

Policing in America

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Table 1. Perceptions of neighborhood safety and experiences of victimization

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Feel safe (daytime) % Yes ¹	60.9%	82.7%^{ab}	34.6%	40.3%	0.0000
Feel safe (nighttime) % Yes ¹	37.7%	51.0%^{ab}	20.9%	24.3%	0.0000
Perceived safety, change in last year					
% decreased ²	37.3%	33.7%^{ab}	32.3%	45.5%	0.0011
% stayed same	48.3%	57.5%	43.2%	37.8%	
% increased ²	14.4%	8.8%	24.5%	16.6%	
Household member, victim of crime in last year % Yes	15.6%	11.6%^b	15.9%	24.5%	0.0261
Among those who reported victimization % involved a weapon or violence	54.0%	28.0%^{ab}	65.6%	69.7%	0.0204

Statistically significant ($P \leq .05$) between group differences by race and ethnicity is indicated with bold text.

Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

1 % yes includes answers "to a great extent" and "a lot"; other options included "not at all", "a little," and "somewhat"

2 answers include "a lot" and "some"

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Table 2. Satisfaction with police activity in neighborhood

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Past month police presence					
% No opinion	15.2%	15.4%^{ab}	17.5%	10.6%	0.0042
% Too few	35.5%	26.4%	46.0%	48.6%	
% Right amount	43.2%	51.1%	32.0%	34.6%	
% Too many	6.1%	7.1%	4.6%	6.2%	
Police satisfaction scale¹					
Mean score (95% CI)	2.0 (1.9-2.1)	2.2^{ab} (2.1-2.3)	1.7 (1.6-1.8)	1.9 (1.6-2.1)	
Individual items in scale²					
Item 1: How well they develop relationships with community					
% Unsatisfied	28.0%	22.8%^a	37.5%	31.7%	0.0226
% Satisfied	36.2%	44.1%	26.0%	31.6%	
Item 2: Frequency of communication with community					
% Unsatisfied	33.8%	25.2%^{ab}	43.3%	41.4%	0.0139
% Satisfied	30.3%	33.0%	25.0%	30.7%	
Item 3: Ease of community input					
% Unsatisfied	32.5%	24.0%^{ab}	38.9%	44.2%	0.0044
% Satisfied	31.2%	38.4%	26.0%	21.7%	
Item 4: Collaboration with community					
% Unsatisfied	29.8%	21.3%^{ab}	45.9%	35.0%	0.0003
% Satisfied	31.8%	40.1%	23.0%	23.3%	
Summary of items in scale²					
% unsatisfied <u>on all items</u>	14.9%	8.9%^{ab}	24.0%	19.9%	0.0010
% satisfied <u>on all items</u>	16.2%	21.4%	13.2%	8.6%	

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1 Police satisfaction scale ranges from 0 very unsatisfied - 4 very satisfied and is the average of four items

2 Answers are collapsed: unsatisfied includes "very unsatisfied" and "unsatisfied," satisfied includes "very satisfied" and "satisfied", Percent does not sum to 100% because "neither satisfied nor unsatisfied" group is not listed

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Table 3. Experiences with police in the last 12 months

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
N of contacts in last year					
% zero	39.9%	44.3%	43.0%	28.7%	0.0683
% 1-2	42.1%	41.0%	35.4%	51.2%	
% 3 or more	18.0%	14.7%	21.6%	20.1%	
Among those with contact					
Contact type					
% Traffic stop or accident	29.1%	22.4%	30.9%	33.8%	0.2108
% Called 911	58.4%	54.0%	60.0%	62.2%	0.5056
% Casual interaction	41.2%	47.8%	33.4%	35.4%	0.1359
% Stopped/arrested	43.8%	39.9%	40.0%	48.8%	0.4435
Negative experience scale¹					
Mean (95% CI)	1.0 (0.9-1.2)	0.8^a (0.7-1.0)	1.4^c (1.2-1.6)	1.1 (0.9-1.3)	
Individual items in scale²					
Item 1: Professional/courteous					
% Disagree	8.9%	5.9%^a	17.4%	6.1%	0.0086
% Agree	77.0%	84.4%	61.6%	77.6%	
Item 2: Treated with respect/dignity					
% Disagree	9.1%	6.0%^a	19.0%^c	5.2%	0.0031
% Agree	78.3%	86.3%	66.6%	79.5%	
Item 3: Treated fairly					
% Disagree	8.6%	6.5%	14.8%	5.5%	0.0653
% Agree	76.5%	83.3%	66.7%	76.1%	
Item 4: Felt safe					
% Disagree	13.9%	8.6%^a	19.2%	16.6%	0.0059
% Agree	75.0%	85.4%	59.2%	70.0%	
Summary of items in scale					
% disagree on <u>any item</u>	22.3%	13.9%^a	35.2%	26.1%	0.0198
% disagreed on <u>all items</u>	4.7%	3.0%^{ab}	8.7%	2.7%	0.0030
% agreed on <u>all items</u>	63.6%	76.6%	50.4%	56.6%	

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Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

1 Negative experience scale ranges from 0 (very positive) - 4 (very negative) and is the average of four items

2 Answers: collapsed strongly agree/ agree, disagree and strongly disagree, doesn't sum to 100% because "neither agree nor disagree" group is not listed

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Table 4. Witnessed police misconduct in neighborhood in the last 6 months

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Witness misconduct scale¹ Mean score (95% CI)	0.6 (0.5-0.7)	0.2^{ab} (0.1-0.4)	1.2^c (1.0-1.4)	0.6 (0.3-0.9)	
Individual items in scale² Item 1: Being physically abusive or using weapons unjustifiably % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	5.1% 15.8%	1.1%^{ab} 9.5%	12.5%^c 30.9%	7.4% 13.2%	0.0000
Item 2: Using profanity, making verbal threats or being generally discourteous % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	8.2% 18.4%	3.9%^{ab} 9.7%	16.4% 32.9%	10.1% 21.4%	0.0000
Item 3: Discriminating on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, or religion % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	13.0% 17.7%	7.2%^{ab} 8.8%	19.0%^c 38.4%	17.7% 18.9%	0.0000
Item 4: Stopping people too often in the neighborhood without sufficient cause % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	10.3% 26.1%	2.3%^{ab} 17.9%	27.5%^c 36.4%	12.1% 29.8%	0.0000
Summary of items in scale Ever witnessed misconduct % >never <u>on any item</u>	43.7%	26.7%^{ab}	72.9%^c	49.3%	0.0000

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Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

1 Witnessed misconduct scale ranges from 0 (never) - 4 (always) during police interaction in their neighborhoods and is the average of four items

2 Frequency witnessing inappropriate activity: collapsed often/always, sometimes/rarely, doesn't sum to 100% because "never" group is not listed

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Table 5. Likelihood of using 911

		Race and Ethnicity of Individual			
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Would call 911 if... ¹ saw someone you believe needed help with a mental health crisis					
% Would	73.7%	69.7%	78.7%	75.6%	0.4189
% Would not	19.5%	23.1%	13.7%	19.0%	
heard the sound of gunshot					
% Would	75.1%	77.1%	72.2%	71.2%	0.7630
% Would not	19.4%	18.5%	22.7%	22.4%	
were disturbed by loud music playing outside your house after 11 pm					
% Would	27.7%	28.0%	31.2%	27.3%	0.4474
% Would not	67.3%	67.4%	61.0%	69.7%	
Summary of items					
Would not call 911 in these situations	7.2%	7.2%	7.4%	7.8%	0.9692

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Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

¹ For 911 utilization, "would" includes "definitely would" and "probably would" and "would not" includes "definitely would not" and "probably would not" items do not sum to 100% because respondents who responded "I don't know" are not list in the table

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Table 6. Expectations and perceptions of police

	Total	Race and Ethnicity of Individual			
		White	Black	Hispanic	p
How often do police use force during an arrest % Most of time, everytime % About half of the time	27.3% 18.8%	15.1% ^{ab} 17.0%	50.4% 18.7%	35.1% 21.2%	0.0000
Perceptions of police scale ² Mean score (95% CI)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.0 ^a (0.9-1.1)	1.3 ^c (1.2-1.3)	1.0 (0.8-1.2)	
Individual items in scale ³ Item 1: You should do what the police tell you to, even if you disagree % Agree % Disagree	65.5% 15.3%	74.3% ^a 10.8%	53.3% 20.6%	65.6% 17.4%	0.0060
Item 2: You should accept decisions made by area police, even if you do not understand the reasons for their decisions % Agree % Disagree	43.3% 35.4%	45.8% 33.3%	30.8% 42.6%	51.6% 32.8%	0.0559
Item 3: You should obey police directives because that is the proper or right thing to do % Agree % Disagree	73.8% 11.5%	77.9% ^a 11.0%	61.9% ^c 11.4%	80.0% 10.2%	0.0017
Summary of items in scale % Agree on <u>all items</u> on scale % Disagree on <u>all items</u> on scale	37.6% 7.7%	41.4% ^a 6.2%	22.5% ^c 6.1%	45.9% 10.5%	0.0025
% Disagree on <u>any</u> items on scale	38.5%	35.2%	47.6%	36.2%	0.1049

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1 Answers collapsed most of the time and everytime, % reporting some of the time or almost never not listed

2 Perceptions of police scale ranges from 0 (positive - strongly agree to all items) - 4 (negative - strongly disagree with all items)

3 Answers collapsed strongly agree/ agree, disagree and strongly disagree, doesn't sum to 100% because "neither agree nor disagree" group is not listed

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Table 7. Perceptions on what activities police should prioritize

Percent who included each activity in the top 3

	Total	Race and Ethnicity of Individual			
		White	Black	Hispanic	p
Investigating violent crimes	74.0%	78.3%	65.0%	74.3%	0.0629
Enforcing traffic laws	18.1%	25.7% ^{ab}	12.0%	10.7%	0.0002
Responding to 911 calls	64.5%	71.6% ^a	51.7%	63.0%	0.0079
Walking around the neighborhood and talking to neighborhood members about their concerns	39.0%	31.4% ^a	49.8%	42.2%	0.0106
Enforcement of nuisance crimes, such as noise violations	8.4%	8.7%	10.3%	3.4%	0.1102
Targeting illegal firearms	40.7%	42.2%	42.7%	38.0%	0.7030
Increased police presence	35.1%	30.1% ^b	37.8%	45.0%	0.0527

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