Profiling measurement issues

"Ironically, the national trend toward mandated data collection may raise public expectations concerning the emergence of definitive evidence about racial profiling, even though existing methodological limitations...virtually ensure these expectations will not be met."- Liederbach et al (2007)
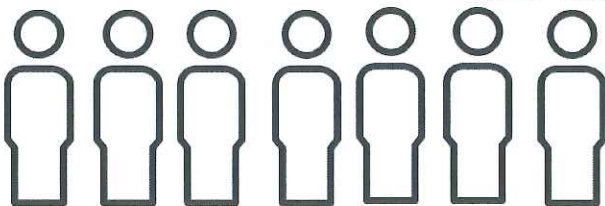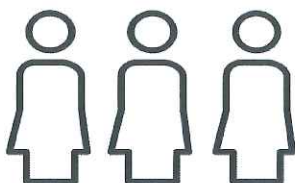
Disparity ≠ Profiling

Is there a disparity among various groups in how likely they are to experience police enforcement actions?

Is bias-based profiling on the part of law enforcement the reason for any disparities found among groups?

Traffic Stops and Disparity: An Example

70% of people stopped in a particular jurisdiction are men.

30% of people stopped in a particular jurisdiction are women.

What can explain this disparity?

Quantity Quality Location Bias

Benchmarking:
The Denominator Problem

$$\frac{\text{How often a group IS stopped}}{\text{How often a group SHOULD BE stopped if no bias is present}}$$

Location Matters

Reactive, Rapid Response
Responding to calls for help

Effective Police Interventions to Reduce Crime

Data-driven
Micro-places
Hot spots
Proactive
Focused