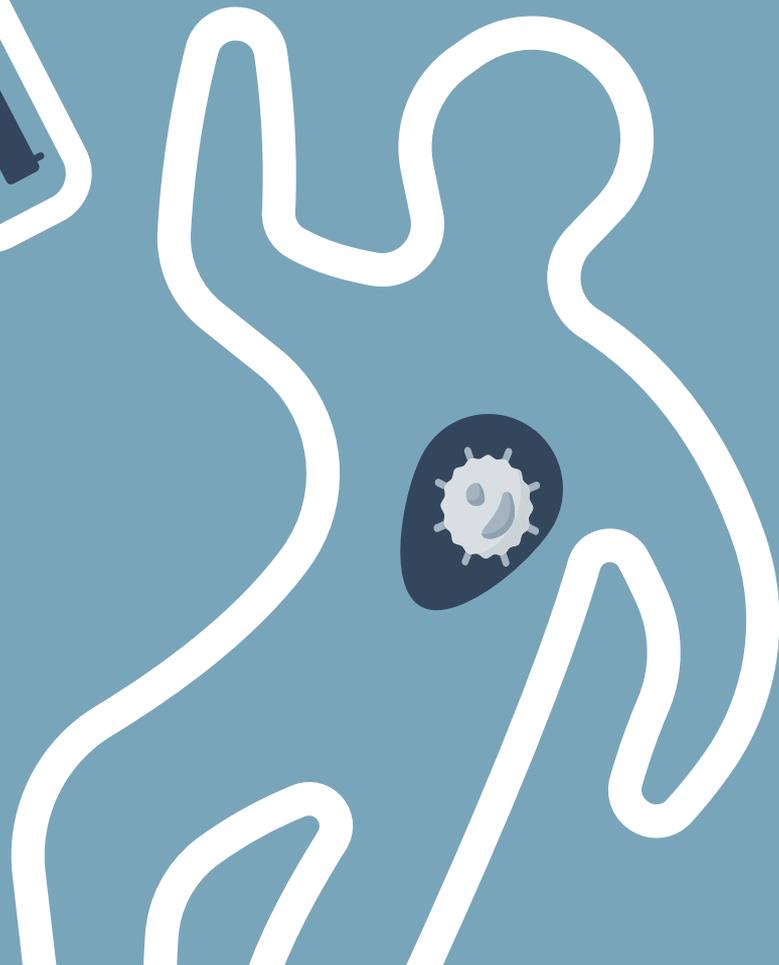




How Has COVID-19 Impacted Crime & Policing

A Survey of Law Enforcement Officers

By: Caroline CazaresRomero & Brooke Legeman





Literature Review

The literature review proved challenging because there were not many reports of crime effects from the last major pandemic in the United States. To combat this we compared the data that we would collect from this research with other data such as how climate affects crime rates.

Finding departments that were willing to participate with our survey was another challenge we came across because some of them had to go through HR to approve the participation of the officers.

With what is happening with the pandemic the survey was to be online which would make it easier to gather all the data and compare the data with each officer's response while keeping social distancing standards.





SAMPLE SIZE

Our target sample size was 100 officers, 50 of which working night and 50 of which working mornings. This would give us a high confidence level that the population was an accurate representation of the effects of COVID on policing across all time frames and across the varying crimes. Our response rate was less than we had hoped, gaining twenty-eight responses in total. Eighteen of which from the morning shift and seven from the night shift, two working both shifts. While this is lower than our target response we understand that the officers are in a busy season and unprecedented times.



SOLUTIONS

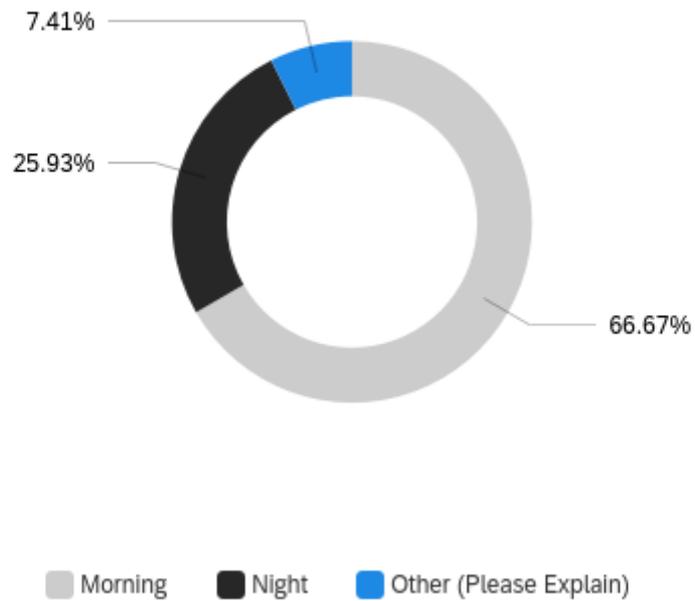
To help improve our response rates we ensured that the survey was succinct and sent out follow up emails to encourage more participation. These follow up emails helped tremendously with response spikes on those specific days. Our confidence interval is that of 80% now because of the unequal distribution of responses but still high based on the number of officers working those shifts was proportional to the number of responses.





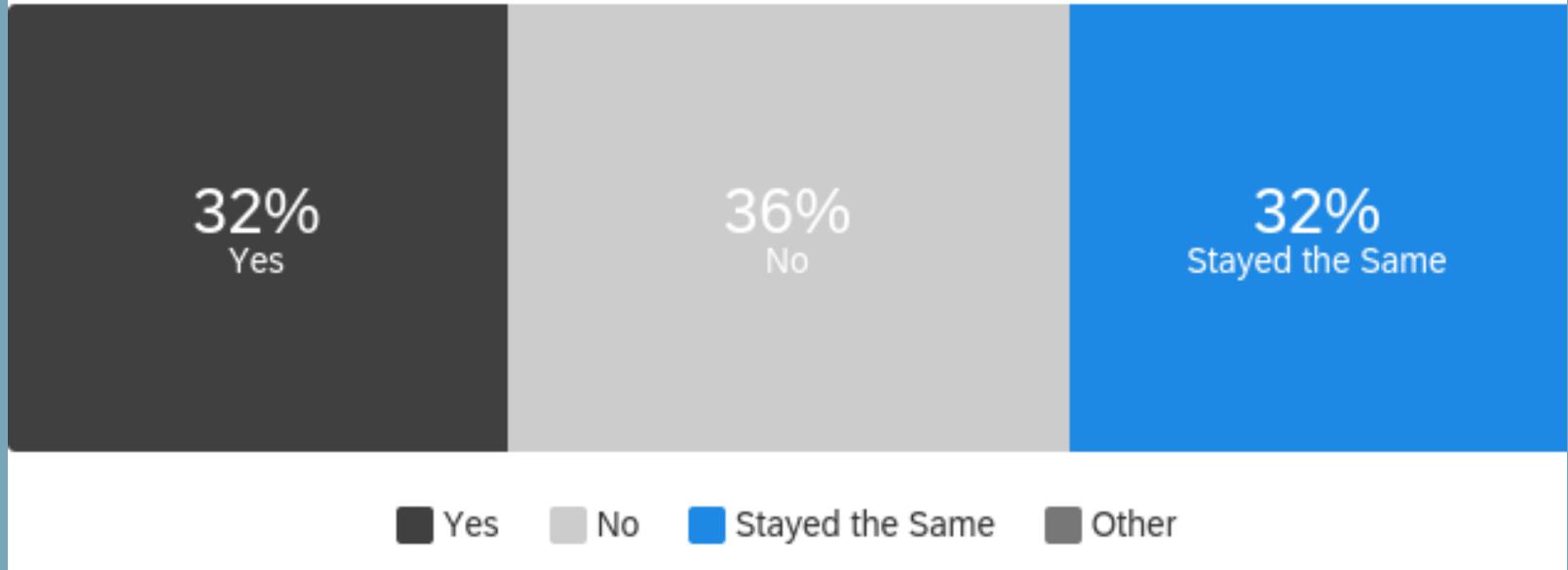
RESULTS

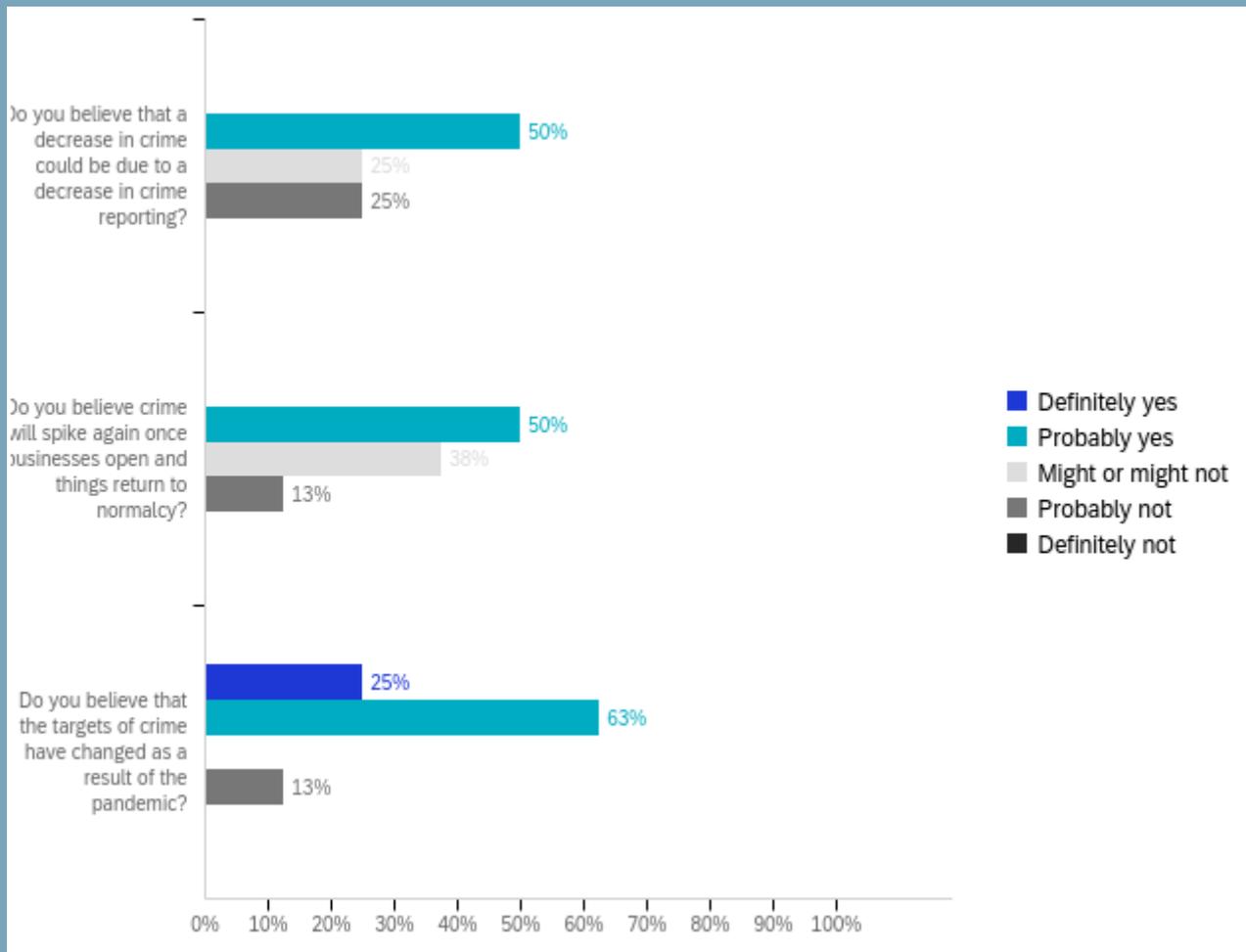
Shifts Worked By Surveyed Officers





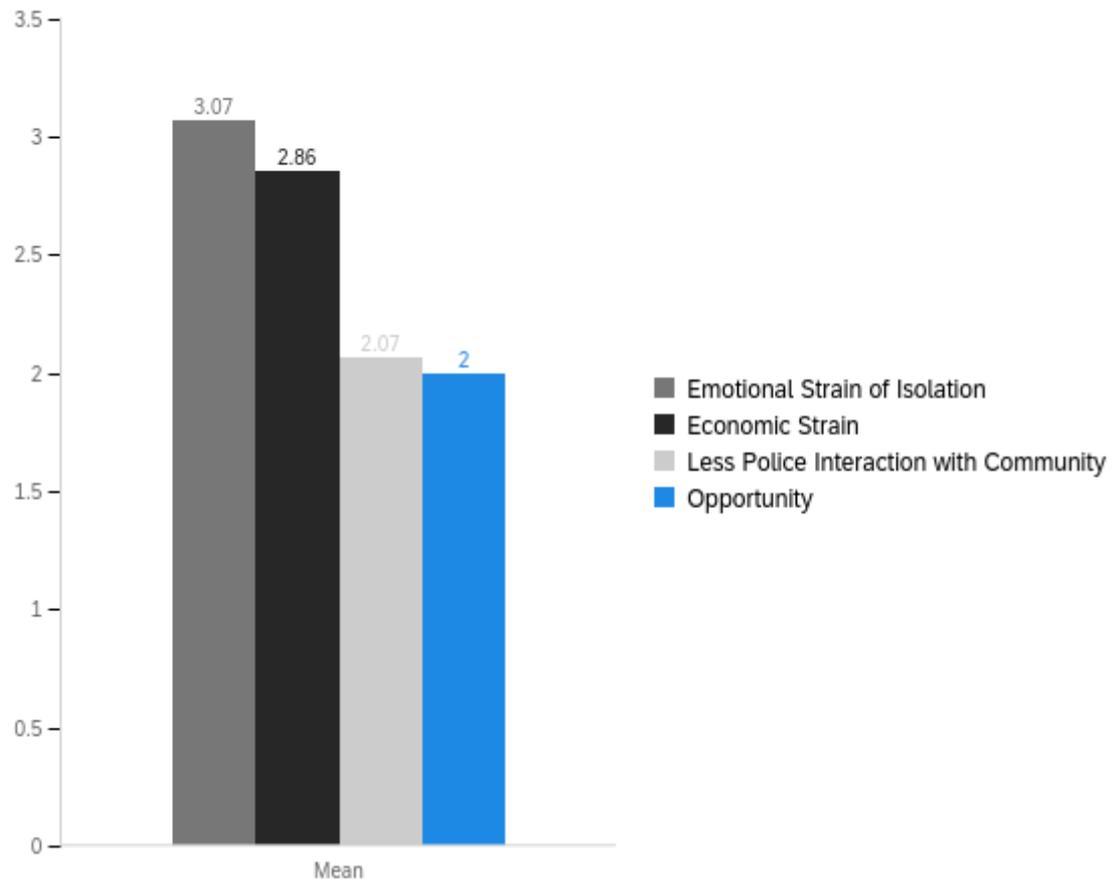
Percieved Decrease In Crime During COVID By Officers





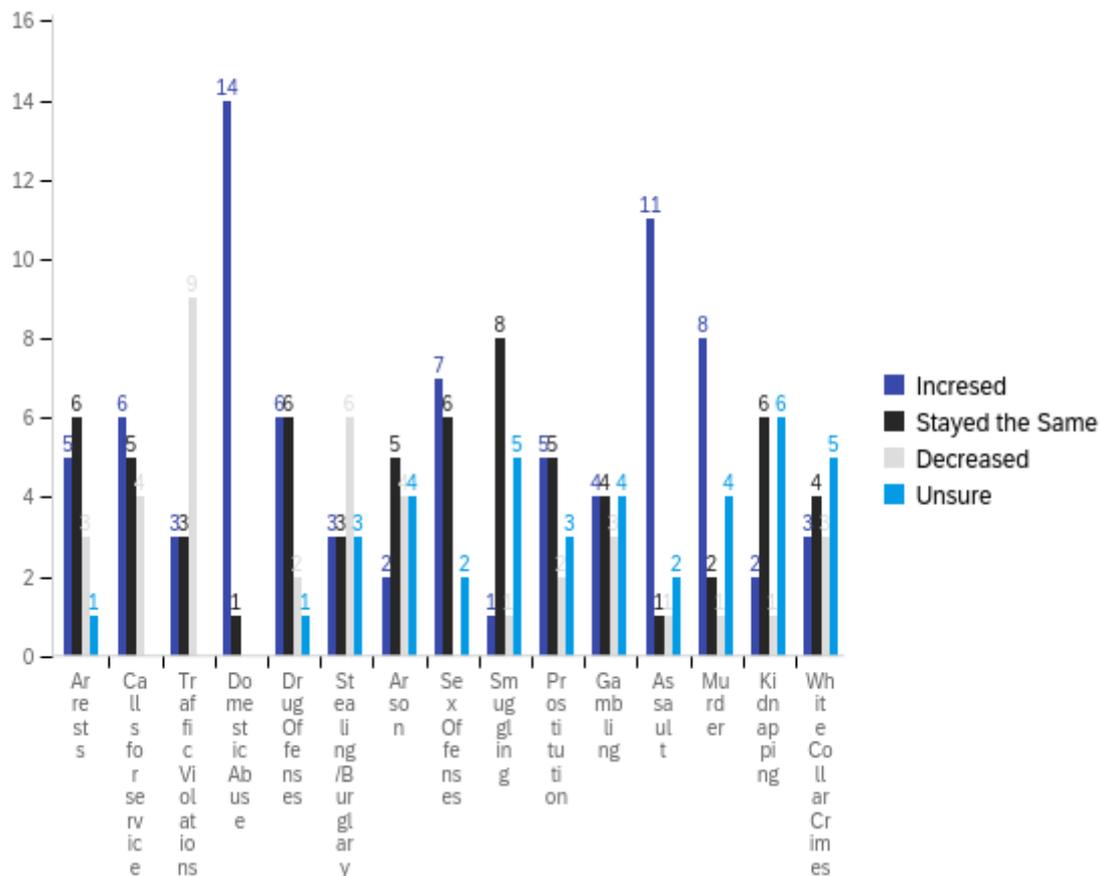


Factors Perceived By Officers To Impact Crime During COVID

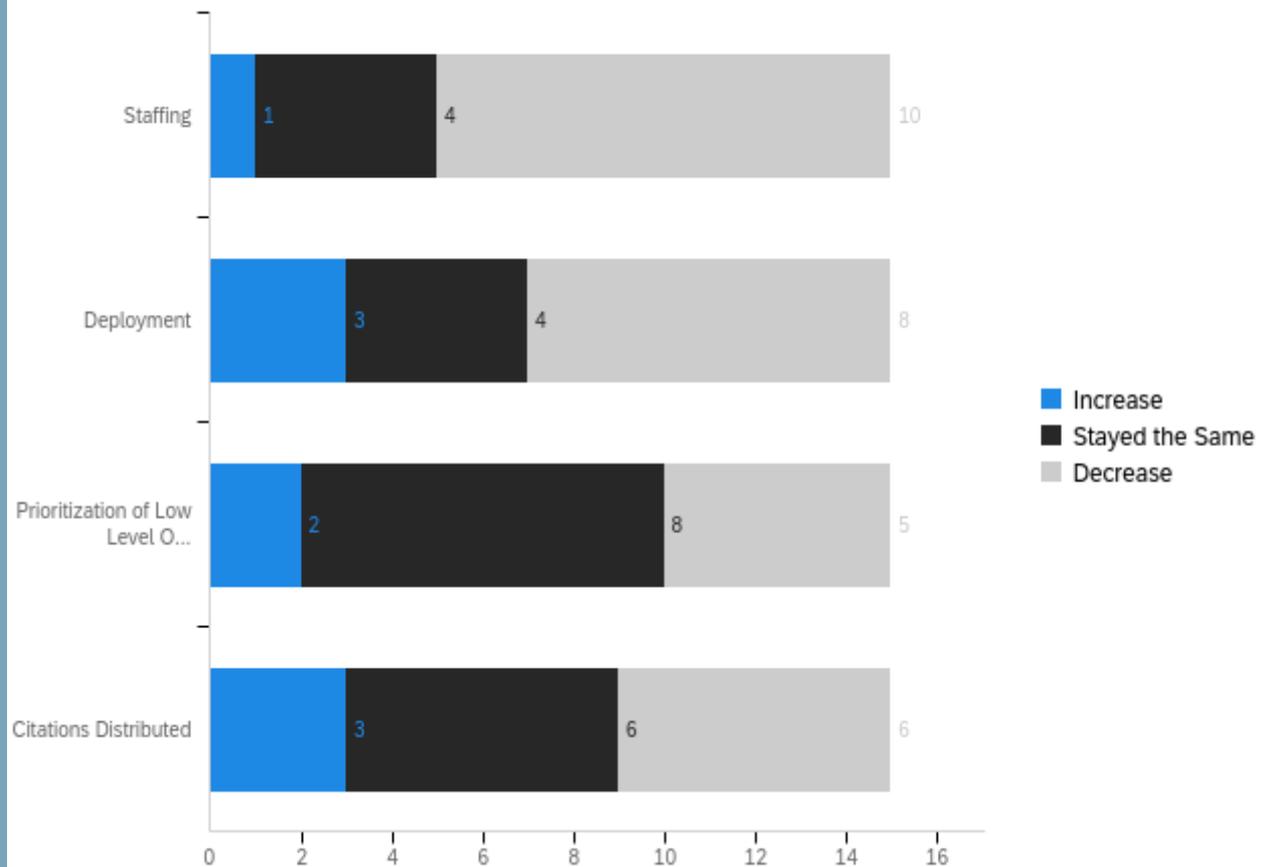




Changes to Crime Rates During COVID as Perceived by Officers

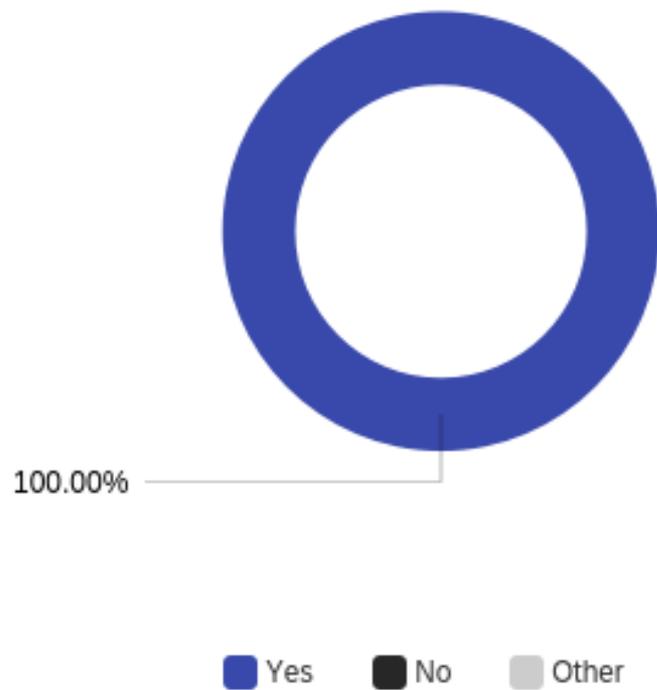


Perceived Impacts on Police Departments as a Result of COVID



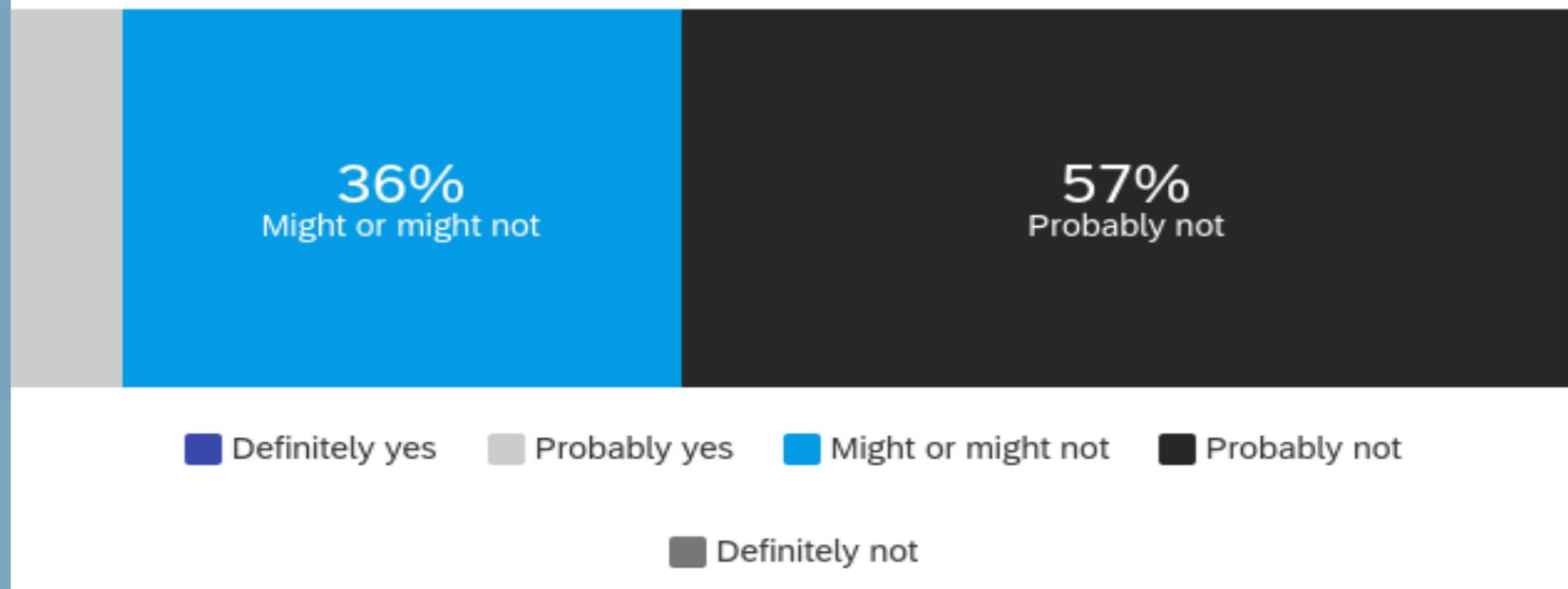


Has COVID changed the way we conduct policing?





Perception of Changes Being Long Term After Pandemic





CONCLUSION

Through our study it can be seen that the officers perception of crime is pretty equal in the rise, decrease, or consistency of crime during the pandemic. Many believe that the decrease in crime is because of a lack of reporting and the change or targets as a result of the pandemic. Unfortunately the majority of officers believe that crime will spike again once the pandemic is over.

Officers perceive the emotional strain of isolation to be the main factor of an increase in crime rates followed closely by economic strain. They also do not see police interaction or opportunity as an impactor.

There is a wide range of crimes and they have varying effects of increasing and decreasing through the pandemic and many officers feel like there is a decrease in staffing, citations, and deployment which may have a correlation.

Officers agree that the pandemic has changed the way we conduct policing but that these changes most likely will not stay.

From our survey we are able to see the toll that the pandemic has taken on officers, departments, and crimes that can later be used in another climate to better serve its citizens such as paying more attention to the home life of crimes during isolation.

