

# Police Civilian Relations Personal Attitude Variation by Race

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## Background

In response to the murders of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Tony McDade and many others, uprisings, particularly in Los Angeles, began with the demand for systemic change of the American police system. As a result, StudyLA performed a survey to measure public opinion towards the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Los Angeles residents were surveyed, in regard to their sentiments towards the LAPD, to determine their perceptions of how successfully the LAPD is carrying out their mission.

## Methodology

StudyLA conducted focus groups with 99 individuals from diverse backgrounds in order to generate questions for the survey. From August 31-October 25, 2020, a mixed-mode survey of 1,753 adult Los Angeles County residents was conducted. The survey was carried out in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Korean and the margin of error is ±2.5%.

## Research Question

For those who have had their attitudes towards the LAPD shaped by personal experiences, are these experiences mostly positive or mostly negative? And how does this differ by race ethnicity?

## When considering your attitudes toward the LAPD, how much have the following shaped your attitudes?

	A lot/Some	A little/Not at all
Recent events in Los Angeles	74.3%	25.7%
Historical events in Los Angeles	71.2%	28.8%
Events outside of Los Angeles	66.3%	33.7%

## How would you describe your experiences with LAPD officers?

	Overall	Black	Asian	White	Latinx
Mostly Positive	46.5%	28.2%	45.4%	65.3%	36.6%
Mostly Negative	19.8%	37.4%	10.4%	11.6%	24.4%
I Haven't Had Any	33.8%	34.4%	44.3%	23.1%	38.9%

## Results



More than **7/10** of LA residents have had their attitudes toward the LAPD affected by recent events.



On average, almost **50%** of LA residents would describe their experiences with LAPD as **mostly positive**, while only **28%** of Black residents feel similarly. In contrast, **65%** of white residents have reported their experiences with LAPD as **mostly positive**.

## Conclusion

When the data is analyzed by race and ethnicity, it is evident that race and ethnicity play a role in determining that personal experiences with the LAPD are consistent among racial lines. Based on the data, which demonstrates the intersectional discrepancies in police-civilian relations, the LAPD cannot and will not be an equitable institution until impactful change is brought about that reflects their ability to truly protect all individuals, through other forms of policing, in order to put an end to the harmful, often fatal actions of LAPD.