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179969

93-J-C-K023

**Police-Community Initiatives for Effective Law Enforcement
in Rural Communities Project**

Youth Supplemental Survey

**Selected Findings for Beaufort County
North Carolina**



James E. Shepard, Founder

**Criminal Justice Department
North Carolina Central University**

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YOUTH SUPPLEMENTAL SURVEY

In order to better understand the nature of relations between the youth (individuals in grades 6 thru 12) and the police, a decision was made by the Advisory Board to incorporate a youth initiative into the research design of the Police-Community Initiatives for Effective Law Enforcement in Rural Communities Project.

As a first step, informal group meetings (focus groups) involving 4 to 10 students were held at five schools in Beaufort County. These focus groups provided a setting within which students could share their thoughts about the police, crime and related issues in Beaufort County; no school personnel attended these forums in order that they might speak more openly. Students were frank and welcomed the opportunity to speak out. The five schools and the rationale for their selection follows: Washington High (largest high school in county, N=1,203), P.S. Jones Middle School (largest middle school in county, N=977), Northside High School (high school nearest to most populated city in county, N=691), Aurora High (high school in sparsely populated section of county, N=192) and Belhaven Junior High (junior high in sparsely populated section of county, N=271).

A sample of 244 students participated in the study. Project staff administered the surveys to a sample of JTPA (Job Training Partnership Act) youth, Second Chance Program youth, and those youth in the extended day school who are completing their high school diploma during non-traditional school hours. The remaining surveys were peer interviews conducted by students. A training session was held in Washington, N.C. for the students agreeing to conduct peer interviews; 22 students out of a targeted 25 attended this session. The principals were most cooperative in providing students and space for the interviews. Students were either randomly selected or determined by their school to be representative of the overall student body.

Table 1 provides an overview of the student population for each of the five schools, the five schools collectively and those of the sample. The overall sample is representative of the overall student population with regards to sex and race. The grade distribution is unclear as some students put the highest grade completed while others apparently put their current grade. Characteristically, 74% of the students live in a house, the ages range from 10 to 22 years and the average age is 15.6, 25% are employed and work an average of 19 hours per week, and 41% moved an average distance of 13 miles within the past 5 years.

The findings from the survey are presented below in the following sections: I) Perceptions of Government, II) Community Life, III) Student Relations, IV) Perceptions about Crime, and V) Youth and Law Enforcement.

I. PERCEPTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT

A. Trust of Government

I trust the people who run my local government.

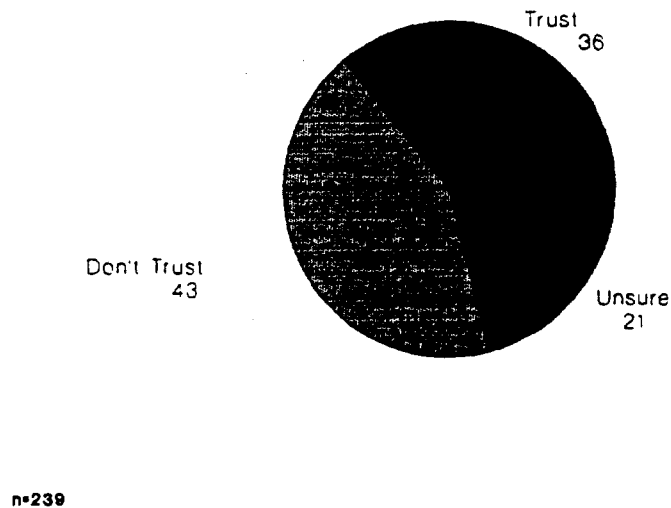
36% (n=239) of the youth report that they trust the people who run their local government, 43% report that they do not trust the people who run their local government, and 21% were unsure (Figure 1). A statistically significant relationship was found between age and trust. Youth who report a trust in

government officials average 15.0 years of age as compared to those not trusting the government who average 16.3 years of age. White youth (n=118) are more trusting of government than their African American (n=121) counterparts, 43% and 28% respectively. This relationship was also statistically significant. No relationship was found between sex and trust. Thus, youth who trust government officials more are younger and white.

Table 1
Youth Survey Characteristics for School, Total School Population, Sample and 1990 Census of the 11-18 Age Groups

| Characteristics | Washington High | | PS Jones Middle | | Northside High | | Belhaven Jr. High | | Aurora High | | Total | | Sample | | '90 Census Ages 11-18 | |
|------------------|-----------------|-----|-----------------|-----|----------------|-----|-------------------|-----|-------------|-----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | n | % | N | % |
| Race | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| African American | 523 | 44 | 427 | 46 | 219 | 32 | 128 | 48 | 144 | 75 | 1,441 | 44 | 121 | 51 | 2,062 | 40 |
| White | 665 | 55 | 509 | 54 | 471 | 68 | 139 | 51 | 048 | 25 | 1,832 | 56 | 119 | 49 | 3,105 | 60 |
| Other | 15 | 01 | *** | ** | 001 | 00 | 004 | 01 | *** | ** | 0020 | ** | *** | ** | **** | ** |
| Total | 1,203 | 100 | 936 | 100 | 691 | 100 | 271 | 100 | 192 | 100 | 3,293 | 100 | 240 | 100 | 5,167 | 100 |
| Sex | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 594 | 49 | 453 | 48 | 331 | 48 | 131 | 48 | 102 | 53 | 1,611 | 49 | 106 | 49 | 2,532 | 49 |
| Male | 609 | 51 | 490 | 52 | 360 | 52 | 140 | 52 | 90 | 47 | 1,689 | 51 | 108 | 51 | 2,635 | 51 |
| Total | 1,203 | 100 | 943 | 100 | 691 | 100 | 271 | 100 | 192 | 100 | 3,300 | 100 | 214 | 100 | 5,167 | 100 |
| Grade | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | *** | *** | 297 | 31 | *** | ** | 60 | 23 | ** | ** | 357 | 11 | | | | |
| 7 | *** | *** | 316 | 34 | *** | ** | 106 | 40 | ** | ** | 422 | 13 | | | | |
| 8 | *** | *** | 330 | 35 | *** | ** | 101 | 37 | ** | ** | 431 | 13 | | | | |
| 9 | 387 | 32 | *** | ** | 174 | 25 | *** | ** | 44 | 23 | 605 | 18 | | | | |
| 10 | 306 | 26 | *** | ** | 154 | 22 | *** | ** | 52 | 27 | 514 | 16 | | | | |
| 11 | 292 | 24 | *** | ** | 189 | 28 | *** | ** | 53 | 27 | 534 | 16 | | | | |
| 12 | 218 | 18 | *** | ** | 173 | 25 | *** | ** | 43 | 23 | 434 | 13 | | | | |
| Total | 1,203 | 100 | 943 | 100 | 690 | 100 | 267 | 100 | 192 | 100 | 3,297 | 100 | | | | |

Figure 1
Trust of Government Officials (In Percent)



B. Fairness of Criminal Justice System

On a scale of 1 (no problem) to 10 (serious problem) rate each part of the criminal justice system on fairness (police, judges, prosecutors).

Overall, the youth do not have a favorable perception of the criminal justice system. The average fairness score for the police is 5.34, for judges is 5.34 and for prosecutors is 5.37. No relationships were found between age, race or sex and perception of fairness of selected components of the criminal justice system. Thus, it apparent that the issue of fairness is a problem area.

II. COMMUNITY LIFE

A. Attachment

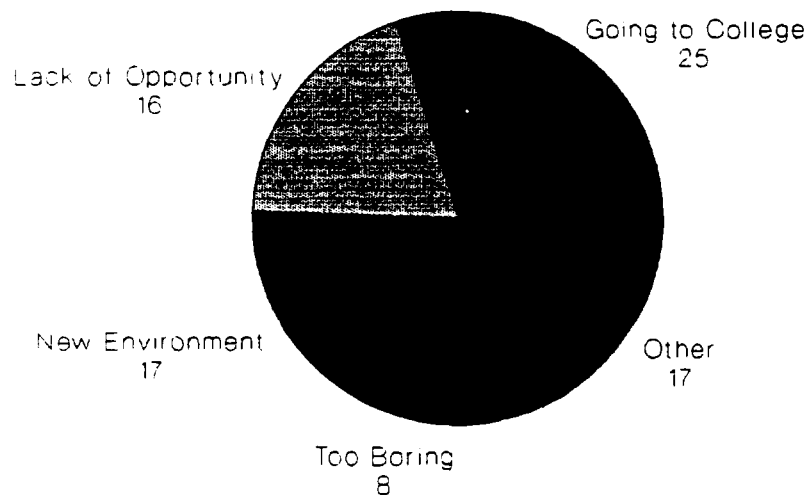
Do you plan to stay in Beaufort County when you graduate from high school?

Almost 8 out of 10 students in Beaufort County (79%, n=188) report that they plan to leave Beaufort County after they complete high school; 21% report that they will remain.

Briefly Explain:

When asked to explain why they would leave, 25% (n=236) answered to go to college, 16% lack of opportunity, 17% wanted a new environment, 8% think its too boring, and 17% other reasons (Figure 2). On the other hand, 12% state that they would remain in their community because it's home.

Figure 2
Reasons For Leaving Beaufort County After Graduation (In Percent)



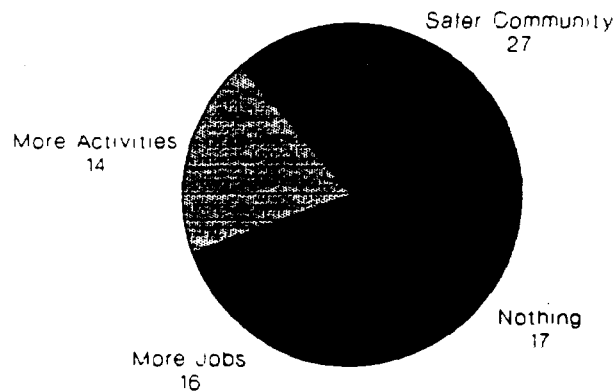
How does your planning to stay or not to stay influence your involvement in efforts to make your city/county a safer place to live?

Of those who report that they will leave Beaufort County after high school graduation (n=188), 49% indicate that planning to leave would not affect their involvement in efforts to make the community a safer place to live. However, it is unclear as to how many of these individuals actively participate in such efforts. More specifically, 25% report that they would get involved to "help" their community. Similar findings were found with regards to sex and race relative to wanting to help. In final analysis, planning to leave should not in and of itself be interpreted as not willing to get involved in the community.

What would make your community appealing enough for you to stay after graduating from high school?

27% (n=222) of the youth report that a safer community would influence their decision to stay after graduating; 14% report more activities and 16% more jobs; 17% report that nothing would influence their decision to stay (Figure 3).

**Figure 3
What Would Make Your Community More Appealing (In Percent)**



B. Activities

Is youth participation in your community possible through a Teen Council on Civic Affairs, Junior Government Council, Community Student Advisory Panel or any other youth organizations?

Would you participate in more activities in your community if encouraged to do so?

50% (n=234) of the students, when asked about participation in community organization, report they were unsure as to whether a teen council on civic affairs, junior government council, community student advisory panel or any other youth organization exists. 37% report youth participation is not possible and only 13% of the students were involved with community or civic organizations. However, 75% of these same students said they would participate in these activities if encouraged. There were no significant differences between race and sex and those students who would participate in activities if encouraged.

Youth reporting that they would participate if encouraged average 15.8 years of age and those who would not participate average 15.2 years of age; the relationship between age and participation if encouraged is statistically significant. Overall, the youth appear to be an untapped but willing resource for the community.

Frequency of student involvement in activities.

On average, students are more involved in school activities (averaging 6.9 hours per week) and least involved in police sponsored activities (averaging .27 hours per week). Other activities in which students are involved follows: recreation (3.3 hours), helping a neighbor (2.7 hours), religious (2.6 hours), community service (1.4 hours) and boys/girls club (1.2 hours).

There are activities, other than school, in which I can become involved.

27% (n=226) of the students strongly agree and 44% agree that there are programs other than school to get involved. On the other hand, 13% disagree and 16% don't know.

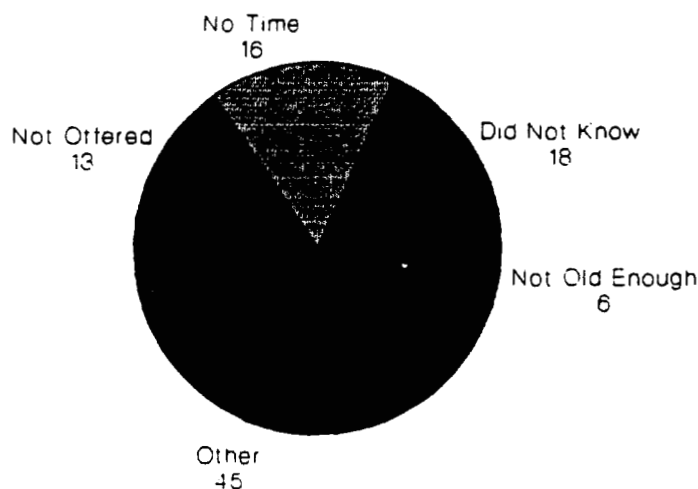
Have you participated in summer employment opportunities through either of the following: Job Partnership Training Act (JPTA), Neighborhood Youth Corps (NYC), Community Service Corps (CSC), or a community employer's Teen Hire Project?

87% (n=235) of the students report that they had not participated in a summer employment program; 13% had worked during the summer.

Briefly Explain (Why or Why Not):

When asked why they had not participated in these programs, 18% (n=221) report they did not know about the programs, 16% had no time, 13% indicate they were not offered a summer job, 6% not old enough and 45% other (Figure 4).

Figure 4
Reasons For Not Participating in Summer Employment (In Percent)



C. Valuation

Adults value what young people in your community think.

53% (n=232) of the youth report that adults value what young people think while 47% report they don't. No statistically significant relation was found relative to values and sex and race. As shown in Table 2, youth from Aurora High and Washington High rank first (that is, 63% each) in their belief that adults value what they think. In contrast, youth who have less favorable feelings about how adults value what young people think are in a special program for troubled youth or not in school.

There is no need for me to give my opinion about anything because it would not make a difference.

67% of the youth report that giving their opinion would make a difference, 24% disagree; 9% report that they don't know. 59% of the youth who report that their opinion would make a difference also report that adults value what young people think.

Table 2
Adults Value What Youth Think

| School | Response | | | |
|----------------------|----------|----|----|----|
| | Yes | | No | |
| | n | % | n | % |
| Aurora High | 12 | 63 | 7 | 37 |
| Belhaven Middle | 7 | 54 | 6 | 46 |
| Northside High | 27 | 54 | 23 | 46 |
| PS Jones Middle | 18 | 44 | 23 | 56 |
| Washington High | 45 | 63 | 27 | 37 |
| Not in School | 1 | 33 | 2 | 67 |
| JTPA Program | 2 | 50 | 2 | 50 |
| High Risk Program | 2 | 20 | 8 | 80 |
| Extended Day Program | 9 | 50 | 9 | 50 |

III. STUDENT RELATIONS

Outside of school, what activities exist in your community to promote an understanding between African Americans, Whites and other groups of people (for example, Teen Human Relations Council, Teen Rap Groups etc.)?

37% (n=219) of the youth report that there is nothing in their community that exists which promotes an understanding between ethnic groups, 21% report sports promote an understanding between group, 21% report other, 18% were unsure, and 3% report civic groups. White youth report "not knowing" more often than African American youth (30% and 7%, respectively). African American youth report "nothing" more often than white youth (42% and 33%, respectively); this finding is statistically significant. Further, females report "not knowing" more often than males (28% to 10%).

A breakdown by school of students who report that there is "nothing" in their

community to promote an understanding between races follows: JTPA Program (100%), Aurora High (90%), High Risk Program (73%), Extended Day Program (41%), Northside High (40%), PS Jones Middle (34%), Washington High (21%), and Belhaven Middle (14%).

Overall, White and African-American students at your school get along well?

62% (n=239) of the youth report they get along well at school; 26% report they don't and 12% report unsure. No relation was found between getting along and sex, race and age.

Overall, African American and White students hang out together after school?

32% (n=238) of the youth report they hang out together after school, 49% report they don't, and 19% report that they are unsure.

56% (n=118) of White youth as compared to 43% (n=118) of African American youth report that African American and White youth do not hang out together after school. 36% of African American youth and 25% of White youth report they do hang together after school.

Overall, African American and white students are treated the same at school?

46% (n=240) of the youth report African American and White students are not treated the same, 39% report they are, and 15% report that they are unsure.

50% (n=118) of White youth as compared to 27% (n=121) of African American youth report that African American and White students are treated the same at school.

IV. PERCEPTION OF CRIME

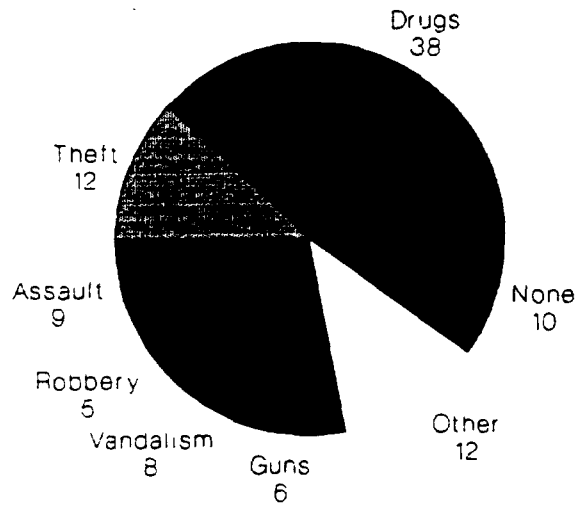
A. Community

What do you believe is the one most serious crime problem in your neighborhood?

38% (n=238) of the youth report that the most serious crime problem in their neighborhood is drugs, 12% report theft, 8% report vandalism, 5% report shooting, another 5% report robbery, and 4% reported that serious assault. 10% report that there were no crime problems in their neighborhood (Figure 5).

50% (n=120) of the African American students indicate that drugs were the most serious crime problem in their neighborhood as compared to 25% (n=115) of the White students. It appears that the African American students feel drugs are a more serious crime problem in their neighborhood.

Figure 5
Most Serious Crime Problem In Your Neighborhood (In Percent)

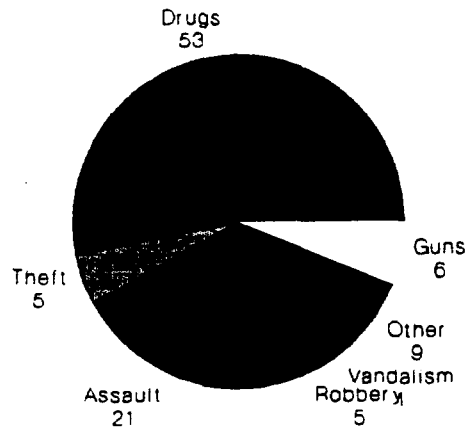


n=238

Most serious crime problem in your county.

53% (n=233) of the youth report that the most serious crime problem in their county is drugs, 18% report serious assault, 5% report theft, another 5% report robbery, and 6% report guns/shooting. A majority of the students report drugs are the most serious crime problem in their county (Figure 6).

Figure 6
Most Serious Crime Problem In Your County (In Percent)



n=233

Table 2 provides an overview of most serious crime problems in the neighborhood and county by school, as well as for who are in a program and youth who are not in school. Of the several crime categories mentioned, four were selected (Drugs, Assaults, Theft and Guns) due to their being mentioned most often. The other categories (Robbery, Vandalism, None) were seldom mentioned; less than 3% and in some cases not mentioned at all.

Overall, youth regard drugs and assaults as being more of a problem in their county as compared to their neighborhood while theft is cited more often as a neighborhood problem; guns have a similar breakdown.

Table 2
Most Serious Crime Problem in Neighborhood and County by School

| SCHOOL/PROGRAM/ NOT IN SCHOOL | DRUGS | | ASSAULTS | | THEFT | | GUNS | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Neighborhood % | County % | Neighborhood % | County % | Neighborhood % | County % | Neighborhood % | County % |
| Aurora High | 63 | 42 | 21 | 26 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Belhaven Middle | 43 | 50 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| Northside High | 40 | 51 | 8 | 24 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 8 |
| PS Jones Middle | 33 | 54 | 8 | 20 | 20 | 5 | 13 | 17 |
| Washington High | 26 | 56 | 5 | 14 | 13 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| JTPA | 50 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Second Chance Program | 66 | 30 | 9 | 60 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extended Day Program | 37 | 59 | 27 | 36 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| Not in School | 75 | 75 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 | 0 |

On a scale of 1 (no problem) to 10 (serious problem) how fearful your are of being a crime victim in your community.

The youths report an average score of 4.23 regarding their fearfulness of being victimized in their community. Females (4.95) report more fearful than males (3.62); this difference is statistically significant. No significant difference was found between fear and race or age.

Would you report a crime (drugs, assault, stealing) that you witnessed in your community.

68% (n=242) of the youth indicate they would report the crime and 32% indicate that they would not.

Briefly explain.

37% (n=232) of the youth indicate they would report the crime in order to make the community safer, 17% would not report the crime because they might get hurt (be victimized) and 13% felt it is not their business to report a crime.

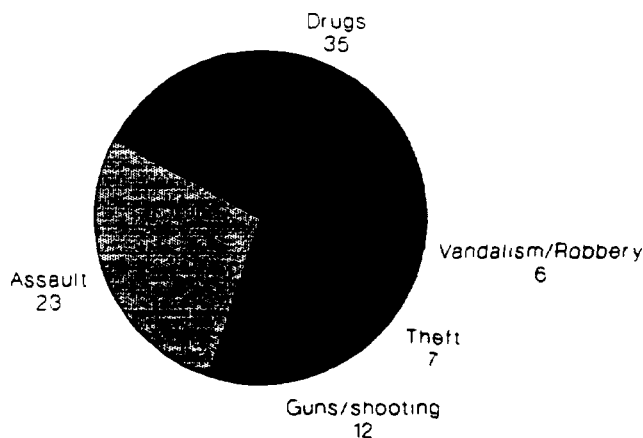
B. School

1. Crime

What do you believe is the one most serious crime problem at your school?

35% (n=230) report that the most serious crime problem at their school is drugs, 23% report assault, 12% report guns/shooting, 7% report theft, 3% report vandalism and another 3 % report robbery; 2% report no crime problems at their school (Figure 7).

Figure 7
Most Serious Crime Problem At Your School (In Percent)



On a scale of 1 (no problem) to 10 (serious problem) rate the following: drug use at school

The youth indicate that the average score of drug use at school is 5.92 on a scale of 1 to 10. This is considered to be moderately serious and older youth regard drugs as a problem more than their younger counterparts. Differences between races is not statistically significant although females (6.4) report drugs as being more of a problem as compared to males (5.67).

On a scale of 1 (no problem) to 10 (serious problem) rate the following: alcohol use at school

The youth indicate that the average score of alcohol use at school is 4.80 on a scale of 1 to 10. This average is lower than the drug use score, therefore indicating drug use to be more serious of a problem than alcohol use at school.

2. Fear

On a scale of 1 (no problem) to 10 (serious problem) rate the following fear of being a crime victim going to school, coming home from school and at school.

Overall, the youth report similar averages regarding fear of victimization: going to school (3.37); coming home from school (3.36), and at school (3.85). Thus, the fear of being a crime victim is considered less serious of a problem; however, fear of being a victim at school averages slightly higher than going to or walking home from school.

African American and females report fear of being victimized at school as being more of a problem as compared to their counterparts; the differences are statistically significant. Whites, however, report being victimized at school as more problematic as compared to African Americans; the difference is statistically significant.

Table 3 provides an overview of the average of each school and program regarding the following items: drug use at school, alcohol use at school, weapons at school, crime victim in community, crime victim going to school, crime victim coming home from school, and crime victim at school.

Table 3
Rating of Drugs, Alcohol, and Weapons at School and Fear of Victimization

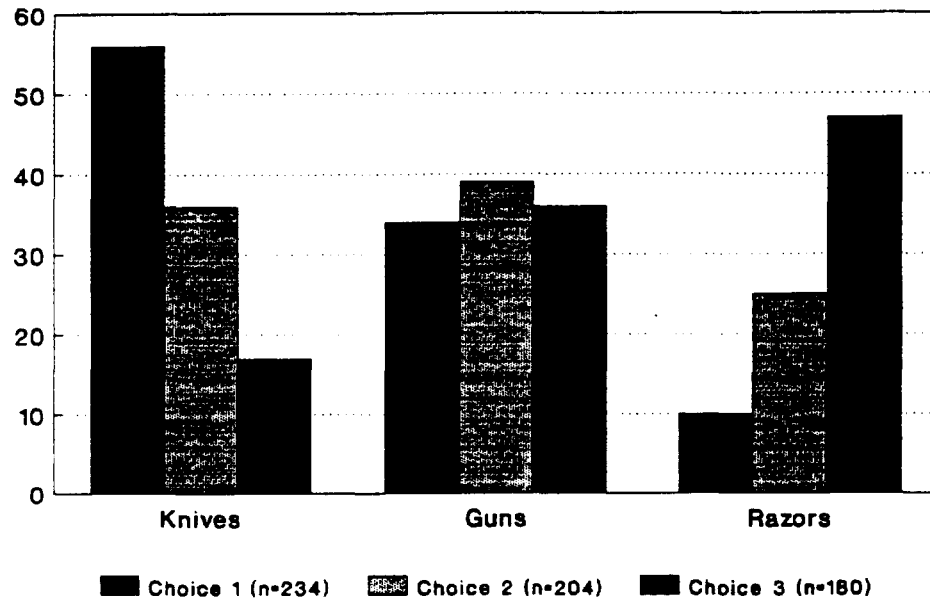
| Item | SCHOOL | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Aurora High n=19 | Belhaven Middle n=14 | Northside High n=53 | PS Jones Middle n=42 | Washington High n=75 | JTPA n=4 | Second Chance Program n=11 | Extended Day Program n=19 |
| Drug use at School | 5.0 | 2.6 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 8.5 | 6.6 | 6.6 |
| Alcohol use at School | 5.1 | 3.4 | 5.1 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 3.0 | 6.2 | 6.2 |
| Weapons at School | 5.4 | 4.5 | 5.0 | 6.7 | 5.8 | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.3 |
| Crime Victim in Community | 5.7 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 5.6 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 4.8 | 4.8 |
| Crime Victim Going to School | 4.7 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 1.0 | 4.1 | 4.1 |
| Crime Victim Coming from School | 4.5 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.8 | 2.6 | 1.0 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| Crime Victim at School | 4.3 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 4.6 | 3.4 | 1.8 | 5.6 | 5.6 |

3. Weapons

On a scale of 1 (no problem) to 10 (serious problem) rate the following weapons at school

Overall, weapons at school is regarded as a moderately serious problem; the average rating is 5.82. Figure 8 provides an overview of types of weapons most frequently brought to school. Knives rank first as the most serious type of weapon at school followed by guns and razors.

Figure 8
Most Frequent Type Of Weapons Brought To School (In Percent)



4. Reporting

Would you report a crime (drugs, weapons, other) that you witnessed at school?

55% (n=240) of the youth report that they would report a crime that they witnessed at school and 45% report that they would not.

48% of the African American youth state that they would report a crime; 34% would report a crime in order to make the school safer, 26% would not report a crime because they felt it was not their business. 63% of the White youth indicate that they would report a crime; 44% would report a crime in order to make the school safer, 12% would not report a crime because they felt it was not their business. 24% of both groups indicated that they would not report because they felt they would be hurt (victimized).

5. Resource Officer

What are your thoughts about the police officer at your school? If there is none would you like one?

a. Aurora High

17% (n=18) of the youth report that they would like a police officer at their school; 28% indicate they would feel safer with a police officer at their school. However, 83% indicate they would not like a police officer at their school.

b. Belhaven Middle

57% (n=7) of the youth report that they would like a police officer at their school; 28% indicate they would feel safer with a police officer. On the other hand, 43% report that they would not like a police officer at their school and 7% indicate they do not need one.

c. Northside High

63% (n=43) of the youth report that they would like a police officer at their school; 35% indicate they would feel safer with a police officer. However, 37% report that they would not like a police officer at their school and 21% indicate they do not need one.

d. P.S. Jones Middle

53% (n=30) of the youth report that they would like a police officer at their school and 37% indicated they would feel safer with a police officer. However, 47% report that they would not like a police officer at their school and 17% indicate they do not need a police officer

e. Washington High

93% (n=14) of the youth report that they like having a police officer at their school; 37% report that they feel safer with the police officer at school. The police officer assigned to Washington City Schools spends most of his time at Washington High.

V. YOUTH AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

A. Police Treatment of Youth

Do you believe that police officers treat young people (that is, persons 19 years of age or younger) the same as they treat adults?

81% (n=229) of all youth report that police treat youth and adults differently. Of those reporting that youth are treated differently than adults, 40% report that youth are treated worse, 19% report youth are treated better, 14% report that the police do not trust youth, and 9% report that the police do not take them seriously.

Have you ever been mistreated (harassed, assaulted or threatened) by the police within the past two years?

17% (n=232) of the youth report having been mistreated by the police within the past two years; 83% report that they were not mistreated. 42% (n=31) of the youth who were mistreated believe they were mistreated because of how they look, 10% were asked to leave the premises and 45% gave some other reason.

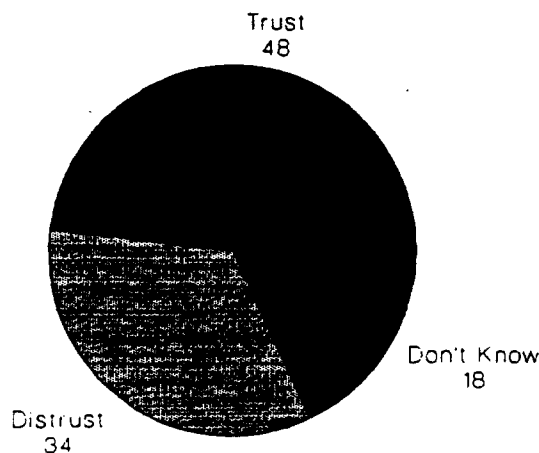
B. Youth Trust of and Respect for Police

I trust the police.

48% (n=222) of the youth report that they trust the police, 34% distrust the police and 18% did not know whether they trust the police (Figure 9).

67% of white youth as compared to 27% of African American youth report that they trust the police. A statistically significant relationship was also found between age and trust whereby the average age for those who trust the police is 15.2 years as compared to 16.4 years for those who do not trust the police. Thus, African Americans and older youth trust the police less than their counterparts.

Figure 9
Trust Of Police (In Percent)

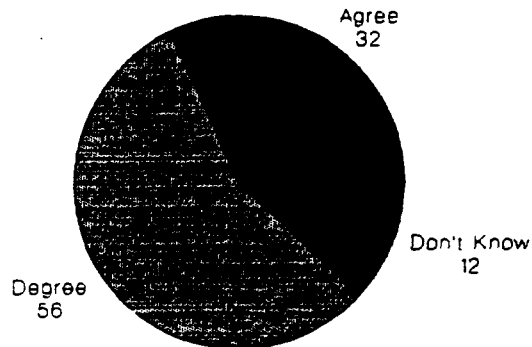


n=222

Police officers are respected by the youth in my community.

32% (n=-238) of the youth report that police officers are respected by youth in their community, 56% report that police officers are not respected, and 12% did not know. 67% of African Americans report that police are not respected by youth in their community as compared to 45% of white youth; 21% and 42%, respectively, indicate police are respected. The average age for youth who report that police are respected in their community is 15.2 years as compared to 16.0 years for those who report the police are not respected (see figure 10).

Figure 10
Police Officers Are Respected By Youth (In Percent)



n=238

How do you believe the media (television, radio, newspaper) influence what police officers and young people think about one another? Relate answers to the following:

What police think about Youth:

43% (n=207) of the youth report, as a result of media influence, police officers perceive young people as trouble makers, 35% report other, 10% report don't know, 9% report dangerous, and 3% report irresponsible.

What youth think about police:

35% (n=209) of the youth, as a result of media influence, perceive police as Other, 19% report youth perceive police do not like the youth, 8% report youth perceive the police as unfair, 7% report youth perceive the police to be untrustworthy, 6% report youth perceive police to be mean, 6% of the youth report don't know and 3% report youth to perceive the police as racist.

D. Best and Worst Things about the Police

What is the one best thing about the police?

38% (n=226) of the youth report the most positive police attribute is that they keep you safe, 16% report the police stop crime, 14% report other, 15% report the police are helpful, 11% report nothing, meaning nothing is good about them, and 6% report don't know. (Actual comments are provided in Attachment A)

What is the one worse thing about the police?

25% (n=206) of the youth report prejudice as the most negative police attribute, 23% report inadequate services, 16% report abuse of power, 8% report attitude, 8% report abusive, and 11% report nothing or they don't know. (Actual comments are provided in Attachment B)

E. Race, Income and the Police

Do police officers treat African American youth and White youth the same?

62% (n=225) of the youth report that the police treat African American youth and White youth differently; 38% report the police treat them the same. 83% (n=112) of African Americans report that the police treat them differently as compared to 41% (n=110) of whites reporting the same; the difference between the two is statistically significant.

Briefly Explain:

31% (n=217) of the youth indicate that the police treat African American youth and White youth the same, 28% report police officers are prejudice towards African American youth as compared to white youth, 20% report police officers treat White youth better than African American youth, 15% report other, and 6% report that they don't know.

The police will treat me the same as someone else my age of a different race.

41% (n=219) of the youth report the police will treat me the same as someone else my age of a different race, 37% report they will treat me differently than someone else my age of a different race and 22% report don't know.

The police treat poor and wealthy people the same.

55% (n=216) of the youth report the police do not treat poor and wealth people the same while 28% report that the police do treat poor and wealthy people the same and 17% report that they don't know.

Mall security/police treat African American and White youth the same.

51% (n=217) of the youth report the mall security/police treat African American and White youth the same, 49% report they treat African American and White youth differently.

Briefly Explain:

41% (n=192) of the youth report no difference of treatment by mall security/police of African American and White youth, 34% report mall security/police officers are more suspicious of African American youth than White youth, 9% report other, 8% report don't know, and 7% report mall security/police accuse African American youth faster of committing a crime than White youth; meaning, African American youth are more likely to be accused of committing a crime or wrongdoing than White youth.

F. Police-Community Relations

I like the police.

57% (n=218) of the youth report that they like the police, 28% disagree and 15% were unsure. A statistically significant relationship was found between sex and race and whether youth like the police. Specifically, whites and females report that they like the police more often than their African American and male counterparts.

I get along well with the police.

66% (n=218) of the youth report that they get along well with the police, 24% report that they do not get along well with the police, and 10% were unsure.

Females and whites also appear to get along well with the police as compared to their counterparts.

My friends do not like the police.

In contrast to the 57% of the youth who report that they like the police, 29% (n=220) report that their friends like the police, 46% report their friends like the police and 25% were unsure.

African Americans report that their friends do not like the police more often than their white counterparts; the difference is statistically significant.

How do you believe the police get along with youth in your neighborhood?

40% (n=229) of the youth report that the police get along with youth in their neighborhood, 24% report that the police do not get along well with youth, 9% report the police do not get along at all with youth; those remaining did not know or were unspecified.

Whites report that the police get along with youth in their neighborhood more often than African Americans; the difference is statistically significant.

How do you think the relationship between the police and the youth in your community has changed over the past two years?

In terms of changes in relations with the police, 13% (n=242) of the youth report relations with the police to be better, 33% report the same, 30% report they did not know and 24% were unsure.

G. Improving Police-Community Relations

The youth who live in my community are willing to cooperate with the police.

39% (n=241) of the youth report that young people are willing to cooperate with the police, 42% disagree and 19% were unsure.

Tell what steps you think should be taken to improve the relationship between the police and the youth in your neighborhood.

The most frequent response to this question is - get to know one another (34%, n=219), 12% believe that relations between the two was okay and that nothing needed to be done.

Would you attend a meeting or some other function that would involve improving relations with the police?

58% (n=227) of the youth report that they would attend an activity to improve relations with the police; 42% report that they would not. 66% of those stating that they would attend a meeting or some other function indicate that such efforts to increase understanding between the youth and the police are needed.

Of the 42% who report that they would not attend a meeting or some other function to improve relations with the police, 24% (n=95) gave no reason for not wanting to participate and 39% stated that the meeting would not help.

What can the police do to improve their relationship with the youth?

16% (n=212) of the youth report communication of major significance, 14% report more respect for the youth, 10% report more activities that engage the two, and 10% report try to understand each other better. (Actual comments are provided in Attachment C)

What can the youth do to improve their relationship with the police?

26% (n=221) of the youth report that if youth stayed out of trouble the relationship between them and the police would improve, 22% report try to get along better with police, 10% report increase communication with police, and

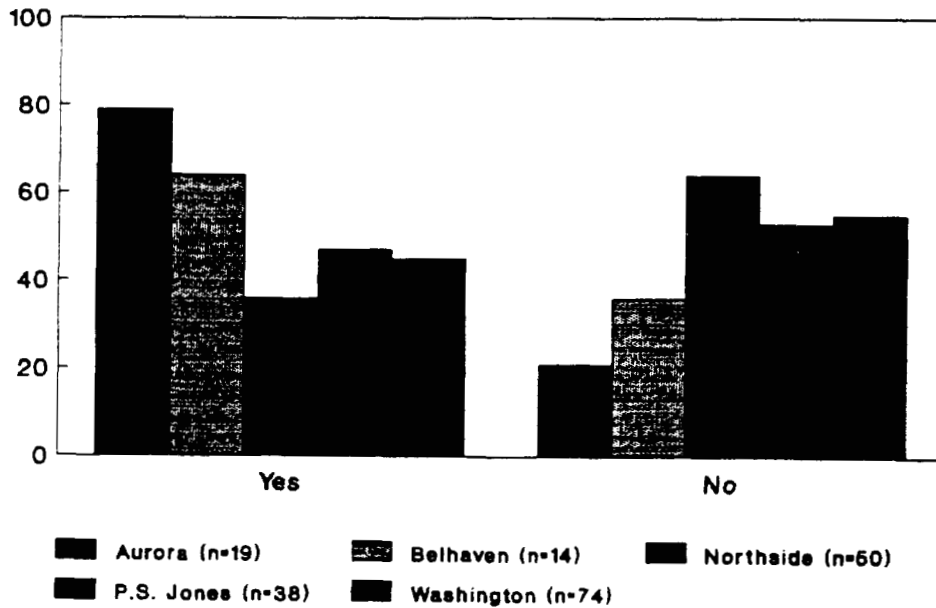
7% report youth should respect police more. (Actual comments are provided in Attachment D)

H. Youth Interest in Law Enforcement

Would you participate in a law enforcement job training program at school?

45% (n=233) of the youth report that they would participate in a law enforcement job training program at school; 55% report that they would not. 52% of females as compared to 37% of males report that they would participate in a training program; the difference is statistically significant. No relationship was found with regards to race whereby 46% (n=115) of African Americans and 44% (n=115) of whites report they would participate in such a program. Further, 61% (n=105) of youth having a law enforcement officer in their family or as a friend report that they would participate in a training program as compared to 33% (n=123) of those youth not reporting family or friendship ties with officers (Figure 11).

Figure 11
Participation In Police Job Training Program (In Percent)



If given the opportunity (that is to say, you were offered the job) would you be a police officer?

25% of the youth report that they would become a police officer if given the opportunity; 75% report that they would not pursue a career in law enforcement. 30% (n=105) of males and 21% of females report they would become a police officer; the difference is not statistically significant. Similarly, 27% (n=118) of whites and 23% (n=115) of African Americans report an interest in law enforcement. Persons knowing a police officer indicate more often that they would become a police officer as compare to those without such contacts, 32% (n=105) and 20% (n=125), respectively; the difference is statistically significant. (Actual comments are provided in Attachment E)

Attachment A

One Best Thing About Police

WHAT IS THE ONE BEST THING ABOUT THE POLICE ?

Protection (49)
Nothing (22)
I really don't know (14)
Try to bring justice to the community (12)
Make us feel safer (10)
They stop crime (8)
They are helpful (8)
Always there when you need them (7)
They try to lower the crime rate (7)
They help you when you need them (7)
They try to prevent crime (6)
There for an emergency (4)
They help people and protect their property (4)
Their uniforms (2)
They do their job; serve (2)
Put fear in people's heart (2)
They listen (1)
Their cars (1)
They try (1)
They're nice (1)
They solve problems quickly (1)
They reduce crime in neighborhood
Keep crime to a minimum
Do not think there is one
They try to do a good job, but most do drugs and things
They aren't hesitant to help you when you need it
If you're getting beaten up, they help
Keep you from getting hurt
They are very brave
Find murderers
You can trust them
They break up fights
They let you use the phone
Put their lives on the line daily
Their badges
They can save your life
They're fat and can't run fast

Pull you over for stupid stuff
Keep things in order
They save lives
They meet people
Some are not racists
They secure peace in school for little children
They're always around when you're doing nothing
They get to play with weapons

Nothing but bacon
Talk to them when you need them
They keep people from doing a lot of serious things w/o thinking
Some enforce the law
They are there to prosecute for wrongdoing
Provide services; and to keep things safe
Can get ambulance to you faster
They don't want young people doing drugs
They arrest criminals
They listen and try to cooperate
They ride around
They talk to you nicely
If scared and have a problem, they will help you
The pump shotgun and the car

Attachment B

One Best Worse Thing About the Police

WHAT IS THE ONE WORSE THING ABOUT THE POLICE?

Racism (19)
Never around when you need them (12)
Don't know (12)
Never around when you need them (12)
Nothing (10)
Too slow (10)
Don't always treat people equally (6)
Try to use their power to their advantage (5)
Arrest you wrongfully (4)
Spend too much time on trivial things and not enough time on serious crimes (3)
Can be mean/hostile (3)
They shoot to fast (3)
Protection is not always consistent (3)
Wrongful accusations (2)
Bother me all the time; harassment (2)
Bother me all the time; harassment (2)
They jump to conclusions (2)
Don't always catch the criminals (2)
They harass Black youth (2)
Always giving tickets (2)
Not enough officers (1)
Their Ego (1)
Sometime harass you for no reason (1)
Their attitude (1)
Always let white people get away with what they do (1)
Ego (1)
Don't do their job (1)
Sometime harass you for no reason (1)
They are not fair with the races (1)
Time it takes for them to get to the scene (1)
They carry weapons (1)
Rude (1)
Too much authority (1)
Always there at the wrong time (1)
Brutality (1)
They harass the youth (1)
Almost everything
Nothing to do but give speeding tickets
Sometimes they blame people for things they haven't done
Some of their actions
They are prejudice about certain things
They do drugs too. I know some people who smoke pot with them
Sometimes make false accusations
They can exceed speed limits
They judge people too quickly
They don't protect anyone

They kill people
Scares me when they look at me
Sometimes they make wrong decisions
Everything
They are not always right
Always around; rude
Always around
Their anti-drug lectures
They take family members to jail
Sometimes they become crazy
Bad policemen
They say they will help, but they never take action
They will try to talk a lot to you
Hard to get up with
They stereotype; show favoritism
All of them
They don't go into the neighborhoods
Always beating up Black people
Some are bought
Can't always help everybody
Nothing is bad
They lie at times
Have to shoot people
Try to set you up with a package of crack
They have cars and can arrest you
Too many restrictions
Having radar guns
At times they slack up
Be more trusting
Get off their backs
They try to lock up all the Black people
They can arrest you for smoking weed and that sucks
Constantly patrolling for speeding drivers
Everyone views them as a threat
Life in danger
Treat the victim like the bad guy
The way they arrest you
Get more involved off duty
Always grouchy
Always watching you
They don't get to use deadly force enough
They tell innocent people what to do
Take job too seriously
They get on my nerves
They don't care; and I don't either
Kill unnecessarily
They don't follow the rules
Noisy

All police act the same
They don't listen
They're too crazy to come and see someone breaking into a home
Too much power
Some are sorry
They will set you set you up
They choose sides
Their mouths
Follow people around
Don't allow you to tell the whole story
They think that because they have a badge that they're on top of the world
They can't be everywhere at one time
You could just be walking around and they'll stop you

Attachment C

What Police Can Do To Improve Relations

WHAT CAN THE POLICE DO TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE YOUTH?

I don't know (26)
Nothing (13)
Need time Talk to them, listen to them, respect them (9)
Communicate more (8)
Get to know them better (8)
Work with them; be understanding (7)
Leave us alone (6)
Have activities with the youth (5)
Have meetings with them (5)
Have a police meeting for the youth (5)
Become more involved with youth (4)
Be more trusting (4)
Quit harassing them and try to get along (3)
Treat us equally (3)
Be more courteous (2)
Teach them that they are there to help not to hurt (2)
Give us more respect (2)
Could be better friends to us (2)
Not all youth are bad (2)
Get new attitudes (2)
Don't jump to conclusions (2)
Don't be jerks (1)
Don't judge by race (1)
Have more programs for kids my age (1)
Try to get along better (1)
The relationship is good between them (1)
Have discussions with the youth (1)
Try not to be so harsh (1)
Help youth (1)
Stop bothering us (1)
Quit treating the blacks wrong (1)
Be around when you need them; have a good attitude (1)
More after school or sports activities (1)
Pay more attention (1)
Not accuse us of everything (1)
More community service
Let them no that they care
Be around youth more
Stop thinking of us as a color, but as one
Start acting like the youth are somebody
Be nicer; understanding; were once that age too
It's fine the way it is
Open something for the youth
Be more strict
Do something good

Stop being racists
They don't have to treat us so badly
They can find my bike that got stolen
Increase the youth's faith in the police
Stop acting cocky and arrogant
Give them somewhere to play
Listen to us we aren't all drug dealers and pushers
Give everyone a break; let kids be kids
Not giving a ticket every time we do something wrong
They're doing it now
Be more patient
Mind their business
Get a job after school for kids
Think that all blacks are bad
Ease off a little
Stop being defensive all the time
Stop acting like they are above the law
Lay off of us and stupid laws like weed and stuff
Treat fairly; like adults
Stay out of trouble
Show better example
Nothing, it's too late
Hold meetings to get to know the community
Shouldn't choose sides
Stop asking questions
Quit their jobs and die
Learn to relate to youths better
Talk to them in their community
Encourage them to stop violence, and do more fun things
Build more trust between them

Attachment D
What Youth Can Do To Improve Relations

WHAT CAN THE YOUTH DO TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE POLICE?

- Do better and stay out of trouble (28)
- I don't know (20)
- Nothing (19)
- Be more respectful (14)
- Get to know them better (9)
- Think more about helping them than committing crimes (8)
- Stop being so bad (8)
- They could listen and be attentive (7)
- Realize that police are not the enemy; there to help (7)
- Go along with what that police need; Cooperate. (7)
- Sit down and talk with them (6)
- Obey the law (6)
- Trust them (6)
- Be more understanding (5)
- Be nicer (4)
- Attend programs given by police (3)
- Stop all violence (3)
- Stop being rude when approached by police (2)
- Understand that they are only doing their job (1)
- Help them (1)
- Start working with them (1)
- Be more responsible (1)
- Tend to their own business (1)
- Understand why police are there
- Stop having such negative attitudes
- Need time
- Stop drugs in the neighborhood
- Start obeying them
- Nothing; it's the police's fault
- Stop fooling around
- It's fine the way it is
- Visit the police station
- Sit home and not come out to play
- Treat everyone fairly/equally

- Stop trying to be so hardcore
- Get arrested a lot and get lots of tickets
- Use their brain
- Don't look like a troublemaker
- Avoid them
- Get introduced
- Be yourself, stop listening to others, all police aren't bad
- Get better police; Belhaven needs better police
- Quit loud mouthing them
- Tell them their expectations on what officers should do

Not getting an attitude when they get a ticket
Ask questions
Show them that they can trust us
Show them that they aren't all out to cause trouble
I do not want to

Attachment E

Interest In Law Enforcement Career

IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY WOULD YOU BE A POLICE OFFICER?

YES

I'd like to help change our community (11)
I'll be helping others (7)
To help stop crime (5)
Help prevent crime (1)
I would like to see everyone treated the same (1)
Lots of money (1)
I'm interested (1)
To better myself
Can stop people; Get respect
I would like to help people if they have problems
They make good money
That is what I want to do
I would like to be an investigator one day
Not scared to go into black communities
I would love to see bad guys get put away
To help out the Black community
I love a challenge
I would like the adventure; and to make things right
Like to help even though they hate me
Love to be one
I've had this on my mind since the 7th grade
I can treat people with respect; change the police
Get to play weapons
Just to have a job
Their authority and people respect them
To make everything safe
Because people are committing the same crimes ; I can do something
To help blacks see the way society feels about police
If I did not have to live in Washington
I need money
Interesting job
Wouldn't be boring
It looks like fun
I can make a difference
Cops don't have a lot to do

NO

It's too dangerous (41)
No interest in that area (18)
Could get hurt or killed in the line of duty (11)
Don't want to be a police officer (7)
Too dangerous; not paid enough (6)

Wrong job for me (5)
I don't like the police (4)
Don't want to risk life (4)
Don't want the responsibility (3).
Don't want to be on the police force (3)
Because they get shot at (3)
I have other career plans (3)
It's a hard job, life would be endangered (2)
I'm scared to die young (1)
Fear violence (1)
Don't Know (1)
Could not cope with the stress (1)
Too much pressure (1)
Be afraid of not coming home one day (1)
Tough job
Friends would feel that you were a traitor.
Don't want the pressure
Not enough time
Not one of my goals
Don't want to hurt anyone
Don't like wearing uniform
Job does not appeal to me
Not the way I want to spend my life
Fear of guns and drugs
I plan to become a lawyer
Dad was killed while on the job
Because police officers want to act like they are the boss
Working with crazy people who may kill you
With all the hate that black youth have for police I would be scared too (WM)
Don't want to die in a shoot-out
Undercover work is not me
Officers get killed just because they're officers
Not my style
I know what my friends are doing
I see the way they treat people
Don't want catch a bullet in the head
Don't do their job like they should
Not one of my hobbies
Different field of law enforcement in mind
Everyone will hate you for locking them up; they will threaten your life
Might not know how to handle a crime problem
They rescue people from accidents
Cops are crooks
Don't want to work in law enforcement
Wouldn't be able to do all the duties
It's hard being a police officer
Wouldn't be able to handle the situations they get in
Don't make enough money
Out on parole 2 months to go
They get bad names

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