

Policing in America

Appendix B. Detailed Results Tables Dallas County, TX

Table 1. Perceptions of neighborhood safety and experiences of victimization	2
Table 2. Satisfaction with police activity in neighborhood	3
Table 3. Experiences with police in the last 12 months	4
Table 4. Witnessed police misconduct in neighborhood in the last 6 months	5
Table 5. Likelihood of using 911	6
Table 6. Expectations and perceptions of police	7
Table 7. Perceptions of what activities police should prioritize, percent who included each activity in the top 3	8

Policing in America

Table 1. Perceptions of neighborhood safety and experiences of victimization

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Feel safe (daytime) % Yes ¹	60.5%	80.1%^{ab}	52.0%	49.2%	0.0000
Feel safe (nighttime) % Yes ¹	36.2%	53.1%^{ab}	22.8%	31.5%	0.0002
Perceived safety, change in last year % decreased ² % stayed same % increased ²	28.5% 62.0% 9.5%	22.9% 67.5% 9.6%	29.5% 54.7% 15.8%	34.3% 59.0% 6.7%	0.1389
Household member, victim of crime in last year % Yes	15.9%	9.3%^b	13.7%	22.1%	0.0252
Among those who reported victimization % involved a weapon or violence	26.5%	8.0%	43.9%	31.8%	0.1296

Statistically significant ($P \leq .05$) between group differences by race and ethnicity is indicated with bold text.

Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

1 % yes includes answers "to a great extent" and "a lot"; other options included "not at all", "a little," and "somewhat"

2 answers include "a lot" and "some"

Policing in America

Table 2. Satisfaction with police activity in neighborhood

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Past month police presence					
% No opinion	14.8%	18.7%	15.9%	12.2%	0.4020
% Too few	38.2%	36.6%	46.5%	35.4%	
% Right amount	43.4%	41.3%	33.0%	50.3%	
% Too many	3.6%	3.4%	4.6%	2.2%	
Police satisfaction scale¹					
Mean score (95% CI)	2.0 (1.9-2.1)	2.3^{ab} (2.1-2.4)	1.7 (1.6-1.9)	1.9 (1.6-2.1)	
Individual items in scale²					
Item 1: How well they develop relationships with community					0.0005
% Unsatisfied	27.6%	13.6%^{ab}	36.3%	36.2%	
% Satisfied	32.7%	42.8%	19.2%	28.7%	
Item 2: Frequency of communication with community					0.0420
% Unsatisfied	31.8%	23.7%^a	42.2%	34.1%	
% Satisfied	28.7%	37.9%	19.2%	24.9%	
Item 3: Ease of community input					0.1129
% Unsatisfied	29.5%	21.2%	39.0%	32.5%	
% Satisfied	32.6%	39.5%	25.0%	30.3%	
Item 4: Collaboration with community					0.0016
% Unsatisfied	31.1%	15.9%^{ab}	38.8%	40.3%	
% Satisfied	33.6%	44.0%	26.2%	27.5%	
Summary of items in scale²					0.0236
% unsatisfied <u>on all items</u>	14.5%	7.4%^a	21.0%	16.8%	
% satisfied <u>on all items</u>	19.0%	25.7%	9.2%	17.9%	

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1 Police satisfaction scale ranges from 0 very unsatisfied - 4 very satisfied and is the average of four items

2 Answers are collapsed: unsatisfied includes "very unsatisfied" and "unsatisfied," satisfied includes "very satisfied" and "satisfied", Percent does not sum to 100% because "neither satisfied nor unsatisfied" group is not listed

Policing in America

Table 3. Experiences with police in the last 12 months

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
N of contacts in last year					
% zero	50.0%	58.5%	40.1%	51.8%	0.1532
% 1-2	31.8%	24.6%	40.1%	29.4%	
% 3 or more	18.2%	16.9%	19.9%	18.9%	
Among those with contact					
Contact Type					
% Traffic stop or accident	38.8%	29.1%^b	33.2%^c	52.9%	0.0283
% Called 911	51.0%	58.0%	51.9%	49.9%	0.6750
% Casual interaction	33.6%	37.4%	38.5%	24.1%	0.1691
% Stopped/arrested	39.2%	51.2%	35.6%	39.0%	0.2659
Negative experience scale¹					
Mean (95% CI)	1.2 (1.0-1.3)	0.8^a (0.6-1.1)	1.4 (1.1-1.6)	1.2 (0.9-1.6)	
Individual items in scale²					
Item 1: Professional/courteous					
% Disagree	16.0%	11.2%	22.6%	15.9%	0.1465
% Agree	73.2%	83.8%	70.8%	68.4%	
Item 2: Treated with respect/dignity					
% Disagree	20.4%	17.5%	22.0%	18.8%	0.5700
% Agree	71.6%	79.4%	67.5%	72.0%	
Item 3: Treated fairly					
% Disagree	13.4%	11.2%	15.5%	11.8%	0.4661
% Agree	73.4%	81.4%	64.8%	73.2%	
Item 4: Felt safe					
% Disagree	18.1%	8.7%	22.0%	20.6%	0.1317
% Agree	74.5%	84.8%	62.9%	75.5%	
Summary of items in scale					
% disagree on <u>any</u> item	29.1%	18.8%	37.8%	28.7%	0.1822
% disagreed on <u>all</u> items	7.8%	6.7%	10.8%	8.8%	0.2135
% agreed on <u>all</u> items	63.4%	77.6%	52.5%	61.6%	

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1 Negative experience scale ranges from 0 (very positive) - 4 (very negative) and is the average of four items

2 Answers collapsed strongly agree/ agree, disagree and strongly disagree, doesn't sum to 100% because "neither agree nor disagree" group is not listed

Policing in America

Table 4. Witnessed police misconduct in neighborhood in the last 6 months

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
Witness misconduct scale¹ Mean score (95% CI)	0.5 (0.4-0.7)	0.2^{ab} (0.1-0.2)	0.9 (0.7-1.1)	0.7 (0.4-1.0)	
Individual items in scale² Item 1: Being physically abusive or using weapons unjustifiably % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	3.2% 17.6%	2.4%^{ab} 2.7%	7.7%^c 25.2%	1.2% 27.0%	0.0000
Item 2: Using profanity, making verbal threats or being generally discourteous % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	6.4% 19.1%	0.7%^{ab} 5.0%	13.0% 21.9%	8.3% 29.8%	0.0000
Item 3: Discriminating on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, class, or religion % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	11.2% 25.5%	3.6%^{ab} 11.8%	21.2% 25.8%	13.3% 34.2%	0.0001
Item 4: Stopping people too often in the neighborhood without sufficient cause % Often or always % Sometimes or rarely	10.1% 25.9%	3.4%^{ab} 13.8%	22.1% 29.2%	8.1% 35.5%	0.0001
Summary of items in scale Ever witnessed misconduct % >never <u>on any item</u>	51.3%	22.9%^{ab}	64.6%	65.6%	0.0000

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Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

1 Witnessed misconduct scale ranges from 0 (never) - 4 (always) during police interaction in their neighborhoods and is the average of four items

2 Frequency witnessing inappropriate activity: collapsed often/always, sometimes/rarely, doesn't sum to 100% because "never" group is not listed

Policing in America

Table 5. Likelihood of using 911

	Total	Race and Ethnicity of Individual			
		White	Black	Hispanic	p
Would call 911 if...¹ saw someone you believe needed help with a mental health crisis					
% Would	76.6%	79.0%	74.0%	76.2%	0.8269
% Would not	15.7%	15.8%	19.1%	15.2%	
heard the sound of gunshot					
% Would	59.0%	61.8%	60.7%	52.9%	0.1427
% Would not	34.9%	31.5%	28.3%	43.4%	
were disturbed by loud music playing outside your house after 11 pm					
% Would	31.5%	29.6%	29.6%	32.6%	0.9062
% Would not	63.0%	65.6%	62.8%	61.5%	
Summary of items¹ Would not call 911 in these situations	8.6%	8.9%	9.6%	9.0%	0.9824

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Statistically significant pairwise comparisons are indicated with footnotes: a White vs. Black, b White vs. Hispanic c Black vs. Hispanic

¹ For 911 utilization, “would” includes “definitely would” and “probably would” and “would not” includes “definitely would not” and “probably would not” items do not sum to 100% because respondents who responded “I don’t know” are not list in the table

Policing in America

Table 6. Expectations and perceptions of police

	Race and Ethnicity of Individual				
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	p
How often do police use force during an arrest % Most of time, everytime % About half of the time	29.1% 23.0%	8.4%^{ab} 22.3%	44.4% 18.3%	39.7% 24.8%	0.0000
Perceptions of police scale¹ Mean score (95% CI)	1.0 (0.9-1.1)	0.9^a (0.7-1.0)	1.1 (1.0-1.2)	1.1 (0.9-1.3)	
Individual items in scale² Item 1: You should do what the police tell you to, even if you disagree % Agree % Disagree	64.6% 12.1%	74.3% 9.4%	63.3% 10.8%	60.0% 15.6%	0.2443
Item 2: You should accept decisions made by area police, even if you do not understand the reasons for their decisions % Agree % Disagree	43.1% 29.4%	54.6%^a 22.1%	31.2% 38.5%	39.4% 33.0%	0.0425
Item 3: You should obey police directives because that is the proper or right thing to do % Agree % Disagree	77.5% 7.8%	80.0% 9.0%	77.6% 8.1%	77.4% 5.3%	0.6586
Summary of items in scale % Agree on <u>all items</u> on scale % Disagree on <u>all items</u> on scale	38.4% 5.8%	49.5%^a 5.5%	25.0% 6.1%	36.2% 4.9%	0.0531
% Disagree on <u>any</u> items on scale	30.8%	23.0%	39.1%	35.1%	0.0592

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1 Perceptions of police scale ranges from 0 (positive - strongly agree to all items) - 4 (negative - strongly disagree with all items)

2 Answers collapsed strongly agree/ agree, disagree and strongly disagree, doesn't sum to 100% because "neither agree nor disagree" group is not listed

Policing in America

Table 7. Perceptions of what activities police should prioritize, percent who included each activity in the top 3

% ranked activity in top 3 priorities	Total	Race and Ethnicity of Individual			
		White	Black	Hispanic	p
Investigating violent crimes	74.1%	80.5%	67.5%	72.5%	0.1439
Enforcing traffic laws	18.6%	21.5%	16.8%	19.5%	0.7225
Responding to 911 calls	60.5%	76.7%^{ab}	56.2%	46.7%	0.0001
Walking around the neighborhood and talking to neighborhood members about their concerns	35.1%	24.4%^{ab}	47.9%	38.5%	0.0061
Enforcement of nuisance crimes, such as noise violations	8.9%	8.4%	9.5%	8.3%	0.9393
Targeting illegal firearms	35.4%	24.3%	35.6%	39.4%	0.0716
Increased police presence	37.0%	36.6%	38.2%	39.5%	0.8878

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