

Uvu students police brutality

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Introduction:

UVU Students on Police Brutality

- Our goal with this research project was to find out what people our age thought of the media's perception of Law Enforcement and their use of force.
- We had to narrow down our demographic so we stuck primarily to students at Utah Valley University, ages 18 and up.
- We had 123 students take the survey, some only partially completed it. It was split pretty evenly for males and females (out of 113 people, 56 were female and 57 were male)

Research Questions

We used a survey to gather our research. We got a randomized list of 500 student emails through the IRI. We then sent the survey through those emails. Once we got the results to the surveys, we then compiled the data from there to see what the responses were like overall. Our main question is “What do UVU students think of police brutality and law enforcement in general?” We also wanted to get a pretty good idea of their general opinion based on smaller categories like gender, race, and environments.

Research Design

We studied UVU students, 18 years of age and older, and analyzed their perceptions on police brutality. We want to look at the effect of media on the students and how it plays a part in their perception of Police Officers. The purpose of this research is to gather an idea of what students think of Law Enforcements' use of force. We created a survey that was sent to 500 random UVU student emails and received 123 responses.

Literature Review

Davis, A. W. (2014, August). Examining Student Perceptions: Ethics and Misconduct in Today's Police Department. Retrieved December 4, 2019, from https://aquila.usm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1038_context=masters_theses.

This is a study from the University of Southern Mississippi that evaluated responses criminal justice undergraduate students. It was 60% female and 52% non-white.

Chaney, C., & Robertson, R. V. (2013). *Racism and Police Brutality in America*. Springer Science Business Media, 1–26. Retrieved from

https://s3.amazonaws.com/academia.edu.documents/32976092/Chaney_Robertson_9246_5_Police_Brutality_Article.pdf?response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DRacism_and_Police_Brutality.pdf&X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAIWOWYYGZ2Y53UL3A%2F20191204%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20191204T180243Z&X-Amz-Expires=3600&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=11a7666bd894a2a1597572487d5f8b17024fbb557a9d4ef9be5c4f0f574a9b9a

This is a small study done in 2013, with 36 contributors. This study is different from ours because it didn't focus primarily on college aged students, however it seems to be similar otherwise. They found that five of the contributors used terminology that showed a dislike for law enforcement, eight showed that they believed officers directly engage in police brutality, while only seven showed a belief that members of law enforcement have generally good intentions.

Literature Review

Roper Center. (2015, September 22). Black, White, and Blue: Americans' Attitudes on Race and Police. Retrieved December 4, 2019, from <https://ropercenter.cornell.edu/blog/black-white-and-blue-americans-attitudes-race-and-police>.

The Roper center provides polls from shortly after the events in Ferguson. As well they mention data from the 1960's. The data we use from Roper is from polls they have made our gained access to shortly after the events in Ferguson.

Carter, J. S., & Corra, M. (2016). Racial resentment and attitudes toward the use of force by police: An over-time trend analysis. *Sociological Inquiry*, 86(4), 492–511. <https://doi.org/10.1111/soin.12136>

In this study, they did empirical research. Using the 1986–2012 National Opinion Research Center's General Social Survey they found results that showed, first, that beliefs about race do indeed significantly predict whites' attitudes toward police use of force, and second, this effect has remained constant since the mid-1980s.

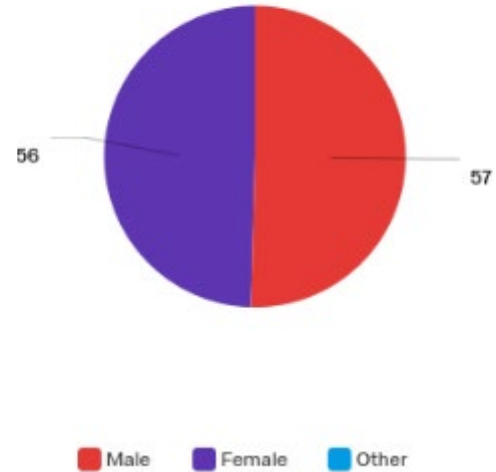
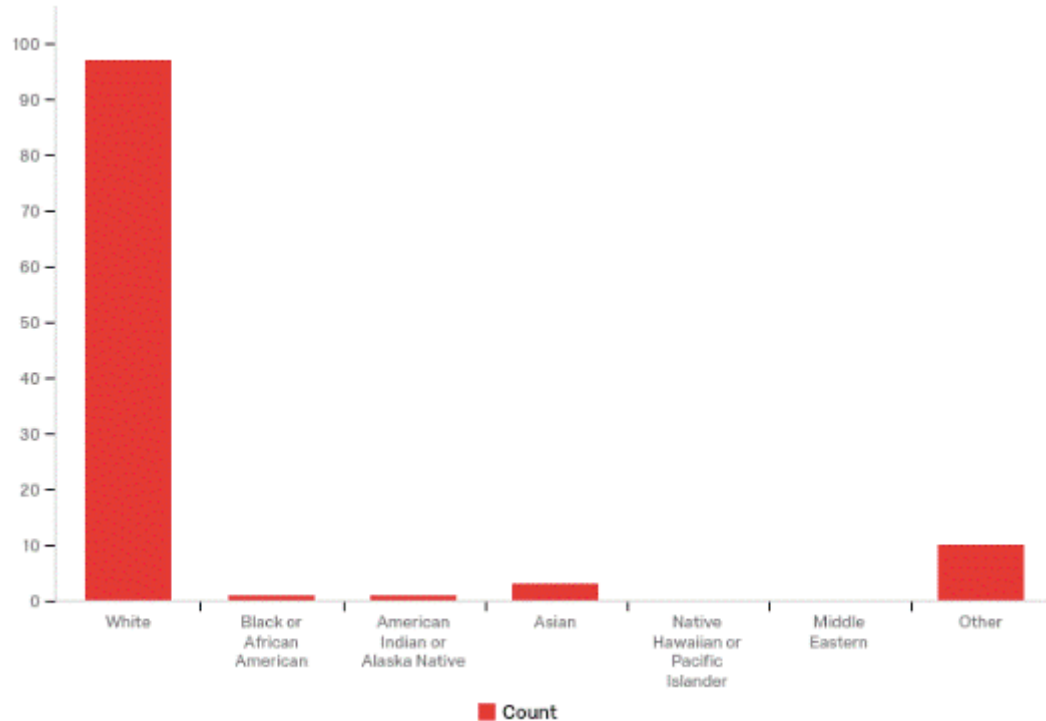
Obasogie, O., & Newman, Z. (2017). *Police Violence, Use of Force Policies, and Public Health*. *American Journal of Law & Medicine*, 279-295. Retrieved from <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Paper-Obasogie.pdf>

This article is similar to our study, however it focuses on policies enabling police brutality instead of its existence as a whole. The authors determined racially motivated police brutality is a legitimate issue and have now moved to determining the cause. They argue it is a public health issue instead of a societal one. They used primarily a lot of research evidence to back their claim, instead of doing a study or survey.

Definition:

Police Brutality: The unwarranted or excessive and often illegal use of force against civilians by police officers. Forms of police brutality often include assault and battery but have also included mayhem, torture, and murder.

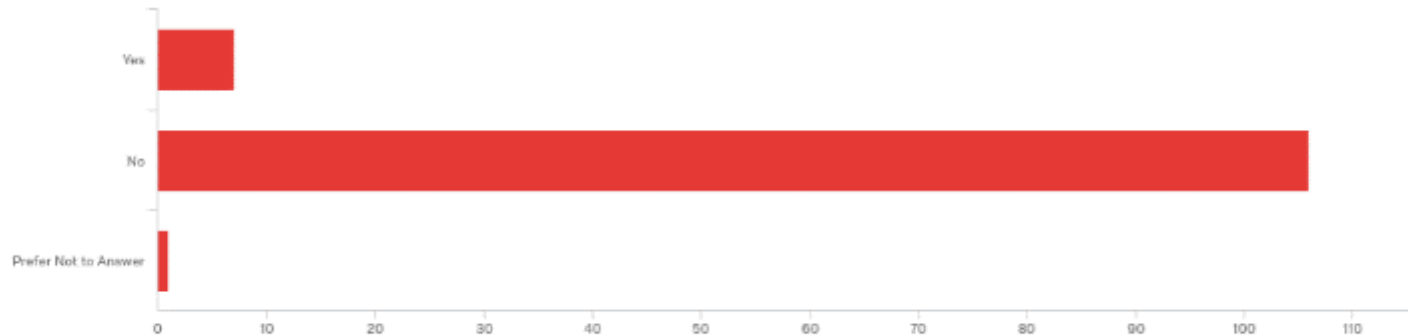
Demographic



Demographic Cont.

Q10 - Have you ever been arrested?

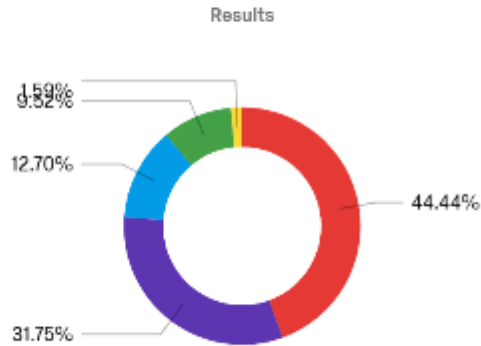
Page Options ▾



- 106 people have not been arrested
- 7 people have been arrested
- 1 person did not want to answer
- Of the 7 that have been, 2 were female and 5 were male

UVU Student's trust in Law Enforcement

Do you Trust the Police

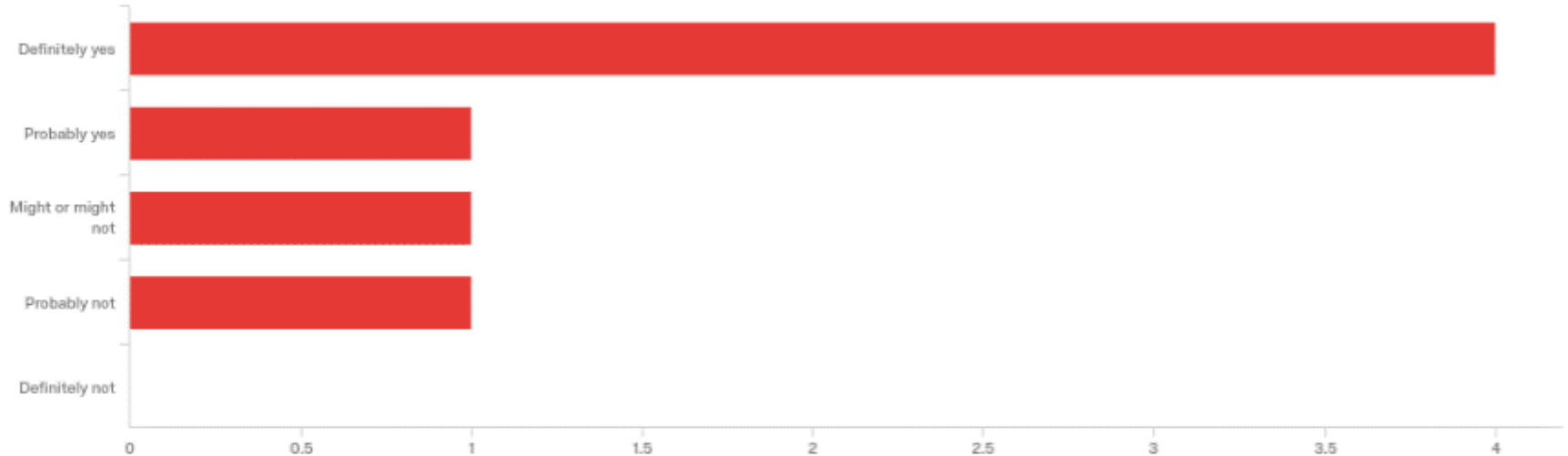


Q14 - Do you feel comfortable calling the police for help?



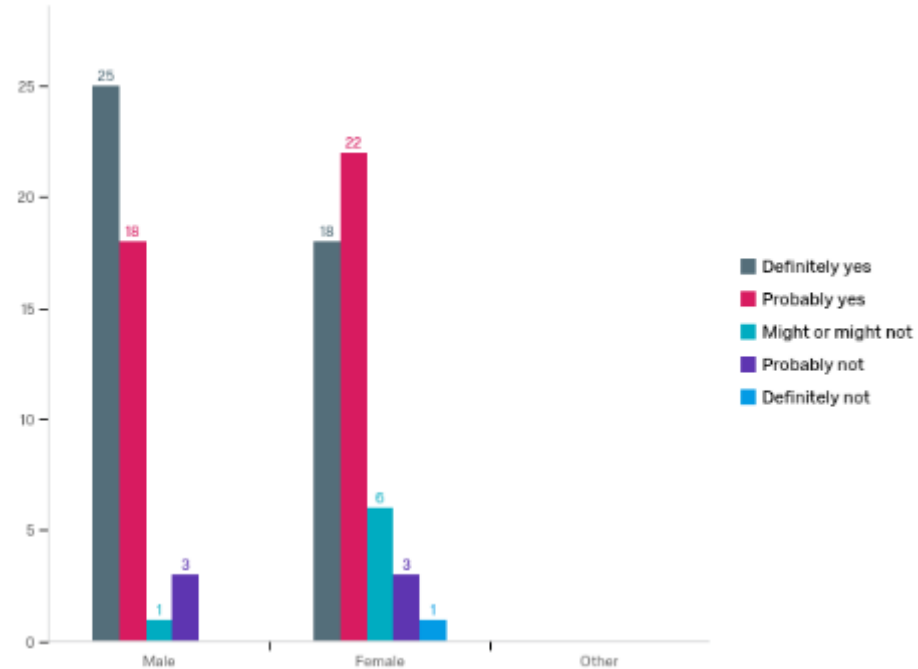
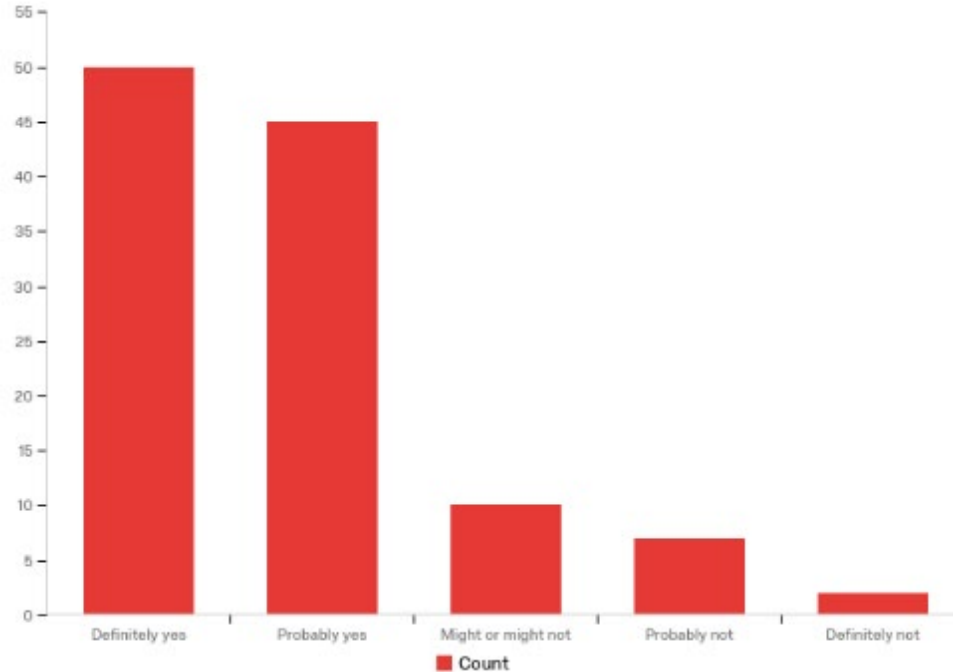
Definitely yes **Probably yes** **Might or might not** **Probably not** **Definitely not**

Out of the 7 people that have been arrested, 4 definitely still trust police, 1 probably does, 1 is undecided, and 1 probably doesn't trust law enforcement.

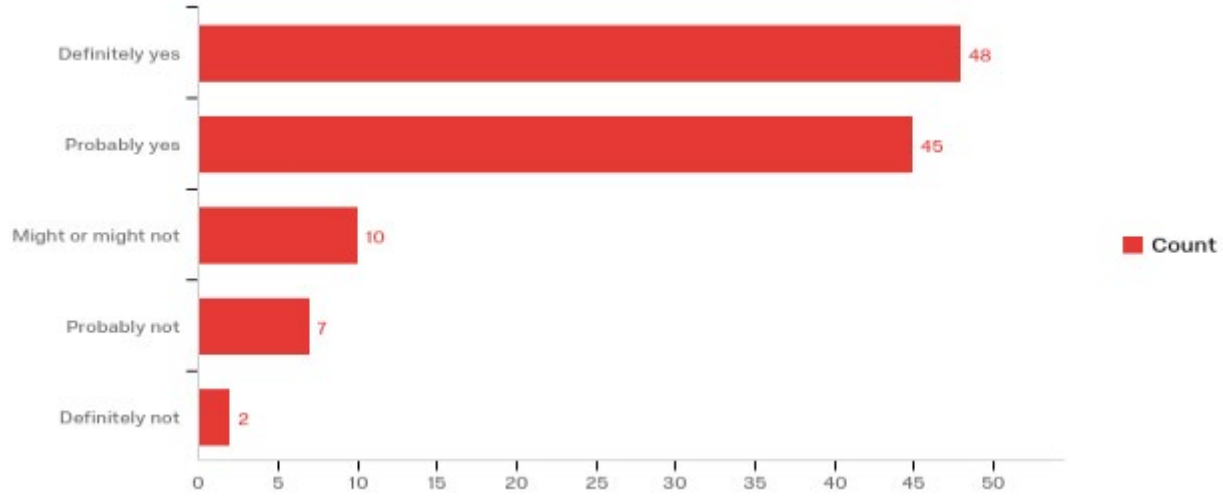


- Males were more definitively trusting of law enforcement, at 25 with “definitely yes” and 18 with “probably yes”.
- Females were at 18 for “definitely yes”, and 22 with “probably yes”

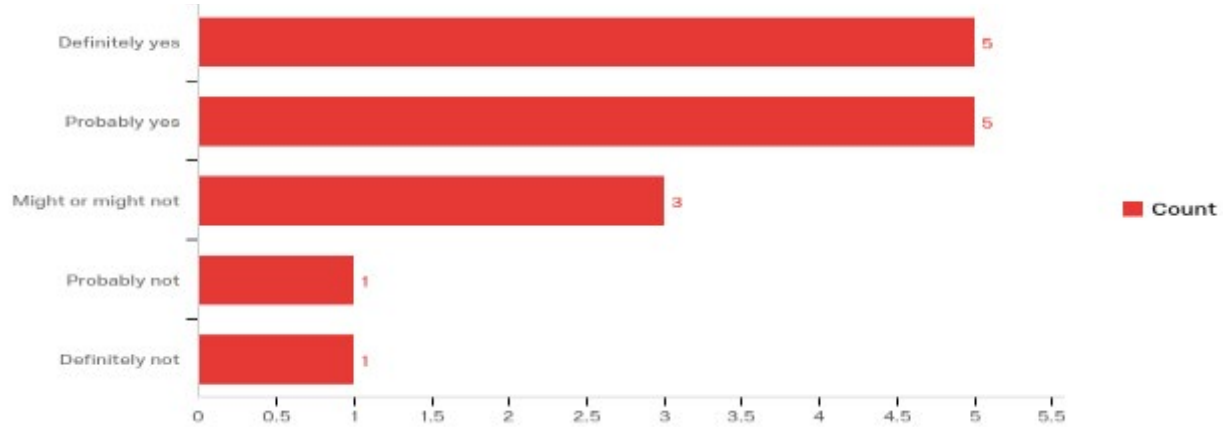
Do you Trust the Police

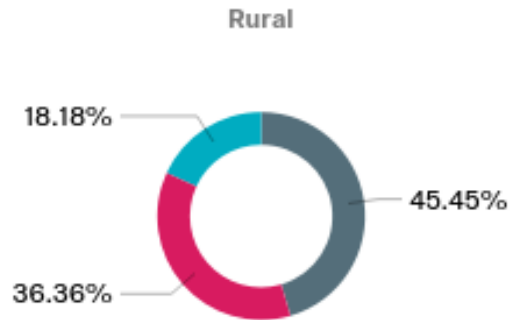
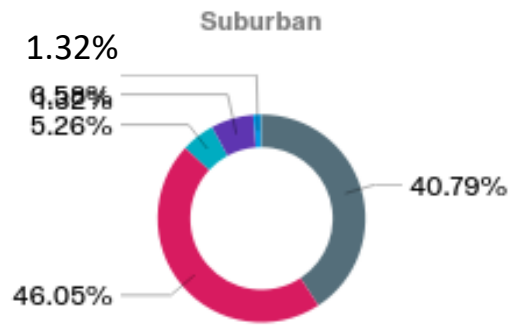
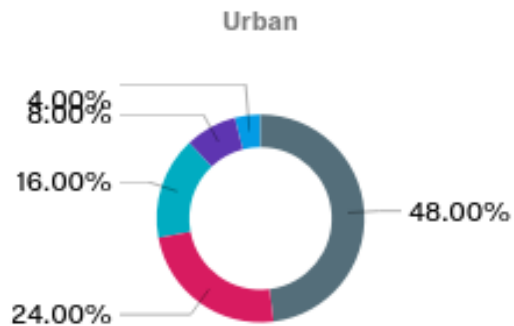


Whites



Minorities





Definitely yes
 Probably yes
 Might or might not
 Probably not
 Definitely not

Does race have a role?

#	Field	Choice Count
1	Strongly agree	35.71% 40
2	Somewhat agree	32.14% 36
3	Neither agree nor disagree	16.07% 18
4	Somewhat disagree	10.71% 12
5	Strongly disagree	5.38% 6
		112

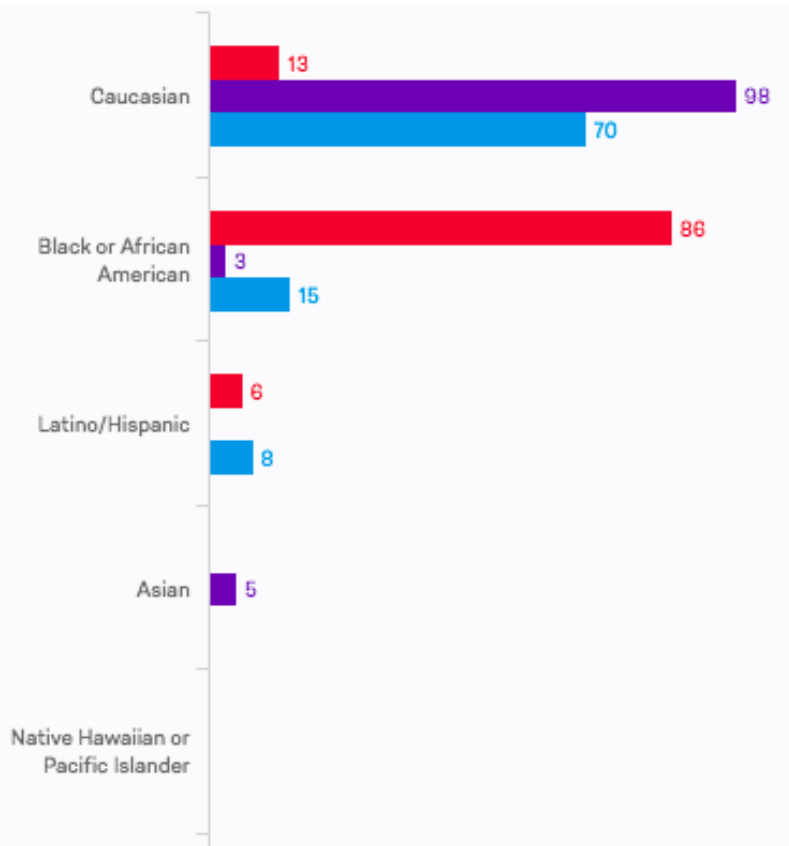
Showing rows 1 - 6 of 6

A study from the University of Southern Mississippi. It is also important to note that this study was from criminal justice undergraduate students. As well, 52% non-white out of 263 participants

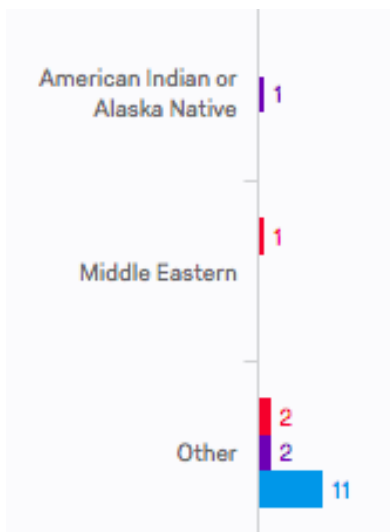
Racial profiling is a problem

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	8
<i>Disagree</i>	17
<i>Neutral</i>	53
<i>Agree</i>	111
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	72

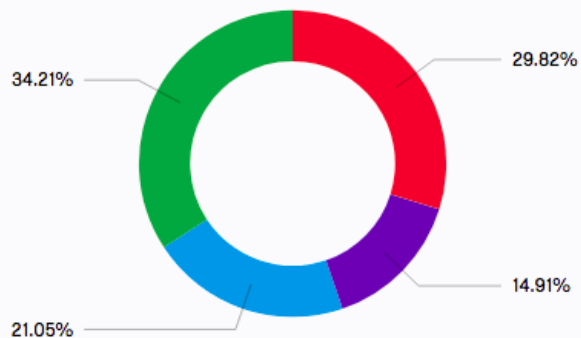
Which race do you think...



- ...reports the most abuse from police?
- ...views the police the most positively?
- ...is more likely to be abusive as a police officer?



How does the News impact your views?

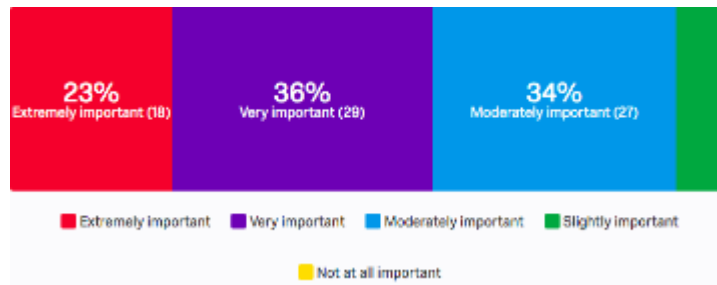


How often do you review the news?

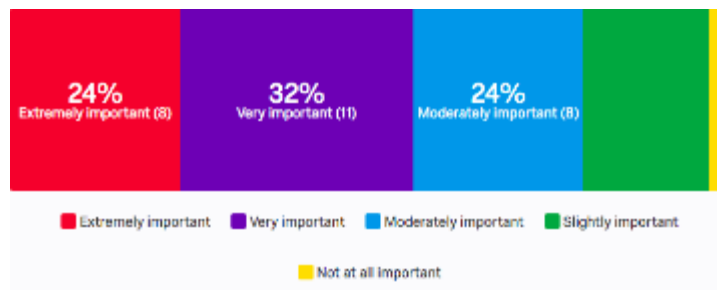


How important is the issue of Police Brutality today?

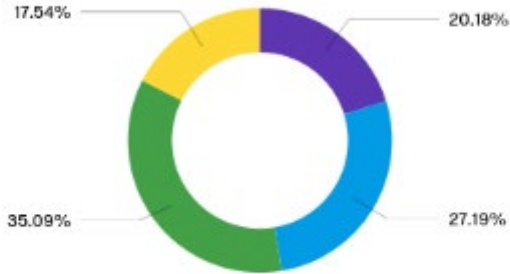
Those who view the new at least 4 times a week...



Those who view the new 3 times a week or less...



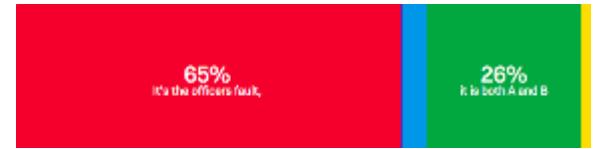
Do you think Media portrays Police Brutality accurately?



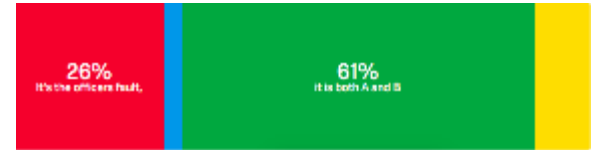
■ Definitely yes
 ■ Mostly yes
 ■ Might or might not
 ■ Mostly not
 ■ Definitely not

Whose fault is it?

Definitely Yes and Mostly Yes



Might or Might Not



Mostly Not and Definitely Not



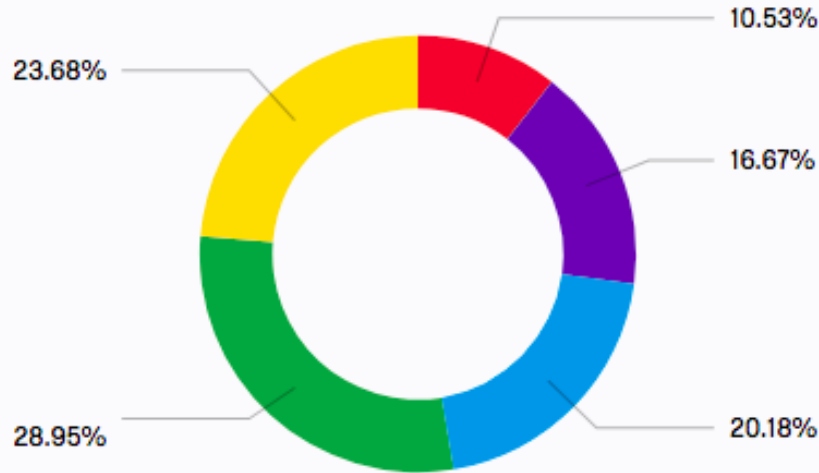
■ It's the officers' fault,
 ■ It's the citizens' fault
 ■ It's the media' fault
 ■ it is both A and B

■ Other

Rankings of where people receive their News from...

#	Field	Female	Male
4	Internet	57.14% 24	42.86% 18
3	Television	52.94% 9	47.06% 8
6	Other	50.00% 4	50.00% 4
2	Social Media	43.75% 7	56.25% 9
5	Newspaper	42.86% 8	57.14% 12
1	Radio	33.33% 2	66.67% 4

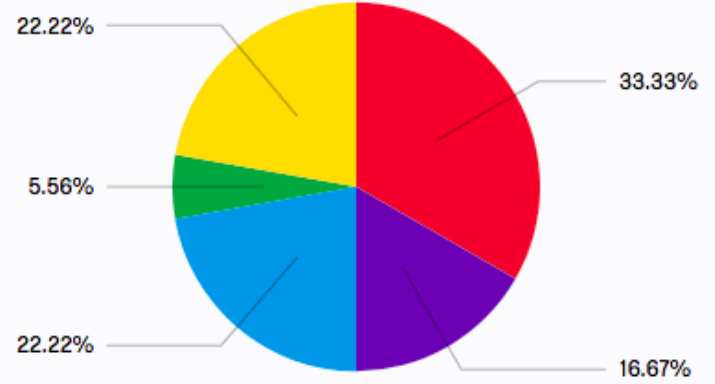
How has accounts of Police Brutality affected you?



Has physical police brutality in the past 10 years affected how you view police today?

■ A great deal
 ■ A lot
 ■ A moderate amount
 ■ A little
 ■ None at all

Those who have known someone who has been abused by police...



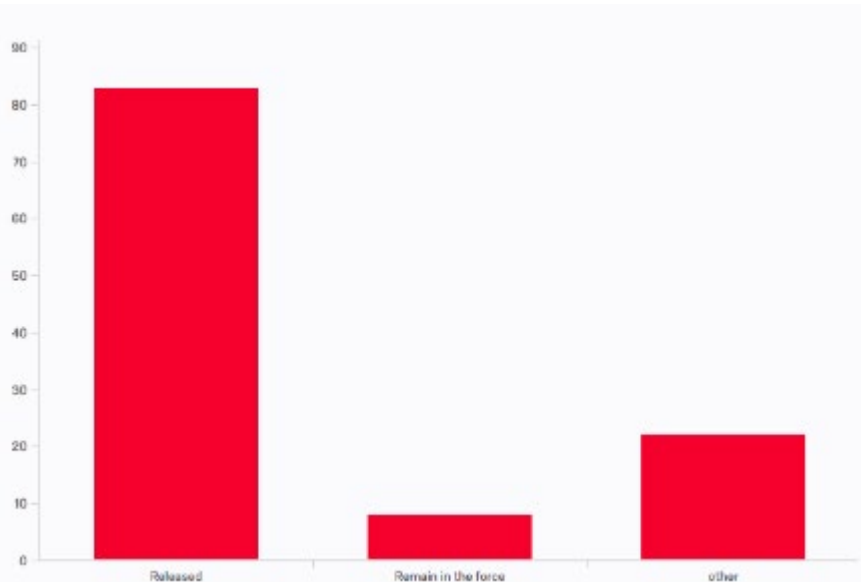
...vs those who have not...



Police

Accountability

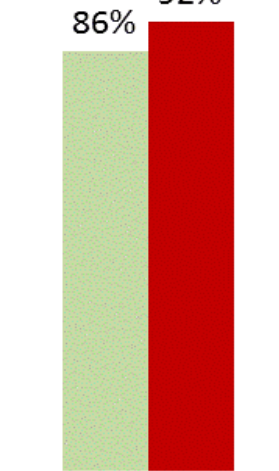
Should officers who commit acts of police brutality be charged?



Survey Report from the Ferguson Report, 2014

Would you support or oppose a policy saying that when police kill an unarmed civilian, it should be investigated by an outside prosecutor who does not work with the police on a regular basis *ABC News/WP December 2014*

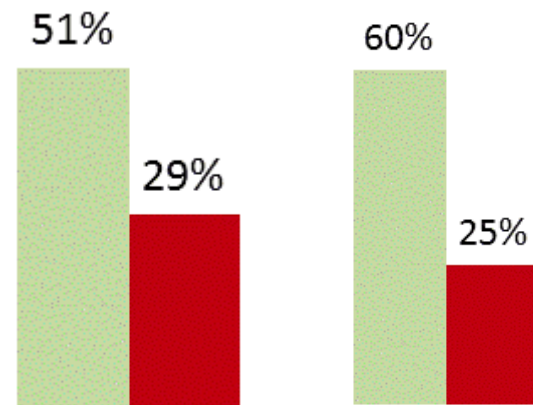
White Black



Support use of outside prosecutors

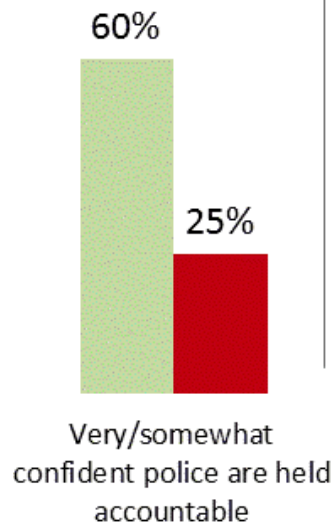
Do you think police officers are generally held accountable for misconduct, or not?

White Black



Think police are generally held accountable

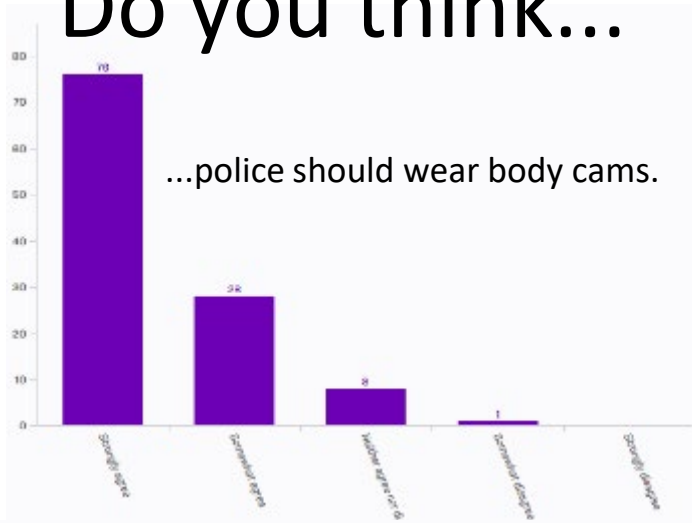
How confident are you that the police in this country are held accountable for any misconduct? *ABC News/WP December 2014*



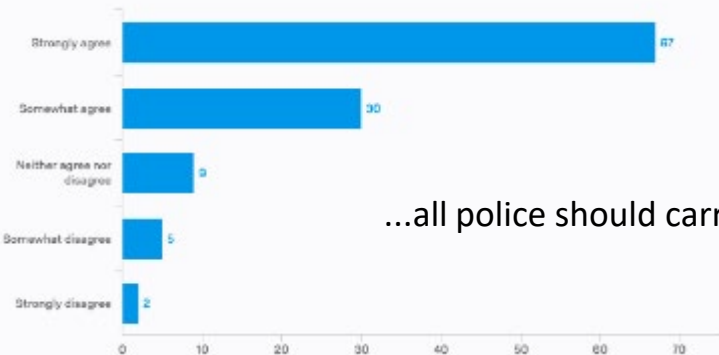
Very/somewhat confident police are held accountable

Do you think...

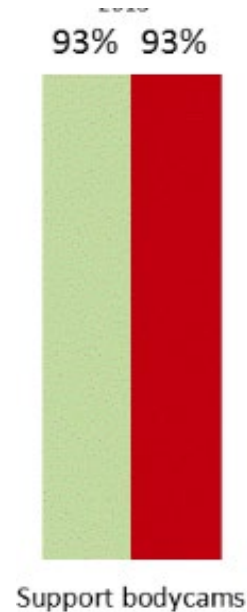
...police should wear body cams.



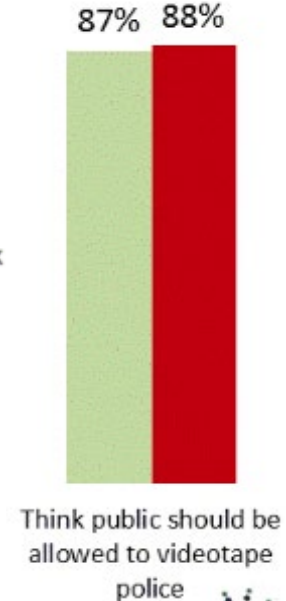
...all police should carry guns.



Do you favor or oppose on-duty police officers wearing video cameras which would record events and actions as they occur?
CBS/NYT, April 2015

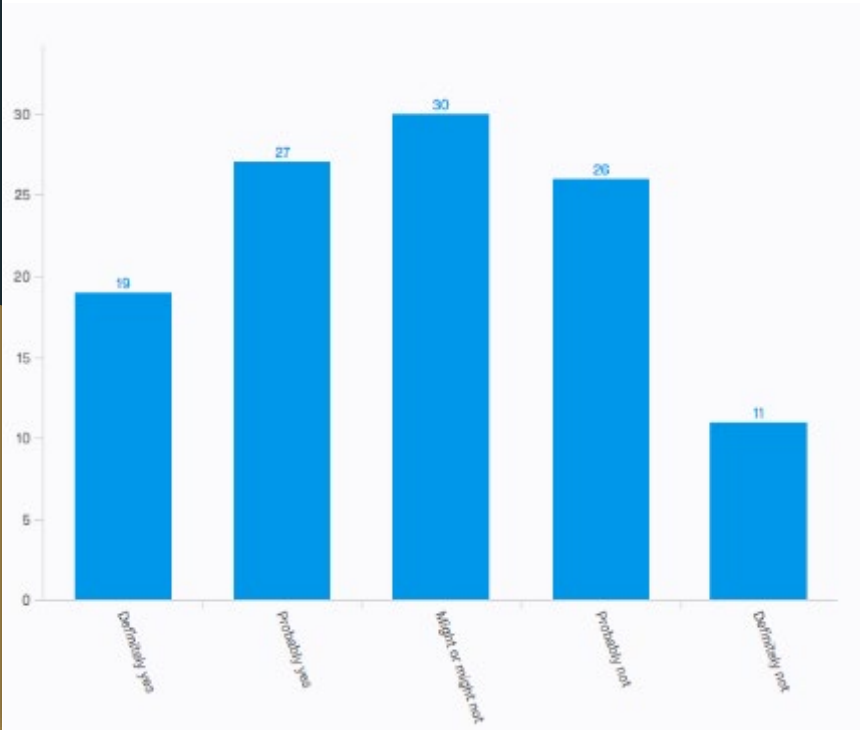


Do you think the public should be allowed to videotape uniformed police officers who are arresting, restraining, or involved in an altercation with people in public?
Reason/Rupe April 2014



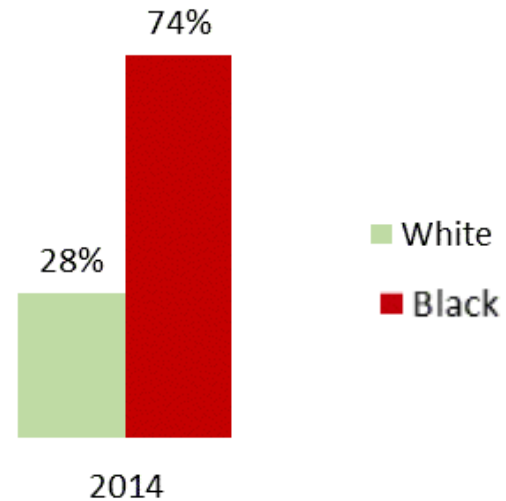
Student's thoughts on use of deadly force

Do you think police are too quick to use deadly force before resorting to non-lethal force such as using tasers?

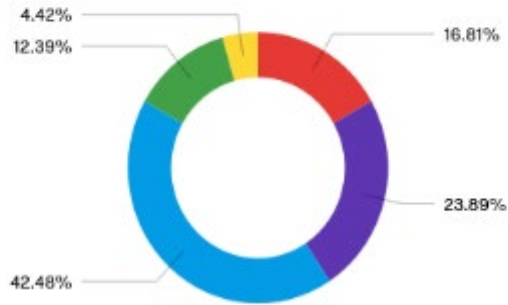


In general, do you think the police are too quick to use deadly force, or do they typically only use deadly force when necessary? CBS

% saying too quick to use force

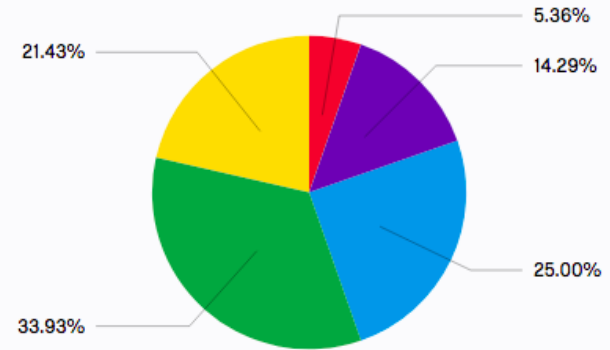


Has policing improved in the past 10 years?



Definitely yes Probably yes Might or might not Probably not Definitely not

Has enough been done to stop police brutality?



Definitely yes Probably yes Might or might not Probably not Definitely not

Conclusion

In conclusion, UVU students generally like and respect police officers. Many do however, think that police brutality is an important issue and that race plays a significant role in police brutality.

As well, most agree that police officers should be charged instead of just being released or penalised. Which is what our other sources said as well.

UVU students also don't think that the media represents police brutality in the most accurate way, but they do think there is room for improvement when it comes to police brutality.