
Are Police Biased? An NLP Approach

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Abstract

1 Researchers have traditionally run regressions on numerical and categorical data to
2 detect police bias and inform decisions about criminal justice. This approach can
3 only control for a limited set of simple features, leaving significant unexplained
4 variation and raising concerns of omitted variable bias. Using a novel dataset of text
5 from more than a million police stops, we propose a new method applying large
6 language models (LLMs) to incorporate textual data into regression analysis of stop
7 outcomes. Our LLM-boosted approach has considerably more explanatory power
8 than traditional methods and substantially changes inferences about police bias on
9 characteristics like gender, race, and ethnicity. It also allows us to investigate what
10 features of police reports best predict stops and how officers differ in their conduct
11 of stops. Incorporating textual data ultimately permits more accurate and more
12 detailed inferences on criminal justice data.

13 1 Introduction

14 Our criminal justice system relies heavily on prediction, from juvenile crime prevention to police
15 positioning and recidivism assessment. Traditionally, these predictions use numerical or categorically
16 coded data. However, the stakes of these predictions are immense, impacting billions of dollars and
17 countless lives.

18 This paper contributes to criminal justice prediction research by employing natural language process-
19 ing (NLP) to utilize textual data more extensively. We analyze data from police stops in Philadelphia,
20 using the full text of police reports to predict contraband discovery during "Terry stops."

21 We compare contraband predictions made with numerical and categorical data to those incorporating
22 text data, focusing on the impact of race. Our findings show that including NLP and text data
23 significantly alters the perceived biases in policing:

- 24 • Without text data: Significant bias against female suspects (-4.62 percentage points, $p =$
25 0.048), in favor of Black suspects (+1.31 percentage points, $p = 0.015$), and near-zero bias
26 against Latino suspects.
- 27 • With text data: Near-zero bias for Black suspects (+0.02 percentage points, $p = 0.952$),
28 reduced anti-female bias (-1.53 percentage points, $p = 0.386$), and increased anti-Latino bias
29 (-1.41 percentage points, $p = 0.010$).

30 These results suggest that text matters significantly in assessing policing bias. Failing to control for
31 text can produce misleading perceptions of bias or lack thereof. Our analysis implies that empirical
32 studies of policing practices should incorporate methods that account for free-form text, potentially
33 challenging earlier findings on bias that omit this crucial data.

34 **2 Background**

35 **2.1 Setting**

36 Our study analyzes data on pedestrian stops conducted by the Philadelphia Police Department
37 between 2014 and 2023. The data were collected in an ongoing monitoring process stemming from
38 the settlement agreement in the case of *NAACP v. City of Philadelphia*.

39 The Philadelphia Police Department provided data from police reports that occur after stops. Certain
40 of the variables—like whether the police had reasonable suspicion for stops and frisks—were
41 manually coded by lawyers as part of the monitoring process, on a randomly selected sample. We
42 supplement the police data with demographic, economic, and crime data from the U.S. Census and
43 the Philadelphia Police Department for additional controls.

44 The randomly selected sample comprises a total of 67,469 pedestrian stops (randomly selected from
45 the full dataset), which served as the primary dataset we studied for this paper. Complete details about
46 the specific variables we consider are below. We intend to conduct additional analysis on the full
47 dataset, which has closer to a million observations, and when necessary will synthetically generate
48 reasonable suspicion variables using fine-tuned large language models (as described below).

49 **2.2 Prior Literature**

50 Contraband discovery rates are an important outcome variable in empirical studies on policing,
51 particularly in studying potential racial bias. Knowles et al. (2001) proposed an “outcome test,”
52 building on earlier work by Becker (1957), under which an unbiased police officer should find
53 contraband on suspects of different races, genders, etc. at equal rates. Different rates of contraband
54 discovery suggest bias insofar as “officers driven by racial prejudice will continue to search minority
55 citizens at higher rates despite finding less contraband” (Tillyer and Klahm, 2011).

56 Studies conducted on this theoretical foundation have had mixed results. Some research has found no
57 evidence of bias, with statistically equivalent contraband discovery rates between Black and White
58 citizens (Knowles et al., 2001; Persico and Todd, 2006; Hernandez-Murillo and Knowles, 2004).
59 However, other studies have found lower contraband discovery rates for minority citizens, suggesting
60 potential bias in search practices (Engel and Johnson, 2006; Ridgeway, 2007). Tillyer and Klahm
61 (2011) found that Black citizens were twice as likely as White citizens to be found with contraband
62 in discretionary searches, suggesting reverse bias in favor of Black suspects (at least in discretionary
63 searches; they found equal rates for mandatory searches).

64 Critics have raised concerns about the assumptions and limitations of using contraband discovery
65 rates as evidence of bias. Most prominently, various critics have observed the specter of omitted
66 variable bias—for a variety of reasons, the circumstances of police stops may differ depending on the
67 race of the suspect (Anwar and Fang, 2006; Engel, 2008; Engel and Tillyer, 2008).

68 Police departments often have extensive records of the circumstances of police stops that could
69 in theory be used to mitigate omitted variable bias. However, police records are natural language
70 not easily converted to structured data. This article addresses this issue by using natural language
71 processing, specifically large language models (LLMs), to incorporate natural language data in
72 statistical analysis of contraband discovery.

73 **3 Data and Methodology**

74 **3.1 Data**

75 Our data come from the Philadelphia Police Department and describe pedestrian police stops and
76 frisks from the years 2016 to 2023. Our sample of 67,469 total observations was randomly selected
77 from over a million stops in this time period. A large number of variables are available, including
78 information on outcomes, subjects, officers, and importantly, free text data. Table 1 includes summary
79 statistics on a selection of the variables.

80 The data include information on whether a subject was arrested, an individual was frisked, whether
81 contraband was discovered, and whether there was reasonable suspicion for the stop or the frisk.
82 There is also information on the type of contraband recovered, including whether it was a gun or

83 other weapon, drugs or something else. There is a great deal of data about the subject, including
84 several variables about individual appearance, race, gender, age, and Latino status.

85 There is information about the location and time of the stop as well as identifiers for the officer and
86 partner making the stop. We code location based on the Police Service Area (PSA) in which the stop
87 was made. Crucially, there is a detailed free-text narrative by the police officer explaining the reason
88 for the stop, which is intended to convey evidence of reasonable suspicion. The same information is
89 also available for a frisk if one was made.

90 Table 1 contains summary statistics for each of the data we used in our analysis.

91 3.2 Methods

92 Applying related research that one of us is currently conducting, we use a new method to incorporate
93 natural language in causal inference by leveraging predictions generated from a fine-tuned large
94 language model (LLM). Specifically, we fine-tune an LLM to generate direct predictions of the
95 outcome variable, which are then used as an additional control in OLS regression.

96 Mathematically, a conventional OLS regression would take the form:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta^T \mathbf{X}_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (1)$$

97 Where Y_i is the dependent variable for observation i , β_0 is the intercept term, β is a $k \times 1$ vector
98 of coefficients for the independent variables, \mathbf{X}_i is a $k \times 1$ vector of independent variables for
99 observation i , and ε_i is the error term for observation i .

100 We simply add an additional term to this regression:

$$Y_i = \beta_0 + \beta^T \mathbf{X}_i + \delta P_i^{LLM} + \varepsilon_i \quad (2)$$

101 Where δ is the coefficient for the LLM-predicted probability, and P_i^{LLM} is the predicted probability
102 generated by the fine-tuned LLM for observation i .

103 We generate outcome predictions using Llama 3. Bai et al. (2023) show that transformers can learn
104 various statistical models in context. This suggests that a fine-tuned LLM might theoretically be
105 able to adapt textual inputs to a wide range of functional forms with sufficient training. We fine-tune
106 Llama 3 using LoRA.¹

107 To be specific, we trained Llama 3 to predict whether a suspect was discovered to have contraband
108 using the stop narrative produced by the police officer. Then, once we fine-tuned Llama 3 to predict
109 whether contraband was discovered, we incorporated the predicted probabilities generated by the
110 LLM² as an additional variable in OLS regression. This allows us to analyze the residual variation in
111 our predictive task while relying on OLS assumptions familiar to empirical legal scholars, simply
112 adding an additional control.

113 We calculate the predictive performance of the OLS model, whether incorporating textual predictions
114 or not, by using R-squared statistics as well as Mean Squared Error (MSE), testing MSE by training
115 the OLS model on the training set and then calculating MSE on the test set.

116 Officer descriptions of stop events often include details that might be problematic for our analysis.
117 Many of the descriptions describe demographic variables about the suspect that are already included
118 in the OLS regression (for example, “Male was found...”), risking proxying and collinearity. In
119 addition, many of the descriptions contain details not only of the events leading up to the stop but
120 also the outcome of the stop (for example, “Suspect was released.”). These muddy our predictive
121 exercise, because it is very easy to predict that contraband is retrieved if the police report explicitly
122 says so, which would remove important residual variation from our sample. If we had fine-tuned a
123 model on the original dataset and found that coefficients on variables of interest had decreased, that
124 could merely be a result of excessively detailed description.

125 For the fine-tunes we conducted that included natural language data, we pre-processed the datasets
126 to allay the above concerns. For both datasets, we removed any explicit mention of demographic

¹We use an 80%/20% training/testing split.

²These were straightforwardly generated by exponentiating the LLM’s log probabilities

127 variables of interest from the police reports (for example, replacing “male suspect” with “individual”).
128 Then we generated a version of the dataset redacting any mention of outcomes, and including only
129 the information that would have been available to the office prior to making the stop (for example,
130 simply removing the sentence “Suspect was released.”). All edits to the reports were made using
131 GPT-4o.

132 3.3 Hypotheses

133 Applying the methods described above, we test two different hypotheses in this paper.

134 First, we test the hypothesis that individual characteristics (for example, race and gender) will
135 significantly influence the predicted values of dependent variables. If individual characteristics
136 strongly predict outcomes, that may suggest police bias. As noted above, if Black suspects are less
137 likely to be found with contraband than White suspects, that would suggest that the police are biased
138 against Black suspects (because they are more likely to stop them even when unwarranted). Or, if
139 Black suspects are more likely to be frisked after being stopped compared to White suspects, even
140 holding the stated circumstances of the stop constant, that would again suggest that the police are
141 biased against Black suspects. Thus regression analysis helps to shed light on potential policing
142 biases.

143 Second, we test the hypothesis that text matters. By conducting prediction both with structured data
144 only (excluding textual data) and with all data, including textual data, we can assess how important
145 textual data is in the story and how well regressions conduct *ceteris paribus* analysis absent NLP.
146 This point is important because virtually all analysis to date has occurred using categorical variables
147 generated from textual data, rather than from textual data themselves; if conventional categorical
148 variables are inadequate, that casts doubt on a huge swath of the literature and raises the inclusion of
149 textual data as an important best practice for future work.

150 4 Analysis

151 4.1 Regression Equations and Model Performance

152 We conducted three OLS regressions using structured, non-textual data, and one regression including
153 LLM predictions from textual data as an additional control. The regression equations are presented
154 in Subsection A.3 of the Appendix. Table 2 and Figures 1 and 2 present performance statistics for
155 each of the regressions. They show that R-squared and MSE dramatically improve when adding
156 predictions based on natural language, suggesting that important residual variation is captured when
157 these data are utilized.

158 4.2 Examples of Changed Predictions

159 The inclusion of NLP in our regression analysis led to significant changes in contraband prediction
160 probabilities for individual cases. Here are two illustrative examples:

- 161 • **Example 1:**

162 *Police Report:* “Radio call for a theft in progress ... Individual matched [description and]
163 was observed carrying [stolen items]. Loss prevention officer ... positively identified the
164 suspect as the person who stole the [items].”

165 LPM probability without NLP: -2.494%

LPM probability with NLP: **44.902%**

166 In this case, the NLP model significantly increased the predicted probability of contraband
167 discovery. The detailed description of a theft in progress, along with positive identification
168 by a loss prevention officer, likely contributed to this substantial increase.

- 169 • **Example 2:**

170 *Police Report:* “The suspect was observed by police driving ... and failed to use a right turn
171 signal...”

172 LPM probability without NLP: 39.258%

LPM probability with NLP: **3.186%**

173 Conversely, in this example, the NLP model dramatically decreased the predicted probability
174 of contraband discovery. The report describes a minor traffic violation, which provides
175 an explanation for the stop that makes contraband discovery unlikely (although still not
176 impossible), compared to the pre-NLP model.

177 These examples demonstrate how the inclusion of textual data through NLP can lead to more nuanced
178 and context-aware predictions, correcting for biases or oversimplifications in models relying solely
179 on structured data.

180 **4.3 Main Results**

181 Table 3 and Figures 3, 4, 5, and 6 present the results of the regression analysis. The model including
182 only structured data suggests that female suspects were 4.62 percentage points less likely to be
183 found with contraband than male suspects ($p = 0.048$); Black suspects were 1.31 percentage points
184 more likely to be found with contraband than White suspects ($p = 0.015$); Asian suspects were 1.20
185 percentage points more likely to be found with contraband than White suspects ($p = 0.598$); and
186 Latino suspects were 0.37 percentage points less likely to be found with contraband than non-Latino
187 suspects ($p = 0.607$).

188 Under the conventional literature on contraband discovery, these results suggest strong anti-female
189 bias, moderate pro-Black and pro-Asian bias, and near-zero Latino bias. Only the results regarding
190 anti-female and pro-Black bias were significant at the 95% level.

191 However, when textual data are included in the training and test datasets, coefficient estimates
192 dramatically shift in magnitude. When controlling for textual data, female suspects were only 1.53
193 percentage points less likely to be found with contraband than male suspects ($p = 0.386$); Black
194 suspects were only 0.02 percentage points more likely to be found with contraband than White
195 suspects ($p = 0.952$); Asian suspects were 1.43 percentage points more likely to be found with
196 contraband than White suspects ($p = 0.403$); and Latino suspects were 1.41 percentage points less
197 likely to be found with contraband than non-Latino suspects ($p = 0.010$).

198 This suggests near-zero bias regarding Black suspects, substantially less (and statistically insignifi-
199 cant) bias regarding females versus males, and definite bias against Latino suspects, which is also
200 statistically significant at the 99% level.³

201 In summary, while the models trained only on structured data show a variety of police biases on the
202 demographic variables we tested, the inclusion of free-form textual data dramatically changes those
203 estimates of bias, moving us from an estimate of anti-female and pro-Black bias to an estimate of
204 anti-Latino bias. This suggests that the biases observed with structured data alone may be mitigated
205 or complicated by additional contextual information captured in text.

206 **4.4 Limitations and Robustness Checks**

207 **4.4.1 Biased Police Report Descriptions**

208 Because so much of our analysis relies on descriptions written by police officers who we hypothesize
209 may have bias, a natural concern is that the descriptions themselves exhibit bias. It could be, for
210 example, that when police see a suspect smoking something hand-rolled, they might describe it as
211 “likely tobacco” if the suspect is White and “likely marijuana” if the suspect is Black. Or, to take
212 another example, police might be concerned about being accused of gender bias and therefore devote
213 extra care to making their report sound suspicious when stopping a woman. In either case, bias in
214 natural language descriptions would serve as a confounder in our analysis.

215 We can test this possibility in the OLS regression that incorporates predicted probabilities, by
216 interacting the predicted probability with each of the variables of interest—i.e., generating an
217 interaction between the indicator variable for “Female”, “Black”, etc. with the predicted probabilities.
218 Table 3 shows the results of this analysis. The coefficients on the interactions for female and Black
219 suspects are statistically insignificant ($p = 0.317$ and $p = 0.514$, respectively), the coefficient for Latino
220 suspects is significant at 90% but not 95% ($p = 0.056$), and each of the aforementioned coefficients is

³The bias estimates regarding Asian suspects are similar in magnitude but noisier—in addition, there is the possibility of bias in these estimates, discussed below.

221 near zero in magnitude (-0.1244, -0.0133, and -0.0493, respectively; note that this term is a multiplier
222 against the value of the prediction coefficient which itself has a mean value of 0.075). However, the
223 coefficient for Asian suspects is very significant ($p = 0.000$) and large in magnitude (0.4088).

224 The positive sign on the coefficient for Asian suspects implies that predictions based on police
225 reports alone underestimate the likelihood that Asian suspects will be found to have contraband.
226 Incorporating an NLP control therefore introduces upward bias on the coefficient for Asian suspects—
227 that is, relative to other suspects, the model interprets Asian suspects as having contraband at higher
228 rates by virtue of being Asian rather than by virtue of the omitted variable that causes bias in the
229 police reports. This means that the police may be more biased against Asian suspects than the NLP
230 controls suggest.

231 The fact that this interaction term is significant does not, however, tell us anything about the *cause* of
232 the reporting bias. One possibility is that the police might be reporting facts differently depending on
233 the race of the suspect, making Asians seem less suspicious than suspects of other races *ex post facto*.
234 Alternatively, it might be that police are accurately and evenhandedly reporting facts, but that on the
235 same set of facts Asian suspects are more likely to be carrying contraband.

236 4.4.2 Just-So Reports and Coefficient Attenuation

237 Even if police reports are unbiased, controlling for their content could inappropriately attenuate
238 coefficient estimates in contraband discovery if the police tend to write just-so reports, reshaping the
239 narrative in their police reports after the fact to make the stop seem justifiable.

240 Note that this is not a concern if police merely engage in across-the-board puffery—for example, if
241 the police were always to make events sound 50% more convincing than reality, the fine-tuned LLM
242 would account for this, since its predictions are ultimately rooted in actual contraband results and it
243 would simply discount for the 50% puffery in its predicted probabilities. Because our dataset consists
244 only of cases where stops were made, police have a consistent incentive to give the appearance of
245 reasonable suspicion, which would tend to give rise to level bias controllable by the LLM's training.

246 But the attenuation problem remains when different sorts of stops are differently misreported. Here,
247 too, certain directions of misreporting are less problematic. If police were to take greater care to
248 make stops seem justified when no contraband is ultimately found (because they might think the
249 contraband speaks for itself in cases where it is found), this would simply reduce the predictive power
250 of the model and make it a less effective control. On the other hand, if police were to distort their
251 reporting to make stops seem more justified in cases where contraband was found (i.e. in cases where
252 stops really *were* justified), that would essentially turn the LLM control into an "over-control" and
253 lead to attenuation of the magnitude of other coefficients in the OLS regression.

254 This possibility is more fundamental and more difficult to test. There is some evidence that police
255 either do not try to or are not very good at mis-reporting in general, like the relative frequency with
256 which police make stops that are later judged to lack reasonable suspicion (20.5%), and much of
257 the existing literature (which often extracts simple controls from stop narratives) operates under the
258 same assumption that stop narratives accurately reflect what happened. Moreover, the fact that we
259 do not see attenuation across the board (the coefficient for the Latino indicator variable increases in
260 magnitude) is some evidence against the potential for attenuation from just-so reporting. However,
261 the possibility remains.

262 5 Conclusion

263 This paper demonstrates the significant impact that NLP techniques can have when analyzing police
264 stop data for potential racial bias. By leveraging the full text descriptions provided by officers rather
265 than just numerical and categorical data, NLP methods can produce substantially different results,
266 in this case causing apparent police biases to disappear. This finding highlights the importance of
267 considering free-form text in analyses of policing practices and casts doubt on some prior conclusions
268 regarding bias that did not incorporate such textual information.

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291 by police officers. *Police Quarterly*, 14(2):166–185.

292 **A Appendix**

293 **A.1 LLM Fine-Tuning Hyperparameters**

294 We used the following hyperparameters and configurations to fine-tune Llama 3:

- 295 • **Base Model:** We used a 4-bit quantized version of the Llama 3 8B Instruct model, which
296 allows for faster loading and reduced memory usage.
- 297 • **Sequence Length:** The maximum sequence length was set to 2048 tokens.
- 298 • **Quantization:** We employed 4-bit quantization to reduce memory usage and enable faster
299 training.
- 300 • **LoRA Configuration:**
- 301 – Rank (r): 16
- 302 – LoRA Alpha: 32
- 303 – LoRA Dropout: 0
- 304 – Bias: "none"
- 305 • **Training Configuration:**
- 306 – Batch Size: 16 per device
- 307 – Gradient Accumulation Steps: 1
- 308 – Warmup Steps: 100
- 309 – Number of Epochs: 3
- 310 – Learning Rate: 0.0001
- 311 – Optimizer: AdamW (8-bit)

- 312 – Weight Decay: 0.01
- 313 – Learning Rate Scheduler: Cosine
- 314 • **Precision:** We used mixed precision training, automatically selecting between FP16 and
- 315 BF16 based on hardware support.
- 316 • **Gradient Checkpointing:** We used Unsloth for gradient checkpointing.

317 A.2 Prompt to Remove Outcome Language from Police Reports

318 We used gpt-4o-2024-05-13, with 4096 max tokens and temperature 0.000001. We used a single
319 prompt for all redactions:

320 You are being given the contents of a police report describing
321 the events of a police stop. You have the following jobs: 1.
322 Remove the following demographic information: (a) the race
323 of the suspect (e.g. convert "Black individual found..." to
324 "Individual found...") (b) the gender of the suspect (e.g.
325 convert "Male was found..." to "Suspect was found...") (c)
326 whether the suspect was Hispanic/Latino or not (e.g. convert
327 "Hispanic individual found..." to "Individual found...") (d)
328 the age of the suspect (e.g. convert "Young suspect found..."
329 to "Suspect found...") 2. If the report is in all-caps,
330 convert it into sentence case. 3. Remove any discussion
331 of the outcome of the police stop. Leave only the information
332 the police would have known before making the stop, and delete
333 any information about what transpired after the police stopped
334 the suspect. 4. Return only the modified text, without any
335 additional explanations or comments. If no text is given,
336 just reply "N/A".

337 A.3 Regression Equations

$$\text{Contraband}_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Female}_i + \sum_r \beta_r \text{Race}_{ri} + \beta_2 \text{Latino}_i + \varepsilon_i \quad (3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Contraband}_i = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Female}_i + \sum_r \beta_r \text{Race}_{ri} + \beta_2 \text{Latino}_i + \beta_3 \text{Age}_i + \beta_4 \text{Height}_i + \beta_5 \text{Weight}_i \\ & + \sum_b \beta_b \text{Build}_{bi} + \sum_f \beta_f \text{FH}_{fi} + \beta_6 \text{WithPartner}_i + \beta_7 \text{MinSince2000}_i \\ & + \sum_m \beta_m \text{Month}_{mi} + \sum_t \beta_t \text{ToD}_{ti} + \varepsilon_i \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Contraband}_i = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Female}_i + \sum_r \beta_r \text{Race}_{ri} + \beta_2 \text{Latino}_i + \beta_3 \text{Age}_i + \beta_4 \text{Height}_i + \beta_5 \text{Weight}_i \\ & + \sum_b \beta_b \text{Build}_{bi} + \sum_f \beta_f \text{FH}_{fi} + \beta_6 \text{WithPartner}_i + \beta_7 \text{MinSince2000}_i \\ & + \sum_m \beta_m \text{Month}_{mi} + \sum_t \beta_t \text{ToD}_{ti} + \sum_p \beta_p \text{Officer}_{pi} + \sum_s \beta_s \text{PSA}_{si} + \varepsilon_i \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Contraband}_i = & \beta_0 + \beta_1 \text{Female}_i + \sum_r \beta_r \text{Race}_{ri} + \beta_2 \text{Latino}_i + \beta_3 \text{Age}_i + \beta_4 \text{Height}_i + \beta_5 \text{Weight}_i \\ & + \sum_b \beta_b \text{Build}_{bi} + \sum_f \beta_f \text{FH}_{fi} + \beta_6 \text{WithPartner}_i + \beta_7 \text{MinSince2000}_i \\ & + \sum_m \beta_m \text{Month}_{mi} + \sum_t \beta_t \text{ToD}_{ti} + \sum_p \beta_p \text{Officer}_{pi} + \sum_s \beta_s \text{PSA}_{si} \\ & + \beta_8 \text{PredictedContraband}_i + \varepsilon_i \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Table 1: Summary statistics for variables in the dataset.

Variable	Mean	SD	Variable	Mean	SD
CONTRABAND_DISCOVERY_No	0.873	0.333	RACE_Unknown	0.007	0.084
CONTRABAND_DISCOVERY_Yes	0.069	0.254	LATINO_No	0.904	0.294
STOPRS_No	0.147	0.354	LATINO_Yes	0.096	0.294
STOPRS_N/A	0.143	0.350	AGE	33.268	13.274
STOPRS_Yes	0.570	0.495	HEIGHT	5.517	0.425
GENDER_Male	0.859	0.348	WEIGHT	170.543	33.598
GENDER_Female	0.141	0.348	BUILD_Thin	0.354	0.478
RACE_Black	0.702	0.458	BUILD_Heavy	0.069	0.253
RACE_White	0.281	0.450	BUILD_Medium	0.445	0.497
RACE_Asian	0.010	0.097	BUILD_Tall	0.015	0.123
BUILD_Small	0.025	0.157	FACIAL_HAIR_Unshaven	0.244	0.430
BUILD_Thin,Small	0.006	0.077	FACIAL_HAIR_Beard	0.282	0.450
BUILD_Stocky	0.034	0.182	FACIAL_HAIR_Goatee	0.089	0.284
BUILD_Medium,Thin	0.005	0.074	FACIAL_HAIR_Mustache	0.056	0.231
BUILD_Thin,Tall	0.013	0.113	minutes_since_2000	9935994.119	1262457.312
BUILD_Muscular	0.006	0.077	month	5.891	3.052
time_of_day_Evening	0.566	0.496	WITH_PARTNER_No	0.256	0.436
time_of_day_Day	0.314	0.464	WITH_PARTNER_Yes	0.744	0.436
time_of_day_Night	0.120	0.325	predicted_contraband	0.075	0.176

Table 2: Comparison of R-squared and Mean Squared Errors (MSE) for different regression types

Regression Type	R-squared		MSE	
	Train	Test	Train	Test
Key Variables	0.0026	0.0023	0.0679	0.0671
Key + Basic Control	0.0188	0.0198	0.0662	0.0651
All Structured Variables	0.1586	0.0584	0.0568	0.0625
All Structured Variables + Predicted	0.5062	0.3368	0.0333	0.0440

Table 3: Regression Results for Contraband Discovery

	Key Variables	Key + Basic Control	All Struct. Vars	All Struct. + Predicted	All Struct. + Interact.
Female	-0.0300*** (0.0041)	-0.0580** (0.0233)	-0.0462** (0.0233)	-0.0153 (0.0176)	-0.0098 (0.0184)
Black	0.0141*** (0.0034)	0.0090* (0.0047)	0.0131** (0.0054)	0.0002 (0.0041)	0.0014 (0.0044)
Asian	0.0032 (0.0148)	0.0077 (0.0225)	0.0120 (0.0227)	0.0143 (0.0171)	-0.0125 (0.0184)
Latino	0.0237*** (0.0053)	0.0169** (0.0068)	-0.0037 (0.0072)	-0.0141*** (0.0055)	-0.0092 (0.0060)
Female × Pred.					-0.1244 (0.124)
Black × Pred.					-0.0133 (0.020)
Asian × Pred.					0.4088*** (0.103)
Latino × Pred.					-0.0493* (0.026)

* $p < 0.1$, ** $p < 0.05$, *** $p < 0.01$

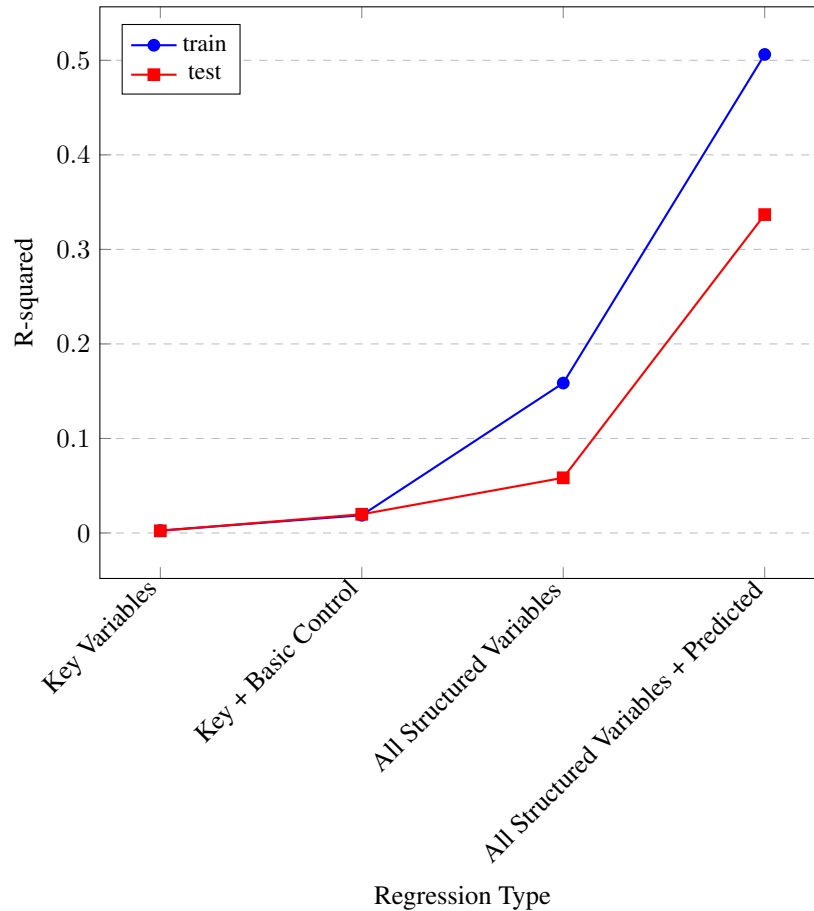


Figure 1: Comparison of R-squared for training and test sets depending on variables included in OLS regression.

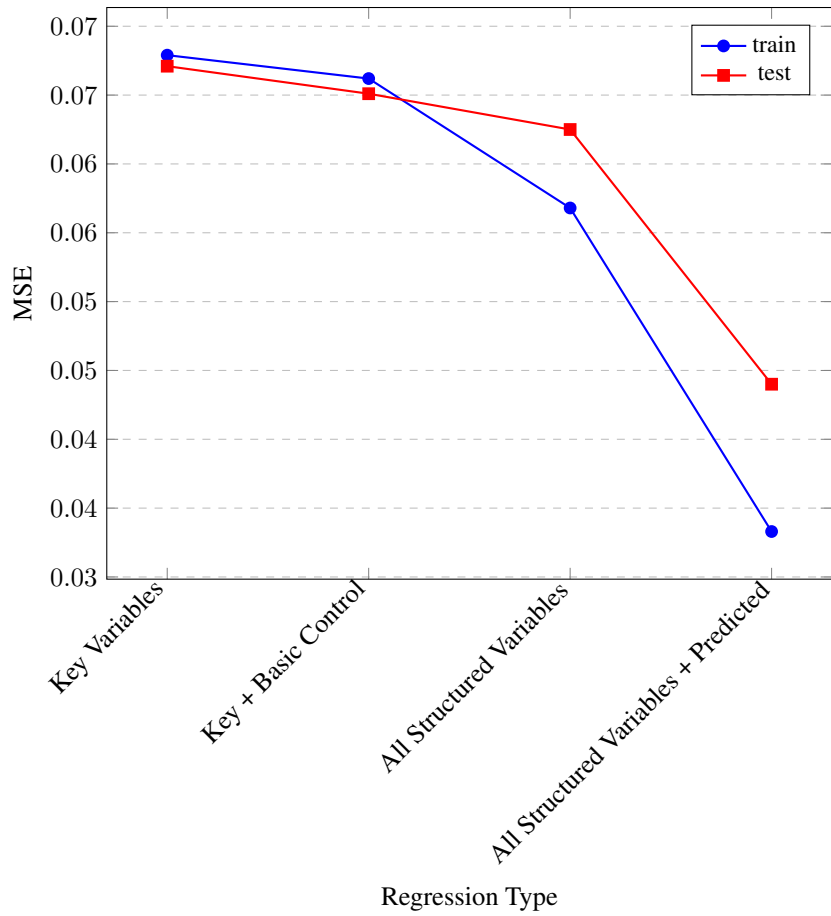


Figure 2: Comparison of Mean Squared Errors for training and test sets depending on variables included in OLS regression.

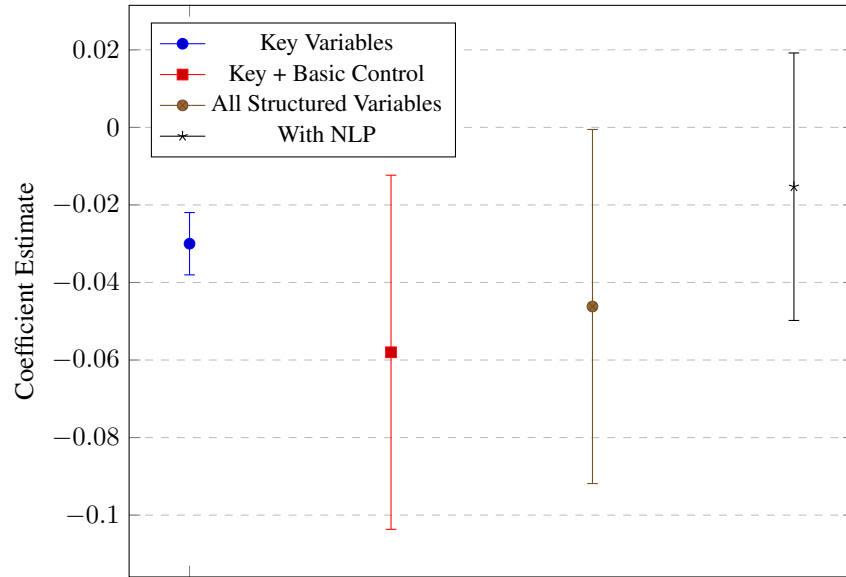


Figure 3: Coefficient estimates for female indicator variable from different regression models, with 95% confidence intervals

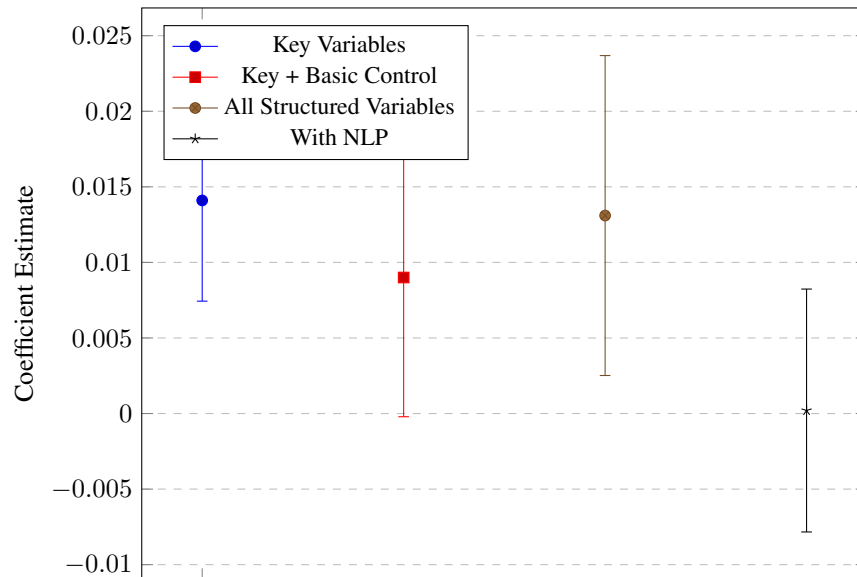


Figure 4: Coefficient estimates for Black indicator variable from different regression models, with 95% confidence intervals

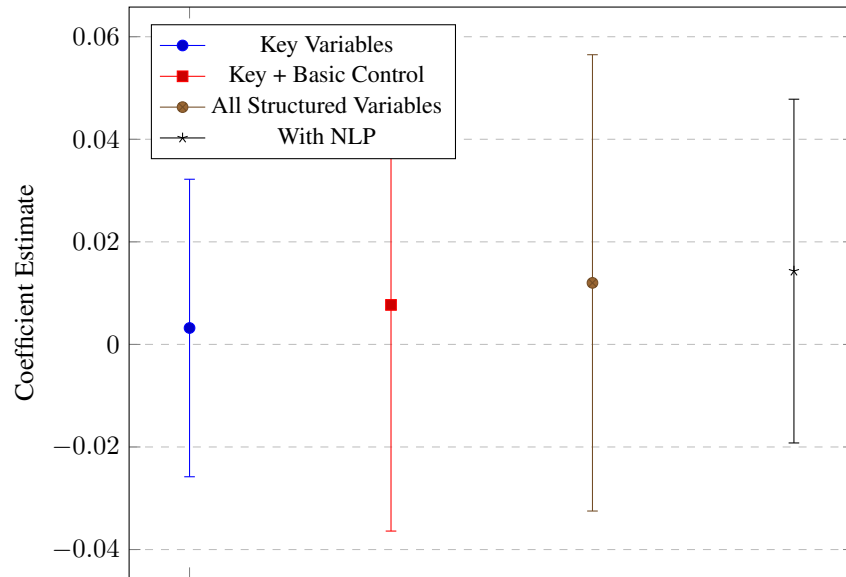


Figure 5: Coefficient estimates for Asian indicator variable from different regression models, with 95% confidence intervals

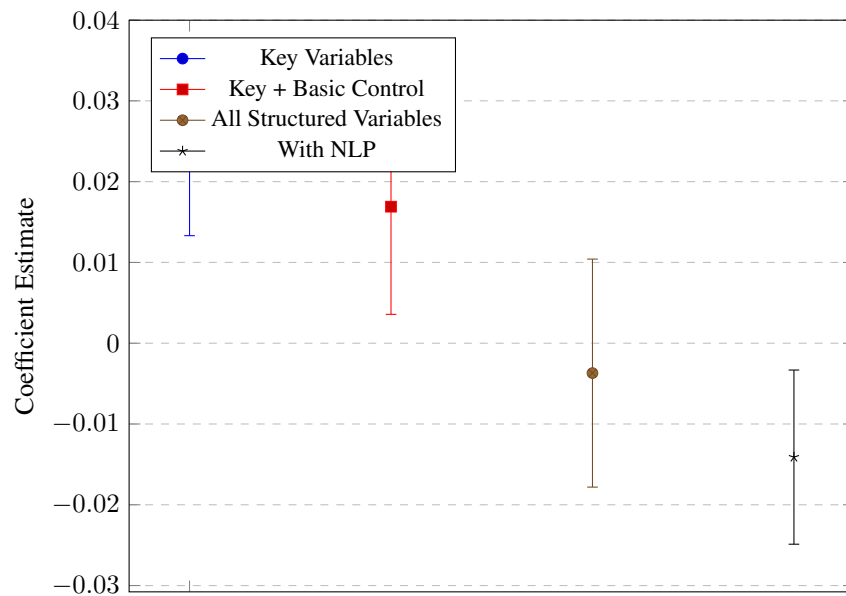


Figure 6: Coefficient estimates for Latino indicator variable from different regression models, with 95% confidence intervals