


# **UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND POLICE BRUTALITY**

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# IS THE OCCURRENCE OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND USE OF FORCE INCREASING, OR IS THE INCREASE IN EXPOSURE IN THE MEDIA LEADING THE GENERAL POPULATION TO AN INCORRECT CONCLUSION ON THE OVER USE OF FORCE?


- DO UVU STUDENTS BELIEVE USE OF FORCE HAS INCREASED ALONG WITH VIOLENCE? OR ARE OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OUT OF CONTROL?
  - OR ARE UVU STUDENTS UNCARING ABOUT USE OF FORCE SITUATIONS?
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# WHY?

- NOT ONLY AS CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDENTS BUT AS PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, WE WANTED TO SEE IF UVU STUDENTS BELIEVED THAT THE MEDIA HAD A STRONG INFLUENCE ON THEIR PERCEPTION OF POLICE BRUTALITY AND USE OF FORCE WHETHER IT BE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE.
- WE ALSO WANTED TO SEE IF THE UVU STUDENTS WERE IN ANYWAY RELATED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND/OR IF THEY HAD ANY PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT




# PAST STATISTICS

- ON AVERAGE, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 385 INDIVIDUALS JUSTIFIABLY KILLED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT EACH YEAR (US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, 2010).
  - THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON MISCONDUCT OF POLICE OFFICERS BEING COMPLETED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE MISCONDUCT AND REPORTING PROJECT IN 2010,. THE NPMRP FOCUSES AROUND DATA GATHERED FROM JANUARY 2010 TO DECEMBER OF 2010. OF THE 6,613 LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS INVOLVED IN REPORTED ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT THAT MET NPMSRP CRITERIA FOR TRACKING PURPOSES, 1,575 WERE INVOLVED IN EXCESSIVE FORCE REPORTS, WHICH WERE THE MOST PROMINENT TYPE OF REPORT AT 23.8% OF ALL REPORTS. (NPMSRP 2010)
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# SURVEYING UVU STUDENTS

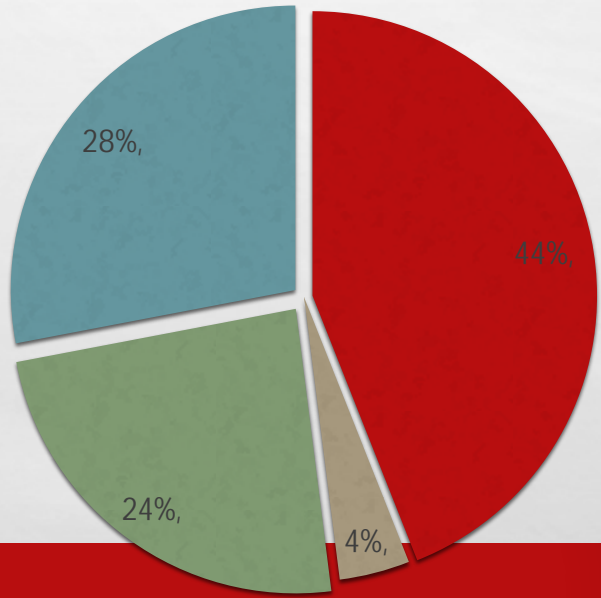
- WE RANDOMLY SELECTED 500 RANDOM UVU STUDENTS TO DETERMINE IF THEY BELIEVED THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN POLICE BRUTALITY OR USE OF FORCE CASES.
  - QUESTIONS ASKED WERE USED TO DETERMINE IF THEY FOLLOWED THE MEDIA, IF THEY WERE AFFILIATED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, THEIR OPINIONS OF CRIME, AND MANY OTHERS.
  - OUT OF THE 500 STUDENTS WE SENT THE SURVEY OUT TO WE HAD AN AVERAGE OF 50 RESPONSES. THE AVERAGE TIME TO COMPLETE THE SURVEY WAS EIGHT MINUTES.
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# DEMOGRAPHICS

- AGE: 49% OF PARTICIPANTS WERE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-25, A CLOSE SECOND WAS THE AGE RANGE OF 26-35 WITH 32%
- GENDER: 66% OF THOSE WHO RESPONDED WERE MALE
- RACE: 85% IDENTIFIED AS WHITE 9% AS HISPANIC, 2% AS AFRICAN AMERICAN, 2% ASIAN, AND 2% NATIVE AMERICAN
- POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS:

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Other





# FAMILIARITY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LAW:

- 86 % OF THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY WERE NOT PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OR HAD AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT
- OUT OF THE 7% WHO WERE INVOLVED OR KNEW SOMEONE WHO WAS, 50% WERE POLICE OFFICERS, 33% WERE CORRECTIONS AND 17% WERE INVOLVED IN OTHER AGENCIES.
- WITH THE LOW NUMBER OF THOSE INVOLVED WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT, WE WERE CURIOUS ABOUT HOW WELL THEIR KNOWLEDGE WAS ABOUT USE OF FORCE...

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Poor	6	13%
2	Fair	10	21%
3	Good	14	29%
4	Very Good	12	25%
5	Excellent	6	13%
	Total	48	100%

# THE RESULTS...

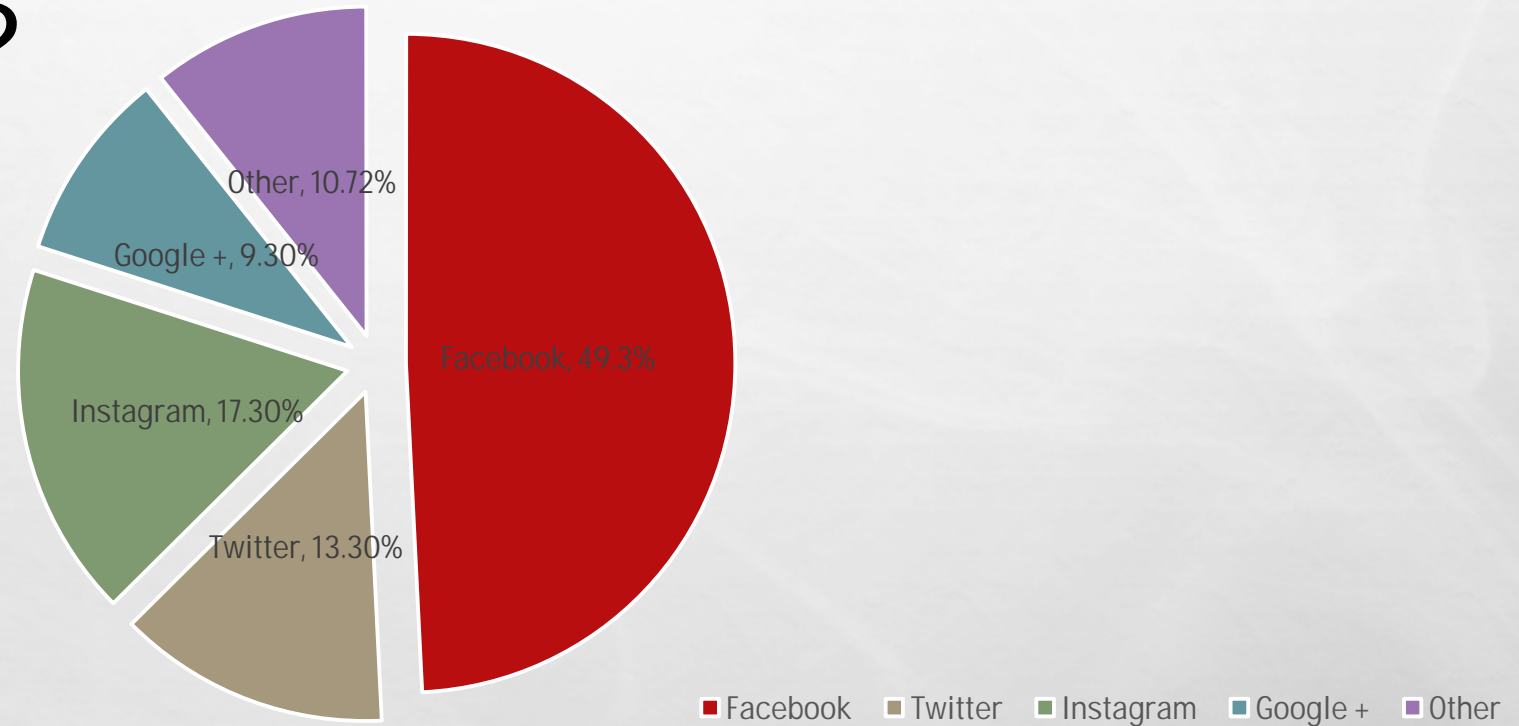
- FIRST WE WANTED TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT UVU STUDENTS WERE ACTIVELY WATCHING THE NEWS OR FOLLOWING/POSTING ABOUT NEWS ON SOCIAL MEDIA...



# HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ OR WATCH THE NEWS?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Never	2	4%
2	Once a Year or Less	0	0%
3	Several Times a Year	1	2%
4	Once a Month	1	2%
5	2-3 Times a Month	6	12%
6	Once a Week	5	10%
7	2-3 Times a Week	8	16%
8	Daily	27	54%
	Total	50	100%

# DO YOU FOLLOW ANY MEDIA NETWORKS ON ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS?



# HOW OFTEN DO YOU FOLLOW CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE MEDIA?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Never	3	6%
2	Less than Once a Month	8	16%
3	Once a Month	7	14%
4	2-3 Times a Month	12	24%
5	Once a Week	3	6%
6	2-3 Times a Week	9	18%
7	Daily	8	16%
	Total	50	100%

- AFTER ESTABLISHING THAT 54% OF RESPONDENTS READ OR WATCH THE NEWS DAILY, WE COULD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT MOST UVU STUDENTS WERE FAMILIAR WITH ALL TYPES OF NEWS STORIES, INCLUDING USE OF FORCE CASES.
- WE COULD ALSO SEE THE SOCIAL MEDIA, SUCH AS FACEBOOK, TWITTER, ETC ARE POPULAR WITH UVU STUDENTS.
- AFTER DETERMINING IF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE MEDIA WE WANTED TO SEE THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT THE MEDIA....

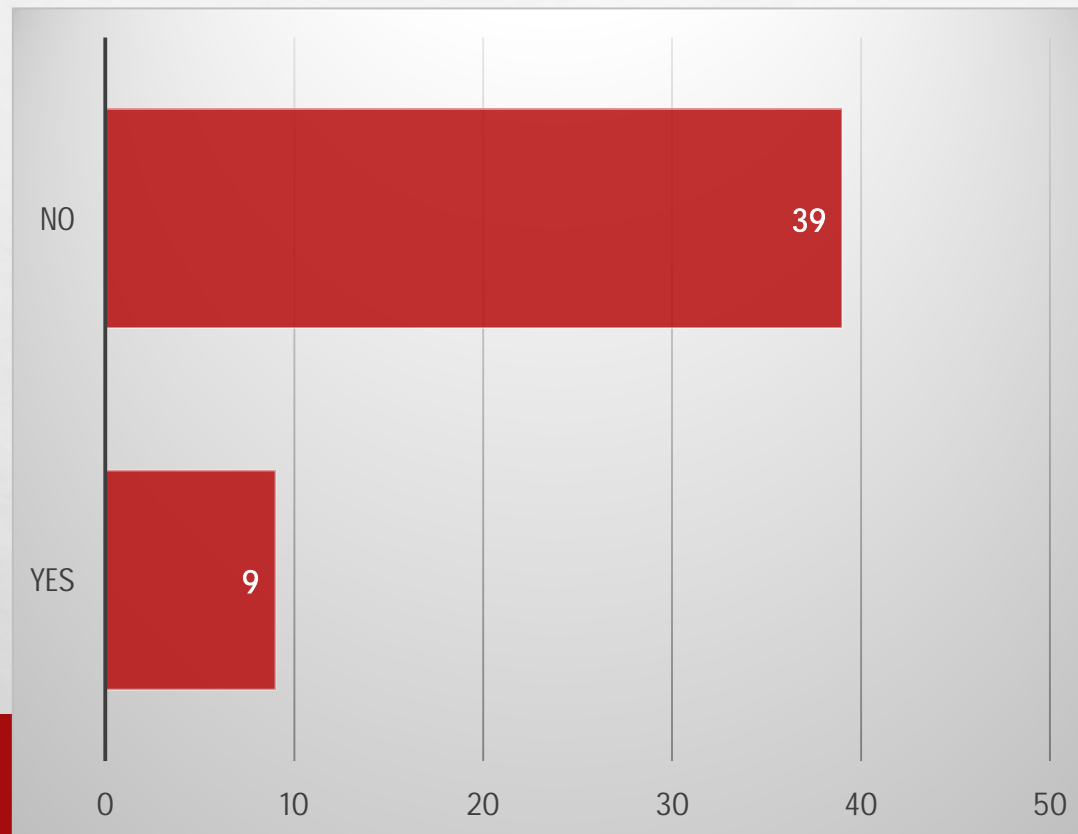
# DO YOU FEEL THE MEDIA EXPLOITS THE PUBLIC FOR PERSONAL GAIN?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Not At All	0	0%
2	Occasionally	12	24%
3	Frequently	20	40%
4	All of the Time	18	36%
	Total	50	100%

# DO YOU FEEL THAT THE MEDIA COVERS POLICE STORIES TRUTHFULLY?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Never	4	8%
2	Rarely	12	24%
3	Sometimes	20	40%
4	Most of the Time	13	26%
5	Always	1	2%
	Total	50	100%

# DO YOU KNOW ANYONE PERSONALLY THAT HAS BEEN A VICTIM OF POLICE BRUTALITY?





- SEEING THAT THERE WERE A FEW PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN OR KNEW SOMEONE WHO WAS A VICTIM WE WANTED TO SEE IF THE MEDIA COVERED IT AND HOW WELL THEY COVERED IT IF THEY DID...



# USE OF FORCE AND INCREASING VIOLENCE:

- ONE OF MORE BASIC QUESTIONS WE ASKED WAS WHETHER POLICE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO USE DEADLY FORCE. RESPONSES WERE MIXED.

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Never	2	4%
2	Rarely	10	21%
3	Sometimes	24	50%
4	Often	4	8%
5	All of the Time	8	17%
	Total	48	100%

- MORE IMPORTANTLY WE WANTED TO SEE IF UVU STUDENTS RESPONSES CREATED A CORRELATION BETWEEN USE OF FORCE AND THE POSSIBLE INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIMES COMPARED TO FIVE YEARS AGO

# WHAT LEVEL IS VIOLENCE IN THE GENERAL PUBLIC COMPARED TO THE LAST 5 YEARS?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Much Less	0	0%
2	Less	5	10%
3	Somewhat Less	4	8%
4	The Same	9	19%
5	Somewhat More	12	25%
6	More	16	33%
7	Much More	2	4%
	Total	48	100%

# DO YOU FEEL THAT THE LEVEL OF POLICE USE OF FORCE HAS INCREASED OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Strongly Disagree	3	6%
2	Disagree	8	17%
3	Neither Agree nor Disagree	9	19%
4	Agree	21	44%
5	Strongly Agree	7	15%
	Total	48	100%

# DO YOU BELIEVE THAT POLICE BRUTALITY, LOCALLY, IS HIGHER OR LOWER TODAY THEN 5 YEARS AGO?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Much Lower	3	6%
2	Slightly Lower	7	15%
3	About the Same	23	48%
4	Higher	9	19%
5	Much Higher	6	13%
	Total	48	100%

# DO YOU BELIEVE THAT POLICE BRUTALITY, NATIONWIDE, IS HIGHER OR LOWER TODAY THEN 5 YEARS AGO?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	Much Lower	3	6%
2	Slightly Lower	5	10%
3	About the Same	16	33%
4	Higher	15	31%
5	Much Higher	9	19%
	Total	48	100%

- ACCORDING TO UVU STUDENTS AND THEIR RESPONSES WE GATHERED, WE COULD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT BECAUSE THEY WERE INVOLVED WITH MEDIA THAT THEY COULD DEFINITELY BE INFLUENCED BY THE MEDIA STORIES BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE. BUT WITH THE LACK OF RESPONSES THERE WAS NO CLEAR TRUTH TO WHETHER MEDIA HAD A TRUE INFLUENCE ON THEIR OPINIONS.
- WE ALSO SAW THAT A LARGE AMOUNT OF UVU STUDENTS OPENED THE SURVEY BUT CHOSE NOT TO TAKE IT. WE COULD ALSO SEE THAT SOME QUESTIONS WERE SKIPPED OVER AND WE COULD ASSUME THAT THIS TOPIC WAS NOT OF INTEREST TO CERTAIN UVU STUDENTS.