

VIOLENCE TOWARDS POLICE:

THE CAUSES

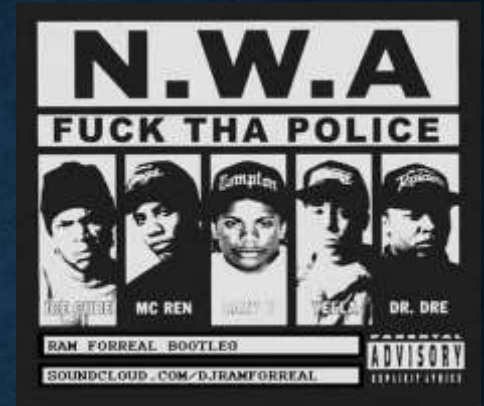
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Background Information

THE PENDULUM: THE FINE LINE BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE OF POLICE OFFICERS

- Early 1990's:
 - Rap group NWA's album Straight Outta Compton gains national attention, highlighting life in the ghettos, with strong lyrics promoting violence against police.
 - Video footage is leaked and shown nationally on TV, showing the severe beating of a black man, Rodney King, by 4 police officers.
 - Massive Rioting in LA followed
 - The issue of racial profiling is covered and discussed heavily in the media



THE PENDULUM, CONTINUED

Mid 1990's:

- OJ Simpson trial
 - Re-ignites the race issue
 - Found “Not Guilty”
 - One black jury member later admits it was “Payback for what happened to Rodney”



THE PENDULUM, CONTINUED

September 11, 2001, terrorist
attack



Aftermath:

- “We love our local heroes”: Police and military personnel
- “War on Terror”

2008, Barack Obama elected
the first black president of
the USA.

Aftermath



- Become the poster child for black rising above “white oppression”
- Samuel L. Jackson “I voted for him simply because he was black.”



THE PENDULUM, CONTINUED



2012, President Obama is re-elected for a second term

Years of ignored white on black racism, perceived and actual, begins rising to the top once more

2013, Trayvon Martin, dies by gunshot wound from George Zimmerman

- Aftermath
 - Zimmerman acquitted at trial
 - #BlackLivesMatter seen on many social networks





THE PENDULUM, CONCLUSION.

2014-Present Day:

- Police involved shootings/deaths of black people have been followed by mass rioting
- The last few months have seen police officers hunted down and shot/killed, via sniper or point blank range, when no stop, arrest, or altercation of any individual was even taking place

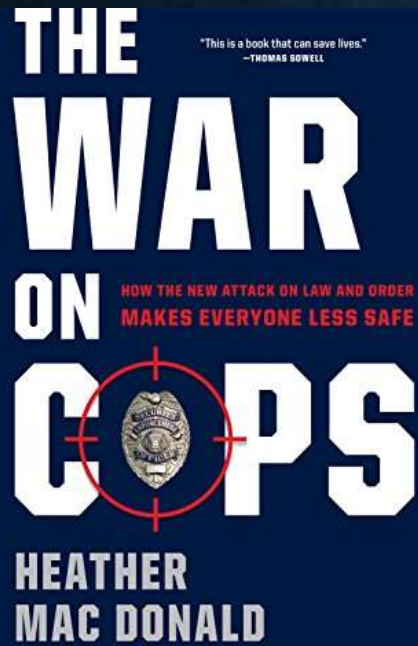


SPECIFICS:

THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE SEEN A MASSIVE RISE IN VIOLENCE TOWARDS POLICE. THE MEDIA HAS SEEMINGLY SENSATIONALIZED THIS VIOLENCE, AND ITS ATTENDANT EVENTS. TWO SPECIFIC EVENTS SEEM TO BE THE TIPPING POINT:

- Shooting of Michael Brown, 18 yr old black male, by white officer, Darren Wilson.
 - Ferguson, Missouri, August 9, 2014.
- Death of Freddie Gray, 25 yr old black male, while in police custody.
 - Baltimore, Maryland, April 25, 2015.





OUR QUESTION:

What are the CAUSES of violence towards police?



HYPOTHESIS

- Violence is the after-effect of the media's influence on the public at large.
- Through media, televised, as well as social, people are told, directly and indirectly, that police are the enemy, despite any legal reason police may have for stopping anyone.
- The opinion of the media does not reflect the overall opinion of UVU students at large.



Literature Review

There have been case studies involving *police violence*, examining possible reasons violence towards police may happen, although many studies pre-date 2014.

Factors examined include:

- How offenders provoke officers to commit violence
- Geographical area
- Influence of alcohol
- Use of force
- Racial profiling



MICHELLE COVINGTON: 2010, CORRELATES AND CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS

Facts:

- Consumption of alcohol plays a major part in violence towards police.
- Out of all arrests:
 - 38% who initiated violence against an officer did so mainly to avoid arrest
 - Of the other 42%,
 - 19% were attempts to kill the officer(s)
 - 14% were attempts to frighten the officer(s)
 - 7% were attempts to wound the officer(s)
 - 2% were attempts to immobilize the officer(s)



BRADLEY ANDERS: 2011, **RACIAL PROFILING AND ITS RELATION TO PROACTIVE** **PROFILING**

Facts:

- Found no relationship between arrests or stops due to racial profiling.
- Surprising amounts of reverse profiling when officers make arrests.
 - Several agencies tell officers to NOT stop minorities to avoid accusations of racial profiling.
- Suggests that the states that mandate Racial Profiling Laws should keep in mind that if an officer is stopping more minorities...that race may not be the issue.
- Most of the time the officer didn't know the race of the person when pulling someone over for a traffic offense.



ANDREA RITCHIE, 2016, BLACK LIVES OVER BROKEN WINDOWS



Facts:

- Following the events of Ferguson, Missouri,
- residents took to the streets to decry what they perceived was “Broken Windows” policing, wherein law enforcement was “marked by aggressive policing of minor offenses and heavy police presence in low income black communities.”



ANDREA RITCHIE, CONTINUED.

- Broken Windows policing is what led to the death of Eric Garner, a 43 yr old Staten Island resident who was killed earlier that summer by NYPD officer Daniel Pantaleo, using a banned police chokehold during an encounter that was initiated over Garner's alleged sale of loose cigarettes.
- In 2015, Baltimore Maryland. Freddie Gray was initially stopped while allegedly fleeing police officers in his low income black community and who died after his spinal cord was severed while he was in police custody.



FBI UCR: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED AND ASSAULTED



Facts:

- Yearly report that has to do with officers that are killed in the line of duty, either feloniously or accidentally.
- Because of this and 40 years of other data, a program called Officer Safety Awareness Training (OSAT) has been developed and is available to cities, universities and colleges, state, county, federal, tribal, and international law enforcement agencies at no cost...
- The OSAT training program focuses on the WHY an incident happened and NOT WHAT HAPPENED. By focusing on the why, this helps officers gain lifesaving information that can be implemented in their day to day operations to help prevent and possibly avoid any type of assault against officers.



The studies listed above show data collected about violence towards police, whereas our main focus was on what students feel is the leading cause in why violence towards police occur.



LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

- A random sample of Utah Valley University students provided by the IRI
- Respondents may not respond to an email survey due to the possibility of it not being anonymous
- Our response timeframe was limited due to a three week span waiting for approval from IRB and fall break happening at the same time.
- Possibly false responses given due to respondents just marking answers



METHODOLOGY

- We used a quantitative research approach
- Survey design had skip logic so respondents answered questions based on their opinion and knowledge of topic
- It was administered using Qualtrics
- We used the IRI to gather our random anonymous sample of 500 emails



THE SURVEY

- 500 surveys sent out to Utah Valley University students at large
- We planned for 75 responses we closed the survey at 84 responses.
- 84 respondents started the survey
- 32 completed the survey 100% giving us a 38.1% response rate of total opened
- 14 completed the survey 90% providing a 16.67% response rate
- Did not include anyone under the age of 18
- Opinion based questions, most in a matrix to eliminate open ended questions
- Background questions asking opinions on police brutality were asked to provide a mindset of the respondents
- We stated in the consent that it would take 8-10 minutes to complete
- Most took 4 minutes to complete with the longest taking 1:32:00
- Students had two weeks (15 days) to respond. Reminder emails were sent twice during that time to increase response rate.



ISSUES WITH SURVEY ONCE SENT OUT

- We took the advice of the IRI and embedded one of the questions to the email that we sent out to the students.
- We believe that did not help get responses. When looking at the surveys that were not complete, most of the surveys only answered the one question that was embedded.
- This could have made respondents feel it was the only question to the survey or that once started they decided to not complete the survey.
- We feel that if we had more time to keep the survey open we could have gotten a larger return rate, due to the time frame of the semester end date.



DO YOU FEEL VIOLENCE TOWARDS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IS WARRANTED?

		Demographics Please indicate your gender				Please indicate your age							Please indicate your race/ethnicity											
		Male	Female	Other	Total	Under 21	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	Over 40	Total	African or Black	Asian, Eastern	Asian, Central	Asian, Southern	European or White	Hispanic or Latino/a	Middle Easterner	Native American	Do not know	Other	Total	
Please answer the following questions about violence towards police officers. - Do you feel violence towards law enforcement officers is warranted?	Strongly agree	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Agree	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Neutral	4	5	0	9	2	4	1	1	1	0	9	0	1	0	0	5	2	0	0	0	1	9	
	Disagree	7	9	0	16	3	8	4	0	0	1	16	0	0	0	0	13	2	0	0	1	0	16	
	Strongly disagree	10	8	0	18	6	5	2	1	2	2	18	0	1	0	0	16	1	0	0	0	0	18	
Total		22	24	0	46	12	17	8	3	3	3	46	0	2	0	0	36	6	0	0	1	0	46	



DO YOU FEEL THE MEDIA (NEWS, INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC) HAS PLAYED A PART IN MAKING AMERICANS IN GENERAL FEEL ANGER AND DISDAIN TOWARDS POLICE OFFICERS?

		Demographics Please indicate your gender				Please indicate your age						Please indicate your race/ethnicity											
		Male	Female	Other	Total	Under 21	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	Over 40	Total	African or Black	Asian, Eastern	Asian, Central	Asian, Southern	European or White	Hispanic or Latino/a	Middle Easterner	Native American	Do not know	Other	Total
Please answer the following questions about violence towards police officers. - Do you feel the media (news, internet, social media, etc) has played a part in making Americans in general feel anger and disdain towards police officers?	Strongly agree	16	14	0	30	11	12	4	0	3	0	30	0	2	0	0	22	5	0	0	0	1	30
	Agree	4	5	0	9	1	5	1	1	0	1	9	0	0	0	0	8	1	0	0	0	0	9
	Neutral	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Disagree	2	3	0	5	0	0	3	1	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	5
	Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	22	24	0	46	12	17	8	3	3	3	46	0	2	0	0	36	6	0	0	1	1	46



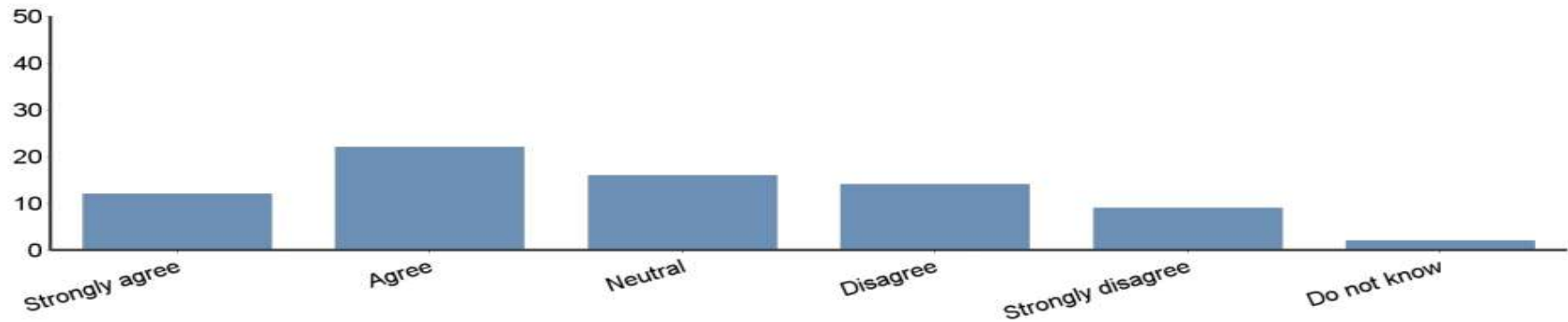
DO YOU FEEL THAT MOST OF THE TIME CITIZENS BRING ON THE VIOLENCE TOWARDS POLICE OFFICERS?

		Demographics Please indicate your gender				Please indicate your age						Please indicate your race/ethnicity											Total
		Male	Female	Other	Total	Under 21	21-25	26-30	31-35	36-40	Over 40	Total	African or Black	Asian, Eastern	Asian, Central	Asian, Southern	European or White	Hispanic or Latino/a	Middle Easterner	Native American	Do not know	Other	
Please answer the following questions about violence towards police officers. - Do you feel that most of the time citizens bring on the violence towards police officers?	Strongly agree	5	1	0	6	3	1	1	0	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	6
	Agree	12	14	0	26	6	15	3	1	1	0	26	0	1	0	0	22	3	0	0	0	0	26
	Neutral	4	7	0	11	3	1	3	1	2	1	11	0	1	0	0	6	2	0	0	1	1	11
	Disagree	1	2	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	22	24	0	46	12	17	8	3	3	3	46	0	2	0	0	36	6	0	0	1	1	46

Q9:WHAT WOULD YOU DEFINE AS POLICE BRUTALITY?

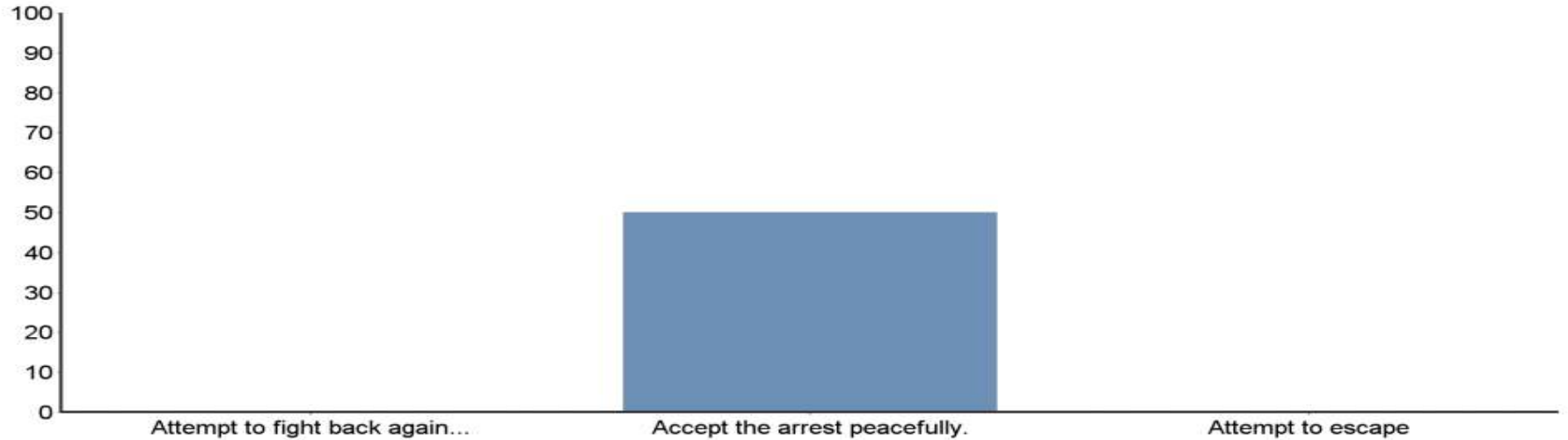
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Excessive Force	<div></div>	42	68.85%
2	Use of Taser	<div></div>	5	8.20%
3	Use of gun with unarmed person	<div></div>	43	70.49%
4	Use of gun with armed person	<div></div>	1	1.64%
5	Searching you with cause		0	0.00%
6	Handcuffing you		0	0.00%
7	Being pulled over		0	0.00%
8	Push or grab you in a way that did not cause pain	<div></div>	5	8.20%
9	Push or grab you in a way that did cause pain	<div></div>	26	42.62%
10	Kick you or hit you with the police officer's hand or something held in the police officer's hand	<div></div>	32	52.46%
11	Unleash a police dog that bit you	<div></div>	19	31.15%
12	Spray you with a chemical or pepper spray	<div></div>	16	26.23%
13	Point a gun at you but did not shoot	<div></div>	5	8.20%
14	Fire a gun at you	<div></div>	20	32.79%
15	Use some other form of physical force? – Please specify	<div></div>	1	1.64%
16	Threaten to push or grab you	<div></div>	7	11.48%
17	Threaten to kick you or hit you with the police officer's hand or something held in the police officer's hand	<div></div>	12	19.67%
18	Threaten you with a police dog	<div></div>	5	8.20%
19	Threaten to spray you with a chemical or pepper spray	<div></div>	6	9.84%
20	Threaten to fire a gun at you	<div></div>	9	14.75%
21	Threaten to use some other form of physical force? – Please specify		0	0.00%
22	Other	<div></div>	7	11.48%
	Total		261	100.00%

Q12 - HOW STRONGLY DO YOU BELIEVE THAT RACIAL PROFILING LEADS TO POLICE BRUTALITY



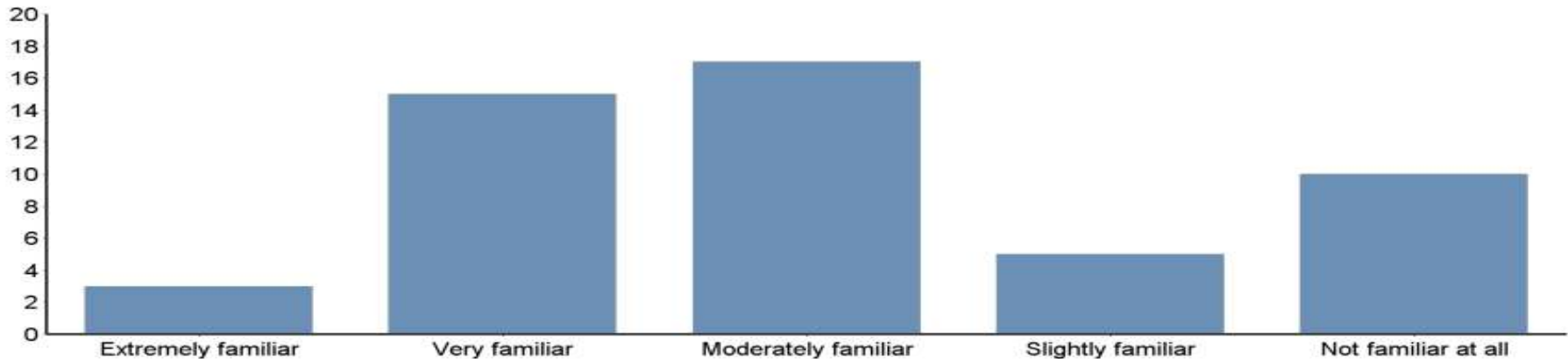
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly agree	<div></div>	12	16.00%
2	Agree	<div></div>	22	29.33%
3	Neutral	<div></div>	16	21.33%
4	Disagree	<div></div>	14	18.67%
5	Strongly disagree	<div></div>	9	12.00%
6	Do not know	<div></div>	2	2.67%
	Total		75	100.00%

Q25 - IF YOU FOUND YOURSELF BEING ARRESTED, WHETHER OR NOT YOU FELT IT WAS LEGALLY JUSTIFIED WOULD YOU...



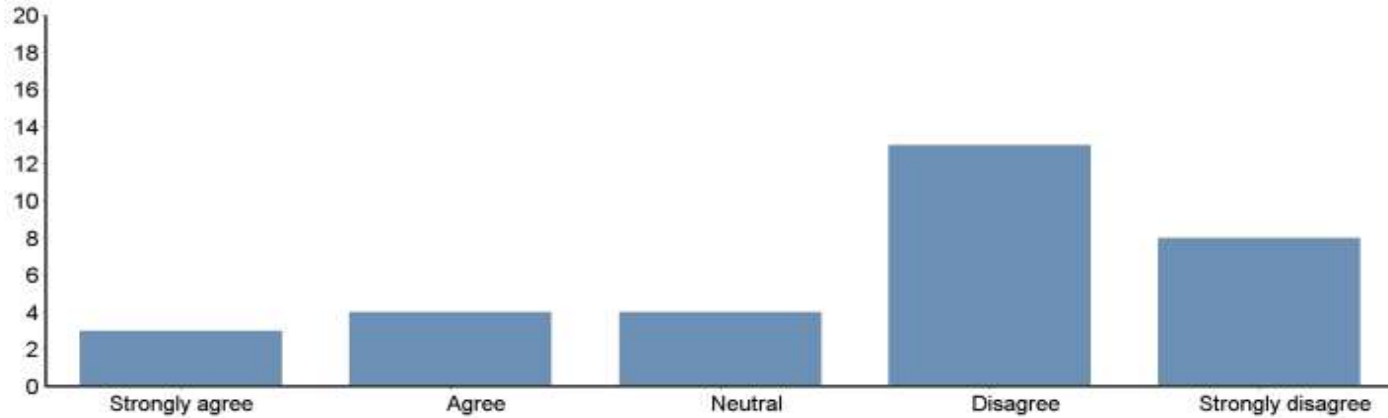
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Attempt to fight back against the officer.		0	0.00%
2	Accept the arrest peacefully.		50	100.00%
3	Attempt to escape		0	0.00%
Total			50	100.00%

Q28 - HOW FAMILIAR ARE YOU WITH THE ENSUING RIOTS THAT FOLLOWED THE DEATHS OF MICHAEL BROWN OF FERGUSON, MISSOURI AND/OR FREDDIE GRAY OF BALTIMORE, MARYLAND?



#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Extremely familiar	<div></div>	3	6.00%
2	Very familiar	<div></div>	15	30.00%
3	Moderately familiar	<div></div>	17	34.00%
4	Slightly familiar	<div></div>	5	10.00%
5	Not familiar at all	<div></div>	10	20.00%
	Total		50	100.00%

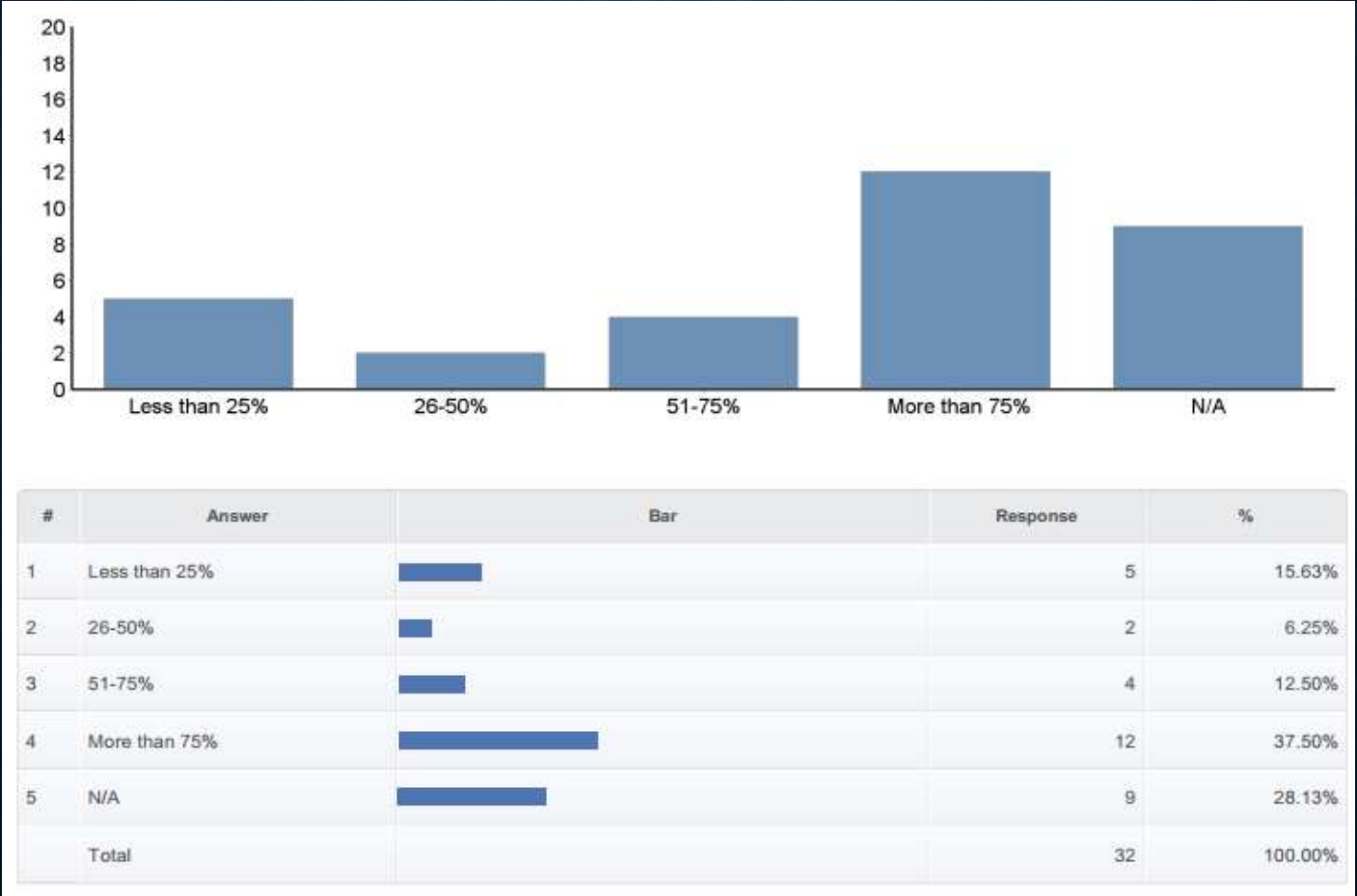
Q29 - IF YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE ABOVE QUESTION, DO YOU FEEL THE RIOTS WERE ETHICALLY, THOUGH NOT LEGALLY, JUSTIFIED?



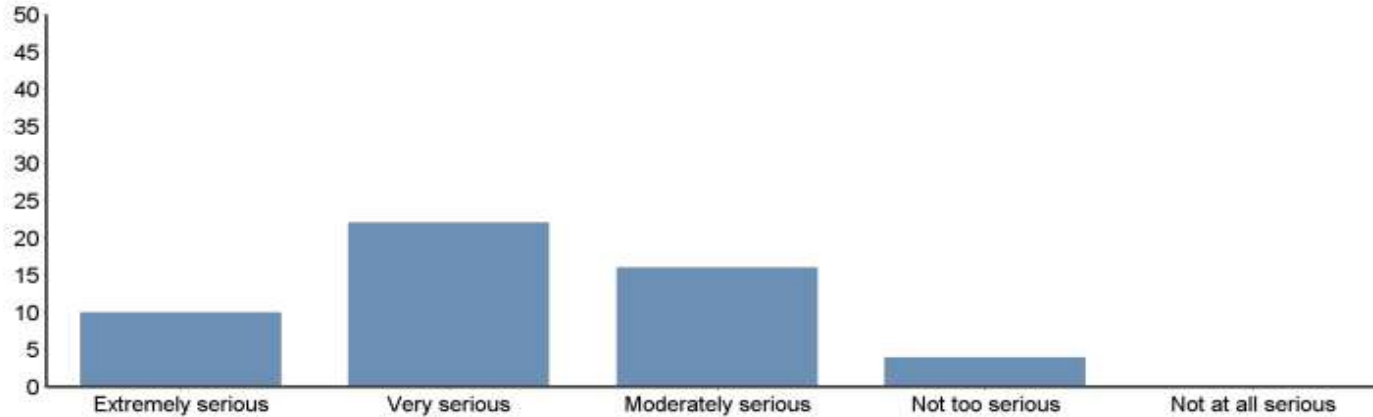
#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Strongly agree	<div></div>	3	9.38%
2	Agree	<div></div>	4	12.50%
3	Neutral	<div></div>	4	12.50%
4	Disagree	<div></div>	13	40.63%
5	Strongly disagree	<div></div>	8	25.00%
	Total		32	100.00%



Q32 - IF YOU AGREE TO THE ABOVE, TO WHAT PERCENTAGE DO YOU FEEL THE MEDIA HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS OVERALL FEELING?



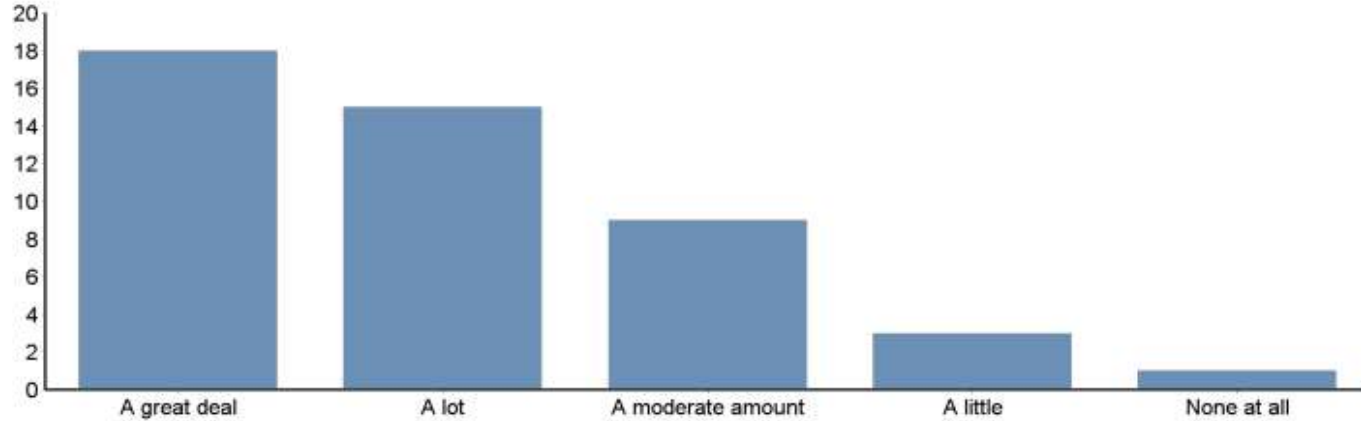
Q33 - HOW SERIOUS A PROBLEM DO YOU THINK VIOLENCE TOWARDS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS VIOLENCE IS IN THE UNITED STATES?



#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Extremely serious	<div></div>	10	19.23%
2	Very serious	<div></div>	22	42.31%
3	Moderately serious	<div></div>	16	30.77%
4	Not too serious	<div></div>	4	7.69%
5	Not at all serious		0	0.00%
	Total		52	100.00%



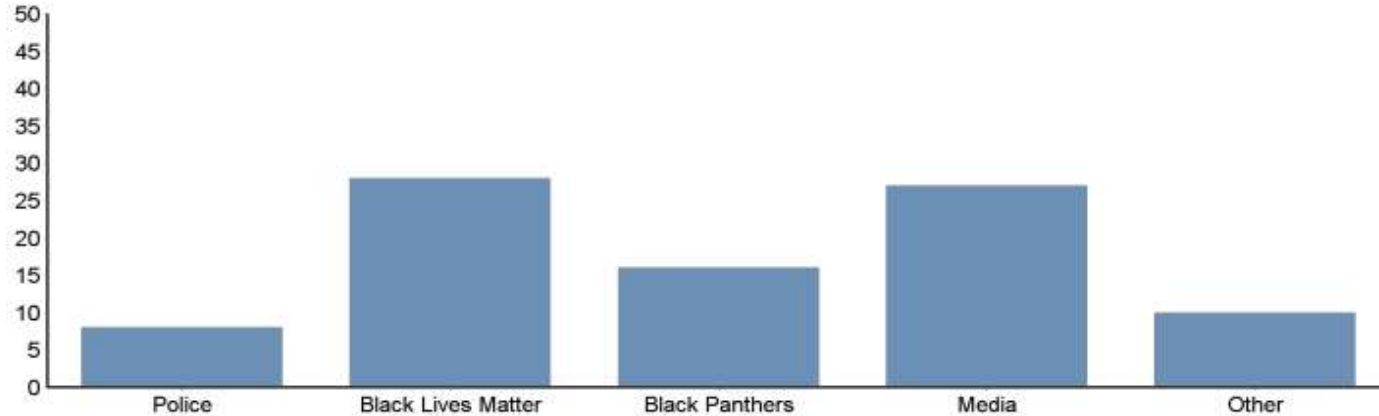
Q34 - HOW MUCH OF THE TIME DO YOU THINK YOU CAN TRUST THE POLICE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR YOU AND YOUR COMMUNITY?



#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	A great deal	<div></div>	18	39.13%
2	A lot	<div></div>	15	32.61%
3	A moderate amount	<div></div>	9	19.57%
4	A little	<div></div>	3	6.52%
5	None at all	<div></div>	1	2.17%
	Total		46	100.00%



Q36 - DO YOU FEEL THERE IS A CERTAIN GROUP WHO BRING ON THE VIOLENCE TOWARDS POLICE OFFICERS? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)



#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Police	<div></div>	8	17.39%
2	Black Lives Matter	<div></div>	28	60.87%
3	Black Panthers	<div></div>	16	34.78%
4	Media	<div></div>	27	58.70%
5	Other	<div></div>	10	21.74%
	Total		89	100.00%



OTHER

Other

None

Anyone who tries to undermine their authority (hurting the officer's ego)

Individuals

This survey sucks

No

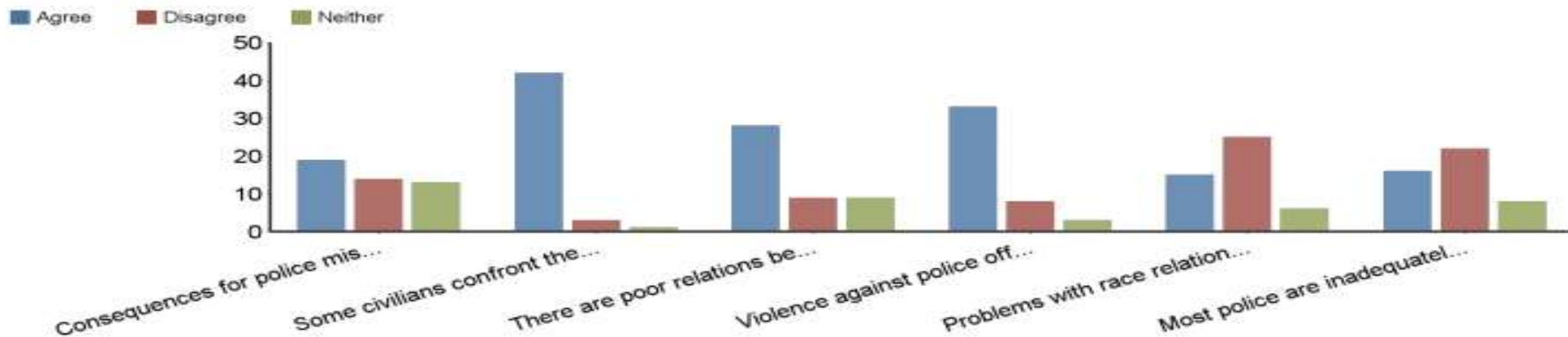
The law makers that make pathetic laws

Any group that creates a racial divide, or a mentality of us vs them, police officers for the most part are part of our community, fathers and husbands. They have a dangerous and stressful job, and if I was in their shoes I'd rather be safe, and use a little more force, than sorry.

Everyone who has a problem with the police force

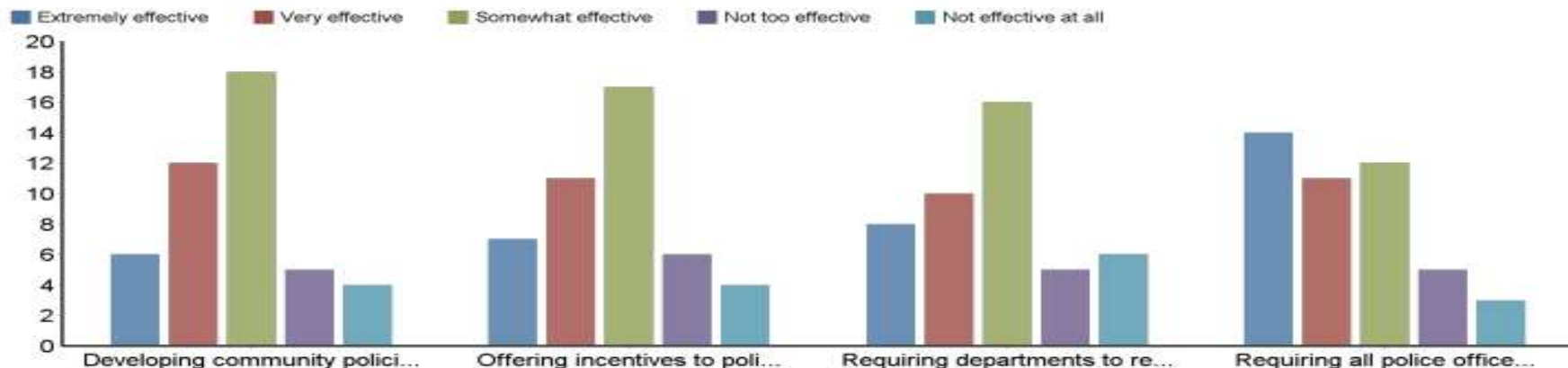


Q37 - HERE ARE SOME REASONS THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOR POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS. FOR EACH ONE, PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU AGREE, DISAGREE OR NEITHER.



#	Question	Agree	Disagree	Neither	Response	Average Value
1	Consequences for police misconduct are minimal and few police officers are prosecuted for excessive use of force	19	14	13	46	1.87
2	Some civilians confront the police when they are stopped rather than cooperating	42	3	1	46	1.11
3	There are poor relations between police and the public they serve	28	9	9	46	1.59
5	Violence against police officers causes fear on the part of the police	33	8	3	44	1.32
6	Problems with race relations in our society cause police to treat minorities unjustly	15	25	6	46	1.80
7	Most police are inadequately trained to deal with perceived threats	16	22	8	46	1.63

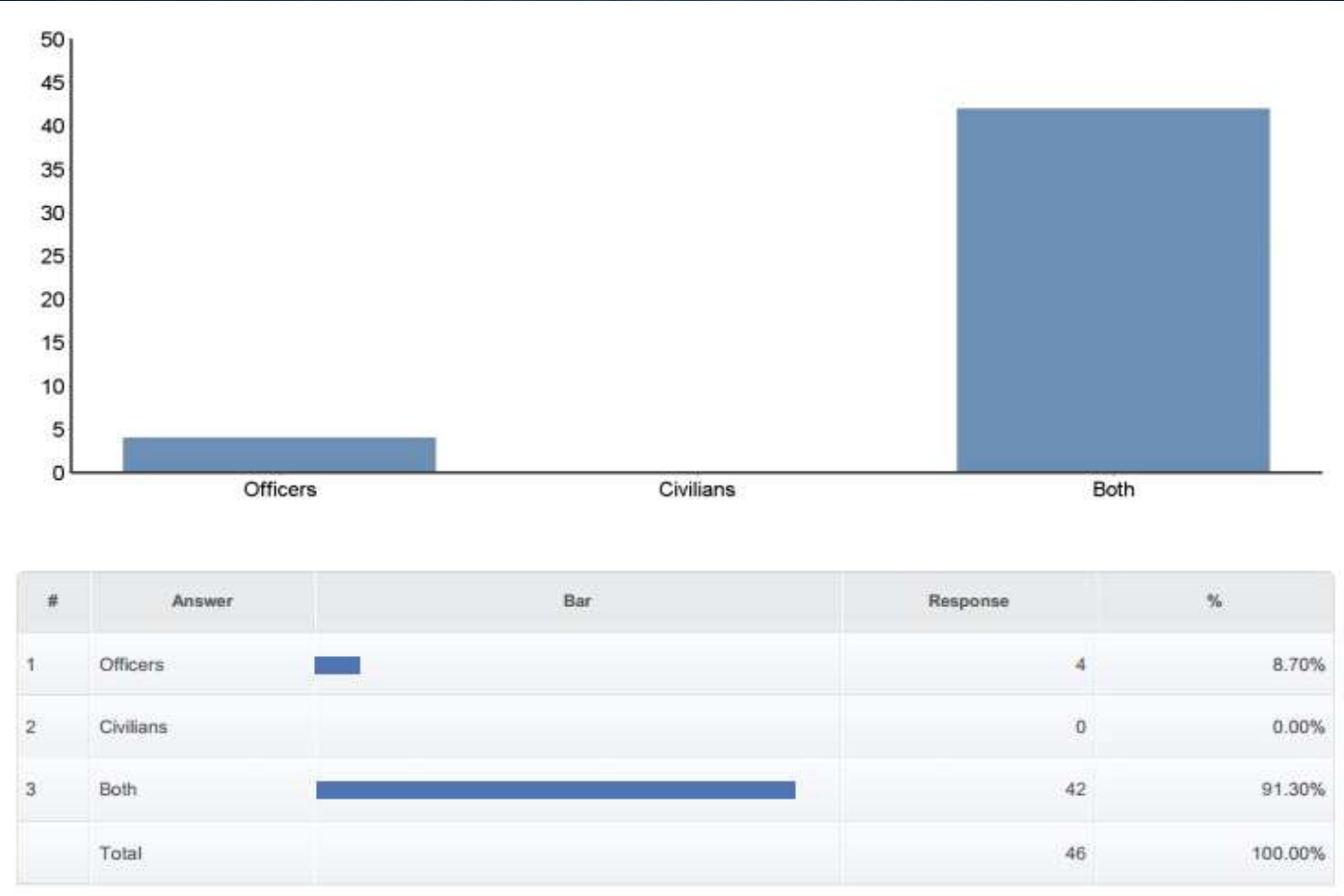
Q38 - HERE ARE SOME POLICY CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED TO REDUCE TENSION BETWEEN MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND THE POLICE. FOR EACH ONE, PLEASE TELL ME WHETHER YOU THINK IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE, VERY EFFECTIVE, SOMEWHAT EFFECTIVE, NOT TOO EFFECTIVE, OR NOT EFFECTIVE AT ALL.



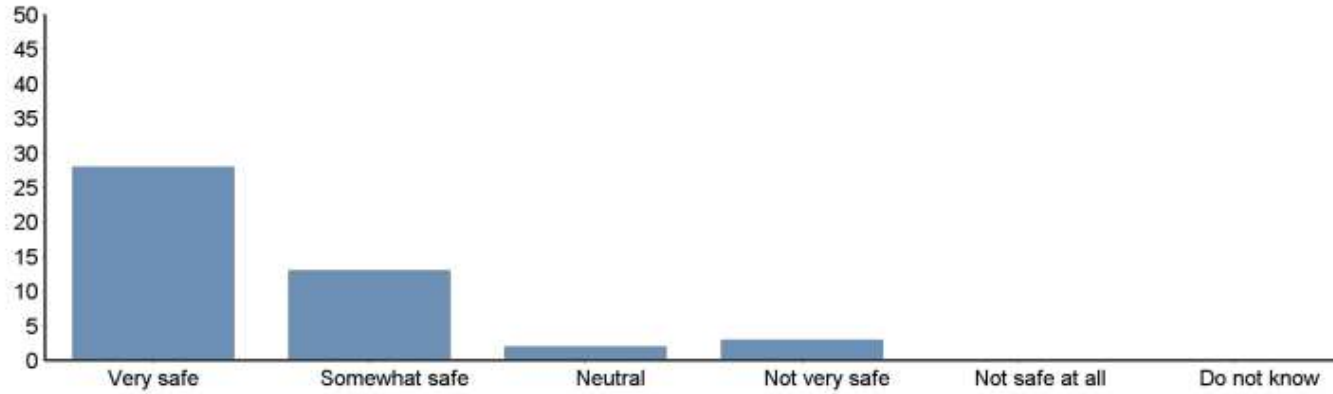
#	Question	Extremely effective	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not too effective	Not effective at all	Response	Average Value
1	Developing community policing programs in neighborhoods	6	12	18	5	4	45	2.76
2	Offering incentives to police to live in community they work	7	11	17	6	4	45	2.76
3	Requiring departments to recruit more qualified minority officers	8	10	16	5	6	45	2.80
4	Requiring all police officers to receive racial bias training	14	11	12	5	3	45	2.69



Q44 - HOW UPSETTING IS IT TO YOU WHEN YOU HEAR IN THE MEDIA ABOUT A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL BEING ATTACKED OR KILLED?



Q45 - FROM A COLLEGE STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE HOW SAFE DO YOU FEEL ABOUT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Very safe	<div></div>	28	60.87%
2	Somewhat safe	<div></div>	13	28.26%
3	Neutral	<div></div>	2	4.35%
4	Not very safe	<div></div>	3	6.52%
5	Not safe at all		0	0.00%
6	Do not know		0	0.00%
Total			46	100.00%



Q46 - WHO DO YOU THINK IS MORE RESPONSIBLE FOR SOCIETIES VIEW OF LAW ENFORCEMENT? (MARK ALL THAT APPLY)

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Media	<div></div>	35	76.09%
2	Social Media	<div></div>	33	71.74%
3	Extremist Groups	<div></div>	25	54.35%
4	Law Enforcement Officers	<div></div>	12	26.09%
5	Other	<div></div>	3	6.52%
	Total		108	100.00%

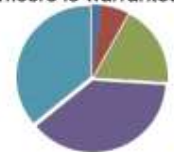
Other
<input type="text" value="The Society"/>
<input type="text" value="Law Makers"/>
<input type="text" value="Everyone"/>



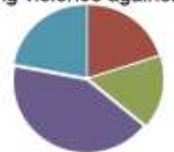
Q50 - PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT VIOLENCE TOWARDS POLICE OFFICERS.

Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree

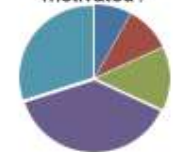
Do you feel violence towards law enforcement officers is warranted?



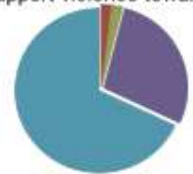
Do you feel police officers bring on, instigate, or otherwise bring violence against themselves?



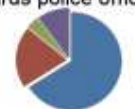
Do you feel that overall police are racially motivated?



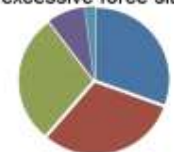
Do you support violence towards police?



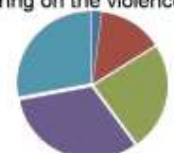
Do you feel the media (news, internet, social media, etc) has played a part in making Americans in general feel anger and disdain towards police officers?



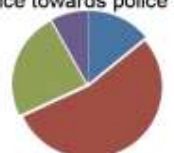
Do you feel police officers need more training to handle excessive force situations?



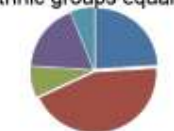
Do you feel that most of the time police officers bring on the violence?



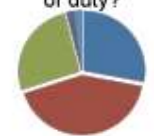
Do you feel that most of the time citizens bring on the violence towards police officers?



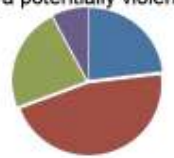
In dealing with crime, do you think the police in your community treat people of all races and ethnic groups equally?



Do you feel all law enforcement officials should be required to use body cameras while in the line of duty?



Do you feel force is necessary when officers respond to a potentially violent offender?



Q50 - PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ABOUT VIOLENCE TOWARDS POLICE OFFICERS.

#	Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Response	Average Value
4	Do you feel violence towards law enforcement officers is warranted?	1	3	9	19	18	50	4.00
5	Do you feel police officers bring on, instigate, or otherwise bring violence against themselves?	-	10	8	21	11	50	3.66
6	Do you feel that overall police are racially motivated?	4	5	7	19	15	50	3.72
9	Do you support violence towards police?	-	1	1	14	34	50	4.62
10	Do you feel the media (news, internet, social media, etc) has played a part in making Americans in general feel anger and disdain towards police officers?	33	10	2	5	-	50	1.58
12	Do you feel police officers need more training to handle excessive force situations?	15	15	14	4	1	49	2.20
13	Do you feel that most of the time police officers bring on the violence?	1	7	12	16	14	50	3.70
14	Do you feel that most of the time citizens bring on the violence towards police officers?	7	27	12	4	-	50	2.26
15	In dealing with crime, do you think the police in your community treat people of all races and ethnic groups equally?	12	22	4	9	3	50	2.38
16	Do you feel all law enforcement officials should be required to use body cameras while in the line of duty?	14	21	13	1	1	50	2.08
18	Do you feel force is necessary when officers respond to a potentially violent offender?	3	6	3	1	-	13	2.15



Student Surveys



SURVEY FINDINGS

- Many students are very familiar w/ the events of Ferguson, Missouri and Baltimore, Maryland.
 - The riots were unethical and unjustified
 - 75% felt the Media made things worse by pitting civilians against police officers





FINDINGS, CONTINUED

- Survey results show that UVU students feel media, social media, and groups like BLM paint a poor picture of law enforcement



MORE FINDINGS...



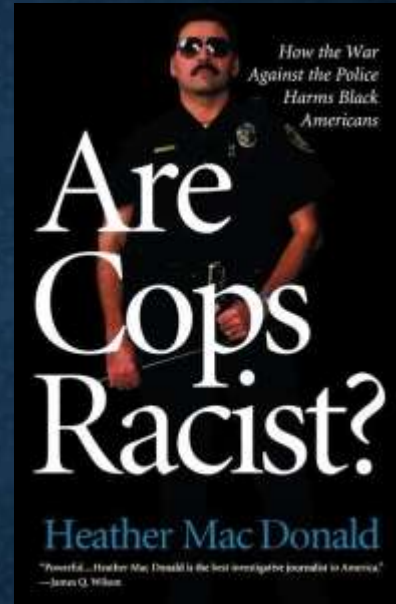
- Students also support law enforcement and do find it disturbing when they hear in the news law enforcement being attacked or killed

**BLUE LIVES
MATTER**



CONCLUSION

- Violence against police is a real issue, that is still a huge media hot topic
- Cops would be under less scrutiny and attack if presented in a better light by the media
- The constant pressure of being labeled as racist has prevented law enforcement from doing their job properly



CONCLUSION

- Law enforcement is under constant media scrutiny and now they have to be trained in a manner to protect themselves
- Students at UVU not only support Law Enforcement but also find media to blame

