

Examining the Latino Perception on Crime, Law and Order and the Police

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LITERATURE REVIEW

- The main purpose of the criminal justice system is to achieve public safety and wellness.
- In the 1970s, the theory of criminal justice switched from rehabilitation to retribution and crime control (Atkinson, 2018).
- According to the Los Angeles Times (2012), more than 80 percent of the 600,000 people that were stopped and frisked by police the previous year were African American or Hispanic.
- Fair Treatment by Law Enforcement
- The majority of Hispanics that are surveyed tend to disapprove of the way law enforcement do their job and tend to believe that minorities do not receive equal treatment in the criminal justice system (Pew Report, 2018).
- Similarly, McCarthy (2016) found that 57% of Hispanics believed that reducing bias against minorities should be a priority.
- Balz and Clement (2014) indicated that 52% of Hispanics are not confident in police officers training to avoid the use of excessive force.
- However, Lopez (2016), indicated that 45% of Hispanics believed that the police and courts will treat them fairly.
- General View of the United States
- 42% of U.S born Hispanics claim to have serious concerns about their place in the U.S. Whereas 57% of foreign-born Hispanics claim to have that concern.

PROCEDURES

- The preliminary findings in this research consisted of surveying 300 participants using a random sample method.
- Each participant was asked 62 questions regarding law enforcement and 17 demographic questions
- The responses that each participant provided yielded information that was analyzed through the use of chi square, t-test, ANOVA, and bivariate correlation analysis.

MEASURES

- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Trust in the Police (yes/no)
- Confidence in the police (1-10)
- Confidence in police ability to detect offenders (1-10)
- Confidence in police ability to prevent crime (1-10)
- Confidence in courts ability determine guilt (1-10)
- Confidence in courts ability to appropriately sentence the guilty (1-10)

SAMPLE DESCRIPTION & RESULTS

Gender
 146 (48.7%) Males
 151 (50.3%) Females
 2 (0.7%) Other
 1 (0.3%) No response

Employment Status
 216 (72%) Full-time
 34 (11.3%) Part-time
 24 (8%) Unemployed
 1 (0.3%) Disabled
 12 (4%) Retired
 7 (2.3%) Seasonal Work
 1 (0.3%) No response

Cultural Backgrounds
 35 (11.7%) El Salvadorian
 31 (10.3%) Mexican
 27 (9%) Guatemalan
 18 (6%) Peruvian
 16 (5.3%) Honduran
 11 (3.7%) Colombian
 8 (2.7%) Dominican
 8 (2.7%) Puerto Rican
 7 (2.3%) Cuban
 7 (2.3%) Nicaraguan
 6 (2%) Argentinian
 5 (1.7%) Spaniards
 4 (1.3%) Chilean
 3 (1%) Paraguayan
 3 (1%) Venezuelan
 3 (1%) Ecuadorian
 105 (35%) Other

Study Findings

Confidence in the Police X Confidence in Detecting Offenders	• $r(300) = 0.57, p < .01$ Significant!
Gender X Confidence in Police	• $\chi^2(17) = 14.36, p > .05$ Not Significant
Ethnicity X Trust in Police	• $t(295) = -0.71, p > .05$ Not Significant
Ethnicity X Police Ability to Prevent Crime	• $F(17, 282) = 9.04, p > .05$ Not Significant
Ethnicity X Detecting Offenders	• $F(17, 282) = 7.14, p > .05$ Not Significant
Ethnicity X Courts Ability to Determine Guilt	• $F(17, 282) = 10.12, p < .05$ Significant!
Ethnicity X Courts Ability to Appropriately Sentence	• $F(17, 282) = 12.26, p < .01$ Significant!

DISCUSSION

- Confidence with the police was positively associated with greater belief in the police officer's ability to detect offenders.
- Ethnic differences emerged in the courts ability to determine guilt and appropriately sentence the guilty

IMPLICATIONS

- Future studies on Latinos should have larger samples in order to explore ethnic differences among Latinos as Latinos are a very diverse group with many different cultural, political, and religious points of view.