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### Policing The Police and Community

Historically, law enforcement in the United States has been perceived by specific communities in various ways. In low-income areas with copious amounts of people of color, police officers have not been accepted by their constituents as amiable compared to civilians who live in more affluent areas. In cities such as Baltimore, Maryland and Ferguson, Missouri where unarmed Black men, women, and children have often been unfairly targeted by police, officers have become estranged from those communities and other urban areas across the country. This lack of trust between both parties has allowed difficulty for the police to maintain effective order amongst their specific communities. For policing to be effective, police officers must have knowledge of and cater to the specific needs of the community they are policing to effectively promote crime reduction while building public trust.

Certain countries have policing strategies that have been effective for the communities within it. The Japanese system of community policing has established a positive relationship between the police (Koban) and its civilians. In order for community policing to be successful, there must be consent and support of the community.<sup>1</sup> It requires regular interactions between the police and the public with regard to what policing priorities should be and how the police should go about tackling those priorities. The police should be aware of their community's particular

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<sup>1</sup> Pakes, Francis, *Comparative Criminal Justice*, 4th edition. (New York: Routledge, 2019)

characteristics and preferences and be sensitive to them.<sup>2</sup> In the United States, this method of policing is particularly difficult to execute because of institutionalized ideologies about the type of people that compose certain communities.

The police have been proven to embody implicit bias' when interacting with Black Americans. Because of the negative structures and systems enrooted in the United States, everyone has implicit bias hardwired in them.<sup>3</sup> What this means is that police officers are more likely to stop, shoot, and arrest more Black civilians compared to their White counterparts. Moreover, officers are likely to use excessive force, an authoritarian method of policing that citizens are not receptive to.<sup>4</sup> As a result, police officers have caused a ruckus among Black communities. Furthermore anxiety, distrust and imminent fear between the police and civilians has persisted.

As a result of the community's reaction to the police, implicit bias training has been incorporated into police training throughout the country. If this is incorporated in districts across the country and the implicit bias training is proven in numbers to be effective, community policing itself can be effective. Also, if police departments across the country are defunded, less tools that promote lethal force would be used against citizens, as a result of the implicit bias' that are present. It can be concluded that the bias that police have towards black and brown communities is the biggest concern among civilians. To reiterate what was stated previously, the Japanese community policing system is successful because Koban addresses the concerns of the

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<sup>2</sup> Pakes, Francis, *Comparative Criminal Justice*, 4th edition. (New York: Routledge, 2019)

<sup>3</sup> Persky, Anna Stolley, *Washington Lawyer*, January 2016

<https://www.dcbart.org/bar-resources/publications/washington-lawyer/articles/january-2016-reviewing-law-enforcement.cfm#one>

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

community. If these bias' and institutionalized ideologies that lead to unjustified arrests, force, and stops are repaired, crime rates can be reduced while still building public trust.

## Bibliography

Pakes, Francis, *Comparative Criminal Justice*, 4th edition. (New York: Routledge, 2019)

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