



INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY,
AND ENVIRONMENT

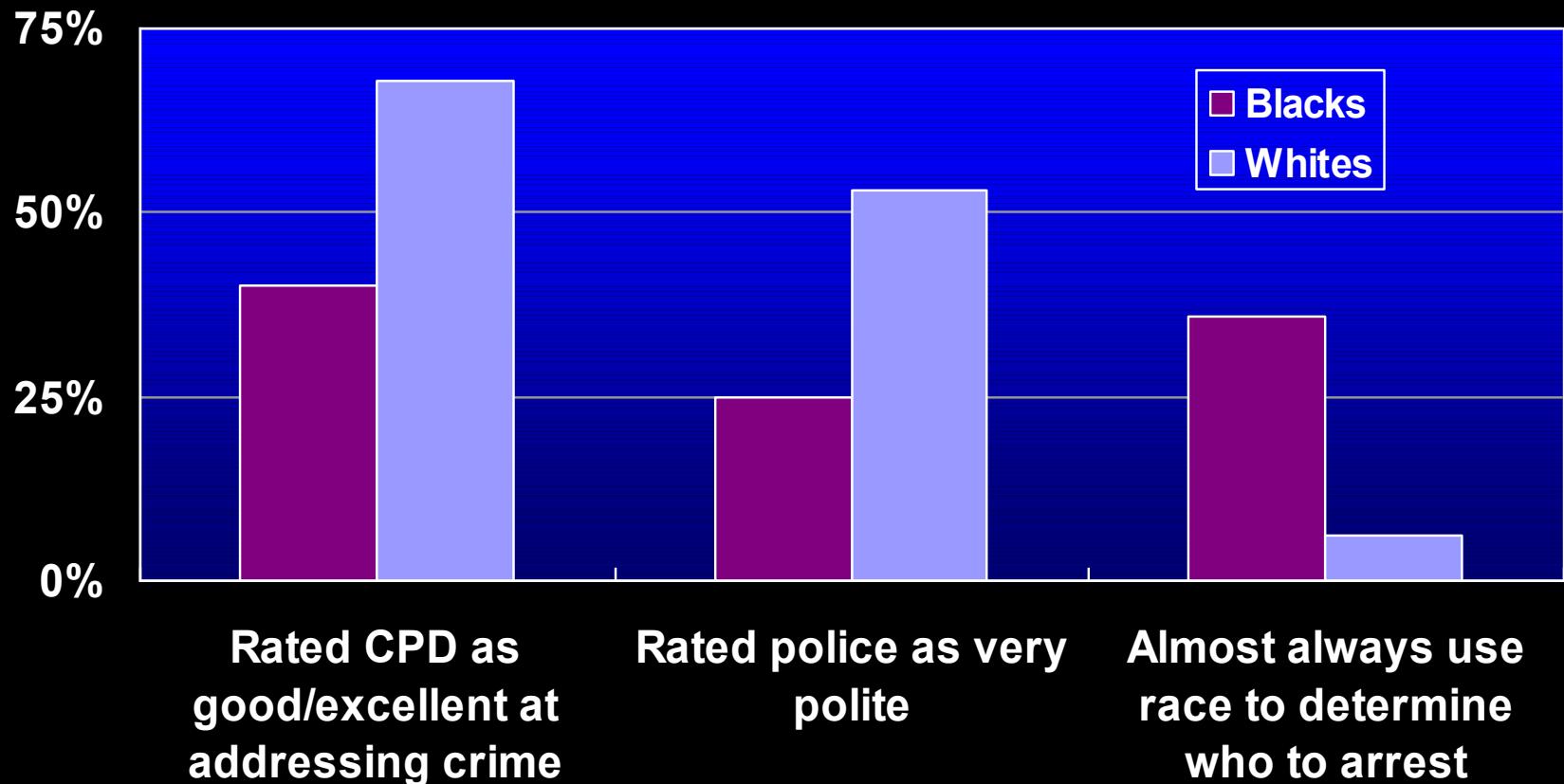
*Improving Community-Police
Relations: Year 2 Results*

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.



INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFETY,
AND ENVIRONMENT

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.

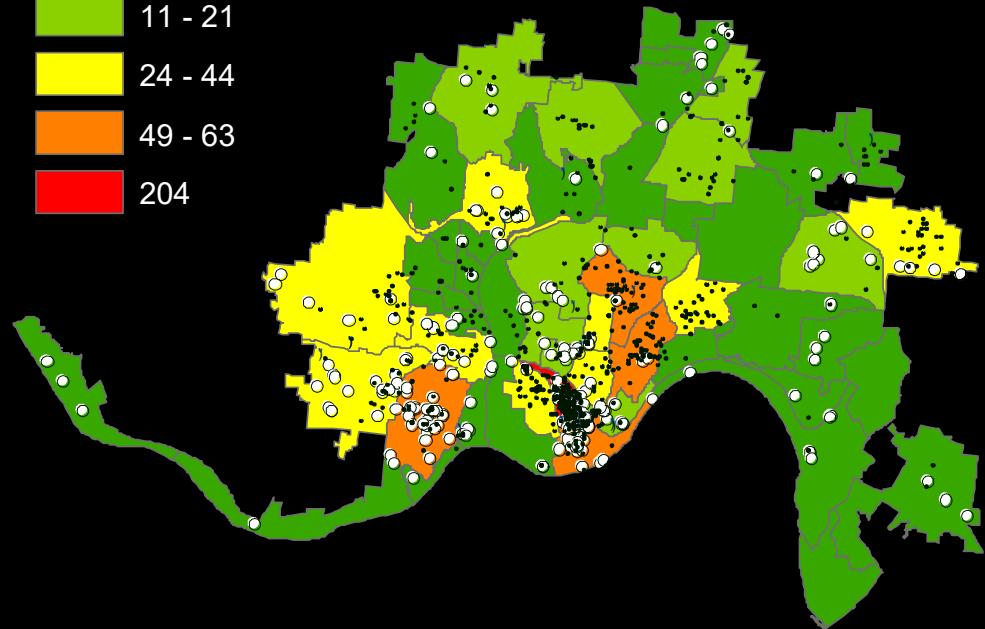
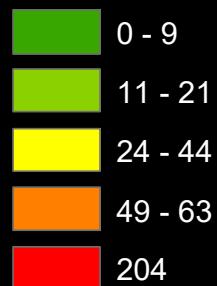
RAND's Role Is to Measure Progress Toward the Goals of the Collaborative Agreement

- 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/](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.**

Use of force incidents



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.