

# How Student Perceptions of Police Influence Crime Reporting



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Positive interactions with police among youth can establish long-lasting positive relationships with law enforcement and allow for youth to feel comfortable reporting crimes. Unfortunately, many victimizations go unreported. [In this video](#), researcher Makayla Burden from Michigan State University discusses results of [a study](#) on how the relationship between youth and law enforcement officers relates to their willingness to report crime.

## Learning Outcomes

- » Understand the relationship between youth and law enforcement officers.
- » Identify factors that affect crime reporting intentions among students.
- » Employ techniques that aid in fostering a positive relationship between students and law enforcement officers.

## Key Takeaways

- ✓ There is a strong correlation between students' attitudes towards law enforcement and their intentions to report incidents.
- ✓ Programs that create positive interactions between youth and law enforcement officials can improve adolescent attitudes toward police and potentially increase reporting intentions among students.
- ✓ Youth who perceive themselves at a higher risk of victimization are more inclined to report crimes, whereas delinquency is linked to a decrease in reporting intentions among students.
- ✓ Data suggests a significant difference in reporting intentions between Black and White students, in line with previous studies. Black students showed lower intentions to report incidents to law enforcement officials compared to White students. This highlights the need to prioritize efforts in improving relations between Black students and law enforcement officers.

## Additional Resources

[Adolescent attitudes toward police and crime reporting intentions](#) - This journal article provides more detail of the study and research on the relationship between youth and law enforcement.

[Perceptions of School Resource Officers Expert Video](#) - This video provides insight on how SROs are perceived by various members of the community.

[School Resource Officer Video Series](#) - This resource provides information on how students think and how SROs can effectively communicate with them.

## Questions for Discussion

- » What barriers might prevent students from reporting incidents to law enforcement officers?
- » How might you enhance student relationships with law enforcement officers?
- » What programs involve law enforcement at your school? What programs might be helpful to try?
- » How can schools create safe spaces where students feel empowered to share their concerns about law enforcement?