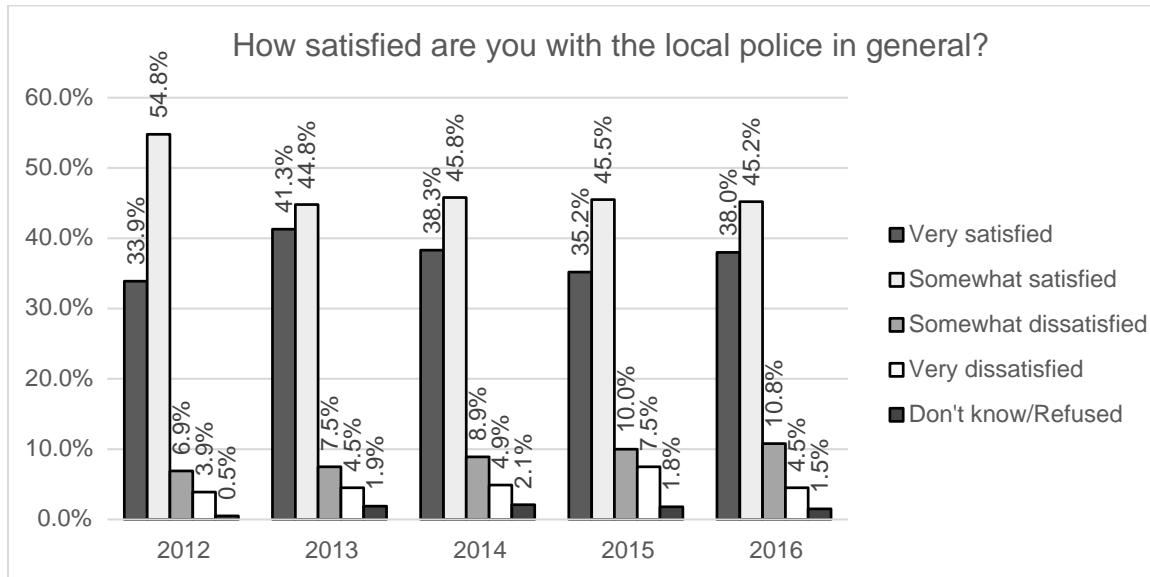


Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #2

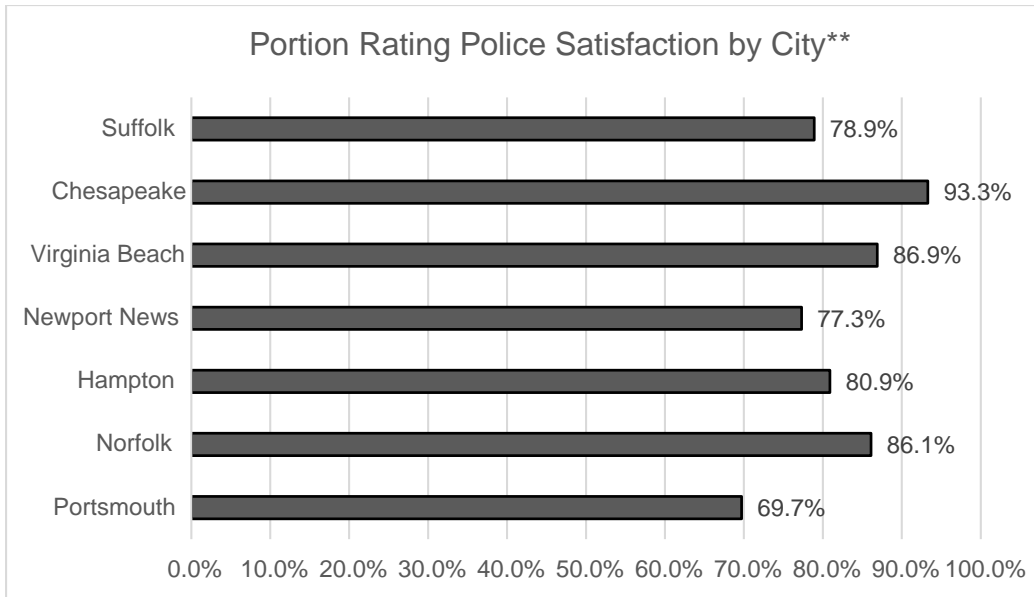
Police, Crime, Offender Rights, and Attitudes Regarding the Homeless and Mentally Ill in Hampton Roads

This report examines regional and sub-regional perceptions of crime and police from the 2016 Life In Hampton Roads survey (LIHR 2016) conducted by the Old Dominion University Social Science Research Center.

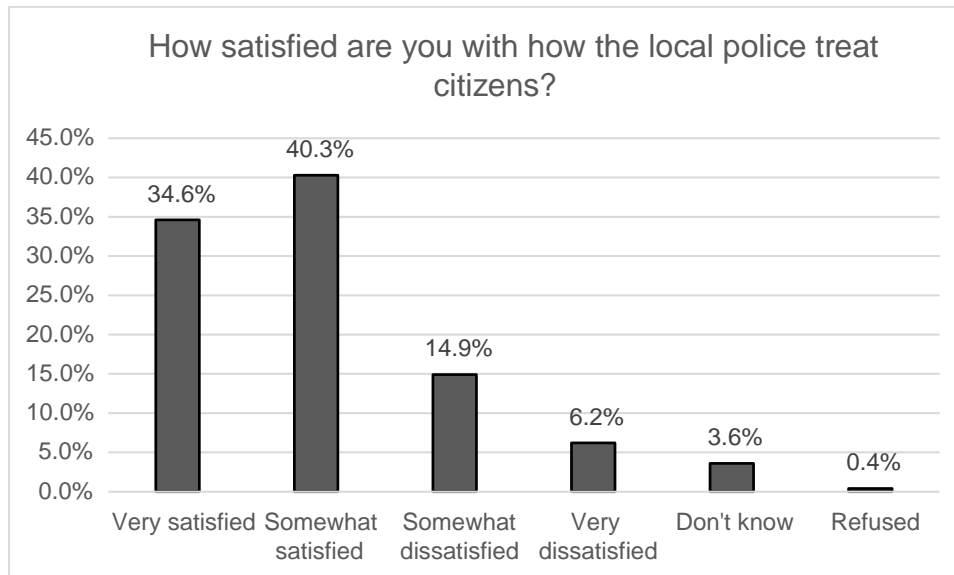
years the LIHR survey has asked about satisfaction with the local police, the portion reporting that they are very or somewhat satisfied was at its highest in 2015, but has decreased this year by 2.2 percent. The portion of respondents somewhat or very satisfied with local police had declined from 88.7 percent in 2012 to 86.1 percent in 2013, 84.1 percent in 2014, and 80.7 percent in 2015. However, in 2016 the portion of respondents somewhat or very satisfied with local police rose to 83.2 percent.



When examining respondent satisfaction with the local police by city, it is apparent that some cities are more satisfied than others. In fact, there is a significant difference in satisfaction with the local police across the seven cities of Hampton Roads ($p < .01$). For example, 93.3 percent of Chesapeake residents and 86.9 percent of Virginia Beach residents reported being very or somewhat satisfied with their local police compared to 77.3 percent of Newport News residents and 69.7 percent of Portsmouth residents.



Respondents were asked how satisfied they are with how the local police treat citizens. The majority of respondents (74.9%) said they either were somewhat satisfied (40.3%) or very satisfied (34.6%) with how the local police treat citizens. Another 14.9 percent reported being somewhat dissatisfied and 6.2 percent were very dissatisfied with how the local police treat citizens.



Respondents were also asked how much they trust the local police. The majority of respondents (82.8%) indicated they either trust the police a great deal (43.9%) or trust the police somewhat (38.9%).

Only 6.6 percent reported not trusting the police at all and another 9.7 percent reported not trusting the police much. The percentages are almost identical to those reported in 2015.

Respondents were asked if they can usually understand why the police who work in their neighborhood choose to act as they do in particular situations. The majority of respondents (78.2%) said they either agree (50.9%) or strongly agree (27.3%) that they understand why the police who work in their neighborhood choose to act as they do in particular situations. Only 11.1% disagreed and 5 percent strongly disagreed that they understand why the police who work in their neighborhood choose to

respectively). Chesapeake had the highest percentage of police satisfaction among both White and Black/African-American respondents (96.7% and 87.0%, respectively).

How satisfied are you with the local police in general? **				
	White		Black/African American	
	% Very Satisfied/ Somewhat satisfied	% Somewhat dissatisfied/ Very dissatisfied	% Very Satisfied/ Somewhat satisfied	% Somewhat dissatisfied/ Very dissatisfied
Chesapeake	96.7%	3.3%	87.0%	13.0%
Hampton **	92.5%	7.5%	70.2%	29.8%
Newport News **	88.3%	11.7%	60.4%	39.6%
Norfolk	90.8%	9.2%	81.4%	18.6%
Portsmouth	84.6%	15.4%	60.6%	39.4%
Suffolk	85.7%	14.3%	68.0%	32.0%
Virginia Beach **	89.8%	10.0%	scn 04CS0	

When controlling for city and race and examining the extent to which citizens trust the local police, all seven cities had a higher percentage of Black/African American respondents who either trusted the police not much or not at all compared to White respondents. These differences were statistically significant in Chesapeake, Newport News, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach. Newport News and Chesapeake had the highest percentage of distrust with the local police among Black/African American respondents (39.6% and 38.3%, respectively). Chesapeake had the highest level of trust with the local police among White respondents (96.8%), while Virginia Beach had the highest level of trust with the local police among Black/African American respondents (80.0%).

To what extent do you trust the local police? **				
	White		Black/African American	
	% A great deal/Somewhat	% Not much/Not at all	% A great deal/Somewhat	% Not much/Not at all
Chesapeake **	96.8%	3.2%	61.7%	38.3%
Hampton	92.3%	7.7%	76.6%	23.4%
Newport News **	93.5%	6.5%	60.4%	39.6%
Norfolk **	90.9%	9.1%	78.1%	21.9%
	69.2%	30.8%	72.7%	

Hampton had the highest level of agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement among Black/African-American respondents (81.8%).

I can usually understand w

respondents (33.5%) agreed that a private landlord should be able to automatically disqualify people with prior felony convictions from being able to rent housing.

Respondents were asked to answer how afraid they are of certain crimes in Hampton Roads. Respondents reported being either somewhat afraid (32.2%) or afraid a great deal (9.7%) of having their

Homelessness and Mental Illness

Respondents were asked how much of a problem they think homelessness and mental health are in Hampton Roads with the majority of respondents reporting they perceive homelessness and mental

thought homelessness in Hampton Roads was either a moderate problem (42.8%) or a serious problem (35.9%). Another 15.9 percent thought that homelessness in Hampton Roads is a minor problem.

More than three quarters of respondents (77%) also think that mental illness in Hampton Roads is either a moderate problem (38.2%) or a serious problem (38.8%). Another 13.7 percent reported that mental illness is a minor problem in Hampton Roads and only 2.5 percent reported that mental illness is not at all a problem in Hampton Roads. Those claiming that mental illness is a serious problem (38.8%) increased over 10 percent from last year (28.4%).

Overall, satisfaction with the local police is high among Hampton Roads residents. The percentage of respondents expressing satisfaction with the local police had decreased every year since 2012, but

Or

Tancy VandecaBurdin, PhD
Associate Director
The Social Science Research Center
Old Dominion University
757-6833802 (office)
tvandeca@odu.edu