Leveraging Community Voices in Violence Prevention

Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy/WestEd Congressional Briefing

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Community Policing

Percent Strongly Agree & Agree

- The police department holds officers accountable for wrong or inappropriate conduct in the community
- The police department is responsive to community concerns
- The police department prioritizes problems most important to your community
Procedural Justice Practices

Percent Almost Always & Always

Thinking about the police in your community, how often do they…

- …make fair and impartial decisions in the cases they deal with
- …give people a chance to tell their side of the story before they decide what to do
- …make decisions based on the law and not their personal opinions or beliefs
- …treat people with dignity and respect
Officer Trust

Percent Strongly Agree & Agree

- The police are honest
- You feel comfortable around the police
- You personally trust the police
- You feel safe around the police
- Police use excessive force against residents
- You can imagine being friends with a police officer
- The police are a part of your neighborhood
Perceptions of Bias Among Officers

Percent Strongly Agree & Agree

- Police officers will judge you based on your race/ethnicity
- Police officers will treat you differently because of your race/ethnicity
- The police act based on personal prejudices or biases
Willingness to Participate in Crime Control

Percent Very Likely & Likely

If the situation arose, how likely would you be to...

- call the police to report a crime
- report suspicious activity near your home to the police
- provide information to the police to help find a suspect
- volunteer your time to help the police solve a crime or find a suspect
- patrol the streets as part of an organized community group
- attend a community meeting with the police to discuss crime in your neighborhood
Perceptions of the Law

Percent Strongly Agree & Agree

- All laws should be strictly obeyed: 80%
- It is hard to break the law and keep your self-respect: 50%
- People should do what the law says: 80%
- A person who disobeys laws is a danger to others in the community: 60%
Key Takeaways

- Trust in police is low; belief of bias high
- Residents indicated a willingness to...
  - Assist Police
  - Participate in crime control efforts
- High levels of belief in the importance of complying with the law
- Considerable variation by jurisdiction
- Results illustrate both challenges and opportunities
Community-Generated Responses

- Reduce easy access to firearms for people at high risk of engaging in violence
- Improve relations between police and communities of color
- Invest in evidence-based social service interventions
- Promote cross-sector collaboration with meaningful community engagement