

UVU Students' Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Policing

By: Talitha John, Dallin Warnick, and Greg Caskey



Research Questions

- Our main goal was to determine college age individuals perception of the effectiveness of policing.
 - This will be different between separate communities but the information will be beneficial for law enforcement agencies.
 - The questions within our survey target how individuals perceive both law enforcement and personal safety within their own community.



Research Questions Cont.

- The information that can be provided to law enforcement agencies through this can be utilized for helping focus on community needs and engaging the public with law enforcement helping with community policing.



Literature Review

Originally this study was intended to research The Effectiveness of Policing on Indian Reservations. Due to difficulties obtaining official documentation permitting us to conduct research within the reservation we had to quickly adapt our study to a new target population. This study was adapted to fit the local community of college age individuals.



Literature Review Cont.

The original literature reviewed for this project was geared towards Native American communities, however some of the topics discussed in the literature review are applicable and relevant in the community of college age individuals.

Many incidents don't get reported on reservations, the main reason is nobody trusts anyone. They don't know who to report the crime to or who to file a complaint with... (Perry, B. *Critical Criminology*, (2006) 14:411-444). The same can be said for anywhere else off the reservation. In an article written by Juna Kaariainen, and Reino Siren they discuss the trust the public has in the police and how that trust affects the public's willingness to report certain crimes to the police (Kääriäinen, J., & Sirén, R. (2011)).

Kääriäinen, J., & Sirén, R. (2011). Trust in the police, generalized trust and reporting crime. *European Journal of Criminology*, 8(1), 65-81.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1477370810376562>

Perry, B. (2006). NOBODY TRUSTS THEM! UNDER- AND OVER-POLICING NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITIES. *Critical Criminology*. November 2006/volume

14, Issue 4, pp 414-444. DOI: 10.1007/s10612-006-9007z. Retrieved from https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10612_006-9007-z



Original Research Design

- “The Effectiveness of Policing on the Navajo Nation”
- 42 Questions
 - Effectiveness of policing
 - Reservation specific issues
- The survey was to be sent to members of 4 participating chapters on the Navajo Nation; Aneth, Low Mountain, Cameron, and Sweetwater.
- Double-blind distribution
- Our sample size was about 2,400 people.



Research Design

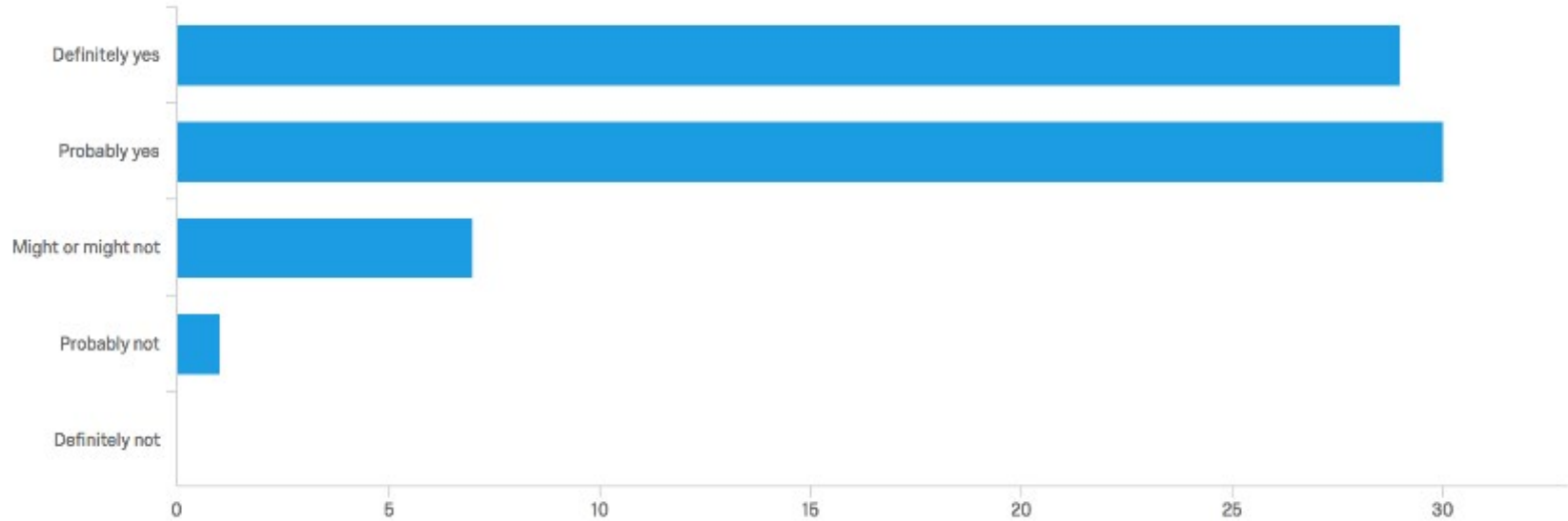
- The research was completed by the use of a survey that questioned participants about police interactions and community safety.
- Anonymous survey with 37 questions
 - Reviewed and approved by UVU Institutional Review Board and UVU Institutional Research and Information
- Sample: 501 Students attending UVU in fall 2019
- Confidence interval: 2.96
 - Total population of UVU 41,728 (Fall 2019). 95% confidence level.



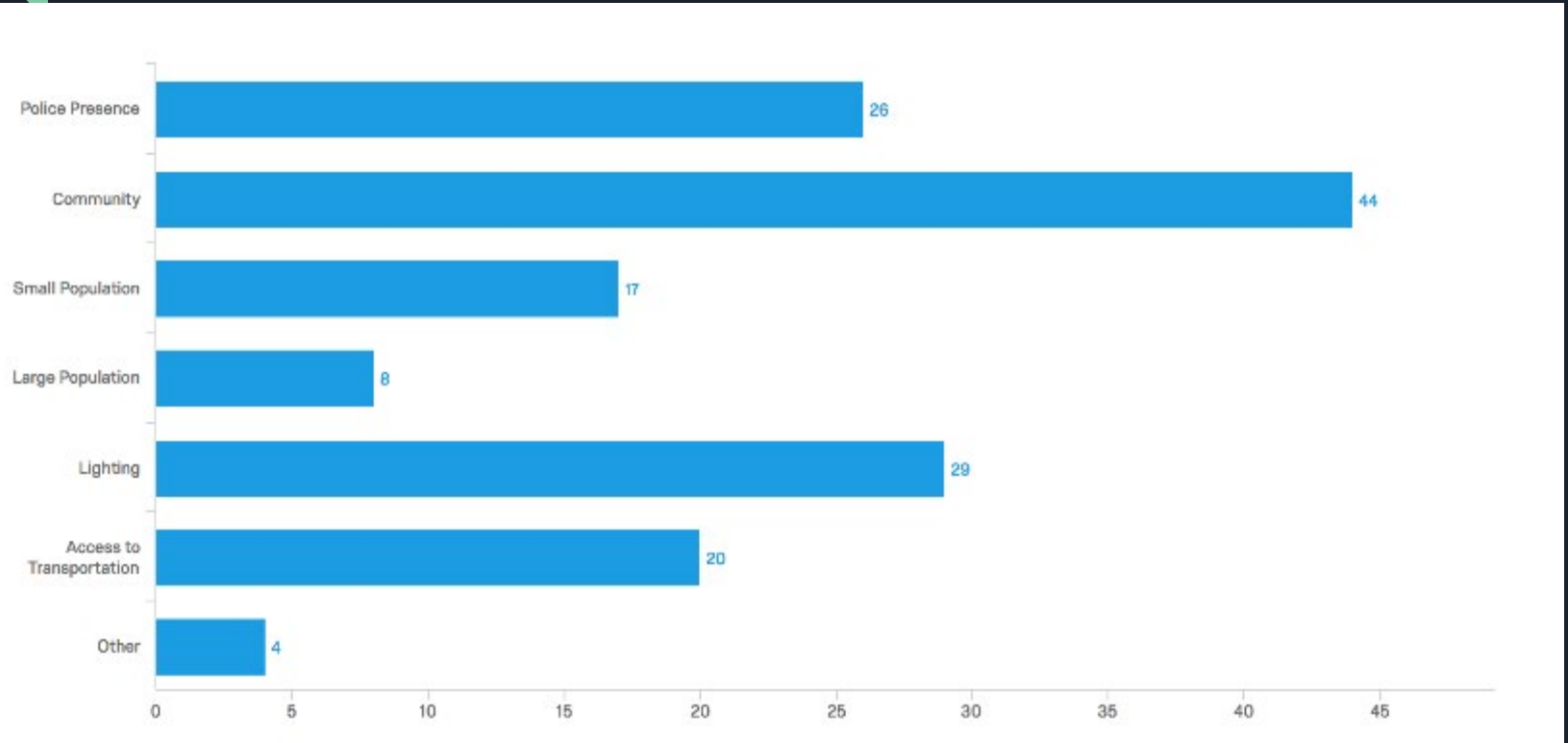
Problems

- Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board
 - Tried to get approval letter for 2 months, without any luck
- Response rate
 - Sent out reminder emails to uncompleted surveys, every other day (3 total)
 - Open survey longer, bigger population/sample

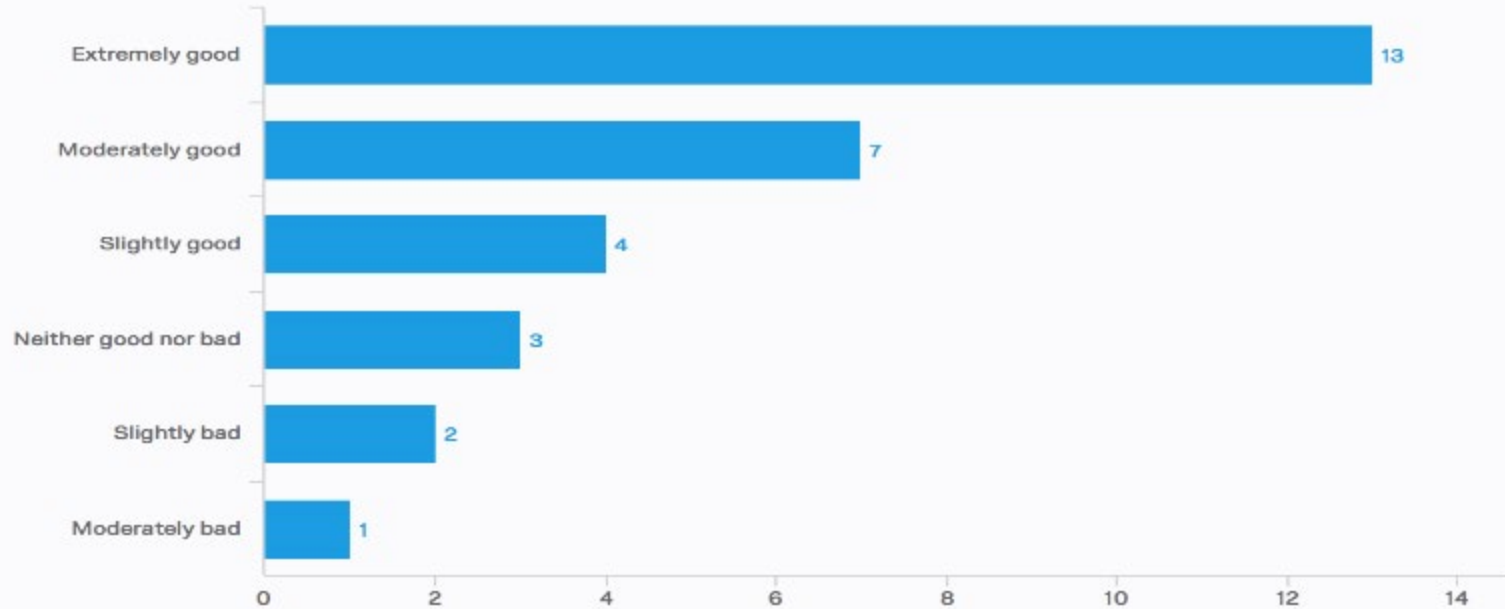
Do you feel safe in your community?



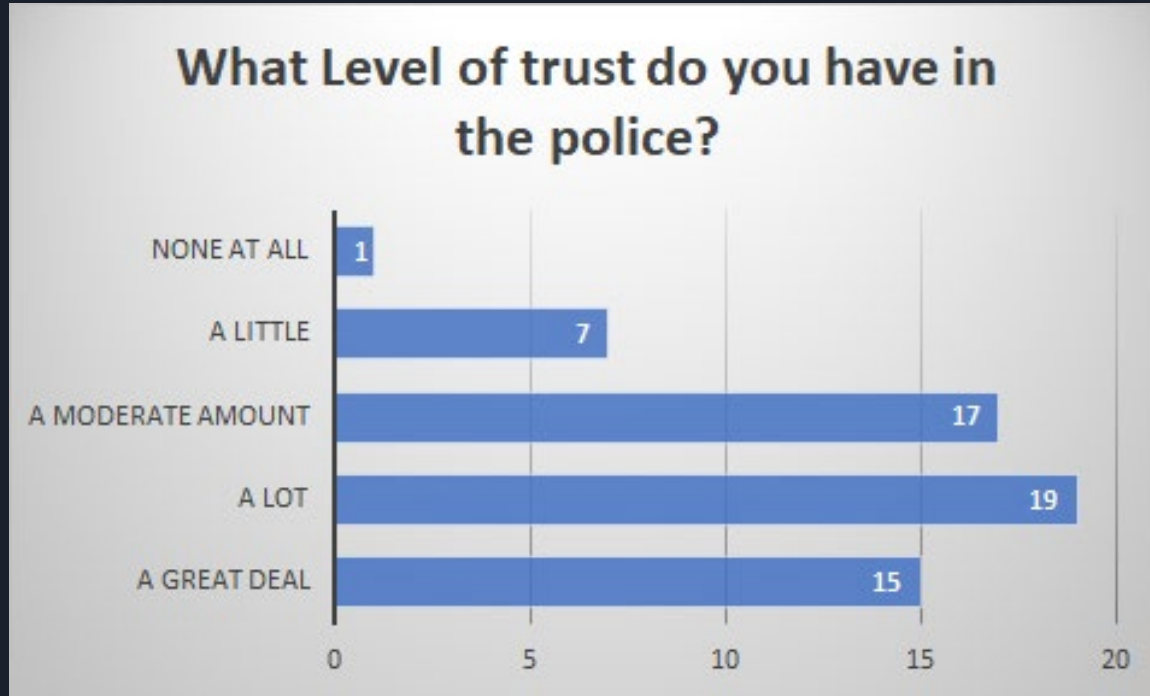
What are some of the reasons you feel safe in your community?



When you called the police how would you rate your experience with them assisting you?

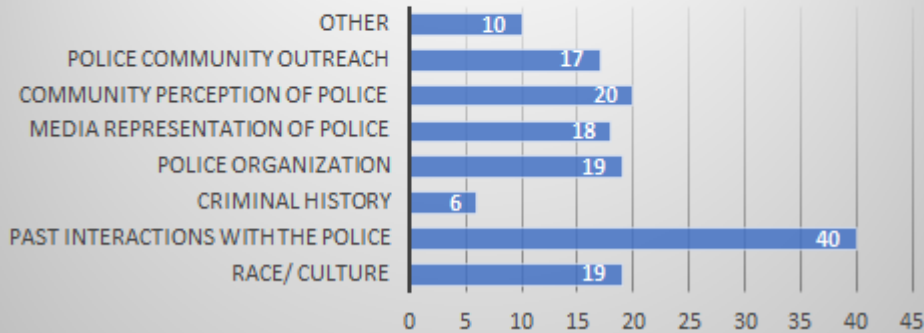


Trust



Trust Continued

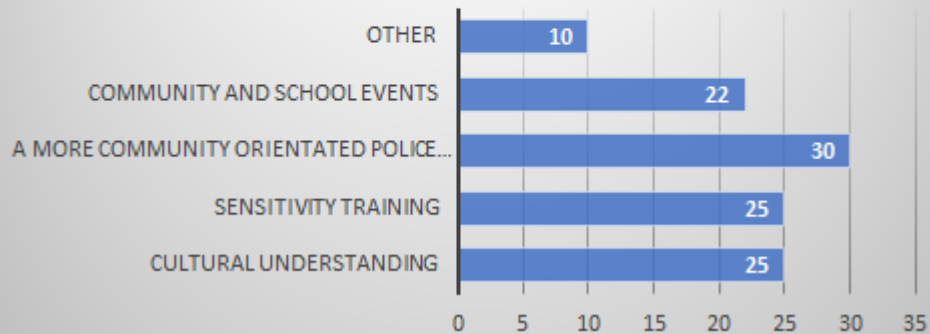
Which of the following affect your level of trust with the police? Select all that apply:



None of the participants specified why they marked other.

Trust Continued

Which of the following would make it easier to trust the police? Select all that apply:



Other:

Public should be educated more on policing. I think if they could understand what officers deal with they might be more understanding.

It's really difficult to say because at the end of the day you can't screen for people with bad morals and ethics.

more positive media the public likes to make law enforcement look bad but they do a good job



Trust Continued

Other Continued :

Individual officers being better examples on the road.

Nothing, I think they already do a wonderful job.

I do trust the police, nothing makes it "easier". More people would trust the Police if there wasn't so much bullsh*t negativity in the media.

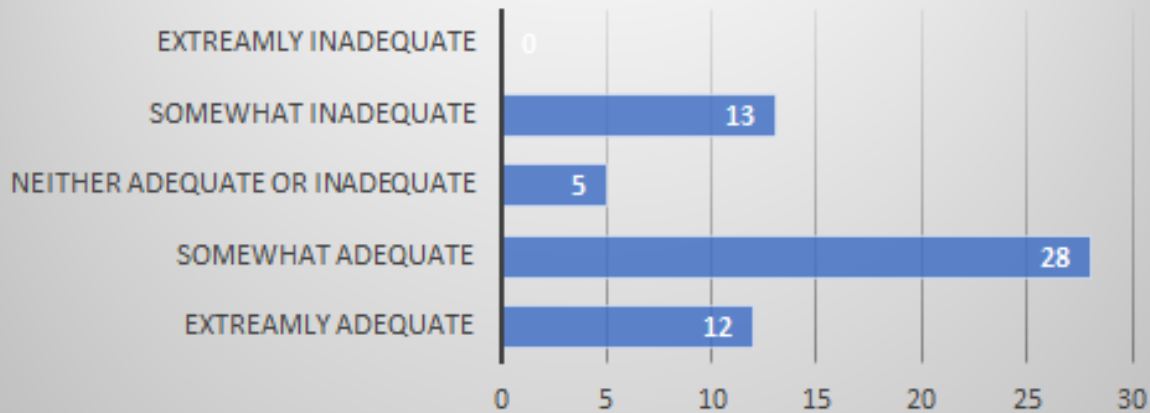
Body cams that cannot be turned off, criminal charges of police who use excessive force, strict background checks for affiliation with alt right groups, HIGHER PAY.

More focus on child safety less on parental rights

Police not carrying firearms on their person.

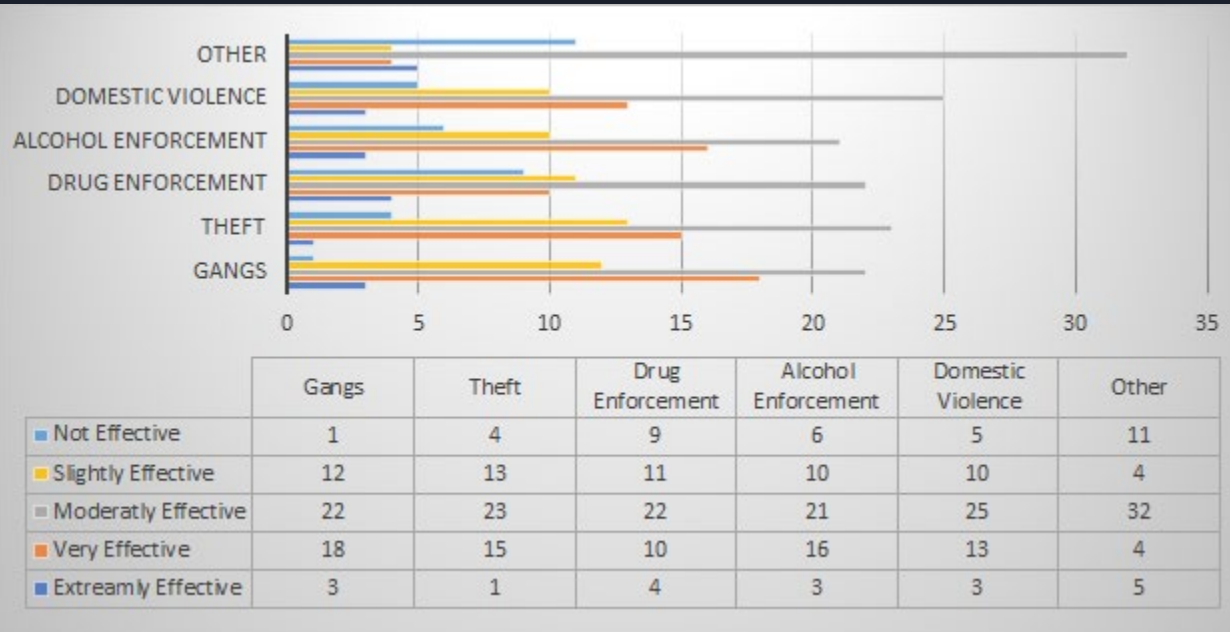
Police training and effectiveness

Do you believe the police are adequately trained to act as law enforcement?



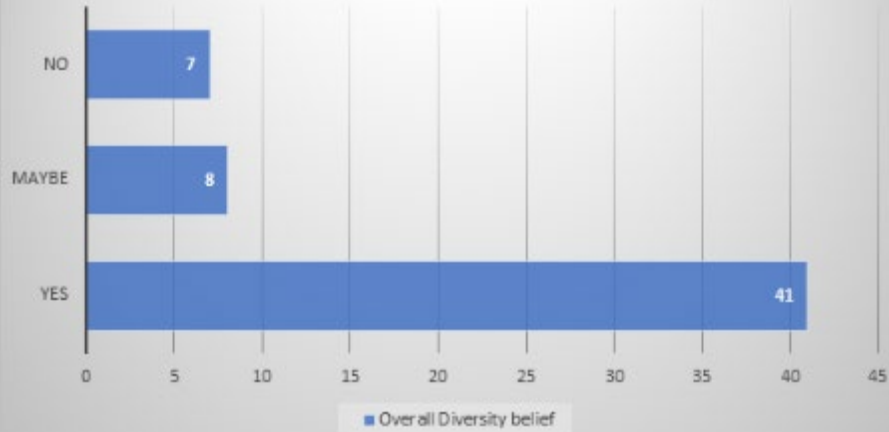
Police training and effectiveness continued

Rate how effectively police deal with the following issues:

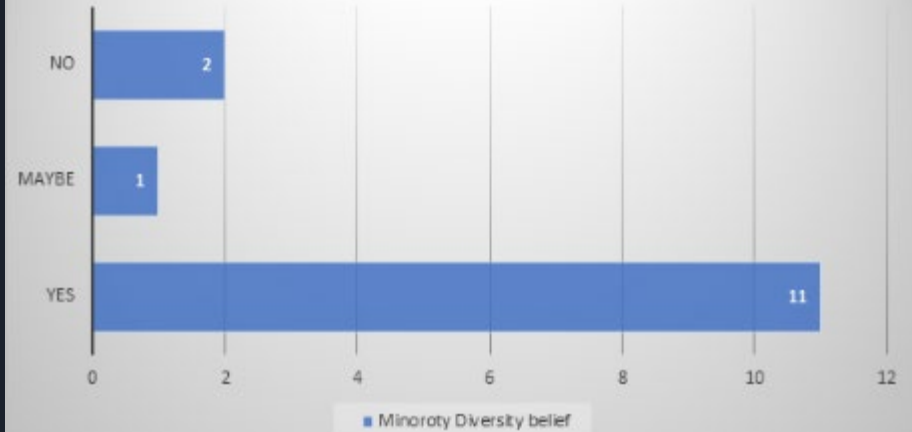


Ethnic Diversity

Overall Diversity Beliefs

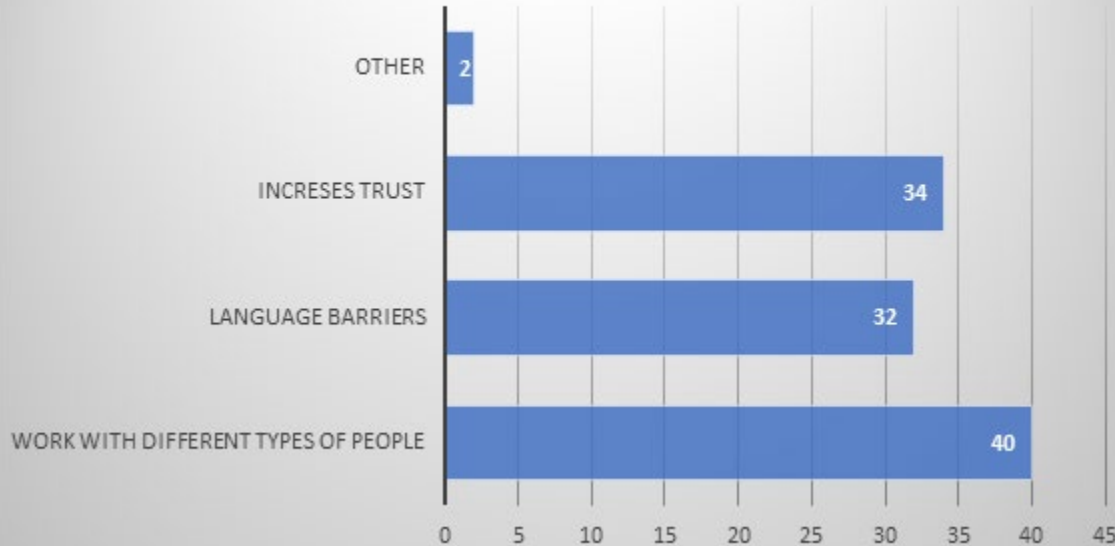


Minority Diversity Beliefs



Ethnic Diversity Cont.

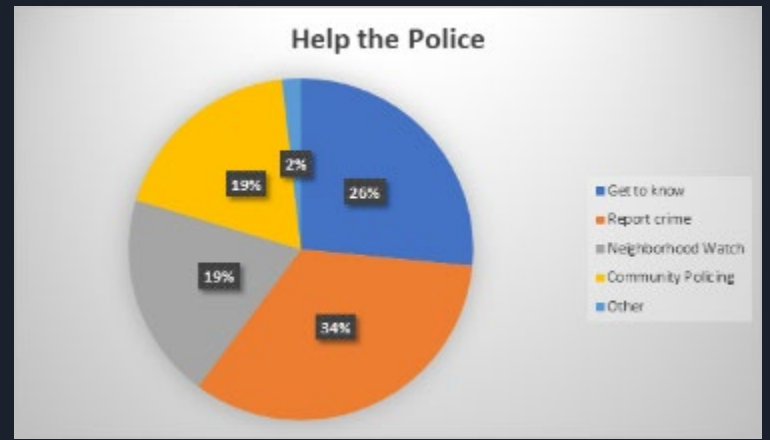
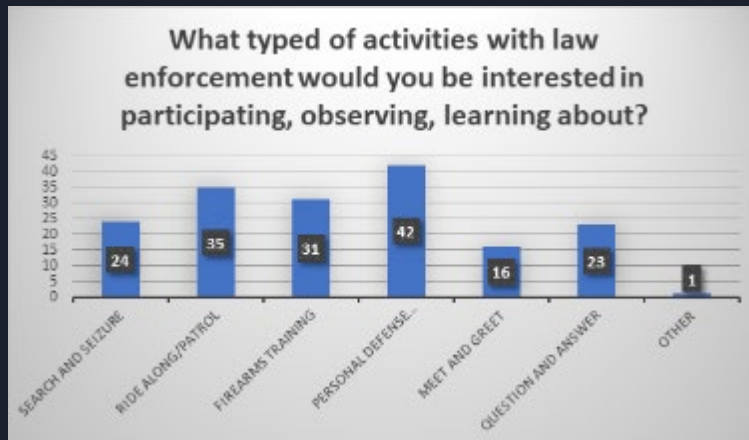
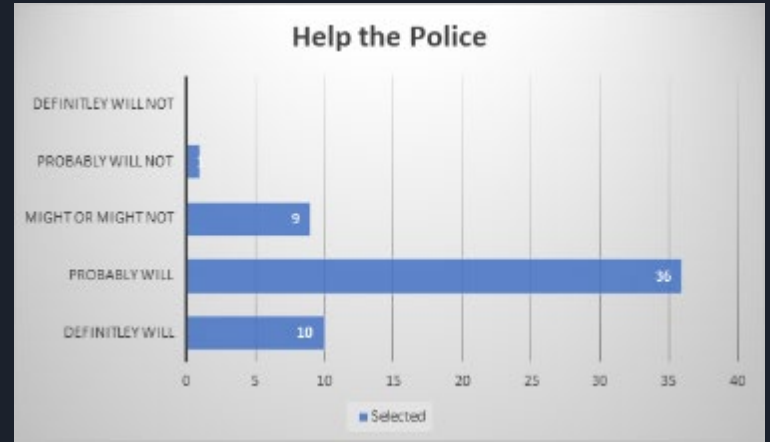
Why diversity is important



Other:

- It helps prevent bias
- Ethnic diversity in the police force should be as diverse as the community is

Community Participation





Conclusions

- People feel safe in their communities
- Overall people trust the police and believe that they are effective
- People want to learn how to keep themselves safe
- There are ways to improve policing
 - Community connections, ethnic diversity, better training
- More research could and should be done on a larger, more targeted population for more applicable information.

Questions?

