

Introduction

- Generally, Black Americans report a greater mistrust of police than White Americans do (Reinka, 2017).
- Teenage and college students hold less positive attitudes towards police than older citizens do (Girgenti-Malone, 2017).

Students' Views on Police

Eric Eiselstein

Department of Education and Psychology

eeiselstein@southern.edu

Hypothesis

- **Hypothesis 1:** There will be a difference in views on police as a function of gender.
- **Hypothesis 2:** There will be a difference in views on police as a function of ethnicity.
- **Hypothesis 3:** There will be a difference in views on police as a function of class standing.

Methods

- Participants were 38 students (17 male, 21 female)
- Participants responded to a questionnaire consisting of a demographic survey and the Attitudes Towards Police Legitimacy Scale (APLS).

Points of Interest

- The survey question with the highest average (higher level of agreement) was "I'm not afraid to call the police when I need to" with a 5.1 average.
- The survey question with the lowest average (lower level of agreement) was "Law enforcement agencies hire the best people available" with a 3.2 average.

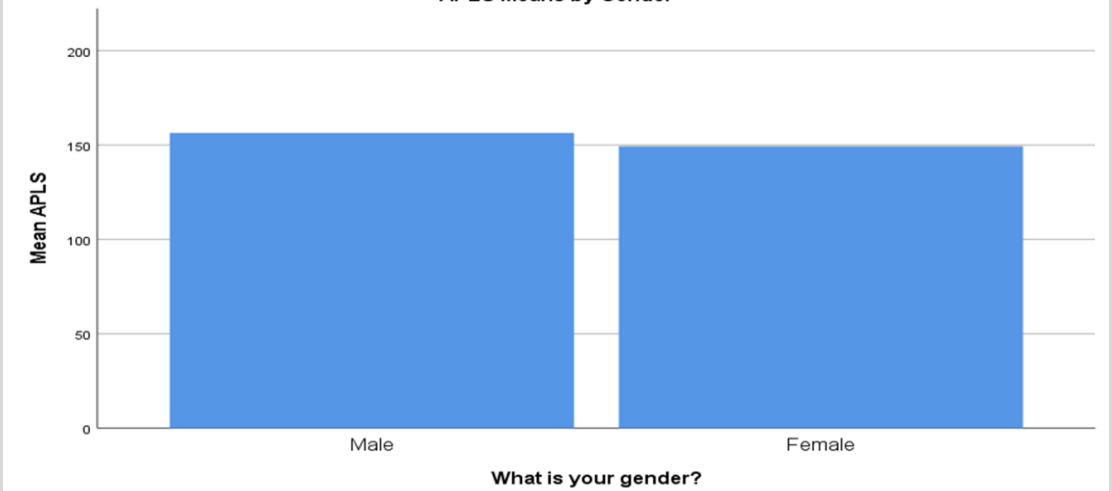
Results

- An independent samples T-test was conducted to analyze the effect that gender had on views on police.
- One-way ANOVAs were conducted to compare the effects that ethnicity and class standing had on views on police.
- There was no significant difference in views on police as a result of all three variables.

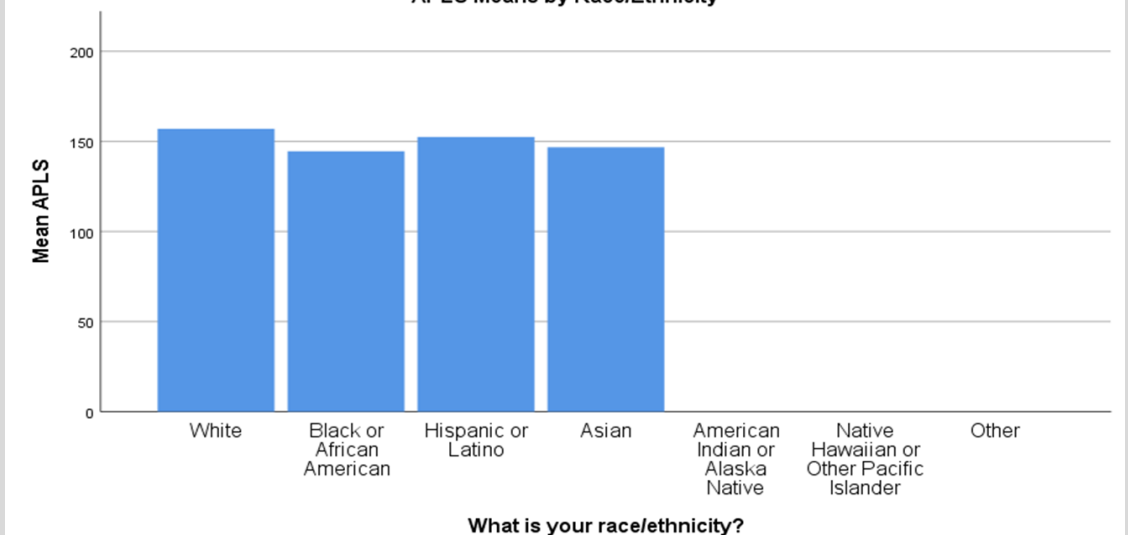
Discussion

- The results that gender, ethnicity and class standing did not have an impact on views on police could be beneficial to researchers studying college students.
- The small sample size could play a part in the lack of variance.
- Larger sample size could affect result.

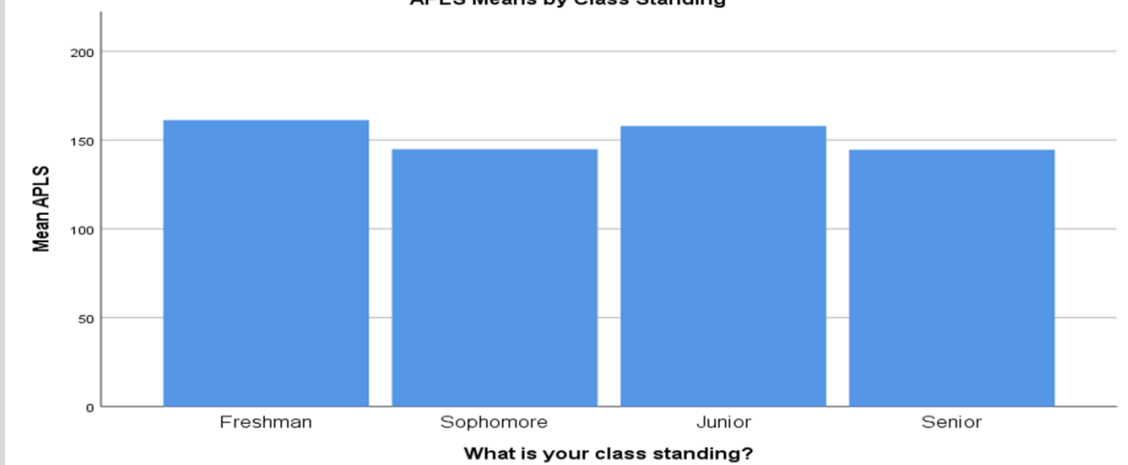
APLS Means by Gender



APLS Means by Race/Ethnicity



APLS Means by Class Standing



References

- Girgenti-Malone, A. A., Khoder, C., Vega, G., & Castillo, D. (2017). College students' perceptions of police use of force: Do suspect race and ethnicity matter? *Police Practice and Research, 18*(5), 492-506. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15614263.2017.1295244>
- Reinka, M. A., & Leach, C. W. (2017). Race and reaction: Divergent views of police violence and protest against. *Journal of Social Issues, 73*(4), 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.1224>