

Interviewer: Vincent Liu

Date: 3/7/2022

Target Population: Male Black police officers in their 30-40s who are responsible for patrolling Austin in the past 5 years

Research Question: How police officers in Chicago view their job of policing high-crime neighborhoods and how they approach community policing

Name of Research Project: Policing Hyper-Crime Neighborhoods in Chicago
(note: this is not a formal project name because I don't need to write a thesis for my program)

Crime has been an issue with increasing political meaning in Chicago since Mayor Lightfoot assumed office in 2019. As one of the city's historical problems, people who live in Chicago, especially those who reside in the few hyper-crime neighborhoods like Englewood, Austin, and West and East Garfield Park, often live with the fear that they will lose their lives to guns in the next minute or that they may be violently assaulted while walking on the street. As the agent who has the legal duties to safeguard people's freedom, enforce the law, and arrest wrongdoers, police officers serve irreplaceable roles in the crime prevention process.

Meanwhile, a variety of studies have come to the finding that building healthy police-community relationships would help bring down crime numbers, avoid wrongful police behaviors, and enhance police legitimacy. In this regard, Chicago Police Department (CPD) has one of the most well-established community policing programs in the nation, which is supervised by a Community Policing Advisory Panel (CPAP) that is composed of both police officers and community members. How do CPD officers who are responsible for policing high-crime neighborhoods think about their job and their contribution to and relationship with the community? This project seeks to answer these questions by interviewing male African American Chicago Police Department police officers who have been patrolling Austin over the past five years and hearing their personal opinions on the issues.

Nice to meet you here, Officer xxx. My name is Vincent. I am a graduate student at the University of Chicago who is interested in studying crimes. I am working on a project about policing in Chicago, and I am interested in knowing how police officers who patrol hyper-crime areas think about their jobs and their roles in the community. I am grateful that you agreed to my interview. As a reminder, the interview will take 90 minutes or less, and I will record our conversation the entire time. Moreover, our conversation will remain confidential for my use only. The data will be kept for only the time of the research project and destroyed right afterward. As a participant, you have the right to request the interview be stopped at any time in the process. I will leave you my card with my contact information, should you want to contact me.

1. How are you doing today?
2. Which part of Chicago do you reside in?

PROBE: Austin?

Not in Chicago?

Near Austin?

3. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

PROBE: Hero?

Police officer?

Scientist?

Teacher?

4. What was your path to becoming a police officer?

PROBE: Peer influence?

Help people?

Career prospects?

Great. Now I want to go deeper into your perception of the job.

5. What's your daily responsibility in the role like?

PROBE: Office task?

Patrolling?

Responding to requests?

6. What support, if any, did you receive from the police department to help you fulfill your role?

PROBE: Financial?

Training?

Policy?

Network?

7. Tell me what you like about the job.

PROBE: Social influence?

Arresting criminals?

Working with people?

Impacting people?

8. Tell me what you do not like about the job.

PROBE: Tension with people?

Life-death situations?

Workload?

Lack of support?

Health issues?

9. How does your racial identity shape your perception of the job?

PROBE: Less support?

More stress?

More understanding of the situation?

Not important?

Thank you for telling me about your feeling about the job. Now I have a few questions about how you think about your impact on the local communities.

10. What problems is Austin facing now?

PROBE: Crime?

Poverty?

Low resource?

School quality?

11. As a police officer in charge of Austin, how do you view your relationship with its residents?

PROBE: Friends?

Mentors?

Professional?

Threats?

No relationship?

12. From your perspective, what's your role as a police officer in a neighborhood like Austin?

PROBE: Stopping crimes?

Supporting residents?

Holding people accountable?

Following up on this, I also want to know more about your opinions on community policing - a strategy that centers policing works around the community they serve.

13. A study conducted by the research think tank Urban Institute noted that building positive police-community relationships could help officers better do their job by reducing complaints and strategically stopping crimes. What do you think about the study's findings?

PROBE: Same experience?

Partially right?

Disagreement?

14. What actions, if any, do you plan to take to improve your relationship with people living in Austin?

PROBE: Talking?

Foot patrol?

Mentorship?

Liaison?

15. If you can make a change to your current job, what would it be?

PROBE: Less workload?

More Support?

Modify a policy?

More training?

16. Any other words you want to say?

Interviewer: Vincent Liu

Date: 3/7/2022

Target Population: Male Black police officers in their 30-40s who are responsible for patrolling Austin in the past 5 years

Research Question: How police officers in Chicago view their job of policing high-crime neighborhoods and how they approach community policing

Name of Research Project: Policing Hyper-Crime Neighborhoods in Chicago
(note: this is not a formal project name because I don't need to write a thesis for my program)

Interviewing Guide

Question	Purpose/Objective	RQ-Relationship	Priority
1. How are you doing today?	Ice-breaker	Ice-breaker	L
2. Which part of Chicago do you reside in? PROBE: Austin? Not in Chicago? Near Austin?	This question asks where the participant lives in Chicago, from the answer of which we can infer if the person is a native and follow up with how long he has lived in Chicago. This may affect his views on the job.	Provide background knowledge	L
3. As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up? PROBE: Hero? Police officer? Scientist? Teacher?	This question allows me to know if the person has wanted to be an officer or work in a related profession since childhood.	Provide background knowledge	L

<p>4. What was your path to becoming a police officer?</p> <p>PROBE: Peer influence? Help people? Career prospects?</p>	<p>This one helps to know if being a police officer was the person's first choice or if it was a decision he made later on.</p>	<p>This provides background knowledge and leads to my next section of questions. It is also related to my RQ on how officers view the job</p>	<p>M</p>
<p><i>Great. Now I want to go deeper into your perception of the job.</i></p> <p>5. What's your daily responsibility in the role like?</p> <p>PROBE: Office task? Patrolling? Responding to requests?</p>	<p>This question helps me grasp a sense of what police officers experience on a daily basis. It also naturally flows to the following questions about their perceptions of the job.</p>	<p>Connects to RQ1: How officers view their job by first understanding what their job looks like</p>	<p>M</p>
<p>6. What support, if any, did you receive from the police department to help you fulfill your role?</p> <p>PROBE: Financial? Training? Policy? Network?</p>	<p>This question tests the person's familiarity with the department's resources and what resource he has used, which will also help him prepare for future questions.</p>	<p>This question is a small break from the intense RQ2-related questions but is nevertheless deeply connected to my RQ2</p>	<p>M</p>

<p>7. Tell me what you like about the job.</p> <p>PROBE: Social influence? Arresting criminals? Working with people? Impacting people?</p>	<p>This question will help me understand and rationale the participant's emotions on his job as a police officer. The answer to this question also conveys what the person believes in and his understanding of the job</p>	<p>Connect to RQ1: how officers view their job by knowing what they like about the position</p>	<p>M/H</p>
<p>8. Tell me what you do not like about the job.</p> <p>PROBE: Tension with people? Life-death situations? Workload? Lack of support? Health issues?</p>	<p>This question will help me understand and rationale the participant's emotions on his job as a police officer. The answer to this question also conveys what the person believes in and his understanding of the job</p>	<p>Connect to RQ1: how officers view their job by knowing what they do not like about the position</p>	<p>M/H</p>
<p>9. How does your racial identity shape your perception of the job?</p> <p>PROBE: Less support? More stress? More understanding of the situation? Not important?</p>	<p>As the last question of this part, this one addresses the issue of race in the profession of policing. The personal nature of this problem may also relax the environment.</p>	<p>This question answers my RQ1 by centering around the importance of race</p>	<p>H</p>

<p><i>Thank you for telling me about your feeling about the job. Now I have a few questions about how you think about your impact on the local communities.</i></p> <p>10. What problems is Austin facing now?</p> <p>PROBE: Crime? Poverty? Low resource? School quality?</p>	<p>This question asks the person to name some issues that the community he patrols is facing, which could be an indicator of his relationship with the community.</p>	<p>This question checks on how familiar the office is with the community he serves, which is inherent but vital in understanding RQ2.</p>	<p>L</p>
<p>11. As a police officer in charge of Austin, how do you view your relationship with its residents?</p> <p>PROBE: Friends? Mentors? Professional? Threats? No relationship?</p>	<p>This question asks one simple question: how the officer thinks about his relationship with the Austin community that he patrolled. Austin has a high crime rate, as a result of which community policing could be both dangerous and rewarding. This question helps me understand his beliefs.</p>	<p>This question connects RQ1 and RQ2: how officers perceive community policing</p>	<p>H</p>
<p>12. From your perspective, what's your role as a police officer in a neighborhood like Austin?</p> <p>PROBE: Stopping crimes? Supporting residents? Holding people accountable?</p>	<p>This question helps me know what the person believes a police officer should and could do in a hyper-crime community</p>	<p>This question is associated with RQ2” how officers perceive community policing by asking their perception of his role (and impacts)</p>	<p>H</p>

<p><i>Following up on this, I also want to know more about your opinions on community policing - a strategy that centers policing works around the community they serve.</i></p> <p>13. A study conducted by the research think tank Urban Institute noted that building positive police-community relationships could help officers better do their job by reducing complaints and strategically stopping crimes. What do you think about the study's findings?</p> <p>PROBE: Same experience? Partially right? Disagreement?</p>	<p>This question first sets a research background that community relationship matters for policing. From there, it asks how the officer perceive the importance of relationship building with community members.</p>	<p>This question is connected to RQ2 from another aspect - community policing.</p>	<p>H</p>
---	--	--	----------

<p>14. What actions, if any, do you plan to take to improve your relationship with people living in Austin?</p> <p>PROBE: Talking? Foot patrol? Mentorship? Liaison?</p>	<p>This question continues on the last one by asking what they WILL do, which is a level up from their theoretical understanding of the issue</p> <p>(Note: Liaison refers to acting as a liaison for the community. This comes from CPD's policy)</p>	<p>This question channels the questions above this by not asking what they know but what they will do. This question is deeply connected with both RQ1 and RQ2 (with RQ1, we know the 'belief' and 'value'. From RQ2, we know his relationship with the community)</p>	<p>M/H</p>
<p>15. If you can make a change to your current job, what would it be?</p> <p>PROBE: Less workload? More Support? Modify a policy? More training?</p>	<p>This is a tricky, valuable, and lighter question. It allows the person to take a break from the intense interview, while also checking on what he wishes to change from the current status quo.</p>	<p>This question is connected with RQ1 and also RQ2. It asks what the person wants to change, which may reflect on how he thinks about the job and what he values.</p>	<p>M</p>
<p>16. Any other words you want to say?</p>	<p>Closing</p>	<p>Closing</p>	<p>L</p>