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### **Abstract**

This study aimed to understand attitudes towards police brutality. A survey was conducted containing basic questions regarding law enforcement and a scale of most positive to most negative. A total of 212 individuals were surveyed from a small, state supported liberal arts school in the Mid-Atlantic region of the United States. This study derives from increased coverage of police brutality incidents and shifting attitudes towards law enforcement. Specifically, my partner and I will examine numerous demographics and variables such as political affiliation, sex, age, and income to determine if differences in these nominal variables demonstrate differentiating viewpoints of police brutality. The researchers concluded, using several types of statistical tests that differences in demographics resulted in contrasting perspectives of the police. When performing a study in relation to treatment by the police and income, the results were not significant when utilizing a chi square test. The researchers concluded there is no relation between gender and perception of how one is treated based on income. While analyzing the results of the survey, the researchers will uncover multiple similarities and differences between demographics and attitudes toward law enforcement.

## **Introduction**

Why is it important to study attitudes toward police brutality and the overall perception of police by the community? Today, police brutality is a frequent topic in the media and it is likely that police brutality has negatively affected individuals' perceptions of law enforcement. Police play a major role in society throughout the United States and many parts of the globe. Police vary from jurisdiction and each police force is responsible for enforcing and upholding the laws set in place by the people, these laws are put in place to keep the people in the community safe and to punish those who violate them. Unlike other occupations, police officers have a considerable amount of discretion in the law enforcement profession and analyze situations on a case by case scenario. Not even the police are above the law and therefore must follow the same laws as citizens within the jurisdiction. With that being said, public perception of how police enforce laws can be skewed.

One of the universal mottos for local police forces is "To protect and serve" this motto is commonly accepted as the main responsibility of local police. If an officer uses too much force in a given situation this may result in the officer facing judicial actions as well as possible jail time. On top of the officer facing punishment, the police department that was responsible for the officers' training will also come under fire. In recent years, the effectiveness and legitimacy of Police training has come to question and individuals are demanding additional training for Police Officers regarding Police brutality. It should also be mentioned, that the public's overall satisfaction with law enforcement relies heavily on ethnicity and where an individual lives. The

Use of force model purpose is to inform officers of which force is appropriate for certain circumstances and to eliminate the confusion of when police officers proceed to execute excessive force. People in the community will have less respect toward authority as more cases related to this break out.

Attitudes toward police brutality is an important topic to research and further understand as this topic affects how society functions as a whole. As previously mentioned, the police play an important role in how society functions, its main job is to protect and serve. If a lack of trust is present in the police then society may not feel as safe in public and therefore crime rates will spike. When crime rates go up so does unemployment and homelessness rates (Miller 154). If we can better understand why and how the public's perception of the police changes then we may be able to control some elements of the perception as well as shift and change police policies to better fit the public perception. Altering police policies to adapt to a better public view of the police holds a lot of potential for proactive means of controlling crime. Seeing that most police actions are reactive, if we can shift to a more proactive stance we can make a better use of police time to be more effective.

At other times, excessive force has been used in situations where either force was not necessary or too much was used. Both instances decay the overall good perception society has on its police force and the idea in turn has severe negative consequences with it. Some people view lawful use of force as excessive when the circumstances call for proper use of force. The use of force model instructs police officers to go one step above the force that the perpetrator is

utilizing. However, there are instances where law enforcement uses excess force and because of the advancement of social media, those occurrences are more accessible for the public to view. Despite the intensive training for individuals in law enforcement, occurrences still exist of police brutality and the police officers ethics often come to question. Cases such as Ferguson where a white police officer shot and killed an unarmed teenager, Michael Brown, raise the question of race relations between law enforcement and minorities (Jenks, Corra & Carter, 2016).

People often find that their attitudes toward police after a police brutality incident are negative and this can alter people's trust in the police as well as their cooperation. One key aspect of one's attitude toward police is their trust, the public's trust in police can either make or break their ability to do their job of protecting and serving the public. Public trust in the police is necessary for them to be able to do their job to the fullest. Some police methods of obtaining information solely relies on the public. In a missing persons case, the police may not have much information of where the victim would have gone and therefore usually ask the public for help. If the public has little trust in the police they will be more likely to not help in a situation such as this. This skewed view of public trust all comes back to how attitudes towards the police occur after a police brutality incident breaks out.

Understanding the differences of attitudes towards police brutality between individuals who reside in urban areas, versus those who live in a suburban environment will help the researchers when conducting an experiment. For example, somebody who resides in a less affluent area will often have more encounters with law enforcement and acquire an unfavorable

view towards the police. Ultimately, the increased presence and interactions of law enforcement in an area does not result in an improved relationship between Police and the public. Historically speaking, law enforcement has possessed negative perceptions of minorities and as a result of this conflict, the relation between the two has been abominable. During the Civil Rights movement, the FBI portrayed Martin Luther King Jr. in a criminal manner, rather than an individual exercising the First amendment. Strained relations between minority groups in America and law enforcement have always existed, but due to the emergence of smartphones and social media, police brutality instances are more readily available to the media and public, thus creating an increased negative perception of Police brutality among all ethnicities.

The media plays one of the biggest roles in how the public's attitude shifts after police brutality cases arise (Sigleman 779). Since people read media outlets and sources and believe them on what is going on out there in the world, it is easy for the news to skew stories to favor one side or the other. Some media sources such as Fox News and CNN portray very lopsided stories to help cover their political agenda. People will often change their way of thinking and react to how a situation is portrayed by the media. When people see a news story that portrays the police in a negative light this directly impacts how they will feel and think about the police (Skolnick 527). The literature review will discuss race relations between law enforcement and minorities, attitudes of suburban and rural police officers, and an explanation of Police stops on individuals. This study on attitudes towards Police brutality, will further demonstrate the

disproportionate racial differences in attitudes towards law enforcement and reinforce one of the main domestic problems facing the United States.

### **Literature Review**

Chaney argued that respect and authority toward the police in the United States started to take a turn for the worse in the late 1970's (Chaney 70). It wasn't until the beating of Rodney King on March 7th, 1991 that lack of trust in the police along with negative attitudes reached a boiling point. Many African Americans were at a time feeling unsafe around police and their trust was at an all-time low. This incident led to a spike in negative feelings toward police brutality. More and more cases such as Rodney King's started to pop up more and the idea of police brutality in America became more apparent. Once more instances started to arise, people in society started to take notice of the idea of police brutality (Pierce 46).

Due to recent Police brutality instances such as Eric Garner in New York City, Freddy Gray in Baltimore, Maryland, and Walter Scott in North Charleston, South Carolina, the country possesses a negative attitude towards law enforcement's use of Force (Carter & Corra, 2016). As police brutality cases started to work their way up in global recognition people started to react to these cases. Some were quick to defend the officers' actions however most condemned the actions as hateful. Public opinion surveys have consistently shown race to be strongly associated with opinions for and against the use of force (Carter & Corra, 2016). Public opinion surveys can easily be influenced by recent major events, but race consistently displays African Americans to be less favorable to policing than whites. African Americans view themselves as targets from law enforcement, particularly if stopped by a white Police Officer (Flexon, Greenleaf, Dariano, &

Gibson, 2016). However, these feelings quickly turned into actions such as protests and demonstrations (Pierce 51). Some of these protests turned violent and resulted in injuries or in some cases protesters being shot and killed. In the case of Rodney King, riots broke out demanding justice for him and to have the officers held liable for their actions. These feelings and attitudes toward police brutality turned into heinous and violent riots.

The history of racial discrimination in the United States causes minorities to become skeptical of Police Officers and become untrustworthy. Racism is a predominant feature in American society and race was the central explanatory variable for crime and Criminal Justice responses in a capitalist society prior to the 1970's. Criminologists exclusively observed an individual's race and physical characteristics to explain crime, rather than social class differences and environments more conducive to crime. In a study regarding a citizen's race and the police, forty percent of African Americans reported being stopped or arrested by the police, while only twenty percent of Whites proclaimed being stopped or arrested by law enforcement (Flexon, et al, 2016). The difference between the amount of Police stops among African Americans and Whites is substantial and exhibits unfavorable policing in certain environments.

Police use of force in the media shows race as the forefront of the issue and how law enforcement is acting out of its legal boundaries. Occurrences such as Freddy Gray or Michael Brown captivated headlines and have put tremendous pressure on Officers who have found themselves in situations where they must decide what level of force is necessary. One of the key factors in people's attitudes toward police brutality is that often cases of racial disparity are ones that are made more publicized. Stories that make front line news about police brutality are those



that typically involve a white police officer and a black victim (Clarence 202). This racial difference will often make or break the story's impact on people's attitudes.

Those incidents of police brutality where little racial difference is present tend to not have as much of an effect on people as those with a racial difference (Clarence 202). People perceive and interpret their attitudes as more aggressive when a racial imbalance is present (Clarence 201). The New Jersey Police department uses a physical model which states Officers are allowed to use a level of force necessary to overcome the opposition (Barrett, et al, 2009). However, that definition can be interpreted in different manners, because how does an Officer determine in an abrupt decision what level of force is appropriate if there is an immediate threat. While there is extensive training and use of force models, the nature of a Police Officer's occupation and the amount of discretion one possesses, can triumph these things and allow for underlying variables to factor in.

While it is difficult to determine whether the environment affects a Police Officer's judgement in approaching someone, national public opinion surveys after a nation captivating Police brutality incidents alter the public's opinion regarding the Police. One year before the Rodney King incident, seventy-eight percent of White respondents and fifty-seven percent of Black respondents had a great deal of confidence in the Police, but after the Rodney King incident only two thirds of whites, and one third of blacks continued to have confidence in law enforcement (Tuch & Weitzer, 1997). Starting to move into the early 2000's attitudes toward police brutality started to roll back from violent acts as police stations and departments started to reform their practices to be more compliant with the people's expectations. Departments started to train their officers differently to be able to better understand their use of force chain to

hopefully prevent more instances such as Rodney King. Along with a different approach to training, departments started to adopt a zero-tolerance policy and further hold officers to the same standards as civilians when it came to breaking laws. Race is strongly associated with opinions for and against the use of force by police, and due to captivating police brutality occurrences, the lack of support and negative relationships will continue to exist within the minority community (Jenks, et al, 2016).

The Criminal Justice and Political system historically have problematized minorities and the question of individuals ethics have come into consideration. Whites are considerably more acceptive of police use of force on a citizen attempting to escape custody than blacks (Jenks, et al, 2016). In 1985, the Supreme Court ruled in *Tennessee V. Garner*, that a Police Officer may only use deadly force on a fleeing suspect only if the Officer has good faith that the suspect imposes an immediate threat to the Officer or others (*Tennessee V. Garner*, 1985). However, over thirty years later, society continues to witness police brutality incidents resulting in deaths of individuals that were not necessary under any mechanisms. The public's attitudes towards police brutality is becoming increasingly negative, as poll trends exhibit after an incident regarding excessive force, the public's attitudes drastically change.

In more recent news within the past decade it seems as though a spike in police brutality cases emerged. With the ability to record an incident using just your cell phone in high quality came the ability for more people to post these acts on social media for it to become viral. Bystanders of moments where police need to use force will often fan tensions by recording and arguing with police during the use of force (Skolnick 529). Since a lack of trust was already present in most police forces around the United States at the time more people felt the need to

record officers committing what bystanders and civilians think of as police brutality. Instead of helping or moving out of the way people will often insult the officers or side with the suspect because of the media's portrayal of police in bad lighting.

In the present day and in the future, it will be likely for departments to continue refining their practices in a never-ending effort to build a strong trust between the community and police. With every refined practice comes a safer means of handling a situation, while also acknowledging that the use of force will still be implemented in many practices (Clarence 205). Today's police practices are more effective and safe for everyone than in decades past. Most of this is due to the help of improvements in technology and improvements in education. All of this improvement will help to decrease violent attitudes toward police brutality and hope to work toward constructive attitudes. With the overall decline in violent police brutality attitudes comes an easier and smoother way for police to continue doing their job and protecting the people within the jurisdiction (Clarence 207).

Understanding public opinion towards the Police in certain jurisdictions is important because citizens are consumers of Police services and can reflect on how law enforcement is perceived by society (Jenks, et al, 2016). A positive relationship is needed for Police and citizens in order for Police to carry out their responsibilities. Local police are typically judged in a more favorable manner than Police in a larger national context (Tuch & Weitzer, 1997). Citizens residing in a rural area often have increased and friendlier interactions with law enforcement, therefore explaining why public opinions state citizens in rural areas have better experiences with law enforcement than those in an urban setting. In an urban environment, the population is

much greater and therefore leads to a substantial amount of workload for Urban Police Officers. In a study done for a New Jersey Police Department, Police Officers in different settings offered a different perspective on whether to stop and investigate two individuals smoking a joint (Barrett, Haberfield, Walker, 2009). The urban Police Officers took many factors into consideration such as the culprits familiarity and how busy the night was. Meanwhile, rural and suburban Police Officers called for backup and stopped and investigated the incident (Barrett, et al, 2009). Urban Police Officers often have an increased workload and the differences between rural and suburban Police, does not directly correlate to race.

Overall, race relations in the United States have become unnerved as an increased number of excessive force incidents are occurring and being publicized on national news and social media. Historically, African Americans have been discriminated against and even after the civil rights movement, racism still existed and the idea of meritocracy was not supported for certain races. There is a new idea of racism in which the attitudes and beliefs are not expressed overtly, but rather through policy (Carter & Corra). However, refining practices are at the forefront of change within departments as well as accountability holding up the honor of the police. Police are becoming more educated with how to handle delicate situations with minorities that may possibly result in the use of force. With the media playing a major role in how people perceive the police it is an everlasting fight to keep the reputation of the police in good standing. Although individuals in law enforcement endure months of training, excessive force continues to become the most prevalent issue talked about regarding law enforcement and the ethics of those whose occupation is of a Police Officer. The discretion and intense environments in which an Officer works in ultimately can lead to mistakes happening. Unfortunately, Occurrences where

an unlawful level of use of force, have captured national news headlines and lowered both White and Blacks attitudes towards police brutality and use of force.

### **Methods**

The method we used to conduct our research was a convenience sample. My team and I conducted our research at a mid sized school on the east coast that is publicly funded. We used a convenience sample due to the easily available student population roaming around the campus. It would also take too much time and resources to conduct a probability sample such as a systematic random sample. Since we used a non-probability sample each student did not get a fair chance at answering our survey. Therefore our information cannot be generalized for best possible results.

Before we officially began to conduct our research my team and I conducted a pretest to ensure that the questions being asked were making sense and kept on topic. The reason for choosing a mid sized publicly funded university is that our topic of research most pertains to young independent adults. Another reason for picking a publicly funded university is because the sample size is very diverse when it comes to race, this will aid our research in attempts to factor minorities into our data. My team and I believe that it is in our best interest to target audiences that are most likely to have varying opinions. After we received permission from the university, my team and I began to hand out questionnaires around campus to students who walked by. After receiving approximately 200 responses, my team and I believed we have received enough response to gather and assess our data. Unfortunately due to limited resources we were not able to offer any sort of monetary compensation to those who completed our survey.

We crafted our questionnaire from previous questionnaires that were used in similar experiments and research. We kept open-ended questions away from the survey to reduce varying responses as much as possible. In order to pick specific questions from existing questionnaires, we would pick relevant and easy to read questions with as little available responses as possible. While conducting our surveys we attempted to keep out as much bias as we could while conducting a convenience sample, we did not limit those who could take the survey based on race, gender, or religion. In the survey we also asked simple demographic questions that will help us in finding correlations between a certain demographic and their respected responses.

The questionnaire my team and I formed consists of many different types of questions that pertain to our topic. The reason for incorporating an array of different questions is so my team and I can get a full grasp of the topic and students' attitudes. Since minorities are more prone to falling victim to police brutality my team and I believed that it is within our best interest to incorporate as many minorities into our study as we could while staying true to a convenience sample. We also strayed away from other forms of surveying such as mail surveys due to insufficient resources as well as needing at least a 60% response rate to consider the data “strong”. This type of convenience sample gives us a quick response rate without having to wait around for a 60% response rate.

After all questionnaires were completed by our samples population, my team and I coded the data for statistical analysis. Since the questionnaire developed obtains neutral and closed end questions to increase participation, the data should be straightforward and help the researchers understand attitudes toward law enforcement. When analyzing the results of the questionnaire,

my team and I will attempt to discover any similarities and differences between demographics and attitudes towards law enforcement.

### Findings

#### Political affiliation and Physical Force in Response to Verbal Abuse

### Statistics

		political	verbal abuse
N	Valid	203	212
	Missing	9	0
Mean		1.96	3.32
Median		2.00	3.00
Mode		2	4
Std. Deviation		.884	6.703

political * verbal abuse Crosstabulation							
Count		verbal abuse					Total
		most positive	2	3	most negative	99	
political	Conservative	9	13	14	32	0	68
	Moderate	11	18	23	27	1	80
	Liberal	15	8	4	27	0	54
	NA	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total		35	39	41	87	1	203

After analyzing the data of college aged students' attitudes towards police brutality, multiple studies and statistical tests were conducted with the assumption certain demographics would have a more favorable or negative view towards law enforcement than others. My partner and I elected to focus on studies with the intention that the chosen variables would have contrasting views towards police brutality. The first study chosen, centers around political affiliation and opinions on verbal abuse from law enforcement. Generally speaking, conservatives tend to have a more favorable viewpoint of police than liberals. In the case of verbal abuse, there is not a relation between different political affiliation and perception of verbal abuse. Using a chi square test, it was noted that the results of .107 were greater than the significance level of  $P < .05$ . Therefore, my partner and I reject the research hypothesis and accept the null hypothesis.



The data did not support the general census of conservatives and liberals having different opinions in regards to policing. It was expected that the response would support our general hypothesis. However, the data did not conform to this expectation. The vast majority of individuals who answered the questionnaire had negative attitudes towards verbal abuse by police officers, regardless of political affiliation.

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.283 <sup>a</sup>	12	.107
Likelihood Ratio	19.693	12	.073
Linear-by-Linear Association	.001	1	.971
N of Valid Cases	203		

a. 8 cells (40.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .00.

## Race and Excessive Force

### race \* excessive force Crosstabulation

Count

		excessive force					
		Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Don't Know	5	Total
race	White	22	35	56	24	8	145
	Black	10	8	4	3	1	26
	Hispanic	2	4	3	1	0	10
	Asian	1	0	2	0	0	3
	Native	0	2	0	0	0	2
	Two or More	7	5	5	0	0	17
Total		42	54	70	28	9	203

## Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	27.377 <sup>a</sup>	20	.125
Likelihood Ratio	30.999	20	.055
Linear-by-Linear Association	11.650	1	.001
N of Valid Cases	203		

a. 21 cells (70.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .09.

This data shows the correlation and crosstabulation between Race and if police using excessive force is a problem. For this survey we offered six different race categories that a respondent could identify as. Our hypothesis for this data was a one tailed hypothesis, There is a relationship between Race and If police using excessive force is a problem. The null hypothesis was that there is no relationship. Using our 20 Degrees of Freedom on a 0.05 value, our chi square is .125 which is greater than our 0.05 value on a t distribution which means we accept our research H1 hypothesis that there is a correlation between Race and If excessive force is a problem in the police.

## sex \* rich better Crosstabulation

Count

		rich better					Total
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	
sex	Male	18	23	18	13	13	85
	Female	42	25	27	15	18	127
Total		60	48	45	28	31	212

### Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	4.280 <sup>a</sup>	4	.369
Likelihood Ratio	4.346	4	.361
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.280	1	.258
N of Valid Cases	212		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 11.23.

Our data that my partner and I calculated was to see if there is in fact a correlation between sex and if rich individuals are treated better than poor. As shown by our data there is a slight correlation between sex and if rich are treated better. Our data shows that females are more likely to agree that the rich are treated better than the poor when it comes to interactions with the police than men are. The ratio when compared from women is greater than the ratio when compared to male data. However when comparing the two genders on a chi square level, this reveals that .369 is greater than our 0.05 which means that we would reject H1 and accept the null hypothesis. This means that there is no significant relationship between gender and if someone believes that the rich are treated better than the poor.

### age \* obey Crosstabulation

Count

		obey				Total
		most positive	2	3	most negative	
age	18	4	4	2	1	11
	19	9	10	5	2	26
	20	31	19	7	13	70
	21	30	11	13	7	61
	22	5	14	11	2	32
	23	3	3	1	1	8
	25	0	0	1	0	1
	33	0	1	0	0	1
	34	0	0	1	0	1
	37	0	1	0	0	1
Total		82	63	41	26	212

## Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	36.981 <sup>a</sup>	27	.095
Likelihood Ratio	36.557	27	.104
Linear-by-Linear Association	.821	1	.365
N of Valid Cases	212		

When evaluating the differences in age and attitudes towards obeying the police, the research suggested that a significant difference exists. Variation in age had a direct correlation of individuals perception of obeying orders from law enforcement,  $X^2(1, N=212) = .02 < .05$ . This study was interesting because even though the difference in age for the majority of those surveyed was only four years, the results suggested twenty two years old are less likely to obey orders than eighteen year olds. Visually, when looking at the cross tab there is a noticeable difference between twenty and twenty-one year olds and negative attitudes towards obeying law enforcement.

major * view police Crosstabulation							
Count		view police					Total
		Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Neutral	Somewhat Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	
major	Comm Studies	3	4	4	6	1	18
	CJ	15	7	5	0	0	27
	Art	0	3	2	1	0	6
	Iberal Studies	4	10	5	4	0	23
	Environmental Studies	0	3	1	0	0	4
	English	3	1	1	3	0	8
	Psychology	2	4	1	3	0	10
	Comm Disorders	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Business	6	7	6	5	1	25
	Nursing	3	4	1	0	0	8
	Sociology	5	2	2	3	2	14
	Social Work	1	1	0	1	1	4
	Undecided	0	3	0	0	0	3
	History	0	1	2	0	1	4
	Theatre	0	0	1	0	0	1
	AthleticTraining	0	0	0	1	1	2
	Kinesiology	3	0	2	4	1	10
	Political Science	1	1	1	4	0	7
	Biology	5	2	3	1	0	11
	CJ/Soc	3	5	0	1	0	9
	Anthropology	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Foreign Affiars HS	2	1	1	0	0	4
	Computer Science	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Economics	0	0	1	1	0	2
	Chemistry	2	0	0	0	0	2
	Counseling Grad	0	1	1	0	0	2
	Math	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total		59	62	41	38	8	208

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	126.602 <sup>a</sup>	104	.065
Likelihood Ratio	128.823	104	.050
Linear-by-Linear Association	.118	1	.731
N of Valid Cases	208		
a. 126 cells (93.3%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .04.			

This cross tabulation compares the two variables of College Majors and How You View the Police. We measured the and evaluated the most popular majors at our mid sized public university and categorized them. The most popular major that we assessed was Criminal Justice and Business. While being a Criminal Justice major may have a slight influence on type of response we believe that the overall majority did differ. Our testing hypothesis uses a one tailed hypothesis stating that there is a correlation between the type of major and what their response is. Our chi-square reveals the score of .065 which is less than 1.661. This means that there is not enough evidence to suggest that we should accept the research hypothesis therefore, we must accept the null hypothesis.



**Cross tabulation comparing Religion and if the person believes that racial profiling is a problem**

**religion \* racial profile Crosstabulation**

Count

		racial profile					Total
		Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Don't Know	5	
religion	Catholic	6	8	13	6	1	34
	Muslim	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Protestant	25	22	32	14	5	98
	Agnostic	6	7	6	5	1	25
	Atheist	5	5	2	0	1	13
	Other	2	1	1	1	0	5
	NA	2	0	0	1	0	3
Total		47	44	54	27	8	180

## Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	15.636 <sup>a</sup>	24	.901
Likelihood Ratio	19.501	24	.725
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.113	1	.146
N of Valid Cases	180		

This cross tabulation compares type of Religion to If they believe that racial profiling is a big problem. We categorized seven of the biggest and most common religions for people to identify with. Our hypothesis is: There is a relationship between religion and if the individual believes that racial profiling is a problem. This is a one tailed hypothesis since we are only utilizing religion as opposed to the different groups specified. With 24 degrees of freedom our chi squared was .901 which is less than 1.711 using our one tailed value. That means that there is not enough evidence to conclude that religion plays a role in one's belief racial profiling is a problem among police.

**Cross Tabulation showing undergraduate status and if they support police**

**are you \* support police Crosstabulation**

Count

		support police						Total
		Yes	No	3	4	5	8	
are you	Freshman	8	5	1	0	0	0	14
	Sophomore	30	11	1	1	1	1	45
	Junior	64	16	0	3	0	0	83
	Senior	44	11	1	1	0	0	57
	grad student	5	2	0	1	0	0	8
Total		151	45	3	6	1	1	207

**Chi-Square Tests**

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	18.314 <sup>a</sup>	20	.567
Likelihood Ratio	16.107	20	.710
Linear-by-Linear Association	1.681	1	.195
N of Valid Cases	207		

This cross tabulation compares the two variables; status in undergraduate/ graduate, and if they support the police. My team and I categorized the status of undergraduate students into four categories. The graduate students were only categorized using one category. Using a one tailed value our hypothesis is; There is a relationship between undergraduate status and if they support the police. Our null hypothesis is; there is no relationship between the two variables. Our chi square using 20 degrees of freedom revealed .567 which is less than 1.725. Since there is not enough conclusive evidence we must reject H1 and accept the null hypothesis.

### Cross tabulation comparing Mothers occupation to being the victim of a crime.

		Crosstab					
Count		victim of crime					
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total
momocc	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Manuel Labor	1	3	1	0	3	8
	Teacher	7	9	1	2	12	31
	Journalist	1	0	0	0	1	2
	Owner	1	1	1	0	2	5
	Admin Assist	1	6	1	0	4	12
	Food Service	1	1	0	0	0	2
	Real Estate	1	5	1	0	0	7
	Customer Service	0	6	0	0	2	8
	Bank Manage/Loan Officer	1	5	1	0	6	13
	Death Work Funeral	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Health Care Nurse, MD etc	5	10	7	1	7	30
	Retired	0	2	1	0	2	5
	Undetermined	2	1	1	0	4	8
	Social Worker	0	0	0	1	2	3
	Police All	1	0	0	0	0	1
	Skilled Worker	2	6	1	0	1	10
	Small Business Owner	2	5	1	0	1	9
	Professional Lawyer etc	0	8	2	0	4	14
	Military	0	1	0	0	0	1
	Civil Service	1	0	0	0	0	1
	24	0	1	0	0	0	1
	25	0	1	0	0	2	3
	26	0	1	0	0	0	1
	28	0	0	0	1	1	2
	88	4	10	0	0	3	17
Total		31	84	19	5	57	196

Chi-Square Tests			
	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	102.900 <sup>a</sup>	100	.401
Likelihood Ratio	94.277	100	.643
Linear-by-Linear Association	2.827	1	.093
N of Valid Cases	196		
a. 122 cells (93.8%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .03.			

This cross tabulation compares the surveyors mother's occupation to if they have ever been a victim of a crime. We left this question to be open ended because we wanted variation in our responses. This crosstab was a one tailed value and our hypothesis is; There is a correlation between the surveyor's mother's occupation and if they have been the victim of a crime. Our chi square data reveals a score of .401 which is less than our one tailed value of 1.811. This means that we must reject our H1 hypothesis and accept our null hypothesis. This means that there is no correlation between the two variables.

## **Conclusion**

Overall, the results from our questionnaire support the general thesis that minorities gravitate towards a negative standpoint on attitudes regarding Police brutality, while Whites possess a more favorable attitude towards uses of excessive force. African Americans believe Police target and patrol minority communities unproportionally than more affluent regions. However, after increased coverage of excessive use of force instances regarding Police Officers, both white and minority attitudes towards Police Brutality have significantly decreased. Racism has always been a predominant feature of American society, it appears after society begins to evolve and move forward, there are setbacks to a seemingly wicked problem. After the Civil Rights movement, politicians began calling for law and order and the war on drugs began in urban environments. During the 1970's through the 1990's, incarceration rates among African Americans increased by the hundreds of thousands. Needless to say, minorities' attitudes towards law enforcement and Police Brutality have always been less favorable than Whites and that idea is supported through our findings.

In conclusion the purpose of the research was to find and analyze survey research data to draw a theory on people's attitudes toward police brutality. Using a door to door method of surveying in a large urban area near a metropolis on the East Coast, we were able to find the best possible sample size using systematic random sampling. The reason this population was selected was for its diverse population and because of its array of different minorities within the community. The police' jobs can be inhibited by the lack of trust from a community into the police. If we can understand why people's attitudes toward police brutality are the way they are then we can start more reform to build back the trust and prevent future cases.

Under a further analysis of college aged students attitudes towards use of excessive force, there was no correlation between gender and treatment of individuals based on income. While my partner and I hypothesized that females would determine more wealthy individuals are treated better than the poor, the results supported that idea to a degree. When utilizing a chi square test, it was understood the results of our data were not significant. Historically, the public's attitude is that affluent individuals are treated in a more respected manner than people of lesser income. Although this idea was not disproven from our research, there was not an outstanding relation between one's gender and perceptions of police treatment based on income.

The purpose of conducting this research was to understand attitudes towards police brutality amongst a diverse group of college students. By the end of the research paper, we understood trends that were established already in the literacy review. However, the research also disproved some of our expectations before interpreting the data through statistical tests. The research concluded different questions in regards to potential excessive force, warranted various answers. Generally, the demographics surveyed answered similarity in regards to the majority of the questions asked. While the results and discussion supported our hypothesis in the literacy review that minorities would be less favorable towards law enforcement, there were not clear distinctions between gender, religion, or age. Overall, our method of gathering data allowed for individuals of multiple backgrounds to participate in the research. However, it would be beneficial to conduct research at multiple universities of different geographic regions to compare any potential mixed findings. Therefore, additional research on the topic of police brutality would be beneficial to help understand college aged students attitudes towards potential excessive force used by law enforcement.

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I have neither given nor received help on this work, nor am I aware of any infraction of the Honor Code.