

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
2016 NATIONAL SURVEY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS
CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE RESEARCH PLATFORM
FINAL TOPLINE
MAY 19-AUGUST 14, 2016**

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN .5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). COLUMNS/ROWS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

Sample Size¹
U.S. sworn law enforcement officers 7,917

ALL TRENDS ARE FROM THE FOLLOWING SURVEYS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL POLICE RESEARCH PLATFORM (NPRP) HEADQUARTERED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO.

	Field Dates	Sample Size
NPRP A	July-November 2013	9,679
NPRP B	September, 2013-January, 2014	7,304
NPRP C	October 2014-February 2015	7,115

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

The following questions ask about your job and your views of your department.

Q.1 Please rate your overall satisfaction with the agency as a place to work.

May 23- Aug. 14,2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>	<u>NPRP A</u>
16	Very satisfied	16	19	18
58	Satisfied	52	52	51
19	Dissatisfied	22	19	21
7	Very dissatisfied	10	8	9
*	No answer	*	2	1

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.2 How supportive are you of the direction that top management is taking this organization?

May 23- Aug. 14,2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
7	Extremely supportive	7	8
23	Very supportive	20	23
28	Moderately supportive	25	27
19	Slightly supportive	18	19
15	Not supportive at all	22	17
7	I do not know management's direction	8	5
*	No answer	*	*

¹ Unlike most surveys conducted by Pew Research Center, this study features a clustered sample design. Specifically, the responding police officers are clustered within the departments at which they work. The clustered design has consequences for the survey's margin of sampling error. In this study, the margin of sampling error depends on the question asked – much more so than in a typical survey of the public. In general, estimates about policies or conditions at the officer's department have larger margins of error, and estimates about the respondent's own views or experiences have smaller margins of error. Given that the margin of error varies noticeably from question to question, it would not be appropriate to report a single margin of error for this survey. Variance estimation is discussed in detail in the methodology chapter of the report "[Behind the Badge](#)." A list of the margins of sampling error for each question is available upon request.

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.3 In general, how well does your department do each of the following?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH C]

- a. Communicate your job responsibilities to you clearly

<u>Total</u>	
37	Very well
44	Somewhat well
13	Not too well
5	Not well at all
*	Refused

- b. Train you adequately for your job

<u>Total</u>	
39	Very well
42	Somewhat well
14	Not too well
5	Not well at all
*	No answer

- c. Equip you adequately to perform your job

<u>Total</u>	
31	Very well
44	Somewhat well
17	Not too well
8	Not well at all
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.3x Does your department have enough officers to adequately police the community, or not?

<u>Total</u>	
13	Yes
86	No
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.4 Please describe how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: PLEASE DISPLAY ITEMS IN A GRID]**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ADD "Reminder: Please try to answer each question before advancing to the next screen" TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE IN RED]**

- a. I am strongly committed to making the agency successful.

May 23-

Aug. 14,

2016

		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>	<u>NPRP A</u>
60	Strongly agree	40	40	47
36	Agree	50	51	46
3	Disagree	7	6	5
1	Strongly disagree	1	2	1
*	No answer	1	1	1

QUESTION 4 CONTINUED...

- b. Officers have reason to be distrustful of most citizens.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
5	Strongly agree	7	5
23	Agree	23	27
56	Disagree	54	56
16	Strongly disagree	15	11
*	No answer	1	1

- c. In certain areas of the city it is more useful for an officer to be aggressive than to be courteous.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
17	Strongly agree	21	19
39	Agree	41	43
34	Disagree	30	31
10	Strongly disagree	7	7
*	No answer	1	1

- d. Most people respect the police.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
6	Strongly agree	5	5
61	Agree	50	55
25	Disagree	29	28
7	Strongly disagree	15	12
*	No answer	1	1

- e. In general, the media treat the police unfairly.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
42	Strongly agree	36	31
39	Agree	40	41
15	Disagree	20	25
4	Strongly disagree	3	3
*	No answer	1	1

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

- Q.5 How often are employees in your department asked for their input on decisions that will affect them?

<u>Total</u>	
1	Always
10	Usually
34	Sometimes
39	Hardly ever
15	Never
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.6 How often does your supervisor treat the officers he or she supervises with respect?

<u>Total</u>	
43	Always
41	Usually
11	Sometimes
4	Hardly ever
1	Never
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.7 How important is it, if at all, for law enforcement officers today to have a good knowledge of what scientific research shows are effective policing strategies?

<u>Total</u>	
36	Very important
49	Somewhat important
12	Not too important
3	Not at all important
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.8 In order to be effective at their job, how important is it, if at all, for law enforcement officers to have detailed knowledge of the people, places and culture in the areas where they routinely work?

<u>Total</u>	
72	Very important
25	Somewhat important
2	Not too important
*	Not at all important
*	No answer

NO QUESTIONS 9-11

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE Q.12 AND Q.13]

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.12 When it comes to decisions about assignments and promotions, which comes closest to describing how things work in your department?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
11	Whites are treated better than minorities
31	Minorities are treated better than whites
56	Whites and minorities are treated about the same
2	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.13 When it comes to decisions about assignments and promotions, which comes closest to describing how things work in your department?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
12	Men are treated better than women
28	Women are treated better than men
59	Men and women are treated about the same
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.14 Thinking about the neighborhoods where you routinely work, how many of the people in these neighborhoods do you think share your values and beliefs?

<u>Total</u>	
11	All or most of them
59	Some of them
27	Very few of them
2	None of them
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.15 Even if you think both are important parts of your work, do you see yourself MORE as...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
31	A protector
8	An enforcer
62	Both equally
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.16 How well do you think the public understands the risks and challenges that law enforcement officers face on the job?

<u>Total</u>	
1	Very well
12	Somewhat well
46	Not too well
40	Not well at all
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.17 How often, if at all, does your work as a law enforcement officer make you feel...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH D]

a. Frustrated

<u>Total</u>	
10	Nearly always
41	Often
42	Sometimes
6	Hardly ever
1	Never
*	No answer

QUESTION 17 CONTINUED...

b. Fulfilled

<u>Total</u>	
9	Nearly always
33	Often
42	Sometimes
14	Hardly ever
2	Never
*	No answer

c. Angry

<u>Total</u>	
3	Nearly always
19	Often
49	Sometimes
26	Hardly ever
3	Never
*	No answer

d. Proud

<u>Total</u>	
23	Nearly always
35	Often
33	Sometimes
8	Hardly ever
1	Never
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.18 How often, if ever, do you have serious concerns about your physical safety when you are at work?

<u>Total</u>	
13	Nearly always
29	Often
42	Sometimes
14	Hardly ever
1	Never
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.19 In the PAST MONTH while you were on duty, have you...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH D; ITEM E ALWAYS LAST]

a. Been thanked by a community member for your police service in the past month

<u>Total</u>	
79	Yes
21	No
*	No answer

QUESTION 19 CONTINUED...

- b. Been verbally abused by a member of the community while you were on duty in the past month

<u>Total</u>	
67	Yes
32	No
*	No answer

- c. Spoken to a citizens' group or a school or appeared at a community event in the past month

<u>Total</u>	
33	Yes
66	No
*	No answer

- d. Physically struggled or fought with a suspect who was resisting in the past month

<u>Total</u>	
33	Yes
67	No
*	No answer

- e. Patrolled on foot continuously for 30 minutes or more in the past month

<u>Total</u>	
31	Yes
68	No
*	No answer

NO QUESTIONS 20-21**ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:**

Q.22 Please describe how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: PLEASE DISPLAY ITEMS IN A GRID]

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ADD "Reminder: Please try to answer each question before advancing to the next screen" TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE IN RED]

- a. For minor mistakes, the department helps officers with coaching and counseling rather than punishment.

May 23-

Aug.14,

<u>2016</u>		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP A</u>
10	Strongly agree	10	10
49	Agree	42	45
28	Disagree	31	31
12	Strongly disagree	16	13
1	No answer	1	1

QUESTION 22 CONTINUED...

- b. In this agency, the disciplinary process is fair.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>	<u>NPRP A</u>
6	Strongly agree	7	7	7
40	Agree	35	38	39
33	Disagree	31	31	32
20	Strongly disagree	26	24	20
1	No answer	2	1	2

- c. Officers who consistently do a poor job are held accountable.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP A</u>
3	Strongly agree	3	4
24	Agree	20	24
47	Disagree	46	43
25	Strongly disagree	30	28
1	No answer	1	1

- d. Some people can only be brought to reason the hard, physical way.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
5	Strongly agree	8	6
39	Agree	39	34
45	Disagree	41	43
10	Strongly disagree	11	15
1	No answer	1	1

- e. I've become more callous toward people since I took this job.

May 23- Aug.14, 2016		<u>NPRP C</u>	<u>NPRP B</u>
13	Strongly agree	15	14
43	Agree	44	39
34	Disagree	32	35
9	Strongly disagree	8	10
1	No answer	1	1

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

- Q.23 Are officers in your unit expected to meet a predetermined number of tickets, arrests, citations, or summonses, or not?

<u>Total</u>	
3	Yes, FORMAL expectation
34	Yes, INFORMAL expectation
63	No
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.24 In general, would you say the rules governing the use of force in your department are...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
26	Too restrictive
1	Not restrictive enough
73	About right
*	The department has no such guidelines
*	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.25 How useful are your department's use of force guidelines when officers are confronted with actual situations where force may be needed?

<u>Total</u>	
34	Very useful
51	Somewhat useful
11	Not too useful
3	Not useful at all
*	The department has no such guidelines
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.26 Do you think officers should or should not be required to intervene when they believe another officer is about to use unnecessary force?

<u>Total</u>	
84	Yes, they should be required to intervene
15	No, they should not be required to intervene
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.27 When it comes to the way most officers in your department deal with members of the public, which do you worry about more?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
41	The officer will NOT SPEND ENOUGH TIME diagnosing the situation before acting decisively
56	The officer will SPEND TOO MUCH TIME diagnosing the situation before acting decisively
3	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.28 Suppose that an officer is faced with a law enforcement situation in which doing the morally right thing would require breaking a department rule. What would you advise the officer to do?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
40	Follow the department rule
57	Do the morally right thing, even if it requires breaking a department rule
3	No answer

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE Q.29a/Q.30a, Q.29b/Q.30b, Q.29c/Q.30c IN BLOCKS]**ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:**

Q.29a In your opinion, how useful in policing today is...

Requiring officers to be responsive to community concerns and work in close partnership with the community to solve problems?

<u>Total</u>	
41	Very useful
47	Somewhat useful
10	Not too useful
2	Not useful at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.30a How much support does your department's leadership give to officers who...

Want to be responsive to community concerns and work close in partnership with the community to solve problems?

<u>Total</u>	
30	A great deal of support
48	A fair amount of support
18	Not too much support
3	No support at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.29b In your opinion, how useful in policing today is...

Requiring officers to patrol more frequently in high crime areas?

<u>Total</u>	
58	Very useful
34	Somewhat useful
6	Not too useful
2	Not useful at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.30b How much support does your department's leadership give to officers who...

Want to patrol more frequently in high crime areas?

<u>Total</u>	
30	A great deal of support
44	A fair amount of support
19	Not too much support
5	No support at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.29c In your opinion, how useful in policing today is...

Requiring officers to show respect, concern, and fairness when they deal with the public?

<u>Total</u>	
65	Very useful
30	Somewhat useful
3	Not too useful
1	Not useful at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.30c How much support does your department's leadership give to officers who...

Want to show respect, concern, and fairness when they deal with the public?

<u>Total</u>	
44	A great deal of support
41	A fair amount of support
11	Not too much support
2	No support at all
1	No answer

NO QUESTION 31**ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:**

Q.32 Do you think responding effectively to people who are having a mental health crisis is...

<u>Total</u>	
76	An important role of police officers
12	A role of police officers, but not an important one
11	Not a role of police officers
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.33 Regardless of whether your department uses body cameras, do you personally favor or oppose the use of body cameras by police?

<u>Total</u>	
66	Favor
33	Oppose
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.34 Do you think body cameras on officers would make members of the public...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
33	More likely to cooperate with officers
10	Less likely to cooperate with officers
56	It would make no difference
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.35 When dealing with the public, do you think wearing a body camera would make officers...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN THE SAME ORDER AS Q.34]

<u>Total</u>	
50	More likely to act appropriately
5	Less likely to act appropriately
44	It would make no difference
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.36 How would you rate relations between the police in your department and the following groups in the community you serve?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS B THROUGH D; ALWAYS ASK ITEM A FIRST]

a. Whites

<u>Total</u>	
21	Excellent
66	Good
8	Only fair
1	Poor
3	Too few in this community to say
1	No answer

b. Blacks

<u>Total</u>	
8	Excellent
46	Good
25	Only fair
18	Poor
2	Too few in this community to say
1	No answer

c. Hispanics/Latinos

<u>Total</u>	
10	Excellent
57	Good
21	Only fair
7	Poor
3	Too few in this community to say
1	No answer

d. Asians

<u>Total</u>	
15	Excellent
58	Good
9	Only fair
1	Poor
15	Too few in this community to say
2	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.37 As you may know, demonstrations have been held in many parts of the country in recent years to protest the deaths of African Americans who died during encounters with the police.

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE ITEMS A AND B]

- a. How much, if at all, do you think these protests have been motivated by a genuine desire to hold officers accountable for their actions?

<u>Total</u>	
10	A great deal
25	Some
36	Not much
28	Not at all
1	No answer

- b. How much, if at all, do you think these protests have been motivated by longstanding bias against the police?

<u>Total</u>	
68	A great deal
24	Some
4	Not much
2	Not at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.38 In general, have these high-profile incidents involving police and African Americans made your job...

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]

<u>Total</u>	
86	Harder
*	Easier
12	Have not made a difference
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.39 Here is a list of things that may have happened in some police departments as a result of these high-profile incidents involving African Americans and the police. For each, indicate whether this has happened in your department or not.

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH F]**[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ADD "Reminder: Please try to answer each question before advancing to the next screen" TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE IN RED]**

- a. Officers have become less willing to stop and question people who seem suspicious

<u>Total</u>	
72	Yes, has happened
27	No, has not happened
2	No answer

QUESTION 39 CONTINUED...

- b. The department has taken steps to improve relations between police and blacks

<u>Total</u>	
59	Yes, has happened
39	No, has not happened
2	No answer

- c. Officers have become more concerned about their safety

<u>Total</u>	
93	Yes, has happened
6	No, has not happened
1	No answer

- d. The department has modified its policies or procedures about the use of force

<u>Total</u>	
46	Yes, has happened
52	No, has not happened
2	No answer

- e. Interactions between police and blacks have become more tense

<u>Total</u>	
75	Yes, has happened
23	No, has not happened
2	No answer

- f. Officers have been more reluctant to use force when it is appropriate

<u>Total</u>	
76	Yes, has happened
22	No, has not happened
2	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

- Q.40 Do you think the deaths of African Americans during encounters with police in recent years are [ROTATE: (isolated incidents) or (signs of a broader problem between African Americans and the police)]?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN THE SAME ORDER AS THE QUESTION STEM]

<u>Total</u>	
67	Isolated incidents
31	Signs of a broader problem
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.41 Please read the following scenario carefully before answering the question that follows.

At 2:00 A.M., an officer, who is on duty, is driving his patrol car on a deserted road. He sees a vehicle that has been driven off the road and is stuck in a ditch. He approaches the vehicle and observes that the driver is not hurt but is obviously intoxicated. He also finds that the driver is another officer. Instead of reporting this accident and offense, he transports the driver home.

How many officers in this department do you think would report a fellow officer who covered up for another officer in this way?

<u>Total</u>	
4	All
25	Most
15	About half
26	Some
22	Only a few
5	None
3	No answer

NO QUESTION 42**DISPLAY FOR ALL SWORN OFFICERS:**

The next questions ask your opinions about some current national issues that are particularly relevant to law enforcement.

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.43 What do you think is more important – to protect the right of Americans to own guns, or to control gun ownership?

<u>Total</u>	
74	Protect the right of Americans to own guns
25	Control gun ownership
2	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.44 Please tell me if you would favor or oppose the following policies related to gun ownership.

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE A THROUGH D]

- a. Laws to prevent people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns

<u>Total</u>	
95	Favor
4	Oppose
1	No answer

- b. Making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks

<u>Total</u>	
88	Favor
11	Oppose
1	No answer

QUESTION 44 CONTINUED...

- c. A ban on assault-style weapons

<u>Total</u>	
32	Favor
67	Oppose
1	No answer

- d. Creating a federal government database to track all gun sales

<u>Total</u>	
61	Favor
38	Oppose
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

- Q.45 Should local police take an active role in identifying undocumented or illegal immigrants, or should enforcement be left mainly to the federal authorities?

<u>Total</u>	
52	Local police should take an active role
46	Enforcement should be left mainly to the federal authorities
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

- Q.46 Which comes closer to your view about the use of marijuana by adults?

<u>Total</u>	
32	It should be legal for medical AND personal use
37	It should be legal for medical use ONLY
30	It should NOT be legal
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

- Q.47 Which of these two statements comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right.
[PROGRAMMING NOTE: DO NOT ROTATE RESPONSES]

<u>Total</u>	
80	Our country has made the changes needed to give blacks equal rights with whites
16	Our country needs to continue making changes to give blacks equal rights with whites
3	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.48 In the PAST 12 MONTHS, how much training, if any, have you received in each of the following areas?

[PROGRAMMING NOTE: RANDOMIZE ITEMS A THROUGH E; ALWAYS ASK F LAST]

- a. How to de-escalate a situation so it is not necessary to use force

<u>Total</u>	
43	4 hours or more
32	Less than 4 hours
23	None
1	No answer

- b. Firearms training involving shoot-don't shoot scenarios

<u>Total</u>	
52	4 hours or more
31	Less than 4 hours
15	None
1	No answer

- c. How to deal with individuals who are having a mental health crisis

<u>Total</u>	
45	4 hours or more
35	Less than 4 hours
19	None
1	No answer

- d. Non-lethal methods to control a combative or threatening individual

<u>Total</u>	
49	4 hours or more
32	Less than 4 hours
18	None
1	No answer

- e. How to deal with people so they feel they've been treated fairly and respectfully

<u>Total</u>	
37	4 hours or more
34	Less than 4 hours
27	None
2	No answer

- f. Bias and fairness

<u>Total</u>	
40	4 hours or more
37	Less than 4 hours
22	None
1	No answer

ASK ALL SWORN OFFICERS:

Q.49 Other than on a gun range or while training, have you ever discharged your service firearm while on duty, or have you not done this?

Total

27	Yes, I have discharged my firearm while on duty
72	No, I have not done this
1	No answer

NO QUESTIONS 50-51**QUESTIONS 52-55 AND DEMOGRAPHICS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**