



Perception of UVU

Students on the Police and Police Body Cameras

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Literature Review

McCamman, M., & Culhane, S. (2017). Police body cameras and us: Public perceptions of the justification of the police use of force in the body camera era. *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*, 3(2), 167–175. <https://doi.org/10.1037/tps0000117>

The researchers from this study wanted to know what effect controversial police shootings have on the public's' opinion of police officers. The researchers presented a controversial police shooting to the research participants in one of three ways(audio, text, or video). Researchers found that participants who were exposed to a video of a controversial police shooting were far less likely to consider it justified, than participants who just read about it or heard the audio from the shooting. The researchers conclude that police body camera footage is harmful to the public's perception of police officers.

Literature Review (cont.)

Kääriäinen, J., Isotalus, P., & Thomassen, G. (2016). Does public criticism Erode trust in the police? The case of Jari Aarnio in the Finnish news media and its effects on the public's attitudes towards the police. *Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology & Crime Prevention*, 17(1), 70-85. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.uvu.edu/10.1080/14043858.2016.1144315>

In this study, researchers examined examples of media uproar against police, while also administering an anonymous survey about the media and the police. The researchers found that negative news stories about the police do not mean that the audience will develop more negative feelings about them. The researchers determined that the decisive factor could be the frame of the news and its social context.



Sample Methods

We had 88 people respond to our survey. Which was great news for us, that was more than we expected. A college survey can be difficult to get responses to we were happy with that response. We obtained our sample size through the IRI here at UVU with 500 randomly selected students that would receive an email prompting them to take our short survey about police body cameras. We cannot be totally confident in our results seeing as we only had 18% of our sample actually take the survey.



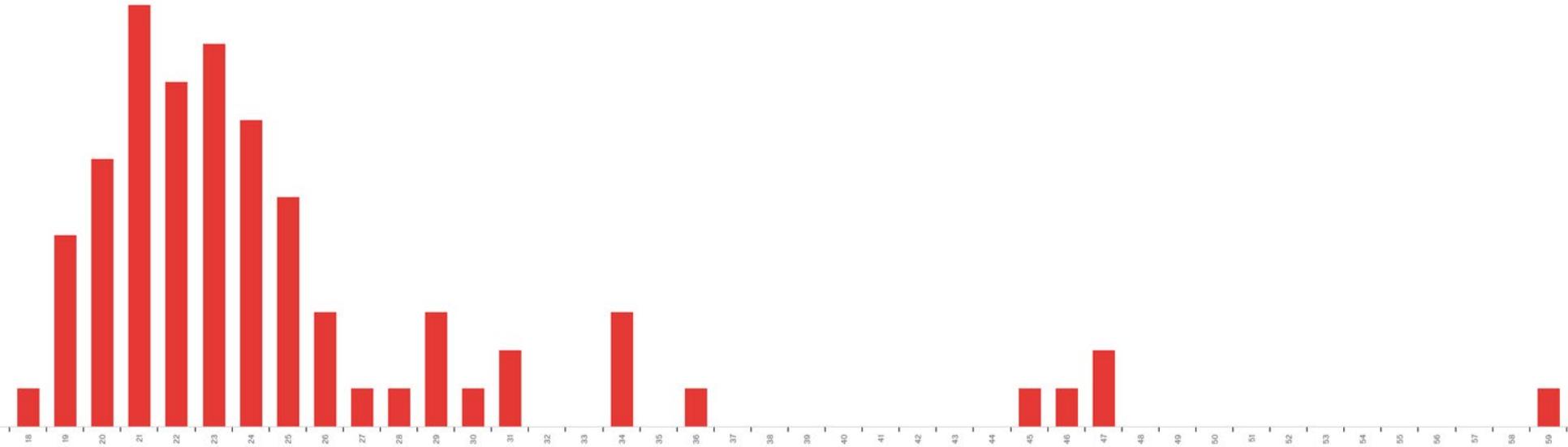
Sampling

We also programmed 3 different reminder emails 3 days apart, so our survey was open for a total of 12 days collecting data. In order to improve this response rate I would think sending a more personable reminder email might help students realize that we need their help and to not just throw it away.

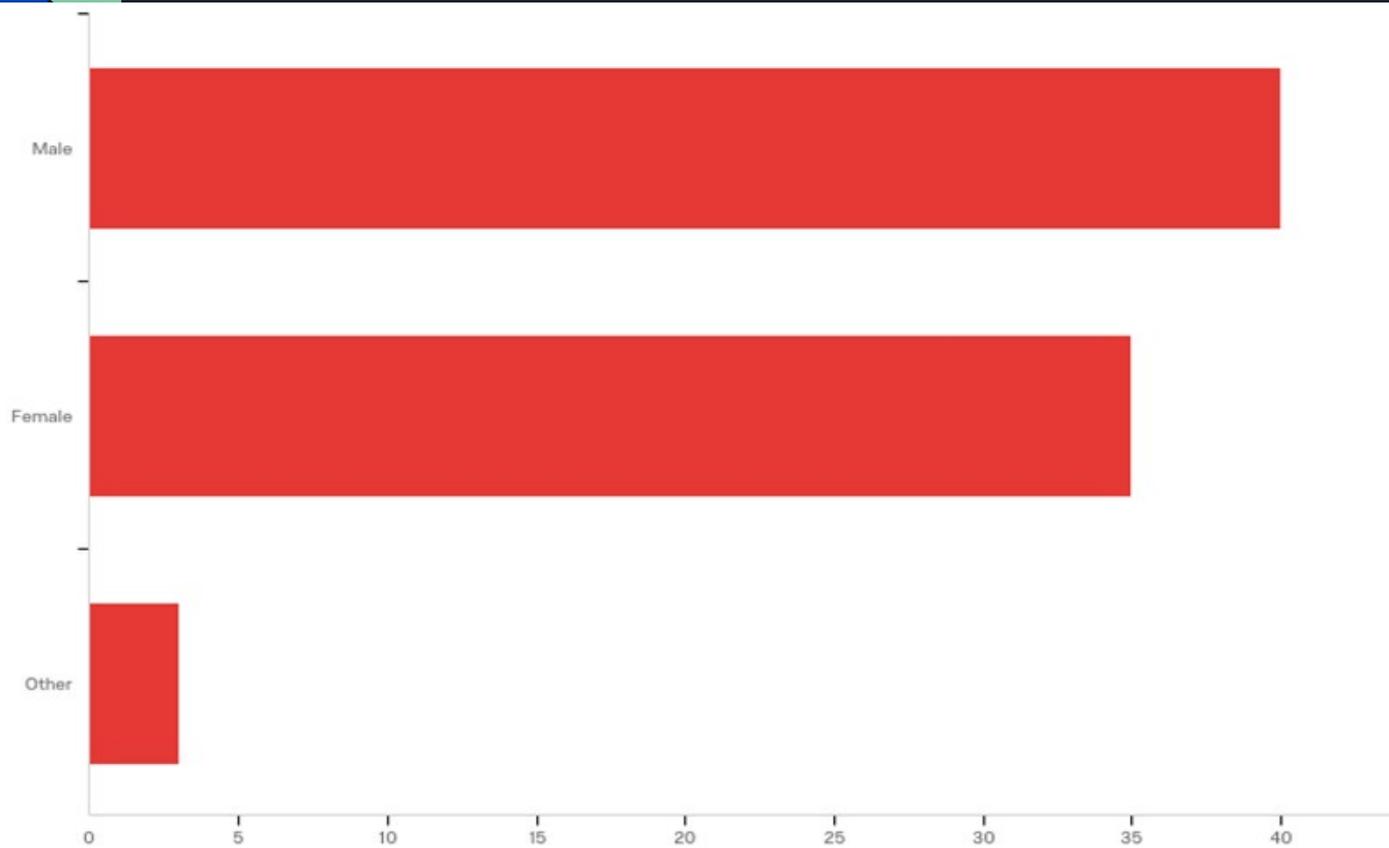


Demographics

Age of Respondents 18 -59



Gender

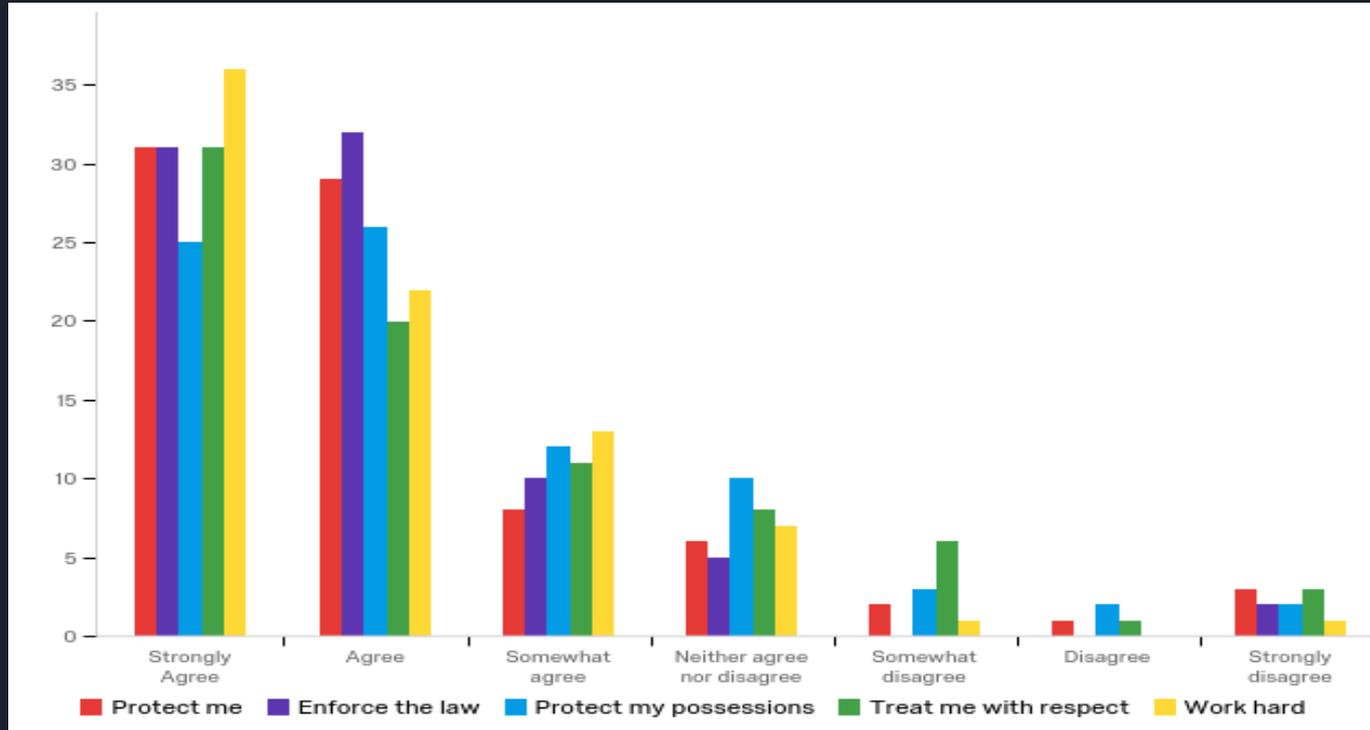




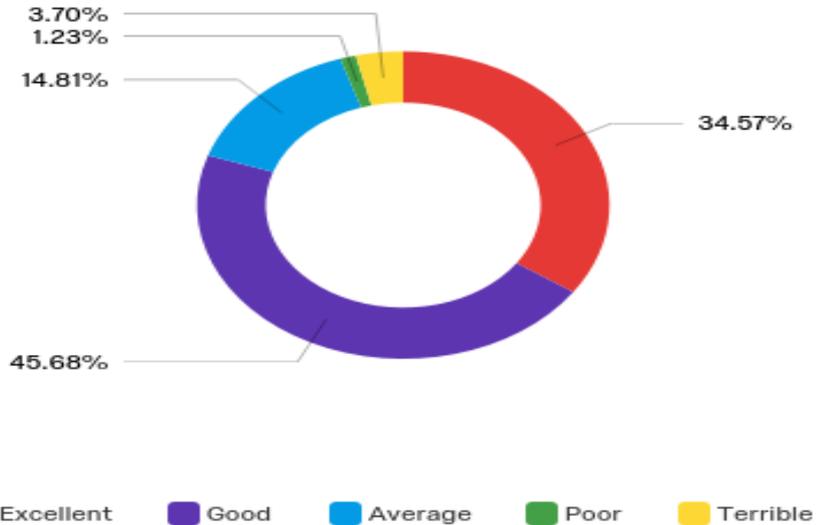
Q29 - Generally speaking, what political party do you align yourself with?

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Republican	41.03%	32
2	Democrat	10.26%	8
3	Independent	21.79%	17
4	Other	6.41%	5
5	No preference	20.51%	16
	Total	100%	78

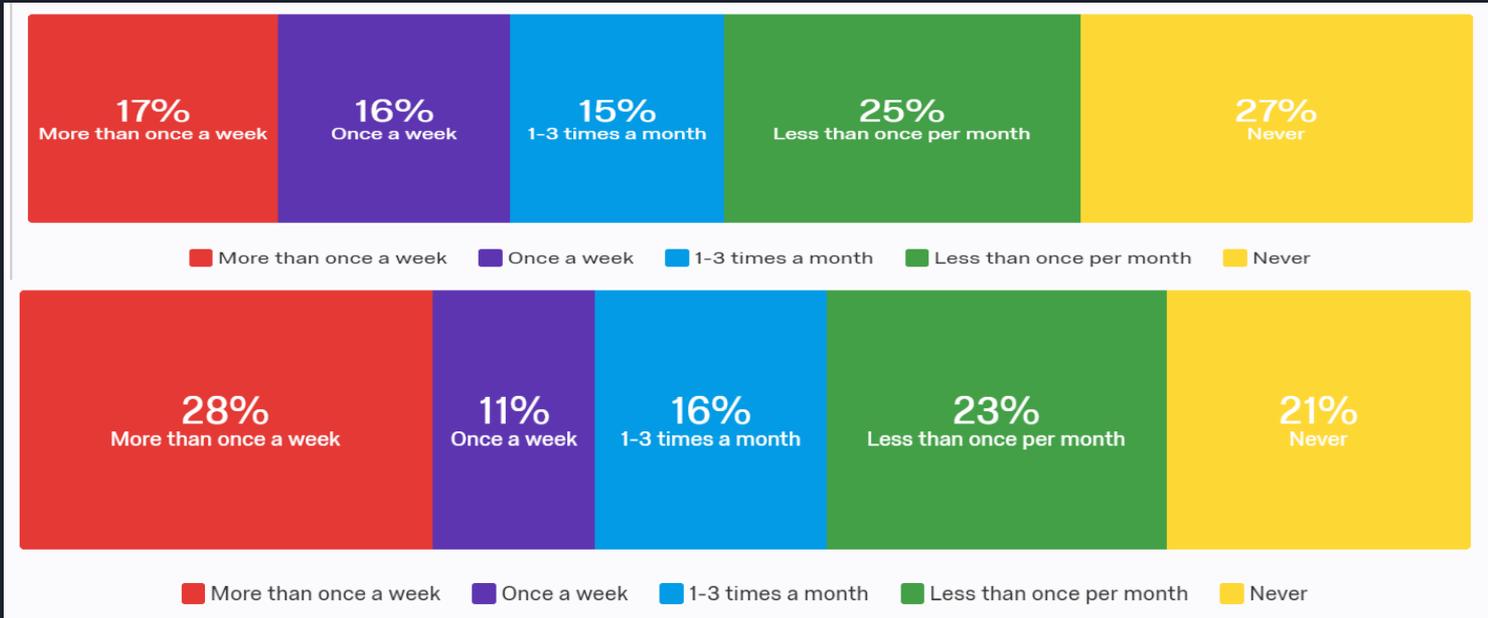
I have confidence in local law enforcement:



How would you rate the performance of your local police department?



Watching The News Local over National



Local News Opinions

		What is your ethnicity, origin, or race?						Total
		Caucasian	Hispanic or Latino	Black	Native American or American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	
What effect does watching the local news have on your opinions of police officers?	A negative effect	3	1	0	0	0	1	5
	Some what of a negative effect	6	1	0	0	1	0	8
	Some what of a positive effect	5	1	0	0	1	1	8
	A positive effect	11	0	0	0	0	0	11
	Neither a positive or a negative effect	26	4	0	0	0	1	31
	Unsure	11	3	0	0	1	0	15
	Total	62	10	0	0	3	3	78

National News Opinions

		What is your ethnicity, origin, or race?						Total
		Caucasian	Hispanic or Latino	Black	Native American or American Indian	Asian/Pacific Islander	Other	
What effect does watching the national news have on your opinion of police officers?	A negative effect	5	2	0	0	0	1	8
	Some what of a negative effect	20	2	0	0	0	1	23
	Some what of a positive effect	5	1	0	0	2	0	8
	A positive effect	4	0	0	0	1	0	5
	Neither a positive or a negative effect	20	5	0	0	0	1	26
	Unsure	8	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total		62	10	0	0	3	3	78

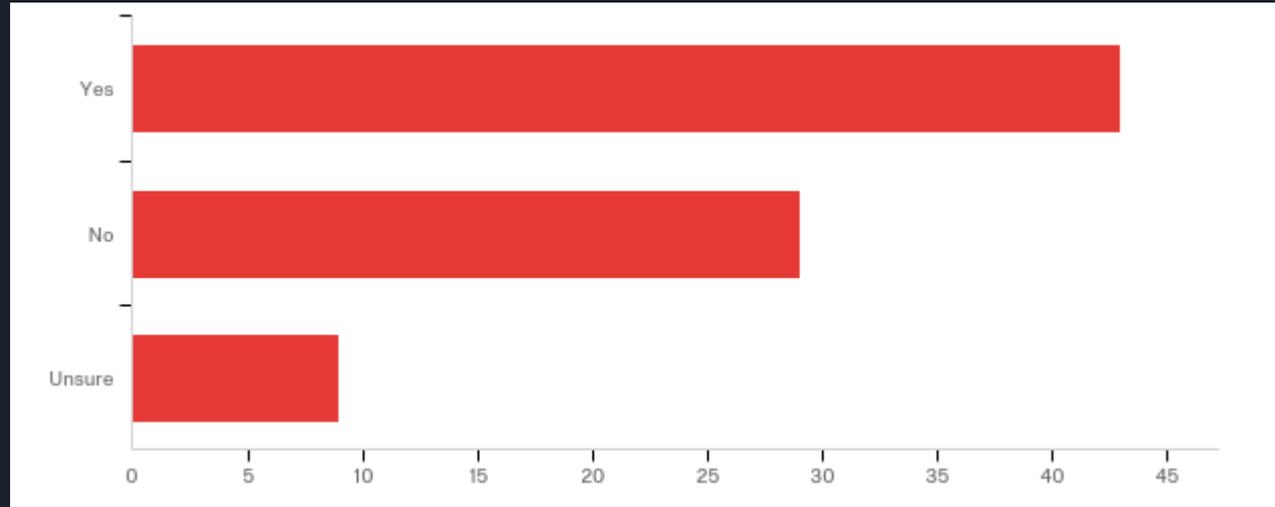


In the last month, do you recall hearing of or seeing an instance of alleged police brutality?

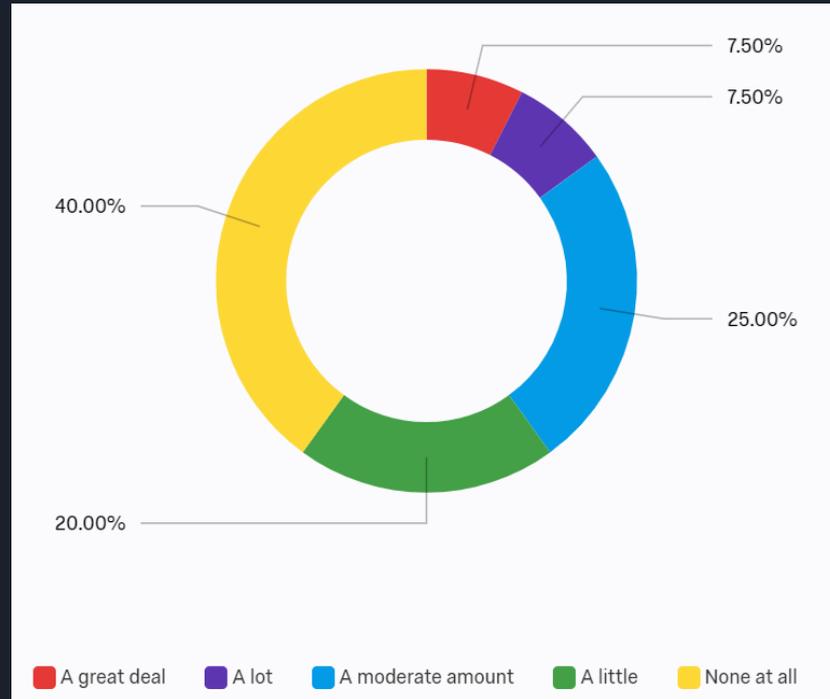
49%

33%

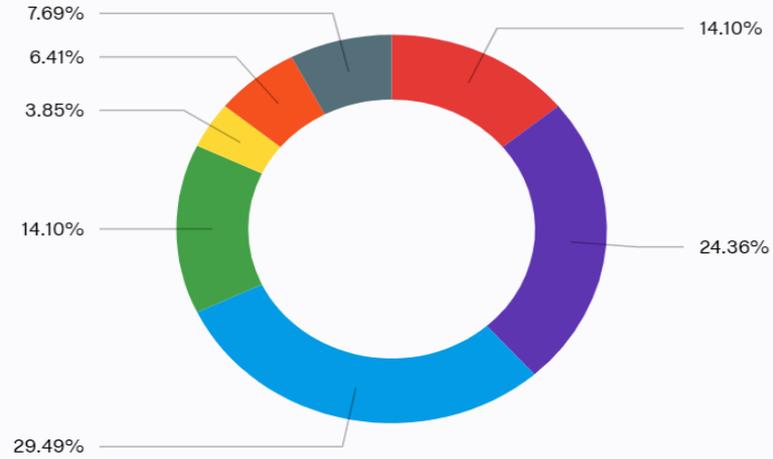
10%



How much did this event affect your opinion on police officers?

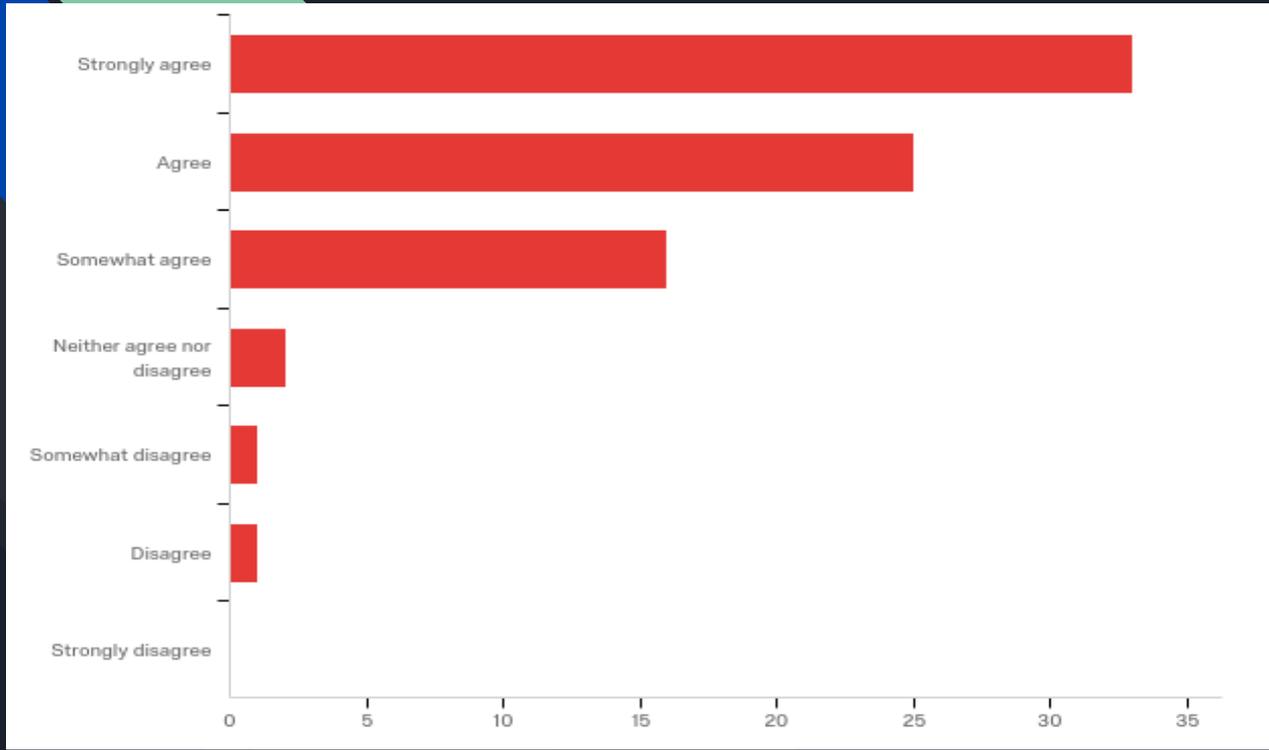


Police officers are treated too harshly by the general public.



Strongly agree Agree Somewhat agree Neither agree nor disagree Somewhat disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Every police officer should be issued a body camera



33% Strong Agree

25% Agree

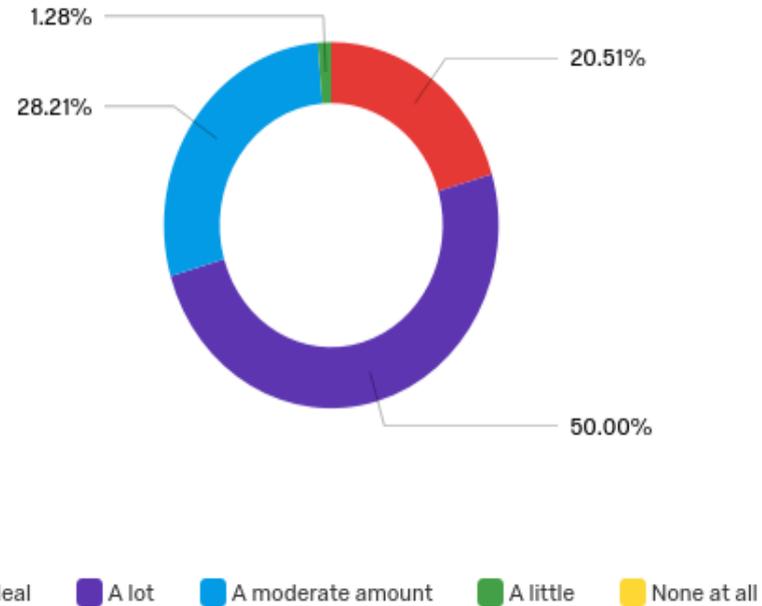
16% Somewhat Agree

2% Neither Agree or Disagree

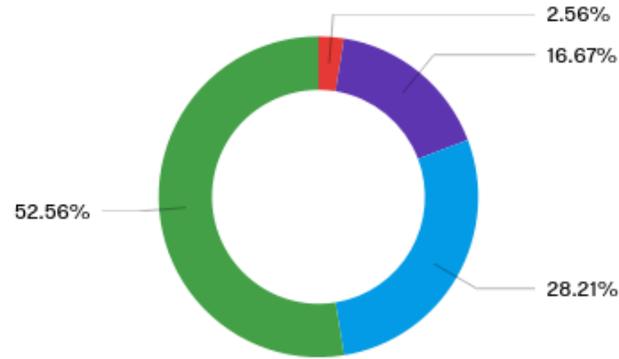
1% Somewhat disagree

1% Disagree

How much confidence do you have in a police department that does use body cameras?

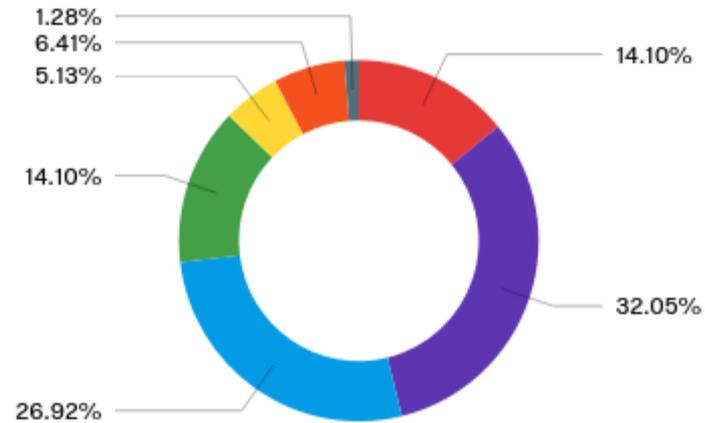


How does it make you feel to know that police officers, who are wearing body cameras, will have the ability to film their interactions with you?



- I feel uncomfortable, and I feel like my privacy is being invaded.
- I feel uneasy about what body cameras will do to my right to privacy.
- I don't feel like body cameras will impact my life.
- It does not bother me. I feel like body cameras are a useful tool.

Police officer worn-body cameras will help stop police brutality.



Every police officer should be issued a body camera.





“A Utah police department is thinking about getting rid of its body cameras. Residents — including the families of people shot by officers — are rallying against the idea.” - Courtney Tanner. Salt Lake Tribune. April 11, 2019.

Conclusion

In conclusion, while we wish we could have recorded a higher number of responses to our survey, we feel that we gained valuable knowledge on the perception of UVU students toward the police and police worn body cameras. We found that a majority of UVU students believe that the national news media portrays police officers in some level of negative light. We also found that the national news media can alter the way that students view the police. A majority of students believe that body cameras are an important part of police work, and they feel better about interacting with the police when officers are wearing them. We can conclude that the students that we surveyed generally have a positive view towards police officers and body cameras, but more work can be done by officers to increase community confidence.