

Public Opinions Toward the Police in Canada

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Abstract

This study will examine a causal model of the determinants of Opinions Toward the Police (ATPolice). A secondary data analysis was conducted and data was utilized from the 2009, General Social Survey Cycle 23. The sampling frame consisted of 19422 respondents who participated in telephone interview surveys. In this study the researcher found Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Location influenced ATPolice for the most part through the intervening variables Police Legitimacy, Fear of Crime, Victimization, Attitude Toward the Justice System, Lifestyle, and Discrimination respectively. It was found that the strongest predictor of ATPolice was Police Legitimacy, the intervening variable Police Contact was only found to have a correlation with ATPolice, and those respondents who feel safe from crime in their neighbourhoods are more likely to have a positive ATPolice.

Introduction

The objective of this research study is to identify and establish variables that effect the Opinions Toward the Police. A considerable amount of academic research studies have already been done on topics involving the local police brought forth from national public concerns of police brutality, racial profiling, and overall satisfaction with the police. According to the Edmonton Sun, January 2014, one constable from the Edmonton Police Service has been charged with impaired driving, while two separate constables have been charged with assault due to using excessive unlawful force. This points to an increase in public concerns and demonstrates the need to reveal the factors that influence Opinions Toward the Police and explanations for the negative and positive Opinions Toward the Police.

Literature Review

A range of theoretical and empirical research studies have been conducted concerning Public Opinions Toward the Police. Review of three journal articles was completed and exogenous and intervening concepts were adopted and applied in the process of proposing the Theoretical Causal Model, and Direct and Indirect Propositions.

Lyn Hinds and Kristina Murphy conducted a research study that examined; Procedural Justice and the mediating effect of Police Legitimacy on Public Satisfaction with the Police in a study titled *Public Satisfaction With Police: Using Procedural Justice to Improve Police Legitimacy*. The article was published in The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology in 2007. The data collected was from a Probability Random Sample, chosen from a publicly available electoral roll from citizens living in a medium-sized Australian city. Five thousand eight hundred (5800) surveys were mailed out. This was followed up with three

separate reminders to each address over a six week period. The overall amount of completed surveys was 2611 with a response rate of 45%. The principal variables in this study were Prior Contact, Income level, Education level, Age, Procedural Justice, Distributive Justice, Police Performance, and Satisfaction with the Police. The researchers, Hinds and Murphy measured the concept Legitimacy with multiple indicators on 4-item 5-point scale. The multiple indicators were based upon whether the respondents see and perceive the police to have legitimate authority. The concept Procedural Justice was conceptualized by multiple indicators measured on a 3-item 5-point scale and operationalized by statements that were based on the respondents overall view of the way that police normally make decisions and treat people. Distributive Justice was measured by multiple indicators on a 2- item 5-point scale. The indicators were measured by the respondents' general views of whether police fairly distribute services across people and communities. Police Performance was conceptualized by multiple indicators on a 3-item 5-point scale and operationalized by questions that were based on whether respondents felt that the police were controlling crime within the area that they live. The concept Satisfaction with the Police was conceptualized on a 1-item 5-point scale. Specifically the question asked was "I am very satisfied with services the police provide" (Hinds and Murphy, 2007: 42). The researchers' major findings included that older and less educated respondents viewed police as more legitimate. Respondents with high incomes were less satisfied with the police. Hinds and Murphy also found that Legitimacy was the strongest predictor of overall Satisfaction with the Police and that Legitimacy and Procedural Justice had an association. While both Legitimacy and Procedural Justice accounted for more variability (40%) than the other instrumental variables analyzed Distributive Justice and Police Performance. Legitimacy had a mediating influence between Procedural Justice and Police Performance. For the purposes of this research study, The

researcher used the concepts Age, Education level, Legitimacy, and Satisfaction with the Police for the Proposed Theoretical Model.

Kristina Murphy published an empirical research study in *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* in 2009, titled *Public Satisfaction With Police: The Importance of Procedural Justice and Police-Performance in Police-Citizen Encounters*. The data collected was from a Stratified Random Sample. Respondents were chosen from a publicly available electoral roll, five thousand seven hundred (5700) surveys were mailed out. Three reminders were mailed out thereafter. The overall amount of completed surveys was 2120, with a response rate of 40%. The objective of the research study was to explore the indirect or direct effects that Procedural Justice had on Public Satisfaction with the Police. Murphy's research study also tested whether Procedural Justice was more relevant in Police-initiated or Citizen-initiated encounters. The five demographic variables utilized were Age, Sex, Education level, Ethnicity, and Household Income. The four major concepts were: Procedural Justice, Police Performance, Prior Police Contact, and Crime problem in respondents' neighbourhoods. The concept Procedural Justice was conceptualized by multiple indicators on a 4-item 5-point scale. The multiple indicators were measured by respondents' feelings towards the relational attention administered by the police during their last contact with the police. Police Performance was measured by multiple indicators on a 4-item 5-point scale. The questions were concentrated on aspects of the respondents' last interaction with the police and whether the respondent believed that the police performed their job thoroughly. The concept Prior Police Contact was conceptualized by a single indicator, the question was based on how many times the respondent came into contact with the police in the last 12 months. The concept Crime problem in the respondents' neighbourhood was conceptualized by a single indicator on a 5-item scale. The

question specifically used was “Overall, would say crime in neighbourhood is 1 (Very low) to 5 (Very high).” (Murphy, 2009: 167). The concept Satisfaction with Police was conceptualized on a 2-item 5-point scale and was measured by questions that focused on the respondents’ overall satisfaction with the treatment in their last encounter with the police. Murphy’s major findings were that older individuals, women, and those respondents who felt safe from in crime in their neighbourhood were more satisfied with the police. Procedural Justice was the major construct that predicted the respondents’ satisfaction with the police in Police-initiated contact; While Police Performance was more important to the respondents in Citizen-initiated contact. The researcher of this study chose to adopt the concepts Age, Sex, Education level, Ethnicity, Household income, Crime problem in the neighbourhood, Prior Police Contact, and Satisfaction with the Police to formulate a Proposed Theoretical Model on Public Opinions Toward the Police.

In the International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences an empirical research study was published in January – June 2012 titled: *Attitudes towards Police in Canada: A study of Perceptions of University Students in a Western Canadian City*. The researcher, Henry P.H Chow conducted this study to examine a cohort of university students from the University of Regina and their attitudes toward police and satisfaction with overall police performance. Data was analysed from a larger study that focused on academic honesty, campus life, and opinions of the criminal justice system. The method used was a Convenient Non-Probability Sample and the respondents were asked to fill out a self-administered questionnaire survey that was dispersed among various Sociology and Social Studies classes. The total enrollment in the University of Regina in 2007-2008 was 8726 fulltime students, and 3421 part-time students (Henry P.H. Chow, 2012: 511). The overall amount of completed surveys was 321. The six socio-

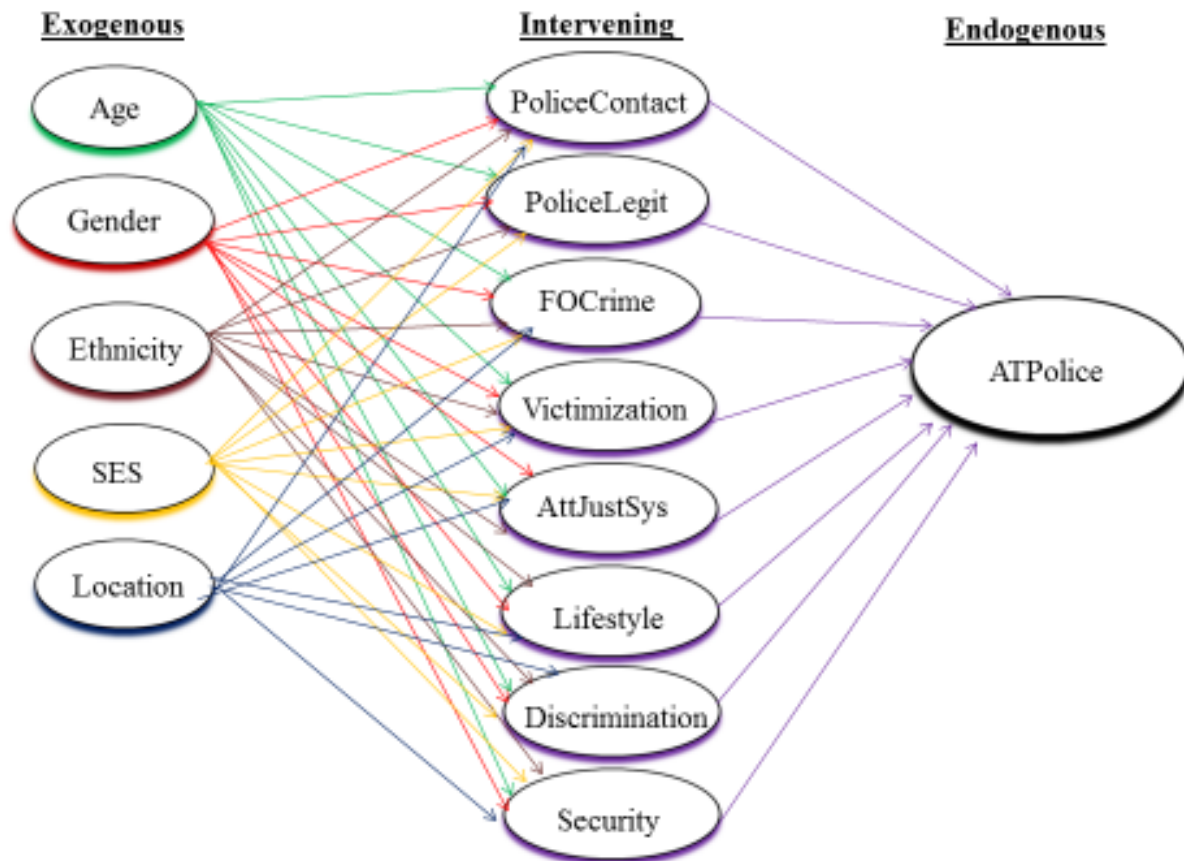
demographic variables applied in Chow's study were Sex, Ethnic background, Location of residence, Religion, Age, and SES. The five major concepts consisted of: Criminal Victimization, Contact with the police, Police harassment or mistreatment, Personal Safety, and Attitude toward judicial punishment. The concept Criminal Victimization was conceptualized by multiple indicators property crime and violent crime. Both indicators were operationalized by a question whether the respondent was a victim of either crime in the previous twelve months, (1= Yes, 0= No). Contact with the police was a single indicator concept that was operationalized by one question on 5-point scale to measure the amount of satisfaction the respondent felt with their last encounter with the police. The concept Police harassment and mistreatment was measured by a dichotomous variable (1=Yes, 0=No). The single indicator was determined by one question on whether the respondent had been harassed or mistreated by the police. Personal Safety was conceptualized by multiple indicators that were operationalized on a 2-item 5-point scale. The two statements identified the personal safety of the respondents, walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, and being home alone in the evening, or at night (Henry P.H. Chow, 2012: 514). Attitude towards judicial punishment was conceptualized by a single indicator and was measured on a 5-point scale. Specifically the statement, asked whether the "Punishment in Canada is lenient" (Chow, 2012: 514). The key variable Perceptions of the Police was conceptualized on 8-item 5-point scale. That measured ethics police use while fulfilling their contractual obligations to society, and job performance in certain aspects of their work. The second key variable, Overall Satisfaction with the Police was conceptualized on 1-item 5-point scale. That measured the respondents' satisfaction with police performance. The researchers major findings were that respondents from higher SES, living off campus, and that rated their last contact with police as satisfactory had more positive attitudes towards the police. Those

respondents who had been a victim of a crime, harassed or mistreated by the police had more negative attitudes toward the police. Overall the respondents had moderately positive attitudes toward the police. For the objective of this research study, the researcher chose to utilize the concepts, Criminal Victimization, Personal Safety, Contact with the police, Police harassment or mistreatment, Attitude toward judicial punishment, Perceptions of the Police, and Overall Satisfaction with the Police.

Overview of this study

In this study, the researcher proposed a Theoretical Causal Model to examine Public Opinions Toward the Police (ATPolice). The researcher using a deductive research process adopted some exogenous and intervening concepts from the literature reviewed; While concepts were also formed utilizing an inductive process after locating available information from the General Social Survey, Cycle 23, 2009. All of concepts were arranged in logical order to conduct and analyze the causal relationships in regards to ATPolice. Additionally, the intervening concepts utilized were essential in the formation of Theoretical Causal Model and in determining which of the intervening variables had a mediating effect between the exogenous and endogenous variable ATPolice.

Fig 1. Proposed Causal Model on Opinions Toward the Police



Propositions for Causal Model in Fig. 1**Direct Propositions:**

1. Police contact would have an influence on opinions toward the police.
2. Fear of crime (FOCrime) in the neighbourhood would have a negative influence on opinions toward the police.
3. Victimization would have a negative influence on opinions toward the police.
4. Police legitimacy (PoliceLegit) would have a positive influence on opinions toward the police.
5. Attitude toward the justice system (AttJustSys) would have an influence on opinions toward the police.
6. Poor lifestyle choices would have a negative influence on opinions toward the police.
7. Discrimination would have a negative influence on opinions toward the police.
8. Security would have an influence on opinions toward the police (ATPolice).

Indirect Propositions:

9. Age would influence ATPolice through Police Contact, Police Legit, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, Discrimination, and Security.
10. Gender would influence ATPolice through Police Contact, PoliceLegit, FOCrime, Victimization, PoliceLegit, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, Discrimination, and Security.
11. Ethnicity would influence ATPolice through Police Contact, Police Legit FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, Discrimination, and Security.
12. SES would influence ATPolice through Police Contact, PoliceLegit, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, Discrimination, and Security.
13. Location would influence ATPolice through Police Contact, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, Discrimination, and Security.

Table 1. Proposed Concepts, Indicators, and Description for the Causal Model
(Data: Year 2009 General Social Survey, GSS Cycle 23)

<u>Concepts</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Exogenous</u>		
Age	AGEGR5	Age group of the respondent (groups 5)
Gender	SEX	Sex of the respondent
Ethnicity	VISMIN	Visible minority of the respondent
	BRTHCAN	Country of birth of the respondent
SES	INCM	Annual income of the respondent
	EDU5	Highest level of education obtained by the Respondent.(5group)
	WKWE	Number of weeks during the last 12 months the respondent was working
Location	LUC_RST	Urban/rural indicator
<u>Intervening</u>		
PoliceContact	CWP_Q110	During the last 12 months, did you come into contact with the police for a public information session?
	CWP_Q120	During the last 12 months, did you come into contact with the police for a traffic violation?
	CWP_Q130	During the last 12 months, did you come into contact with the police as a victim of a crime?
	CWP_Q140	During the last 12 months, did you come into contact with the police as a witness to a crime?
	CWP_Q150	During the last 12 months, did you come into contact with the police by being arrested?
PoliceLegit	PLP_Q180	How much confidence do you have in the police? Is it:
FOCrime	PHR_Q110	Compared to other areas in Canada, do you think your neighbourhood has a higher amount about the same or a lower amount of

		crime?
	PHR_Q120	During the last 5 years, do you think that crime in your neighbourhood has increased, decreased, or remained about the same?
	PHR_Q135	How safe do you feel from crime walking alone in your area after dark? Do you feel:
	PHR_Q140	How often do you walk alone in your area after dark? Is it:
	PHR_Q150	If you felt safer from crime, would you walk alone in you're area after dark %more often%?
	PHR_Q160	How often do you use public transportation alone after dark?
	PHR_Q170	While waiting for or using public transportation alone after dark, do you feel:
	PHR_Q180	If you felt safer from crime, would you use public transportation after dark %more often%?
	PHR_Q190	When alone in your home in the evening or at night, do you feel:
	PHR_Q200	In general, how satisfied are you with your personal safety from crime. Are you:
Victimization	TOTVIC	Number of victimizations in the past 12 months – excludes spousal abuse
	LIFEVICT	Victim of crime – lifetime
AttJustSys	PCC_Q110	Now I would like to ask similar questions about the Canadian Criminal Courts. Are they doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of providing justice quickly?
	PCC_Q120	Now I would like to ask similar questions about the Canadian Criminal Courts. Are they doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of helping the victim?
	PCC_Q130	Now I would like to ask similar questions about the Canadian Criminal Courts. Are they doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of determining whether the accused or person charged is guilty or not?
	PCC_Q140	Now I would like to ask similar questions about the Canadian Criminal Courts. Are

		they doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of ensuring a fair trial for the accused?
	PCC_Q145	How much confidence do you have in the justice system and courts? Is it:
	PCC_Q150	In general, would you say that sentences handed down by the courts are too severe, about right, or not severe enough?
	PCC_Q160	Have you ever had contact with the Canadian Criminal courts?
	PPP_Q110	Do you think that the prison system does a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of supervising and controlling prisoners while in prison?
	PPP_Q120	Do you think that the prison system does a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of helping prisoners become law-abiding citizens?
	PPP_Q160	Do you think that the parole system does a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of releasing offenders who are not likely to commit another crime?
	PPP_170	Do you think that the parole system does a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of supervising offenders on parole?
Lifestyle	DRR_Q110	In the past month, how often did you drink alcoholic beverage? Was it:
	DUR_Q110	In the past month, how often did you use drugs? Was it:
Discrimination	DISCRIM	Respondent has been a victim of Discrimination in the past five years?
Security	SECPROB	Have you experienced any problems associated with security on the Internet?
	PFC_Q110	Have you ever done any of the following things to protect yourself or your property from crime? Have you ever:
 <u>Endogenous</u>		
ATPolice	PLP_Q110	Do you think your local police force does a

- good job, an average job, or poor job: of enforcing laws?
- PLP_Q120 Do you think your local police force does a good job, an average job, or poor job: of promptly responding to calls?
- PLP_Q130 Do you think your local police force does a good job, an average job, or poor job: of being approachable and easy to talk to?
- PLP_Q140 Do you think your local police force does a good job, an average job, or poor job: of supplying information to the public on ways to reduce crime?
- PLP_Q150 Do you think your local police force does a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of ensuring the safety of citizens in your area?
- PLP_Q160 Do you think your local police force does a good job, an average job, or a poor job: of treating people fairly?

Methods

In this study, the researcher conducted a secondary data analysis of data provided from the Statistics Canada General Social Survey (GSS) from 2009, Cycle 23, Victimization Questionnaire. Statistics Canada conducted this research through telephone interviews of 19422 respondents throughout Canada. Statistical analysis was conducted using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS).

All of the variables chosen to conceptualize and questions used to operationalize the exogenous, intervening concepts, and the endogenous concept ATPolice on an empirical level originated from the GSS, Cycle 23 and are presented in Table 1. After examining the codebook and questionnaire for the Cycle 23 interview survey, many of the concepts were also slightly modified in regards to the concept name and how each concept was conceptualized and operationalized. In addition intervening concepts Discrimination, Lifestyle, and Security were added to the Theoretical Causal Model

The researcher proposed six exogenous concepts Age, Gender, Ethnicity, Socioeconomic Status (SES), and Location (Fig. 1). As specified above, the researcher utilized the concepts Age, Sex, Ethnicity, SES, and Location from literature reviewed and conceptualized and operationalized all five of these exogenous concepts (Chow 2012; Hinds and Murphy 2007; Murphy 2007). The single indicator concept Age corresponded to the respondents' age. The concept gender identified the sex of the respondent. The single indicator concept Location measured whether the respondent lived in a rural or urban area. Ethnicity was conceptualized by the multiple indicators. These multiple indicators measured the visible-minority status, and the country of birth of the respondent. The level of SES was determined by the composite index of

three variables. These variables clarified the respondents' annual income, highest level of education, and the number of weeks worked in the in last twelve months.

In the Proposed Theoretical Causal Model the researcher proposed eight intervening concepts. The multiple indicators chosen to conceptualize as well as measurements utilized to operationalize these intervening concepts were carried out in an approach comparable to the literature reviewed. The intervening concepts chosen were Police Contact, Fear of Crime (FOCrime), Victimization, Police Legitimacy (PoliceLegit), Attitude toward the judicial system (AttJustSys), and ATPolice; (Chow 2012; Hinds and Murphy 2007; Murphy 2007). The remaining three intervening concepts that were inductively proposed were Lifestyle, Discrimination, and Security. Seven of the eight intervening concepts are composite indexes excluding PoliceLegit, a single-indicator concept. Police Contact the first composite index was measured by multiple indicators. The multiple indicators were operationalized in regards to contact with the police in the previous 12 months for various causes. The concept PoliceLegit was conceptualized by one indicator. This single indicator was operationalized by one question on 4-point scale rating the respondents' confidence level in respect to the police. The second composite index FOCrime was determined by multiple indicators. The multiple indicators consisted of ten questions that measured the respondents' personal safety from crime in their neighbourhoods, and perceptions of crime levels in their neighbourhoods. The conceptualization of Victimization was based on two indicators, which determined the respondents' victimization in the last 12 months excluding spousal abuse, and victimization over the respondents' lifetime. The concept AttJustSys was conceptualized by eleven variables. Seven of the variables, were focused on the respondents' contact with, confidence in, and attitudes in regards to job performance and contractual obligations of the Canadian Criminal Courts and Justice System.

The remaining four variables contributed to the respondents' attitudes in concern to job responsibility within the Prison and Parole System in Canada. The composite index Lifestyle was measured by two indicators which corresponded to how often respondents consumed drugs and alcohol in the past month. Discrimination was conceptualized by three variables. The three variables were operationalized by questions that concentrated on, if the respondent had experienced discrimination in the last five years and if the discrimination experienced was issued from a person in authority, the police, or Canadian Criminal Courts. Two variables were used to conceptualize Security. The variables indicated security problems experienced on the Internet, and security measures taken to ensure personal safety. The final composite index ATPolice, the endogenous concept was also conceptualized by multiple indicators. The six indicators were operationalized by questions which rated the quality of the job performance of the police force in various aspects of their work and contractual obligations to society.

Table 3. Data Transformation
(Recode & Compute – GSS 23)

<u>Concepts</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Measurement</u>	<u>Recodes</u>	<u>Value Label</u>	<u>Missing Values</u>
<u>Exogenous</u>					
Age	AGEGR5	Interval			
Gender	SEX	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=Female, 1=Male	
Ethnicity	VISMIN	Nominal	(1=0) (2=1)	0=Visible Minority 1=Non-Visible Minority	7,8,9
	BRTHCAN	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=Country Outside Canada 1=Canada	8,9
SES	INCM EDU5	Interval Ordinal	(1=5) (2=4) (3=3) (4=2) (5=1)	1=some sec/elem school/ no school, 2=High school diploma, 3=Some uni/comm college, 4=Dipolma/ certificate comm or trade/tech 5=Doctorate/masters/degree	98,99 8,9
	WKWE	Ratio			97,98,99
Location	LUC_RST	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	1=Large Urban Centers 0=Rural and Small Town	3

Intervening

Police Contact	CWP_Q110	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
	CWP_Q120	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
	CWP_Q130	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
	CWP_Q140	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
	CWP_Q150	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
PoliceLegit	PLP_Q180			1 (low)= Confident	8,9
FOCrime	PHR_Q110	Ordinal	(1=3) (2=2) (3=1)	1=Lower, 2=About the same, 3=Higher	8,9
	PHR_Q120	Ordinal	(1=3) (3=2) (2=1)	1=Decreased, 2=About the same, 3=Increased	8,9
	PHR_Q135	Ordinal			8,9
	PHR_Q140	Ordinal			7,8,9
	PHR_Q150	Nominal	(1=0) (2=1)	1= No, 0= Yes (More Fear of Crime)	7,8,9
	PHR_Q160 PHR_Q190	Ordinal Ordinal			1=Never alone, 2=Not at all

	PHR_Q200	Ordinal	(3=2) (4=1)	worried, 3= Somewhat worried, 4=Very worried 1 (low)= Very Safe	8,9
Victimization	TOTVIC LIFEVICT	Ordinal Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0 (low)= Not Victimized 0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
AttJustSys	PCC_Q110	Ordinal			8,9
	PCC_Q120	Ordinal			8,9
	PCC_Q130	Ordinal			8,9
	PCC_Q140	Ordinal			8,9
	PCC_Q145	Ordinal			8,9
	PCC_Q150	Ordinal	(1,3=1) (2=0)	0=About the same, 1=Too severe/Not severe enough	8,9
	PCC_Q160	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0=No, 1=Yes	8,9
	PPP_Q110	Ordinal			8,9
	PPP_Q120	Ordinal			8,9
Lifestyle	PPP_Q160	Ordinal			8,9
	PPP_Q170	Ordinal		1 (low)= Positive Attitude	8,9
	DRR_Q110 DUR_Q110	Ordinal Ordinal		1 (low)= Uses Alcohol & Drugs Daily	98,99 98,99
Discrimination	DISCRIM	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0= No, 1= Yes (Experienced Discrimination)	8,9
Security	SECPROB	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0= No, 1= Yes	8,9
	PFC_Q110	Nominal	(1=1) (2=0)	0= No, 1= Yes (Taken Safety Measures)	8,9

Endogenous

ATPolice	PLP_Q110	Ordinal		1 (low) = Positive Attitude	8,9
	PLP_Q120	Ordinal			8,9
	PLP_Q130	Ordinal			8,9
	PLP_Q140	Ordinal			8,9
	PLP_Q150	Ordinal			8,9
	PLP_Q160	Ordinal			8,9

COMPUTE concepts with multiple indicators

<u>Concept</u>	<u>Indicators</u>	<u>Scores</u>	<u>Interpretation</u>
Ethnicity	VISMIN + BRTHCAN	Min= 0 Max= 2	Hi Score = Non-Visible Minority/ Canadian Born
SES	INCM + EDU5 + WKWE	Min= 3 Max= 69	Hi Score = High SES

Police Contact	CWP_Q110 + CWP_Q120 + CWP_Q130 + CWP_Q140 + CWP_Q150	Min= 0 Max= 5	Hi Score = High Contact with Police
FOCrime	PHR_Q110 + PHR_Q120 + PHR_135 + PHR_Q140 + PHR_Q150 + PHR_160 + PHR_Q190 + PHR_Q200	Min= 7 Max= 31	Hi Score= High Fear of Crime
Victimization	TOTVIC + LIFEVICT	Min= 0 Max= 4	Hi Score= Victimized More
AttJustSys	PCC_Q110 + PCC_Q120 + PCC_Q130 + PCC_Q140 + PCC_Q145 + PCC_Q150 + PCC_Q160 + PPP_Q110 + PPP_Q120 + PPP_Q160 + PPP_Q170	Min= 9 Max= 30	Hi Score = Negative Attitude
Lifestyle	DRR_Q110 + DUR_Q110	Min= 2 Max= 14	Hi Score = Non-Drug /Alcohol Abuser
Security	SECPROB + PFC_Q110	Min= 0 Max= 2	Hi Score = Taken Safety Measures
ATPForce	PLP_Q110 + PLP_Q120 + PLP_Q130 + PLP_Q140 + PLP_Q150 + PLP_Q160	Min= 6 Max= 18	Hi Score: Negative Attitude

Data transformation (Table 3) was essential to this research study. Recodes were done in order change the scale of measurement, so the concepts could be analyzed accurately on a numerical level. In addition reverse recoding was done so that the direction of the response lines of the questions was reversed so that all of the indicators line up on a unidimensional level in order to test the hypotheses. The single indicators from the exogenous concepts Gender and Location and multiple indicators for Ethnicity were required to be recoded. All of these recodes were done to change the scale of measurement from nominal to interval variables with an assigned arbitrary zero-point. One variable for the concept Ethnicity and one variable for the concept SES were recoded in order to reverse the direction so that the variable answers would line up with the other variables within each concept on a unidimensional level and be consistent with the high scores (Non-Visible Minority/Canadian Born, High SES). Recodes were also done for all of the variables that operationalized Police Contact, one of the variable/variables from the

concepts FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Discrimination, and both variables from the concept Security. The recoding for these variables was done to change the scale of measurement from a nominal to interval scale with an arbitrary zero-point. The researcher also had to perform the reverse recoding for variables from the concepts FOCrime and variables from AttJustSys to ensure an even distribution of unidimensionality among variables for both concepts and to also ensure that all the numerical responses were in alignment with the Hi Score for both FOCrime (High Fear of Crime) and AttJustSys (Negative Attitude).

Results

After the examination of the Codebook and Frequency Distribution-Output 1 (Appendix A) the researcher dropped two indicators from the concept Discrimination, due to the fact that both variables represented contingency questions and 86.7% of the respondents were not asked this question for both variables. The researcher also dropped two variables from the Victimization composite index for the reason that both indicators had too many missing cases, and extremely low variance. Both indicators were also contingency questions; 81.7% of the respondents were “Not asked” the question (PHR_Q170); 93.4% of the respondents were “Not asked” the question (PHR_Q180). After the examination of the Multivariate Analysis (Beta Regression Coefficient) the researcher detected that the concept Security should be omitted from the Final Causal Model for Opinions Toward the Police (Fig.2). For the reason that the Security was found to have no causal relationship with the endogenous concept ATPolice, this finding makes sense in that there are numerous motives behind individuals obtaining security measures to ensure their own personal safety.

TABLE 2. UNIVARIATE ANALYSIS

CONCEPT	MEAN OR %	STANDARD DEVIATION
Exogenous		
Age (Interval)	8.43	3.59
Gender (Nominal)	0. Female= 55.1% 1. Male= 44.9%	
Ethnicity (Ratio)	1.75 (Scale: 0-2) Hi Score: Non-Visible Minority/Canadian Born	.57
SES (Ratio)	56.03 (Scale: 3-69) Hi Score: High SES	15.61
Location (Nominal)	0. Rural and Small Town= 23.4% 1. Large Urban Centers= 76.6%	
Intervening		
Police Contact (Ratio)	.46 (Scale: 0-5) Hi Score: High Contact with Police	.73
PoliceLegit (Ordinal)	1.86 (Scale: 1-4) Hi Score: No Confidence in Police	.71
FOCrime (Ratio)	18.84 (Scale: 7-31) Hi Score: High Fear of Crime	2.74
Victimization (Ratio)	.97 (Scale: 0-4) High Score: Victimized More	1.08
AttJustSys (Ratio)	18.81 (Scale: 9-30) Hi Score: Negative Attitude	4.65
Lifestyle (Ratio)	11.46 (Scale: 2-14) Hi Score: Non-Drug/ Alcohol Users	2.06
Discrimination (Nominal)	0. No= 85.4% 1. Yes= 14.6%	
Endogenous		
ATPolice (Ratio)	8.58 (Scale: 6-18) Hi Score: Negative Attitude	2.85

Univariate Analysis (Table 2)

The Univariate Analysis provides detailed background information and opinions of the respondents for the purpose of this secondary data analysis. The sample consisted of 55.1% females 44.9% males. Age was measured in groups of five the lowest range was from 15 to 17, while the highest range of age was from 80 years and over. The mean age of the respondents was 8.43, which is estimated at around 45 to 49 years of age. More accurately the average age was 47 years of age. The mean for the concept Ethnicity (1.75) indicated that the majority of the respondents were from a Non- Visible Minority/Canadian Born (Scale: 0-2). The overall mean for SES determined that the average of the respondents consisted of mostly upper class citizens (Mean= 56.03, Scale= 3-69). Out of the 19422 respondents approximately 23.4% of the respondents lived in rural and small town locations, while all other respondents lived in large urban centers (76.6%).

The average for the concept Police Contact marked the sampling frame as consisting of people that had endured little to no contact with the police (Mean= .46, Scale= 0-5). The mean for the concept PoliceLegit was 1.86 indicating that almost half the respondents have no confidence in the police force (Scale= 1-4). Over half the respondents personally did not feel safe from crime in their neighbourhoods (Mean=18.84, Scale= 7-31). The average for the concept Victimization was .97 revealing that little to none of the respondents have been victimized (Scale= 0-4). The overall midpoint for the concept AttJustSys uncovers that half of the respondents have a negative attitude toward the justice system (Mean= 18.81, Scale= 9-30). The mean for the concept Lifestyle (11.46) determines the majority of respondents do not use drugs and alcohol frequently (Scale= 2-14). The sampling frame consisted of 14.6% respondents who

had been discriminated against in the last five years while 85.4% of respondents did not have the same experience. For ATPolice the mean was 8.58 which reflects that majority of the respondents in this study felt that the police in aspects of their work do an above average job (Scale= 6-18).

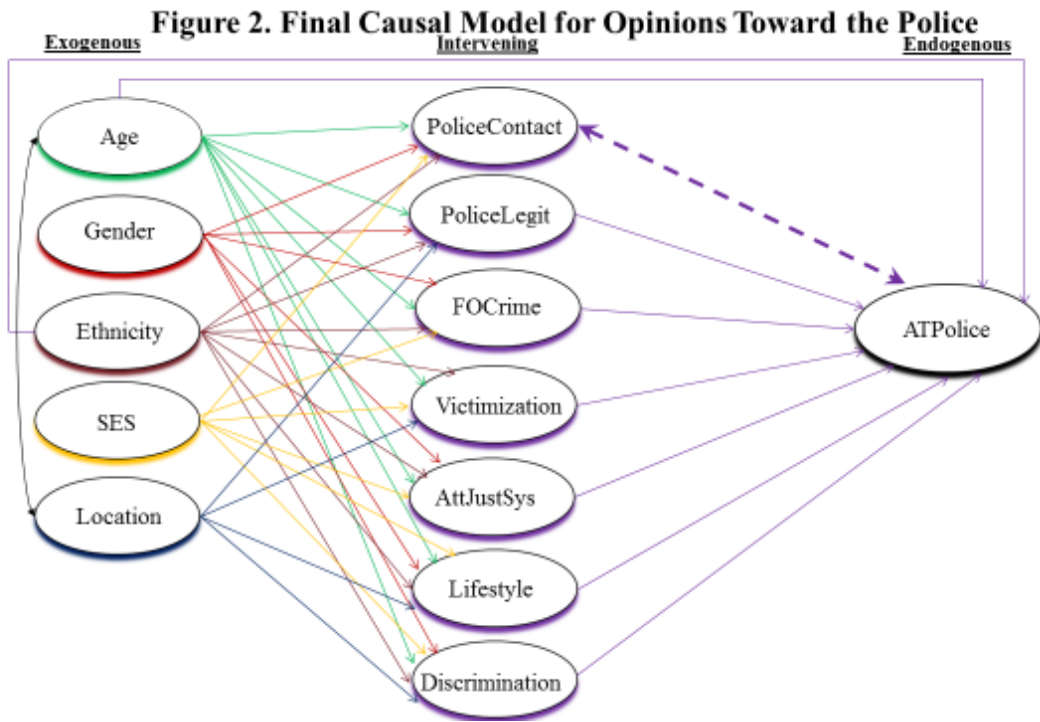


Table 4: Correlations and Standardized Multiple Regression Coefficients for the Causal Model

CONCEPTS		INTERVENING						
		Police contact	FOCrime	Victim	Police Legit	AttJust Sys	Lifestyle	Discrimin
	Age	-.110 (-.190)	.186 (.234)	-.152 (-.250)	-.078 (-.126)	.217 (.195)	.032 (.084)	-.079 (-.141)
	Gender	.060 (.078)	-.164 (-.180)	.029 (.029)	.021 (.034)	-.049 (-.037)	-.198 (-.207)	-.061 (-.042)
	Ethnicity	.041 (.032)	.095 (.107)	.093 (.068)	-.030 (-.018)	.059 (.073)	-.184 (-.146)	-.081 (-.082)
	SES	.063 (.050)	.035 (.073)	.025 (.025)	.069 (.114)	-.042 (-.050)	-.019 (-.027)	
	Location	.025 (.025)	.088 (.089)	-.023 (-.023)	.083 (.083)	.024 (.024)	.024 (.024)	
ENDOGENOUS	ATPolice	.135 (.135)	.045 (.165)	.071 (.250)	.500 (.646)	.239 (.404)	-.032 (-.075)	.046 (.205)

Bold: Standardized multiple regression coefficients (Beta); Significance level= .05

Brackets (): Pearson's correlation coefficients

Bivariate Analysis (Figure2)

The Bivariate Analysis determines the linear associations (Pearson Correlation Coefficients) between two variables with an arbitrary/true zero-point. Discussing these associations is necessary however not sufficient to uncover the causal relationships within the path analysis for this research study. To begin with the correlations that were found to be significant between exogenous and intervening concepts will be discussed.

EXO ↔ INT

The positive correlations found in accordance to Age were with the intervening concepts FOCrime ($r = .234$), AttJustSys ($r = .195$), Lifestyle ($r = .084$). The negative/inverse correlations were with the concepts Police Contact ($r = -.190$), Victimization ($r = -.250$), PoliceLegit ($r = -.126$), and Discrimination ($r = -.141$). Positive associations uncovered that older respondents believe their neighbourhoods are not safe and therefore have a higher perceived fear of crime. The older respondents also view the justice system in a negative light, and do not tend use drugs and alcohol frequently. All negative associations revealed that younger individuals are more likely to have contact with the police and to have been victimized and to have experienced some form of discrimination in the past. Not surprisingly they have less confidence in the police.

The researcher found the concept Gender to have a positive relationships with Police Contact ($r = .078$), Victimization ($r = .029$), and Police Legit ($r = .034$). There were also negative/inverse relationships for Gender with FOCrime ($r = -.180$), AttJustSys ($r = -.037$), Lifestyle ($r = -.207$), and Discrimination ($r = -.042$). Male respondents have a low confidence in the police, have high contact with police, and have been previously victimized. These findings also indicate that female respondent lean towards frequently not using drugs and alcohol, have

experienced discrimination in the last five years, hold a negative attitude toward the justice system and suffer from a higher fear of neighbourhood crime.

For the concept Ethnicity the researcher found positive correlations with Police Contact ($r = .032$), FOCrime ($r = .107$), Victimization ($r = .068$), AttJustSys ($r = .073$), and negative inverse correlations with Lifestyle ($r = -.146$) and Discrimination ($r = -.082$). Non-Visible Minority respondents have more contact with the police and hold a negative opinion toward the justice system and have been a victimized at some point in their lives and possess a higher FOC in their neighbourhoods. Furthermore Visible-Minority respondents have been discriminated against in the past, and are less inclined to use drugs and alcohol.

Positive associations found in correspondence to the concept SES were the intervening concepts Police Contact ($r = .050$), FOCrime ($r = .073$), and AttJustSys ($r = .114$). There were also two negative inverse associations for SES with Lifestyle ($r = -.050$), Discrimination ($r = -.027$). Another positive association PoliceLegit ($r = -.018$) will be included with a significance level of (.059), which is still extremely close to the researchers 5% margin for error. Therefore respondents with a Higher SES have more contact with the police, have a negative viewpoint toward the justice system, and they also tend to have a higher FOC in their neighbourhoods. Those respondents who come from a lower SES have no confidence in the police, have experienced discrimination in the past five years, and tend to not use drugs and alcohol.

For the last exogenous concept Location the researcher found positive relationships with Police Contact ($r = .025$), Victimization ($r = .089$), Discrimination ($r = .050$), and negative/inverse relationships with one intervening concept Lifestyle ($r = -.058$). Respondents that live in large urban centers are more likely to have been affected by discrimination in the past, been

victimized, and have more contact with police. These findings also indicate that respondents who live in rural and small towns are less inclined to use drugs and alcohol.

INT ↔ ENDO

The associations that were found between the intervening concepts and the endogenous concept ATPolice will be discussed. The researcher found a positive association between Police Contact and ATPolice ($r = .135$). This indicates that those respondents who have high contact with the police are also likely to hold negative opinions toward the police. The concept PoliceLegit was found to have the strongest positive correlation with ATPolice ($r = .646$). Meaning, those respondents who have no confidence in the police force also tend to support negative views of the police force. Similarly, there is a positive relationship between FOCrime and ATPolice ($r = .165$). Those respondents that have a higher perceived FOC in their neighbourhood also hold a negative opinion toward the police. The researcher also found a positive association between Victimization with ATPolice ($r = .250$). This reveals that respondents that have been victimized once or numerous times have a negative view of the police force. AttJustSys is positively correlated with ATPolice ($r = .404$) thus those respondents you have a negative view toward the justice system are also likely to have a negative view toward the police. For the concept Lifestyle there is a negative/inverse relationship with ATPolice ($r = -.075$). Respondents who frequently use drugs and alcohol are associated with a negative opinion toward the police. Lastly, Discrimination was found to have a positive correlation to ATPolice ($r = .205$). This finding indicates that those respondents that experienced some form of discrimination in the past five years also tend to have negative opinion toward the police force.

Multivariate Analysis

The Multivariate Analysis reveals the causal relationships between the two variables that have an arbitrary true/zero-point by controlling for all other variables in the statistical regression calculations. Standardized Regression Coefficients (Beta) converts all variables in to z-scores, which means that they are all measured on the same scale of measurement. Therefore it is essential for the researcher to examine the Beta coefficients to determine if the proposed causal model for Opinions Toward the Police is valid, more specifically which intervening concepts have a “mediating” effect between the exogenous concepts and the endogenous concept ATPolice.

The researcher found that the concept Age influences ATPolice through Police Contact. As age increases by 1 standard deviation SD unit Police Contact decreases by .110 SD units, when controlling for all other variables. Police Contact in turn has a positive correlation with ATPolice. The concept Age also influences ATPolice through Police Contact, PoliceLegit, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, and Discrimination. As Age increases by 1 SD unit Police Contact decreases by .110 SD units, PoliceLegit decreases by .078 SD units, FOCrime increases by .186 SD units, Victimization decreases by .152 SD units, AttJustSys increases by .217 SD units, Lifestyle increases by .032 SD units, and Discrimination decreases by .079 SD units by controlling for all other variables. As PoliceLegit, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, and Discrimination increase by 1 SD unit ATPolice increases by .500; .045; .071; .239; and .046 SD units; As Lifestyle increases by 1 SD unit ATPolice decreases by .032 SD units respectively by controlling for all other variables. Young respondents who have high contact with the police, no confidence in the police, that use drugs and alcohol more frequently and have been a victim of a crime as well as experienced discrimination, and older respondents

with a higher FOC in their neighbourhood, with negative view of the justice system, are likely to have a negative opinion of the police force. An explanation for this could be that young people who use drugs and alcohol are more likely to engage in other risky behaviors such as speeding and criminal activities such as theft, and drinking while driving and hanging out with more aggressive delinquent groups which could lead to a higher likelihood of contact with the police, victimization, as well as discrimination because of choices they make, and when they have to deal with the consequences of these actions through a license suspension or a criminal arrest they are more inclined have to negative opinion of the police. Additionally younger people who have been victimized and discriminated against may feel that the police did nothing to help or provide justice for the respondent, such as find, warn and or arrest the criminal or criminals that initiated the physical attack or racial hate crime this would also lead to low confidence in the police as well as a negative view of the police force. The researcher felt that older respondents may sense their vulnerability and weakness to defend themselves; in the situation where they were being attacked, robbed, or even a home invasion and that no one not even the police would be there to protect them which would lead to high perceived FOC and a negative view of the police. Older people are more likely to keep up to date with the media and through this exposure may have witnessed flaws within the system that correspond to limitations within laws, judicial interpretation of those laws and police incompetence which may lead to more negative view on both the justice system and the police due to the fact that two are so closely related in aspects of their work.

The concept Gender influences ATPolice through Police Contact, Police Legit, FOCrime, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, and Discrimination. As Gender increases by 1 SD unit Police Contact increases by .060 SD units, PoliceLegit increases by .021 SD units, FOCrime decreases by .164

SD units, AttJustSys decreases by .049 SD units, Lifestyle decreases by .198 SD units, and Discrimination decreases by .061 SD units by controlling for all other variables. Female respondents who have a high FOC in their neighbourhood, a negative view of the justice system, as well as gone through some form of discrimination and male respondents those who have no confidence in the police, use drugs and alcohol, and a have high contact with the police are likely to have a negative opinion of the police. Females have been discriminated against for centuries in relation to work, SES and have been historically sexually objectified and discriminated against by individuals in authority often without recompense, this could lead to sense of vulnerability and higher FOC within their neighbourhood, as well as a negative view toward the justice system and the police. Females may think that any approach to police for assistance would lead to further abuse of authority or discrimination, and have further negative consequences for them. Males who use drugs and alcohol are more likely to be involved in risky/criminal behavior and also may not respect authority and take matters into their own hands which could lead to an arrest and further negative contact with the police and the criminal justice system, strengthening any negative opinion they may already have toward the police.

The researcher also found that Ethnicity influence ATPolice through Police Contact, Police Legit, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, and Discrimination. As Ethnicity increases by 1 SD unit Police Contact increases by .041 SD units, PoliceLegit decreases by .030 SD units, FOCrime increases by .095 SD units, Victimization increases by .093 SD units, AttJustSys increases by .059 SD units, Lifestyle decreases by .184 SD units, and Discrimination decreases by .081 SD units by controlling for all other variables. Police Contact has a positive correlation as mentioned earlier. Non-Visible Minorities those who have a higher perceived FOC in their neighbourhoods, high contact with the police, been previously victimized plus have a

negative attitude toward the justice system and Visible Minorities respondents who have no confidence in the police, frequently use drugs and alcohol, and have experienced discrimination tend to have a negative opinion concerning the police. An examination of the cohort Visible-Minorities includes ethnic groups who may have recently immigrated to Canada from countries where the police force is corrupt, prejudiced, and violent. This fact would have a significant influence on the respondents' confidence level and attitude toward any police force including the Canadian Police Force. As mentioned earlier the use of drugs and alcohol may lead to more risky behavior, police-initiated contact with negative consequence such as fines, license suspensions, and criminal charges being laid against the Visible-Minority respondents and may lead to a strengthening in already negative opinion toward the police. The Non-Visible Minorities in this study were for the most part born in Canada. Non-Visible Minorities who have been victimized are more than likely to have an increased perceived FOC and increased contact with the police, and may feel that police are not competent in their completion of their duties such as bringing criminals to justice with charges being laid and convictions resulting. This often is not the case which may lead to a negative opinion of the justice system and the police.

SES influences ATPolice through Police Contact, FOCrime, Victimization, AttJustSys, Lifestyle, and Discrimination. As SES increases by 1 SD unit Police Contact increases by .063 SD units, FOCrime increases by .035 SD units, Victimization increases by .025 SD units, AttJustSys increases by .069, Lifestyle decreases by .042 SD units, and Discrimination decreases by .019 SD units when controlling for all other variables. Respondents from high SES who have high contact with the police, a FOC in their neighbourhoods, have been victimized in the past as well as have a negative opinion of the justice system and respondents from low SES who have no confidence in the police, use drugs and alcohol, and have gone through some form of

discrimination are likely to have a negative opinion of the police. Individuals from Higher SES often are targeted by criminals. It makes sense that Higher SES respondents targeted by criminals would have a greater FOC, increased likelihood of being victimized, increased police contact and depending on the outcome of any criminal investigations could have more negative opinion toward the justice system and the police. Also people from Higher SES are generally, well informed through the media or through their own education of what constitutes just treatment, this could lead to a higher FOC in their neighbourhood, negative opinion of the justice system and the police.

Location was the least influential concept in this research study, only influencing ATPolice through PoliceLegit, Victimization, Lifestyle, and Discrimination. As Location increases by 1 SD unit PoliceLegit decreases by .023 SD units, Victimization increases by .088 SD units, Lifestyle decreases by .083 SD units and Discrimination increases by .024 SD units respectively by controlling for all other variables. Respondents from Large Urban Centers who have been victimized as well as discriminated against and respondents from Rural and Small Towns who use drugs and alcohol and have no confidence in the police tend to have a negative opinion toward the police. It is common knowledge that Large Urban Centers are the focus of much of the criminal activities that occur today. With increased criminal activity there is increased victimization, increased police and criminal justice system involvement. With larger multicultural populations within these urban areas there is an increased likelihood of historically conflicting ethnic groups encountering one another and continuing old hatreds toward each other. It makes sense that those respondents who live in urban centers in Canada may experience the previous scenarios and as result develop a negative view of the police. Those individuals who live in Rural and Small Town areas are more closely knit and are more likely to share the same

beliefs and values. It is not surprising that those individuals who live Rural and Small Towns who use drugs and alcohol together, and are involved in more risky behavior together may result in them displaying a disrespectful attitude toward authorities, and they may take matters into their own hands and would resent any interference by a police officer resulting in negative opinion toward the police.

Discussion

The researcher found that the thirteen predictor variables in the Regression Analysis of the dependent variable ATPolice, accounted for 44.8% of the variation ($R = .670$ and $R^2 = .448$).

Hinds and Murphy (2007: 36) the researchers behind *Public Satisfaction With Police: Using Procedural Justice to Improve Police Legitimacy* found that Police Legitimacy was one of the strongest predictors of satisfaction with the police. This is consistent with the findings in this research study. PoliceLegit ($\beta = .500$) was also the strongest predictor of ATPolice, as well as the most influential intervening concept of the six intervening variables found to be significant in the Multiple Regression Analysis. Hinds and Murphy (2007:36) also found that Prior Contact with police had no direct or indirect effect on Satisfaction with the Police. This is also consistent with findings in this research study, Police Contact was found to have a correlation ($r = .135$) so an association with ATPolice, however no causation was found. The researcher still felt that it was important to discuss Police Contact in the final analysis due to the fact that in the Regression Analysis of the dependent variable Police Contact was highly significant for all but one exogenous variables Location.

Henry P.H. Chow (2012: 515) the author of *Attitudes towards Police in Canada: A Study of Perception of University Students in a Western Canadian City* found that respondents who had been victimized by a property crime or a violent crime in the previous 12 months before the survey was administered had a negative opinion of the police. This relationship was also found in this study, Victimization ($\beta = .071$). The only difference is that the researcher of this study operationalized the concept Victimization to include victimization in the last 12 months and over the respondents' life-time as well as that Victimization was found have a significant mediating effect between four of the six exogenous concepts on ATPolice.

Kristina Murphy (2009: 171) found in her study titled *Public Satisfaction With Police: The Importance of Procedural Justice and Police Performance in Police Citizen Encounters* found that respondent who felt safe from crime in their neighbourhood were more satisfied with the police. This is consistent with the findings in this research study, FOCrime was also found to be a significant predictor of ATPolice ($\beta = .045$) as well a significant intervening variable in the Multiple Regression Analysis.

The researcher of this study also found that males were more likely than females to be victimized ($r = .029$). The researcher believes this be an anomaly; a fact that doesn't fit. It would have made more sense if females were more likely than males to be victimized. Since females were more likely to FOCrime ($r = -.180$) in this research study. Also females are viewed as more vulnerable and susceptible to being attacked. This speaks to that we may be living in a more aggressive society today than twenty years ago were violence has become more normalized among males, due to video games and other social media.

Limitations

A major limitation of this research study was due to the fact that the research was based on secondary data. This limits the information available and many other concepts could not be included in the Proposed Theoretical Causal Model. Due to this very fact information was not available in the GSS Cycle 23 to operationalize the concepts Procedural Justice, Distributive Justice, and Media. The concepts Distributive Justice and Media also may have had a significant intervening effect between the exogenous concepts and ATPolice. Procedural Justice was initially included in the researchers' proposal and then was dropped, due to the fact that the indicators that would have been chosen to operationalize Procedural Justice were derived from within the theory and more appropriate as indicators for the endogenous concept ATPolice. Procedural Justice and Distributive Justice were also concepts included in research articles that were conducted in Australia and it would have been exciting to see if the same findings could have been replicated here in Canada (Hinds and Murphy 2007; Murphy 2009). Another limitation was that two of indicators had to be dropped for the concept Discrimination due to low variance and missing cases.

Suggestions for Further Research

For future research the researcher would like to test causal model that includes Procedural Justice as an intervening concept that would be measured by questions that pertain to the operational definition used by Kristina Murphy (2009: 166) in her study titled *Public Satisfaction With Police: the Importance of Procedural Justice and Police Performance in Police-Citizen Encounters*. The questions would be centred around the respondents' last interaction with the police and how they were treated on a personal level. For example "During

your last interaction with the police do you feel that they were well-mannered and respectful toward you?" The findings may lead to some important solutions for the police force in their contact with citizens in Canada. Also similar to Kristina Murphy's study the researcher would like to have separated the concept Police Contact into two separate concepts Police-initiated and Citizen-initiated Contact. This may have also lead to important findings in regards to ATPolice. Also an analysis that included separate cohorts in regards to ethnicity such as Aboriginal, or any other minority would give more extensive view of the respondents' Opinions Toward the Police in regards to Ethnicity. Further research on Opinions Toward the Police could bring forth new findings or replicate old ones in any case it would provide explanations and solutions that assist researchers, police, government officials, and citizens to better understand Opinions Toward the Police and information on how to improve the citizen and police interactions.

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