

Police Training and Autism

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Why Police and Autism?

- Personal experience
- A growing issue
- Opportunity for improvement




Our Mission

- Leverage data to improve Autism awareness and training within Law Enforcement
- Bring about better, more effective and successful interactions between police officers and those with Autism via improved training and communication



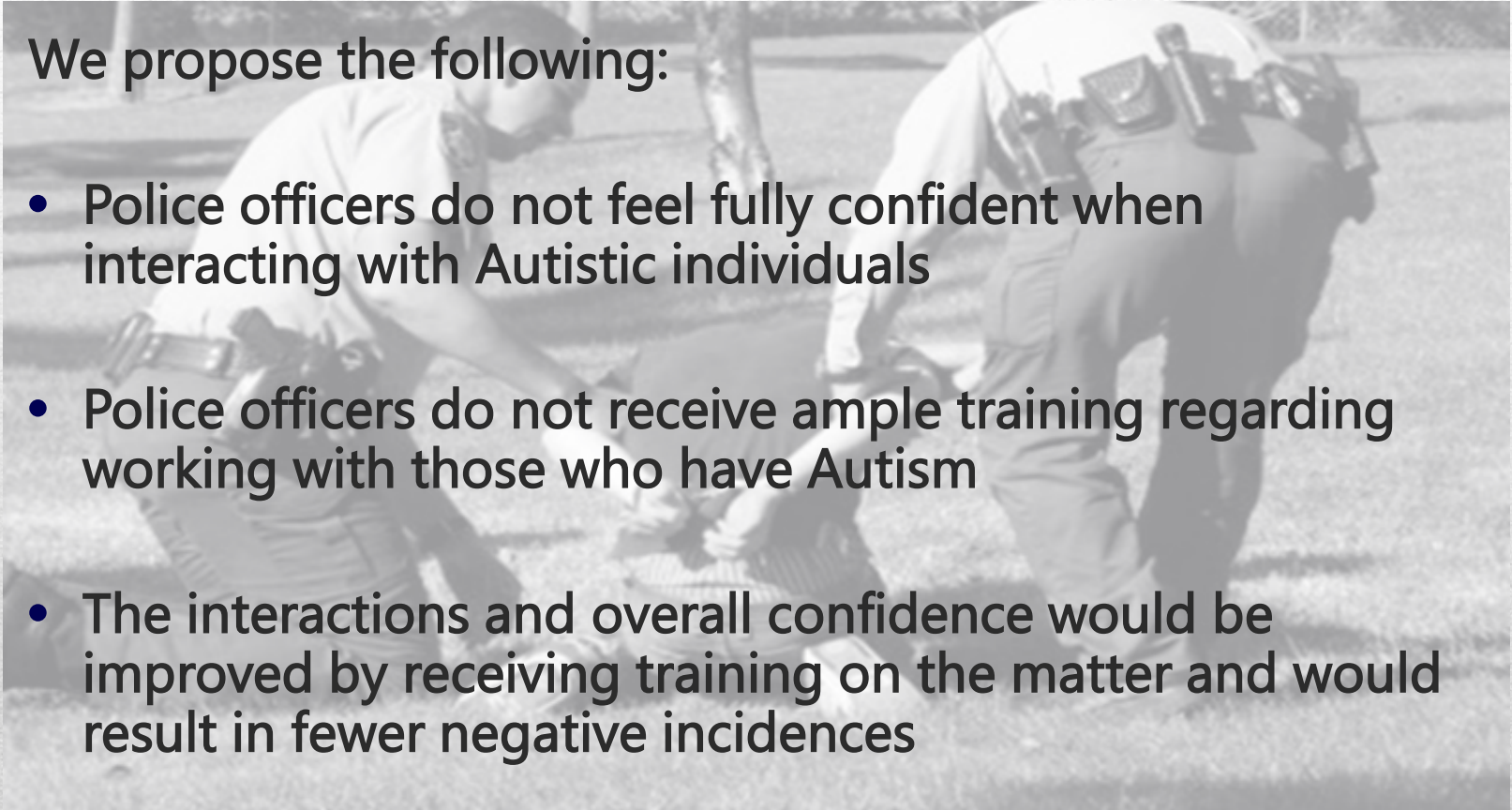
Research Design

- Purposive design
 - Why?
 - Sent survey to 8 Utah County police departments
 - 250 surveys sent
 - 60 surveys started
 - 54 surveys completed
 - 22% response rate
 - 9% dropout rate
- 
- The background features a grayscale illustration of a hand holding a pen, writing on a survey form. The form has a checklist with five rows labeled 'Survey:', 'Excellent:', 'Good:', 'Fair:', and 'Poor:'. To the left of the form is a 3D pie chart with a white slice. Faint text labels 'Result 1', 'Result 2', and 'Result 3' are scattered in the background.

Hypothesis

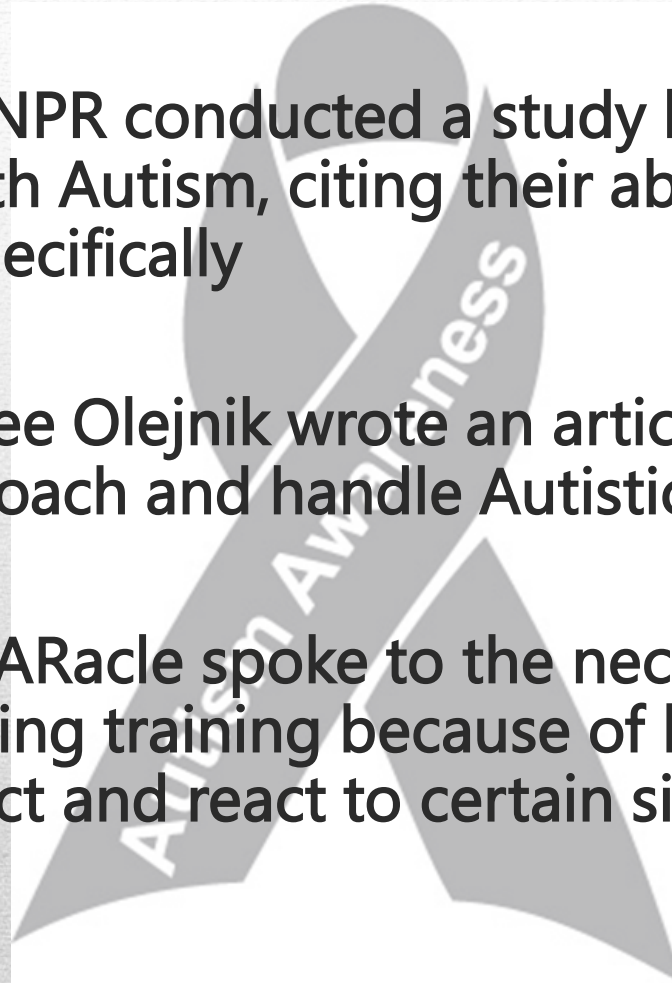
We propose the following:

- Police officers do not feel fully confident when interacting with Autistic individuals
- Police officers do not receive ample training regarding working with those who have Autism
- The interactions and overall confidence would be improved by receiving training on the matter and would result in fewer negative incidences



Literature Review

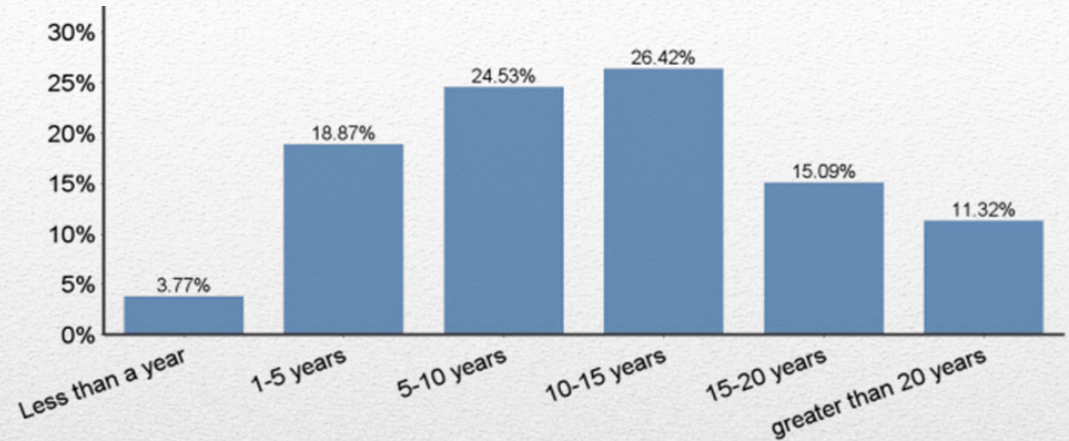
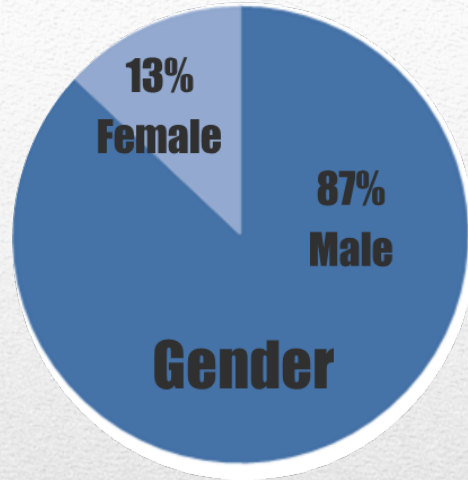
- Last year the NPR conducted a study between police and adults with Autism, citing their ability to follow commands specifically
- In 2004, Lorelee Olejnik wrote an article on how to properly approach and handle Autistic patients
- In 2006 the OARacle spoke to the necessity of police officers receiving training because of how people with Autism act and react to certain situations



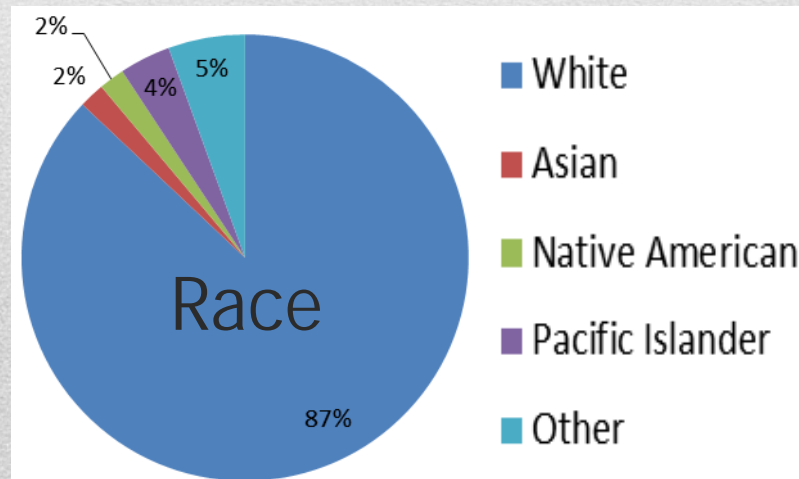
Survey Structure

- We started with some basic demographic questions
 - Gender
 - Race
 - Tenure within department
 - Then we transitioned into the real questions
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Demographics



Tenure Within Department






Personal Interaction

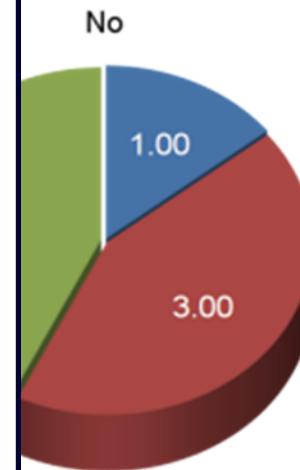
Choice	Do you enjoy interacting with	Have you had a lot of
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Effects of Training

Did you have prior training?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Yes		12	32.43%
2	No		15	40.54%
3	I have had interactions with and without training		10	27.03%
Total			37	100.00%

Was there a difference?



Physical Traits

Are you able to do
an Au

Physical Features

What makes the interaction easier?

Ad Adions Adjust Affeding Allowing Approach Autistic Autism **Autistic** Avoiding Aware Beginning Behaviors

Call Calmer Challenged Circumstances Cl Clear Comfort Communicate Compassion Compliance Condition Contact

Dealing Desire Determine Developing Differently Direct Disability Drugs Ease **EASIER** Enables Error Expect

Experience Fast Faster Feel Force Gain Handicap Idea Illness Improve Individual Interact

Involved **Knowing Knowledge** Level

Lower Maintain **Makes** Manner Means Mental Officer Parties Patience Patient People

Person Physical Portray Poss Problem Process Questions Read Recognizing Respond Responses

Shy Signs Simple Situation Skills Solve Strangers Stressed Tactic Talk Tells Things Thinking Thought

Treated Time Tolerant **Training** Trial Triggers Type

Understanding Voices Words Work

Poor eye-hand

Current Training

Does your department

How often do you receive training?

Rate

50
45
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0

Most important when interacting

Abilities Absolutely Adapt Affects Age Anger Approach Autistic Avoid Behavior **Calm** Capacity

Characteristics Child Cognitive Comfortable **Communication** Compassion Condition Connection Contact

Deal Demeanor Differently Difficult Disability Disorder Effectively Empathy Family Find Generally Guard

Handicap Hands Happy Identify Indicative Individual Interaction Intimidating Kind Knowing Level

Listen Lower Meant Members Mental Method Nice Organic Oriented **Patience Patient**

People Persons Physical Portray Processes Reactions Remain Remembering Responses Safety

Showing Situations Size Slowly Speaking Special Stay Symptoms Things

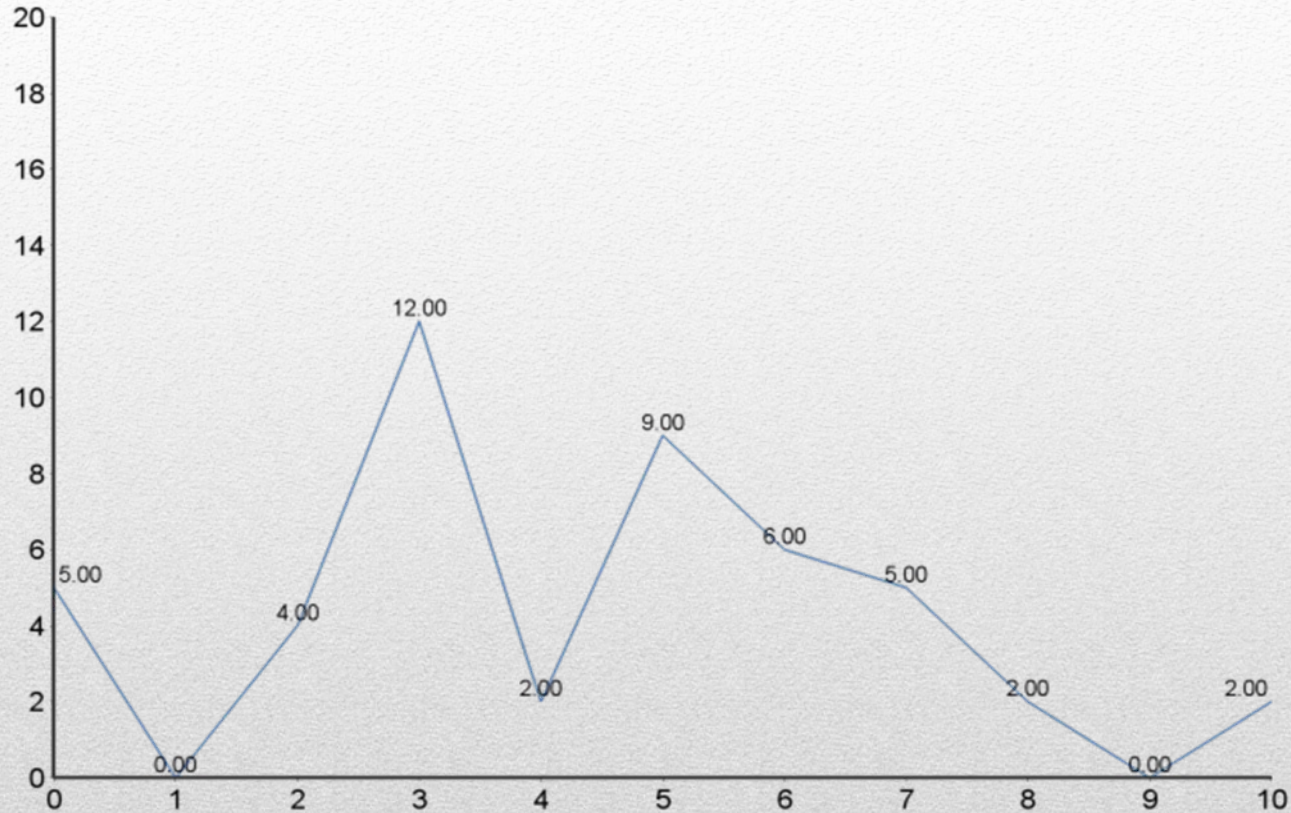
Understanding Understanding

Unpredictable Upset Visually

Approaching the in

Very Dissatis

Conclusion

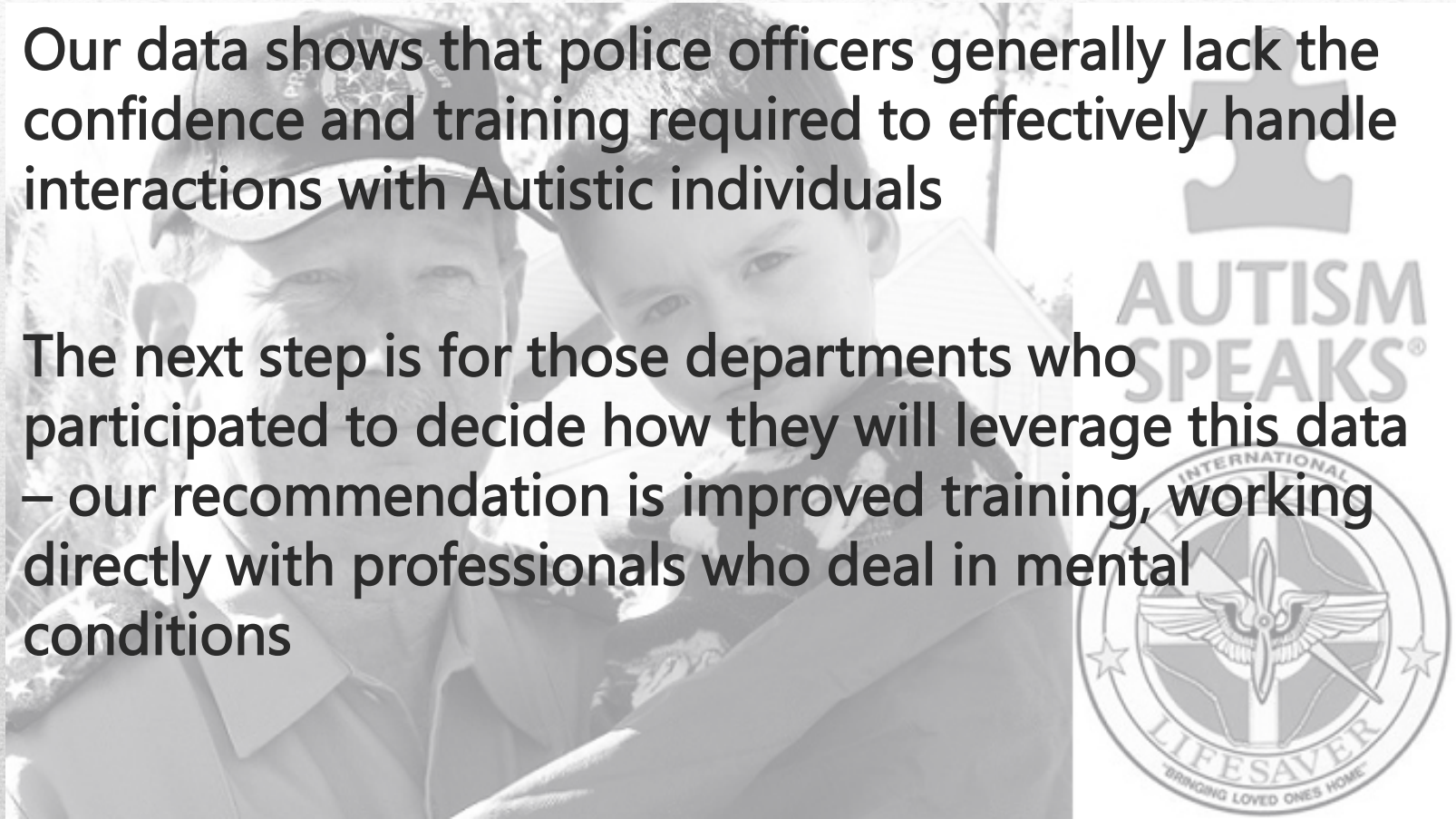


On a scale of 1-10 rate your department's training in regards to Autism

Conclusion Continued

Our data shows that police officers generally lack the confidence and training required to effectively handle interactions with Autistic individuals

The next step is for those departments who participated to decide how they will leverage this data – our recommendation is improved training, working directly with professionals who deal in mental conditions





The End

Questions?

For more info on Autism call 866-366-3361
