

Is Racial Profiling A Good Police Tactic?

Is Racial Profiling Legal?

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I. INTRODUCTION AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The proposal I wish to investigate and administer is on a topic very near and dear to the 21st century. I will be wading my way through racial profiling. Now racial profiling historically was never supposed to be that it was criminal profiling. Criminal profiling has its roots from the 1880s where two doctors were trying to track the infamous “Jack the Ripper”. The two doctors made predictions from his crime scenes to predict personality traits of the Ripper.

Where in the United States you have people relying upon their “own intuition and informal studies.” Though in the 1960s-70s one doctor used different variables from age, sex, education, did they come from a bad upbringing, or did they have behavior issues. (Winerman, *Criminal Profiling: The Reality Behind the Myth*) Notice I did not mention anything about race or ethnicity. Most profiling stemmed from early FBI cases on Serial Rapists or Killers, they would form patterns, and those patterns would paint pictures of an archetype of a person who would commit such acts.

Most of profiling was about the offender’s behavior, method and modes and the psychology behind the “type” of offender there was committing these crimes and why would someone commit these crimes. So right from there you develop a stereotype of a certain type of person. So where does Race or Ethnicity come into play. So how in seventy years did this become a problem. Today with this study we are going to dive in one again to the mire of racial profiling to see if it is truly a biased. We will see if there is a big racial/ ethnic problem in law enforcement or find out we maybe just need to do what Bill Maher says, “If we stopped calling it profiling and started calling it “proactive intelligence screening” or “high alert detecting”, people

would be saying "Well, it's about time".” My proposal will hopefully shed some light on this issues that has been plaguing this and many countries since its inception.

II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Racial disparities and inequality have not been hidden in the American society, from the inception of the country there has always been one race or ethnic group pitted against another. When racial threat theory came on the scene with blylock in 1967. In shor Tht when one race or ethnic groups controls or inhabits an area and other group comes in they will face resistance. Now with those finding you can see that there is truth there. From the Profiling aspect we see that there was a system that was in place to try and prevent crime, and keep the peace in communities and in the United States as a whole. As we know not all if any system especially in law enforcement are perfect. The problem I see in this arena is that there was this system of profiling, that in theory makes sense, but somewhere along the line gave way into race. Now is this because of our roots a being a racial infused nation with differences or is there something deeper. Discrimination you may be able to track but where did this come from. I believe Pinker says it best. “Discrimination -in the sense of sustaining a statistical predictive trait of an individual’s group to make a decision about the individual -is not always immoral, or at least we don't always treat it as immoral...Decisions that have to be made with finite time and resources, and which have high costs for certain kinds of errors, must use some trait as a basis for judging a person. And that necessarily judges the person according to a stereotype.” There is a legality for profiling, but not racial profiling but it seems allowances may have been made for reasons of statistical research or that of racial group bias from one group to another.

III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research is to try and separate facts from fictions and dispel any misconceptions that we may have believed through the years. We know that information and knowledge is a way that we grow, learn and make informed decisions about things in society. Some of these issues may be hard to wrap our heads around but understanding of our world is key. Threats to our society such as racial tensions and issues need not be in a society based on equality for all. The Goals and objectives of this study will show that there may be bias but that bias is not as big as we expected.

IV. LITERATURE REVIEW

In David Harris's profiles in injustice states that "criminal profiling is based on a set of personal and behavioral characteristics" for certain offenses. This is a fact you cannot get around though in his same book he mentions criminal profiling can become easily become racial profiling rather easily. When these characteristics involve race or ethnicity this is when it transforms into racial profiling. Harris also argues that "many law enforcement agencies see it makes sense to use race or ethnicity." The reason why is because supposedly statistically there is a supposed connection between race, ethnicity and crime (Harris,2002). So is racial profiling a good police tactic apparently some agencies in American law enforcement believe it is so because of supposed statistically analysis that hopefully is not skewed in anyway. So according to Mr. Harris Racial profiling is a legally protected practice in America. Now this was 2002 things have changed in 2021 with Bills on the table like H.R. 4339 the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act, which was introduced in 2019 and still waiting to be in process. The Congressional Research service states that the Congress, has little authority over municipal law

enforcement, While the Fourth amendment, and it is equal protect clause does state some protection against profiling by race. Meanwhile it is also stated that. "Courts have held that an officer cannot meet the Fourth Amendment standard by relying on a person's racial appearance, alone, as grounds for reasonable suspicion." The things covered in my study would take different statistical research and compare then to my finding from middle to upper class communities where I will interview at random 50-100 police and the people they pulled over, Then I would compare those results to the old to come up with aa new statistics about racial profiling in 2021.

VI. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research questions that I would pose in my study could be long and exhaustive. I am going to try boil it down to a few questions. Besides the main problem statement. Are there laws to combat racial profiling? This question today makes sense, but because of our 4th amendment rights and the clause you may be able to skirt issue.

Is racial profiling simply a black and white issue? This question is to show that this problem goes beyond race and ethnicity and may border on a different agenda. In which you may be able to conduct other studies in conjunction with this racial profiling discussion. Based on what I have learned from my research what do I think about the issue of racial profiling? This would be a great question after research is complete and the results are published. Is racial profiling justifiable? Is it justifiable in certain circumstances? The justification of racial profiling we would think couldn't be possible but within our law structures, where profiling can turn into racial profiling. What are the causes and consequences of racial profiling? The causes and consequences of profiling by

race whether right or wrong can be used and exploited by any entities to polarize situations for gains in different arenas.

Hypothesis

Is racial profiling a good police tactic. Is this a legal to do in the United States?

VII. METHODOLOGY

Now if you are in law enforcement and work in a predominately ethnic area that data would be skewed because your majority population is ethnic. In a mixed population of whites, blacks, Spanish, etc. You will get better results. So, areas where you have a mix of races and economic classes would be best to es

Design

The design would be I will use inferential analysis, to make more predictions from the data. I would look at past data from stops by officers to determine if there is any connection to racial profiling and not about probable cause of a crime. With that data I will conduct an experiment within a interview format, to ask certain questions to law enforcement and the citizens the law enforcement officers they pulled over or stopped.

Participants

The participants would be law enforcement officers from areas of multi-racial backgrounds and middle- and upper-class people.

Measures

The Measures of the study would go by questionnaires with open and closed ended questions. It would also be monitored by being hooked up to a lie detector for in person

interviews with consent. Meanwhile if that is not possible you may be able to do phone interviews recorded with consent. In the interviews you will be monitoring it with voice lie detecting software. discrimination, profiling, racial profiling, and probable cause without racial ties. By these measures you can lump them into two categories Race/discrimination relate or Non race or discrimination related. These are some of the measures you will judge the participants as well the data collected from the lie detector software.

Procedures

The procedure would research the area of high multi-racial and middle- and upper-class areas. Go to those departments or ask local government for statistics or documentation on the last few years vehicle and foot stops. After a view of 50-100 of the documents are gone though we would use that data to contact the officers, and the citizen for an interview.

VIII. LIMITATIONS

We are in a world that is conflicted by a global crisis by a virus. Though vaccines are being issued at the rapid rate. We still must abide by Federal and state guidelines. In this we will conduct the testing in a secured facility, where you can test the hypothesis on the participants without comprising the integrity of the people for safety and ethical reasons. The limitations can stretch even further if we are not granted access to records or personnel for the study. The study could happen as long as the people would meet in person. If not we could conduct research thru phone interviews.

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Footnotes

¹Add footnotes, if any, on their own page following references. The body of a footnote, such as this example, uses the Normal text style. *(Note: If you delete this sample footnote, don't forget to delete its in-text reference as well. That's at the end of the sample Heading 2 paragraph on the first page of body content in this template.)*