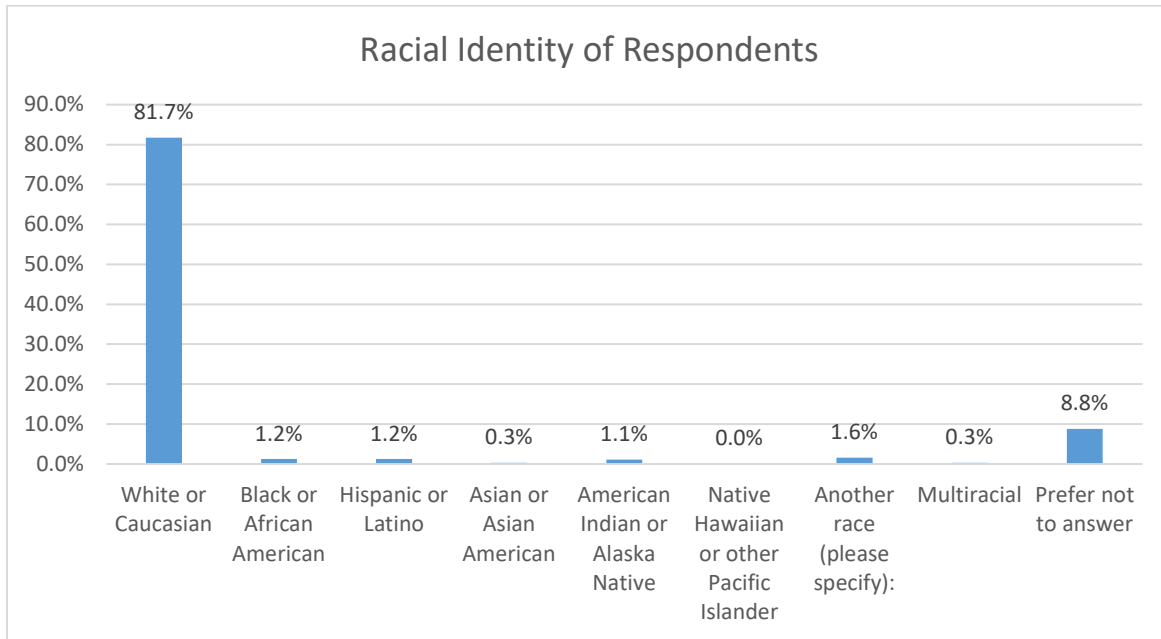
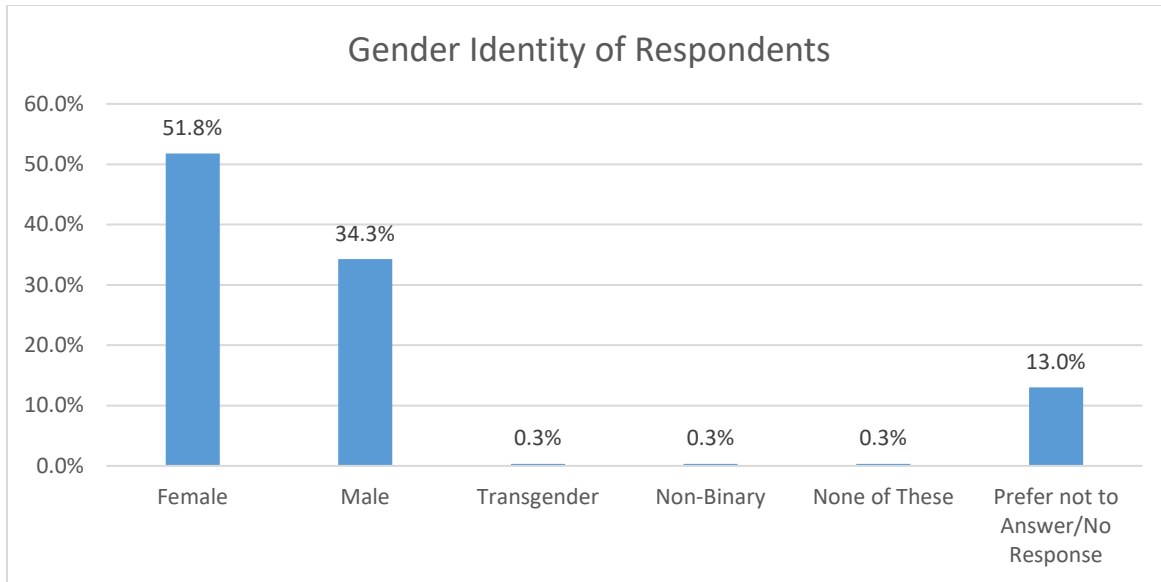


Sample and Demographics

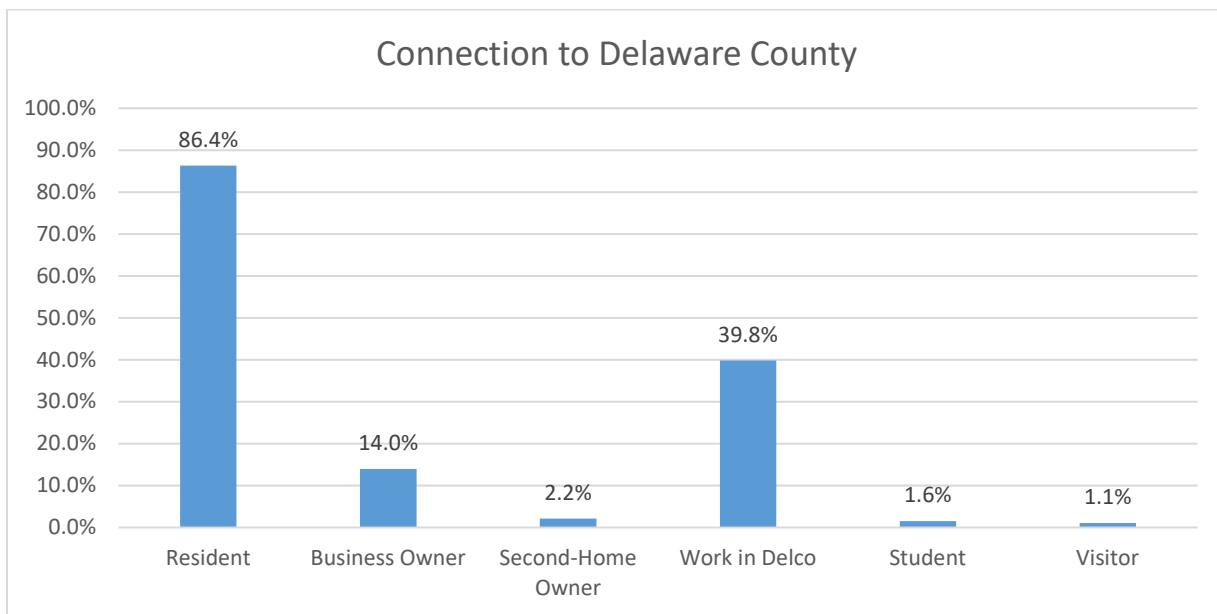
At the end of the survey collection period, a total of 645 responses were returned. As this survey was directed at all residents in Delaware County, and was not sent to a random sample, we cannot establish a response rate. However, with a population of roughly 44,995 (as of 2019), and a response/sample size of 645, we do have a fair amount of power and generalizability in these results. Specifically, we can be 95% confident in our results within +/- 4 points on most measures. As with any survey, we should take these results as estimates, and not "hard fact", realizing that another sample from the same population might return different results. Also, looking at the racial/ethnic identity responses below, we see that those completing the survey were not exactly demographically representative of the Delaware County population as a whole (it is possible that the "prefer not to answer" group might add to this representation, but that is impossible to know at this point).



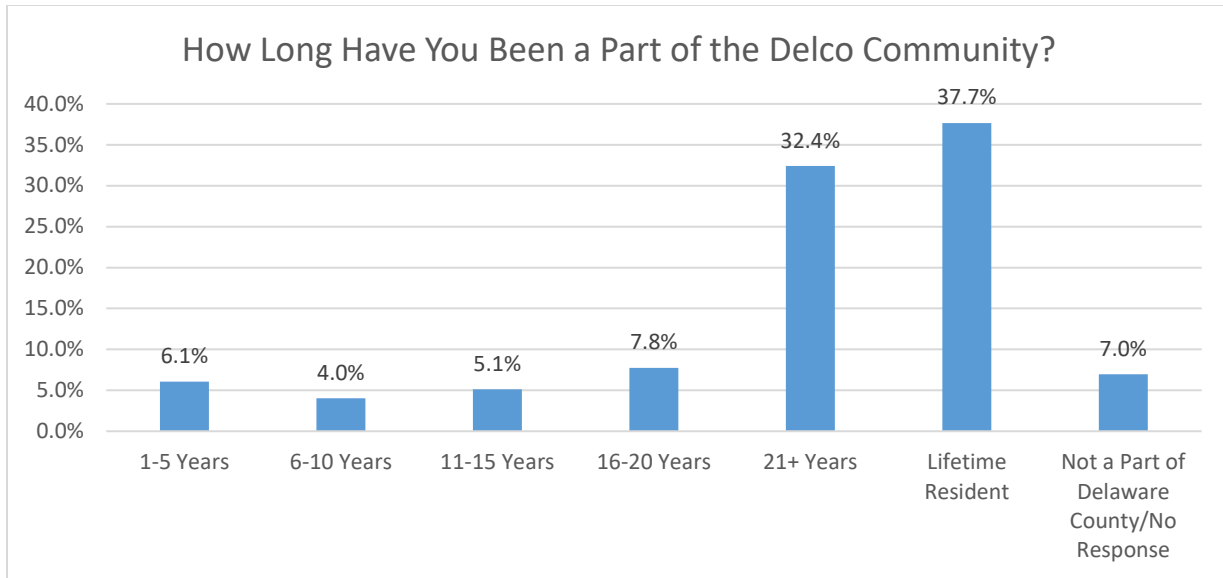
We see a similar issue with the gender identity of respondents, with females making up roughly 52% of our responses, but estimated at 49% of the Delaware County Population as of 2019. The biggest gap that we see with gender is actually the under representation of male respondents (34% of our sample and roughly 50% of the population estimate). A large portion of respondents either did not select a gender, or selected "prefer not to answer" (13%), and even if all 13% were male we would still see an under representation.



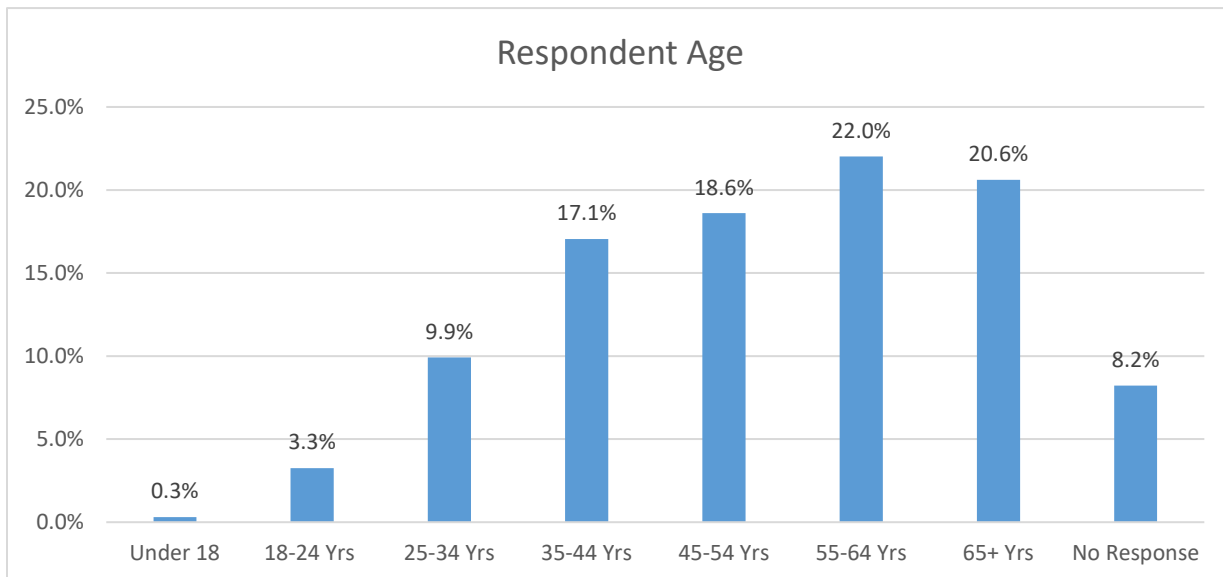
In regard to how the respondents are connected to Delaware county, the vast majority (86%) identified as residents, and an additional 40% said that they work in Delaware County (this is likely a large number of people who also said that they live here). As we can see from the figure below, less than 5% of respondents identified as second-home owners, students and/or visitors. Perhaps to assuage fears that this survey was going to be open to influence from those outside of Delaware County, that does not appear to be the case from these results.



For the length of a respondent's connection to Delaware County, the majority of respondents (70%) indicated that they have been a part of Delaware County for 21 or more years (including lifetime residents). The Median for this variable is 21+ years, with half of respondents above and half below that value (not including those who did not respond).



The age of respondents also fits with the pattern found in length of connection to the community. The majority of respondents reported being 45 years or older (61%). The median age category for these respondents is 45-54 years old, with half of the respondents falling above and half falling below this point.

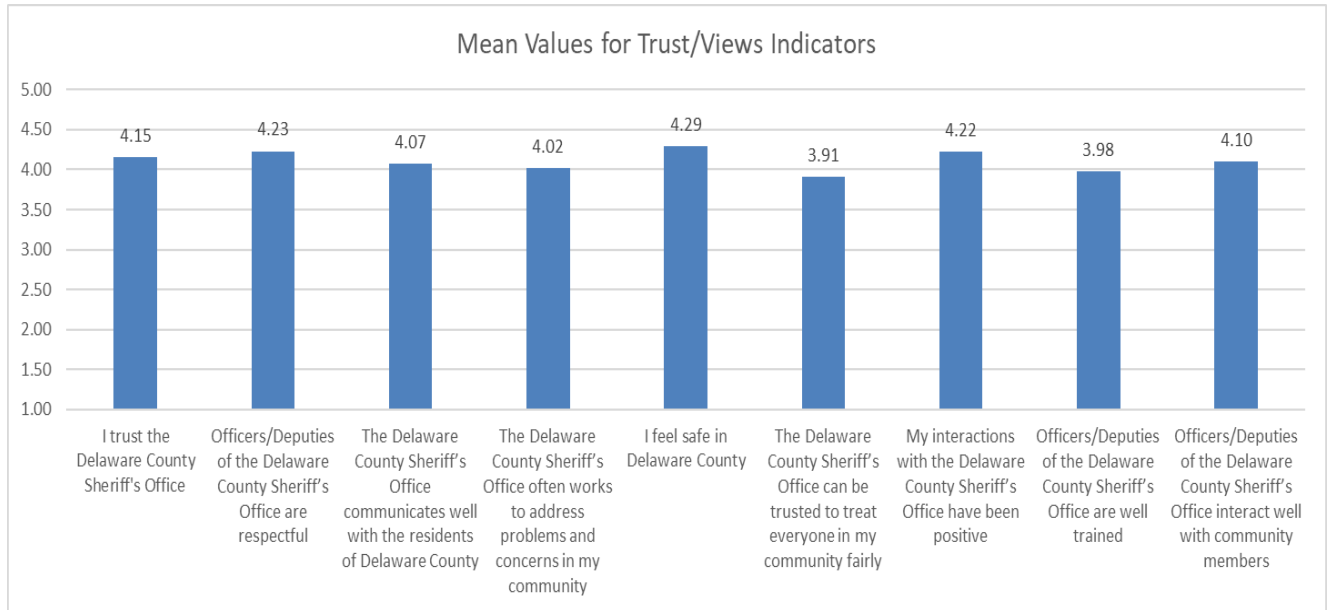


Univariate Analysis

The first stage of this analysis involves looking at the responses to each question on the survey.

The first set of questions on the survey asked respondents to select their level of agreement with a series of statements regarding trust and views regarding the Delaware county Sheriff's Office. Response options range from a value of "1" (strongly disagree) to "5" (strongly agree). The responses to these indicators are detailed in the figure, and table, below. As we can see, the average response for these

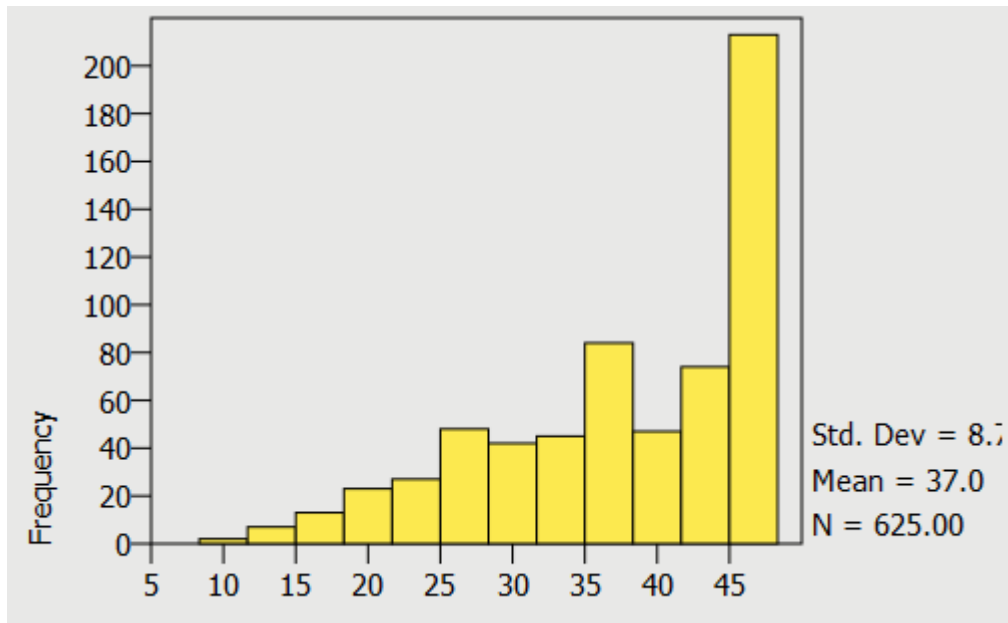
indicators fell between a low of 3.91 (“The Delaware County Sheriff’s Office can be trusted to treat everyone in my community fairly”) and a high of 4.29 (“I feel safe in Delaware County”).



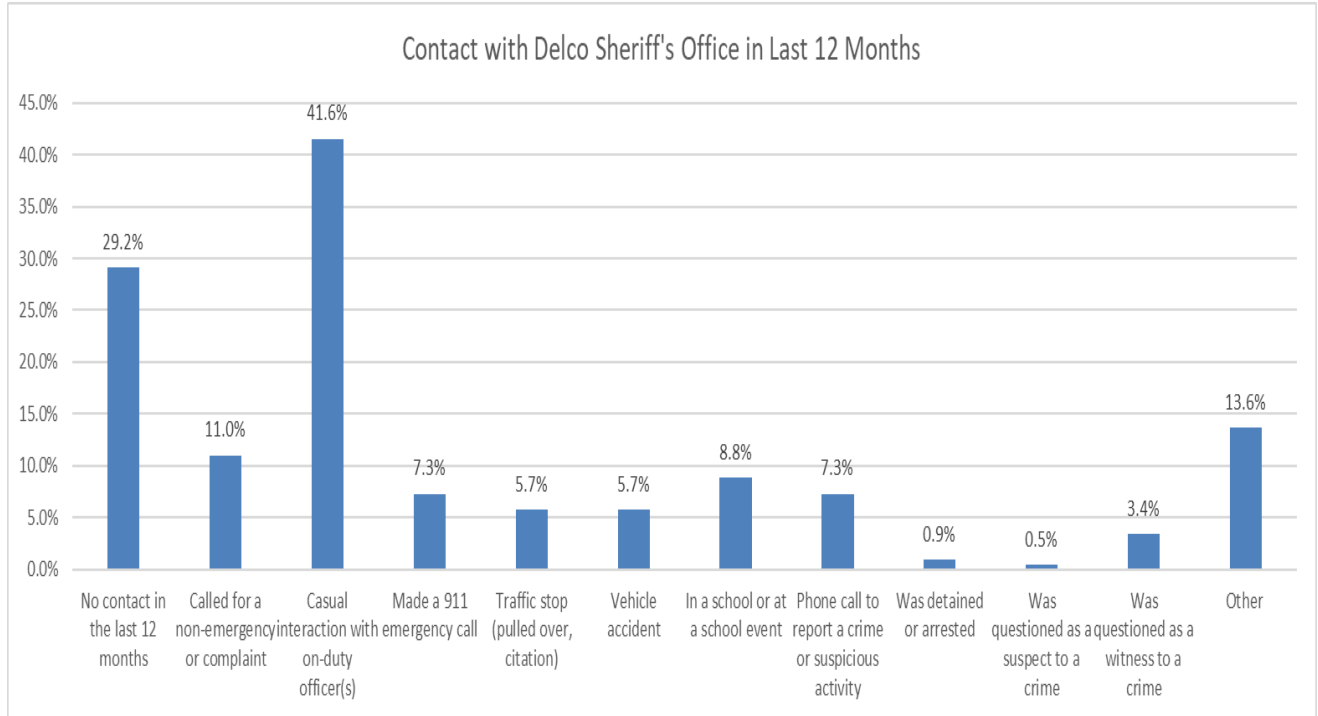
Indicator	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Mean	Std. Dev.
I trust the Delaware County Sheriff's Office	2.95%	8.68%	11.94%	22.79%	53.33%	4.15	1.12
Officers/Deputies of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office are respectful	1.10%	4.39%	15.36%	28.37%	50.78%	4.23	0.94
The Delaware County Sheriff's Office communicates well with the residents of Delaware County	3.13%	9.06%	13.44%	26.25%	48.13%	4.07	1.12
The Delaware County Sheriff's Office often works to address problems and concerns in my community	2.66%	8.93%	18.34%	24.14%	45.92%	4.02	1.11
I feel safe in Delaware County	2.04%	5.18%	7.06%	32.81%	52.90%	4.29	0.95
The Delaware County Sheriff's Office can be trusted to treat everyone in my community fairly	6.72%	12.34%	12.19%	21.09%	47.66%	3.91	1.30
My interactions with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office have been positive	2.04%	4.87%	17.61%	19.97%	55.50%	4.22	1.03
Officers/Deputies of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office are well trained	2.36%	6.46%	23.78%	25.83%	41.57%	3.98	1.06
Officers/Deputies of the Delaware County Sheriff's Office interact well with community members	2.20%	6.28%	18.21%	25.75%	47.57%	4.10	1.05

Overall, the responses to these indicators appears to be fairly consistent across the board. Given this similarity, and the fact that they all relate to the views or the Sheriff's Office, there is a possibility to combine the indicators into a compound variable. A factor analysis indicates that all of these indicators appear to load onto a single factor/variable, and a reliability analysis returns a Cronbach's Alpha score of .97, indicating a high level of internal consistency and suitability for combining into a single variable. After adding these indicators together, the resulting variable, "Trust and Views" has values ranging from a low of 9 to a high of 45. With a mean value of 37 and a standard deviation of 8.73, we can see that the typical respondent to this survey falls between a value of 28.27 and 45.73 on the new variable.

Histogram of Trust/Views Compound Variable



The next set of questions asked respondents how they have been in contact with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office in the last 12 months. Respondents could select from a number of different methods of contact (including no contact at all). For this analysis, a selected item was coded with a value of "1" and a non-selected item was coded with a "0" value. A summary of these responses is included in the figure below (note that values do not total 100% as this was a "select all that apply" question). As we can see from these results, the most common form of contact with the Sheriff's Office is via casual interaction with on duty officers, with some 42% of respondents selecting this option. The second most common form of interaction was "no interaction" (29%), indicating that a substantial portion of the Delaware County population have a limited amount of interaction with the Sheriff's office. The next most common form of contact was the "other" option (14%). The open ended responses to this option indicate a wide variety of additional ways that folks in this county have contact with the Sheriff's Office. One of the biggest patterns in these responses is related to work contact (such as county employees, those working with a fire department, etc.). There are also quite a few responses related to protests, firearms permits and other paperwork, and a variety of other issues that can be found in the complete list of responses at the end of this report.

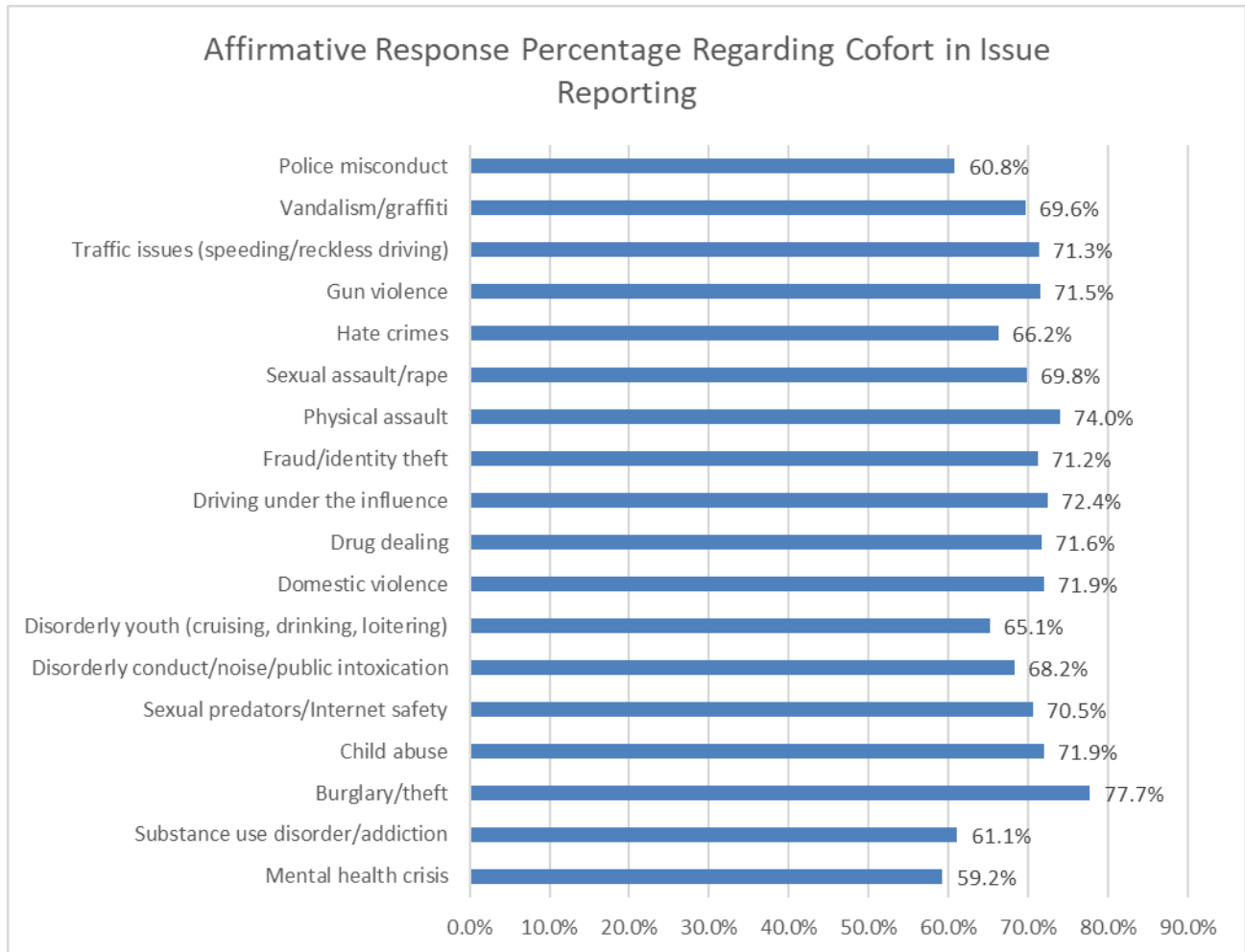


The next question asked respondents how satisfied they were with reporting an issue to the Sheriff's Office in the past year. A total of 234 respondents answered this question, with an average response of 4.11 on the 5 point scale (highly dissatisfied to highly satisfied), and a standard deviation of 1.18 indicating that the typical respondent falls between a value of 2.93 and 5. A median value of 5 indicates that the average respondent was on the "highly satisfied" end of the scale.

The next question asked respondents if they had ever been a victim of a crime in Delaware County. 226 respondents (37.29%) responded that they had been a victim of a crime in the county. The next question asked if respondents knew anyone who had ever committed a crime in Delaware County. 352 respondents (54.57%) indicated that they do know someone who has committed a crime.

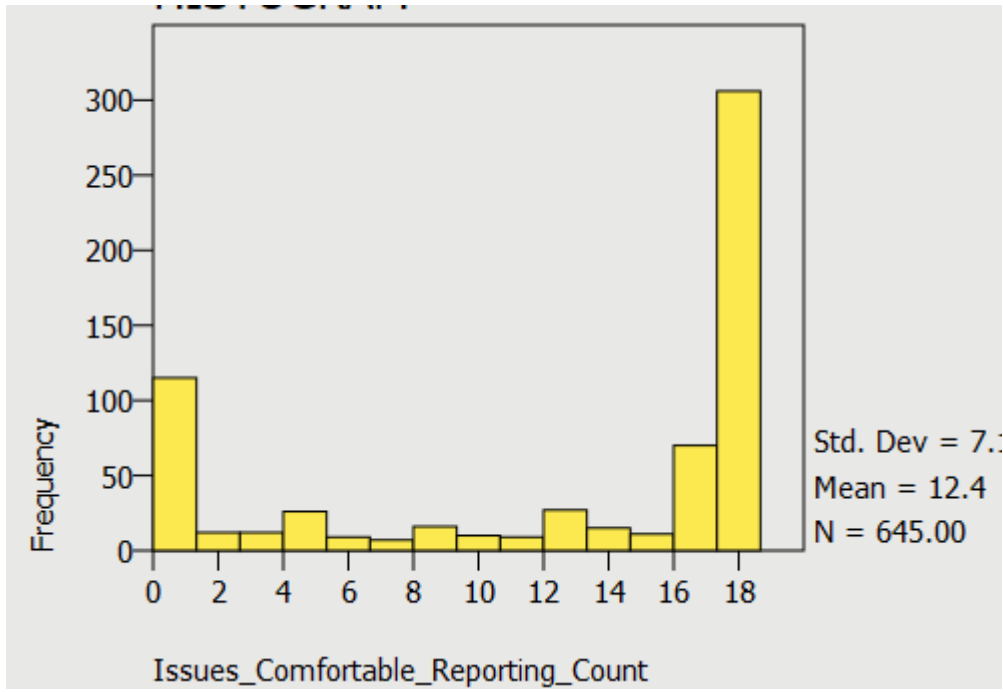
The final set of questions asked respondents to select all of the issues that they would feel comfortable reporting to the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. Responses to each of these issues were coded with a value of "0" (for no response) and "1" (for an affirmative response). The results for this series of items is summarized in the figure below. As we can see, a majority of respondents indicate that they would feel comfortable reporting all of these issues. However, there are differences between the percentage of respondents selecting the different issues. We see that for those issues that many might consider "serious crimes" such as burglary/theft (77.7%), child abuse (71.9%), physical assault (74%) and gun violence (71.5%), we see above 70% of respondents saying they would feel comfortable reporting these issues. We also see that the issues which fall below 70% of respondents include police misconduct (60.8%), disorderly youth (65.1%), substance use disorder/addiction (61.1%) and mental health crisis (59.2%), appear to be issues that are considered less criminal and perhaps even non-criminal. Open ended responses (from the follow up question) indicate that respondents may not have selected these issues for a number of reasons, including not trusting the Sheriff's Office to fairly handle misconduct allegations, to feeling that mental health and substance use issues should not be under the purview of the Sheriff's office at all. These findings are interesting, in that they reflect some of what the committee

carrying out this study has been talking about for a while (i.e. that mental health and substance use disorder are major issues in the county that perhaps should not be the responsibility of the Sheriff's Office). The low rating of officer misconduct reporting may also suggest the need to create some form of citizen oversight committee and/or an improvement/bolstering of policy regarding how such issues might be handles (thus allowing the community to be involved in these processes that a fair number appear to have a lack of faith in).



The responses to the issue reporting question also appear to be fairly consistent among respondents. A Cronbach's Alpha score of .98 indicates suitability for combining all of these issues into a single variable. The resulting variable is a count of how many issues a respondent feels comfortable reporting, with values ranging from 0 to 18 issues. A mean value of 12.48 and standard deviation of 7.18 indicates that the typical respondent falls between a value of 5.3 and 18 on this new scale (which is quite a bit of variation, see the histogram illustration below). As we can see from this distribution, it does appear that most respondents are at the upper end (47.4% with a value of 18), but that we are also seeing an "all or nothing" approach to these responses with a second grouping of respondents saying that they would not feel comfortable reporting any issues (15.5% with a value of 0).

Histogram of Issue Reporting Compound Variable



Bivariate Analysis

The next step of this analysis is to compare variables and indicators in order to find if any patterns in responses exist between different groups, and if any relationships exist between the variables.

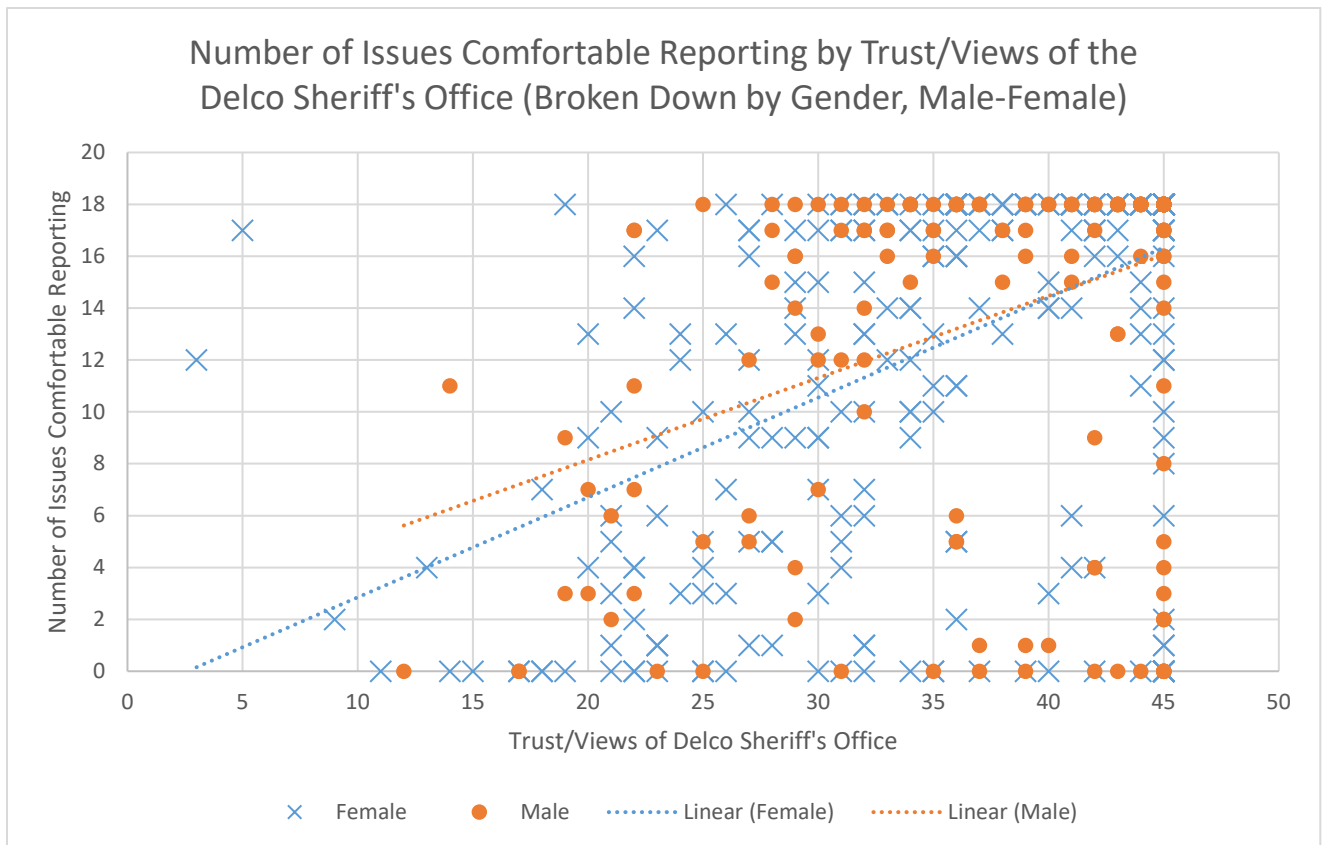
Gender Comparison

Variable	Male Average (Std. Dev.)	Female Average (Std. Dev)	t-test Results
Level of Trust/Views of Delco Sheriff's Office	39.11 (7.85)	36.83 (8.56)	t=3.13, p<.05
Number of Issues Comfortable Reporting to Delco Sheriff's Office	14.17 (6.24)	13.05 (6.61)	t=2.02, p<.05
Comfortable reporting mental health crisis	.73 (.44)	.60 (.49)	t=3.42, p<.05
Comfortable reporting substance use disorder/addiction	.73 (.45)	.62 (.49)	t=2.64, p<.05
Comfortable reporting disorderly youth	.75 (.43)	.67 (.47)	t=2.07, p<.05
Comfortable reporting driving under the influence	.83 (.37)	.75 (.43)	t=2.35, p<.05
Comfortable reporting sexual assault/rape	.82 (.39)	.72 (.45)	t=2.73, p<.05
Contact: No Contact in last 12 Months	.34 (.48)	.26(.44)	t=-2.20, p<.05
Contact: Casual interaction with on-duty officers	.37 (.48)	.52 (.50)	t=3.51, p<.05
Comfortable reporting police misconduct	.71 (.45)	.62 (.49)	t=2.28, p<.05

These results seem to suggest that women in Delaware County have a lower overall view/level of trust in the Sheriff's Office, and that they are less comfortable reporting a host of issues. The reason for this difference may be due to a number of factors. There may be an interrelation between views/trust and reporting behaviors, such that lower levels of trust lead to a lower likelihood of reporting issues of all sorts to policing agencies. Indeed, when we compare these two variables, we find a moderate, positive and significant relationship ($B=3.14$, $\beta=.49$, $p<.05$), such that for every one unit increase in trust/views, we can expect to find a roughly 3 unit increase in the number of issues that a respondent feels comfortable reporting to the Delco Sheriff's Office. As per this analysis, it appears that trust/views of the Delco Sheriff's Office accounts for 24% ($R^2=.24$) of the overall variance in number of issues that respondents feel comfortable reporting. When broken down by gender, we do see a similar relationship (in terms of direction) for both males and females, however there are differences in terms of the effect size, with a stronger relationship and larger effect size found between these two variables among female respondents. A comparison of slope coefficients finds that difference in slopes between the male and female regressions is non-significant, and they can for all sakes and purposes be considered the

same in directionality ($t=1.14, p>.05$). We also see an important, and potentially explanatory, finding in regard to how males and females have contact with the Sheriff's Office. We see that females were significantly more likely to select "no contact in the last 12 months" and males were significantly more likely to select "casual interaction with on duty officers". This may indicate that men have a more positive view of the Sheriff's Office given that they appear to have had more opportunity for positive interactions and contact in general.

Regression	B (β)	R ²	Significance Level
Trust/Views -> Number of issues comfortable reporting	.40 (.49)	.24	.000
Trust/Views -> Number of issues comfortable reporting (females)	.42 (.54)	.29	.000
Trust/Views -> Number of issues comfortable reporting (Males)	.32 (.40)	.16	.000



Racial Comparisons

One of the biggest issues driving the executive order upon which the committee conducting this study is based, is addressing racial inequalities in local policing. As such, it is important to look and see if any issues that may indicate racial disparities exist in these data. It should be prefaced here that while this is a highly emotional subject, it is very important to ground our discussion in these empirical findings so that any policies that are created can actually be effective. In the end, whether a committee member (or member of the general public) feels that racial disparities are (or are not) an issue in Delaware County should not be the only piece of "evidence" that we make decisions on. My apologies for the editorializing, but this is an important issue and needs to be addressed as such from an empirical standpoint.

In regard to differences in responses based on race, a series of t-tests (means comparisons) were carried out. As we can see from the table below, the results of these tests paint an interesting picture of race and policing in Delaware County. We see for instance, that those who identified as racial minorities reported a significantly higher number of issues that they would feel comfortable reporting to the Sheriff's Office (16.04 compared to 12.31 for white respondents). We also see no significant difference between white respondents and racial minority respondents in regard to overall trust/views of the Sheriff's Office. These results seem to suggest a lack of racial inequality, which is good news in the current context, especially in regard to trust and comfort in reporting. However, there is another set of responses that paints a slightly different picture. When it comes to how respondents have been in contact with the Sheriff's Office in the past 12 months, a comparison of means reveals that racial minorities are slightly more likely to report having been detained/arrested, having a traffic stop/citation, and having been questioned as a suspect. It needs to be pointed out here that these results are not statistically significant, though they may still be quite meaningful. One of the tests used in this process involves comparing the variances of the two groups in question. In the tests carried out with these data, the variances were not assumed to be equal (i.e. the variance level for racial minorities is higher than that for white respondents), yielding a non-significant t-test result overall. This is important to point out given the small number of respondents being tested on these particular comparisons (for instance 6 who reported being arrested or detained). If equal variances are assumed (which would likely be the case with more respondents), these results are statistically significant. As such, while it would be problematic to use these results as true evidence of a racial disparity, the presence of the difference (even if not statistically significant) does suggest that race may play a role and that the current methodology was not able to adequately assess it. An examination of responses shows that of the 6 respondents who reported being detained or arrested, 3 identified as Black/African American (50% of those arrested or detained). Again, this is where the small racial minority response rate makes the statistical tests difficult to put much weight into. Given this set of findings, further research (such as an examination of arrest records and traffic stop data) to better understand the role of race in policing may be needed.

Variable	White Average (Std. Dev)	Racial Minority Average (Std. Dev)	t-test Results
Level of Trust/Views of Delco Sheriff's Office	36.96 (8.73)	39.38 (8.41)	t=-1.25, p>.05
Number of Issues Comfortable Reporting to Delco Sheriff's Office	12.31 (7.23)	16.04 (4.11)	t=-4.13, p<.05
Contact: Detained/Arrested	.00 (.07)	.13 (.34)	t=-1.75
Contact: Traffic Stop/Citation	.05 (.22)	.22 (.42)	t=-1.88
Contact: Questioned as a Suspect	.00 (.04)	.09 (.29)	t=-1.42

There is another reason to take these race comparison results with a grain of salt. Close to 100 respondents did not report their race (and only 23 respondents identified as racial minorities). If this group contains racial minorities, the overall results may be different. Unfortunately, this is not possible to ascertain with the current data. Thus, we shouldn't take this set of findings as a reason to avoid building policy that might help prevent such issues or handle them if they do occur (or are identified with better research methodologies) in the future.

Reporting Behavior

A regression analysis predicting trust/views of the Sheriff's Office based on satisfaction with prior reporting behavior finds a strong positive and significant relationship ($B=6.07$, $\beta=.82$, $p<.05$). For every one unit increase in satisfaction with prior reporting, we can expect to find a 6.07 unit increase in trust/views of the Sheriff's Office. An R^2 value of .66 indicates that past reporting satisfaction explains some 66% of the variance in trust/views. This is an important, and perhaps predictable, relationship, which indicates that satisfaction with Sheriff's Office interactions may play a deciding role in overall impression, and perhaps even future interaction with that office. For instance, we also see a positive, moderate and significant relationship between trust/views of the Sheriff's Office and the number of issues that a respondent feels comfortable reporting to the Sheriff's office ($B=.40$, $\beta=.49$, $p<.05$, $R^2=.24$). Given the relationships we see here, it is also important to consider the opposite side of these "positive" regressions. While those who have a high level of satisfaction with past reporting are more likely to positive trust/views of the Sheriff's Office, it is also true that those who have low levels of satisfaction are more likely to have lower levels of trust/views. And further, those with lower levels of trust/views of the Sheriff's Office are also less comfortable reporting issues. These findings underscore the importance of striving for a positive experience in interactions between the Sheriff's Office and the Delaware County community. Some of the open ended responses to the follow up question to those related to reporting behavior indicated that there is a desire for more positive community interactions with the Sheriff's Office. This may be an important opportunity to demonstrate positive efforts that are undertaken by the Sheriff's Office, and make sure the community can build a more positive overall view.

Police Contact

A series of comparisons between how a respondent has been in contact with the Sheriff's Office in the last 12 months, and both views/trust and the number of issues they feel comfortable reporting is summarized in the table below. Note that only the comparisons that yielded significant differences are summarized. All other forms of contact did not result in differences in the two dependent variables.

Form of Contact	Trust/Views of the Sheriff's Office			Number of Issues Comfortable Reporting		
	"Yes" Average	"No" Average	t-test Result	"Yes" Average	"No" Average	t-test Result
No contact in the last 12 months	35.90 (8.24)	37.50 (8.88)	t=2.08*	11.72 (7.11)	12.74 (7.19)	t=1.64
Casual Interaction with an on-duty officer	38.59 (8.84)	35.89 (8.35)	t=-3.87*	13.86 (6.51)	11.43 (7.47)	t=-4.40*
911 emergency call	40.39 (5.33)	36.78 (8.89)	t=-4.16*	15.87 (4.85)	12.17 (7.26)	t=-4.83*
Vehicle accident	36.92 (8.79)	39.00 (7.43)	t=-1.63	14.51 (6.01)	12.31 (7.23)	t=-2.13*
In a school or at a school event	40.33 (6.29)	36.71 (8.87)	t=-3.96*	14.30 (6.32)	12.26 (7.24)	t=-2.29*
Questioned as a suspect	35.00 (14.80)	37.05 (8.71)	t=.41	17.00 (1.00)	12.42 (7.19)	t=-7.12*
Questioned as a witness	40.50 (3.85)	36.92 (8.83)	t=-4.00*	15.18 (5.93)	12.34 (7.20)	t=-2.19*
Other	34.48 (10.32)	37.45 (8.39)	t=2.55*	12.27 (7.45)	12.47 (7.14)	t=.24

These results seem to indicate that most forms of contact with the Delaware County Sheriff's Office are related to significantly higher levels of both overall trust/views of the office, and in the number of issues that respondents would feel comfortable reporting. We also see that those who reported having no contact with the Sheriff's office in the last year have significantly lower scores on both of these variables. Notably missing from this list of significant relationships are the more "negative" elements such as having been arrested or a traffic stop/citation. One would typically assume that such an interaction may result in lower levels of trust, and possible reporting behavior, and our results do not show that such a relationship exists. Interestingly, those respondents who reported having been questioned as suspects actually have a higher average count of issues they would feel comfortable reporting (and a higher, though not significantly, overall level of trust and views of the Sheriff's Office). These results seem to suggest that any contact with the Sheriff's Office may be more likely to foster a better relationship. It should be pointed out that there could be some time-order issues here. For instance, those respondents with more positive attitudes towards the Sheriff's Office may seek out opportunities to interact (or at least not shy away from them). Regardless of which direction this relationship goes, it does appear that high quality interactions may help to build a stronger relationship, and may even help to build inroads with communities that are wary of interactions with law enforcement in general. This may well be a case of "leading by example", and encouraging policies that create more positive interactions and attitudes with law enforcement. If the Sheriff's department sets the standard for what these interactions could look like, it could well have benefits for other law enforcement agencies throughout the county. Some of the open ended responses from a number of different questions on the survey indicate that respondents may have difficulty distinguishing between the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies in the county. While this may suggest the need for better communication and community education, it also reinforces the need to lead by example and set the standard for policing in Delaware County.

Other Comparisons

Given that this survey was open to non-residents of Delaware County, it behooves us to look at the responses of residents vs non-residents to see if any difference exist which may indicate “outside influence” on the overall study. T-test were carried out looking at the two main variables in the study (views/trust and number of issues comfortable reporting) comparing the responses of residents and non-residents. For the views/trust variable, no significant difference was found between these two groups ($t=-.83$, $p>.05$). In regard to the number of issues that respondents would be comfortable reporting, a significant difference was found ($t=-6.84$, $p<.05$), with residents averaging 13.18 issues and non-residents averaging 7.74 issues. This is likely due to the nature of the question, with non-residents perhaps not feeling that the Delaware County Sheriff's Office would be their first option for reporting issues given that it is likely not their primary policing agency. Furthermore, when non-resident responses are excluded from the analysis, there is no difference found in any of the results/outcomes already discussed in our bivariate analysis.

Two other demographic variables may have an influence on views/trust and issues that respondents feel comfortable recording: age and length of time connected to Delaware County. Regression analyses find that there is no significant relationship between the age of respondents and either of these two variables. We do however find significant relationships in regard to length of connection to Delaware County. For overall trust/views of the Sheriff's office, length of time connected to the county results in a positive, weak and positive relationship ($B=1.71$, $\beta=.29$, $p<.05$). For the number of issues respondents feel comfortable reporting, length of time connected to the county also results in a weak, positive, and significant relationship ($B=.84$, $\beta=.19$, $p<.05$). While neither of these relationships are very strong, nor do they explain a large amount of variance in the dependent variables (8% and 3% respectively), they do offer some evidence that the more chances a person has had to interact with the Sheriff's Office (or perhaps the more comfortable they feel in the community), the more positive their views and potential reporting behaviors are.

The final comparison is between the different towns/villages that respondents report spending the most time in while in Delaware County. This wasn't discussed in the demographic section, due to the incredible large table, but it is a factor that may help to shed light on this committee's decisions. It does appear that nearly every town and village in Delaware County had some representation in the respondents to the survey. I should point out here that numerous respondents listed multiple towns and villages in their responses to this question. In these cases, I only “coded” the first listed town/village in an effort to simplify the data processes and save a lot of time on an analysis that only had less than a week to be completed. However, the original responses remain, and if it is deemed necessary we can code differently and re-do this analysis. As we can see from the results in the rather massive table below, responses were gathered from those who spend the most time in 41 different towns and villages throughout Delaware County. The first column in the table gives an overview of how many respondents listed the different towns/villages. I should also point out that given the remarkably confusing system of municipality naming in our region (with multiple villages and towns with the same name), and given that most respondents did not specify whether a response such as “Delhi” referred to the town or village, the coding of these locations grouped all similar names together. As such, there is likely more detail that could be obtained, but without being able to make the more general names specific, this may be as good as it gets. The second and third columns give the averages for the two main variables (trust/views

Town/Village	% of Respondents (n)	Trust/Views Mean Value	Number of Issues Comfortable Reporting Mean Value
Andes	3.09% (17)	40.53	14.00
Arkville	.18% (1)	45.00	18.00
Bloomville	.55% (3)	35.67	12.33
Bovina	2.00% (11)	38.20	16.91
Bovina Center	.36% (2)	24.50	17.00
Colchester	3.45% (19)	38.63	14.11
Crooks Falls	.36% (2)	39.00	18.00
Davenport	.91% (5)	45.00	18.00
Davenport Center	.18% (1)	45.00	1.00
Delancey	.36% (2)	45.00	18.00
Delhi	21.27% (117)	35.73	12.34
Denver	.18% (1)	45.00	5.00
Deposit	1.09% (6)	40.00	13.00
Downsville	4.91% (27)	38.15	13.78
East Branch	.73% (4)	40.75	15.00
East Meredith	1.09% (6)	28.83	10.00
Fish's Eddy	.18% (1)	27.00	1.00
Fleischmanns	.36% (2)	38.50	17.50
Franklin	7.82% (43)	39.91	14.09
Grand Gorge	.18% (1)	45.00	17.00
Halcottsville	.18% (1)	35.00	16.00
Hamden	2.73% (15)	39.80	13.93
Hancock	1.82% (10)	39.63	16.20
Harpersfield	.36% (2)	36.50	11.00
Hobart	1.82% (10)	28.56	12.30
Kortright	1.45% (8)	35.13	15.50
Margaretville	3.27% (18)	34.71	10.89
Masonville	2.00% (11)	41.82	15.09
Meredith	2.00% (11)	38.20	13.27
Meridale	.36% (2)	43.00	18.00
Middletown	2.36% (13)	31.00	9.77
New Kingston	.18% (1)	45.00	18.00
Roxbury	2.18% (12)	33.33	11.75
Sidney	7.27% (40)	36.72	13.25
Sidney Center	1.45% (8)	40.17	16.88
South Kortright	.73% (4)	35.25	10.00
Stamford	4.28% (23)	39.23	14.00
Tompkins	.55% (3)	42.33	12.33
Treadwell	.73% (4)	42.25	16.50
Trout Creek	1.82% (10)	42.70	14.40
Walton	13.27% (73)	37.05	12.92

and issues comfortable reporting) from the respondents in each village/town. You will notice that many of the towns and villages only had one or two respondents, and as such means comparisons with

significance tests may be less than valuable. We do see that those towns with more respondents tend to have lower average values for both variables, which is not surprising given the potential for more variance with a greater number of responses. While these results may not be terribly useful for policy considerations, they do indicate that the results from this survey come from nearly the entirety of Delaware County. They also are a big reminder of the massive size of the Jurisdiction that the Sheriff's Office is responsible for, and thus the importance of our reform efforts to create policies that may help ease some of the overall burden on the office (though their jurisdiction will remain gigantic).

Open Ended Responses

There were several opportunities on the survey for respondents to leave open ended responses and provide additional feedback, explanation of responses and anything else. A complete list of responses is included at the end of this analysis for easy reference. The questions that I want to discuss here are those related to general feedback. The final question on the survey asked respondents to share any additional feedback they had regarding the Sheriff's Office.. At first glance, these responses appear to be all over the place. However, after reading through them several times it appears that they tend to split into two major types. The first "type" of response was one of support or positive affirmation of the Sheriff and the office. Some in this category urged others to take it easy on the office and advocated for less criticisms, while others expressed feelings of safety and security. The other main type of response was more critical/negative. While fewer in number than the more positive responses, these critical comments had the tendency to be much longer and in many ways resembled an airing of grievances. Chief among those grievances were concerns about the politics of the Sheriff's office (particularly the use of political messaging on social media), frustrations regarding issues of race and discrimination, and a number of responses claiming instances (though without specifics) of things like corruption. This dichotomy of responses is not terribly surprising, as those who tend to leave comments are more likely to feel strongly about their views and positions (thus you tend to get far fewer "middle of the road" responses). I also want to point out that some of the responses to this question appear to be using "second-hand" information (i.e. I have not experienced this, but I have heard that others have). While this may not be as useful for policy making, it does still demonstrate that the residents of our community are concerned for their neighbors (who may not speak up for a number of reasons), and that these issues are on the minds of our residents even if they may not have experienced them directly.

Elsewhere in the open ended responses, such as the follow up question to the section on reporting issues, there seemed to be a quite prominent expression of doubt in the Sheriff's Office, especially in regard to handling issues fairly. As many respondents pointed out (and as our results and analysis suggest may be the case) those with less trust in the office say that they are less likely to report all manner of issues. Another subset of these responses speaks directly to one of the main issues this committee has been discussing, substance use and mental health crises. A number of responses call for either more training to handle these issues, or the creation of more opportunities for treatment (all things that the committee is currently considering).

There was also a question on the first page of the survey asking for any additional feedback regarding the questions on trust and views of the Sheriff's Office. This open ended question generated over 190 responses, and many of the patterns we see in the other open ended questions are also present here. Again, the responses tended to fall along the lines of "positive" or "negative" with very few middle of

the road statements. There was also a fair deal of feedback regarding politics of the Sheriff's Office and the use of this position for political purposes. There were two unique patterns to these responses that really jumped out to me. First, were several responses that mentioned directly witnessing ethical and legal violations (including corrections officers using drugs while on the job, mentioned by someone who claims to be a law enforcement officer, and a victim whose victimizer had called the office first and was on a friendly basis with the responding officers). There were others, but these really stuck out to me. While this may not be enough evidence to warrant any kind of investigation, it does underline the importance of holding the Sheriff's Office (and its members) accountable for both good and not so good behavior. As we mentioned in the analysis above, one of the least selected issues for possible reporting was "police misconduct", and given some of the statements in this and other sections of the survey related to "small town" politics, fear of potential retaliation, and the "good old boys club", it becomes clear why many respondents may not feel comfortable reporting these issues. The other thing that jumped out at me from these responses was the number of respondents who made a point of mentioning that they hardly ever saw anyone from the Sheriff's Office. As we know from the previous analysis, lack of contact tend to relate to lower levels of trust/views and comfort in reporting issues, so this is certainly an area of concern.

Policy Recommendations

It is often said that "the facts speak for themselves", but being inanimate objects on the screen of a computer it takes us as committee members to put them into action. As such, and given the above analysis of these survey results, I have made a list of possible policy recommendation that I think need to be discussed. I will note that many of these may be duplicates to those offered by others, and hopefully that is a good thing given the support of empirical evidence for these positions found herein.

- 1) Formation of a crisis response program dedicated to substance use and mental health issues in Delaware county. We see from our responses that many feel that the Sheriff's office (for many reasons) should not be responsible for handling these calls without the necessary support that such a program might provide.
- 2) More interaction and community outreach. While this might take a number of different forms, we see evidence that more interactions with the Sheriff's Office can lead to a better community relationship, so anything done in this regard is likely to have positive effects. This should also focus on education and community involvement, with programs and interactions demonstrating the good work that is done by the department, as well as being open and honest about the challenges that are faced.
- 3) The biggest policy suggestion that I have is in regard to the creation of a active citizen oversight board/panel/committee that can work in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office on important issues (including allegations of officer misconduct and use of force inquiries). The results from this survey make it pretty clear that there are quite a few people in the county who either don't know how to report officer misconduct, or don't feel comfortable doing so. A committee (or whatever it could be called) such as this might help to ease that discomfort. Other departments around the state and across the country have implemented policies like this, and such a policy speaks directly to the executive order that this committee is operating under in regard to accountability and community interaction. While Sheriff DuMond may do a great job of handling

such issues “in house”, this is not a committee that is only focused on what is happening today. We need to build policies that will keep our community relations strong and productive moving into the future (what happens for instance is someone becomes Sheriff who abuses their role and there is no oversight?). This committee could be composed of volunteer community members from all political and social backgrounds (it doesn't have to be a massive committee, but it would be good if it wasn't a bunch of white men and more broadly depicted our community), and terms could be limited. I envision this committee as having a role in some internal affairs (though perhaps not all), but especially focusing on officer misconduct/discipline and use of force investigations/reviews. Given our conversations on hiring with a focus on diversity, such a committee might also be able to play a role in the hiring process. I want to stress that this would not be a “takeover” of the Sheriff's role (or power to discipline officers, etc.), but rather a tool that would allow for community input and more open accountability for these processes that are currently not well understood by the general public.

- 4) This has nothing to do with the Sheriff's Office, but could we please use any power we have to pressure the Delaware County Fair to stop allowing the sale of the confederate flag? This is really an apolitical thing (we literally fought an entire war over it, for which our county has statues in remembrance of the union soldiers from our community who fought against what that flag stood for). This is the 21st century, there really is no need for flying any flag but the American flag as an act of patriotism. This was brought up several times by respondents (which is what caught my attention), but there is something that relates to this committee tied in here. I would argue that one of our main goals is to make Delaware County a welcoming and safe community for everyone. If I was choosing where to go on a weekend/vacation, and I had the choice between a county that has lots of confederate flags flying (ironically by the descendants of those whose ancestors fought for the union), and a county that did not, I would take my money elsewhere (so this is an economic issue as well). I don't know what we can do about this as a committee, and it is probably beyond our goals, but I know we have members who may have the power to bring our county into a better standing with regard to this issue.

List of Open Ended Responses

[open ended responses are withheld to protect privacy of respondents]