

The Need for Police Reform

Skylar Sweet

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ABSTRACT

All Americans expect that the law enforcement system should be there to protect them and treat everyone they come across equally. Statistics over the years have shown that police are biased and treat people of different races and gender accordingly to their own beliefs, but when all police go through the same employment process and are taught the same things, this becomes an issue within the system. The mass incarceration, the amount of death by cop to the Black community, racism, and excessive use of force are all factors that should be in consideration to help act for police reform. For the Black community, 63% of them in a survey believed that the amount of force used when in contact with the police is excessive versus 44% of whites believe the same thing. We find that officers speak with consistently less respect toward Black versus white community members. Such disparities in common, everyday interactions between police and the communities serve that police reform must be implicated.

INTRODUCTION

- The term, Use of Force is defined as “the amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject.”
- Police reform “aims to transform the values, culture, policies and practices of police organizations so that police can perform their duties with respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law. (DCAF, 2019)
- Racial prejudice use of force is a mechanism to improve and make changes for police reform in the law enforcement system.

MATERIALS & METHODS

- “Racial disparities in crime rates are perhaps the default explanation for any observed inequalities in. For example, if police shootings occur at random during police interactions and black individuals are three times more likely to interact with police than white individuals because of a higher rate of involvement in violent crime we would expect black individuals to be three times as likely to be shot as whites.” (Kramer, 2018)
- Despite improvements, modern US police face many of the same race-based criticisms as in the past. Recently, white officers’ killings of unarmed black men and youth sparked demonstrations and riots. (Eugene, 2018, p. 54-74)
- Body Cam Case Study: New York, Missouri, Ohio, South Carolina, Maryland, Illinois, Wisconsin, Louisiana, Oklahoma, North Carolina (Voigt, 2017).
- Michael Brown; Ferguson, Missouri (Buchanan, 2018)
- George Floyd; Minneapolis, Minnesota (BBC, 2020)

RESULTS

- Police reform aims to transform the values, culture, policies and practices of police organizations so that police can perform their duties with respect for democratic values, human rights and the rule of law. (DCAF, 2019).
- Police reform commonly aims to
 - Achieve equal treatment and opportunities for all in access to security and justice, with police and judicial services protecting and promoting respect for human rights and the rule of law
 - Improve public awareness of policing through the provision of balanced and relevant information about police funding, expenditure, activities and results, as well as the legitimate roles and responsibilities of the police
- There are 2 core goals common to all police reform
- Reforms might involve
 - Updating legal frameworks to reflect international law standards or clarify roles and mandates for law enforcement
 - Changing budget procedures: parliaments and finance ministries can change the way the police budget is allocated and hold the police accountable for efficient use of resources

CONCLUSIONS

- With all the information given, the law enforcement system has some holes to it. These holes are formed by racial prejudice and excessive use of force towards minorities. When these groups retaliate, the pressure looms over the police officers and chaos continues. The use of force is supposed to take in consideration of the other human being detained and treated like one. When police take that away, issues arise. Police reform must take action to fix the system that is broken. Police reform is essential to protect citizens of minorities and change the view on police back to enforcing the law rather than breaking it.

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