

Immigration and Local Law Enforcement

Prepared for the Hawthorne Police Department and Pasco Police Department
May 2017

Overview

This report summarizes recent data collected on public views of local law enforcement in Hawthorne, CA, and Pasco, WA. The survey design, data collection, and analyses are intended to help public leaders better understand and measure community-police relations in the context of national immigration policies and local law enforcement. The report is the result of cross-sector collaboration between the Hawthorne Police Department in Southern California, the Pasco Police Department in Eastern Washington, OssaLabs, and My90. Our shared goal is to improve community-police relations in the United States using innovative and accessible communication tools. The data collected and analyzed here offer an example of how new tools can help police departments better understand the impact of immigration policies as they relate to American law enforcement agencies.

To demonstrate the potential of these tools, we conducted a proof-of-concept survey for residents of Hawthorne, CA, and Pasco, WA, using My90's automated text messaging platform. All participants were asked the same questions, and the surveys were available in both English and Spanish. The surveys were available from April 10-May 3, 2017. The questions measured how residents feel about law enforcement officers, and whether immigration issues affect their relationship with the local police. For the purposes of this report, the following analysis combines responses from Hawthorne and Pasco to offer insights from the overall dataset. Collected data, including a breakdown by location, are attached as an accompanying document.

Key Findings

- The majority of respondents self-identified as Hispanic/Latino, highlighting the potential of innovative communication tools to engage historically underrepresented groups.
- Survey responses indicated that concern about immigration issues is negatively affecting Hispanic/Latino communities' trust of local police departments.
- However, responses also indicated that even Hispanic/Latino residents who are concerned about local deportations are still willing to call the police for help.

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Survey Design and Methodology

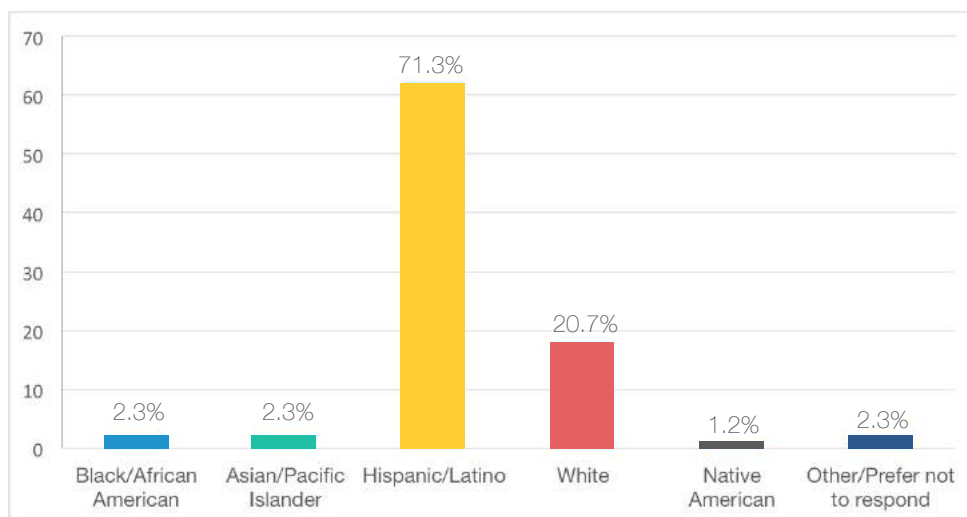
The My90 platform implements surveys using automated, anonymous text messages. Our platform incorporates innovative and inclusive tools in order to reach as many residents as possible. Officers from the Hawthorne Police Department and Pasco Police Department publicized the survey and raised awareness of the project by networking with local leaders, sharing on social media, and distributing flyers at local businesses. An example of the outreach flyer is attached as an appendix. The surveys were offered in both English and Spanish. Participants received a \$5 Amazon.com gift card in exchange for completing the survey, in accordance with standard practices used by research organizations. Residents were instructed to text “Hi” (or “Hola”) to a designated phone number and were then prompted to answer each survey question. Survey questions were designed in partnership with students and professors at Stanford University and are included as an appendix.

About the Respondents: Demographics

In Hawthorne, CA, 52.9% of the population is Hispanic/Latino. In Pasco, WA, 55.7% of the population is Hispanic/Latino. We received 87 responses overall, exceeding the initial goal of 40 responses from each city. We recorded 43 responses from Pasco and 44 responses from Hawthorne. 64.7% of respondents identified as female, 32.9% identified as male, and 2.4% identified as other. The median age was 27.5 and the mean age was 30 years old.

86 of the 87 respondents indicated their ethnicity, with 43 responses from each city. Overall, 72.1% of respondents self-identified as Hispanic/Latino, 20.9% of respondents self-identified as white, and 7% of respondents identified as another race. Pasco had a far higher percentage of white respondents (39.5%) than Hawthorne (2.3%, from just one response) and a correspondingly lower share of Hispanic/Latino respondents (55.8% compared to 88.4%).

What is your ethnicity? We can only accept one answer so pick the one that best describes you



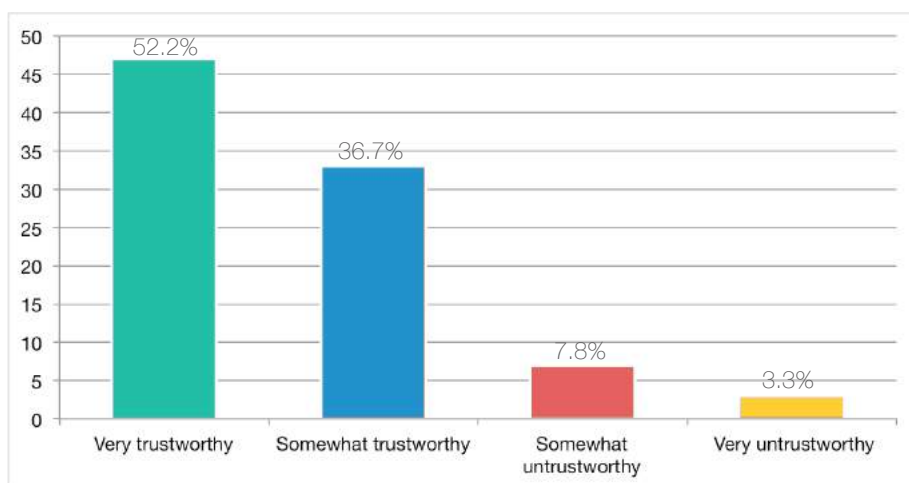
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High Levels of Trust

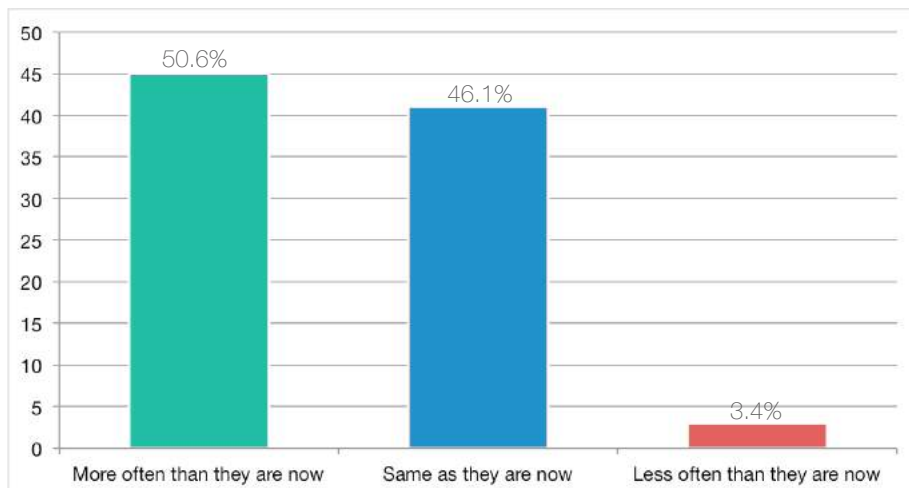
This sample reported a high level of trust in the police. 86% of respondents in Hawthorne and 93% of respondents in Pasco trusted the police. Additionally, only 4.5% of respondents in Hawthorne and no respondents in Pasco wanted the police in their neighborhood less often. Selection bias is always a factor in surveys and polls, and should be noted here. The outreach strategy for the proof-of-concept stage is likely the reason for the relatively high levels of trust reported here. Most respondents learned about the survey via officers' social media accounts, or heard about it from someone with a positive relationship with local law enforcement.

How trustworthy are the police?



The pro-police nature of this cohort is valuable because it reduces the likelihood of respondents intentionally picking responses to make the police look bad. However, selection bias cuts both ways. These respondents may have been more prone to picking answers they thought would benefit the police. For a survey conducted at scale, a greater sample size could be achieved. This would allow the data to minimize selection bias and reflect community opinions to a higher degree of accuracy.

The police should be in my neighborhood...



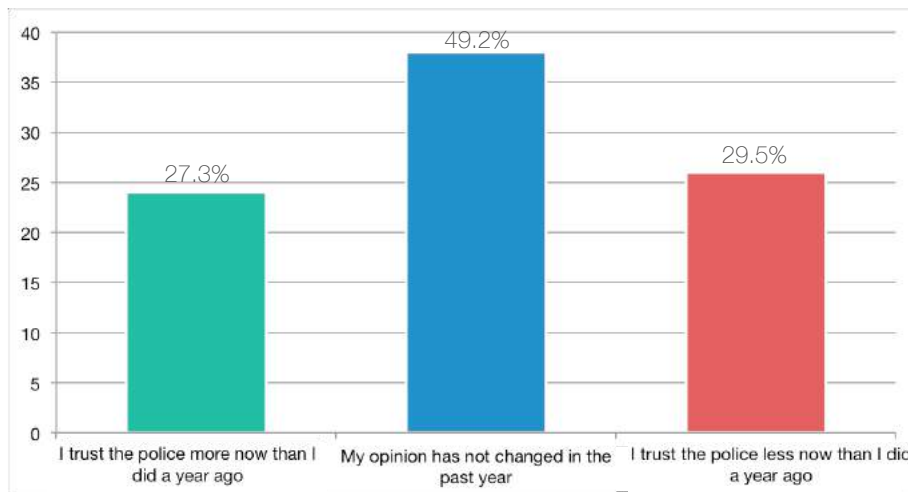
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Trust in the Police has Changed

57% of respondents reported that their opinion about local police has changed in the past year. 49% of those reported an increase and 51% reported a decrease. Of those that reported a decrease, 84% were Hispanic/Latino.

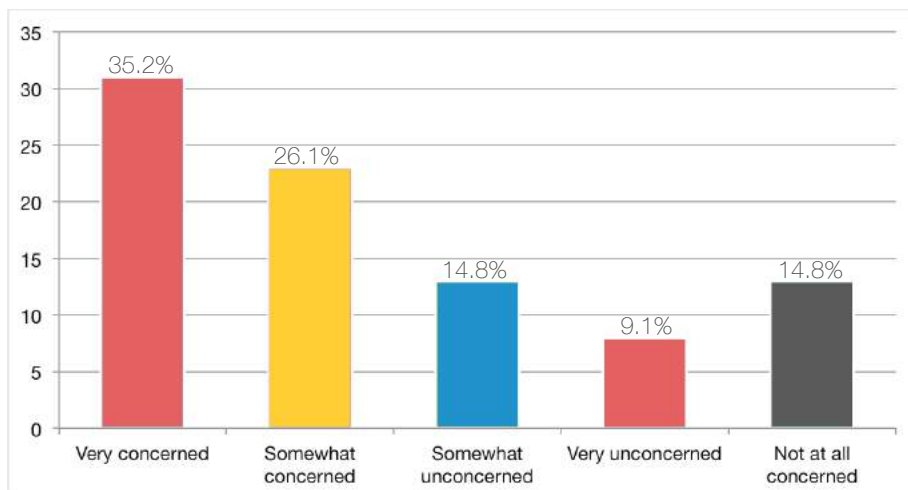
How has your view of the police changed in the past year?



Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

There is a prominent narrative nationwide that immigrant communities are becoming less likely to call the police due to concerns about local immigration enforcement. 61.6% of respondents reported that they were somewhat or very concerned about deportations by ICE in their community. 84.9% of those concerned were Hispanic/Latino.

How concerned are you about deportations by ICE in your community?



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As part of a more in-depth analysis, we analyzed whether residents who were concerned about ICE deportations in their community were more or less likely to call the police for help. Of these concerned residents, 24.5% were less likely to call the police, 43.4% were equally likely and 32.1% were more likely to call the police. Even when controlling for ethnicity, a higher number of Hispanic/Latino respondents who were concerned about deportations said that they were more likely to call the police despite these concerns. It is interesting to note that in communities concerned about ICE, most residents may still be willing to call the police when they need help. Analysis of a larger sample is needed to explore this initial finding.

Are you more or less likely to call the police now than you were a year ago?

	Not at all concerned	Somewhat concerned	Somewhat unconcerned	Very concerned	Very unconcerned	Total
Hawthorne	2	14	6	20	2	44
Equally likely	2	5	3	5		15
Hispanic/Latino		4	2	5		11
Other	2	1				3
White			1			1
Less likely		6	1	6	1	14
Hispanic/Latino		5		6	1	12
Other		1	1			2
More likely		3	2	9	1	15
Hispanic/Latino		3	2	9	1	15
Pasco	11	9	7	10	6	43
Equally likely	11	7	4	6	2	30
Hispanic/Latino	3	5	2	5	2	17
Other	1					1
White	7	2	2	1		12
Less likely				1	1	2
Hispanic/Latino				1	1	2
More likely		2	3	3	3	11
Hispanic/Latino			2	2	1	5
Other				1		1
White		2	1		2	5
Total	13	23	13	30	8	87

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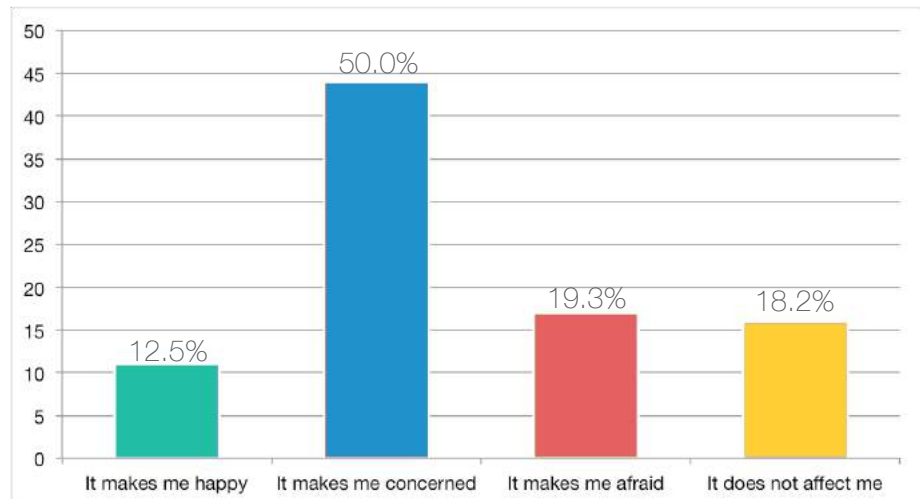
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National Politics and Local Relationships

The majority of respondents were not impacted by the President's statements on immigration. However, respondents who reported an impact tended to be Hispanic/Latino and such statements almost always made them trust local police less. 30.2% of respondents said that statements made by President Trump affected their view of their local police department. 92.3% of these respondents identified as Hispanic/Latino.

Of respondents who reported that their views were affected, 88.5% said that the President's statements made them trust the police less. Additionally, 70% of respondents said that the President's statements make them "concerned" or "afraid." 83.3% of these respondents were Hispanic/Latino and 8.3% were white.

When the President makes a statement about immigration, does it affect you?



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Conclusion

This report represents an initial snapshot of how new tools can help police departments better collect and analyze data to yield valuable local insights. The analysis is intended to highlight early findings about the relationship that immigrant communities have with local law enforcement in Hawthorne and Pasco, and how this relationship is affected by national immigration policies. In accordance with the pillars of 21st Century Policing, our goal is to provide police departments with data-driven tools that improve communication, transparency, and outcomes for local communities.

Early analysis suggests that public perceptions of national immigration policies are having a negative impact on local community-police relations, particularly amongst Hispanic/Latino residents. More than a quarter of our respondents trust the police less than they did a year ago, and 84% of that cohort are Hispanic/Latino. Participants also report concern and fear about national immigration policies and local deportation activities.

However, this does not necessarily mean that residents are unwilling to contact the police. More research is needed, but preliminary data indicate that even Hispanic/Latino residents who are concerned about local deportations may still be willing to call the police for help.

These initial findings highlight the need for a larger effort to collect original community-sourced data to guide local law enforcement leaders. At scale, surveys can be simultaneously rolled out to entire cities where police chiefs feel there is a need for greater data-driven insights about residents' opinions and needs on a local level. Furthermore, additional features of the platform can offer police chiefs the ability to complement their existing engagement efforts and effectively close their feedback loop with the public in a unique and effective manner.

Contact Information

For questions, comments, or additional information about the contents of this report, please contact My90 in one of the following ways:

- Website: www.textmy90.com
- Email: contact@textmy90.com
- Phone: 206-617-3757

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Appendix A: Outreach Flyer

With my90
say what you think,
not who you are.

my90 is an independent third party that helps you share feedback, questions, and concerns with your local police - *anonymously*.

Send my90 a **text message** that says "hi" to:

(650) 887-9090

learn more about **my90** at www.textmy90.com

free gift card:
first 40 people who
text my90



Provided in English and Spanish in digital and paper copies

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Appendix B: Survey Questions

1. Welcome! Your local police department wants to learn more about your opinions on the police and immigration. Standard msg rates apply, text "stop" to opt out. All messages are anonymous. Text "OK" to begin.
2. How trustworthy are the police?
 - a. Very trustworthy
 - b. Somewhat trustworthy
 - c. Somewhat untrustworthy
 - d. Very untrustworthy
3. If your neighbors witness a break-in, how likely are they to call the police for help?
 - a. Very likely
 - b. Somewhat likely
 - c. Somewhat unlikely
 - d. Very unlikely
4. If you walk by a police officer, what do you think the officer is most likely to do?
 - a. Greet me politely
 - b. Start a friendly conversation
 - c. Stop and question me
 - d. Be aggressive or rude
 - e. Ignore me
5. The police should be in my neighborhood_____
 - a. More often than they are now
 - b. Less often than they are now
 - c. Same as they are now
6. Do statements by President Trump affect your view of the police?
 - a. Yes
 - i. How do the president's statements affect your view of the police?
 1. They make me trust the police more
 2. They make me trust the police less
 3. On second thought, they don't influence my opinion on the police
 - b. No
7. How has your view of the police changed in the past year?
 - a. I trust the police more now than I did a year ago
 - b. I trust the police less now than I did a year ago
 - c. My opinion has not changed in the past year
8. How much do you and your family worry about national immigration policy?
 - a. A lot
 - b. A little
 - c. Not much
 - d. Not at all
9. When the President makes a statement about immigration, does it affect you?
 - a. It makes me happy

Appendix B: Survey Questions, Continued

- b. It makes me concerned
 - c. It makes me afraid
 - d. It does not affect me
10. How concerned are you about deportations by ICE in your community?
- a. Very concerned
 - b. Somewhat concerned
 - c. Somewhat unconcerned
 - d. Very unconcerned
 - e. Not at all concerned
11. Are you more or less likely to call the police now than you were a year ago?
- a. More likely
 - b. Less likely
 - c. Equally likely
12. We're going to ask you a few demographic questions. Remember, all answers are anonymous and you can choose not to respond to any question. First, which gender do you identify with?
- a. Male
 - b. Female
 - c. Other
 - d. Prefer not to respond
13. What is your ethnicity? We can only accept one answer so pick the one that best describes you.
- a. Black/African American
 - b. Asian/Pacific Islander
 - c. Hispanic/Latino
 - d. White
 - e. Native American
 - f. Multiracial
 - g. Other
 - h. Prefer not to respond
14. How old are you? If you prefer not to respond text "0"
15. Finally, what is your zip code?
16. Thanks for taking today's survey! For more information on my90, visit www.textmy90.com. Have a great day!