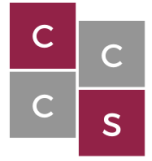

2021



COOK COUNTY
COMMUNITY SURVEY

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COOK COUNTY COMMUNITY SURVEY

ATTITUDES ABOUT POLICING



Loyola University Chicago

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INTRODUCTION

ATTITUDES AND OPINIONS ON POLICING

The Cook County Community Survey (CCCS) is a cross-sectional online survey of a diverse sample of adults in Cook County. The survey covers topics including political attitudes and behaviors, environmental conditions, policing, and COVID-19.

The survey is an interdisciplinary project that includes faculty and students from political science and sociology at Loyola University Chicago. The primary investigators are Dr. Dana Garbarski (Department of Sociology) and Dr. David Doherty (Department of Political Science). The respondent recruitment was outsourced to Dynata; a data platform with a large and diverse panel of respondents. The final sample size was 1,195 adults in Cook County. We aimed for the sample to be descriptively representative of the population of Cook County. We largely succeeded on this front with one notable exception. Our sample over represents the white population of Cook County and under represents the Hispanic/Latine population of Cook County.

The section on policing focuses on topics that are often found in academic research and public opinion polling regarding policing and police reform. The aim of this set of questions is to gauge the perceptions of Cook County residents on different areas of policing police reform. The questions ask about occupational licensing, prosecution for use of excessive force, job performance, use of body-worn cameras, racial biases, funding, and when to call police to a scene.

This report also looks at the responses to these questions by ethnoracial self-identification. For this report, we focus on three ethnoracial groups- white, Black, Hispanic/Latine. Our survey also included respondents who identified as Asian, more than one race, and some other race. However, the low number of respondents in these groups does not allow us to be confident in making claims about their attitudes. Thus, we focus our analysis on respondents who identified as white, Black, Latine/Hispanic.



OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

QUESTION

Occupational licensing exists to verify the training, testing, and education of people in certain professions, such as electricians and dental hygienists. If occupational licensing were required for police officers, an officer's license could be suspended if they are arrested or indicted for a felony. The Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board would hear the officer's case and decide whether their license should remain suspended.

How much do you support or oppose a proposal that requires police officers to be licensed?

Strongly support

Somewhat support

Neither support nor oppose

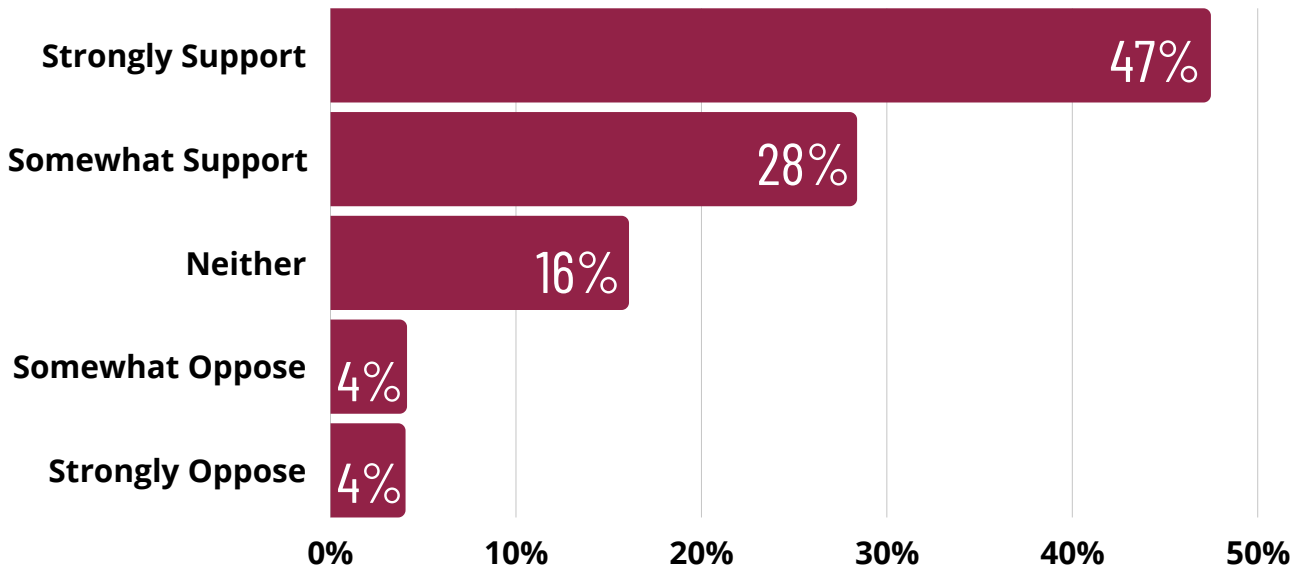
Somewhat oppose

Strongly oppose



OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

RESPONSES



FINDINGS

Results show overwhelming support for occupational licensing of police, with about 3 out of 4 (76%) of respondents indicating strongly or somewhat supporting. These results did not vary by ethnoracial self-identification (not shown).



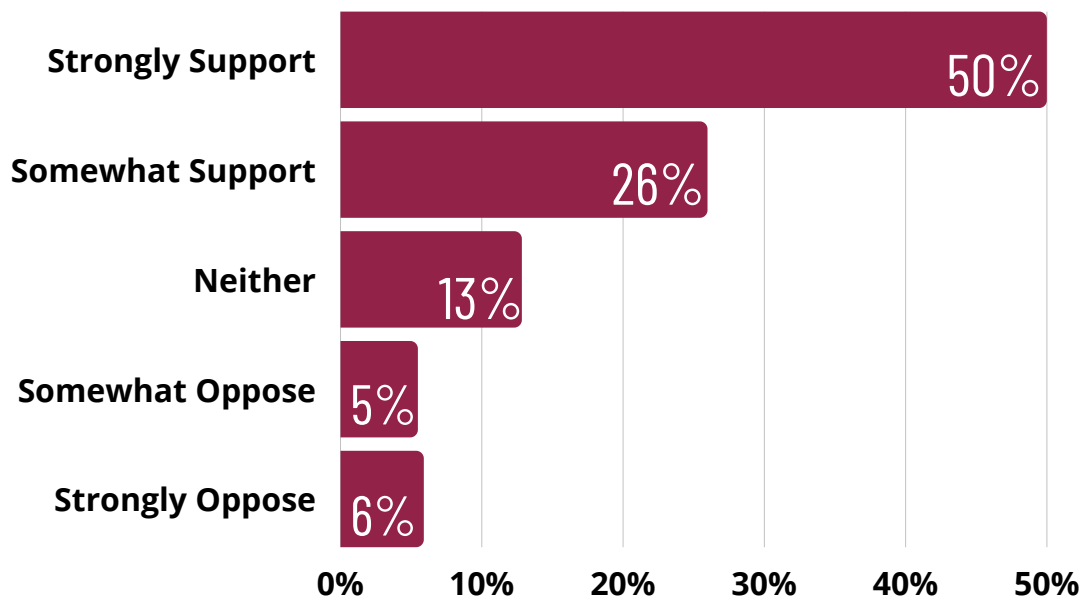
PROSECUTION FOR USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

QUESTION

How much do you support or oppose a proposal to prosecute police officers who use excessive force?

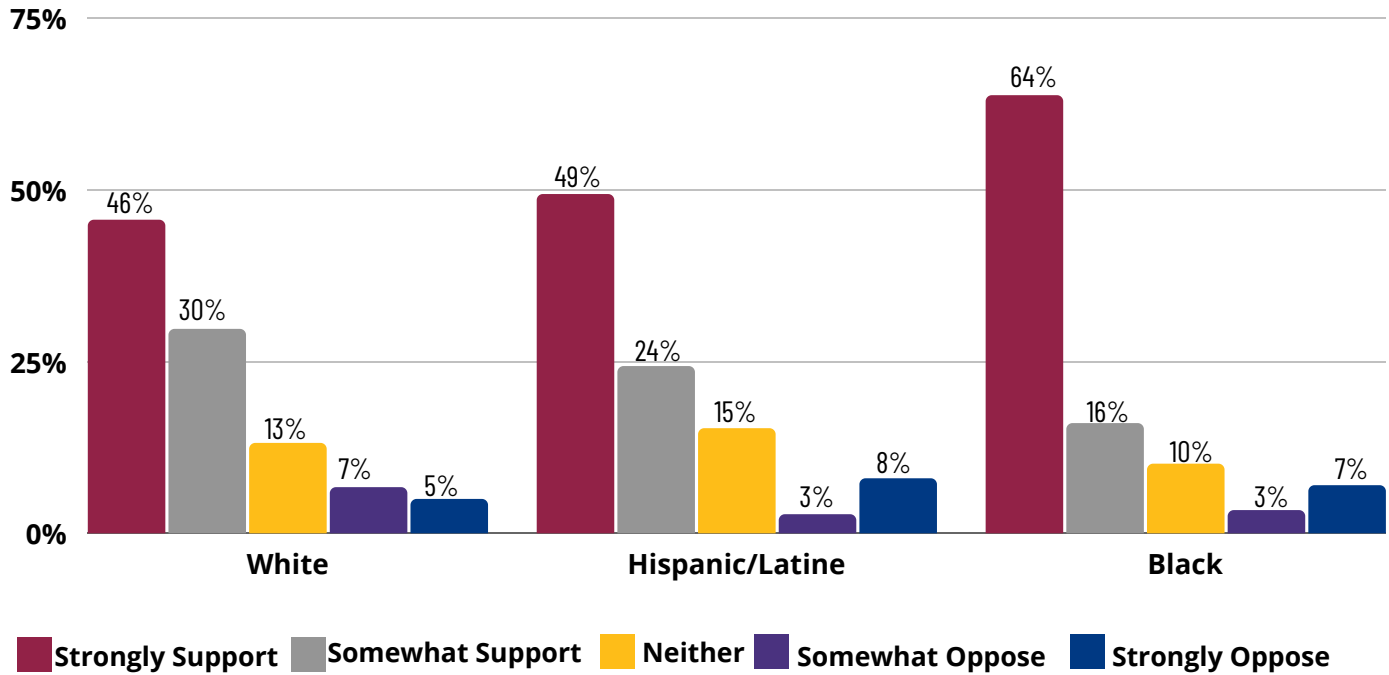
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Neither support nor oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose

RESPONSES



PROSECUTION FOR USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE

RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION



FINDINGS

The association between support for prosecution for excessive force opinions and ethnoracial self-identification is statistically significant (chi-square=54.99, df=20, p<.01). Descriptively, respondents who identify as Black are more likely to support prosecution of police for use of excessive force than respondents who identify as white or Hispanic/Latine.

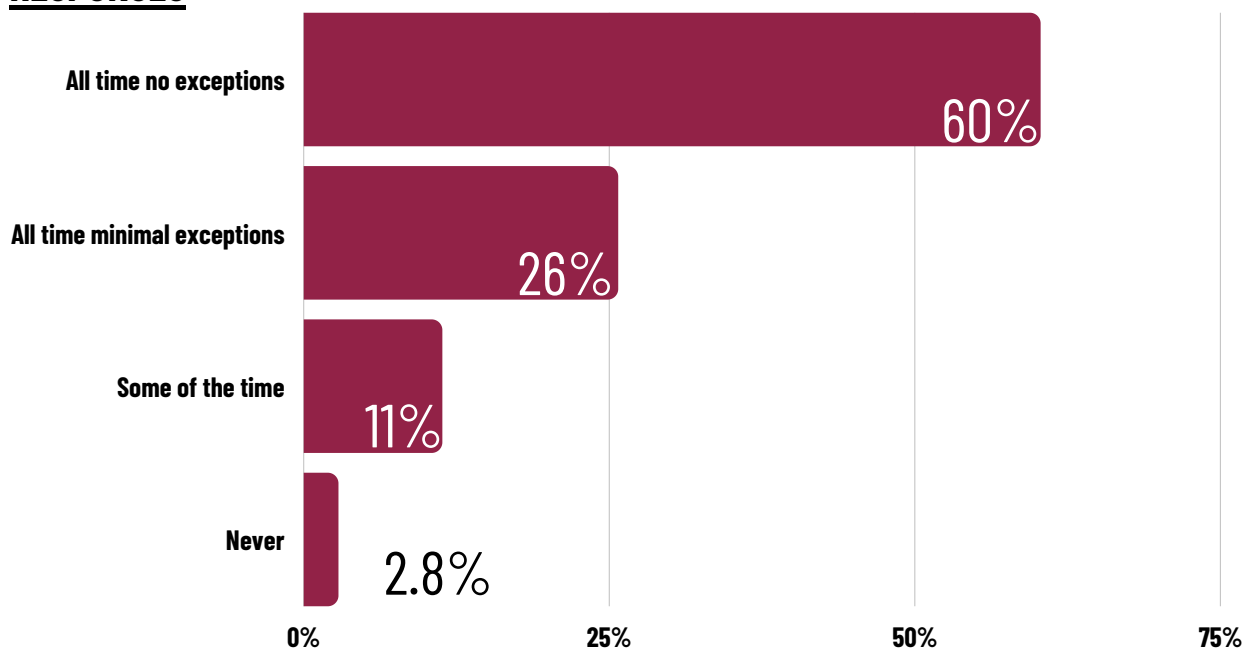
BODY-WORN CAMERAS

QUESTION

Police use of body-worn cameras varies across municipalities. When do you think police should use body worn cameras?

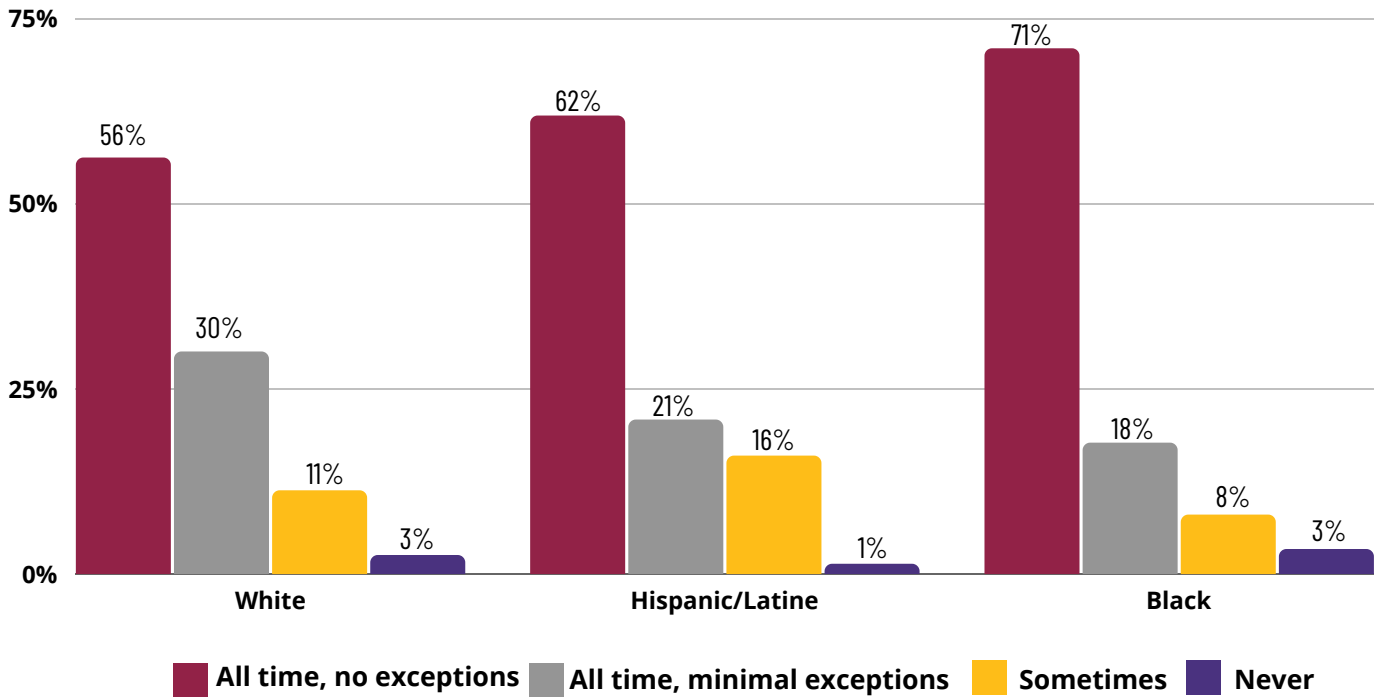
- Never
- Some of the time (for example, when investigating criminal activity but not when interviewing witnesses)
- All the time with minimal exceptions (for example, when requested by the victim of a crime)
- All the time with no exceptions

RESPONSES



BODY-WORN CAMERAS

RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION



FINDINGS

Overall, 60% of the respondents in the sample believe that police officers should have their body-worn cameras on all the time with no exceptions. The association between support for body-worn cameras and ethnoracial self-identification is statistically significant ($\chi^2=36.97$, $df=15$, $p<.01$). About 71% of respondents that identify as Black support body worn cameras on all the time with no exceptions.



PERCEPTION OF POLICE: USE OF FORCE

QUESTION(S)

How would you rate the job police officers in the **city of Chicago** are doing when it comes to using the right amount of force for each situation?

Very good

Good

Poor

Very poor

How would you rate the job police officers in the **Chicago suburbs** are doing when it comes to using the right amount of force for each situation?

Very good

Good

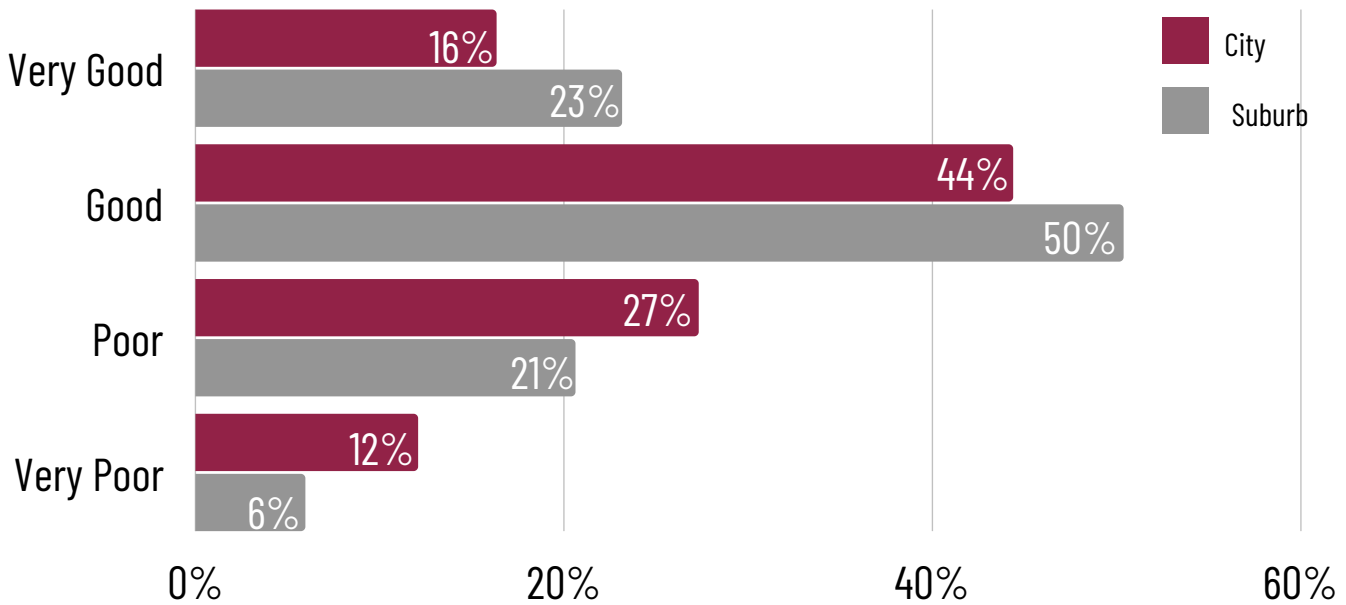
Poor

Very poor

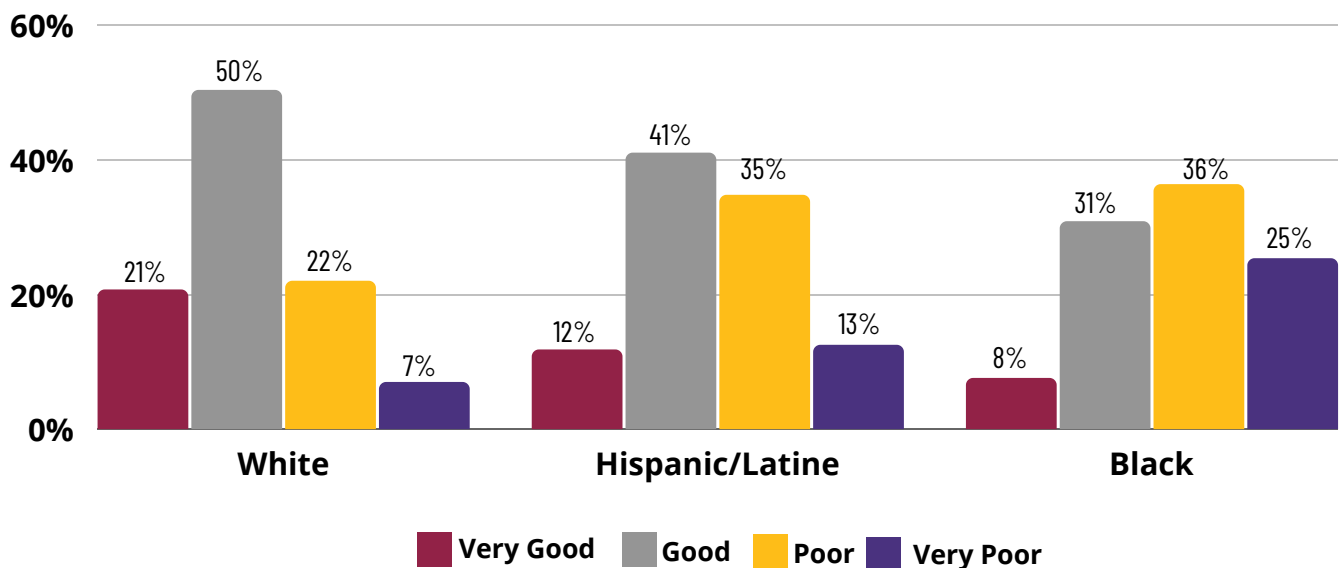


PERCEPTION OF POLICE: USE OF FORCE

RESPONSES

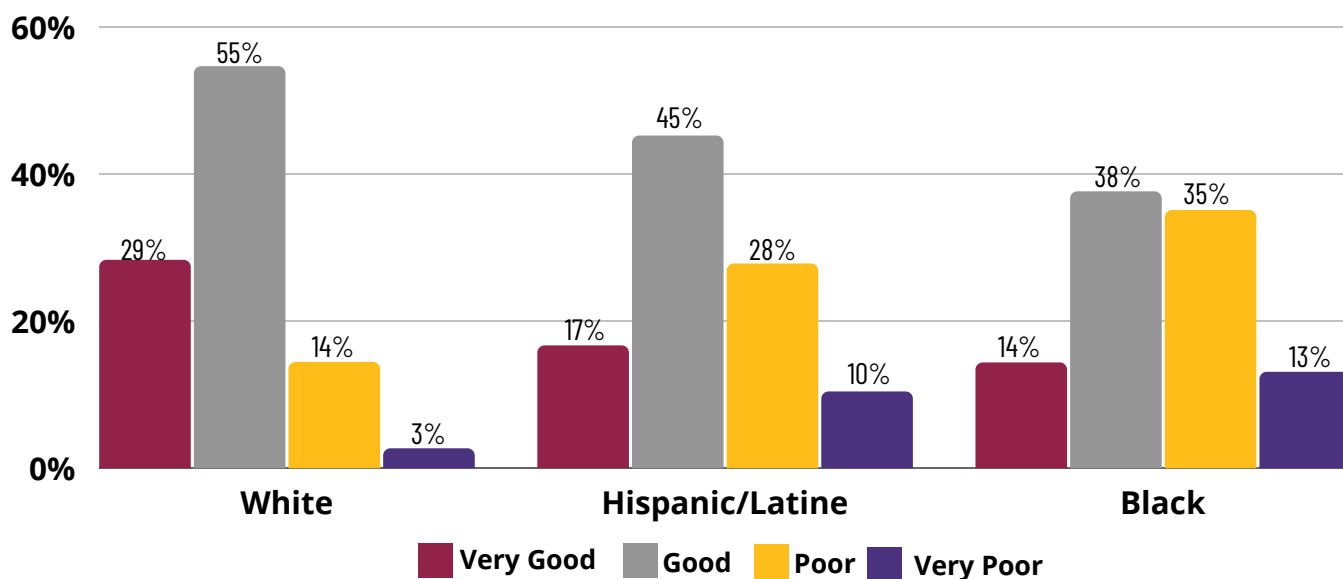


RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (CITY)



PERCEPTION OF POLICE: USE OF FORCE

RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (SUBURB)



Findings

Overall, about 39% of respondents believe police in the city do a very poor or poor job at using the right amount of force. The association between opinions regarding whether police use the right amount of force and ethnoracial self-identification is statistically significant at the city level (chi-square=110.54 df=15, $p < .001$). Descriptively, respondents that identify as Black (61%) or Hispanic/Latine (48%) are more likely to respond that police in the city are doing a poor or very poor job at using the right amount of force in the city regardless of race or ethnicity than respondents that identify as white.

Overall, about 27% of respondents believe police in the suburbs do a very poor or poor job at using the right amount of force. The association between opinions regarding whether police use the right amount of force and ethnoracial self-identification is statistically significant (chi-square=115.07 df=15, $p < .001$). Descriptively, respondents that identify as Black (48%) or Hispanic/Latine (38%) are more likely to respond that police in the suburbs are doing a poor or very poor job using the right amount of force than respondents that identify as white (17%).



PERCEPTION OF POLICE: RACIAL BIAS

QUESTION(S)

How would you rate the job police officers in the **city of Chicago** are doing when it comes to treating people fairly regardless of race or ethnicity?

Very good

Good

Poor

Very poor

How would you rate the job police officers in the **Chicago suburbs** are doing when it comes to treating people fairly regardless of race or ethnicity?

Very good

Good

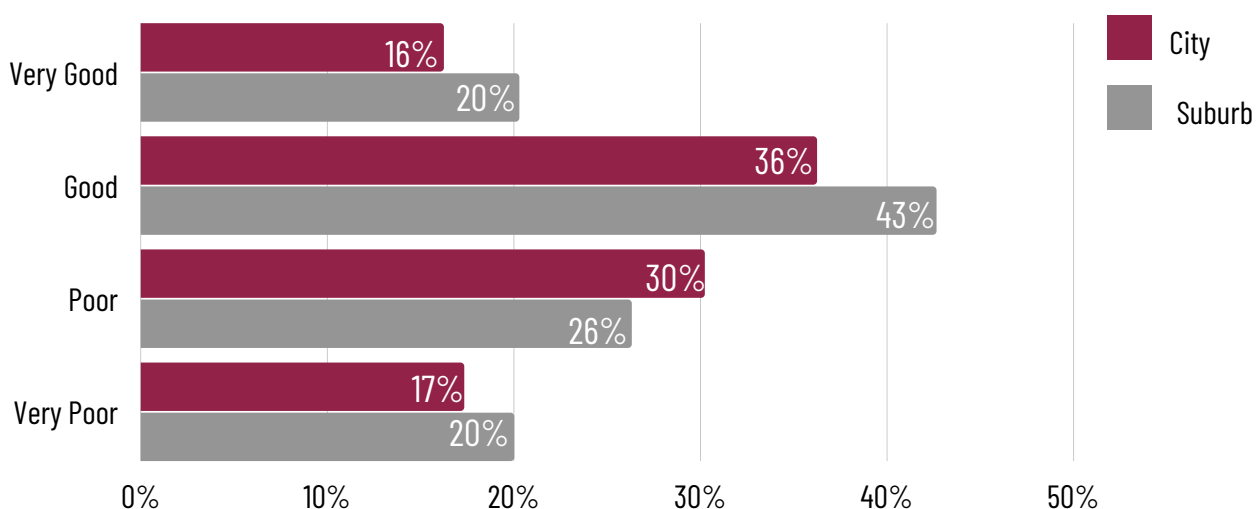
Poor

Very poor

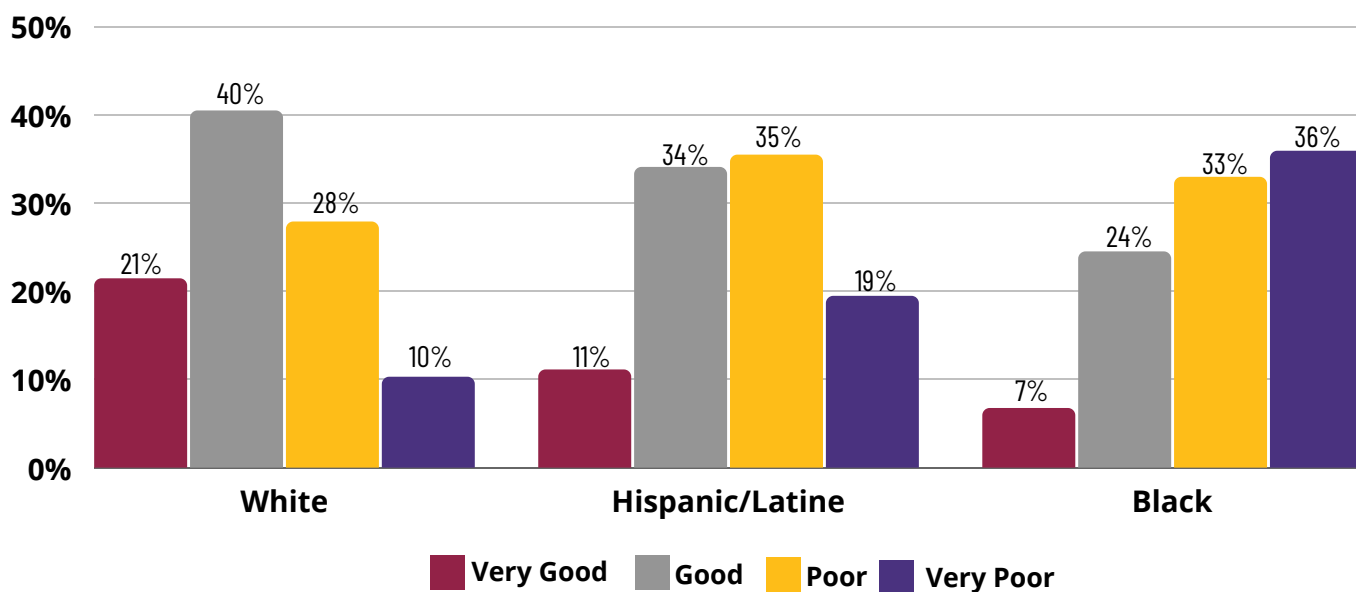


PERCEPTION OF POLICE: RACIAL BIAS

RESPONSES

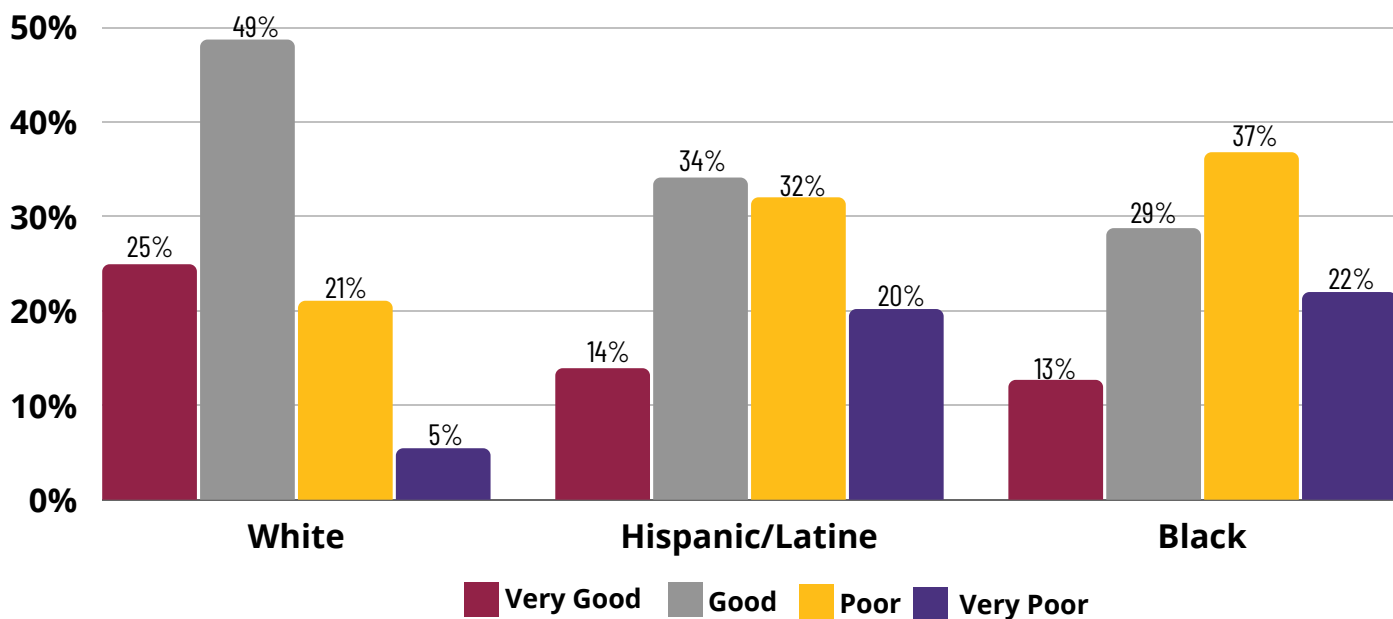


RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (CITY)



PERCEPTION OF POLICE: RACIAL BIAS

RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION (SUBURB)



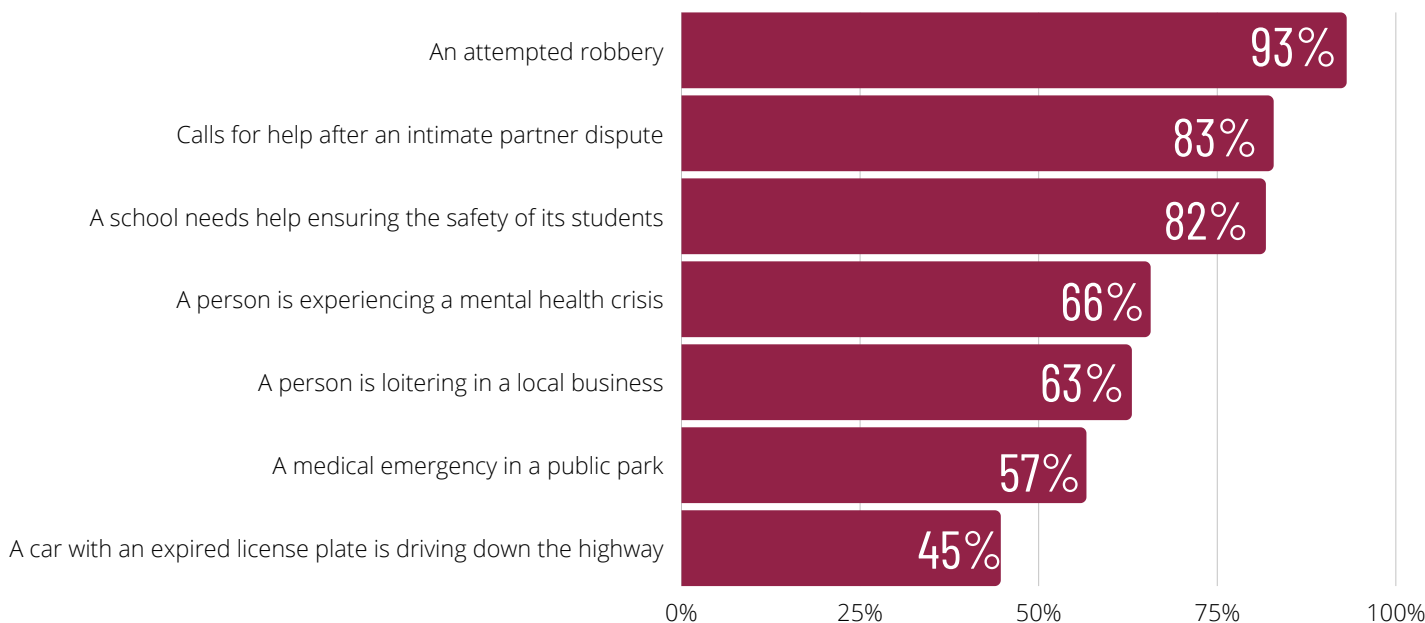
Findings

Overall, about 47% of respondents believe police in the city do a very poor or poor job at treating people fairly. The association between opinions regarding treating people fairly regardless of race and ethnicity and ethnoracial self-identification is statistically significant at the city level (chi-square=123.2857 df=15, $p < .001$). Descriptively, those that identify as Black (69%) or Hispanic/Latine (54%) are more likely than white respondents to say that police in the city are doing a poor or very poor job treating people fairly regardless of race or ethnicity.

Overall, about 46% of respondents believe police in the suburbs do a very poor or poor job at treating people fairly. The association between opinions regarding treating people fairly regardless of race and ethnicity and ethnoracial self-identification is statistically significant at the suburban level (chi-square=121.1178 df=15, $p < .001$). Descriptively, respondents that identify as Black (59%) or Hispanic/Latine (52%) are more likely than white respondents to say that police in the suburbs are doing a poor or very poor job treating people fairly regardless of race or ethnicity.

WHEN SHOULD POLICE BE CALLED TO THE SCENE?

Do you think the police should be called to the scene in each of the following scenarios? ■ Yes



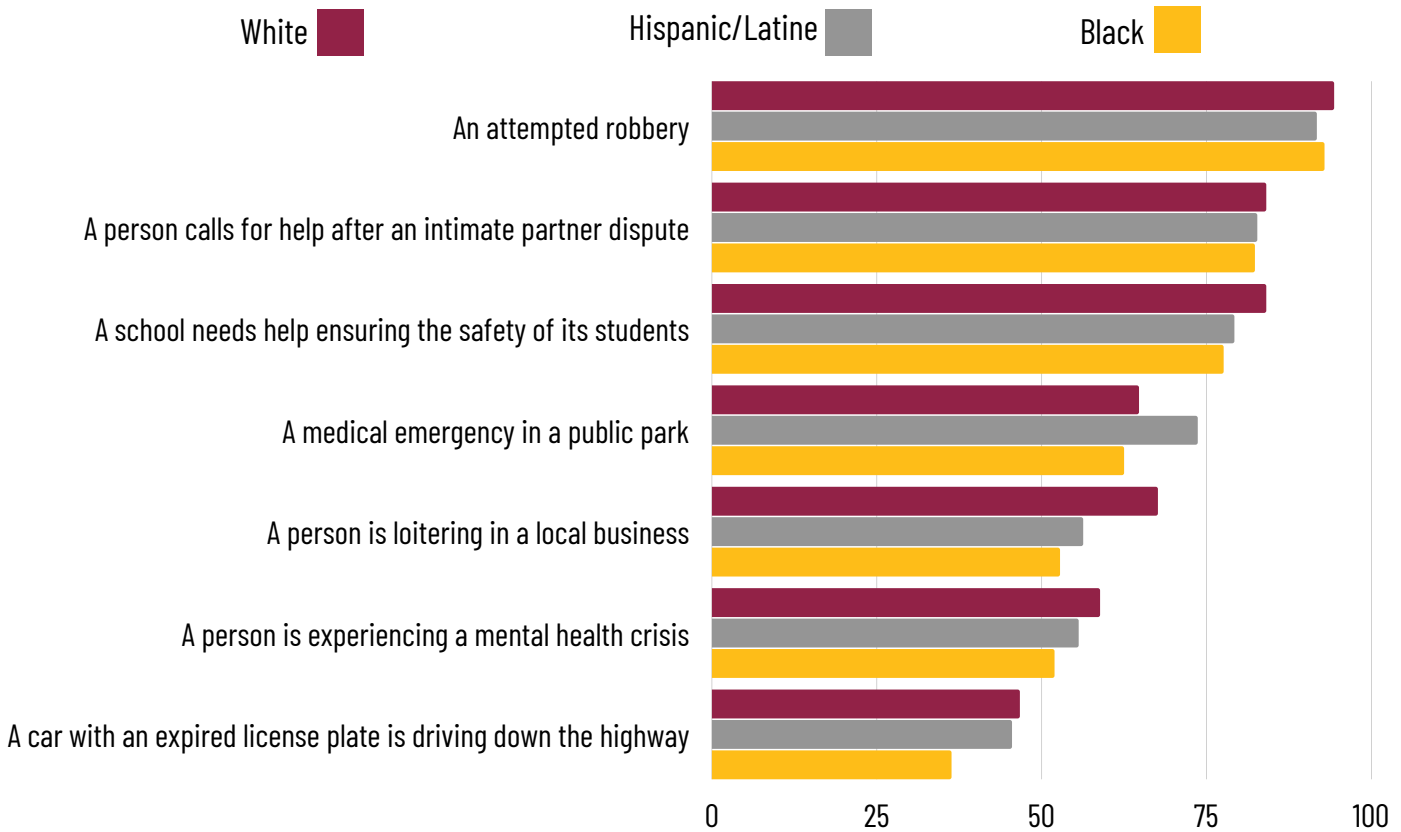
FINDINGS

On the matter of whether respondents believe police should be called to the scene of a robbery, about 93% of respondents responded with yes. When a school needs help ensuring the safety of their students, about 82% of respondents said yes, police should be called in this instance. When asked about an intimate partner dispute, about 83% of respondents said yes, police should be called in this instance. When it comes to a mental health crisis, about only 66% of respondents said yes, police should be called in this instance. On the topic of loitering, about 63% of respondents said yes, police should be called in this instance. In the case of a medical emergency in the park, about 57% of respondents said yes, police should be called in this instance. When it comes to a car driving with an expire license plate, the majority of respondents (55%) responded no, police should not be called in this instance.



WHEN SHOULD POLICE BE CALLED TO THE SCENE?

RESPONSES BY ETHNORACIAL SELF-IDENTIFICATION



FINDINGS

When you break down the responses to the call to scene scenarios matrix by race two patterns appear. First is that on the top three scenarios where respondents are most likely to want the police called there is agreement across ethnoracial groups. The second is that on the questions of whether the police should be called to the scene for loitering and expired license plates there is a major gap in support between white respondents and Black respondents, 67% to 53% for loitering and 47% to 36% for expired plates. It is also notable that respondents who self identify as Hispanic are much more likely to support calling the police in a medical emergency at 74% compared to the average of 65%. All of this indicates that the differences in support for the use of police among different racial groups are specific to the scenario in which potential police involvement is proposed. We find greater differences across ethnoracial groups in scenarios that do not involve the immediate threat of violence.

CONCLUSION

The respondents in this sample broadly support the police reforms we asked about. All in all, about 75% of respondents support a measure that would implement occupational licensing for police officers. About 76% of respondents support a measure that would prosecute police officers that engage in excessive use of force. The majority of respondents (86%) believe police officers should have their body-worn cameras on all the time with no or minimal exceptions. Overall, a majority of respondents say that police officers in Chicago and the suburbs do a good or very good job of using the right amount of force for each situation and treating people fairly regardless of race or ethnicity. However, respondents who are Black or Hispanic/Latine are less likely to say this than white respondents.

With one exception, a majority of respondents supported calling police to the scene in almost every scenario we presented. However, these questions illustrate variation in the circumstances in which police should be called to the scene. The only scenario where the majority did not support calling the police to the scene, was the case of expired license plates. The second largest no responses came from the mental health scenario. About 43% of respondents answered no to this question, police should not be called to a mental health crisis. This is followed by the scenario on loitering, about 37% of respondents believe loitering does not require a call to local law enforcement. These questions help understand the circumstances in which police officers are perceived to be most helpful. For instance, a large amount of respondents answered no to the mental health crisis scenario, pursuing this question more deeply could reveal alternatives to dealing with these sensitive situations. It is also key to note that Black respondents are much less likely to support calling the police than White respondents specifically in the scenarios involving loitering and expired license plates.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the Cook County Community Survey.

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