



INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY,
AND ENVIRONMENT

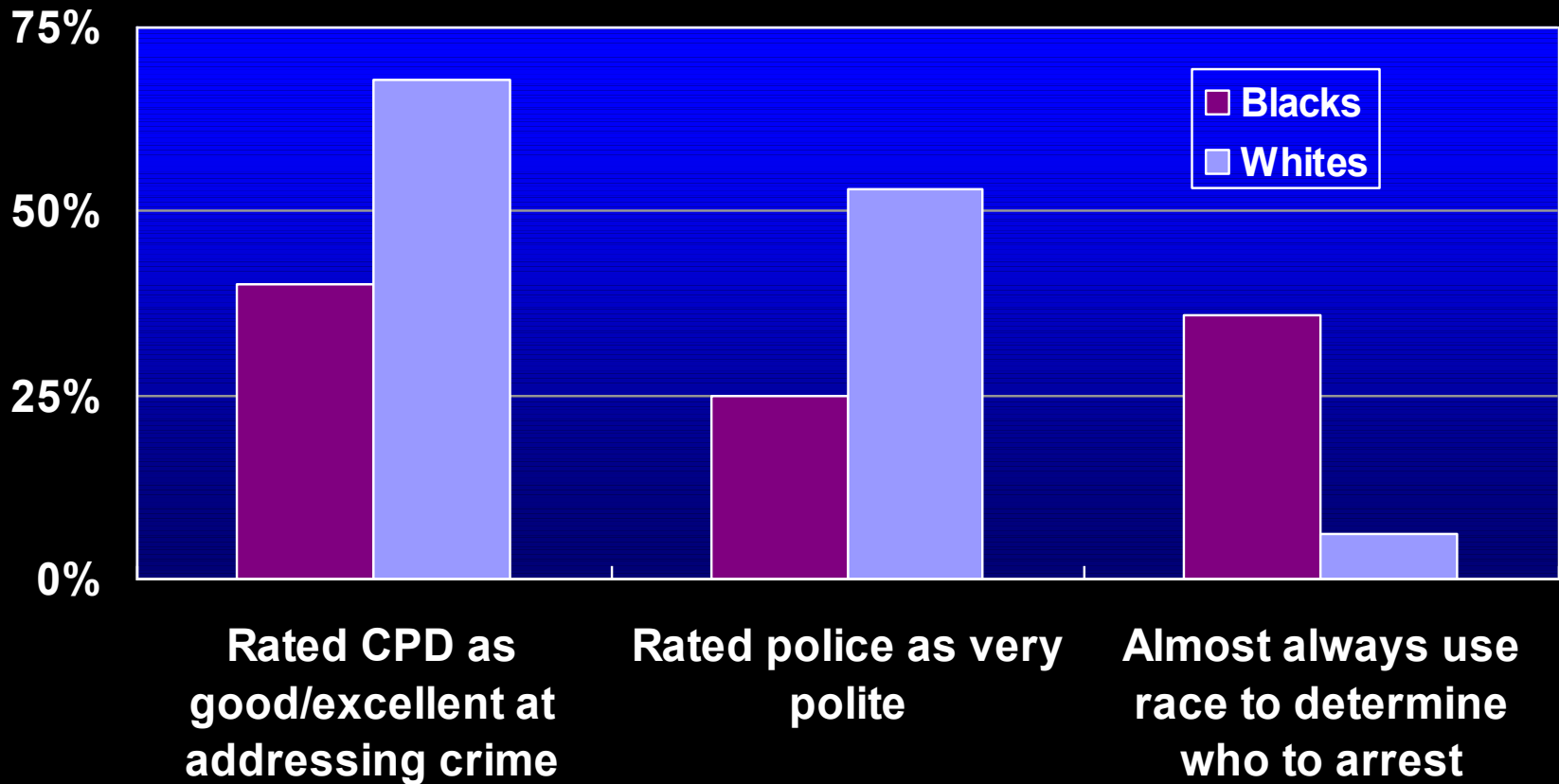
Improving Community-Police Relations: Year 2 Results

January 2007

Crime, Race, and Policing Are Interrelated in Cincinnati

- **Cincinnati neighborhoods with predominantly black populations have higher rates of**
 - **reported crime**
 - **calls for service**
 - **arrests**
 - **use of force**
 - **searches during vehicle stops.**
- **Even if police are race neutral, these variations across neighborhoods will cause blacks to have different types of experiences with the Cincinnati Police Department (CPD) than whites have.**

Opinions About the CPD Measured in 2005 Were Sharply Divided by Race



Perceptions of CPD Racial Bias Can Be Reinforced by Traffic Stops

- **We examined 325 videos of incidents selected at random from traffic stops with contact cards.**
- **An interracial group of trained observers analyzed the interactions.**
- **On average, black drivers experienced more proactive policing than white drivers did:**
 - **More questions about drugs or weapons**
 - **More searches and passenger license checks**
 - **Longer in duration.**
- **Differences in proactive policing may or may not be due to racial bias, but they do contribute to perceptions of inequity.**

Differences in Proactive Policing Are Largest When Officer Is White

- **Passengers of black drivers are twice as likely to be asked for IDs:**
 - **Black officers: 24% passengers checked**
 - **White officers: 55% passengers checked**
- **White officers' stops of black drivers are more likely to be for technical reasons.**
- **Stops of black drivers are longer when the officer is white.**
- **These differences between white and black officers further contribute to the perception of bias.**

White Motorists Communicated More Positively Than Black Motorists During Traffic Stops

- We found that, on average, white drivers were
 - more apologetic
 - more pleasant
 - more courteous
 - less argumentative.
- This is consistent with our earlier findings that blacks are less pleased with the CPD, with a majority perceiving racial bias.

Police Appear Race Neutral for Most Stop Outcomes

- **We compared stops involving black drivers to similarly situated stops involving white drivers:**
 - **Place, driver's residence, time, valid driver's license, reason for the stop, passenger count**
- **Black and similarly situated white drivers**
 - **had equal stop durations**
 - **were equally likely to be subjected to a high-discretion search**
- **Black drivers were slightly less likely to be cited**

A Few Officers Disproportionately Stop a High Number of Black Drivers

- **We looked at contact cards of the 133 officers with the most stops to investigate the racial distribution.**
- **We compared each officer's stops with stops made by other officers under similar circumstances.**
- **We found that five officers stopped significantly more blacks than expected.**
 - **One officer appears to overstop white drivers.**
 - **We are working with CPD IT management to help them flag potential problems.**

Certain Findings Suggest Room for Improvement or Further Study

- **White and black CPD officers do not always police in the same manner.**
- **A handful of officers may be using race in determining which drivers to stop.**
- **CPD resource allocation and crime control policies are disproportionately affecting blacks.**



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As Part of the Collaborative Agreement, the City Agreed to Fund Five Years of Data Collection

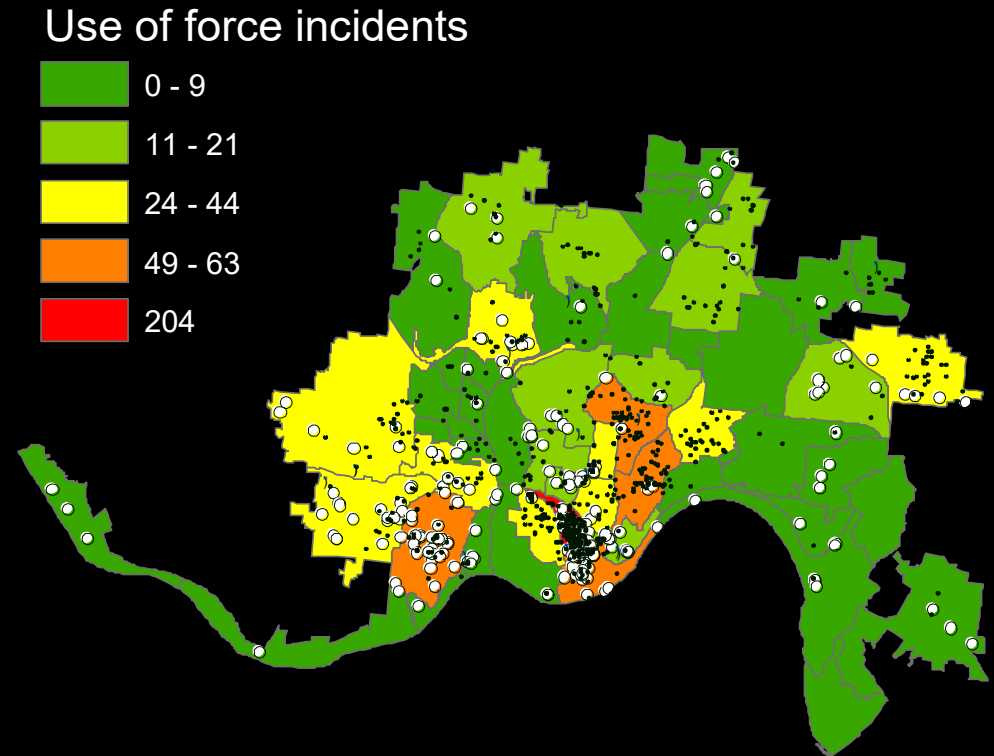
- **Goal was to assess racial fairness in policing.**
- **Data would include measures of**
 - **police behavior and attitudes**
 - **community behavior and attitudes.**
- **Focus is on changes over time and progress toward goals of the collaborative agreement.**

RAND's Role Is to Measure Progress Toward the Goals of the Collaborative Agreement

- Today's briefing presents key findings from Year 2 of the project.
- The full report can be downloaded on the web at http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/TR445/.

Police Activity Is Concentrated in Predominantly Minority Neighborhoods

- **Approximately half of all residents are black and half are white.**
- **Black residents are clustered primarily in the urban core.**
- **Police activity, including use of force, is also concentrated in those neighborhoods.**



We Found No Evidence That CPD Officers Target Black Drivers for Traffic Stops

- **We examined data on approximately 40,000 traffic stops.**
- **The ratio of white traffic stops to black was similar before and after twilight.**
 - **Knowing the driver's race in advance is not influencing officers' decisions to stop.**

Certain Findings Suggest Room for Improvement or Further Study

- **White and black CPD officers do not always police in the same manner.**
 - **These concerns can be addressed through training.**
 - **CPD should also ensure that policies are being implemented consistently.**
- A handful of officers may be using race in determining which drivers to stop.
- CPD resource allocation and crime control policies are disproportionately affecting blacks.

Certain Findings Suggest Room for Improvement or Further Study

- CPD officers are having difficulty making a positive impression during interracial interactions.
- A handful of officers may be using race in determining which drivers to stop.
 - CPD is working with RAND to develop a flagging system.
 - The role that assignment and other factors may have in these officers' patterns is unclear.
- CPD resource allocation and crime control policies are disproportionately affecting blacks.

Certain Findings Suggest Room for Improvement or Further Study

- CPD officers are having difficulties making a positive impression during interracial interactions.
- The CPD may need to monitor a handful of officers to ensure that they are following appropriate procedures.
- **CPD resource allocation and crime control policies are disproportionately affecting blacks.**
 - Racial disparities are not the result of racial bias but likely aggravate community relations.
 - Police and community should find crime control technique that do not negatively impact community relations.
 - Community input into CPD priorities is vital.