Foot Patrol, Neighborhood Watch & Football: An Analysis of College

Criminal Justice Student Willingness, and Confidence in Law Enforcement to

Engage in Community Policing

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Abstract

Although the "War on Drugs" ideology is ingrained into our society, and resulted in the mass incarceration of Blacks and Latinos (Pratt, 2008; Cunningham & Chang, 2018; Cantu, 2014) there has been a renewal of interest and efforts among law enforcement personnel to encourage community-police partnerships (Salas, 2019; Wexler, 2016). Media, including social media (e.g., Twitter and Facebook) have provided a narrative that sustains a racial divide between minority residents and officers (Williams & Wines, 2016; McCrone, 2017; McCrabb, 2016). This study examined the perceptions of criminal justice students at a racially and ethnically diverse community college on the East Coast. Results indicated that members of high crime, low-income neighborhoods, particularly Black and Hispanic adults, wanted to participate in community policing events with the local police departments. Furthermore, results showed that young respondents overall had confidence/trust in law enforcement to take a more active role in relation to initiating said relationships, despite the media narrative depiction of minority citizens being hostile to police-community partnerships, which results in many police officers refusing to participate in community policing initiatives.

Introduction

The United States has waged a "War on Drugs" since 1971 when the Nixon Administration declared the need to incarcerate drug dealers and addicts, specifically Blacks and antiwar individuals (LoBianco, 2016; Hodge, 2021). First time offenders in New York were sentenced under the infamous 1973 Rockefeller Law could, and often received, lengthy sentences for low-level offenses e.g., possession of amounts of marijuana, cocaine, and heroin (Newburn & Nuzzo, 2020; Mann; 2013). Additional states across the country adopted the Rockefeller Law, essentially incarcerating offenders with sentences lasting from 15 years to life in federal prisons (Tsimbinos, 1999). Former President Reagan continued a similar federal policy with the Sentencing Reform Act in 1984 (Hancock & Sharpe, 2004; Walker, 2015). Essentially, the "war on drugs" resulted in high incarceration rates for low-income American citizens (Pratt, 2009; Walker, 2015; Gido & Allman, 2002, Norris, 2017), disrupted families, and became a new symbolism for Jim Crow (Boyd, 2001; Stern, 2017). Furthermore, this policy, at its height during the 1980s, appeared to go against the founding elements of a law enforcement ideology: community policing.

Literature Review

What is community policing? This type of law enforcement allows local officers to (1) form healthier partnerships with interested citizens, to promote problem-solving techniques, (2) decrease the fear of crime, (3) address social disorder, and (4) police organizational transformation (Amadi, 2014; Flynn, 1998; Maguire, Johnson, Kuhns, & Apostolos, 2017; Willis, Dastrofski, & Kochel, 2010; Lawrence & Fagin, 2015). Many criminal justice experts disagree on the exact era when community policing began yet some suggest the practice began in the United States in the 1970s (Worrall & Schmalleger, 2018; Sozer & Merlo, 2013; Williams & Murphy, 1990). Some criminologists believe that community policing gradually flourished throughout the 1980s and 1990s in local departments (Lawrence & McCarthy, 2013; Parks, 2000). Criminologists historically published research indicating that Whites were more likely than any other racial or ethnic group to (1) support local police departments (Crabtree, 2020;Worhall & Schmalleger, 2018; Ekins, 2016; Wing, 2015; Morin & Stepler, 2016; Holland, 2015), and to (2) participate in community policing initiatives. On the other hand, some studies demonstrated that Whites support police presence in their respective neighborhoods via foot and car patrol as much as Blacks and Hispanics (Weitzer & Tuch, 2004; Trojaniwitz & Banas, 1985).

However, other studies indicate that many minority citizens living in low-income metropolitan neighborhoods showed a higher willingness to engage in community policing activities than White residents (Pattavania, Bryne, & Garcia, 2006; Wehrman & DeAngelis, 2011; Kang, 2011). When researchers explored the issue of police presence, the study indicated that 80% of Blacks and 69% of Hispanic respondents supported an elevated presence of police officers patrolling the streets of their neighborhoods in police cars (Weitzer & Tuch, 2004). The same respondents (80% for both Black and Latinos) supported more car patrol; 80% of Blacks and 69% of Latinos wanted increased foot patrol (Weitzer & Tuch, 2004). Furthermore, 88% of Black survey participants and 85% of Hispanic respondents reported a preference for "more police surveillance of areas where street crimes occur frequently" (Weizter & Tuch, 2004, p. 306). Yet, media continues to portray racial minorities as being anti-police (Cherry, 2015; Lopez, 2016). The aforementioned research was consistent with additional literature when minorities responded to polls regarding police presence. Williams & Swanson (2016) found that Black and Hispanic participants in the GenForward Poll surveying 1,940 residents aged 18-30 desired an increase in police officers in their neighborhoods, and in public places such as movie theatres and malls. Furthermore, updated research indicated that racial minorities continue to support high levels of police presence in their neighborhoods (Saad, 2020; Saletan, 2021; Crabtree, 2020). Although racial minority groups

supported police presence, the desire for an increased presence did not necessarily mean that many people of color automatically trusted local law enforcement, and the feelings are mutual.

Nonwhite residents in many urban neighborhoods in the United States consistently reported a lower level of confidence and support of local police departments (Wexler, 2016; Amado, 2014; Theodore & Habans; 2016; Worrall & Schmalleger, 2018; Drake, 2015; Williams & Murphy, 1989; Wing, 2015). Also, some research suggested that although police across America claimed to engage in some level of community policing with residents, (Sozer & Merlo, 2013; Chappell, 2008) many patrol cops had little to no interest in engaging in community policing and many local officers reported a mutual distrust of citizens (Borello, 1998; Chappel, 2009; Skogan, 1995; Gilmartin & Harris, 1999; McCold & Watchel, 1996). Long standing suspicion and tension between local police officers also extended to immigrant and non-immigrant Hispanics (Correia, 2010; Theodore, 2013). Although the aforementioned research is important to construct and analyze to understand the micro- and macro-level issues interconnecting social class, race/ethnicity, and policing, our society may consider the power that media yields is as equally as important to the overall examination of law enforcement approaches in establishing partnerships with low-income residents. Some segments of media, including social media, have not been particularly kind in providing full assessment of "both sides" of the relationship between law enforcement and low-income communities where many people of color call their homes.

Historically, informal policing tactics began with the slave patrols during the time of slavery in America as a way to capture and punish runaway slaves (Fagin, 2018; Worrall & Schmalleger, 2018). Current policing tactics targeting Black and Hispanic suspects and offenders have not changed except for law enforcement officers no longer engage in the lynching of Black people (Stevenson, 2019; Bergen, Hickman, Parkin, & Pozo, 2018) and Mexican Americans (Villanueva, 2017; Delgado, 2009; Romero, 2019). Smiley & Fakunle (2016) and other criminologists made the argument that we can draw a comparison between the lynching of American slaves to the consistent fatal shootings of unarmed African-Americans in the present day as symbolic "lynching," the violent ends to Black lives (Fyfe, 1982; White, 2002; Hall, Hall, & Perry, 2016). Furthermore, people can also connect deportation centers for undocumented Latinos (Hernandez, 2008; Becerra, Wagaman, & Androff, 2016) to the symbolic "lynching" of Hispanics. Of course, media headlines of fatal shootings of unarmed Black citizens and the deportation centers may or may not sometimes influence current law enforcement policies.

Media

Newspaper images have consistently portrayed Black people as lazy, uncouth, and violent among other negative traits (Plous & Williams, 1995; Smiley & Fukunle, 2016). Racist images from the film *Birth of a Nation,* (Smiley & Fukunle, 2016), television programs, and the socialization process in America have resulted in a sustained implicit bias that pervades our society, and the bias is a part of law enforcement culture (Plous & Williams, 1995; Horton, Price, & Brown, 1999; Chappel, 2009; Datz, 2017). Furthermore, the media has also slanted the narrative against Hispanics (Renny & Manzano, 2016). This narrative has resulted in Hispanics reporting harassment by police (McCarthy, 2015; Worhall & Schmallenger, 2018; Makarechi, 2016). Divisive and racially charged language used to describe minorities has seeped into social media (Jackson, 2020). Twitter and other social media platforms characterized Black Lives Matter as a hate group (Vlamis, 2022; Jackson, 2020). In terms of television news, some journalists described minorities as being animalistic. During a newscast on a local news affiliate, reporters labeled people of color as "a pack of rapid animals" (McCrone, 2017). Furthermore, a Fox News broadcast displayed a segment where a banner suggested that Black Lives Matter is a "murder movement" (Hanson & McCormack, 2015). An additional news story on Fox accused BLM of inciting violence (Lopez, 2015). Former President Trump called undocumented Mexican immigrants "animals" when discussing his frustration about sanctuary cities in California (Korte & Gomez, 2018). Yet, as

the literature indicates, and despite being targets of consistent micro-aggressions and outright hostility, racial minorities welcome police presence in their neighborhoods. Generally, if the media would present more objective images of Blacks, Hispanics, and other people of color interacting positively with police officers, the average citizen may consider that police brutality and harassment is not only about compliance. Even when Blacks and Hispanics complied with officers, the police shot Levar Jones, assaulted Colonel Caron Nazario with pepper spray, and killed Adam Toledo (Kendi, 2021; Hanna, Savidge, & Mungeregd, 2014). Media has added more "fuel" to the already very large "fire" that has swept across the movies, television shows, and social media platforms where a person of color was by default labeled guilty until proven innocent. On the other hand, White offenders were usually "mentally ill" (Grabmeir, 2018; Burnett, 2016). Media and law enforcement often treated White offenders with kid gloves e.g., Dylann Roof, Cliven Bundy, and Bundy's sons. Officers gave fast food to Roof hours after Roof massacred nine Black people in a church (Wright, 2021). Furthermore, federal marshals and sheriff's officers did not open fire on Bundy when he and his supporters allegedly pointed guns at the officers during a standoff; the standoff was due to Bundy owing over $1 million for illegally grazing cattle on public land. (Wright; 2021; Hegenah, 2021; Slegler, 2017). The media provided timid responses to Ammon and Ryan Bundy when their militia seized and occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon: the Associated Press and Fox News labeled them as "protesters" (Lopez, 2016). Could it be that because many officers across the country are more likely to shoot people of color, coupled with negative media portrayal of racial and ethnic minorities exacerbating systemic racism in the United States, a portion of officers across the nation are resistant to community policing initiatives in low-income, high crime areas?

One sub-population, not included in prior exploration of police confidence and willingness to participate in community policing, is criminal justice students enrolled in community colleges with largely Hispanic or Black student populations. This investigator chose to examine student perceptions on community policing at Hudson County Community College (HCCC) in Jersey City, New Jersey. The most recent facts guide for HCCC indicates that the College's student population for fall 2015 was mostly Hispanic/Latino at 56% (MyHudson). (https://www.myhudson.hccc.edu/irp/PRR_20Profile_%20Report%20-%202016.pdf).

Variables and Assumptions

This investigator grouped the independent variables into the demographic model: age, biological sex, race/ethnicity, and employment status. Biological sex was a dummy variable; the code for male was (1) while the code for female was (0). The researcher used ordinal variables to code age and employment status. For example, *18-28 years of age* as (1); *29-39 years of age* as (2); *40-50 years of age* as (3); and *51 years of age and up* as (4). The codes for employment were *unemployed, not looking* (1); *unemployed, looking* (2); *employed, part-time* (3); *employed, full-time* (4); and *I choose not to respond* (5). I coded race/ethnicity as follows: *Hispanic/Latino (1)*; *White (2); Black (3); Middle Easterner or North African (4)*; *Native American or Alaskan (5)*; *Asian or Pacific Islander (6)*; *Other Ethnicity (7)*; and *I choose not to respond (8)*. The dependent variable was an index variable used to measure *confidence/trust in police* and *respondent willingness to participate in law enforcement partnerships*. For *confidence/trust in police*, the index consisted of two items asking respondents how much h/she believed that police departments in American urban areas were: (1) willing to enforce officer foot patrols on a regular basis, and (2) motivated to establish specific police-citizen partnerships (e.g., community-police barbeques and police-citizen sporting events). In order to measure *student willingness to participate,* this index variable consisted of four items asking survey participants how much they were supportive of and were willing to engage with law enforcement. The measurements of the study were (1) Respondent's support of local departments improving citizen-police contact; (2) survey participant's support of local departments to reduce crime in urban areas; (3) student's willingness to participate in crime reduction rallies with police in their respective neighborhoods; and (4) student's openness to participating in events such

as neighborhood watch. Furthermore, one question was included to measure *respondent's confidence of urban residents* to alert police about crime if the citizens know the names of the officers. To assess confidence/trust in police and citizen willingness to participate, the researcher used a multiple linear regression test and explored the multiple sources of factors for the strength or lack of relationship among the independent variables, and the dependent variable. The assumptions were (1) there was a linear relationship between each predictor variable and the response variable; (2) there was no multi-collinearity; (3) the observations were independent; (4) homoscedasticity was present; and (5) the residuals in the model were normally distributed.

Methods

This researcher administered a questionnaire in the spring semester of 2017 to students majoring in criminal justice. Hudson County Community College (HCCC) has two campuses: the main campus located in the Journal Square area of Jersey City, New Jersey; the smaller campus, the North Hudson Center, is located in Union City, New Jersey. Presently, both campuses serve a largely Latino population, in addition to black, Middle Eastern, Asian, and White students. In the spring of 2017, HCCC offered 20 sections of criminal justice courses. Professors taught the majority of the classes at the Journal Square campus. The researcher engaged in simple random sampling and selected nine criminal justice sections (five sections at the North Hudson Center; four sections at Journal Square). This investigator distributed the surveys from March until May of spring 2017.

I distributed one hundred and eighty-four surveys to criminal justice majors. This researcher received 121 completed surveys. This investigator was able to use 119 surveys (n=119) because two students failed to answer all of the questions. I wanted to focus on criminal justice majors because my theory is that these students were more likely respond to a survey about policing, especially since many criminal justice majors at HCCC have verbally reported to this writer a preference to policing in lieu of pursuing a career in the courts or corrections. Moreover, it was easier to survey a sub-population rather than casting a wider net over the entire college population. The surveys consisted of seven questions about community policing. Furthermore, students responded to four demographic inquires separate from the first seven questions. Five questions measured the respondents' support for law enforcement and willingness to engage in community policing activities. The last two questions measured participant perceptions regarding the role of police officers in community policing engagement. There was a diversity of course topics within the surveyed sections*: Police Role in the Community*; *Corrections*; *Introduction to Criminal Justice*; *Juvenile Justice System; Criminal Investigation*; *Ethics and Justice*; and *General Police Organization and Administration*. I received a 65% percent response rate.

For this research, the investigator wanted to discover if the alternative hypotheses were correct. Before the initiation of the study, the hypotheses were H_1 (1) criminal justice students from community colleges in urban areas with a majority student population consisting of racial/ethnic minorities would support community policing initiatives and that H_1 (2) survey participants would report a willingness to engage in community policing activities. The investigator used multiple linear regression to test the linear relationship of the four variables (or lack of) to the dependent variable. This investigator used Ordinal scaling for the survey questions. Students responded by circling one response to each question: *Agree* (5); *Disagree* (4); *Neither Agree Nor Disagree* (3); *Don't Know* (2*); No Response* (1).

Race/ Ethnicity Variable, *Student Confidence/Trust in Police Motivation to Establish Community Partnerships*
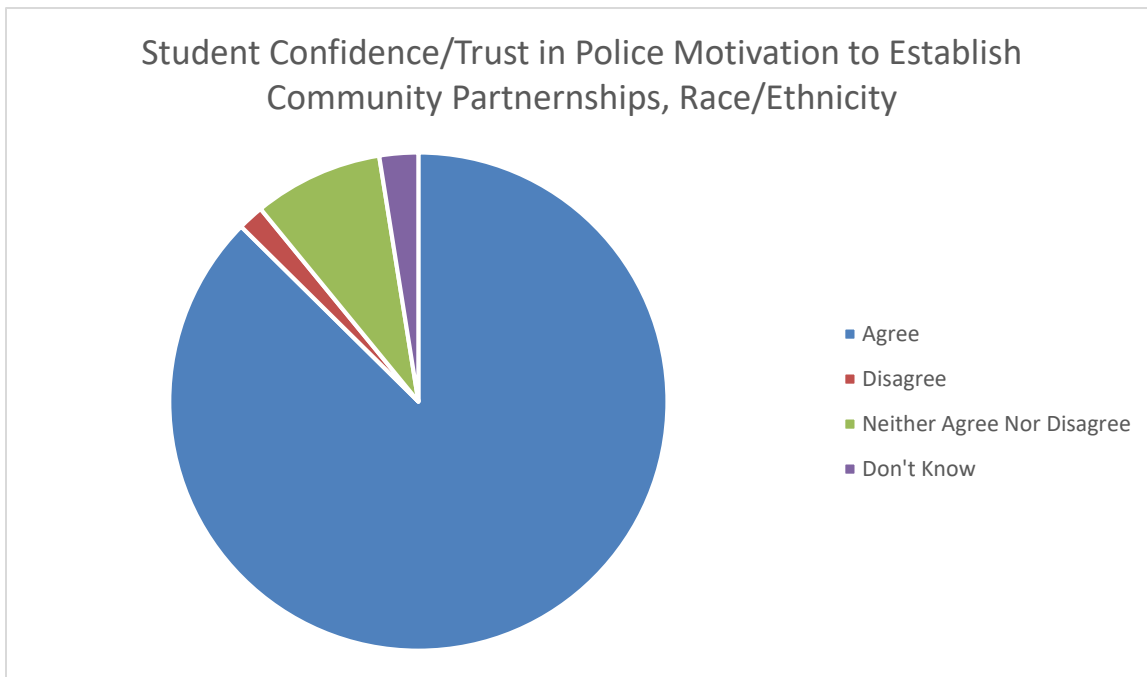
Male and female students responded to the survey. Since criminal justice departments in college tend to be male dominated, it is not surprising that a large majority of the respondents were men. *Male: (61.34%)* *Female: (39.66%).* The majority of the student population at HCCC was within the 18-23 year-old age range. Therefore, most of the students responding to the survey were of traditional college age.

Survey Respondents Based on Age
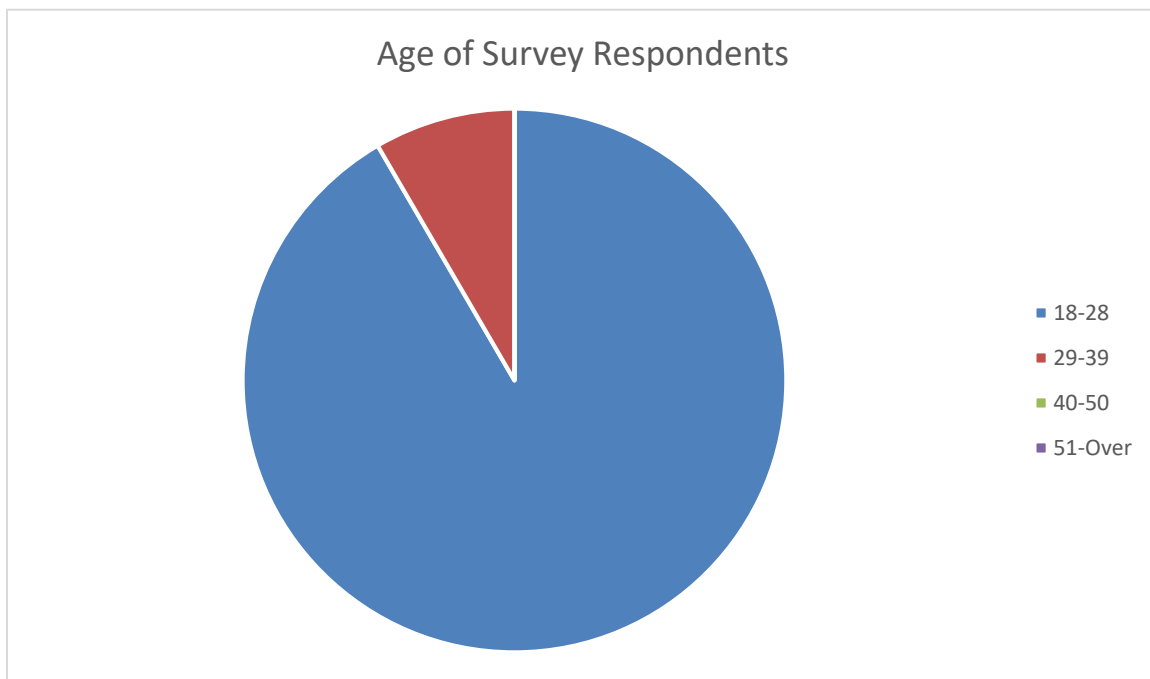
18-28: (91.6%); 29-39; (8.4%); 40-50; (0%); 51-Up: (0%).

Most HCCC students worked either full or part-time, and this was likely common across the United States for the average community college student. Most of the participants reported working part-time. At least one respondent marked an answer with, "I choose not to respond." *Full-time (32.77%); Part-time (48.74%) Unemployed, Looking (15.13%); Unemployed, Not Looking (2.52%); and I choose not to respond (.084%).* The majority of the students responding to the survey identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino. Specifically, some students reported being Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, El Salvadoran, Ecuadoran, Peruvian, and Honduran. Other specific ethnicities and races identified included Filipino, Korean, and Egyptian. The respondents identifying as "Other Ethnicity" did not list any specifics with the exception of Italian. *Hispanic/Latino (66.39%); White (9.24%); Black (15.97%); Middle Eastern or North African (3.36%); Native American or Alaskan (0%); Asian or Pacific Islander (2.52%); Other Ethnicity (.084%); I choose not to respond (1.7%)*

Scatterplot: Race/Ethnicity of Survey Respondents

Race/Ethnicity of Respondents
Hispanic/Latino 66.39%
White 9.24%
Black/African-American 15.97%
Middle Eastern or North African 3.36%
Asian or Pacific Islander 2.52%
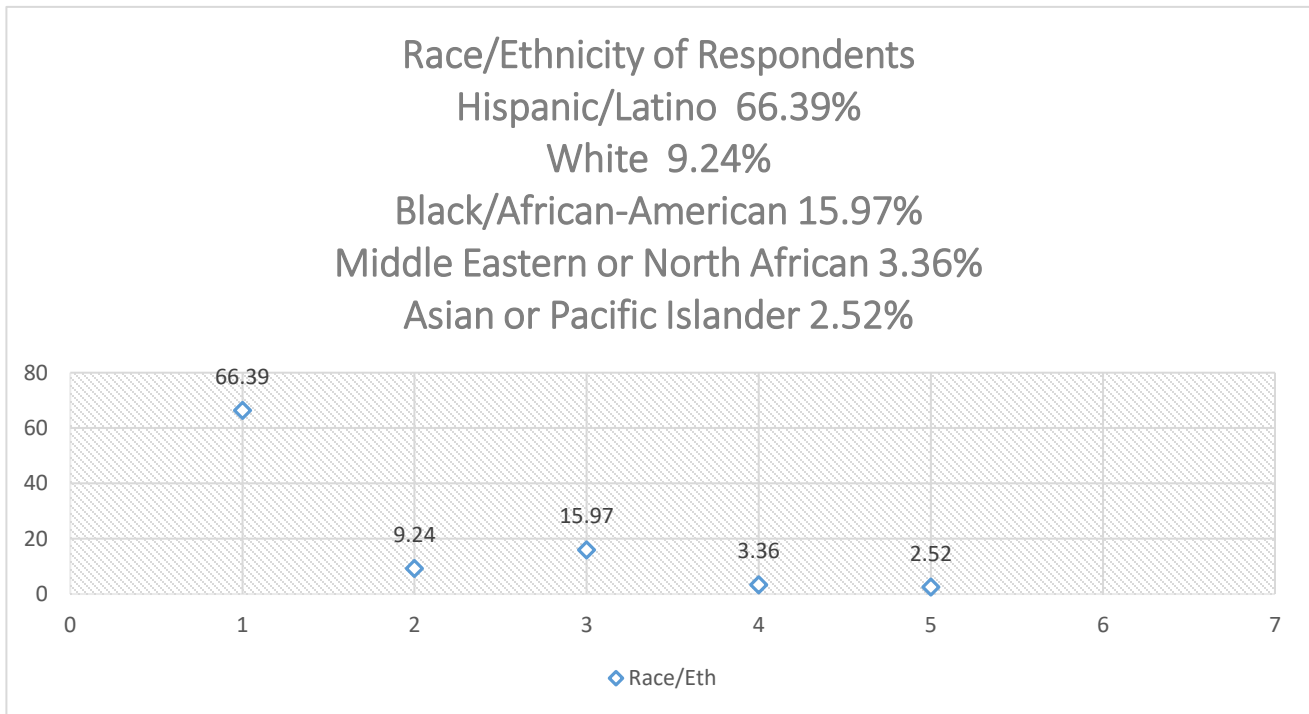
        While the Biological Sex and Employment Status variables were equally important in assessing this data this researcher focused on the two variables corresponding to a lot of historical community policing research: (1) Age and (2) Race/Ethnicity. This investigator measured the data at the 95% confidence level to demonstrate the same results can be repeated 95% of the time in subsequent samples, with the same survey questions, using the 95% confidence level. The *p*-value of 0.05 (5%) or less allowed this researcher to reject the H_0. The null hypothesis H_0: An urban community college student's age, biological sex, employment status, or race/ethnicity has no relationship to his or her willingness to participate in community policing activities. Moreover, these variables have no influence on a student's confidence/trust in police to engage in community policing. R-Squared scores show the goodness of fit for the regression model. Experts suggest that reporting the adjusted scores provide a more conservative outlook since the R-Squared scores always increase when investigators add new variables to the regression model. Researchers should report the adjusted R-Squared scores when the research study provides more than one predictor (X) variable.

Results

Age

   The adjusted R-Squared score of 0.94 (94% variance) demonstrated a very strong relationship between age and student confidence in urban citizens approaching local officers to report criminal activity when comparing the ages of the survey respondents. The *p*-value of 0.00 ($p<0.05$) showed that the result was statistically significant. When I examined the issue of age and student support of local law enforcement working

to improve law enforcement-community relations, the adjusted R-Squared score of 0.98 (98% variance) indicated that age was a robust predictor in student support of police finding new paths to decrease the ever-growing divide between law enforcement and the community. The *p*-value of 0.00 (p<0.05) showed a very strong linear relationship between age and student support. Furthermore, age and support for city police departments to reduce crime in urban areas demonstrated another powerful relationship between the independent (IV) and dependent variable (DV). The adjusted R-Square score of 0.98 (98% variance) showed that age robustly influenced student support of local police departments working to reduce crime in urban areas, taking into account the combined ages of the survey respondents. The *p*-value of 0.00 (p<0.05) showed that the model is a good fit, and the results were not by chance. If there were no relationship between age and student support for police departments to reduce crime in urban areas, the probability of achieving a 98% variance in studies would be less than 5%. When this investigator analyzed the issue of student participation in crime reduction rallies, the adjusted R-Squared score of 0.84 (84% variance) indicated that age had a strong relationship to student willingness to participate in crime reduction rallies in their respective neighborhoods, regardless of the age of the respondents.

Student Willingness to Participate in Crime Reduction Rallies, Age
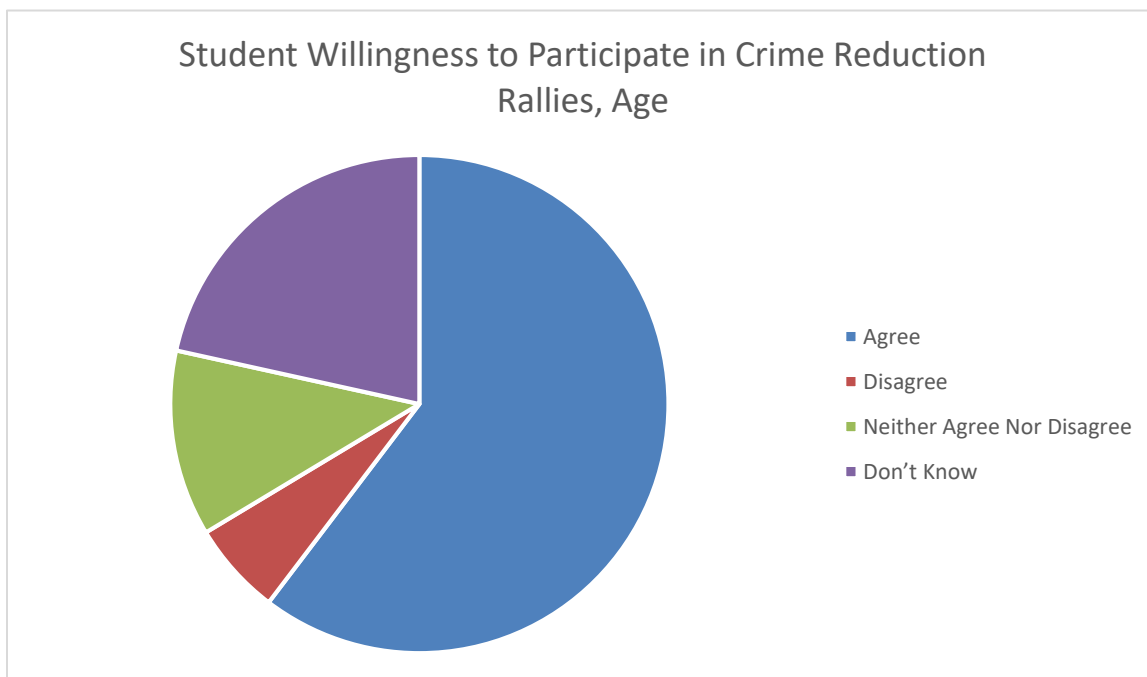
The *p*-value of 0.02 (p<0.05) indicated a statistically significant result. Age (IV) was a strong predictor, but not as strong as the researcher theorized, to the willingness to participate (DV). Nonetheless, the H_0 was not true with question (4), "*I would consider participating in crime reduction rallies to support police efforts in reducing crime in my neighborhood.*" When this investigator explored the issues of willingness to participate in neighborhood watch and community-police charity events, the results yielded an adjusted R-Square score of 0.94 (94% variance) and a *p*-value of 0.00 (p<0.05), which demonstrated that the relationship between age and willingness was potent and statistically significant, regardless of the age of the survey participants. The result was not random.

Table 1 *Age Variable, Student Willingness to Participate in Neighborhood Watch; Charity Events*

SUMMARY OUTPUT

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.976766
R Square	0.954071
Adjusted R Square	0.938762
Standard Error	6.116769
Observations	5

ANOVA

	df	SS	MS	F	Significance F
Regression	1	2331.645	2331.645	62.31869	0.004237
Residual	3	112.2446	37.41486		
Total	4	2443.89			

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	5.296235	3.130332	1.691908	0.189241	-4.66588	15.25835	-4.66588	15.25835
Age	0.600328	0.076047	7.894219	0.004237	0.358314	0.842342	0.358314	0.842342

RESIDUAL OUTPUT

Observation	Predicted Q 5	Residuals
1	60.32231	0.177695
2	10.33899	-1.93899
3	5.296235	8.993765
4	5.296235	-2.77623
5	5.296235	-4.45623

β
0.60

Note: This was a theoretical study using simultaneous analysis. A one standard deviation increase based on age was associated with a 0.60 standard deviation increase in student willingness to participate in neighborhood watch and charity events.

The relationships continued to be very strong when the researcher measured age in the last two survey questions. Question (6) *"Community policing can be more effective in reducing crime in urban areas if police departments enforce officer foot patrols on a regular basis,"* resulted in an adjusted R-Square score of 0.97 (97% variance), with a p-value of 0.00 (p<0.05). The results showed that age (IV) robustly influenced student confidence (DV) that law enforcement of regular foot patrols in urban areas can assist with the efficacy of community policing when comparing the ages of the survey participants. The probability of obtaining a 97% variance in the research results was less than 5% if the H_0 was accurate. Finally, question (7) "*Police departments should be more motivated to establish community-police partnerships in urban areas by instituting activities (police-community barbeques, citizen-officer sporting events),"* generated more statically significant results. The adjusted R-Square score of 0.97 (97% variance) and the *p*-value of 0.00 (p<0.05) demonstrated that the age variable was very strongly correlated to student confidence/trust in police motivation to form community-police partnerships in urban areas through community-police sporting events and police-citizen barbeques, regardless of the age of the survey respondents.

Race/Ethnicity

When this researcher used race/ethnicity as the independent variable (IV), I saw a duplication of similar variances from the questions regarding age, demonstrating homoscedasticity in the data results. Question (1) "*I think urban residents are more willing to approach officers about criminal activity if citizens know the names of the local officers."* yielded an adjusted R-Squared score of 0.96 (96% variance), and a *p*-value 0.00 < (0.05). These results indicated a robust relationship between race/ethnicity and student confidence/trust in the willingness of urban residents to approach local officers to report criminal activity. Question (2) "*I am supportive of city police departments working to improve law enforcement-community relations*" provided an adjusted R-squared score of 0.96 (96% variance) and the *p*-value of 0.00< (0.05) and showed that race/ethnicity very highly influenced student support of local law enforcement to improve community-police relations, regardless of the races/ethnicities of the respondents. The results were not random. Question (3) *"I am supportive of city police departments working to reduce crime in urban areas* produced an extremely strong correlation of race/ethnicity to student support for law enforce to decrease crime in urban areas. The adjusted R-Squared score of 0.96 (96% variance), and a *p*-value of 0.00< (0.05) demonstrated a statistically significant relationship between this predictor variable and the response variable, regardless of the race/ethnicity of the survey respondents**.** When evaluating the issue of participation in crime rallies, this researcher found there was a linear relationship related to race/ethnicity of the students, and the datum produced an adjusted R-Squared score of 0.82 (82% variance) and a *p*-value: 0.02< (0.05). Since the *p*-value of 2% was less than 5%, the results were not due to chance. Question (5) *"I would consider participating in activities (neighborhood watch, citizen-police charity events) to support police efforts in decreasing crime in my neighborhood*" produced a robust linear relationship to student willingness. The adjusted R-Squared score yielded a score of 0.99 (99% variance) with a *p*-value of 0.00(<0.05), which showed that the race/ethnicity variable had an extremely strong influence on student willingness to participate in community policing events such as neighborhood watch and police-citizen charity events to support law enforcement efforts to decrease crime in their respective neighborhoods. The following question also generated very strong results between the (IV) and the (DV). The adjusted R-Squared score of 0.96 (96% variance) and the *p*-value of 0.00< (0.05) indicated that the race/ethnicity variable greatly influenced student confidence that enforcement of regular foot patrols in urban areas can decrease crime

and assist with the efficacy of community policing regardless of the race/ethnicity of survey respondents. Again, the results were statistically significant.

Table 2 *Race/ Ethnicity Variable, Student Confidence/Trust in Effectiveness in Regular Foot Patrol in Urban Areas*

Regression Statistics	
Multiple R	0.99979
R Square	0.99958
Adjusted R Square	0.999441
Standard Error	0.584613
Observations	5

ANOVA

	df	SS	MS	F	Significance F
Regression	1	2442.864	2442.864	7147.63	3.65E-06
Residual	3	1.025318	0.341773		
Total	4	2443.89			

	Coefficients	Standard Error	t Stat	P-value	Lower 95%	Upper 95%	Lower 95.0%	Upper 95.0%
Intercept	-0.69181	0.337184	-2.05172	0.132544	-1.76488	0.381262	-1.76488	0.381262
Race/Eth	0.923359	0.010922	84.54366	3.65E-06	0.888601	0.958117	0.888601	0.958117

RESIDUAL OUTPUT

Observation	Predicted Q 5	Residuals
1	60.61	-0.11
2	7.840029	0.559971
3	14.05424	0.235764
4	2.410677	0.109323
5	1.635056	-0.79506

β
0.92

Note: This was a theoretical study using simultaneous analysis. A one standard deviation increase based on race/ethnicity was associated with a 0.92 standard deviation increase in student confidence/trust that enforcement of regular foot patrol in urban areas could decrease crime and assist in community policing.

When examining the final question on the survey, this investigator found that the results were not random. The adjusted R-Squared score of 0.98 (98% variance) and a p-value of $0.00 < (0.05)$ demonstrated that the race/ethnicity variable was solidly correlated to student confidence in police motivation to establish community-law enforcement partnerships, such as community-citizen barbeques and citizen-officer sporting events, regardless of the race/ethnicity of the respondents.

Discussion

Where can urban citizens similar to the HCCC students find their places in the overall community policing agenda? The Hudson County Community College student responses, in relationship to the H_1, "*Criminal Justice students at an urban community college will support community policing initiatives, and believe that law enforcement will support community-law enforcement activities*" based on race/ethnicity and age were statistically significant as evidenced by linear relationships between the predicator variables to the response variable. For instance, the age variable for all survey questions yielded adjusted R-Squared scores between 84% and 98%. The majority (91.9%) of HCCC respondents were 18-28 years of age. Furthermore, the adjusted R-Squared scores for the race & ethnicity variable range from 84% to 99%. The variances for age and race/ethnicity were similar across the sample, and this demonstrated homoscedasticity. Most of the survey respondents (66.39%) identified as Hispanic/Latino while (15.97%) were Black/African-American. The observations were independent since this researcher distributed the questionnaire at two different campuses, with nine randomly chosen criminal justice course sections that involved participants from morning, afternoon, and evening classes taught from Monday through Friday by various professors.

The variables for age, race/ ethnicity were the foci, because this investigator wanted to compare this data to prior literature. This researcher found that the overall adjusted R-Squared scores for the age and race/ethnicity variables in the HCCC study provided evidence on how well the regression line approximates the real data in this multiple linear regression model for this research. This investigator did not find any multi-collinearity since none of the coefficients for the explanatory variables was at +1 or -1. Prior studies concluded that young racial minorities were *much less willing to participate in community policing, and had a low level of confidence/trust that police will engage in such activities in urban neighborhoods*. The majority of the literature suggested that community-policing initiatives were generally supported by middle and upper-middle class citizens who are white, older, residing in suburban neighborhoods with affluent level incomes (Worhall & Schmalleger, 2018; Morin & Stepler, 2016; Ekins, 2016; Wang, 2015). Nonetheless, the Urban Institute (2017) discovered high levels of willingness to partner with police and a strong belief in the law among minority citizens living in high-crime, low-income neighborhoods in Pittsburgh, Stockton, Minneapolis, Gary, Fort Worth, and Birmingham using race/ethnicity, gender, household income, and employment status as independent variables (La Vigne, Fontaine, & Dwivedi, 2017).

While there were many HCCC participants who reported being unwilling to participate in community policing in addition to distrust/low confidence in police departments being motivated to establish community partnerships, the H_0 must be rejected for this research in order to avoid a Type II error. How can police departments work to include people of color in the respective neighborhoods where the departments enforce the law? When young citizens are interested and approach law enforcement about working with the local police, the police should listen to the willing citizens. In lieu of creating narratives that racial minorities are hostile to police presence, media should examine law enforcement resistance to patrolling high-crime neighborhoods.

Sobel (2010) found that officers assigned to high crime districts in the St. Petersburg and Indianapolis areas of Indiana "were more cynical towards residents" (p. 259). Moreover, Sobel attributed the police cynicism in her research to combative residents. Yet, many residents were willing to contact the police to report crime (Sobel, 2010). The statistical analysis in this study refuted the media narrative, which concluded that all Black and Latino citizens are automatically lazy, violent, and aimless (Entman & Gross, 2008). For instance, researchers randomly selected 20 patrol areas to investigate collective efficacy and female-headed households, residents living under the poverty line, and African-Americans were included in the study (Wells, Schafer, Varano, & Bynum (2006). The results indicated two outcomes: (1) residents were more likely to call police as a first response; and (2) talking to a neighbor about a crime problem was the next likely reaction (Wells et al., 2006).

Conclusion

Despite historical racist media propaganda, coupled with American policing culture which often engages in harassment and physical violence towards innocent people of color, that racial minorities transparently acknowledged support for local police and admitted a willingness to help build healthier relationships with local enforcement (Bejan, Hickman, Parkin & Pozo, 2018) speaks volumes. The HCCC study accomplished some goals for police to consider for future policy. The study refuted some prior literature claiming that Blacks and Latinos living in low-income neighborhoods were unwilling to build healthier relationships with police. Moreover, the research added to the criminal justice literature regarding the aforementioned support, so that local law enforcement can become more motivated to contact people to seek ideas about community specific initiatives. As indicated in the preceding section, a vast majority of the respondents from Hudson County Community College report being members of various racial minority groups, particularly Hispanic/Latino and Black. A disproportionate number of respondents from HCCC report being between the ages of 18-28 years of age, and either fully employed or holding part-time jobs. It appeared that the survey participants, similar to white, middle-class, home-owning residents, also had a "dog in the race" when exploring the issue of community policing. The HCCC study should spur both residents and police into action regarding community-law enforcement partnerships.

People living in high crime, low-income neighborhoods have historically mistrusted their local law enforcement departments and the feeling is mutual (e.g., many officers tended to have an "us versus them" mentality) (Sachs, 2020; Gaines & Kappeler, 2015; Worall & Schmalleger, 2018; Workman-Stark, 2017). Community policing is the opposite of traditional policing; traditional policing methods include reactive, militaristic, and zero tolerant methods such as arrests, bookings, and incarceration (Fagin, 2015; Amadi, 2014). The results for the study corroborated earlier findings that racial minority respondents show support of law enforcement improving community-police relationships and decreasing crime in urban areas. Furthermore, the HCCC respondents (1) reported an eagerness to participate in crime reduction rallies, (2) students expressed the belief that consistent foot patrol can be more effective in reducing crime, and (3) survey participants overall agreed that police departments should establish activities such as police-citizen sporting events for trust building. In examining the results from the New Jersey responses, this investigator concluded that the similar percentages generalize into responses of the average non-white criminal justice college student. In other words, since the HCCC participants in New Jersey supported community policing, were willing to engage in some community policing partnerships, and believed that police departments should become more active in community policing, non-white criminal justice students across the United States will *most likely* respond in similar patterns to the same survey questions. One strength of this sample provided answers from a diverse student body regarding race/ethnicity, age, and employment status. Another strength of this study is that participants lived in all 12 municipalities in Hudson County: Bayonne, East Newark, Guttenberg, Harrison, Hoboken, Jersey City, Kearny, North Bergen, Secaucus, Union City, Weehawken, and West New York.

Moreover, some HCCC students live outside of New Jersey e.g., New York City. (Hudson County Community College Fact Book, 2014). A limitation of this sample was the overwhelming number of male respondents, since criminal justice appears to be an area of academic study that generally draws men to the field. Moreover, non-criminal justice students 18-39 years old with diverse racial/ethnic backgrounds may or may not have responded differently to the questionnaire, which could have resulted in somewhat different data. The sample was a convenience sample that might have resulted in survey respondents having a perceived bias about policing due to their interest in pursuing a criminal justice career, versus students in other majors who might have answered differently on the questionnaire. More research in this area is necessary to provide a more holistic perspective.

Additional research is necessary before suggesting policy initiatives because each community most likely has different needs. Chicago Police Department might consider, for example, additional foot patrol similar to the Philadelphia foot patrol experiment. New Orleans Police Department might examine the need for additional sporting events, such as flag football games for charity between officers and New Orleans residents. Unfortunately, popular forms of media such as the film, *Menace II Society* had a popular crossover appeal that allowed non-Black audiences to ingest the negative stereotype that urban Black males are violent, combative and remorseless (Horton, Price, & Brown, 1999; Childs, 2021). Nonetheless, conversations involving law enforcement executives and community members to outline area specific needs should also be a part of future discussions when seeking ways to build healthier communities.

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