

Public Attitudes about the Police Department in Brookline, Massachusetts

January 25, 2021

Acknowledgements

The data analyzed in this report comes from a study conducted by Professor Brian Schaffner of Tufts University. Professor Schaffner designed and administered the survey. The survey was approved by the Tufts University Institutional Review Board, which reviews research involving human subjects.

Professor Schaffner initially designed his study with the intent on surveying residents of Medford and Somerville. Upon learning of his study, the Select Board's Task Force to Reimagine Policing in Brookline asked Professor Schaffner to extend the study to Brookline. Brookline paid Tufts University \$15,000 to cover the costs of printing, postage, and labor to conduct the Brookline portion of the study.

After respondents submitted their answers to the survey questions, Professor Schaffner transmitted the raw, deidentified data file to Professor Eitan Hersh, who is political science professor at Tufts as well as a Brookline resident and member of the Task Force to Reimagine Policing in Brookline. Professor Hersh conducted the data analysis and wrote this report as part of his volunteer role on the Task Force.

Brookline Select Board's Task Force to Reimagine Policing in Brookline

Raul Fernandez, Chair

Mike Sandman

Bonnie Bastien

Malcolm Cawthorne

Almas Dossa

Eitan Hersh

Kimberly Richardson

Kristan Singleton

Anne Weaver

Alexander Weinstein

Chi Chi Wu

I. Methodology

Brookline residents were identified based on a town census file. Twenty-five thousand (25,000) individuals listed as adult residents of Brookline were sent a letter on Tufts University stationary. The letter contained an invitation to take an online survey. The letter contained a unique code so that only individuals who received letters could participate in the survey. In a handful of cases, individuals contacted a member of the Taskforce or Professor Schaffner and said they wanted to fill out the survey but they accidentally threw away the letter. In these cases, Professor Schaffner provided the individuals with their unique code.

In surveying residents, the sample was stratified in order to oversample African-Americans and Latinx residents. Professor Schaffner employed an algorithm that uses residents' names and Census blocks to estimate the probability that they are a member of various racial groups. Any resident whom the algorithm predicted has a 10 percent chance or greater of identifying as Black, Hispanic, or a race other than Black, Hispanic, White, and Asian was included in the sample. Asians were not oversampled because Asian identifiers make up a sufficiently large proportion of the town residents that many Asian residents would be solicited through random sampling. In addition to the algorithm, Professor Schaffner sampled all residents living in addresses identified as part of the Brookline Housing Authority.

The oversample of public housing residents and residents predicted as not White and not Asian included 8,586 names. The remainder of the 25,000-person sample was a simple random sample of all other Brookline adult residents. Prior to mailing any residents, however, Professor Schaffner removed individuals who were listed according to public records as having moved out of Brookline. This was done through the U.S. Post Office's National Change of Address registry. Any resident who was listed as having moved was replaced in the sample by another resident randomly selected from town residents.

The mailers began arriving at the homes of Brookline residents on November 23, 2020. As of January 13, 2021, 1,343 individuals responded, yielding a response rate of 5.4%.

The final sample was weighted to be representative of Brookline adult residents. Professor Schaffner calculated propensity score weights to match the profile of adults according to their age, party affiliation, and precinct. A second stage of weighting used calibration raking to ensure that the sample was representative of Brookline residents on gender, race/ethnicity, and education (based on the most recent Census estimates).

II. Demographics

Respondents were asked to identify their racial group. They could select one or more of the following categories: White; Hispanic, Latino/Latinx, or Spanish origin; Black or African American; Native American/American Indian/Indigenous or Alaskan Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Middle Eastern or North African; Another race, ethnicity, or origin.

Of 1,343 respondents in the sample (unweighted), 1,151 identify as white, 37 identify as Black, 57 identify as Latinx, 102 identify as Asian, 10 identify as Native American, 3 identify as native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 27 identify as Middle Eastern or North African, and 43 identify as other. Of those who identify as other, they were asked to enter text to describe their race. The majority of these individuals identify as Jewish. Others identify specific countries of origin (e.g. "Indian", "Brazilian"). Some respondents identify as more than one racial group.

For the purposes of this analysis, I will focus on those who identify in four racial groups. I define White as those who identify as White and do not identify with another racial group. I define Black as those who identify as Black or African American. I define Latinx as those who identify as Hispanic, Latino/Latinx, or Spanish origin. And I define Asian as those who identify as Asian.

Thirty-four percent (8,586/25,000) of the survey solicitations went either to residents of public housing or to individuals predicted to be in a non-Asian racial minority group based on their name and geography. Of the 1,343 respondents, 24.2% (326) come from this oversampled pool. Whereas 83% of respondents in the general sample identify as white, 70% of respondents in the oversample identify as white. Note again, that name-based oversample included anyone whose name suggested they had a 10% chance or more of being in a non-Asian minority group.

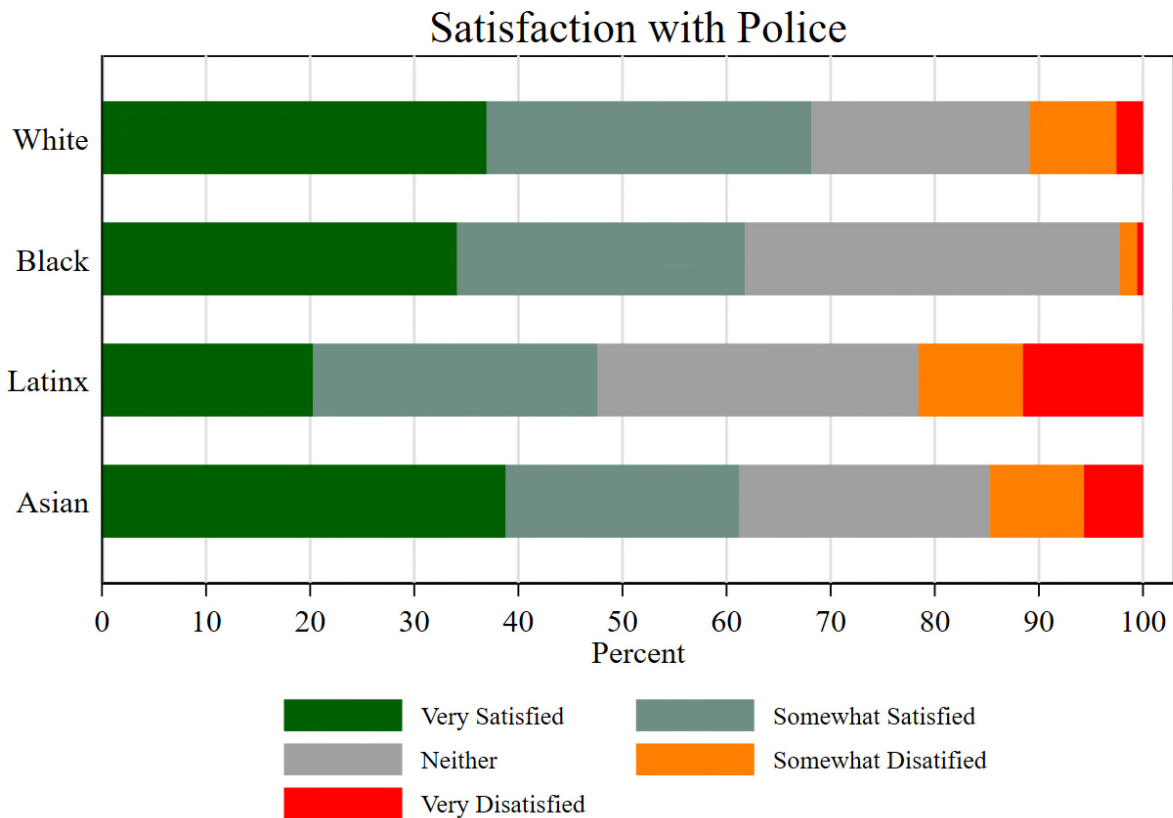
Other demographics. By gender, 53% of respondents identify as women, 46% identify as men, and 1% identify as other. By education, 94% of the respondents (again, unweighted) hold at least a bachelor's degree. By age, the median respondent is 52 years old. A quarter of the respondents are between 18-33. A quarter of the respondents are older than 66. 288 respondents report being the parent or guardian of a child under 18, and 237 of these respondents report having a child currently enrolled in school.

For the remainder of the report, I will utilize the weights to make the sample as representative of the town population as possible. Whereas the unweighted sample is 80% white, 3% black, 4% Latinx, 8% Asian, and 6% other, the weighted sample is 69% white, 4% black, 7% Latinx, 18% Asian, and 3% other.

III. Overall Impressions.

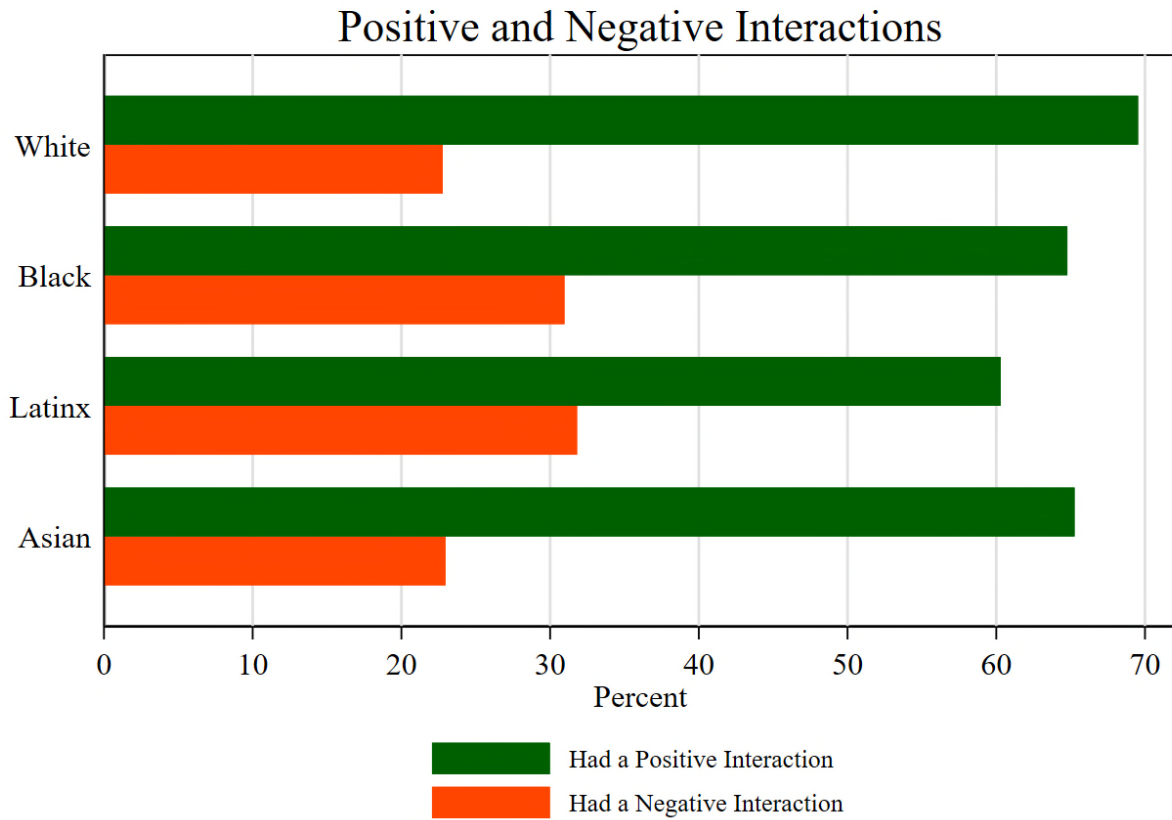
Respondents were asked about the overall satisfaction with the job done by the Brookline Police Department. Responses by racial group are displayed in Figure 1. Overall, 12% of the public is dissatisfied with the police department, compared to 65% who are satisfied. Across most racial groups, the majority of respondents are satisfied. The exception is Latinx identifiers, who hold the most negative views toward to the police department. Over 20% of Latinx identifiers are somewhat or very dissatisfied with the police.

FIGURE 1



In Figure 2, respondents report whether they have ever had a positive experience and whether they have ever had a negative experience with the Brookline Police. Latinx and Black identifiers are 8-9 percentage points more likely to have had a negative interaction than Whites or Asians. They are also less likely to report having had a positive experience.

FIGURE 2



Respondents were separately asked if they have family members or friends who have had a negative experience with the Brookline Police. Twenty percent of white identifiers said yes. Similarly, 19% of Asians said yes. A higher rate of Blacks (25%) and Latinx (30%) said yes, that they have family or friends who have had a negative interaction with the Brookline Police.

Respondents were asked if language has been a barrier to communication with a Brookline police officer. Overall, just 1% of respondents said yes. But the rate is higher (5%) for Latinx identifiers.

The survey invited respondents to describe, in their own words, the positive and negative interactions they have had with the Brookline Police. Interested parties can find those individual responses in the public data file that accompanies this report.

Respondents were asked if the Brookline Police make them feel safe or unsafe. Of white respondents, 10% reported feeling somewhat or mostly unsafe. For black respondents, 4% respondent feeling unsafe. For Asians, 7% reported feeling unsafe. A greater share of Latinx identifiers – 16% - reported that the Brookline Police make them feel somewhat or mostly unsafe.

Respondents were asked if they would feel comfortable calling the Brookline Police if they needed help. Two thirds of White (65%) and Asian (65%) identifiers reported they would be very comfortable. Only 48% of African-Americans and 52% of Latinx respondents said they'd be very comfortable.

Respondents were asked for the impression of how effective the Brookline Police are in various roles. Those roles include (1) ensuring public safety, (2) fighting crime, (3) making residents feel safe, (4) holding police officers accountable, and (5) developing relationships with members of the community.

Overall, Brookline residents believe the Police Department is effective at ensuring public safety (91% agree), effective at making residents feel safe (88% agree), and effective at fighting crime (91% agree). Sixty-eight percent believe the Department effectively builds relationships with the community. However, the majority of respondents (58%) do not believe the Brookline Police is effective at holding officers accountable.

IV. Recent Interactions with the Police

The frequency of interaction with the Police Department varies considerably by racial identity, with African-Americans reporting the most interactions. Respondents were asked how many times in the past year they interacted *informally* with the Police Department regarding something other than criminal activity. For white respondents, 46% answered none. For Asian respondents, 53% reported none. For Latinx respondents, 64% reported none. And for Black respondents 28% reported none.

More than a third of African Americans (37%) reported five or more informal interactions with the police in the last year, compared to 12-14% for Asians and Whites, and 4% for Latinx respondents.

Black respondents were slightly more likely than other racial groups to report contacting the Brookline Police in the past year to report criminal or suspicious activity. Among residents of all racial groups, 15% of respondents said they called the Police to report criminal/suspicious behavior. This includes 15% for white respondents, 12% for Asian respondents, 16% for Latinx respondents and 24% for Black respondents.

Respondents were asked whether Brookline police officers have ever physically struck them, handcuffed them, tasered them, pointed a gun at them, restrained them on the back of a car, pushed them to the ground, used tear gas on them, or searched their car/residence without permission. These occurrences are very rare and are concentrated in Black and Latinx identifiers. Whereas 1% of white respondents and 2% of Asian respondents reported these interactions, 5% of Latinx respondents and 6% of Black respondents reported them. The most common of the occurrences, though still rare, are reports of being handcuffed and having one's car or residence searched without permission.

V. Perceptions of Discrimination

Survey respondents were asked if they ever felt discriminated against by the Brookline Police on account of (1) race, (2) gender, (3) sexuality, (4) economic status, (5) religion, and (6) ability to speak English.

Overall, 3% of respondents feel that the Brookline Police have discriminated against them on the basis of race or gender, 1% on the basis of sexuality, 2% on the basis of economic status, and less than one percent on the basis of religion or the ability to speak English.

However, responses vary considerably by racial group, particularly with respect to perceived discrimination on the basis of race, gender, and economic status.

Essentially no White identifiers (0.5%) feel they have been discriminated against by the Brookline Police Department on account of their race. In comparison, 5% of Asians, 12% of Latinx, and 24% of Black respondents report they have felt discriminated against by the Brookline Police on account of their race.

African-American respondents are significantly more likely to feel discriminated against on the basis of gender, with 7% reporting feeling this way. That compares to 3% for White and Latinx respondents, and 1% for Asians.

African-American respondents are far more likely to feel discriminated against on the basis of economic status. While 13% of African-Americans perceive economic discrimination by Brookline Police, only 2% of Whites and Asians and 3% of Latinx respondents report feeling this way.

When asked if ever feel worried about being the victim of police brutality, 2% of White respondents say somewhat or very often, 6% of Asians report somewhat or very often, 22% of Latinx respondents say somewhat or very often, and 35% of Black respondents report somewhat or very often.

When asked if they believe that the Brookline Police “equitably serve the interest of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, citizenship status or class,” the respondents are split evenly, with 49% reporting yes and 51% reporting no. Black and Asian respondents are more likely to agree with this statement, with 56% of Blacks and 57% of Asians believing the police serve all equitably, whereas fewer Whites (47%) and Latinx (43%) believe the police serve all equitably.

Perceived Racial Discrimination – in-group and out-group

Respondents were asked if they thought that four racial groups – White, Black, Hispanic, Asian – were treated fairly or unfairly by the Brookline Police Department. One percent of respondents thought Whites were treated unfairly. Fourteen percent of respondents thought Asians were treated unfairly. Perceived unfair treatment against Latinx and Black people was much higher. Thirty-seven percent of respondents thought that Hispanics are treated unfairly by the Brookline Police. Latinx respondents themselves were far *more likely* than any other racial group to report unfair treatment. That is, 48% of Latinx respondents perceived unfair Brookline Police treatment of Hispanics, compared to 37% of Whites, 32% of Blacks, and 33% of Asians perceiving unfair treatment of Hispanics.

The racial group most viewed as being the recipient of unfair treatment by the Brookline Police is African-Americans. In total, 45% of respondents believe the Brookline Police treats Black people unfairly. However, Black respondents themselves are least likely to perceive this, with 34% reporting unfair treatment. In comparison, 46% of whites, 53% of Latinx, and 42% of Asians perceive unfair treatment toward African-Americans by the Brookline Police.

VI. Complaint Process

If they have a complaint about a police officer, would respondents know how to file a complaint? For most respondents (63%), the answer is no. Sixty to seventy percent of Whites, Latinx, and Asians report not knowing how to file a complaint. However, a majority of Black respondents (58%) report knowing how to file a complaint.

Would respondents feel comfortable filing a complaint? Most (59%) say yes. Comfort level ranges from 47% of Asians feeling comfortable, 60% of Whites and 63% of Latinx feeling comfortable to 72% of African-Americans feeling comfortable.

VII. Children and School

Parents and guardians of children under 18 were asked about the relationship between their children and the Brookline Police. They were asked: "Thinking about your oldest child under the age of 18, how comfortable would you say they are with the police?" Of the 231 respondents who answered this question (because they have kids under 18), 77% report their child is comfortable with the police, 4% said their child is uncomfortable, and 18% report neither comfortable nor uncomfortable.

Of parents with children in schools, 14% report that law enforcement officers are stationed in the school, 47% say officers are not stationed at the school, and 39% are not sure. Of those reporting that officers are stationed in their child's school, 79% report being comfortable with the officer's presence, 13% report being uncomfortable, and 7% are neither comfortable nor uncomfortable. Of respondents with children, only 2% report the child involved in a disciplinary action involving the police.

VIII. Methods of policing

Which methods should be permissible?

What tactics should the Brookline Police be permitted to use in order to ensure public safety? Respondents were asked about several tactics and asked if they approved of their use by the police. These include pepper spray, physical strength (hand control), choke holds, impact weapons (batons), tear gas, tasers, restraint devices (handcuffs and zip ties), K-9 dog bite-and-hold, beanbag munitions (rubber bullets), and firearms.

A clear majority of Brookline residents only supports two of these methods as being permitted by police: physical strength (74% support) and restraints such as handcuffs (87%). Respondents are fairly evenly split on pepper spray (52% support) and tasers (52% support). Forty-three percent support the use of firearms, 37% support the use of impact weapons, 32% support rubber bullets, 29% support K-9, 23% support tear gas, and 5% support choke holds. Support for these various tactics vary by racial groups. African-America respondents show the *highest support* for most of these tactics. Black respondents are less likely (3% vs 9%) as the full sample to believe that the Brookline police should use none of these tactics. Latinx respondents are more likely (16% vs 9%) to believe Brookline police should use none of these tactics.

Methods to reduce deadly force

What tactics would reduce interactions with police that result in deadly force? Respondents were asked to consider nine tactics. Respondents thought several tactics would be quite effective. Having officers attend de-escalation trainings is something that 91% of the public thought would be effective. Having officers wear body cameras was thought to be effective by 88% of respondents. Eighty-seven percent thought banning chokehold would be effective. And 84% believe diversifying the ranks of the Brookline Police Department would be effective.

A majority of respondents also believe that ending the federal program that sends military surplus equipment to police departments (71%), racial bias training (77%), and educating police officers about the history of police departments (59%) would all be effective at reducing interactions that result in deadly force.

The survey asked about two bigger reforms as well: reducing the police department's funding by at least 10% and abolishing the police department altogether. Respondents largely do not believe these are effective tactics. A third (34%) believe reducing funding would be effective and 15% believe that abolishing the police department would be effective.

In line with perceptions of policing methods, African-American respondents are least likely to support ideas like abolishing the police department (8% believe this would be effective at avoiding deadly force), and Latinx are most likely to support the idea (26% support). White respondents (15%) and Asian respondents (15%) are in the middle.

Circumstances better handled by social workers

In some situations, it is possible for either police or social service workers (e.g. social workers, mental health professionals) to respond to a public need. Respondents were asked to consider seven scenarios and think about whether the scenario is better suited to police response or social service worker response.

In two of the scenarios, one in which an individual is armed and one in which there is a robbery or theft, the public has a clear preference for police. In the case of a robbery, 97% say the police would be the right response. In the case of an armed individual, 92% list the police. Another 7% list police as well as social service workers should respond to the call.

In other scenarios, the public's preference favors social service workers over the police. For instance, in responding to a situation with a person who is intoxicated or has overdosed, 28% think the police should respond, 58% think social service workers should respond, and 14% think both should respond.

In responding to someone experiencing a mental health crisis or is suicidal, 4% think the police should respond, 83% think social service workers should respond and 12% think both should respond. In dealing with a homeless person, 5% think the police should respond, 88% think a social service worker should respond, and 8% think both should respond. In dealing with a dispute among neighbors or a disorderly minor, 23% think police should respond, 64% think a social service worker should respond, and 13% think both should respond. In dealing with a case of domestic violence or abuse, 42% think the police should respond, 26% think social service workers should respond, and 31% think both should respond.

In most of these scenarios, particularly those that are noncriminal, the public overwhelmingly favors social service workers responding rather than police. In most cases (domestic violence, neighbor dispute, homeless, intoxication), African-Americans in the sample have stronger pro-police preferences than other racial groups.

Police Budget

Brookline taxpayers spend \$17 million on the police department each year, or 5.6% of the town's budget. Respondents were informed of these statistics and asked if they think the budget should be increased, decreased, or kept the same.

Overall, 11% of respondents thought the budget should be increased, 45% thought the budget should be kept the same, and 45% thought the budget should be decreased.

Among white respondents, 44% think the budget should be decreased and 10% think it should be increased. Among Black respondents, 39% think the budget should be decreased and 25% think it should be increased. Among Latinx, 63% think it should be decreased and 6% think it should be increased. Among Asians, 41% think the budget should be decreased and 11% think it should be increased.

IX. Oversight

Some communities have oversight committees in which residents review police actions and evaluate complaints against the department. Respondents were asked if they think Brookline should consider having a civilian oversight board of this kind. Of all respondents, 77% said yes, 7% said no, and 16% said they were not sure.

The survey respondents would like this committee to have some roles but not others. Some 87% would want the committee to be able to investigate allegations of excessive force and abuse. And 76% would like the committee to have the power to investigate police shootings. A clear majority also want the committee to have the power to set policing priorities (66%) and to evaluate the disciplinary process against officers who are in violation of laws or policies (68%).

For other roles, the majority of Brookline residents oppose or have more mixed views. Only 17% would grant such a committee power to hire officers and 38% would grant the commission the power to fire police officers. Just over half (52%) would favor the committee setting police policies, such as the use of force policy. About a quarter (29%) favor the committee empowered to negotiate police contracts.

Additional measures for transparency

Respondents were asked if they support measures that would increase transparency in the Brookline Police Department's operations. Would they support making public "the details of the department's internal process in addressing violations of conduct and crimes committed by officers?" 81% of Brookline residents agree. Would they support a public listing of all complaints against Brookline officers and disciplinary actions taken in response to complaints? 76% of Brookline residents agree. Would they

support making a public listing of all weapons carried by each patrol unit? 57% of Brookline residents disagree. Would they support including community members in the process of investigating police misconduct? 76% agree.

X. Conclusions

This survey, based on the recorded responses of over 1,300 residents of Brookline, identifies a clear set of problems with respect to the Brookline Police department and a clear direction for the future.

To be sure, the Brookline public has generally positive views of the police force. That stated, African American and Latinx residents have had more negative experiences with the Brookline Police and would feel less comfortable than whites and Asians in calling the police if they needed help.

It is very rare for white residents of Brookline to feel discriminated against by the Brookline police, on the basis of race or gender or economic status. But perceptions of discrimination along these lines are common among minority residents, especially African Americans. Compared to white residents, Black residents are twice as likely to feel discriminated against by the Brookline Police on the basis of gender, eight times more likely to feel discriminated against on the basis of economic conditions, and *forty-eight times* more likely to feel discriminated on the basis of race.

African American and Latinx residents are, respectively, 17 times more likely and 11 times more likely than white residents to worry about being a victim of police brutality.

Respondents across racial groups perceive discrimination on the part of the Brookline Police department against Black and Latinx residents. Half of the respondents do not believe the Brookline police treats all citizens equitably. While almost no respondents believe that the Brookline Police treats white residents unfairly, 14% believe Asians are treated unfairly, 37% believe Hispanics are treated unfairly, and 45% believe African Americans are treated unfairly.

The majority of Brookline residents do not believe the department effectively holds its officers accountable.

The survey has shown widespread support for efforts to limit the use of deadly force by the Brookline police. The survey shows widespread support for the town utilizing social service workers rather than the police in scenarios where the risk of physical conflict is low. A super-majority of Brookline residents (over three-quarters) believe the town should have a civilian oversight board with investigative powers.

APPENDIX

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

brookline police survey

Start of Block: consent

Q1 I am a researcher from Tufts University, in Massachusetts. I am conducting a research study to learn more about your experiences with and views towards the local police. This survey will ask you some questions for my research. It will take approximately 10 to 15 minutes of your time.

You must be 18 years of age or older to participate in this survey.

It's your decision, and there are no consequences to saying no. I don't anticipate any major risks to participation, but you may feel uncomfortable answering some questions. If at any time during the survey you want to stop participating, you are free to end your participation by closing the survey on your computer or device. You will not receive any compensation for completing the survey. Your responses may be used in publications or presentations. I will not possess nor share identifiable information about you. Below you can find my contact information and the contact information of the research oversight board at Tufts, the Tufts SBER IRB, if you need to get in touch about this research at any point in the future. For questions or concerns about the research study or procedures, or if you need to notify someone of a complaint, please contact the researcher: Name: Brian Schaffner Tufts University Department or School: Tisch College Email: brian.schaffner@tufts.edu Phone Number: 617.627.3467 If you have questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, or if you would like to discuss the study with someone outside of the research team, contact the Tufts SBER IRB: Tufts University Social Behavioral & Educational Research Institutional Review Board (SBER IRB) 75 Kneeland Street, 6th Floor | Boston, MA 02111 Telephone: 617-627-8804 Email: sber@tufts.edu Website: <http://viceprovost.tufts.edu/sberirb/>

By clicking the box below, you agree to participate in this study.

I agree to participate (1)

End of Block: consent

Start of Block: Demographics



birthyr What is your year of birth?

educ What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school degree (1)
- High school graduate (high school diploma or equivalent including GED) (2)
- Some college but no degree (3)
- Associate degree in college (2-year) (4)
- Bachelor's degree in college (4-year) (5)
- Master's degree (6)
- Doctoral degree (7)
- Professional degree (JD, MD) (8)

Page Break

race Which category or categories best describe you. Select all that apply.

- White (1)
 - Hispanic, Latino/Latinx, or Spanish origin (2)
 - Black or African American (3)
 - Native American/American Indian/Indigenous or Alaska Native (4)
 - Asian (5)
 - Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (6)
 - Middle Eastern or North African (7)
 - Another race, ethnicity, or origin: (8)
-

Page Break

gender What is your gender?

Man (1)

Woman (2)

Other (3)



Page Break

parent Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If parent = 1

Q7 Are you the parent or guardian of a child currently enrolled in school?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Page Break

votereg Are you registered to vote?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

End of Block: Demographics

Start of Block: experiences

satisfied How satisfied are you with the job the Brookline police department does?

- Very satisfied (1)
- Somewhat satisfied (2)
- Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied (3)
- Somewhat dissatisfied (4)
- Very dissatisfied (5)

Page Break

Q10 Have you ever had any negative interactions with the Brookline Police?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Q11 Have you ever had any positive interactions with the Brookline Police?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q10 = 1

Q16 Please describe the most negative experience you have had with the Brookline Police Department:

Display This Question:

If Q11 = 1

Q17 Please describe the most positive experience you have had with the Brookline Police Department:

Page Break

Q18 How many times in the past 12 months have you interacted informally with a Brookline Police officer regarding something other than criminal activity?

▼ None (1) ... Ten or more times (11)

Q18b How many times in the past 12 months have you contacted the Brookline Police Department to report suspicious or criminal activity?

▼ None (1) ... Ten or more times (11)

Page Break

Q19 Have you ever felt discriminated against by the Brookline police because of your...?

	Yes (1)	No (2)	Not sure (3)
Race or ethnicity (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sexuality (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Economic status (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Religion (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ability to speak English (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page Break

Q20 Has language ever been a barrier to your communication with local law enforcement?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Page Break

Display This Question:

If Q10 = 1

Or Q11 = 1



Q21 Have Brookline police officers ever...? (Select all that apply)

- Struck you or restrained you with a baton (1)
- Handcuffed you (2)
- Tasered you (3)
- Pointed a gun at you (4)
- Restrained you on the back of a car (5)
- Pushed you to the ground (6)
- Used tear gas on you (7)
- Searched your car or residence without your permission (9)
- None of these (8)

Page Break

Q22 Has a family member or friend of yours ever had a negative experience with the Brookline Police?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

End of Block: experiences

Start of Block: children

Q23 Thinking now about your oldest child under the age of 18, how comfortable would you say they are with the police?

- Very comfortable (1)
- Somewhat comfortable (2)
- Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (3)
- Somewhat uncomfortable (4)
- Very uncomfortable (5)

Page Break

Q24 Are law enforcement officers stationed at your child's school?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

Display This Question:

If Q24 = 1

Q57 Does having law enforcement officers stationed at your child's school make you feel...?

- Very comfortable (1)
- Somewhat comfortable (2)
- Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (3)
- Somewhat uncomfortable (4)
- Very uncomfortable (5)

Page Break

Q25 Has your child ever been involved in a disciplinary action at school involving a police officer?

- Yes (1)
- No (2)
- Not sure (3)

Display This Question:

If Q25 = 1

Q25a Please describe this experience:

End of Block: children

Start of Block: general_views

Q26 Do the Brookline police make you feel...?

- Mostly safe (1)
 - Somewhat safe (2)
 - Somewhat unsafe (3)
 - Mostly unsafe (4)
-

Q27 If you needed help, how comfortable would you feel calling the police?

- Very comfortable (1)
- Somewhat comfortable (2)
- Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (3)
- Somewhat uncomfortable (4)
- Very uncomfortable (5)

Page Break _____

Q58 If you had a negative experience with a Brookline police officer, would you know how to file a complaint against that officer?

- Yes (1)
 - No (2)
-

Q28 If you had a negative experience with a Brookline police officer, how comfortable would you feel filing a complaint against that officer?

- Very comfortable (1)
 - Somewhat comfortable (2)
 - Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable (3)
 - Somewhat uncomfortable (4)
 - Very uncomfortable (5)
-

Page Break

Q29 How often would you say that you worry about being the victim of police brutality?

- Very often (1)
- Somewhat often (2)
- Not too often (3)
- Never (4)

Page Break

Q60 Do you believe the Brookline Police equitably serve the interest of all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, citizenship status or class?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Page Break



Q30 How do you think the Brookline Police treat the following groups:

	Very fairly (1)	Somewhat fairly (2)	Somewhat unfairly (3)	Very unfairly (4)
White residents (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Black residents (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hispanic residents (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Asian residents (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: general_views

Start of Block: beliefs



Q31 How effective are the Brookline Police at...

	Extremely effective (1)	Somewhat effective (2)	Somewhat ineffective (3)	Very ineffective (4)	Not sure (5)
Ensuring public safety (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fighting crime (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Making residents feel safe (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Holding police officers accountable (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Developing relationships with members of the community (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: beliefs

Start of Block: policies



Q32 Which of the following police tactics and weaponry do you believe Brookline police should be allowed to use to ensure public safety? (Check all that apply)

- Pepper spray (2)
- Physical strength (hand control) (3)
- Choke holds (4)
- Impact weapons (batons) (5)
- Tear gas (6)
- Tasers (7)
- Restraint devices (handcuffs or zip ties) (8)
- K-9 Dog bite-and-hold (9)
- Beanbag munitions (rubber bullets) (11)
- Firearms (12)
- None of these (13)

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Q34 Listed below are reforms that have been proposed to reduce police interactions that result in the use of deadly force. How effective do you believe each of these would be at reducing or eliminating deadly interactions?

	Very effective (1)	Somewhat effective (2)	Somewhat ineffective (3)	Very ineffective (4)	Not sure (5)
Having police officers attend trainings on how to de-escalate conflicts (1)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having police officers wear body cameras to record officer activities (2)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educating police officers on the history of police departments (3)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ending the Department of Defense program that sends surplus military weapons and equipment to police departments (4)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Banning the use of chokeholds (5)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Diversifying the police department (6)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Having police officers attend trainings on racial bias (7)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce funding to the police department by at least 10% (8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Abolish the police department (9)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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Q35 In given situations, it is possible to have either police or social service workers (such as social workers, medics, or mental health professionals) respond. For each of the following situations, please indicate whether you think it would be better for the police or social service workers to respond?

	The police (1)	Social service workers (2)	Not sure (3)
Individuals who are intoxicated or have overdosed (1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Armed individuals (2)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individuals experiencing mental health crises or who are suicidal (3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Homeless individuals (4)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighbor disputes and disorderly kids or truants (5)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Robberies or instances of theft (6)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic violence and abuse (7)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Q36 Some communities have Civilian Review Boards which are made up of residents. These boards review the actions of police and hear complaints from residents about police behavior. Do you think Brookline should have a Civilian Review Board?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Not sure (3)

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Q37 If Brookline did create a Civilian Review Board, which of the following powers do you think that board should have? (Select all that apply)

- The power to hire police officers (1)
- The power to fire police officers (2)
- The power to set policies for policing (Ex: What should the use of force look like?) (3)
- The power to set priorities for policing (Ex: Should the homeless be criminalized or should officers help in connecting them to housing?) (4)
- The power to Investigate all police shootings (5)
- The power to investigate allegations of excessive force and abuse (6)
- The power to pass judgement on the disciplinary process against officers in violation of policies or law (7)
- The power to negotiate police contracts (8)
- None of these (9)

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Q38 Brookline currently spends more than \$17 million on the police department, which is approximately 5.6% of the entire Brookline city budget. Do you think funding for the Brookline Police Department should be...?

- Greatly increased (1)
- Somewhat increased (2)
- Kept the same (3)
- Somewhat decreased (4)
- Greatly decreased (5)

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Q39 Which of the following would you support in order to ensure public transparency into the operations of the Brookline Police Department? (Select all that apply).

- Making public the details of the department's internal process in addressing violations of conduct and crimes committed by officers (1)
- Making public a list of all complaints against Brookline police officers and any disciplinary actions taken in response to those complaints (2)
- Making public a list of all lethal and non-lethal weapons carried by each patrol unit (3)
- Including community members in the investigation process of police misconduct (4)
- None of these (5)

End of Block: policies

Start of Block: final

Q40 Finally, do you have anything else you would like to share with us regarding your views on policing?

Q61 This survey is sponsored by the [Brookline Select Board's Task Force to Reimagine Policing](#). If you have questions or concerns, you may email Selectboard member and Taskforce chair Raul Fernandez at rfernandez@brooklinema.gov or subcommittee chair Eitan Hersh at eitan.hersh@tufts.edu

End of Block: final
