

Police Interactions with Youth: A Polling for Justice Data Postcard

This is a project of The Participatory Action Research Collective of The Graduate Center of the City University of New York, Hunter College of the City University of New York, Annenberg Institute for School Reform, and Urban Youth Collaborative.

Who We Are

Started in February of 2008, Polling for Justice (PFJ) is a group of youth and adult researchers, activists and community organizers who together, designed a survey to examine the intersection of education, criminal justice and health among a diverse group of 1,110 New York City youth between the ages of 16 and 21.

Who Have We Sampled?

Demographics	Freq	%
Gender		
Female	709	64.8
Male	372	34.0
Trans(gender/sexual)	13	1.2
Sexual Orientation		
Straight	979	89.0
LGBTQ	121	11.0
Race/Ethnicity		
Black (African American or Caribbean)	354	32.2
Latino/Latina or Hispanic	340	30.9
Asian, South Asian or Pacific Islander	183	16.6
Multi-Racial	116	10.5
White	93	8.5
Other (Middle Eastern or Native American or American Indian, Alaskan Native)	14	1.3
NYC Borough		
Brooklyn	351	33.3
Manhattan	275	26.1
Bronx	212	20.1
Queens	204	19.3
Staten Island	13	1.2

Police Interactions

The Bad News

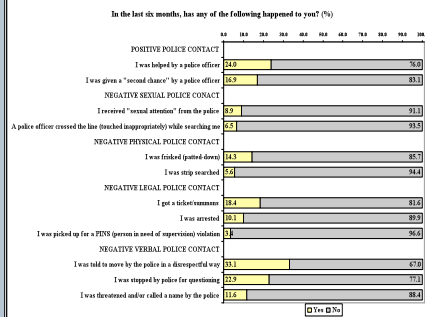
- 48.1%, or 481 of the 999 youth sampled in NYC, reported having negative contact with police in the last six months.
- 4.5%, of the youth sampled have been in jail or prison.
- Of those 570 youth who encountered the police in the last six months, 84.4% reported a negative encounter.

Multiple Police Interactions

Multiple Incidences

- Of the 481 youth who reported at least one negative interaction with police in the last six months:
 - 64.2% reported two or more
 - 43.0% reported three or more
 - 30.9% reported four or more
 - 22.2% reported five or more

Police Interactions by Specific Questions

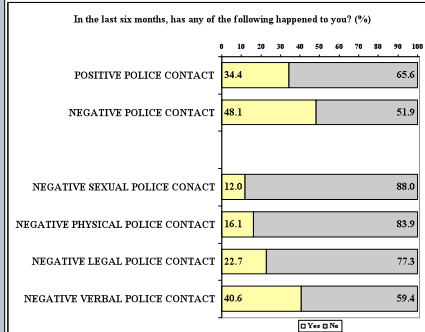


Interpreting The Data (Above and Below)

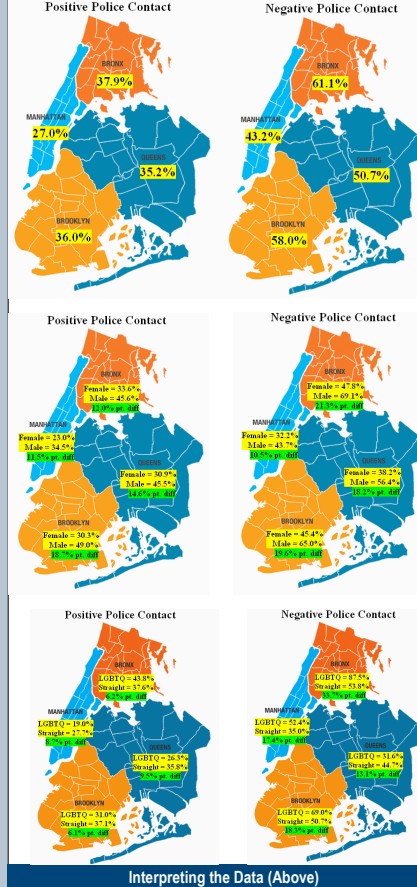
In our sample negative police contact was more common than positive police contact.

When broken into categories, the most common was negative verbal police contact, then legal, physical and sexual.

Police Interactions by Broad Categories



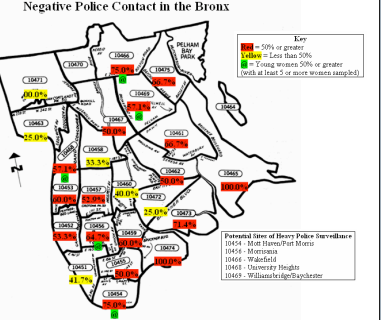
Data by Borough



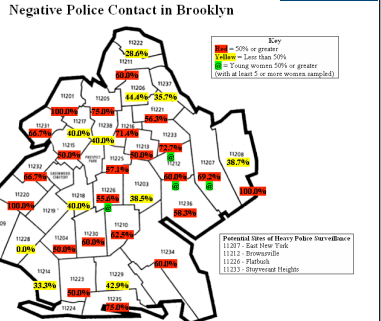
Interpreting The Data (Above)

*Males and Youth who identify as LGBTQ, particularly in the Bronx and Brooklyn, were more likely to report negative contact with police as compared to Females and youth who identify as straight.

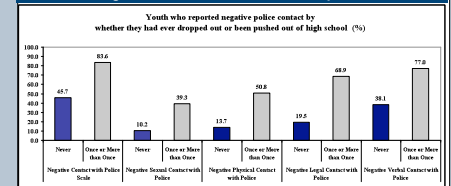
Looking Closer at The Bronx



Looking Closer at Brooklyn



Negative Police Interaction and Drop Out



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