they call city police; they have like a sheriff, I think. And I've seen the police over there, you know parked in the median, and I kind of was telling my cousin, I said "You got to watch you speed, you know, because the police are out, you know." And they probably are monitoring the highways. It was raining pretty good that day and sure enough as soon as we passed him they turned on their lights. And one officer, after we pulled over, went to my cousin side on the driver' side and asked him for ID, which he had Kansas ID. And then came over to my side looking all in the car, you know. We had luggage all in the back 'cause we were traveling, you know we was going to be out for, I think for about 4 days, because we had to drive from Kansas City to Detroit back to Memphis, I mean to Memphis, then to Mississippi a little bit, a shorter distance from Memphis because is right there. And then back to Memphis. And then drop my aunt back to Detroit and then we were going to come back to Kansas City. So it was about 4,000 miles we figured we were going to travel, so it was going to be at least 4 days. We were going to travel about 1,000 miles per day. And then we kind of added up staying overnight and all that. So we had quite of bit of luggage in the car for ourselves; at least we were going to be out for 4 days. You know everyone had their luggage [Sure]. So he kind of looked in the car; you know, one officer came on the driver's side and was talking to the driver and then he came over and was trying to talk to me and he was looking all, leaning inside my car, and everything. And then he asked me for my ID. And I told him that we are driving a rental vehicle and he said, "Do you guys have the rental agreement in the car?" And it was kind raining so he took it out there and got it all wet. But anyway, he looked in there and kept looking around and then he said, "Do you mind if we search your car?" And I was hoping he wasn't gonna take everything out but he went back ... well, we said "no" because we didn't want to have, you know, go through the whole routine...If you say "no," what are they going to do? Bring dogs and all that? So we say "No." So he went to the back; they open the back door and I think we give them the key to open the back and everything. They kind of just looked; they moved a bag or two around. And then he comes back, he say, 'cause they've had problem with people trafficking drugs. So, that was, I think that was the latest 'cause that happened...we didn't get any tickets. They didn't give us a ticket and that happened...my uncle died last year, so that was probably the most recent. I've forgotten about that, but that was the most recent and we didn't get a ticket or anything, but the officers searched the car, and then they always tell you it's because they have problem with trafficking drugs. I don't know if that was profile enough

because we were blacks or do they stop, you know, a number of everybody.

We didn't... We kind of felt that way because we've heard a lot of the media, you know, things on television about, complaints of people of color being stopped more often than what are considered white or Caucasians and most of them are due to drug trafficking. And you know we've heard different percentages because, you know, I had a different argument going on that if you just target one group of the population, which is the minority group which is the smallest of the general population, and you just target that and then you count how many heads that you have are people with some, traveling with drugs or whatever in their car and the ones that are traveling are not, then you aren't really getting a good sample of the whole general population because you are only targeting the minority population [Sure] at a higher rate, how can you make a good estimate if you really making a hit in the drug trafficking and what drugs are getting passed by the... you know? I have been conscious of that and we were kind of... and we felt that we was kind of profiled on that, but you don't know if we were or not.

So we wasn't speeding, and did see the officer before they've seen us. And seeing that as soon as we passed them and they looked in the vehicle, that they were sitting in the median and they was pointing, because we were heading east, and they were looking...the front was pointing toward the east-bound highway, so it looked like we drove past them and they looked and see our... you know, see the people, then we were stopped. So we did, we went away feeling that, you know, I guess the term would be "profiling." You know that we had some profile. So that was about the most recent one, that happened last year, because my uncle passed away last year, about this time last year, so it's been about a year ago, because he passed away in August and we had to travel, I think it was in May of last year. But we didn't, they didn't give us a ticket and then after they did that and looked into our car they didn't do an extensive search, you know-pulled all our bags out. I think he just kind or rumbled around and in the back a little bit, 'cause we had all the luggage to the back of the gate and they opened that, and it was raining and we were hoping they didn't pull our luggage out. And then he told us why, because they had problems with drug trafficking. And then he said...they did told us to drive, you know, drive safe because it was raining, you know: Watch your speed and drive safe. So that's about it.

LL: You have mentioned that younger and older drivers and different races, how about men and women or people with more money and those with less money?

P21 INT

B: Well, you know I can't really say because I hadn't been in any car with someone that had gotten stopped because she had more money or [Sure] less money, or you know was in a more fancier car or whatever. We were driving at that time, the most recent time I was talking about, we were driving a brand new rental van, so [So, it looked really nice and new...]. Yeah, it was new, you know, and it was a rental but I told him it was rental. Because we were going to have several more people because we were picking up my aunt and uncle and it was 3 of us in it so it was going to be 5 of us. And we wanted to travel as comfortable as possible [Sure]. And we all had jobs and everything, you know. And when he ran a check on it, and he tried to run a track on me and my cousin, which

were the males, and my wife was in the back and they didn't ask her for her ID. But he had a Kansas ID and see, I have a Missouri state ID and we were traveling in Missouri. And he said, "Oh, you got a Missouri ID." And I said, "Yeah, you know I live in Missouri." And he did ask me that, I don't know if that would give me a little bit more of lenience or what.

So, like I said, I can't really [Sure] comment, you know, a lot but only my experiences [Yeah] because, like I said, you know my kids would be younger, in their 20s, they dress a lot different, they like a lot different style, like I said with the hip-hop now. So you know how they're targeted. I try to tell them not to bring things on themselves, like travel with alcohol on their car, travel with seatbelts on, and you know a lot of them like to have a kind of really relaxed way of driving, you know, with the seat back, and you know, still have to have the seatbelts on, you know.

You don't want to give them any of those reasons to stop you so [Right]. They may say something different, how their experiences was with the police officer [Sure]. But we haven't had any violent encounters, no, with my family, my sons and daughters, and the reason is because-they haven't told me about any [Oh, that's good]. So, but other than that, pretty much that's the only experience that I have had with them [Sure].

Like I said I try to, you know, when they approach me, you know try to make it as non-threatening as possible. Try to, you know, have the information about my car because I know they would want like, driver's license, registration and proof of insurance [Yeah]. Those are the 3 things that they are going to ask for. And so, myself, I try to make sure to keep up to date all my driver tags and my insurance and also my current driver's license. And, you know, I drive with my seatbelt on and then if they stop me I try to stay non-threatening as possible, you know, not be pacing around or, you know, looking like, you know. You know, I'm sure they have been schooled and aware of behaviors. So, you know, try to make myself non-threatening, that way if the officer ask me questions I try to respond as ... best I can. So, that's about all the experiences I have. That I can think of.

Fortunately they haven't been really bad for me. They've, a couple of things, like I said, they thought maybe they were just stopping us, you know the search part, and they told us it was because drug trafficking. You know, I don't associate with drugs, you know. If it was because of the car I was driving, or like I said, I had a '79 Cadillac Seville, was a 4-door. And you know, I liked that style and the guy had it marked down for 1,200 dollars or something, and I went and bought it and started fixing it up because I never owned this style back in '79 and I always liked the body style on the chassis. So I bought it for myself and, you know, did some work on it and got back in pretty good condition. And, you know if it was because the officer has seen driving that and told me that, you know, that I fit the profile for somebody trafficking drugs. But that was my reason for the car. And then, you know, maybe I attracted him because I passed him. But he was going slow; he pulled over in the right hand lane and stood behind a tractor trailer truck. I was trying to get home [My goodness!] you know, I was going to drive the maximum speed I, as I possibly could. [Sure]. But as soon as I got up close to him and he looked in my car, I passed him, then he was... Maybe I should've stayed behind him. You know, because I still lost like 30 minutes [Oh my] of travel time, you know. And then he had to happily satisfy for searching my car. He said, you know, "Drive safe." I had a crack on the

windshield, and he gave me a ticket for a warning, you know, to fix the crack, but like I said, it was an old car and I was restoring it [Yeah]. It wasn't a real major crack, it was, and you know how the cars have a crack? [Sure] A lot of the time it's from the heat and you know, or stuff like that, and I had a crack in the windshield, and he did give me a warning for that.

You know, it was a little bit inconvenient, you know, searching my car, me standing in the front of the highway, and you know I had to stand in front of the car. And you know, I guess if you're passed by, you do kind of fit that...you know, look, like you know. That is like your feel as a person. You know, almost like you look like a criminal, you know. People look at you as they pass by, you know. But other than that, I mean. That's my experience.

LL: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

B: I couldn't hear you?

LL: is there anything else that you would want to add?

B: No, no I think that's it. You asked me to explain it in my own way.

LL: Sure. Thank you so much. Well thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university.

B: University of Kansas?

LL: University of Kansas, my number there is 785

B: Oh I didn't have...Wait, can I get pencil?

LL: Sure.

B: Wait a moment.

LL: Sure.

B: Yea.

LL: It's 785-

B: 785

LL: 864

B: 864

LL: 3515

B: 3550?

LL: 15

B: and this is Kansas State? Or K.U? K.U.

LL: Yeah. K.U.

B: K.U.

LL: And my name is Laura.

B: Laura?

LL: Yeah.

B: How do you spell that Laura?

LL: L A U R A

B: L A U R A. Ok.

LL: Thank you so much.

B: That's about for what? Assisting drivers?

LL: Yeah. It's a study of citizens' experiences of driving in the Kansas City area and their experiences of being pulled over.

K: Ok.

LL: Yeah. Thank you so much.

B: Good talking to you.

LL: Nice talking to you too. Have a good evening.

B: Oh, you do the same.

LL: Bye, bye.

B: Bye.

PD: 22

Case ID #: 318190
Respondent Name: Mark
Date/Time of Interview: 23 April / 7:00
Date of Transcription: 27 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I was wondering if you might think back over one time when you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P22S1 "He Gave Me a Ticket; That's about It"

J: I was going to class in Warrensburg, following traffic. I was the last car in lane and just saw the lights behind me. And pulled over, got mad that this was happening. The cop came up and asked for my ID and stuff. I gave it to him and he gave a ticket and went on. That's about it.

LL: What did the officer do?

J: What do you mean?

LL: Maybe from the time he stepped out his car, do you remember anything about what he did?

J: No, not really. Besides taking a long time.

LL: What did the officer say?

J: All he said to me was "Can I see you ID?" and that's about it.

LL: Getting pull over by the police can be pretty upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the officer?

J: When he came back and gave me everything I didn't say anything. He just handed it to me and walked off.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

J: Fine. Just speeding.

LL: Do you remember anything about how much you were speeding?

J: It was 10 over.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

J: Fine, it seemed.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him or her?

J: No.

LL: Police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

J: I believe I was pulled over for speeding. I don't remember as well, I guess.

LL: What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

J: It was probably for speeding, because it was a school zone.

LL: Do you happen to remember what car you were driving?

J: Yes, it was a Cavalier.

LL: Do you happen to remember what... How you were dressed?

J: No.

P22 Int

LL: In general, I wonder if you think that the police treat everyone the same?

J: I don't believe they do.

LL: Do police treat men and women differently?

J: Yes.

LL: How does that work?

J: My cousin gets away with too much stuff.

LL: And your cousin is a ...

J: Female.

LL: Female and gets away with things?

J: Yeah, not having her ID, not having car insurance, speeding, and a light being out.

LL: My goodness. How about older versus younger drivers?

J: I'm not so sure there...if they get stopped or not, or get treated different.

LL: Do they treat different races differently?

J: I do believe some do.

LL: Do you think that people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

J: No, I'm not sure.

LL: Is there anything else that you might want to add, either about your experiences or your observations?

J: No

LL: All right, well thank you very much for your time. If you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785-864-3515.

J: Okay.

LL: Thanks.

J: Thank you.

LL: Bye, bye.

J: Bye.

PD: 23

Case ID #: 319554
Respondent Name: Anthony
Date/Time of Interview: 26 Feb / 5:45
Date of Transcription: 27 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words would you please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away?

P23S1 "Video, 9/11, & Downtown"

C: Okay. It's about a year ago and it wasn't for speeding, it wasn't for making a wrong turn or being in the wrong lane. I had my mother with me, and we was sight- seeing. And she had her video recorder and he stopped me to find out why we was video recording. It was about 6 months after the 911 happened [Okay]. And he explained to me that because of the high security around the downtown area, because we was in downtown, because of the high security is why he stopped me and had noticed that we were running a camcorder, and he wanted to know why. Just kind of asked me, it wasn't like...I didn't take it personal or anything like that. Of course, I wasn't getting a ticket or anything like, so I wasn't gonna have an attitude or anything. Other than the only other time I could think of would be maybe like 3 years ago when I go stopped on 435 for speeding, but I was only doing 5 miles an hour over the speed limit.

LL: Okay. And in that case what did the officer do?

P23S2 "Five Miles Over"

C: She did...there was 3 passengers in the car and the person that was riding with her didn't even get out of the car. My wife, it was me and a friend of mine, was riding in the back seat. And kind of had an attitude because, I mean, five miles an hour on the interstate highway, I mean, it's not abnormal, I mean, to see people fly by you when you are doing five miles over the speed limit [Sure]. They seem like you are standing still, you know [Yea]. And so I did have an attitude. I had an attitude because, one, I mean, because the person that was riding with her might've not even thought it was a legitimate thing.

That he didn't even get out [Okay]. It's not like it was during the heat of the summer; it was right before school started. And I thought it was kind of, excuse my language, but I thought it was chicken shit.

LL: What did the officer say when-I think you said it was a she-when she came up?

C: She asked my for my license and told why she had stopped me. Told me where she was sitting when I went by her. She said I was going 65 miles an hour.

LL: And getting pulled over by the police can be pretty upsetting and you have indicated that you were pretty upset at the time. Do you remember, how did you respond to the police officer?

C: Well, I had an attitude. I mean, one, because I didn't feel like it was a legitimate enough reason. I mean, yes I was breaking the law; yes, they have to set an example for everybody else but...And then, plus she... I was smoking a cigarette in my own car when she pulled me over and she made me put it out while she was stopping me. [Oh my]. Because the smoke offended her. Like just as bad or as much as she offended me by stopping me. I almost put it out on her forehead.

LL: My goodness! How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

C: Basically, what I did see of her, she seems like she presented herself just fine.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about her?

C: No, actually not really. Just another badge.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. You recall that she said that you were doing 65?

C: That I was doing 70 in a 65, yeah.

LL: Doing 70 in a 65. And what do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

C: Probably because, my buddy that was in the back seat, he was shifting from side to side and that she's seen that happening and thought maybe something was going on. And obviously we didn't have, none of us had seatbelts on. But they never said nothing about that.

LL: Do you happen to remember what you were driving that day?

C: 86 Chevy Cavalier wagon.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

C: How I was dressed? I think I was just in shorts, like from doing roofing and stuff. So I was probably in shorts and sneakers and stuff. But she never had me get out of the car.

LL: Now, in general...what's that now?

C: I just picked my wife up from work in Raytown; she works in H & H Color Lab. [Okay].

P23 Int

LL: Now in general, do you think that the police treats everyone the same?

C: I'm sure that there's the select few that don't. But I haven't been incurred. My dad is from the military, so I've always had a respect from any kind of law enforcement officer, especially nowadays with everything that is going on. I mean, they don't get paid enough. There is 3 times the amount of risk in what they got to do.

LL: Do you think that police treat men and women differently?

C: Oh I'm sure. I'm sure they do. Like I said, there is probably the few that you know have... I know my wife, she has gotten away with little traffic incidents here and there, just because she is from this area and she went to school with people that happen to be police officers, so...[Okay]. So you just get the lucky draw once in a while.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

C: I don't know. I think they need to be more strict with younger drivers. I don't know. But then again, it depends on what type of area that they are getting stopped in, as to what kind of officer they are going to get.

Note: sounds of a baby.

LL: It sounds like you have a little person in there.

C: Oh yeah!

LL: Yeah! Now do you think they treat different races differently?

C: I'm sure. Yes, they probably do. I mean a black officer probably is more discriminating to a white person than they are to a colored person. And vice versa, I mean. A white cop is gonna be more discriminating to a black person just because of the way they make them feel, you know. You get that uncomfortable feeling. Then I'm a white person and I work downtown, so most of the people that I deal with are colored people, so there is just sometimes that you have that feeling. And you have to be towards them, you know. There is a type of people that just have that no nonsense kind of attitude and that's the ones you have to watch. Especially dealing with the public. I've been dealing with the public now, here in Kansas City for 7 years so. On a daily basis, so you just, you never know what is going to happen. And that is just mechanic stuff, I mean. I can imagine what a police has to deal with in a daily basis. [Yeah]. So, I mean I'm sure there's, you know. They've had incidents where, that have happened in the past, with a colored person or where it's a white officer, you know, he probably still holds that grudge.

LL: Do you think that, let's say people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

C: I don't know if they are getting treated differently. Maybe they just get an attorney that can get them off of stuff rather than middle-class folks. But, you know, they have to pay, and sometimes you know, you lose your license or something but what are you going to do? You can't not go to work, I mean. You know, you are forced to break the law so you can keep going. You got to get something to eat you know.

LL: Now is there is anything else you would like to add?

C: No.

LL: Well, thank you so much for your time and thoughts. If you have any questions about the research, you can feel free to contact me at the university. And my number there is 785-864-3515.

C: And what is your name again?

LL: My name is Laura.

C: Okay. All right, thank you.

LL: Thanks and have a great night.

C: You too!

LL: Bye, bye.

PD: 24

Case ID #: 400055
Respondent Name: Nancy
Date/Time of Interview: 1 May / 8:15
Date of Transcription: 22 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right, I wonder if you might think back about a time that you were stopped by the police while driving and in your own words, describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you first realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

S: Ok. I couldn't hear you. What did you say?

LL: Oh, I'm sorry. I wonder if you could think back over one time you were stopped by the police while you were driving, and then in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P24S1 "Weird Car"

S: I just felt like it was racial profile [Oh]. Yes.

LL: Do you remember anything about what happened?

S: I can even remember now. It's been a while [Wow].

LL: Do you remember what the officer did?

S: No, not really. How long ago this was supposed to be? You know, I've forgotten.

LL: It was several months ago that you would've talk to us the first time. You said you thought it was a racial profiling incident. Do you remember how you felt or how you responded to the police officer?

S: I just did what he told me. Showed him my license and all that.

LL: What did he say?

S: Like I said, he just asked me for my license and stuff [Ok]. I guess, I don't know, I guess I supposed to be speeding or something. Or made a wrong turn, a U turn. I don't know, I can't figure out what it was. Yeah.

LL: And do you remember anything about how you felt? I mean, that had to be upsetting.

S: Yeah, it was upsetting. I just feel like I shouldn't been stopped. I wasn't, like, drinking and driving, you know [Yeah].

LL: How did you respond to the police officer when he asked for your license?

S: I just gave it to him. He asked for it, so I just gave it to him.

LL: How did the police officer act throughout that stop?

S: He acted pretty friendly, I guess.

LL: Do you remember anything about him?

S: No, no really.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

S: Well, that's the thing. I can't remember whether [Yeah] , you know... I can't remember what it was even for.

LL: Sure. Now, you said that you thought the real reason you were stopped was racial profiling. Do you remember anything about what gave you that impression?

S: I think that I was driving, like, a weird car and you know, and I've heard that police likes to stop flashy-color cars.

LL: Do you remember what car that was? What type of car that was?

S: Grand AM.

LL: And do you happen to remember anything about what you were wearing that day?

S: No, no really.

LL: Quite a while ago?

S: Yeah.

P24 Int

LL: Well, in general do you think that the police treats everyone the same?

S: No, I know that.

LL: Do police treat, say, men and women differently?

S: Yeah, I think they do.

LL: In what ways?

S: Like, it's the exact the same for men of having a car or whatever and then he gets pulled over. The police automatically suspect them of being wrong even though they weren't doing anything wrong. They just, you know, just given a ticket anyways, and when women can get away with some stuff, you know.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

S: Probably younger girls, probably get away with different stuff, according to the officer that stops them.

LL: And do they treat different races differently?

S: Do what now?

LL: Do they treat different races differently?

S: Yeah, yeah.

LL: What would you say about that?

S: I think that most of time when a black person gets stopped, they always get a ticket.

LL: And do you think that people with more money are treated differently from those that have little?

S: Yes, I do.

LL: What would you think about that?

S: I think that they might get away with it.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add?

S: No, that's about all.

LL: Do you remember anything else about what happened at the place?

S: No, not really.

LL: Ok. Well, thank you so much for your time and if you have any questions about this research, you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785-864-3515.

S: Ok.

LL: Thanks and have a good evening.

S: Ok. You, too.

LL: Bye, bye,

S: Bye.

PD: 26

Case ID #: 808790
Respondent Name: Gary
Date/Time of Interview: 19 April / 8:45
Date of Transcription: 21 August 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-26

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: Ok. All right. So, we'll go back and think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And maybe you could describe again the experience of being stopped; you might start from the moment that you realized that you were being pulled over to the moment when you were free to drive away.

P26S1 "Heading to Church"

C: Ok. I was driving down in 71 Highway. I was heading to church. And I saw the officer, off to the side of the road. He was standing outside of his car. He was clocking drivers and he pulled out, had his lights on, and I was pulling over to the far right line to let him go by. And what happened is that he pulled behind me, and proceeded to pull me over and I ended up getting a ticket out of the incident. Like I said, he was very polite during the course of the procedure. He remained professional. He answered my questions. He gave the information as why, as why I was being pulled over. But, you know, like I said I ended up getting a ticket out of the incident. That's actually what happened.

LL: And what did he say?

C: Well, he came up to the car and he asked about how fast did I think I was traveling. I told him "65." And he said "Well, it was 55 and I clocked you doing 75, so you were going 20 over." At that point, you know, I was pretty angry about the incident, because I know I wasn't doing 20 over the speed limit. And he just told me, you know, that that is a law, and that I need to pay attention to my speed. And said that he was pretty sure, that he was pretty accurate that he got me. That he was very confident that it was me that he clocked, that he had pulled the right car over. But again, I can't tell you...He remained professional and cordial and he was polite, probably the most polite officer on the Missouri side that have pulled me over and had an encounter with.

LL: And of course, like you said, being pulled over by the police can be really upsetting.

C: Yeah. It was, I was nervous, I was scared because all of the sudden I had a flashlight behind me and I am thinking, I hadn't really done anything to be pulled over; why is he pulling me over? But, you know, you have a strong feeling of anxiety during being pulled over

by the police. Because you are not really knowing why you are being pulled over. So they tell you why they pulled you over and even then you don't know what is going to happen. You know, is he going to be nice and give you a warning or is he going to write a ticket. You know, for some people, I'm sure, they have a lot going through their minds, as why they are being pulled over-they may have unpaid tickets or something. Could be a warrant for them. I don't know.

LL: And especially, you know, if you are not really sure why you are being pulled over. Like you said you were pretty sure you were only doing a few miles over and...

C: Yeah. I mean, I was... I knew that I wasn't doing the 55 that was posted but I was driving within a pack of cars. We were all doing same speed and I wasn't even in the fast lane. There were cars in the fast lane that were passing us; we were doing 65, they might have to be doing 70 to 75 easily. And, you know, when we ended up driving by the officer, his lights came on; he ended up pulling me over. As much as it was nerve-racking, it really upset me. I pound my head and laugh at the incident because I couldn't see how he picked me out of the bunch [And then he says...] I couldn't.

LL: ...And then he says he is pretty sure he got you.

C: He said that if he had to do it in a percentage scale he would be 99.9% confident that he clocked my car and then he pulled the right person over and gave me the ticket. How he came to that conclusion? I don't know. I don't know how their laser or radar work in terms of being able to identify the car, but he said that he was pretty sure he got me so, he knows and I don't.

LL: Now, do you remember, of course, you were a little nervous, little shocked, little angry. Do you remember how you responded to the officer?

C: I was pretty vocal on that he had gotten the wrong person. I wasn't belligerent or just disruptive or uncooperative. I mean, he asked to see my license; I gave him my license. You know, I was pretty vocal toward him, that you know, that is no way possible that he could've clocked me. I mean, I'm not saying that I wasn't speeding, or anything. I'm not trying to say that I wasn't speeding, but I mean there were people going faster than me. If you did clock someone speeding, I am pretty sure he did not clock my car. And, I mean, I was pretty vocal about that and then again he reassured me that it was me. That he was pretty sure that it was me. So...In a way I knew I was going to get a ticket and, you know, and really the more I sat there the more prolonged the incident would've been, and I had some place to be. So, I mentally try to convince myself that the only solution was to take the ticket and leave. I eventually did shut up.

LL: Did he take into account the fact that you didn't think it was ...that he had actually clocked you well?

C: No, because, again he kept saying that he was positive it was me. And, you know, again I told him that I admitted to him that I was going 65, you know, over the speed limit, but I won't admit that I was going 75. He said he would make a note of it, on the ticket but when I received the ticket there is not note on the ticket that I admitted. And anyway I

would have to pay the fine regardless. I don't really know how much would've been done had he made the note on the ticket that I admitted going 65. I would still have to pay the fine [Yeah]. So, I decided to go ahead and pay the fine and end it.

LL: And just go ahead and end it. Do you remember anything about the police officer?

C: Yeah. He was a white male. Probably late 30s, mid to late 30s. He had a mustache, kind of a bushy mustache. Short brown hair. He didn't appear to be tall but he was thin, you know. That's about it.

LL: Now, you were with this pack of cars, and you are pretty sure you were doing 65. And there are other people going faster than you, and he pulls you over and gives you the ticket, out of this group of cars. And he tells you that you are doing 75 in this 55 zone. What did you think was the real reason you were stopped?

C: I mean. I really can't say what it was, but I believe there is a real reason here. But, like I told you earlier, whenever I've been pulled over, with the exception of one time, it's always been in Missouri. And I have a Kansas license plate and, you know, this particular incident, the last time I was pulled over, it had happened in Missouri. And frequently, I see a lot of Kansas drivers pulled over in the state of Missouri by Kansas City, Missouri police officers. Now, I don't believe that the officer saw my plate while I drove by. I don't think it would possible that he had seen my plate. But I can't really say in that particular incident, he saw the Kansas plate and thought "Oh, I'll pull him over." But, you know, I don't know. I have been pulled over so many times in Missouri. I am pretty sure my plate is on their system. They'll run it and see how many times I've been pulled over and they'll probably figure, that without a doubt, you know, he is probably guilty of speeding since he gets pulled over many times. So, I mean, I can't speak for me, but just from observation, driving along the highways on the Missouri side, I've seen people pulled over. I look at their plates and a lot of times I see, or tend to see a lot more Kansas plates than I actually do Missouri plates that are pulled over by cops. [So, is there kind of a bias of Missouri police against Kansas drivers?] Yeah. I think it's some form of harassment. You know inter-state harassment, I don't know. [Yeah].

LL: Maybe you can describe the car that you were driving?

C: Yea. It was a blue, navy blue, Honda accord. It was a sedan. No sport car or SUV, nothing really to bring attention to the vehicle.

LL: Do you happen to remember what you were wearing?

C: I was in a suit. I was on my way to church. So, I was dressed pretty nicely.

LL: So it was the morning when this happened.

C: Yes, it was like 7:30 when he pulled me over.

P26 INT

LL: Yeah. There are few more questions. Do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

C: No. I do think that there're some types among the people. I don't always think is race, but it could be a financial situation, age, probably discriminated because of age. I guess, it depends on the officer, whoever it is. I'm not going to classify all of them but certain officers, they see a young male, driving a flashy sport car or a newer model of vehicle, they probably will pull him over because it looks like they don't belong behind the wheel of that car. If there is a young minority in a part of town that has very few minority, I am pretty sure that he or she will probably be first to be pulled over because they probably look that they don't belong in that area.

LL: Now...And that would be more in what parts of town?

C: Yes, in a part where a minority would be pulled over would be in the suburban areas. I think the suburban areas are probably more prevalent to find racial profiling there than in the inner city. I think that in the inner-cities if you see minorities get pulled over it's because of sheer numbers. There are more minorities in terms of population in the inner cities, so you are probably more likely to see minorities pulled over in the inner cities, more common to see that. But if you get out to suburban parts of town and you see minorities, I think is racial profiling. I believe that that could be. So...

LL: And, either from your experience or through observation that seems to be pretty a prevalent problem.

C: Yeah. Me, myself I don't want to say this but I never been pulled over in any part of town beside highways. I've never been driving in a suburban area and had the police pull me over without any type of probable cause. But in my observation, just driving through suburban areas, it seems the police pull someone over or having seen someone pulled over, more likely they are a minority and they may or may not live in that area, but the fact remains that they are a minority. And they tend to be such small portions of the people that live in that suburban community that they are more likely, over 90% of the people pulled over in that part of the town. You know. You do the math. You can figure that out. It doesn't seem right. I fit the racial profile.

LL: So, both cases of...You said maybe age could be another factor?

C: Yes, I think that age is a factor. Then again, you know young people, whether they are white or whether they are a minority. Someone young, period, behind a flashy car brings a lot of attention to that person. So, when an officer sees a young male, particularly a young male, behind that flashy car, you know like I said, young male at age from 15 to 25 are like high risk at driving. That in itself brings attention to us, especially if we are behind a sport car. The cops can be real quick to pay attention to your driving, pull you over, you know, they may think that you have something in your car or something illegal-maybe you are up to something illegal and they'll try to find a probable cause to try to pull you over. I think that the type of car you have, and the way you look bring a lot of attention to yourselves. That's why I was kind of shocked that I was being pull over, because it's not like I had any car that stands out in a pack or cars [Yeah]. I'm not driving a Mustang or anything that would bring all that attention to my vehicle. So, I can't understand how

he picked me out, but I think that those factors have a lot to do with the way cops pull over some people sometimes.

LL: And you've mentioned that they might look for probable cause. Maybe you could describe that?

C: Yeah. We are aware that officers need probable cause to pull you over, whether it's speeding or maybe you are swerving between the lines, but they have to have some type of reason of why they can pull you over. And that a lot of time the officers see something that doesn't look right. An example would be, a young driver behind a nice car or a minority in a part of town that is not common of having minorities in that area. I think that officers use that as a reason to pull you over. But they can't come out and say: "Oh, well you don't belong here, in this neighborhood," or "You are too young to be behind the wheel of a car." So, I think they, on the spur of the moment they try to make up a reason. You know, "you turned without a signal," or "you changed lanes without a signal," or "you made an illegal turn," or "your taillight is out." Something so trivial, something so small it's like, you know, any other time you wouldn't pull someone over for this crap so why are you pulling me over for it now? Something like that. I think that they use that type of excuses as probable cause to get you pulled over, so they can have a peek in the car and see if they can find anything. So, there is more of what they really pull you over. You know, and then they'll have a reason to get you out of the car. "Do you mind if I search the vehicle?"-type of situation because they already have you pulled over. Apparently they found something in order to be able to pull you over. So, cops use that as a tool to be able to search the vehicle and try to find something that they suspected is in the car. I've seen it happen plenty of times. I have friends that, you know, they've had it happen to them. Fortunately, it hasn't happened to me but I've had it happen to them and I've heard the story about how they did it. It wasn't a good situation. You know, the cop's excuse for pulling them over was a loose move. Because it was completely bogus. It happens, gotta deal with it.

LL: Yeah. And then... just one final thing. Maybe, do people with more money get treated differently from those who don't have as much money?

C: Yeah. I think so. But I mean, I don't know. Some people can think that because they have more money that, maybe they are treated with more preferential treatment. Like, maybe they are let go easier. But I don't really see that happening. It'd be easier to think that, and that people are probably right on the thinking behind that. But, I mean, I honestly believe that people that have money and they kind of show that they have money in the type of car that they drive, whether is a BMW or a Hummer, or a Lexus, or something-people that kind of show their affluence of their money-that brings attention to them, too. And, you know, just like a common criminal on the street could look at that and say: "Oh they must have money," officers probably think the opposite: "Oh, these people have money, erasing their ticket," you know. I mean, because cops here have a quota to meet. They have to write so many tickets. So, the city makes a killing off of people who have to pay fines for speeding and parking tickets. And the cops have to meet a quota for it. So, I think that they have to win on who is driving a nice car, who is driving the Camero, and the Mustang, and the Mercedes, who is driving the SUVs. More than likely those are some of the people who speed the most, people on those classy

sport cars. You know, they are out there speeding as well. Cops will pull them over quick, because they know that is an easy fine. They pay [Yeah]. And even if they pay the amendment fee, I mean, that is 200 dollars. Still, they are making a killing off. I know because I've paid the amendment fee plenty of times. You know, you pay 200 to 300 dollars to get a ticket wiped out of your record. Court fees, is that. Regardless, the city is making money off this ticket's being written. So, I think people with money aren't let off any easier than those without any of the whole money-making scam that the city takes advantage of.

LL: That is an interesting perspective. Yeah. That's interesting. Is there anything else that you'd like to add?

C: No, Not really. If I answered all your questions and you don't have anything else to ask. I don't have anything else to really say. Driving in the highways is horrible [What's up with all the construction right now, my gracious!]. I don't know they get one highway open and they are closing lanes on another one. [I know, I think they must have some kind of plan somewhere in the city...]. Yeah, I don't know. I was told once that the city, a long time ago, they had an opportunity to make the highways wider, like 4 or 5 lanes either way. They took the cheap route and made them 2 to 3 lanes. And now they are trying to expand; it's costing them millions more than would have back in the 70s to do it the right way the first time.

LL: How much would it cost to expand all those highways?!

C: I mean, if you think about it there is so many more people living in the area now, and if you're closing lanes, that is putting more pressure on the commuter as well as on the people actually doing the construction. [Yeah]. It's a multimillion dollar project that is going to, ultimately, is coming out of taxpayers' money, but they should have done it right the first time. Made highways wider, with more lanes to be able to mover more people quicker, we wouldn't have as many problems as we are having right now.

LL: Maybe that is why that whole ticket scam that you were talking about earlier, would be so appealing!

C: Yeah. And then, that piece of highway that I was talking about, I mean it's a highway but the speed limit is 55 on that highway and then slows down to 45 and they have stoplights on that highway.

LL: I know, that is crazy.

C: And it's like, you know, no wonder why so many people get pulled over on this. Because, I mean, you drive 55 and you suppose to be able to move more people at a quicker pace to get them in and out of downtown. And it would've done so because it's a highway. People are more at the speed on a highway, you know, 50 55 is normal speed. But if you have 55 and then 45 in the city, they are just like tickets left and right in all that stretch of highway. I try to avoid that but it's so inconvenient. Because any other highway to get where you need to go, takes you completely out of your way [Yeah]. But I mean, whoever did that, they were trying to be favorable to the police. They were completely

favorable to the police. They really were because so many people gets pulled over there, but you know. I wish they would change that or race up the speed [Yea, it's a mess]. Yeah, it is. I think that is my extra comment about the driving here in the area.

LL: Definitely, it all connects. And I really thank you again for your time.

C: Oh, no problem.

LL: I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it. And again, if you have any questions about the research feel free to contact me to the university at 785-864-9090.

C: Okay.

LL: All right, thanks. Have a good night.

C: You too.

LL: Bye, bye.

C: Bye.

PD: 27

Case ID #: 807346
Respondent Name: Donna
Date/Time of Interview: 3 May/ 6:20
Date of Transcription: 26 Sept 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

S: I'm on my cell phone and on my way to work, so if you get cut out please call me right back.

LL: Ok. Thank you so much. I appreciate it. I wonder if you may think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving and it can be that same example you were mentioning. And in your own words, would you please describe the experience of being stopped, starting from the moment that you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P27S1 "Mom, they are harassing us"

S: Well, I was speeding, so I was in the wrong, but I felt like I was being harassed, because my children had been...I had a ... he was a baby there and he shined his light at his face and he checked that everybody had seatbelts on. And he told me that he'll take my kids to the DFS. It was a horrible experience. I felt that they were harassing me.

LL: My goodness. What did the officer...

S: That's the only time that has ever happened. I've gotten pulled over before, you know, and you know we break the law you know speeding, but he just started... he was... it was in the same little complex where I live. He said he was going to take me to jail.

LL: My goodness! What did the officer say?

S: He gave me a ticket and he told me that he could take me to jail if he wanted to. And both of my sons were in my car at the time. He was like 10 and then my baby was like 6 months old.

LL: My goodness! Do you remember anything else that he did? Like from the time he stopped the car 'til the time he got back and left?

S: Well, they searched the car. I'm like, they didn't even have a real reason to search my car. I was speeding, I was going 30 in a 20. And that was it. He didn't have any right to search the car, and shine the lights in our faces or nothing.

LL: Well, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting anyway. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

S: I was pissed. I was okay at first, [Yeah] but then when they were like searching in my eyes, then you know... maybe my mouth took it a little further, but I stopped. I was questioning him: "Why do you need to search my car? I was speeding. Can you write me a ticket? You know, here is my insurance; here is my driver's license. So write my ticket so I can go." "Well ma'am, you are getting smart with that." "How am I getting smart?" And I think I cursed, I said a curse word. He was like "Ma'am I'm going to take you to jail." And I said "You don't have any reason to take me to jail." "Oh, yes we do." "No, you don't. I know my rights." And he wrote me a ticket; he ran my driver's license to make sure I didn't have any warrants or anything.

LL: Hello.

Second phone call:

S: Hello!

LL: Hello! Sorry I think we were cut off there.

S: Yeah.

LL: So, he ran your license and you said. Do you recall how you were driving right before you were stopped?

S: I was speeding.

LL: You said about probably 30 in a 20.

S: Yeah, I was 30 in a 20.

LL: And it was pretty close to your home.

S: I wasn't even... I live in a residential area and it was still on my... like, if they had taken me to jail my kids could've walked home 'cause we were on the next street over, well my son could've walked and carried my baby.

LL: Oh my! How did the police officer act throughout the stop? Do you remember?

S: How did he what?

LL: How did the police officer act through the stop? Do you remember anything in particular about him or her?

S: It was a male. How did he act?

LL: Yeah.

LL: He was rude. My son said once "Mom, they are harassing us." So it was like the 10 year old could even... that's how bad it was that he realized it.

LL: Well, do you remember anything in particular about the officer?

S: Yea, he was short, fat, bald-headed and with glasses.

LL: Police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

S: I was speeding.

LL: What do you think it was the real reason you were stopped?

S: It was probably because I was speeding but I don't know, he just, I don't know. I don't know why he starting messing with me.

LL: You happen to remember what car you were driving?

S: My Dodge Intrepid.

LL: And do you happen to remember what you were wearing?

S: No, I don't remember that.

P27 Int

LL: In general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

S: No.

LL: Do police treats men and women differently?

S: Yes.

LL: How does that work?

S: Well, it seems like...that was the first time that happened to me. But up until that it has always seems like you know, I may ride in the car with one of my friends and then...well, male friends, and we may've gotten pulled over maybe for speeding or something, but you know just driving like on a Friday night driving, and they'd always just like randomly pulling over. And it seems like when men are driving, they harass more. Actually, when black male.

LL: So they treat different races differently?

S: Yes.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

S: I don't know. I don't know about that one. I would think that they would be treated - the older better than they treat the younger ones.

LL: Do you think that people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

S: No.

LL: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

S: No.

LL: Well, thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions about this research, you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785-864-3515.

S: Okay. I got it on my voicemail.

LL: Okay, thank you.

S: Thank you.

LL: Have a good night!

PD: 28

Case ID #: 808312
Respondent Name: Helen
Date/Time of Interview: 26 March / 5:10
Date of Transcription: 22 Sept 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Female
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right, I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words would you please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P28S1 "I was Pissed Off; He was Scared to Death"

C: I was going through a construction zone in Missouri. And a Highway Patrolman stopped, and I think he was new because he acted like he was scared to death. I was pissed off is what it was. I mean . . . I was mad, but you know, it was my own fault so. You know. I don't know what else to tell you.

LL: What did the officer do?

C: What did he do?

LL: Yeah. You've said, for instance that he was...

C: Oh, he was new. He looked like he was about 14. He didn't...he was just... I think that it must've been the first time, because there were 2 of them in the car. And I think the older one, he was not driving, he was riding. So I'm sure he said "okay go, do your duty." But he was just, I mean he was shaking. He was very; I think if I would've yell at him he probably would've thrown up. [My goodness]. It was awful.

LL: What did the officer say..

C: What?

LL: Maybe for him too.

C: Really.

LL: What did the officer say?

C: You know, well, that I was speeding. And there was a construction zone, you know. That.

LL: Now, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting and you said you were upset...

C: Oh, yeah. I was upset that I got caught, but, you know.

LL: Do you remember how you responded to this officer?

C: Oh, I'm sure I was nice.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

C: Like how was I driving? What do you mean?

LL: It was a construction zone you were doing...

C: I was just going fast through it than I should've gone. [Okay]. You know, I wasn't driving stupid.

LL: Yeah. Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

C: That I was speeding.

LL: And you thought that was the real reason you were stopped.

C: Oh, I'm sure it was, because I know I was speeding, yes.

LL: Do you happen to remember what you were driving?

C: What do you mean?

LL: Oh, what kind of car or vehicle?

C: Oh, it was a 97 Chevy Lumina.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

C: For work, so slacks and a top.

P28 Int

LL: Now, I wonder in general, do you think that the police treats everyone the same?

C: I would imagine, you know. Probably.

LL: Probably so?

C: Yeah.

LL: Say for instance, men and women? Do you think they are treated differently?

C: I think maybe women police... people are harder on women drivers. I mean, I don't know that to be a fact. I think that might be, I think they might be. So!

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

C: I don't think it matters.

LL: Do you think they treat different races differently?

C: I have no idea. I mean, who knows?

LL: And do you think they treat people with more money differently from those with little money?

C: How would they know? You know, unless they were driving a crappy car, who knows.

LL: So is there anything else that you would want to add?

C: No.

LL: Well, thank you so much for your time, and if you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university.

C: Okay.

LL: And my number there is 785-864-3515.

C: Okay thank you.

LL: Thanks and have a good evening.

C: All right, you too!

LL: Bye, bye.

PD: 29

Case ID #: 808691
Respondent Name: Jeff
Date/Time of Interview: 10 Mar / 4:45
Date of Transcription: 28 Sept 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right! I wonder if you might think back over one time you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words would you please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P29S1 "Maybe I should have gotten away with it"

E: Yeah. I've only been pulled over once that I can remember in the last few years. And it was... I was leaving Lansing Prison, I do volunteer work. And their speed limit there is 20 miles an hour and when I was leaving the parking lot I was just a little over 20 going down the street. And I got pulled over; it was Christmas Eve also. And the Lansing Police Department, the officer gave me a ticket, so I wasn't really happy about it. I should've known better.

LL: What did the officer do?

E: Just told me that the speed limit is 20 and that's the way it goes. So I just, you know, I don't know felt like it was Christmas Eve, doing volunteer work and maybe I should've gotten away with it. But that's the way it works.

LL: Well, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting anyway. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

C: Well, I just kind of... I was disappointed at myself because when I went in to the prison I've seen them sitting there. So, I should've known better when I came out that he would probably be sitting there. It just that is a down the hill slope and you leave the parking lot, even if you...unless you ride your brake down the hill, it's hard enough not go over 20 miles an hour.

LL: Yeah. Do you remember anything about how you responded to the police after he came up

to the car?

C: No, I just handed him all my stuff and waited for him to give me a ticket.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped? What speed?

C: 31

LL: How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

C: He was cordial.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him?

C: No.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped and you were told...

C: Excessive speeding.

LL: Okay. And what did you think it was the real reason you were stopped?

C: I think there was a speed trap [Okay]. But when I went back the next time to the prison, the lady that works at the registration place to let you in said that they get a lot of the workers, too so. [Oh okay]. They said that that is a popular place to get a ticket.

LL: Do you happen to remember what car you were driving? What vehicle?

C: A black Suburban.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

C: Just casual clothes.

LL: In general, do you think that the police treats everyone the same?

C: Not always.

LL: Do they treat, say, men and women differently?

C: I don't know about that.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

C: Probably a little harder on the younger drivers.

P29 Int

LL: Do they treat different races differently?

C: Well, I don't know about races but, you know if you're a young kid with a stereo bumping in your seats, looks like your seat is broken, is laying down, I think that they kind of take notice of that.

LL: And do you think that they treat people with . . . do you think people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

C: No.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add?

C: No, I just hope I don't get any more tickets.

LL: That's a hope that I'm sure we all share! Good deal. Well, thank you so much for your time and if you have any questions about this research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785-864-3515.

C: Okay.

LL: Bye, thanks.

C: Bye.

PD: 30

Case ID #: 405316
Respondent Name: Timothy
Date/Time of Interview: 23 Mar / 5:25
Date of Transcription: 22 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 50+

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right. I wonder if you might think back over a time you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words describe the experience of being stopped maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P30S1 "I said it was yellow; he said it was red"

F: The last time I was stopped, and I think it was about a year ago [Ok]. Maybe not that long, it wasn't 2005 maybe late 2004. I was making a left had turn under the yellow [Ok]. And I was pulled over by the police. As a matter of fact, the police were behind me before I even made the turn. But I was moving in traffic, so I completed the turn and he pulled me over. And he asked me if I saw him. And I said "Yes." And I explained to him that I was in the middle of the turn. And he said that the light was red. And he proceeded to give a lecture, and I insisted the light was yellow, but anyway. It came out that he was kind of upset I wasn't in support of him. He said it was red and I said it was yellow. And he only gave me a warning; he didn't give me a ticket [Ok]. I think that's, really, the only time since the last time I did the survey - that's the only time I've been pulled over.

LL: Yeah. Do you remember anything about what the officer did?

F: Let me see. He asked me to get out of the car. He asked me if I saw him sitting behind me. And I told him "Yes." No, more that he was a little antagonized by the fact that... I don't know what he was antagonized by - the fact that he was behind me and I made the turn or . . . I think he thought I was arguing with him. But that was probably it in a nutshell.

LL: Sure. Now, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded?

F: Oh well, number one, I was surprised; number two, I did see him behind me so it wasn't like I was trying to get away with something. And it was upsetting that I got pulled over

[Sure]. I can kind of understand to some degree, but I knew that the light was yellow. And in my mind I was like "maybe I misinterpreted the law." His interpretation was that if it's yellow, you stop. My interpretation was if it's yellow, you proceed with caution [Yeah]. And again, we did kind of exchange words about that matter. I don't know, maybe cooler heads prevailed, I guess. I didn't get the ticket. I guess I could've just as easily gotten the ticket or not from his point of view. I think he wanted me to be a little bit more agreeable.

LL: That you exchanged words. Do you remember anything about what he said or what you said?

F: Well the basic thing that he said is that "Didn't you see me behind you? I said, "Yes, I did." And he said "Well, you ran the light." And I said "No I didn't." It was on yellow." He said "Well, I was right behind you. I saw the light." I said I was in front of you and I saw the light." So it was an issue...that was probably the biggest part of the conversation and the fact that you know, I turned on yellow, and he thought I shouldn't have or that the light was red. He said that by the time I made the turn the light was red. Because he was standing ...sitting right behind me, and I said "Well, I don't know what happened behind me. The only thing I know is what I was doing when I was turning." So I mean, you know, he was a little agitated and I probably was too at that time, because I was a little bit upset that I got pulled over. But at the same time I wasn't surprised. I mean this is Johnson County [OK]. And I shouldn't say that because it makes it sounds like is a bias situation that may not have even been the case. [But you think, at least possible?]. I'm sorry. [But it's at least possible] Very, very possible, but I like to think that things have changed more than they probably have.

LL: Yeah. Do you remember anything particular about the officer?

F: Well, he was young. I won't say he was arrogant, but he was 'lock to a dent.' And for the most part he was kind upset because I differed with his opinion [Yeah]. Whether that's standard policy, I don't know. In some point in time I really just kind of cooled my heels and said "Yeah, Officer, 'whatever you say' type of thing" because I wasn't...I didn't wanna get shot, I didn't wanna do anything. I sat in my car. Now, he did ask me to get out of the car. And I didn't and he came up to the car and then asked for my license. I mean, it was kind of like in the middle of the day. Don't ask me why I didn't get out of my car. But I didn't, I just didn't get out. Maybe I was just shocked that I was even being pulled over. But, again, he only asked me once and then he came up to the car. And then it was like, you know, he was like about to my passenger door and he was giving instructions from there, like "Pass me your license", that type of stuff. [Right]. So, I don't know what the deal was.

LL: Now, police officers are suppose to tell the reason you were stopped, and he said it was about this yellow light, or that it was red by the time you went through, and you differed with him. What did you think was the real reason you were stopped?

F: I honestly don't know. Honestly, I have in my own mind I think it was because I turned on the yellow or I was turning on the yellow. Here is what I really think, because he was behind me and I was turning in the yellow, I think he thought I was disrespectful to him.

LL: Oh, ok. So he just reads something into that.

F: And I'm giving him the benefit of the doubt there. You know, I'm not saying what you're supposed to do when the police are behind you. I guess you should sit at the light and do nothing. I don't know. But I think he thought I disrespected him and maybe he was gonna just show me how much power he had. And you know, I'm speculating. I don't know. I would hate to think that he pulled me over because young handsome black man at that light. I would hate to say that, so I won't say that. I just think he thought I disrespected his authority by turning and he was behind me. That's nuts, but that's as close as I can get.

LL: Yeah. Now, do you happen to remember what you were driving that day?

F: I was driving a Ford Contour.

LL: Ok. And do you happen to remember what you were wearing?

F: I was on my way to work. I probably had on some jeans and a kind of a sport shirt.

P30 INT

LL: OK. I wonder, more in general, do you think the police treat everyone the same?

F: No way, no ma'am. I would really love to say "I know that everybody is treated the same." I look for the worst when I'm pulled over by the police. And I know I shouldn't have that mindset, but I really fear the worst. I try not to move; I try not to do anything that it would give them an opportunity to think that I'm gonna try to make a move. And that's a hell of a way to live. That is the truth. That doesn't make any difference whether it's a black policeman or white policeman as far as I'm concerned.

LL: Do you have any ideas about how that works or why that is?

F: No, I don't. I don't know, I just wish it wasn't like that.

LL: How about, say men and women. Do police treat men and women differently?

F: Oh yeah. I feel that they do. I'm not a woman, so I haven't experienced that. So my opinion is that they do. I think that they treat women 2 ways: they may give a woman a break if she is a pretty lady, or they may give her a flirtatious type of ... you know, come-on. I don't think they don't take advantage or if they do, sometimes that works to their advantage, other times it just gives them a negative affect to the system.

LL: Yeah. How about, let say, older versus younger drivers?

F: Well I think they're very, very cautious of younger drivers. I think they look out to see when... They pay special attention to younger drivers in reference to whether they are obeying the law or not. I think older drivers get away with a lot of stuff maybe. And I don't want

to be biased towards younger drivers, but I noticed that older drivers drive a little bit differently, a little bit slower. Younger drivers speed more.

LL: And how about people with more money and those with little money?

F: Honestly, I don't think it matters with the more money and little money stuff. Because I think once the make effort to pull you over...Like if you are driving a Mercedes or driving a Ford. Do I think that makes a difference with them? No, if you are speeding . . . no, I don't think that makes a difference with them at all. Now, that may be different if you are in the inner city. But where I live, I don't think that makes a difference.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add about any of this?

F: Well' I guess, in this is probably not fair, but I just wish that in reference black policemen or white policemen, and I think it's nice that they back each other up and, you know, support each other. I think an organization should do that, but I just wish they would treat the citizens with a little more fairness. You know, if I'm speeding, give me my speeding ticket, I don't need your lecture - give me my ticket. If I'm not speeding then don't bother me, let me go on about my business. If you don't like the car I'm driving, then give the car the ticket - not me. I'm driving what I can afford [Yeah]. You know, if my light is not working and it's going to hurt somebody, yes, maybe I deserve a warning or a ticket to let me know that my light isn't working, but don't hassle me. You know, inform me, give me the opportunity to get it fix [Yeah]. But you know, in some cases, they do that, not all cops are bastards. Some are really good guys. I have some good friends that are policemen and I don't know what they do when they are pulling somebody over. They might act the same as a cop that I don't know with somebody else. I think there is a very strong fraternity of men, I mean men and women. I really do think that they back each other up. But some times when you are wrong you need to, you know, if your friend is wrong you need to correct that.

LL: Yeah, so you are saying that even though they have this support for each other, you'd like to see them disagree sometimes if they should?

F: Yeah, if your partner is wrong, you are not helping him by backing up when he is wrong [Yeah]. You know, and if he is always stepping him down, let him know that. I really have a fear of ever being arrested by the police. I never been arrested, so I don't know why I have that fear, but I do have one. You know, it one of those things that you never wanna experience [Yeah, definitely not]. And that's a shame because, you know, that's a part of society, and if you break the law, you should look forward to being arrested for whatever you did. And you should be able to go through that exercise without having a cardiac arrest [Yes]. But I know very few people that have had a pleasant example of it. And I realize that the violator can add to the frustration. But somehow we need to learn how to handle people for that...that we can get through that without people getting choked and all that stuff [Yeah]. If I'm out of control, do what you need to do to me, but don't kill me in the process [Right]. I'm over-killing it and I don't want to do that, because I know we need policemen - we need them very bad. Because there is some bad people there.

LL: Yea. Well, is there anything else that you would want to add?

F: No, I think that's it.

LL: Good. Well, thank you so much for your time.

F: You're welcome.

LL: And if you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university. My number there is 785

F: Now, this is the University of Kansas?

LL: Yeah, at the University of Kansas. 785-864-3515.

F: 3515. Ok!

LL: Sure. Thanks a bunch.

F Thank you.

LL: Have a good night.

F: Bye

LL: Bye, bye.

PD: 31

Case ID #: 409676
Respondent Name: Patrick
Date/Time of Interview: 10 March / 5:40
Date of Transcription: 28 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right! I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words, please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

A: I'm not sure what you are asking me? How I felt emotionally? Or how did my body react? Or did I nauseate? What are you asking me?

LL: Just maybe if you can describe what happened?

A: What happened?

LL: From the moment you realized that you were being pull over until the officer let you drive away.

P31S1 "Lectured by the Police"

A: I got pulled over, I was pissed off for being pulled over. I was pissed off. I began being lectured by the police officer and then I tried to explain to him what happened and then as he was lecturing further, the car that caused me to swerve on the road went by . . . drove past me flipped the police officer off and honked. And the police officer let me go and went after him. I was released.

LL: That worked out. What did the officer say when he was lecturing you?

A: Well, he was basically asking why I changed lanes so rapidly and why did I drop speed at a neurotic pace and then I explained to him that the car cut me off the road and ...

** Talking to his wife: Oh, it's KU asking me scenarios.

A: My wife was like, "Who are you talking to?"

And I explained to him that the individual cut me off the road. And I don't think he believed me until the car drove back the other direction. I guess he turned around to see what happened, flipped off the police officer and takes off. [Good grief]. That was it.

LL: Getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting.

A: Very dramatic

LL: Yeah. Do you happen to remember how you felt and responded to the police officer?

P31S2 "Red Eyes"

A: I thought he was an asshole. Well, I mean he was very rude and...And another time that I was pulled over and I'd had ice, my eyes were red and this was ... my eyes always get red. And the officer pulled me over when I ran a check point, and then they made me . . . for an hour and a half I was doing different blow tests, even though I didn't have anything to drink - because I don't drink. And we left the bar where my brother worked at, and he didn't believe us. He was also very rude.

LL: Now, was this the same experience or a different time?

A: A different experience.

LL: Okay. Now, in the time that you are telling me about, do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

A: Which time is this one?

LL: The time when the other car caused you to swerve?

A: Okay. That's my latest one. What was your question? I'm sorry.

LL: Just if you happen to recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

P31S1 Cont.

A: Before, I mean - the speed limit. I mean, I was driving the speed limit, I was driving normal, following a semi-truck and the car in front of me was trying to get into my lane, but there wasn't enough room between my lane because he was trying to get off on the next exit. And he cut me off and I gave a honk and I guess that was enough to get him pretty upset, so I kind of hit the brakes so I wouldn't hit him. So that's when I swerved into the other lane of traffic.

LL: Wow. How did the police act through the stop?

A: I mean, like I would. Like a crazy driver, because he only saw part of it. All he saw was me going into the other lane of traffic, he was standing there, so he just... he didn't see the

other car, what the other car did. All he saw was me hitting my brakes and swerving. Of course, he was trying to give a ticket for inattentive driving.

LL: Wow. Do you remember anything in particular about him?

A: No, just. I don't remember a whole lot about him just that he was kind of a middle-aged gentleman and he was maybe a little overweight and he just seemed like he had a big ego.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

A: Inattentive driving.

LL: And what do you think was the real reason that you were stopped?

A: Well, I mean the real reason would be perceived as inattentive driving, but it was because another car cut me off the road. He was going to go between myself and the semi and there was not enough room there, and he ran me off the road.

LL: And do you happen to remember the vehicle that you were driving that day?

A: My Yukon.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

A: Yeah, I was dressed in business casual. I don't know what shirt I was wearing.

P31 Int

LL: In general, do you think the police treat everyone the same?

A: Oh, no.

LL: Do police treat, say, men and women differently?

A: Sure.

LL: How would you think that works?

A: I think that if you are an attractive person and you are female, you are able to get out of more tickets. You could use sex-appeal because police officers like to flirt and they like when people bid to their ego. If you are a professional, you know, I think sometimes police officers . . . if you are a man and they perceive that you are maybe...I don't know it's hard to explain. But yes, there is definitely....I have a friend of mine that is a police officer and I know the things that happen and it's pretty bad. - I mean they do racial profiling and they know it. They look for certain characteristics in people. You can't drive in certain parts of town with certain types of cars - with certain cars. And if you are

white driving in a certain part of town, you are gonna be profiled. And if you are black driving in certain parts of town, you are gonna be profiled. Look, it's unfortunate.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

A: Well, I think depending what your age is. I think a kid... if you are a teenager you are probably more likely to get pulled over than someone my age. And if you are a grandparent, you're probably more likely to get pulled over than someone my age. I mean the older I think it's easier for people to justify actions, on age. Saying "Okay, you know what? You are a teenager - you are driving a little bit erratic. You are old - you are driving a little erratic because your vision isn't there. It's easier to blame certain things.

LL: Yeah. And do you think people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

A: I think image is a perception, and perceptions perceive reality, so I think that people would judge you upon, not really money but how they treat them. If you are professional . . . understanding, I think you are going to get more accomplished with the police officer than if you are degrading or insulting to the officer.

LL: Is there anything else that you would want to add?

A: No. These are all weird questions, you know, because you can't really answer these questions. Every situation is different [Yeah, right.]. I mean, I had a police officer once that I asked for help after I - and it was a Kansas police officer - right after I shattered my knee cap. I could barely walk, and I walked up to the police officer - right up to the door of my car, I couldn't get into my car, so I asked the police officer in the parking lot if he could move my car for me. And he said "Can't you do it?" And I said "No, I can't." and I go "I wish I could." And he said "Why don't you crawl from the back of your car and crawl into the seat." And I said "Well, I can't - I'm disabled." And he said "Okay, whatever." But he didn't see that I had a big brace on my leg and I could barely walk. And then when he saw it, he was like "Oh, I'm really sorry, I didn't realize that." He said "I thought you didn't really, you know, didn't want to get dirty" something like that, kind of rude. But then he was very nice afterwards. I mean, I think sometimes people, you know, they look at individuals and they take the cheap shot.

LL: Yeah. Well, thank you so much for your time. If you have any questions about this research you can feel free to contact me at the university and my number there is 785-864-3515.

A: Sure. I'm sure I didn't answer any of your questions correctly so.

LL: No, no this is . . .

A: Even with the direct meaning to it, I mean there is just no way to answer those questions. They are hard to answer, those questions.

LL: Right. They are very general questions, just trying to get people's opinions and thoughts so.

Thanks for taking a shot, Patrick.

A: Yeah, okay. Good luck.

LL: All right, have a good night! Bye.

PD: 32

Case ID #: 501206
Respondent Name: David
Date/Time of Interview: 15 Feb / 5:40
Date of Transcription: 22 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: O.K. I was wondering if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words, would you describe the experience to being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away?

P32S1 "Just take the ticket"

D: When it first happened I was kind of shocked because, even though they say it's a pink light when you go through, but it wasn't actually even red, it was still yellow [Oh my]. So, to get the ticket, not to argue with the cop because he may get mad about it. I just let it go, but I was still shocked. And I couldn't really do anything about it but to take the ticket.

LL: Do you remember what the officer did?

C: Like just verbal-wise? Or...

LL: Anything, from the time he pulled you over through the interaction?

C: He said "Did you noticed the red light?" and I told the officer "It was still yellow when I went through." And he was like "Well, it was red." I wouldn't argue with him. So, I just took the ticket.

LL: Getting pulled over by the police can be really upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

C: Body gesture, it was kind of aggressive. I was kind of mad about it. Verbally, I just had to hold it in because I didn't want to get mad.

LL: Sure. Do you remember how you were driving just before you were stopped?

C: I was doing the speed limit. Like I said, I saw yellow when I was going through it. And from what he said it was going from yellow to red. And I went through the intersection.

LL: How did the police officer act through the stop?

C: He was kind of cool. I mean, he was like someone you see on TV. He was like: "You ran a red light." And he described how it was and I asked him questions about it. He was kind of cool about it.

LL: Do you remember anything particular about him?

C: Just in his uniform, no glasses, wearing a police hat. He wasn't acting cautious or anything like that. Just kind of cool when he came up to the door.

LL: And, I know that police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. Do you remember what you were told?

C: Ran a red light.

LL: What did you think about the real reason you were stopped? Since in your opinion it was yellow.

C: I didn't think of anything like racial issues or anything like that. I was just, "If he thought I ran a red light he has to have good reasons for it, if not, it's not like I can't fight him in court later with the ticket."

LL: Yeah. Do you happen to remember anything about the car you were driving? Or kind of car it was?

C: It was Chrysler Concord. 1993.

LL: And do you remember what you were wearing?

C: I was wearing a "Dickies Outfits 10."

P32 INT

LL: In general, do you think that the police treats everyone the same?

C: Generally, yes - n this town, Yeah.

LL: Maybe differently in other cities in your opinion?

C: Maybe, yeah. We kind of know all the cops around here. We probably would get a new one here and there, but we kind of know all the officers around here.

LL: Sure. Do police treat men and women differently?

C: If it is like verbal occasions, yeah. Like outside of bars, they have to make sure they don't get

hurt or anything like that. If it was 2 males, there are times were there is not time to separate them, so have so time to go at it.

LL: How about younger versus older drivers?

C: I don't really know. I think that they kind of get the older ones worse because they should know what they are doing, and the young ones they have to be like "let this be a wake up call for you."

LL: Trying to get the attention of the younger drivers.

C: Yeah.

LL: Do you think they treat different races differently?

C: Yeah. They have to. Not in this town, but in some cities, they have to. Because, yes some blacks think that they can get with murder all the time and then you have some whites that think the same things. And it just goes by race - how they feel or how the officer comes to the car and how they sit and posture-wise . . . or maybe it's the goal of the plan that they may kind of want to do that to them.

LL: So you think it may have more to do with how the driver is acting, rather than just race alone?

C: Yeah.

LL: How about people with more money and those who have less money? Are they treated differently?

C: No, also the same.

LL: Is there anything else that you may like to add about your experience or your thoughts?

C: No, thank you.

LL: All right, thank you so much for your time. Have a great evening.

C: You too.

LL: Good night.

C: Good night.

PD: 33

Case ID #: 502942
Respondent Name: Carl
Date/Time of Interview: 18 Mar / 8:20
Date of Transcription: 22 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right, I wonder if you could think back over one time that you were stop by the police while driving and in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P33S1 "I Made a Mistake But if it Happens Again \$300 Ticket"

T: Okay, a couple of months ago we were driving, my wife and I were driving and we were out by the speedway in Wyandotte County, and a cop pulled us over. He got behind me and he turned his lights on. And I'm thinking to myself "Why the hell is this guy pulling me over?" Because we've just turned. The light turned green and we've made a left onto the road. So, I pulled into the convenience store and he got behind me. And I rolled my window down. He came up to the window and he said "Do you know why I stopped you?" And I was thinking to myself "He stopped me because I'm white, and I'm in Wyandotte County." He said because I had loud music playing [Because, what now?]. Because my music was too loud [Oh, Okay]. He could hear it from 50 feet away he said. So, I told him "that is not possible because my wife and I were having a conversation, and there is no way that wouldn't been able to carry a conversation if our music was loud enough for you to hear it 50 feet away" [Yeah]. So, he asked for my license and registration and I gave then to him. And he asked me what kind of radio system I had in my car, and I said "whatever it came from the factory with." Then he went back to his car and he came back and he said "I must've made a mistake, I'm sorry that I pulled you over, but if it happens again it's going to be a 300 dollars ticket." So I was like well that's retarded for him to give me a ticket because I wasn't doing anything. So, anyways, I didn't up getting a ticket or anything. So, I was a little upset.

LL: Yea. Do you remember what the officer did?

T: What do you mean?

LL: When he first pulled up and got out the car?

T: He pulled in right behind me, and I pulled into a parking lot. He pulled up behind me, kind of like blocked me in so I couldn't back out. And then he came up on my side, and I had my window down. And he asked "do you know why I pulled you over?" and I said "no, no." Because I didn't [And at that point he said...]. Well, he told me that my music was too loud. I am like "what's that?" You know, I don't even think that radio was on at time to tell you the truth. I don't remember but... I remember that we were just sitting there because we've just left from eating over at the speedway. And we were coming back and we were talking about dinner and here he comes pulling up behind me and he told me my music was loud enough for him to hear it in his car 50 feet away, while I'm moving. And I'm like "Whatever. You need to have your ears checked or something." [Wow].

LL: Now, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting and under any circumstances, do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

T: I was courteous. I don't mind being pulled over, it doesn't bother me a whole lot. I just that that was the first time I've been pulled over that I wasn't actually doing something wrong.

LL: How did the police officer acted through the stop?

T: He was nice, he was courteous because once I told him that we were having a conversation, then he had to look inside the vehicle and he realized that he got the wrong vehicle. But he was very courteous, he apologized, he said "I'm sorry." He said "but this is a 300 dollar ticket next time that this does happens, you'll get a ticket." [My goodness]. Yeah.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him?

T: No, he was a nice guy. He wasn't overly aggressive or you know, you know how some of them are [Yeah]. They all are hardcore and they think that is going to be a big stop and they are gonna be on *Cops* or something or on TV or the News. He was just a regular guy, I mean, he was nice.

LL: So, He had talked about the music being too loud and you don't even remember if you had the radio on. What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

T: You know, we have a SUV with tinted windows, and I think he did hear music, and I think he just assumed it was from our vehicle [Okay]. It's what it was.

LL: So it may've been a mistake of some sort...

T: Well, right, right. I think I he thought he was pulling over people who were, you know, driving around with loud music. And once he pulled us over, I think he realized that he made a mistake.

LL: Do you remember anything about what you were wearing?

T: I was wearing some greasy jeans with holes in them and a t-shirt with stains on it, and a hat.

LL: And driving an SUV?

T: Yes.

P33 Int

LL: I wonder if, in general, the police treat everyone the same.

T: Of course not! Of course they don't! And anybody who thinks that they do is a fool.

LL: In what ways do you think, for instance, do they treat men and women differently?

T: They treat men and women differently. They treat young people differently than they treat old people. They treat races differently. They treat people who drive old cars versus new cars, people who drive SUV's versus a regular car, people who pick up trucks versus motorcycles, I mean. See, to me there are only 3 things, they are either out for themselves, they're out to write as many tickets as they can since they can make much money for the city or the county if they can, or they are actually doing their job. Very few of them do. There is always some kind of agenda there, in my opinion.

LL: So, maybe in the case men and women, you mention that there were differences there. How would you describe that?

T: Oh well I know...well I don't want to say that. [Go ahead]. Some of them will target young women and pull them over because they think they might get something out of it. Yeah. If you know what I mean. [Yeah] Right, right. And I know they do because I know [You've observed or know people] Right [Yeah].

LL: And you mention older versus younger drivers.

T: Sure, they are more out to...if there is a middle-aged person who's speeding and they notice that is a middle-aged person, they are more likely to let them go than if a young person. Because if it is a young person they are under the impression that they maybe able to charge them with other crimes beside speeding - such as loud music or such as, you know, having marijuana or some type of drug in the car, or anything. They are not as relaxed on young people as they are on middle-aged people. And the same goes with older people as well. Elderly people they are more up to pull them over because they feel that they are actually a hazard on the road.

LL: You also mentioned different races.

T: Sure, I know that's the truth because they will. And I think that is one of the reasons why I was pulled over, they thought that I was probably black [Okay, because of the windows]. Well, dark tinted windows and thought he heard loud music so he was just assuming [Okay]. See, and if I was black and he asked me why he pulled me over and I'd said

“because I was black.” I would have probably been right, you see. But since I’m not I was...

LL: And then it ended up not being a big event for you.

T: Right, but see the reason that they do is that the target different racial groups because, again, is goes back to the thing that they are going to make some big arrest to someone that has a lot of outstanding warrants or maybe some crack deal or is going to be a rolling meth lab or who knows what they are going to charge them with. But, you know, they are going to make themselves look like some big shot cop somewhere...It’s a conspiracy, I’m telling you! She doesn’t believe me.

LL: And then you mention people with maybe with more or less money or different types of cars.

T: Sure. Like, for instance, this people who drive cars with... the little import cars with the coffee can fountains and the mufflers on, they pull them over all the time because they stereotype them as being the type of people who are gonna be on drugs or be drunk or be driving very recklessly on the road. Where somebody who is driving a Cadillac, they are probably not gonna pulled him over because probably nothing is gonna be wrong with them, you see what I’m saying.

LL: So it’s partly their expectations?

T: Probably.

LL: And interesting set of experiences and observations. Is there anything else that you would want to add?

T: What would you like? I can go on about anything. [Sure] What would you like me to talk about?

LL: Well either about if you have anything else that you wanted to add - either about your experience or about your perspective on...

T: About the police in general?

LL: Yea. Whether they treat everyone the same?

T: Well, like I said, I know they don’t treat everyone the same. But, oh well. And anybody that thinks that they do is either naïve or hasn’t dealt with them before.

*Talking to someone on the background he says:

T: No, that’s not true. I treat everybody the same. Bullshit! You know I do. I’m mean to everybody. I treat everybody the same. Nobody is any different. Except for the salesman that comes to the door.

*Back talking to Laura:

T: I treat them differently than other people because I don’t want them coming to my door. Trying to sell me shit that I don’t need. So I have to run them off. But anyway, no, I think

that's it unless you have any other questions.

LL: I think that answers my questions, but thank you so much for your time.

T: You're welcome.

LL: And if you have any questions about the research, you can feel free to call me at the university my number there is 785-864-3515. Alright! Thanks so much.

T: You're welcome!

LL: Good night!

T: Bye, bye.

PD: 34

Case ID #: 502942
Respondent Name: Carl
Date/Time of Interview: 18 Mar / 8:20
Date of Transcription: 22 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 18-25

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right, I wonder if you could think back over one time that you were stop by the police while driving and in your own words describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P33S1 "I Made a Mistake But if it Happens Again \$300 Ticket"

T: Okay, a couple of months ago we were driving, my wife and I were driving and we were out by the speedway in Wyandotte County, and a cop pulled us over. He got behind me and he turned his lights on. And I'm thinking to myself "Why the hell is this guy pulling me over?" Because we've just turned. The light turned green and we've made a left onto the road. So, I pulled into the convenience store and he got behind me. And I rolled my window down. He came up to the window and he said "Do you know why I stopped you?" And I was thinking to myself "He stopped me because I'm white, and I'm in Wyandotte County." He said because I had loud music playing [Because, what now?]. Because my music was too loud [Oh, Okay]. He could hear it from 50 feet away he said. So, I told him "that is not possible because my wife and I were having a conversation, and there is no way that wouldn't been able to carry a conversation if our music was loud enough for you to hear it 50 feet away" [Yeah]. So, he asked for my license and registration and I gave then to him. And he asked me what kind of radio system I had in my car, and I said "whatever it came from the factory with." Then he went back to his car and he came back and he said "I must've made a mistake, I'm sorry that I pulled you over, but if it happens again it's going to be a 300 dollars ticket." So I was like well that's retarded for him to give me a ticket because I wasn't doing anything. So, anyways, I didn't up getting a ticket or anything. So, I was a little upset.

LL: Yea. Do you remember what the officer did?

T: What do you mean?

LL: When he first pulled up and got out the car?

T: He pulled in right behind me, and I pulled into a parking lot. He pulled up behind me, kind of like blocked me in so I couldn't back out. And then he came up on my side, and I had my window down. And he asked "do you know why I pulled you over?" and I said "no, no." Because I didn't [And at that point he said...]. Well, he told me that my music was too loud. I am like "what's that?" You know, I don't even think that radio was on at time to tell you the truth. I don't remember but... I remember that we were just sitting there because we've just left from eating over at the speedway. And we were coming back and we were talking about dinner and here he comes pulling up behind me and he told me my music was loud enough for him to hear it in his car 50 feet away, while I'm moving. And I'm like "Whatever. You need to have your ears checked or something." [Wow].

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T: I was courteous. I don't mind being pulled over, it doesn't bother me a whole lot. I just that that was the first time I've been pulled over that I wasn't actually doing something wrong.

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T: He was nice, he was courteous because once I told him that we were having a conversation, then he had to look inside the vehicle and he realized that he got the wrong vehicle. But he was very courteous, he apologized, he said "I'm sorry." He said "but this is a 300 dollar ticket next time that this does happens, you'll get a ticket." [My goodness]. Yeah.

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LL: So, He had talked about the music being too loud and you don't even remember if you had the radio on. What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

T: You know, we have a SUV with tinted windows, and I think he did hear music, and I think he just assumed it was from our vehicle [Okay]. It's what it was.

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T: Well, right, right. I think I he thought he was pulling over people who were, you know, driving around with loud music. And once he pulled us over, I think he realized that he made a mistake.

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P33 Int

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“because I was black.” I would have probably been right, you see. But since I’m not I was...

LL: And then it ended up not being a big event for you.

T: Right, but see the reason that they do is that the target different racial groups because, again, is goes back to the thing that they are going to make some big arrest to someone that has a lot of outstanding warrants or maybe some crack deal or is going to be a rolling meth lab or who knows what they are going to charge them with. But, you know, they are going to make themselves look like some big shot cop somewhere...It’s a conspiracy, I’m telling you! She doesn’t believe me.

LL: And then you mention people with maybe with more or less money or different types of cars.

T: Sure. Like, for instance, this people who drive cars with... the little import cars with the coffee can fountains and the mufflers on, they pull them over all the time because they stereotype them as being the type of people who are gonna be on drugs or be drunk or be driving very recklessly on the road. Where somebody who is driving a Cadillac, they are probably not gonna pulled him over because probably nothing is gonna be wrong with them, you see what I’m saying.

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T: Probably.

LL: And interesting set of experiences and observations. Is there anything else that you would want to add?

T: What would you like? I can go on about anything. [Sure] What would you like me to talk about?

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T: About the police in general?

LL: Yea. Whether they treat everyone the same?

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T: I treat them differently than other people because I don’t want them coming to my door. Trying to sell me shit that I don’t need. So I have to run them off. But anyway, no, I think

that's it unless you have any other questions.

LL: I think that answers my questions, but thank you so much for your time.

T: You're welcome.

LL: And if you have any questions about the research, you can feel free to call me at the university my number there is 785-864-3515. Alright! Thanks so much.

T: You're welcome!

LL: Good night!

T: Bye, bye.

PD: 34

Case ID #: 600353
Respondent Name: Peter
Date/Time of Interview: 26 Feb / 8:10
Date of Transcription: 28 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: All right. I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P34S1 "Lucky Suicide"

C: Okay. I was pulled over. I was driving a sports car and I didn't think there was anything wrong at that point at that time. And the policeman came up asked me if I knew what I've done. And I said "no," that was all. But he informed me that I was going way over the speed limit, which to tune of about 25 miles an hour faster. It was in a residential area and I don't believe I was going over the speed limit at all. During the interview with the policeman, he received a radio call for a possible suicide and said "You are lucky, I gotta go. Don't let me catch you here again." So, not even a warning at that point and I just drove away. But as far as... I felt like I was targeted because I was in a sports car.

LL: Okay. What did the officer do at the beginning of the stopped?

C: Lights and sirens.

LL: Okay, and then when he got out of the car?

C: I had already gotten my wallet, and license and registration out and when he got out of his car he had his hand on his gun. I said, "Okay," and put my hands on the wheel and waited for him to walk up. And he asked for my license and registration and then he asked me that question if I knew what I've done?

LL: Now getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

C: Well, I tried to be cordial because you don't want to piss them off. That can make things worse. I just said "No, I have no idea why you pulled me over," and was a little belligerent, but I have to say I had a red sports car, fairly high end and had really dark tinted windows so I can understand why he would come out with his hand on his gun. But nevertheless, I had my windows down and I just put my hands on the wheel, you know, no reason to give anybody excuse.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving just before you were stopped?

C: How I was driving?

LL: Yeah. I mean he made this claim that you were doing 25 over.

C: I was just driving down the road. It was in, I believe Leawood [Okay], which is you know a fairly ritzy neighborhood and the speed limit there its 35 and he said I was going over 50.

LL: Wow. How did the police officer act through the stopped?

C: A little apprehensive. You know, I guess with dark windows he wasn't sure what would be in the car. It was a Ford Thunderbird.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about the officer?

C: Not really. I do remember he was Caucasian. He was fairly big - not the kind of guy I wanted to mess with. That's all I can say.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you reason you were stopped. He said you were doing 50 in a 35 zone.

C: He said over 50.

LL: Over 50.

C: Right!

LL: What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

C: I think because I had tinted windows and a sports car and going through Leawood, that is not a normal car. I expected him...maybe he thought it was drugs.

LL: Okay. Do you happen to remember how you were dressed?

C: T-shirt and jeans.

P34 Int

LL: Now, I wonder in general, do you think the police treat everyone the same?

C: No.

LL: Okay.

C: No, I don't. I think police profile [Okay]. And I'm still on the fence about whether that is good or bad thing. I mean, it has to be done sometimes but not knowing where the line is, I can't decide. I'm not sure how they can.

LL: Do police treat men and women differently?

C: Yes. [Okay]. I've been stopped a long time ago, maybe 20 some years and got a ticket and my wife got stopped and got a warning for basically the same offense.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

C: I think that they are more cordial to older drivers. I can't really speak to it because I look fairly young for my age.

LL; Do you think they treat different races differently?

C: Oh yes! Definitely.

LL: And do you think that people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

C: Yes, not necessarily by a policeman in a traffic stop, but yes, in general.

LL: Is there anything else that you would like to add?

C: No.

LL: Okay.

C: Nothing that I could think of.

LL: All right. Well, thank you very much for your time.

C: You're welcome.

LL: If you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university. And my number there is 785-864-3515

C: 3515. Okay.

LL: Yeah, thank you!

C: Thank you.

LL: Good night!

C: Bye.

PD: 35

Case ID #: 700545
Respondent Name: Scott
Date/Time of Interview: 26 Feb / 7:55
Date of Transcription: 28 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you might think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P35S1 "That was Tough and Take it up with the Prosecutor"

A: The only time I can remember getting stopped was when I was stopped by the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. [Okay]. And it was for a speeding violation. [For a speeding violation?] Yes. [Okay]. And it was in an area in 152 highway that was at the beginning of a construction zone. At that time in the state of Missouri the only time that construction zones' speed limit could be enforced is when there were actually workers present. And they ... but he pulled me over and he, you know, informed I was speeding, you know, going to fast through the construction zone. And I tried to explain to him and he rudely interrupted me and told me that that was tough and take it up with the prosecutor and blah, blah, blah, and that was that. He gave me the ticket and then I went back up there, I came home and I thought ...I live in a small town and I know the police chief very well, so I called him and I told some questions I needed to ask this fellow. So I went back up there and he arrogantly answered my questions but... Because he knew, at this point....Well, I've been talking to the police chief in Weatherby Lake and he told me that I should ask these questions. That's the only reason he answered them. When I started asking him, he told to get in my car and "This is for emergency stopping only, the shoulder, get in your car and leave." So it was not a good experience.

LL: Yeah! What did the officer do when he got out of the car?

A: He just came up and wanted my license and proof of insurance and he said I was going to fast in a construction zone and that how fast did I think I was going or something? He was very, very matter of fact.

LL: Now, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting. Do you remember how you felt and how you responded to the police officer?

A: I was matter of fact with him. I mean, he was matter of fact with me; I was matter of fact with him.

LL: Do you recall how you were driving...

A: He didn't ask to search the car or anything because if he would've I would've refused. [Yeah]. It was all about the ticket. He wasn't interested in anything else.

LL: Okay. Do you recall how you were driving before you were stopped?

A: What do you mean? The signs has gotten up just like a couple of days before [Yeah] and I hadn't noticed them [Right]. They were getting ready for the construction. I used to drive that quite a bit [Yeah]. Of course, they had, you know...it was one of those areas that they purposely, in my opinion... I'm part of the National Motor Association, it was their opinion too, that they had the construction zone way too wide or too long, and that it was ... that the speed limit dropped too much for what they were doing. They were building a bridge on the opposite side of the roadway that was paved and that was used by traffic. And they also had ways of getting construction' vehicles and etc. over to the other side. It was just a bridge.

LL: Okay. Now, how...

A: You asked how I felt. You know, you know I felt, it think like everybody gets pissed off when the police pulls them over, but you know. I don't like the Kansas City Police Department; I don't care for them at all. I did know the chief - he was the husband of a friend of my wife - and I didn't talk to him about or anything but the Kansas City Missouri Police Department's got an awful reputation. It was kind of funny you called the day I watched the News Tonight and the auditor of Kansas City did a study on them on their customer service, et cetera. And you know, their service levels, and the respect of their community for their police department is tanking so, that doesn't surprise me any. [Now...]. It didn't take very long, it was bang, bang, good bye.

LL: Yeah! Do you remember anything in particular about the officer?

A: He was rude. You know, they don't what you say, you know. I asked a couple of questions about the radar and he wouldn't even answer me so, you know, rude. I think they are probably that way to see if you pick a fight with them or something and they can get you on something else. I had a police officer say something...

P35S2 "Private Property"

There was another instance - I didn't get ticketed or anything. I was up at Wal-Mart and I let my wife out, and I was sitting in the car and they had an off-duty police officer up there. Of course, that is private property. And he came back and said that I needed to move my car and I said "Why?" "Because the sign says." "So, it says private property. I'm in, you

know... what?" "Well, you need to look at code such and such and such." I said "Okay, can you give that to me again? I'm gonna go. I'm going to look it up." And I did and I was the city's statutes that had nothing to do with parking. So I made a complaint with, I forgot about that, I made a complaint with the Kansas City Missouri Department that I know... going where... I forgot about that incident. I don't even want to look at that as you know. I didn't... it was private property he didn't have any jurisdiction.

LL: Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. In the instance where you were pulled over in the construction zone, do you remember what you were told?

A: Oh yeah, that I was speeding. Speeding in a construction zone.

LL: And what do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

A: That. That.

LL: Yeah, okay. Do you happen ...

A: I mean,, I think that was fair. You know what they did is that they enlarged that construction zone over the hill so they can catch you know, innocent in the divided highway. What I mean over the hill is not like a 2 lane divided road, it's a 2 lane road that's hilly and all that kind of stuff, relying on sight problems. They ran this construction zone past the bridge and past the hills so they could sit on the other side and get you. Because they did, I noticed, 2 or 3 weeks after that, that they moved the construction zone tighter to the actual construction zone. Because it was over a mile away from where the construction was actually taking place.

LL: Do you remember what vehicle you were driving?

A: My car. My wife's car, the one she normally drives.

LL: And could you describe anything about it?

A: It was just a white Lincoln Town car.

LL: And do you happen to remember how you were dressed that evening?

A: I have no idea. I don't remember. [Yeah]. Very casual.

P35 Int

LL: Now in general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

A: No.

LL: Okay. Do the police treat men and women differently?

A: Yes.

LL: And how does that work in your opinion?

A: I think it depends in the police officer. Generally speaking, I think they do...I used to be mayor in this town, so I used to have responsibilities with the police department and I was on it quite a bit about this issue. I think it boils down to the police officer. [Okay]. I've seen police officers that treat women worse than men and I've seen the other way around.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

A: Definitely. Mostly they treat older drivers better. [And...]. Let me say this they give the older drivers the benefit of the doubt. How does that sounds?

LL: Okay. And do they treat different races differently?

A: You know, there is all kind of that in the news and I don't know.

LL: And do you think that people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

A: In the metropolitan areas probably. I think race is an issue when you get away from the urban areas. See, we are still part of the Kansas City general area [Okay]. I don't think race is such a problem here, if you get out in the middle of nowhere. Income levels? I don't know. I would say maybe. Probably in small towns that maybe an issue but in the bigger cities I don't think so, because . . . how do the police officers know how much you make. Unless he's going to try to base that off the car you are driving. And I'm sure there are some that do that but, I mean just because you drive a Lincoln Town car doesn't mean you are rich. [Yeah]. You could've bought it used, it could've been a gift, it could be leased, it could be all kinds of things.

LL: Now, is there anything else that you want to add?

A: No that I know of.

LL: Well, thank you so much for your time. If you have...

A: Your study. Do you know?

LL: What's that now?

A: What are you finding through your study?

LL: We are basically looking at the relationships between citizens in Kansas City as their...especially in their driving experiences. And how they and police officers relate? So, we are just sort of looking for patterns in the Kansas City area about how those relationships work.

A: You know I always wonder why, you know, when you are driving down the road, that if you have a car that is pulled over, like on the Interstate or state highway, and is Missouri Highway Patrol also, you know, past jurisdiction. They, you know, somebody is having a car trouble or something they'll stop over and help them. You know, Kansas City, if they see you, shoot, they speed up, I think. They don't help anybody. I mean, there have been a number of times that I've even seen that Platte County or our Sheriff department here, and I've even mentioned something to the Sheriff when I was mayor, you know. And I gave him the specific instance, and I even gave him the car number. This guy didn't have his lights on or anything, so I'm sure he wasn't going into a call and he just... there was a citizen in a need, a motor citizen in need and they didn't stop. Why?

LL: And your thought about it was?

A: I'm sorry?

LL: And your thought about was..?

A: I thought it was bullshit, you should've stopped and help this person. I did. And the Sheriff got back with me and told me that he had chatted with his officer and the officer did remember and the officer admitted that he didn't, and the officer got reprimanded. Now, is that a general practice in most police departments? I don't think so. [Yeah]. My general reaction . . . police departments, for the most part, do what they want, and I think the worse thing that I can say about police departments as a general comment is that if you are a police officer and they pull you over and you are a police officer you are a freer person, you are a judge, anyway connected with the court, you can do anything you want to. That's starting to change a little bit, it's still real prevalent that I mean, they have the blue wall, they're not going to do anything to their own. I think that is...and I ... when I was mayor I had ... my police chief and I, we had many chats about this and I told him, I said "I think you are wrong, and I think all you are doing is you're roaring, ... when the public understands this over time, your ...your support from the public will erode." And then we got into ... but it's a problem, a real problem. Other than that, you know, we have good police department here they do reasonably good job where I live. But I drive a lot in Kansas City too. [Yeah]. I've no use for the Kansas City Missouri Police Department.

LL: Anything else?

A: No.

LL: Well, thank you so much. If you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me at the university and my number is 785-864-3515.

A: Okay!

LL: Thanks so much! Have a good night!

A: Bye

LL: Bye.

PD: 36

Case ID #: 801914
Respondent Name: Kenneth
Date/Time of Interview: 18 May / 6:25
Date of Transcription: 26 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: Black
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Safe
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you could think back over one time you were stopped by the police while driving. And in your own words would you please describe the experience of being stopped, maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P36S1 "Nobody Move"

S: The last time I was stopped by the police I wasn't free to drive away. Well, anyway! Actually, I wasn't pulled over by the police. I was riding down the street and I saw the police going in the other direction. And I pulled over... I stopped to talk to some friends. And the police came down the street and pulled over where I was, you know.

LL: So you were pulled over on the side of the road, talking to someone?

S: Yea, I had pulled over and gotten out of my car.

LL: Oh, I see. Okay, and he was coming the other direction and turned around?

S: He was going the opposite direction, like in another street, and I came across the interstate and he came back around a block. And he exited. What he did-he stopped and sat down the street for a few minutes and then he came down the street.

LL: I see! And then what happened?

S: And then he was, "Everybody hands up. Give me your ID"-that kind of thing, you know? I mean. [My goodness!]. Now, you know, obviously there was no reason for him to stop because the tags and the registration, it was good on the car, you know.

LL: And your car was stopped?

S: My car was stopped and parked, yeah.

LL: What did the officer do?

S: He asked what was I doing down there with these guys. I mean, these guys are guys I grew up with. You know what I mean? It wasn't a drug area, nothing like that. It was just like six black guys standing, you know, in front of a house.

LL: Do you remember what he did when he first got out the car?

S: He got out of the car with his hand on his pistol. And he said, "Nobody move!" One hand on his pistol and the other one pointing, "Nobody moves!"

LL: Well...You know, getting pulled over by the police can be upsetting anyway. So do you remember how you felt? How you responded to this police officer?

S: Well, I mean, you know, I'm not afraid of the police, per se, but you know, but I know where I live. I know who I am. I know where I live. You know what I mean? So, it's become so commonplace, you know, that I don't trip. Also, because I know, you know...I just know what I know. You know what I mean?

LL: Do you recall how you were driving just before you pulled over?

S: Yeah, yeah. I was driving the speed limit. I pulled up to the stop sign, stopped and crossed the intersection and you know, looked left or right, and as I was crossing the intersection he was going down kind of on the other street, you know. I looked at him, he looked at me, you know. I guess he figured that was challenging and he came back around the block.

LL: Wow. How did the police officer act throughout the stop?

S: Well, you know. He asked everybody, you know, everybody that I was with, you know. We all have jobs, and all that, you know what I mean? We were not actually doing anything illegal, so you know. The way I look at it, you know, I feel like he was trying to do his job, but you know he was doing a little profile whatever it was, whatever it is, you know. At the same time, you know, more than certain amounts of people are standing around talking, you know. It had to be something going on. You know what I mean?

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about him?

S: Yes, he was a young white guy. You know, I wouldn't... I guess he is not a rookie because he was in the car by himself. I mean, you know. And then, you know, I did have an old traffic warrant. And he pulled me in the car, all right? And had all my ID, and my money and stuff and it were all sitting on top of the car, and then he got a call. You'd listen to the radio while he was running my ID and all this stuff, you know. The radio was on and like there was a high speed chase, maybe like two blocks away. Yeah, so he just starts the car and takes off with all my stuff on top of the car. And all that stuff just flew out on the street. And I told him "Hold up." You know, "I'm not going on no high speed chase with you." You know. [My goodness!]. You know, but you know he went anyway. [Oh my gosh!] Yeah. [And, so, did you, did you...]. I said "Stop this car; I'm not going on no high speed chase with you." [Oh, my gosh!].

LL: So, did you get your things back?

S: I got most of it back because it was just lucky that it was just sitting on the side of the street and that there were some people around that I knew. They picked my stuff up off the ground.

LL Good grief! Now, police officers are supposed to tell you the reason you were stopped. So you remember what you were told?

S: Just said "It looks suspicious." When I was looking at him going down the street, you know, I always watch car as they're going down the street. You know, that's what you're suppose to do when you get to a stop sign.

LL: What do you think was the real reason you were stopped?

S: A real reason I was stopped? Well, like I said, you know, he went down a block and came back around to the same stop sign I came across. He crossed freely and maybe like three houses down he parked and looked at us. He was sitting there watching to see what me and my friends were doing. So I guess he was surrounded by any kind of reason, you know.

LL: Do you happen to remember what car you were driving?

S: What kind of car I was driving?

LL: Yeah.

S: I was driving a Ford Taurus. An old beater.

LL: Do you happen to remember what you were wearing?

S: Blue jeans, a t-shirt, and tennis shoes.

P36 INT

LL: I wonder in general, do you think that the police treat everyone the same?

S: Well, I've had different experiences with different police officers, you know. Some are just doing their... you know... like I said, you know... As far as traffic stops they, you know, that I ...I got stopped once because my tag had expired or something you know, on my car one time, you know? So I was wrong, but you know. Basically, my experiences, they have treated me, I guess as fair as possible, as fair as they could be. I couldn't talk my way out of going to jail for getting a ticket, you know. That's not his fault. There's a time when I've said, "Come on man, you know, you don't have to write me a ticket." But it all depends how many police there are around, whatever, you know. It just their job, I guess is just a job to them, you know. It is more like an inconvenience to us for them to be out in the street, you know. But that's his job to stop you and take you to jail and lock

you up. That's what they do.

LL: Do you think police treat men and women differently?

S: Sure I do. Sure I do. But that also depends on where you are, too. [Oh, really.] Yeah.

LL: Any thoughts about how that works?

S: What's that? The way they treat women and men?

LL: Yeah.

S: Yeah, I mean if you ... either a man or a woman, if you are in a bad area they are going to treat you like that. You're automatically a suspect, a drug suspect or whatever is going on on that corner or in that area, you know what I mean? If you are out in Overland Park you know, you know-you just know this is not really most times, you know. You're just coming from the store or something like that, you know, but are in Overland Park. They don't handcuff people. Because I live in Wyandotte County, you know, between my house and most of the neighborhood, the majority of Wyandotte County there is not a thing, you know. You are more likely they are going to suspect you of doing something or doing some kind of drug or selling drugs, using drugs, you know, carrying drugs, whatever. You know, they just look for an excuse to go up to your car.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers?

S: Well, older drivers, they don't bother older drivers as much they do young people. Because they figure they are just older people; they are not doing things.

LL: Yeah. Do they treat different races differently?

S: Yeah. Well, well not... even down here because I've seen them stop white people down here, down here in this area, you know, which, this may sound prejudiced, but nine times out of ten if you see somebody down here with a Platte County tag or Johnson County tag or something like that, you know they are here to buy drugs. [Oh I see], you know. More than likely they are, you know.

LL: So, you think that the police maybe stopping people from other...

S: But the police will stop them and tell them what are they down here, you know, take them to a hospital. "You are not here to buy drugs," you know and blah, blah, blah. You know then, they tell them, "Well, get out here don't let me see you down here any more." Which, they might have a pound of dope in the trunk, you know what I mean?

LL: And they might get away with it?

S: And they just say "Get out of here." You know.

LL: Do you think people with more money are treated differently than those with little money?

S: Well, you know those people down here that drive all over with their pickup like they have plenty of money, and there are people down here that drive brand new Cadillacs and they have no money, so you can't make that distinction, you know. But that depends on where you are, too. [Really!]. You know, if you saw some young black kid in an old beat up Chevy or something riding it in Leawood or somewhere where they have a little money somewhere out there. You know the police would stop him and ask him, "What are you doing out here, boy?" You know what I mean, or, "Why are you out here?" You know, especially if the tags don't match up of where he's supposed to be. If he has Wyandotte County tags on his car, "What are you doing all the way out here?" You know. Yeah, that happens all the time. This is Kansas; this happens all the time.

LL: Is there anything else that you've observed that you would want to add?

S: No, no really. It is just a normal thing, or normal for black people anyway. Or black males anyways. Now there is a theory that I have, that I do have, down here in where I live. A lot of time when people have accidents out here, you know, if they have an accident, one of these young guys out here, the young guy takes off; you know, like hit and run. We have a lot of hit and runs down here, you know. But the reason for that is because half of these guys don't have licenses or insurance on their cars. So, a lot of times a cop, if he just wants to bother you, he'll take a chance of stopping you, you know with the chance to say... you know, there is a fifty-fifty chance or sixty-forty percent chance that, if I stop this young guy in this old car, you know, I bet he doesn't have all his paper work together. Either he doesn't have a license, or he doesn't have the registration, or that he has switched tags on the car or he doesn't have any insurance on the car. So that'll give you probable cause. If they stopped you without any probable cause, but by the time he gets through, he'll have a probable cause.

LL: So that happens quite a bit then, too?

S: Yeah, it happens quite a lot. You know that's why there are so many high speed chases out here. A lot of those out here.

LL: I guess, it's a good thing they didn't end up taking you in a high speed chase. I'm glad that worked out well...

S: I quit that a long time ago.

LL: Yeah, that wouldn't have been a lot of fun.

S: It's fun if you get away. But only after you get away.

LL: Yeah.

S: I mean, I'm not angel, but you know. But I know what is right and what is wrong. I know when I'm right, and I know when he is wrong. And I know when he is right, and I know when I'm wrong. You know, I don't make excuses for everything I do or that I ever did. You know, especially when it comes to the police, you know. They have a job to do, you

know, and I guess they do their best of their abilities, but sometimes they get a little over themselves, you know. Some of them have quotas or things like that, and I know they do. They can't tell you don't have quotas, you know. What, when they get out there and they are bored, they want to harass somebody. There used to be a cop down here that used to play...use his loud speakers and play rap songs riding down the street. The guys are out there selling drugs and stuff, and he would turn the PA system in his car and put in a tape and play this loud music.

LL: Do you know why he did that?

S: Because he, you know, let these guys know that ...the name of the song was "I Am the Man." And you know, it's a rap song; I think it's by Nelly or something. But anyway, he'd play that song and let this guys know that he is there, and you know, that they think they are running it, but he is the police and run and he is running everything alright. [Strange]. I have seen them do a lot of things out here, you know. When I say, you know, some guys I know, you know that do wrong...sell drugs or whatever, you know they look at it like this, you know: the policeman job's is to try to lock him up, you know, and their job is to try to sell dope and to try to stay away from the police. That's just the way it is down here. Everybody got their job to do.

LL: Well, is there anything else that you would want to add?

S: No, that'd be all.

LL: Well, thank you so much for you time.

S: Okay.

LL: If you have any questions about the research, you can fell free to contact me at the university. And my number there is 785...

S: Okay, let me write that down.

LL: Okay.

S: 785?

LL: 864-

S: 864-

LL: 3515

S: 3515. And your name is Laura

LL: My name is Laura.

S: Okay.

LL: You have a good evening!

S: You too, Laura.

LL: Thanks!

PD: 37

Case ID #: 802186
Respondent Name: Todd
Date/Time of Interview: 21 Feb / 6:15
Date of Transcription: 22 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Male
Driving behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: I wonder if you may think back over a time that you were stopped by the police while you were driving, and in your own words, would you please describe the experience of being stopped. Maybe starting from the moment you realized you were being pulled over to when you were free to drive away.

P37S1 "Seven Times in Two Months"

C: Okay. Let's see. Well, is there any particular criteria that it has to meet? I've been pulled over by a Highway Patrolman, but I've also been pulled over by local cops. And the experience is much different. Was there anything in particular that you are going after?

LL: No, if you wanted you could talk about one of each or which ever one is on the top of your mind, and compare them. It's up to you!

C: Recently - just kind of a weird stat - when I got pulled over seven times by the police in 2 months [Oh, my goodness]. I only got 2 tickets. Well, let me think. Well, there was one day that I was going through a construction zone and I was doing about 65. And it was a speed trap set up by the local Highway Patrol. And turned the corner and saw about 8 people pulled over, you know. And sure enough, it was the 55 miles per hour zone. Sure enough - that an officer came up behind me and pulled me over and he was very professional. He approached me and told me how fast I was going. I just kind of agreed with him, but I was wearing my seatbelt so there wasn't any additional issue regarding that. And I just gave him my info. He wrote me the ticket. He was very professional, very nice. And I drove away. Now, is your survey regarding the total experience of it?

P37S2 "Going to Court"

Because in that period, when I got pulled over several times. I noticed that the court thing was also very different. When I went to court for my Highway Patrol ticket, the judge was very professional, kind of relaxed. He got everyone organized very quickly. You know, everyone form this line, and everyone form this line. He dealt with what

could be dealt with very fast. He sorted everyone into their respective groups. And he was very helpful in addressing it. I personally don't like to have tickets on my record, so if ever possible I have them amended. And I approached him and said "can I have this amended?" and he actually kind of laughed about it. Because I was doing 65 in a 55. However, the officer, I think it was mainly..., for lack of a better term, fundraising. He just wrote it down to 60. 5 over. And he said here you go. Here is your court date. I never mail tickets in. I just always want to be absolutely sure that is not going to be on record as a moving violation. And the judge kind of laughed about it. And I think that the officer that pulled me over neglected to write down that it was in a construction zone [Oh, that worked out]. So, the judge was like "wow, how about you just take court cost." And he sent me on my way without actually charging me for a non-moving. So I paid the court cost and that was that. And it was very simple, very quick. Much less than an inconvenience. Let's see.

P37S3 "Three Officers Surrounded My Vehicle"

In that same time period I was pulled over by a local cop. Now, that was a totally different experience. I was coming over a hill and I saw a patrol car coming on the opposite direction. And I looked; the speed limit was 30 or 35. And I was doing, maybe 10 over. But I was actually going with the flow of traffic. But I drive a very conspicuous car. I drive a 1977 El Camino [OK]. It's red and white and sounds horrible. It runs great but it sounds horrible. And I knew that I was speeding, so I slowed down when I saw them. I was at a right turn, I looked behind me, and I saw their car about 3 or 4 blocks past me still going in the opposite direction. I took my right hand turn and stopped at a stoplight. And it had to be less than 15 seconds later; a police car pulls right behind me. And I assume it was the same car I saw coming, which strikes me as weird because of how fast they would have to travel to get to me.

And mid-way through the left-hand turn they turned their lights. And pulled me over, and I stopped, and I was left to sit in my car for about 5 minutes while they sat there on their radios. I was just kind of like "OK, interesting." During that time period I had some issues with my registration. I couldn't get my sticker to stay. So I had the registration actually sitting in my car with me. And the officer came up, well all 3 of the officers. There were 3 of them in this car. And they came out surrounded my vehicle and [Oh my] the guy was like "Do you know how fast you were going? Do you know why we pulled you over?" I was like "I was speeding a little bit." And he told me that I was going nearly 50 and didn't believe it but I wasn't going to argue with him because saw very much like they were just wanting to bust someone for something. He demanded my license and registration. Well, he demanded my license and I volunteered my registration. I said "here is my car registration; I know the one on the back is old, and this is what happens - it won't stick. I can't get it." And he just went "OK, let me see your proof of insurance." So I grabbed the proof of insurance out of the glove compartment and gave it to him and they went back to their patrol car.

And I sat there for...it had to been for 15 to 20 minutes, while they apparently called in every single thing they could on me [Oh my]. I truly felt that they were just looking to arrest someone or looking to nail someone for something. So, I don't quite get it. Because it took so long and they were rather rude. They didn't seem exciding in

professional. After that the officer that approached me initially went back to the car, one of the accompany officers that was cramped into his car, approached me and “do you know why did we pulled you over? And didn’t you see us?” and I was like “I saw you and I slowed down, you know, I was going with the flow of traffic.” But it’s a little hard, you know, when you drive an old, you know...when you drive a conspicuous car.

And what ended up happening was that after 15 to 20 minutes all 3 came out of their little vehicle, walked back up to me and the officer that initially approached me gave me my license, handed me my registration and then said “your insurance is out of date you have to go to court.” And he walked off. I’d handed him an out-dated prove of insurance, and I have the most current in my glove compartment-box, [Oh yeah] but he didn’t give me the time of day to at least show it to him [Oh my]. And he was just rude, somewhat disrespectful.

And you know, I’m a guy and in my early 20s I think I might have been wearing my jacket. I have a letter jacket, which is just, I guess, from long ago that has personal value but it does make me look kind of like, I don’t know, like a miscreant. So, I think that in that instance, all 3 of the officers that approached me were kind of brutish, they were kind of ...They just didn’t seem to really be interested in a public safety so much as something that happened for the wrong kind of amusement. Ego-trip, perhaps is a better way to say it. Let’s see. I was also wearing my seatbelt, actually every time I’ve been pulled over recently I’ve been wearing my seatbelt, that is because about 2 years ago I got in a car accident, I wasn’t, not because I chose not to, but the equipment did work in the vehicle I was in. And I had migraines for a year and a half [Oh man]. So, yeah [That’s really rough]. I’ve learned my lesson. My passenger, she did have a working seatbelt, and never stopped for anything.

In that instance, it was kind of horrible. I walked away feeling, drove away rather, feeling that they weren’t really interested in anything but being...doing their own amusing games, so I’m not quite sure. And when I went to court for that ticket, it was a different court because city and Highway Patrol are kept to different . . . I don’t know, different court houses. The judge in that instance didn’t have a very strong grasp of how to expedite the process. He didn’t organize us in categories. He didn’t really provide adequate direction to people, because there were a lot of people that they just showed up and they needed an extension, but he made them wait. Or a lot of people, they wanted to contest or people wanted to get it amended, like I did. I’ve gotten used to waiting because for the highway patrol, I’ve gotten few tickets, one or two when I first was learning how to drive, and then recently that whole stop of... whatever happened then. And, so I know the process. I know that because they get my tickets amended I will be there longer than most people. But when I was there the guy, the judge` he would call someone up, ask them what they needed and then give them individual direction and either have them sit down or deal with them. And even after that happened, going to the treasurer took forever.

They have 3 treasurers on duty and it just took a considerable amount of time just to get through the line. They were just... I’m not quite sure how to describe this. They just were exceedingly slow; they didn’t have any records on hand. Everything they had to go to an external room to get. They didn’t have a very organized set up. And so, my

experiences with city cops have been fairly bad.

P37S4 "Total Equipment Failure"

In that same period I had a total equipment failure, regarding my taillights. One of the taillights on the driver's side. First of the equipment totally failed and then after that was replaced the light bolt broke. I mean, not the equipment, but the wiring failed and the brackets that hold the whole in closure just, I think that after of years of abuse, kind of gave up. And then a week or so later a light bolt went out. So, I got pulled over 3 times, I think for the very reasons regarding that. I was pulled over the first time in an outlying county. In Johnson County - you are familiar with the area? I got pulled over off Neiman and the officer that pulled me over, he just...he pulled me over and said "Do you know why I'm pulling you over?" I'm like "No." And he is like "Well your taillight is out." Because I knew I wasn't doing anything wrong and I was wearing my seatbelt and that was all set up driving properly. So my taillight was out, and so he wrote a citation and he said "you have to get that fix, because that is a hazard." And the whole process took less than 5 minutes. And even when he approached my car he was like "hey your registration is not current." And that point of time I didn't have my registration at the car - that was the first time I got pulled over. And I said "I know is not current, I just couldn't get the sticker to stay." And he said "let me go and double check that." So he double checked and he ended with the process of running my registration making sure I was current. It took him less time than it did for this officer who I explained everything to [That's strange]. Yeah.

LL: That case was really strange.. In the first case that you described where you were pulled over by the Highway Patrol. Do you remember what the officer said when he came up?

C: I don't recall specifics. [Sure]. I do believe ... I . . . if anything, he was cordial, but what I expected or what I can remember. . . nothing stands out. So, I assume he just walked up and said "you were speeding," or ... he was very polite about it. There were no alarms ever associated with a specific memory.

LL: Sure. Do you remember how you felt, or how you responded to that officer?

C: I just kind of... cordial. I understand that he has a job to do and I was breaking the law. So, I was 'happy-go-lucky' about it. I was like "so you need this, all right!" I tried to be as polite as possible, because it helps in any situation [Sure]. Yeah, I think that was about it.

LL: Do you remember anything in particular about the officer?

C: No, I do feel like maybe, perhaps he had some misconceptions about me, because I work at Wal-Mart, so I had my Wal-Mart vest next to my, but I also carry my niece's picture in my wallet, which. in the process of getting to my license, I ended up flashing it to him. So he assumed that I was a young father that works at a dead end job [Oh yeah]. So, some may have been more linear. Even with the officers that were really rude to me, the exact same situation presented itself and they saw that, they have an equal opportunity to see my vest and to see the picture of my niece.

LL: Yeah, so kind of a different outcome in these 2 cases. Do you remember anything about what

the officers did or said on that second case?

C: In the second one they just were very kind of rough towards me. The guy approached me and he didn't seem interested in what I have to say about, you know, why I was speeding or why my proof of insurance wasn't current [The right one], because he didn't care to check. He simply just dismissed it and let go.

LL: Do you remember, I mean, that had to be kind of upsetting with them acting that way. Do you remember how you felt and responded to those officers?

C: Well, because I felt under the gun, because I believed they were actually trying to take me in. I tried to be as cooperative as possible. I tried to approach all members of law enforcement the same regardless of whether or not... regardless of how they are treating me. And there is nothing that I recall having done that was different in terms of major actions with them or the other officers that I've dealt with.

LL: What do you think was the real reason you were stopped in that second case?

C: It was a Tuesday morning, I think. It was relatively early morning, say 8 or 9. I was rough, I was unshaven, my hair was a mess because I've come from my girl friend's house and we hadn't integrated our lives at that point to where I had actual stuff to make myself cleaned up from her house. I was just kind of rough and raw. I had jacket on and had my car making a lot of noises. I feel that the 3 officers that were there were looking for someone that would maybe put up a fight. And I think that I kind of match whatever image they were hoping that I would have.

P37 Int

LL: So, I am wondering in general, about your thoughts. Do you think that the police in general treats everyone the same?

C: I don't. I don't think that they treat everyone the same at all [Okay]. Well, let me ... I think that highway patrolmen treat more fairly, more universally the same. But I think that city cops are, it depends upon the area and depends on the car you are driving, how you are dressed, your race or ethnicity. As much as we like to think that stereotyping and racial profiling don't exist, I think "Yes they do." I am a white person but I have seen first hand racial profiling among local cops. I have seen different reactions from officers. You know, depending in who is there. So, I'm not quite sure how to really describe that.

LL: How about men and women?

C: I think they do treat separately. And men and woman are also subject to their own individual stereotypes and what not. A guy wearing suit is going to get a different reaction than a woman wearing a power suit. A guy wearing a suit, they're kind of joke around within, you know, be... I'm not quite sure how to describe it. They're gonna be more guy like with him if it is a male officer. And if it is a female in a suit they are going to be more humble because she would project the image of power. I've quite a few female friends that have said that if they are dress flirty, officers would be rude to them. If they're

dress really professional officers would be really humble and not rude. But if they kind of have a 'school girl' or 'the girl next door' type of images, I've of several instances where they've been, well sexist [The officers have been?] Yeah. And that's not pertaining specifically to the local cops. It's jut kind of a generalized thing from all of my experiences [Yeah]. I've got a few friends that I know over the internet that actually live in New York City that have said that local cops have refused to help them unless they show them their breast [My goodness]. Like "I'm sorry 'What!" You know.

Regarding my personal experiences I think the police in Wyandotte County tend to have, I don't want to make a personal observation about them, but a lot of them tend to compensate for whatever they are lacking through their profession. A few years ago I was robbed at gun point [Oh my]. The responding officer's first word when he saw me were "You don't look like you've just been robbed." And it was like "What?" You know, it is an extremely rude thing to say to someone who has just undergone a traumatic event [Sure]. And you know, I've seen other officers that have been very caring and very . . . I don't know . . . that have approached people differently.

And that all depends upon the officer; depends upon their sex - because men and women approach things differently. Unfortunately, it is a blow to my sex but the female officers around this area tend to approach things with a more level head and they tend not to have this "if you move sir I'm going to kick your ass" approach. They are interested in figuring out problems and helping people and at least serving what has to get done, as opposed to just kind of having fun. And that's to this area Wyandotte County.

It's been my experience in Johnson County that the local cops are a lot more level-headed and above all the Highway Patrolmen are the most. And I think, maybe, it has to do with their job as well, and people they have to deal with. But I think that a lot of them don't know how to treat everyone differently.

Because they should treat everyone the same but they have to approach situations differently. And if it's just a single guy that has been totally cooperative in his car, they shouldn't be brutish and they shouldn't make him feel like a suspect. I've been in the same situation a few times and each time has been different.

I was once pulled over. I was in a neighborhood that wasn't familiar with in Missouri, near Avila. And I was speeding, that's just because I didn't know the speed limit, and got pulled over by an officer. He approached me. At first he seems kind of rough around the edges, but as soon that I made it clear that I was just a hapless person that was lost and didn't know the local law. You know, he kind of lightened up and was friendly towards me [Yeah]. Even went as far as not to write a ticket, then helped me get pointed back in the right direction. I was going to take a route that was going to take me about 15 miles to get to a highway. And he was like "oh, there is one 2 blocks that way." You know [So, he was a lot more helpful...] Yea. [after that]. After we established the fact that I wasn't going to trying to drive off or something.

LL: Well, that's really interesting. Is there anything else that you would want to add?

C: No, nothing specific really comes to mind. Let me think. I'm just trying to recall all that have talked about and my overall impression of the police, of the local police in this area is that they are more often than not brutish and short. They don't have that much time to care about people and they are not really interested.

And it hasn't struck me that they're interested so much in enforcing blind justice, as much as they are interested in enforcing their own type of justice. Highway Patrolman, they are more level-headed, they're more fair, in my opinion. They're willing to listen and willing to talk to people. I would say that, maybe from Johnson County, depending upon which one, because I've known a few from the various jobs I've worked over there. I used to work in a movie theater, so I encounter few on an everyday basis. Some of them did use their job as an extension of their manhood. It should give them that power that they, more or less, lack. And some of them just aren't interested in helping people. So, it's kind of a mix over there. Yeah, so I think that's about it.

LL: That's an interesting prospective and interesting way of thinking about different parts of the city and different types of police organizations. Well, thank you very much for your time, and if you have any questions about the research you can feel free to contact me and the university and the number there is 785-864-3115.

C: OK. So, will you guys ever be publishing that, I guess, a generalized synopsis of your research?

LL: Yea, we will. We don't have all the publications details yet, since the study is still being conducted but it will be eventually publish. Although, as I told you at the beginning, all the answers for the respondents will be completely anonymous and confidential. So, it may be something if you are interested to keep your eyes out.

C: Yes, I'm interested.

LL: Anyways, thanks again for your time and have a great evening.

C: You too.

LL: Bye, bye.

PD: 38

Case ID#: 805342
Respondent Name: Laura
Date/Time of Interview: 22 March/ 7:20
Date of Transcription: 20 Aug 05
Interviewer Name: Laura L_L
Transcriber Name: Laura L_L
Race: White
Gender: Female
Driving Behavior: Risky
Age: 26-49

Comments made by interviewer are in [square brackets].

LL: Okay. I wonder if may just think back over one time that you were stopped by the police while driving And in your own words could you describe the experience of being stopped, you may start from the moment that you realized that you were being pulled over to the moment when you were free to drive away?

P38S1 "Headlight Out"

L: The last time I could think of, I had a light out [Okay]. And he pulled me over in Leavenworth, I believe, and he came up to the car. I had already known that I had the headlight out. So I told him that I knew, and he asked if I was getting it fixed. And I had an appointment that Monday, and he checked my driver's license and he came back and said that, you know, just to make sure I would get it fixed. And told him "Thank you." And he let me go.

LL: What did he do after you first saw his lights and you pulled over? Do you remember anything specific about what he did or any of his actions his actions?

L: Not really. It was a couple of minutes, you know, like he was doing something in his car and then he came up to the car, shined his light, you know, kind of in [into the car?] yeah. Other than that... He just [Just spoke to you] asked me if I knew that I had a headlight out.

LL: Okay. Now, I know that for many people, getting pulled over by the police - it could be kind of upsetting. Do you remember how you felt when you first saw that you were being pulled over and how you responded when he walked up?

L: Right before he pulled me over I'm like, "Oh shit.... I am going to get a ticket." But other than that, no I never had. There was one police officer before that, that I've actually gotten a ticket, and he was... not really rude but he wasn't going to let me go. But I have never had a bad experience. I am sure that other people have.

LL: In the time that you were pulled over for the headlight being out. Do you remember anything particular about the officer? Could you describe anything about him?

L: He was good looking.

XX: Voice in the background: He must have thought that you were too...

L: No, this is in Leavenworth. Inside Leavenworth. And he was good looking he was very polite [Okay]. Other than that. No, not really anything. I mean, I remember making a comment to my mother-in-law that he was good looking [So she was on the car with you] and I happened to be talking on the phone with my son and he heard me say it, but no other than that, he was really pleasant and understanding 'cause... you know, I said "I know I had a headlight out." And ones recognize that I knew what I was doing, you know, that I had a headlight out he really didn't have a problem.

LL: So you said he overheard you telling your son that he was good looking?

L: No my son overheard me telling my mother-in-law that was with me. [I see, Okay] No, other than that...No, there was nothing that really stood out from him.

LL: So a pretty routine kind of stop.

L: Yeah!

LL: Now, I wonder maybe if we could go back to that experience previously that you brought up when you said that the officer was more difficult to deal with. Could you describe anything about that experience of being stopped or what happened on that case?

P38S2 "Military ID"

L: Well, I thought that the speed limit on that time was 65. We were on Missouri, and I live in Kansas and we thought it was 65, of course, you know it's only 55 through there. I was with my mother. He pulled over. He was more strict. I guess you would call it. And a lot of time, I've gotta be honest be with you, I can show my military ID, for example, and I get out of a ticket. [Oh, okay] But this time he was like, "no." And I told him that, you know, I really did think that it was 65 through there and I was doing 70. And he did write the ticket to where I was doing 65, though, instead of 70. [Okay]. Because of course, it would have been a lot more, you know, a lot higher. So he did give me a break, as far as that goes. He wasn't as pleasant as the first guy, the good-looking guy. But I couldn't get myself out of that one.

LL: I see. What did that officer do when he first pulled you over and got out the car and came up to you?

L: He asked me if I knew that I was speeding. And I said: "no I didn't" and I said: "it's 65 through here and I was doing, not quite 70." And he said: "No, it's only 55." And he said "in Missouri is only 55 on 2 lane highway" [Oh really]. And I didn't know that. And he was kind of hateful on that part but . . . And he said "No, you are in Missouri, it's only 55 on 2 lane highways in Missouri." And I said: "I'm sorry, I didn't realize that because I live in Kansas." And he then took my license and my registration and all that and went back to

the car, and was back there a little longer than the other cop, but when he came back he just gave me the ticket and told me to slow down.

LL: Now, you said he was kind of either strict or maybe a little hateful. Was there anything he said or was it something he did or his voice? What conveyed that feeling?

L: Well, when I let him know, you know, I said that "I didn't know that." He said "Well it is." He wasn't as pleasant as the other gentleman.

LL: So it was maybe his tone?

L: His tone - yeah! He kind of acted like he ... I had told him that I didn't realize it was only 55 through there. When I said, he made the comment: "No it's 55 on all 2 lane highways in Missouri." And kind of said it like that in an unpleasant way. Yeah. But other than that. He didn't smile or anything. [Oh my] So, yeah. He did enjoy writing that ticket. [He expressed some kind of happiness about that]. Not I thought that he shouldn't have giving me a ticket but he could've come across a little...oh well no you know: "Just tried to slow down," you know. He just handed me the ticket at the end. And I don't know. . . He just wasn't as pleasant as any other time I've ever had. And that was in Missouri.

LL: Now, Do you remember when you first saw him coming right behind you and the lights are flashing, how you felt?

L: About the same way I felt the first time. I am like: "Oh no, I'm going to get a ticket."

LL: Do you recall thinking at that time when you thought, "Oh no I'm going to get a ticket," do you remember thinking anything why would you get the ticket or anything like that? Did you have any idea about ...

L: Not, no really. I just assumed that I had a light out, because, like I said, at the time I really thought I was going just above the speed limit. And I didn't feel intimidated or anything or scared. It was more like, "what was going on?" But I was kind of curious to see why he was pulling me over. Mainly it was just ... I thought maybe one of my taillights was out, or my headlights were out. Until he told me that I was speeding I didn't know I was speeding. So.

LL: Do you remember anything particular about the officer? Could you describe anything about him?

L: He was probably middle-aged. He was probably in his 40s and like I said he wasn't very pleasant. He was more direct than the other gentleman. He had no... how can I say this? He didn't chit chat as much as the other guy. You know he wasn't... I don't know...he wasn't all around as pleasant as the other gentleman. He is the first cop that I've ever ran into that wasn't pleasant. I mean, he wasn't mean but he was straight to the point, you know, "You were speeding." And of course, I made the comment that I didn't know. And he was "well you know that is always 55 in 2 lane highways." Other than that, you know, he wasn't pleasant at all. He didn't snap at me or anything or wasn't mean, mean, but he was not... I don't know. I think he thought that maybe I was going to get mad,

that is the impression I got. That once he told me that it was only 55 in Missouri on 2 lanes highways. I got the impression that he thought I was going to come back with, you know, something like: "N, it's not" or "I wasn't speeding" or ... And I didn't. I just told him I didn't know I was speeding. And I got the impression that he was ready for an argument and I just didn't give him one.

LL: So, do you feel like that affected how he responded from that point forward when you just were pretty low key?

L: Yes, he wasn't as tense, it seemed like. Once he came back after that. Because that is when he took my license and stuff and went back to his car. And when he came back up to the car he didn't seem as negative as he was before, because, of course, he didn't get the negativity from me. You know, that he might've expected. He expected me, you know, to say that I wasn't speeding and he didn't get that reaction from me. So when he did come back from the car he wasn't as unpleasant. I think if I would've said something like that, he would've ... He was ready for an argument.

LL: Now he told you that the reason he pulled you over was for doing over 55. Did you feel that that was a sufficient explanation for why he'd pulled you over? Did you feel that he gave you a good explanation?

L: Yeah. Because I was doing 70 [Okay] in a 55.

LL: Now, I wonder in general if you feel that the police treat everyone the same.

L: No [Okay]. There is too much evidence for me to see on the TV, and I've had friends and family that have told me that they have run across a cop that just...is unreal. That they are total asshole. They're just not as... I think that they think that they are over... They have the right because they have that batch to treat people like crap. So, I believe that there are cops that are like that. Yes

XX: Person on the background: 2 out of 10

P38 Int

LL: Now, you've said that sometimes you will show your military ID. How do you think that affects your interaction with the police?

L: I can tell you, mine sometimes makes a difference, not very often. But my husband has gotten out of many, many, many tickets [Really?] Yes.

LL: Now, why do you think that that is influential?

L: Because they look at it like he is serving his country [Okay], good point, I can see that but ... Of course I don't have to pay the ticket so I'm not going to argue with that but if you get legally and technically is not right, no - and he is my husband. And I still will not agree with that, but it does make a difference. Not always. He has gotten a couple of tickets, but in general, I would say 90% of the time he gets out of tickets when he gets stopped.

[Interesting]. Yeah.

LL: Do you think that police treat men and women differently?

L: I would imagine, yeah. I think it all depends on the reaction. Depending on the cop. Depends on the reaction they get from the person from one thing, whether is a female or male. That's my opinion. But I would imagine, yeah, that does happens. Nothing would shock me at this point.

LL: How about older versus younger drivers? Do you think that that has an effect?

L: Yea. I would imagine that there is probably, you know, people out there that are elderly that they get out of tickets. My mother-in-law has cried before. She had no shoes on, she had no prove on insurance, she was speeding in a construction area, and she had no license on her and she cried and got out of a ticket, no - I am sorry. She got out of 6 tickets. So, I mean. . . I would imagine that, you know if a guy started crying they would probably think that he was strange. So, yeah I would imagine that that would happen with the elderly too, even though some of them shouldn't be driving.

LL: How about people of different races?

L: Oh definitely. Yes, definitely. And I'm white, and yes. I would image that I could get stop by a cop and a black person would get stop by the same cop doing the exact same thing and they could...and not all cops... but there are probably cops that do react differently. I do agree that race makes a different. Not always it depends on the area, I believe.

LL: Now, maybe one last question on that line. Do you think people with more money are treated differently than those who don't?

L: Yeah. Yeah, 'cause even if they got a ticket they can get their way out of it. [Okay]. Yeah, not all the time, of course. I'd say 50% of the time. My mom says she'll do the same survey!!! So, yeah, I think that the rich probably get... [Get out sometimes]. Yeah, they probably get out of it, too.

LL: Now, You actually have told us about 2 different experiences: the time with the good-looking cop who told you about the headlight and the time in Missouri, and I wondered, just for our records, if you might happen to remember what car or what kind of car you were driving in each of these two?

L: It was just a Hyundai. Oh well, one time I was driving a Hyundai and that's when I got stopped speeding. And I was driving a minivan when I got stopped for the headlight.

LL: OK. I see. And both about the same year.

L: Yea. They were only ... One was a 2003 and the Caravan is a 2005. They were both red. I don't know if that makes a difference.

LL: Well, we were just getting some information for our records on that. Okay, well I really

appreciate your time. Is there anything else that you would like to add, either about your thoughts or about your experience?

L: No, the only thing that I would probably add is that I believe that a lot of the times, no matter race, whether you are a female or male, elderly, rich, I believe that, a lot of the time, probably 80% or 85% of the time the way people respond to them makes a big difference. But other than that...Cause I think that some people think that by standing there arguing with the cop it's going to get them out of the ticket, when they can just go to court and take care of it. So. [You would think that arguing would probably make it...] it worse [Worse, Okay] Yeah.

LL: Okay. Well, I really appreciate all your time and your thoughts and your willingness to tell your story.

L: No problem!

LL: Thanks have a great evening.

L: You too! Bye, bye.

LL: Bye, bye.