

2022

A Social Constructivism View of Police Community Relations in Saint Louis' Inner-City Communities

Tyrone Carter
Walden University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.waldenu.edu/dissertations>

This Dissertation is brought to you for free and open access by the Walden Dissertations and Doctoral Studies Collection at ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Walden Dissertations and Doctoral Studies by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact ScholarWorks@waldenu.edu.

Walden University

College of Psychology and Community Services

This is to certify that the doctoral dissertation by

Tyrone Carter

has been found to be complete and satisfactory in all respects,
and that any and all revisions required by
the review committee have been made.

Review Committee

Dr. Clarence Williamson, Committee Chairperson,
Criminal Justice Faculty

Dr. Stephen Morreale, Committee Member,
Criminal Justice Faculty

Dr. Joseph Pascarella, University Reviewer,
Criminal Justice Faculty

Chief Academic Officer and Provost
Sue Subocz, Ph.D.

Walden University
2022

Abstract

A Social Constructivism View of Police Community Relations in Saint Louis' Inner-City
Communities

by

Tyrone Carter

M. Phil., Walden University, 2020

M.S., Capella University, 2016

BS, Bryant & Stratton College, 2014

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
Criminal Justice

Walden University

May 2022

Abstract

The implementation of policies and initiatives often have adverse effects, causing societal harm or encouraging unprecedented events. Proactive policing strategies like Stop and Frisk Initiatives or similar tactics have historically caused trust issues between Missouri law enforcement and the community they protect and serve, complicating an inevitable relationship needed to enhance public safety. This research sought to examine how community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes in Saint Louis. The theory that guided this study was the Social Constructions of Target Populations Theory; the case study examined how implicit biases in law enforcement shape the perceptions of citizens in the inner city of Saint Louis. The research also investigated the social constructions of a target population molded by an individual's interactions with law enforcement. Data were collected from interviews with five community stakeholders and five police officers. Interviews were conducted using Zoom. Interviews were coded and analyzed to find links between the research and the findings concerning the original research question. The research identified that there was a disconnect between law enforcement, and social constructs of all individuals influence the laws voted for and implemented in Missouri. This study contributes to positive social change by assisting law enforcement management with identifying barriers between law enforcement and the community. Acknowledging the barriers encourages understanding, understanding promotes positive social change while strengthening this relationship and public safety.

A Social Constructivism View of Police Community Relations in Saint Louis' Inner-City
Communities

by

Tyrone Carter

M. Phil., Walden University, 2020

M.S., Capella University, 2016

BS, Bryant & Stratton College, 2014

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
Doctor of Philosophy
Criminal Justice

Walden University

May 2022

Dedication

This dissertation is dedicated to my family, friends and colleagues who supported me with encouragement and patience throughout this journey to earn my doctoral degree in Criminal Justice. A special feeling of gratitude to my loving mother, Debra Jackson whose words of encouragement motivated me to carry on to the finish line. My wife, Robin Carter remained encouraging and understanding when I needed time to concentrate on our family's goal.

Acknowledgments

I would like to recognize the countless individuals that played a role in my academic achievements. First of all, my wife, who supported me with love, patience and understanding. Without your continued support, I could never have reached my current level of success. Secondly, my committee members, whom have provided their expertise and guidance throughout the research process. Thank you all for your unwavering support.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study.....	1
Problem Statement.....	2
Purpose Statement.....	3
Research Questions.....	4
Theoretical Framework.....	4
Nature of the Study.....	5
Definitions.....	6
Assumptions.....	8
Scope.....	9
Limitations.....	9
Significance.....	10
Summary.....	10
Background.....	11
Stop and Frisk Initiative.....	12
Chapter 2: Literature Review.....	13
Introduction.....	13
Literature Search Strategy.....	14
Theoretical Foundation: Social Construction of a Target Population.....	15
Types of Target Populations.....	17
Elements of Social Constructions of Target Population.....	19

Figure 1	19
Origin of the Stop and ID Initiative	21
Penalties	24
Effectiveness of the Stop and Frisk/ Stop and ID Initiatives	24
History of Police-Community Relationship.....	25
Need to Repair the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and the Community	32
A Tumultuous Relationship	34
Communities Perception of St. Louis' Police Department.....	35
Summary.....	36
Chapter 3: Research Method.....	38
Research Questions.....	39
Research Design and Rationale	39
Concept of the Study.....	40
Identify Research Tradition	40
Rationale Chosen Tradition	41
Role of the Researcher	41
Methodology.....	43
Data Collection	45
Validity	46
Reliability.....	47
Ethical Concerns	47

Setting	48
Data Analysis Plan	49
Summary	50
Chapter 4: Introduction	49
Research Setting and Participant Recruitment	49
Participant's Demographics	50
Data Collection	50
Table 1	51
Table 2	52
Theme 1	52
Connection to Existing Literature	54
Theme 2	54
Connection to Existing Literature	56
Theme 3	56
Connection to Existing Literature	57
Theme 4	57
Connection to Existing Literature	58
Table 3	59
Theme 5	60
Connection to Existing Literature	61
Evidence of Trustworthiness	62
Credibility	62

Transferability.....	62
Dependability.....	63
Confirmability.....	63
Results.....	64
Figure 2.....	65
Summary.....	66
Chapter 5: Introduction.....	67
Interpretation of Findings.....	68
Figure 3.....	69
Limitations of the Study.....	69
Recommendations for Future Research.....	70
Implications to Social Change.....	71
Conclusion.....	72
References.....	73
Appendix A: Interview Questions for Community Stakeholders.....	87
Appendix B: Interview Questions for Community Stakeholders.....	88
Appendix C: Invitation to Participate.....	89
Appendix E: Consent Form.....	120
Appendix F: Confidentiality Agreement Form.....	122

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1 Demographics of Participants	56
2 Themes of Community Members	57
3 Themes of Law Enforcement.....	64

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures	Page
1 Conceptual Framework	24
2 Cognitive Model	70
3 Conceptual Framework	74

Chapter 1: Introduction to the Study

Social constructions are perceptions based on the collective views developed and maintained within a society. Stop and ID laws have been disproportionately utilized on minorities, affecting the perceptions this population has about law enforcement (Immigrant Legal Resource Center Staff, 2018). Inner-city communities in Saint Louis, Missouri, believed that initiatives like these are influenced by law enforcement and elected officials, social constructions and implicit biases. Research showed that restoring this relationship was needed but difficult to achieve. Schneider and Ingram (1993) introduced a research design that incorporates the role that social construction of the target populations serves in influencing public policy decision making. Schneider and Ingram's research also explained why some groups have a more significant influence on public policies and receive more benefits from these policies based on their political prestige. Their research indicated that the principal way that the social construction of target populations affects public policy is decided by labeling selected community groups as *deserving* or *undeserving* (Wagner & Morris, 2018). The social implications of this research involved identifying the underlining reasons why laws are enacted that target specific populations.

Chapter 1 identified the background information, described the problem, and conducted the research study. Chapter 1 also gave the purpose and significance of the research and its implications on social change. This chapter identified the research question this study hoped to provide answers to. Chapter 1 continued with the theoretical

framework, the nature of the study, assumptions, and limitations of the research.

Problem Statement

Differences in social constructions and perceptions based on personal experiences cause a disconnect in the relationship between law enforcement and Saint Louis, Missouri communities they took an oath to protect. Despite implementing the Community Policing Initiative of the 1980s, a partnership between law enforcement and community stakeholders that recognized and resolved community issues, tension, and distrust during law enforcement interventions continued to result in officer-involved shootings.

Data from the St. Louis Police Department (SLPD) showed that black drivers experienced 66.4% of their department's vehicle stops, despite making up 45.7% of the city's population (Empower Missouri, United Way, 2019). The data showed a disparity index of 1.45 for black drivers in 2018. However, white drivers saw a disparity index of .66, which means the stops experienced by white drivers were far less frequent than one would expect given their share of the city's population. In comparing these two disparity indexes, the St. Louis Police Department were 2.22 times more likely to pull over black drivers than a white driver (Empower Missouri, United Way, 2019).

It is more likely that these disparities resulted from SLPD over-policing parts of the city that had black residents. Regarding vehicle stops, black drivers were 15% more likely to receive a citation from the SLPD (Empower Missouri, United Way, 2019).

Concerning the entire Missouri population, blacks were stopped at a rate of 76% in 2018

compared to 72% in 2017 (Empower Missouri, United Way, 2019). Do these implicit biases or individual social constructions negatively affect the community's perceptions of law enforcement? A possible consequence of implicit biases and individual social constructions is that individual preferences and behaviors impact department operating policies and procedures.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this qualitative research study design was to explore community public perception and social constructions that influenced which laws are implemented by law enforcement in Saint Louis. The social implications of this research were to identify the underlining reasons why laws are enacted that target certain populations. As perceived in the quote "One Goal, One Vision," uniformity is essential. Law enforcement and the community are believed to have the same goal in mind as it pertains to public safety, but they differ in the roadmap for achieving that goal. This divide impacts policies and decision making because each entity believes that their strategies and reasoning behind policy implementation are the best ways to protect the public. Research showed that entities will have a different vision but may have several strategies for accomplishing that vision. In the inner-city communities in Saint Louis, the Stop and ID initiative of the police department served as an instrument for Saint Louis law enforcement to be proactive on crime reduction and prevention.

Low-income minority communities view Stop and ID policies as being unnecessarily punitive and having contributed to disparate treatment, particularly among

communities of color in Saint Louis. It is not known the extent to which social constructions of target populations, usually identified as the African American population, may contribute to disparate and discriminatory treatment by police. A study that specifically examined the role of social constructions of target populations and the actions of police officers may shed light on whether the police officers of the police department hold social constructions of specific populations that may contribute to disparate operationalization of the Stop and ID policy, affecting trust between police and the community. This study outcome provided insight into ways to restore the relationship between law enforcement and the community, initiate and maintain an open dialog, and renew community members' faith in the oath that law enforcement personnel take to protect and serve.

Research Questions

RQ1: How do community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes in Saint Louis?

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework relevant to this research topic on the trust issues between law enforcement and the community is the social construction of target populations. Constructivism is a term meaning that individuals psychologically construct their world experience through cognitive developments. Social constructionism has a social premise rather than an individual focus (Andrews, 2012). Social constructionism influences the public policy agenda and the selection process. This theoretical framework

is valuable to this research because it explained how some groups are treated differently than others (Schneider & Ingram, 1993, p. 334).

Schneider and Ingram's element of the social constructions of a target population theory relevant to this study was that elected officials have implicit biases about which population should be compensated or penalized by the government. This was relevant because the sheriff is an elected law enforcement official that influences what policies are brought before the city council for approval. These stereotypes were placed on target populations by taking advantage of people's perceptions of these groups. This research explored these biases with law enforcement in Saint Louis on how they enforce the Missouri Statute on Stop and ID.

Nature of the Study

This was a general qualitative research study design. An advantage of using qualitative research study design is the partnership between researchers and the participant. This design provided participants a platform to tell their stories. This dialogue enabled participants the opportunity to describe how their interactions have molded their perspectives of reality. It also allowed the researcher to gain a better understanding of the participants' actions (Baxter & Jack, 2008). The case study method was the logical approach for this research because it supported an exploration of the relationship dynamics of law enforcement and Saint Louis's inner-city communities. The study aimed to extend the existing literature.

The data gathered and sampled in this research included qualitative interviews from the community and law enforcement personnel directly involved with this issue. These interviews were conducted using teleconferencing software and will last between 45 – 60 minutes. The interviews were recorded, and transcripts from the interviews were transcribed for data analysis. I descriptively coded and content analyzed the collected data to find links between the research and the findings referring to the original research question. The data collection process included semi-structured interviews, direct participant observations, written documents, and artifacts. Stacey and Vincent (2011) also indicated that the interview participants' ability to reflect on questions and make changes to their responses resulted in high-quality data.

Definitions

Bias: Prejudice against one entity, person, or group, usually in a way considered to be unfair (Lexico.com, 2020).

Community policing is an idea that encourages organizational approaches to support using partnerships and problem-solving procedures to address the conditions of public safety such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime (United States Department of Justice Staff, 2020). This is a policing initiative to remove officers from the vehicles and patrol to know and understand the communities they protect and serve.

Implicit Bias is unconscious prejudice against individuals of a particular race, gender, etc., that influences one's actions or perceptions (Lexico.com, 2020).

Policies: A course of action implemented or recommended by a government or party (Lexico.com, 2020).

Policing Initiatives: Approaches targeted at objectives that incorporate crime prevention, effective use of police resources, or suspect location (National Institute of Justice Office of Justice Programs, 2017).

Proactive Policing: Policing approaches are intended to reduce crime instead of reacting to crime after they have occurred. Proactive policing focuses on places, people, or community disorder (The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Staff, 2020).

Problem Solving Policing: Identifies the causes of crime and the appropriate responses to problems based on analysis results (Goldstein, 1979). This analytic approach provides a framework to uncover the mechanisms of crime problems using problem identification, analysis, response, assessment, and response adjustment. This approach also develops interventions that engage a community, social service, and the criminal justice system to address the situations that cause crime problems to reoccur (Braga, 2008; Goldstein, 1990; Eck & Spelman, 1987).

Reactive Policing: The police respond to community members' requests, which comprises an immediate response to calls and follow-up investigations (Government of Canada, D. O. 2015).

Social constructions: Perceptions based on the viewpoints one has developed and maintained (Lexico.com, 2020).

Stakeholders: Individuals with an interest or concern in something (Lexico.com, 2020).

Stop and Frisk/ Stop and ID: Laws that authorize law enforcement to detain persons reasonably suspected of involvement in a crime. This law requires the individual detained to identify themselves to the police. The court created this law through Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1 (U.S. 1968) (US Legal, I, 2020).

Target population: The group of individuals from which the sample is drawn. A sample consists of the individuals taking part in the investigation (McLeod, 1970).

Assumptions

Several assumptions supported the study design for collecting information. The first assumption was that participants represent a subpopulation of law enforcement familiar with the "Stop and ID" statute. The second assumption was that the law enforcement officers chosen to participate in this research study would answer all questions truthfully.

The social construction of target populations theory was associated with my research study because I attempted to identify what officers used to determine whom officers stop while employing the Stop and ID initiative. I wanted to know what population this initiative was created to address and what qualified individuals for this population. This theory was also suitable for my research because of its implications for social change and the greater good.

Social change is a blueprint for individuals striving to engage communities in change and create more acceptable societies. Without proper research, entities targeting

change are likely to be founded on implicit or assumed problem identification or contingent community necessities and desires. If we are to accomplish community involvement with activities that lead to change, inquiries to find out about those communities was the first step.

Scope

The scope of this qualitative research involved data collection, which involved semi-structured interviews with community members and law enforcement personnel from the inner city of St. Louis, Missouri. This study was designed to explore community members' perceptions of who interacts with officers based on the officers enforcing the Stop and ID initiative. This study can be transferred outside of the inner city of St. Louis, Missouri to similar communities with similar socioeconomic statuses and cultural backgrounds that employ Stop and ID tactics as a proactive policing measure.

Limitations

There are limitations with interviews being the primary data collection method. The researcher relied on the participants' honesty as they explained their experiences related to the research topic. The researcher had to recognize the trustworthiness of the findings. The trustworthiness of information is more applicable to qualitative research studies than in quantitative research designs.

Biases are also an area of concern that needed to be appropriately addressed. The researcher is also an African American male born and raised in the inner city of Saint

Louis, Missouri. The researcher was transparent about their work experience to prevent any biases. The researcher also asked the same open-ended questions to all participants.

Significance

The significance of this research and its effect on positive social change was that restoring the trust issues within this relationship creates an atmosphere that promotes public safety for all. To be effective in their duties, law enforcement agencies cannot function alone. They need assistance from citizens. Additionally, a study of this nature may improve administrative efficiency and efficacy by offering insight as to recruitment and retention practices related to the social constructions of target populations. This study was essential to the public policy and administration field because police administration and elected officials who implement policies for law enforcement agencies may benefit from insight into the police community trust problems, which may lead to long term solutions.

Summary

In this chapter, I presented background information on the “Stop and ID” initiative and the law it was derived from. There has been substantial research conducted on the “Stop and Frisk” initiative but little on policies and initiatives created from “Stop and Frisk.” When selecting a framework for this study, I wanted to select a framework that would maximize the research's potential by providing an understanding of the “Stop and ID” statute and its effect on policy implementation. The purpose of this study was to identify how social constructions could influence what policies and laws are created and

how one enforces the laws created. In chapter 2, I provided a review of existing literature on the theory of social constructions of target populations, background information of the authors, and the purpose the authors created the theory.

Background

United States law enforcement historically have viewed themselves as an entity that brings offenders before the court so they could answer for their crimes (Clark & Bittner, 1972). Nearly forty years ago, police reform changed policing. Hahn and Jeffries (2003) contended that police reforms of the 1950s and 1960s ignored the relationship between the police and the community. The relationship weakened between the two parties because the communities' calls for police services considered noncriminal were met with a heavy emphasis on police crime control. This was the evolution of community policing, an initiative created to get officers out of the vehicles and into a more personal relationship with the communities they patrol. Law enforcement personnel saw themselves as deterrents of crime with a strong emphasis on crime reduction. Mears (2018) explained that policing initiatives like proactive policing turned routine encounters into disputes. Specific tactics, such as Stop and Frisk, were found to have no immediate effect on crime reduction but adversely impacted public trust (Mears, 2018). Humans are considered social creatures, and the relationships they establish are crucially important to them. Relationships are manufactured on trust, and imperative police officers understand the importance of building and maintaining public trust believed to be the cornerstone of successful policing. (International Association of Chiefs of Police Staff, 2020) Research

indicated that people draw these conclusions based on the fact that law enforcement personnel procedures are just, free of biases, and they are treated with dignity and respect (Meares, 2018).

Stop and Frisk Initiative

The "Stop and Frisk Initiative" resulted from the 1968 *Terry v. Ohio*, the United States Supreme Court ruling. This ruling justified a stop by law enforcement to investigate criminal conduct even though probable cause does not exist to make an arrest. Reforming Stop and Frisk in 2017 showed that blatant overuse and misuse of Stop-and-Frisk results in a breach of constitutional rights. It also recognized tension-filled police-community relationships and eroded police legitimacy (Fradella & White, 2017, pp. 45-46). This is relevant to the research because this is often the only interaction inner-city community members have that mold their law enforcement perceptions. This is pertinent to the current research because the social construction theory argues that social constructions affect policies such as stop and frisk and stop and ID (Pierce, Siddiki, Jones, Schumacher, Pattison, & Peterson, 2014). This theory also affected policy tools, and the policy choices community members have to choose from when implementing laws.

Saint Louis, Missouri, has a similar initiative known as the Stop and ID Statute, Mo. Rev. Stat. §84.710(2). The *Stop and ID* statutes give law enforcement the authority to request that a person suspected of illegal activity provide their name, address, and

reason for their behavior if law enforcement personnel suspect that a crime is being committed or will be committed (Immigrant Legal Resource Center Staff, 2018).

Chapter 2: Literature Review

Introduction

Differences in social constructions, perceptions based on one's personal experiences cause a disconnect in the relationship between law enforcement and Saint

Louis, Missouri communities they took an oath to protect. The purpose of this study was to evaluate whether differences in social constructions, that is, police perceptions versus public perceptions, affect what and how policies are implemented. Chapter 2 was devoted to the literature on the social construction of target populations theory and police-community relations. The literature review conducted was compiled over six months. I inspected the cited sources of the research information viewed in the database search, which led to additional resources useful to my research.

In Chapter 2, a review of the theoretical foundation of the effects policy implementation has on community-police relationships in the City of Saint Louis, Missouri, was explored. This chapter also focused on the existing literature and reviewed historical events influential in creating police reform to improve police-community relations. The chapter also detailed the history of the relationship, the need to repair the relationship, the results of this tumultuous relationship, and the community's perception of law enforcement. In the final section of this chapter, this research discussed federal, state, and local policies associated with the "Stop and ID" statute.

Literature Search Strategy

The literature search was an organized approach to gather information about the effect Missouri Statute *Stop and ID* has on the interactions and relationship of law enforcement and the community. The topics and keywords searched for this research included scholarly peer-reviewed articles, journals, and dissertations on police-community relations, social constructions of a target population, officer-involved

shootings, Stop and Frisk, Missouri's Stop and ID Statute, community perception of law enforcement, policing initiatives, proactive policing, community policing, smart policing, the history of and contemporary police departments.

Ebscohost was the primary database because their database consists of academic libraries, school libraries, public libraries, medical institutions, corporations, and military institutions. I also used Google scholars' database for additional support when referencing research conducted by Schneider and Ingram's social construction of a target population framework. The online library at Walden University was also an essential literature search tool while conducting this research. After retrieving the data obtained from the literature search, a complete analysis of the research was conducted to identify relevant information appropriate for this research topic.

Theoretical Foundation: Social Construction of a Target Population

The social constructions of a target population are related to constructivism. Constructivism proposed that each individual mentally constructs the world of experience through cognitive processes, while social constructionism has a social rather than an individual focus (Andrews, 2012). This theory influenced the public policy agenda and the selection process. The social constructions of a target population theory were developed by Dr. Ann L. Schneider and Helen Ingram in 1993 in their published work, *The Social Constructions of Target Populations, Implications for Politics and Policy*.

Schneider and Ingram introduced a research design that incorporates the role that social construction of the target population serves in influencing public policy decision

making. This research theory explained why some community members benefit from policies while the same policies penalize others. Schneider and Ingram's research also explained why some groups have more influence on public policies and receive more benefits from these policies based on their political prestige. Their research indicated that the principal way that the social construction of target populations affects public policy is decided by labeling selected community groups as deserving or undeserving (Wagner & Morris, 2018).

Schneider and Ingram documented that community dialect, metaphors, and memoirs are used to design good and bad representations of target populations in the policy decision-making process. Elected politicians and individuals in the community tasked with making decisions for the entire community are compelled by neighborhood norms or need to be reelected to employ social constructions (Copeland, 2013).

These images and stereotypes become the realities of the world in the eyes of decision-makers. The target population's social construction identity derived from the cultural, emotional, and value characteristics assigned or assumed by the target group (Schneider & Ingram, 2014). The theory applied policymakers' political power influences and the targeted population's social standing in developing and implementing public policy. Politicians determine policy agendas by dividing target groups into deserving (positive social construction) and undeserving (negative social construction) categories based on the groups' social standing as perceived by voters and policymakers (Schneider & Ingram, 1997). The ability of individuals, interest groups, and politicians to influence

policy purpose and outcomes depends on the political power presented through wealth, status, or position (Schneider & Ingram, 1993). The political power of the target group directly affects the distribution of benefits or burdens to the target population.

The higher the political power the target populations possess, the fewer burdens are placed on the group, and the more benefits are given (Schneider & Ingram, 1997). Target populations may move within four groupings depicted in Figure 1, based on the political power level that a group of proponents can bring to bear on a topic. The social construction of the target group can change based on the external and internal shifting of perceptions and values of the involved groups, resulting in the target group being allocated more or fewer benefits or burdens. The subsequent four characterizations of target populations relate directly to the target population's social construction and political power attributes.

The theory of social construction of a target population also implied that each individual mentally constructs the world of experience through cognitive processes. In contrast, social constructionism has a social rather than an individual focus (Andrews, 2012). Andrew contended that social constructionism emphasized daily interactions between individuals and their use of language to establish reality.

Types of Target Populations

There are four types of target populations. They are called advantaged, contenders, dependents, and deviants. Advantaged groups are considered to have excessive resources to persuade policies through their wealth, voting strength, and ability

to mobilize. This group from the public policy viewpoint is considered meritorious, deserving, undeserving, and unworthy. Examples of this group, according to Schneider and Ingram's publication of *Policy Design for Democracy*, are veterans, farmers, senior citizens, business owners, and the middle class (Schneider & Ingram, 1997).

Contender groups have political power but tend to have negative social constructions. This group from the public policy viewpoint is considered greedy, not caring about how their actions affect others, and not worthy of their elevated status. Examples of this group, according to Schneider and Ingram's publication of *Policy Design for Democracy*, are chief executive officers, rich people, gun activists, and Wall Street Bankers (Schneider & Ingram, 1997).

Deviant groups, such as the drug kingpins, criminals, and gangs, are considered politically weak. This group is considered violent, dangerous, threatening, and deserving of punishment. Additional examples of this group, according to Schneider and Ingram's publication of *Policy Design for Democracy*, are communists, fascists, and right-wing militias (Schneider & Ingram, 1997).

The final target population group is dependents. This is the group that is affected by the Stop and ID Initiative being researched in this research. Dependent groups usually include children, mothers, homeless individuals, and the poor. This group, from the public policy point of view, is said to have no political power on their own, even with the assistance of advocacy groups. This group tends to focus on the things that keep them in the same way of life (Schneider & Ingram, 1997).

Elements of Social Constructions of Target Population

The elements of social constructions of the target population are the recipients of policy benefits and burdens, goals, or problems to be solved, rules, rationale, and assumptions (Schneider & Ingram, 1997). The first element, policy benefits and burdens, about the four types of target populations group, identify what groups benefit and what groups do not. The advantaged group's burdens are risky; however, their benefits yield substantial payoffs. The contender's groups' burdens yield mixed effects and use hollow; however, their benefits are risky. The deviant group's punishments yield substantial political payoffs; however, benefits are risky. The final of the four types of target population groups, dependents, burdens will not be noticed much if caused by omission; however, benefits are costly (Schneider & Ingram, 1997). The second element, goals or problems to be solved, relates to the four types of target populations group, including public policies as the primary tool society uses for solving community problems.

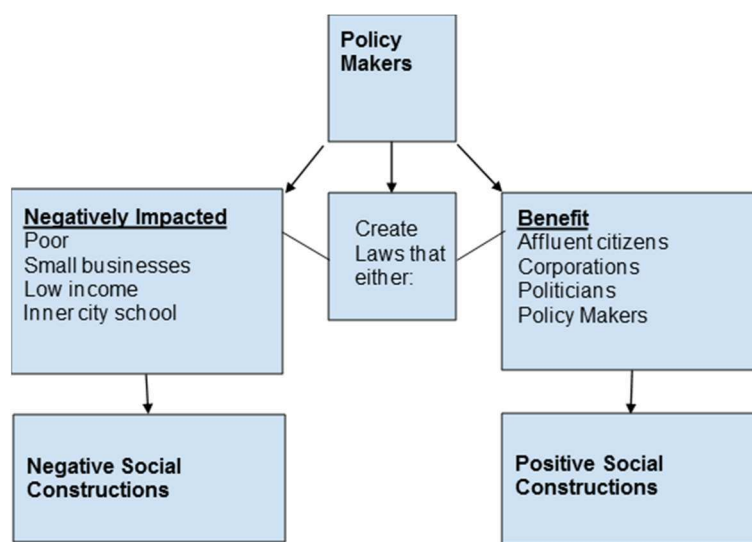
Citizenship checked the effectiveness of policies while checking whether policies would solve the community problems they were implemented to resolve (Schneider & Ingram, 1997). The third element, rules, are the procedural part of the design. Eligibility rules identify whom the recipients of the policy are intended to be. Some of these rules are universal, while others are particularistic. Rules can reinforce or alter the distribution of power (Schneider & Ingram, 1997).

The fourth element, rationales, are the explanation or justification of the design. Stated rationales are part of the public record, and policymakers use them in their

explanations as to why the policy is designed and why the policy is expected to work. Some rationale can be seen as deceptive, and as a result, damages a democracy (Schneider & Ingram, 1997). The fifth element, assumption, is the underlying logic that binds the elements together. Assumptions are often unstated by researchers and have to be uncovered while analyzing the policy. Assumptions contain valuable data about the social constructions of targets, knowledge, institutional cultures, and powerful relationships (Schneider & Ingram, 1997).

Figure 1

Conceptual Framework



Origin of the Stop and ID Initiative

The "Stop and Frisk Initiative" was derived from the 1968 *Terry v. Ohio*, the United States Supreme Court ruling. The *Terry v. Ohio* United States Supreme Court ruling justified a stop by law enforcement to investigate criminal conduct even though probable cause does not exist to make an arrest. Fradella and White (2017) found that blatant overuse and misuse of stop-and-frisk results in a breach of constitutional rights. It also recognized tension-filled police-community relationships and eroded police legitimacy. Stop and Frisk is relevant to the research because this is often the only interaction inner-city community members have that mold their law enforcement perceptions. This was pertinent to the current research because the social construction theory argued that social constructions affect policies such as stop and frisk and stop and ID. Stop and Frisk also affected policy tools and the policy choices community members have to choose from when implementing laws.

Stop-and-Frisk police tactics are frequently employed in larger cities in the United States (La Vigne, Lachman, Rao, and Matthews, 2014). Stop and-frisk cannot be initiated without reasonable suspicion requirements being met. However, before an arrest could be made, officers need probable cause that the suspect has committed or is committing a crime (Avdija, 2014). The Stop and ID Policies throughout the United States have become more prevalent since the World Trade Center Attacks on September 11, 2001 (Avdija, 2014). The United States Supreme Court in 2004 ruled that an individual was taken into custody and prosecuted lawfully for failing to identify himself during police stops. "In *Hiibel v. Sixth Judicial District Court of Nevada*, 542 U.S. 177 (2004), the Court stated that state statute could require a suspect to provide their name during a brief stop if the detention was contingent on the officer's reasonable suspicion that a crime occurred (Immigrant Legal Resource Center Staff, 2018).

However, with over 700,000 law enforcement personnel actively using the Stop and Frisk initiative or a similar approach, research cannot substantiate if this tactic has anything to do with reducing crime nationwide. Judge Shira Scheindlin called employing the Stop-and-Frisk initiative in New York a policy of indirect racial profiling (2013). She indicated that this initiative is one of several used by the New York City Police Department that violates thousands of New Yorkers' constitutional rights (2013).

State

Saint Louis, Missouri, has a similar initiative known as the Stop and ID Statute, Mo. Rev. Stat. §84.710(2). The Stop and ID statutes give law enforcement the authority

to request that a person suspected of illegal activity provide their name, address, and reason for their behavior, if law enforcement personnel have reasonable suspicion that a crime is being committed or is about to be committed (Immigrant Legal Resource Center Staff, 2018). Under this statute, individuals that refuse to provide officers with their identification can be arrested.

In the landmark Missouri Supreme Court ruling *State v. Norfolk*, justices ruled that the stop complies with the Fourth Amendment. The officer gave testimony under oath that she and the suspect made eye contact while driving by him in a marked police car while patrolling an area where several recent armed robberies had occurred. The officer stated that she witnessed the suspect make a suspicious move that caused her to believe he was concealing a weapon. The suspect argued that he was illegally stopped because the officer did not have reasonable suspicion to initiate a stop and frisk. Murphy (2010) explained that due to the totality of circumstances reviewed in light of most favorable to the circuit court's ruling, the court found sufficient evidence to support the circuit court findings. Stop and Identify is a contemporary policing strategy being used by law enforcement departments in 24 of the 50 states in the United States: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and Wisconsin.

Penalties

The penalty for individuals who fail to identify themselves in states with similar initiatives across the country is usually a misdemeanor offense. An individual convicted of the crime of failing to identify or cooperate with a police investigation can be subjected to any or all of the following penalties:

- Incarceration. For misdemeanor crimes, the offender may be sentenced to 12 months or less in the city jail at the presiding court's discretion and depending on the state.
- Fines. Courts impose fines on all defendants that appear before the judge. These fines can be as much as \$1,000.
- Probation. A person convicted of this crime can be placed on supervised or unsupervised probation and required to satisfy their release conditions, including regularly reporting to a probation officer. (White, 2017).

Effectiveness of the Stop and Frisk/ Stop and ID Initiatives

An analysis conducted by the New York Civil Liberties Union data disclosed that innocent New York citizens had been subjected to police stops and street interrogations under the Stop and Frisk Initiative (New York Civil Liberties Union and the NYCLU Foundation Staff, 2019). More than 5 million stops with interrogations have occurred since 2002, and Black and Latino's neighborhoods continue to be the primary targets of these tactics. Almost 9 out of 10 New York citizens stopped-and-frisked have been vindicated (New York Civil Liberties Union and the NYCLU Foundation Staff, 2019).

History of Police-Community Relationship

United States law enforcement historically viewed itself as an entity that brings offenders before the court to answer for their crimes (Clark & Bittner, 1972). That type of policing may have resulted in a crime reduction. However, bringing individuals before the court does not deter them from committing future crimes. It also does not discourage others from committing crimes (Clark & Bittner, 1972). According to Potter, a crime historian at Eastern Kentucky University, the United States police force is somewhat a recent creation, sparked by public order issues, driven by money and politics. Prior policing entities in Colonial America were informal, for-profit, privately funded agencies that employed part-time workers. During that era, major law violations were prostitution and gambling (Clark & Bittner, 1972).

Police reform changed policing nearly 40 years ago, seeing themselves as deterrents of crime with a strong emphasis on crime reduction (Muhlhausen, 2018). Policing initiatives like proactive policing turned routine encounters into disputes. Muhlhausen (2018) explained that proactive policing helped to prevent crimes by working with the community. One of the results of proactive policing tactics was depicted with the stop-and-frisk program used in New York, and others state with similar Stop and Frisk programs. Tactics like Stop and Frisk were found to have no immediate effect on crime reduction but did adversely affect public trust.

Public trust in law enforcement referred to the community's trust in the police to always or most of the time, do what is right and for the greater good of the community

(Meares, 2018). Research indicated that people draw these conclusions based on the fact that law enforcement personnel procedures are just, free of biases, and they are treated with dignity and respect (Meares, 2018). Redirecting policing as a civil service tool based on trust between law enforcement and the Saint Louis communities' officers that took an oath to protect and serve is the only way to reestablish trust between the two entities.

Sandu (2016) explained the role of social construction in determining the realities every individual subscribes to. This study pointed to the role of the environment and an individual's ability to interpret and classify the events around him. Reality turned out to be the intersection between our abilities to decode our environment and the actual state of our surroundings. The social construction of reality entailed a variety of disciplines, including philosophy, ethics, and sociology. Reality has been identified as being socially constructed by itself, and our perception of it is not distinguishable from absolute reality. Social construction in this aspect aims at dissecting the primary motivators of our actions and evaluating our role in the bigger picture of reality. Realism is, however, not an independent concept by itself; instead, it overlaps with other factors as characterized by the environment.

The impact of communication on realism is a central building block towards our understanding and perception of reality, and therefore imperative to study the interaction between language and society. Krippendorff (2019) explained how communication enables us to define the reality of human experience rather than relying on the influence the environment has over our encounter with reality. The behaviors of the people

surrounding us have been identified as having a profound impact on how we act. Humans are also highly influenced by the behaviors of others, and this has been why public relations has grown so prominent as a discipline. The tendency of humans to mirror the behavior of other people whom they perceive to be in a more lucrative position makes it relatively easy to manipulate the environment by people with more authority to beget specific behavioral patterns.

Historically marginalized groups such as women and individuals who are attracted to members of the same sex have gradually established their position in society by developing a social construct that establishes them in society (Haslanger, 2012). Haslanger conducted a genealogical inquiry into the motivations and reasons behind the prejudice against people who are attracted to members of the same gender. This approach relied on historical changes, cultural dynamics, scientific methods, and technological advances to test social construction's efficacy, alienating a particular target population. These findings proved that gender is socially constructed and share various biological features (Haslanger, 2012).

The constitution molded the action-plan for hundreds of organizations, groups, and parties, wherefrom they can obtain their mandates. The provisions contained therein provide for the seamless running of the democratic machine where approved processes are indiscriminately enforced. These policy design processes have often provided reliable frameworks whereby policymaking can be regulated and structured. The participation of multiple players in the policy-making process further convoluted the process since the

various target groups are unlikely to sacrifice any chances of lobbying for favorable laws. Once a system has been implemented over an extended period, some patterns are more dominant than others. The familiarity of these economic and social patterns influenced by the legislative procedures, therefore, overcomes the individual reality of citizens, leading them to act according to these external forces. Limitations in the constitution existed, and efforts to clarify to what extent those limitations are can be found in several recent case reviews.

Policymakers often adopt dubious tactics to influence policy implementation outcomes in their favor, undermining the practicality of an unbiased approach during the enforcement of a law. The role played by social construction in society is that social habits are imperative to dictating the nature of the economy, natural resources, and social activities. As exemplified by people in large groups or as a single individual, studying habits provides us with a means to decode the reasoning behind existing laws that we may wish to build on logically. Social formations are in a constant flux state and are malleable by making tweaks to the environment. Some laws in place have been reviewed on numerous occasions. Depending on whether the design process is congruent or incongruent, a process may become more open to modifications or become more convoluted to dissect. The tactics adopted by politicians to stay at the peak of the social stratum include playing on electoral reforms, which keeps the system in their favor. The repercussions of imbalanced policymaking are a dysfunctional political system incapable of providing citizens with reliable public representation. A corresponding effect of

mismanaging public resources is an increase in crime levels. Countries that boast humongous numbers of sidelines populations are likely to experience exacerbated crime levels, thus pointing to the government's ineffectiveness in managing, protecting, and providing for subjects.

A state appropriately integrated is when the public trusts public officials, including law enforcement officers (Bell, 2019). A state whose policing procedures consider citizens' input has minimal interference by the opposition and provides strong incentives for electoral policing can be considered congruent policy design. Whenever there is a partial distribution of resources, wealth is likely to be concentrated among a select community while excluding a particular section of the population from benefitting from the public coffers. In an instance where a proposition is raised to modify an existing bill, any successful implementation will either heighten or challenge the various players' power (Bell, 2019). An attempt to curb corruption could involve the neutralization of the corrupt officials by automating payment systems. Although such an effect has been attained indirectly, a burden positive policy design will have been achieved. The long-time ramifications of any policy change are guaranteed to influence the operational habits of organizations and agencies, and such an institution should hence heed to flexibility. In the United States, the agencies created as a result of an Executive Order of a president are provided with oversight roles in policy enforcement in the various economic sectors and government functions. Corrupt nations limit the upward social mobility of most of the population (Bell, 2019). In a country where no public service can be offered without

having a bribe also limits the legitimate interaction between public officials and the public, which could otherwise have provided insights into service delivery effectiveness. The loss of revenue incurred from the opportunities missed from levying small businesses denied access to the market due to harsh market conditions can be detrimental to the cash flow levels a country would enjoy (Kreitzer & Smith, 2018). The human resources of the minorities who suffer from social and economic seclusion stay unused, limiting the nation's capacity to become self-sufficient.

The impact of corrupted social construction mechanisms on a population hinders their physical and mental potentials (Jordan & Moore, 2020). The limited opportunities that people from the minority groups are shunned from accessing more so further their suffering as the social mobility towards more economically and socially lucrative positions are limited (Kreitzer & Smith, 2018). Lawmakers also ought to be pragmatic in the enactment of laws that promote positive social practices. Systemic routines designed to uplift a select group, whereas suppressing another, are rampant in the history of human recorded history and were mostly used by tyrants to overcome their subjects. Research regarding human social behavior has often highlighted the instinctual need to belong to a tight-knit group, which provides group members with a heightened sense of security, safety, and belonging. Many of these patterns are prevalent at any place where a group of people shares the same premises or location. Individuals in every setting are also likely to drift towards forming groups with other people who appear to have mutual characteristics. In instances where a random sample of people do not share cultural or

political backgrounds, the group will rely on other mundane factors to help classify themselves, such as their secondary characteristics, thus highlighting the essence of social construction over the survival of humans.

The role of literature and communication is also an essential tenet in the policy review. Any concepts were chosen to represent proposed, or existing clauses inadvertently dictate the family-words that will arise from implementation. Michener (2019) expounded on how the choice of words influenced the outcome of the enactment of a law. Each target population engages with the policy-making process uniquely since the different groups partake in differing roles. At this position, policymaking is shown in defining the transition between the roles associated with the various players within a social construction. During policy analysis and lobbying, effective communication practices are multidisciplinary inquiries that aim to create, critically assess, and exchange policy-relevant information to solve practical problems (Dunn, 2017). Practitioners are free to adopt from the wide range of scientific tools, philosophies of science, and qualitative and quantitative data to guide their resolution process. William Dunn also described policy assessment as a pragmatic process whose players should be open to foreign ideas. Catherine (2016) asserted that effective communication processes should possess conceptual and contextual awareness. A consensus can be easier to achieve by focusing on concisely expounding on the roles of the multiple players, their roles, objectives, and future expectations.

The implications of preferred communication practices by the interest groups in the policy-making process are profound and thus justifies the extensity of subjects related to the transmission of information. Policymaking always involves public officials and politicians who play the roles of enforcement and legislation, respectively. Most of the enacted policies are highly geared to protect the individuals' interests in power (Jordan & Moore, 2020). Power struggles are inherent within the policy-making processes since they determine how resource allocation will be undertaken and also modeling the channels that could offer leverage to the government officials in the future where policies are challenged and have to be reviewed.

The default predisposition resulting from systemic, economic, and political forces has always made it challenging for an average citizen to influence policy change successfully. With the evolution of priorities and the differences in the ruling regime's challenges, the coordination processes required to achieve optimum results by policies may be undermined with the emergence of a newer government formation. For instance, since its inception in 1950, the Environmental Policy has taken on many formations with every new government's entry.

Need to Repair the Relationship Between Law Enforcement and the Community

The anticipated significance of this research and its effect on positive social change is that restoring the trust issues within this relationship creates an atmosphere that promotes public safety for all. To be effective in their duties, law enforcement agencies cannot function alone. They need assistance from citizens. And a study of this nature will

improve administrative efficiency and efficacy by offering insight into recruitment and retention practices related to the social constructions of target populations. This study is essential to the public policy and administration field because police administration and elected officials who implement policies for law enforcement agencies may benefit from insight into the police community trust problems, which may lead to long term solutions.

Partnerships are essential to productive policing in today's society. Partnerships are just as imperative today as they were in 1829 when Sir Robert Peele formed the first specialized police force in London, England and authored the *Principles of Law Enforcement*, including this statement – “The police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historical tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police" (United States Department of Justice Staff, 2013).

Newly elected Saint Louis Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner publicly stressed a need to repair trust issues with Saint Louis law enforcement and the community. She announced changes in the investigations of police shootings and an exclusion list of officers. Investigations into police-involved shootings will now be placed as the highest priority with Gardner's office. The exclusion list bans officers on the list from bringing cases to her office for charges. Some have asserted their rights against self-incrimination in cases being reviewed for police misconduct in police shootings.

A Tumultuous Relationship

One result of the tumultuous relationship between police and citizens is the lack of trust on both sides. Trust, according to Dictionary.com, is “the reliance on the integrity, strength, ability, surety, etc., of a person or thing; confidence” (Dictionary.com Staff, 2018). Establishing relationships with mutual trust between law enforcement and the community is essential to the law enforcement department's mission on public safety and effective policing (2018).

Another result of this tumultuous relationship is the lack of community cooperation with law enforcement. Law enforcement needs the assistance of the community to conduct their civil duties effectively. Once community members trust law enforcement, they are more inclined to provide law enforcement with details to deter crime. Restoring the trust issues within this relationship will enable law enforcement to serve their communities (Ferreira, 1996).

The most significant result of this tumultuous relationship is officer-involved shootings. Researchers reviewed both lethal and nonlethal incidents of officer-involved shootings to determine that law enforcement in the United States fifty largest departments shot at least 3,649 people from 2010 through 2016. St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department officers shoot suspects at a rate higher than other big-city police departments across the country.

There are other results of a tumultuous relationship between law enforcement and the community. When law enforcement represents the interests of the communities, there

is typically harmony within this relationship. When officers are not on the same page as the communities, there tends to be dissatisfaction and bickering.

Communities Perception of the St. Louis Police Department

The relationships between law enforcement and diverse communities present complicated problems in policing throughout the world. These relationships can be amicable, but they often become problematic. For instance, diverse community members may be deprived of police protection and services they are entitled to as a citizen (Brodeur & Walsh, 2018). Law Enforcement may avoid addressing criminal offenses in a particularly diverse community because they believe that individuals of that group consistently engage in those offenses (Brodeur & Walsh, 2018).

Since the 1960s, researchers have found that race, age, interactions with police, and locality types are the principal variables that forecast how individuals perceive law enforcement (Brown & Benedict, 2002). Persons of color are less likely than white to trust the police due to ethnic profiling and ethnic inequalities in police behavior (Nadal, Davidoff, Allcock, Serpe & Erazo, 2017). Some minorities have historically had a distaste for law enforcement because of interactions they have personally had or interactions someone close to them has had. Others' perceptions are affected by nationally televised incidents against minorities like the Civil Rights Era, the Rodney King beating, the War on Drugs, or the many officer-involved shootings of unarmed minorities.

Community members frequently indicated that they want their police departments to employ more community-oriented policing. This is an underused approach in many

jurisdictions, primarily in Saint Louis neighborhoods with high crime levels and undeniable distrust between residents and law enforcement (Better Together Staff, 2015).

In the report “Overcoming the Challenges and Creating a Regional Approach to Policing in St. Louis City and County,” the authors stated that the police departments in St. Louis City and County should set their sights higher than just responding to 911 calls for emergency. Agencies should aim for developing an approach of regional policing, in which all departments work together with their communities to identify and resolve crime problems and quality of life issues that matter to the individuals who reside in St. Louis City and St. Louis County (Better Together Staff, 2015).

Two decades of analysis on community perceptions of crime and policing revealed that race is an essential predictor of an individual's mindsets towards crime and policing. Americans, primarily Caucasian Americans, tend to associate minorities with crime and misjudge the scope of crime committed by African Americans. The public generally associates blacks with criminality, a bias documented among police officers as well. The race is also applicable to the public's understanding of the police. African Americans are more likely than Whites to report police abuse, harsh treatment, and a culture of impunity (Cobbina, 2016).

Summary

Researchers have examined the relationship between law enforcement and the community that has led to the need to act, restore, and repair an inevitable dependent union. Agencies such as the Law Enforcement Action Partnership have stressed the

importance of improving police-community relations. Researchers believed that the blueprint for enhancing law enforcement effectiveness and public safety is to return to modern policing principles. A return to modern policing implied both increasing police-community trust and impeding crime versus reacting to crime. (Law Enforcement Action Partnership Staff, 2019). The research has confirmed that trust by entities, law enforcement officials, and community stakeholders continues to be the leading issue that fuels this tumultuous relationship.

The literature on police-community relations has progressed drastically since creating the first police service established in Philadelphia in 1751. Departments have moved from a reactive style of policing to a proactive community involved style of policing (National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2018). Both models were beneficial in crime-fighting. However, police administration looked for ways for departments to maximize community involvement with the police.

When researchers analyzed the relationship between law enforcement and the community, quantitative research methods tend to be the preferred method. However, it has been decided to approach this research using a qualitative method to address this same topic utilizing the social constructions of a target population framework. Chapter 3 summarized the research method used in this study, the data collection and analysis process.

Chapter 3: Research Method

Differences in social constructions and perceptions based on personal experiences caused a disconnect in the relationship between law enforcement and Saint Louis, Missouri communities they took an oath to protect. The purpose of this study was to explore the perceptions of community members on whether differences in social constructions help to influence what and how policies are implemented by law enforcement. This chapter included information about the research perspective, the data collection setting, target group research participants, and the types of sampling used during the research. This chapter explained the research objective, stressing how the objectives will be carried out using data analysis. The research design is targeted and explained in the first section of this chapter. This chapter identified the setting in which the interviews and surveys will be conducted. The participants' selection process was disclosed. A description of the target population, selecting particular groups, and why these particular groups were randomly selected was also provided in this chapter.

The researcher analyzed the data, provided information to support the selected research design, identified the data collection procedures, and categorized validity and reliability methods used within this study. The subsequent sections provided a detailed and precise illustration of the methodology in place, sampling and data collection process, and concerns surrounding validity, reliability, and ethics.

Research Questions

RQ1: How do community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes in Saint Louis?

Research Design and Rationale

The research design selected for this qualitative research was the case study. Case studies are defined as evaluations of people, events, decisions, periods, policies, institutions, or systems investigated by one or more approaches (Harrison, Birks, Franklin & Mills, 2017). Case studies in research characterize entities that shape a single unit such as human beings, organization, or an institution. Some research studies detail an array of cases. The latter type of case study investigates causation to identify underlying principles (Harrison et al., 2017).

There are misinterpretations about qualitative case study research. Astalin (2013) recognized in *Qualitative Research Designs: A Conceptual Framework* five misinterpretations of case study research. The first misinterpretation was that theoretical intelligence had a more excellent value than practical intelligence. This is a misinterpretation because of practical, lean-to applicable hands-on or existing knowledge of a situation. The second misinterpretation was that researchers could not conclude an individual case; therefore, the case study could not add to scientific growth. Although often cited in the methodological section of case studies, books are not considered, concentrating on data analysis in qualitative research per se (Miles et al., 2014; Corbin and Strauss 2015). To analyze the contribution of case study research to scientific

development, it needed to compare explicit methodology. Case study researchers had to demonstrate how they describe new or surprising phenomena, develop new constructs and relationships, add constructs (variables), antecedents, outcomes, moderators, or mediators to a tentative theory, challenge a theory by a critical case, theoretical replication, or discarding rival explanations, and reconstruct a theory by tracking failures and anomalies to external circumstances. The next misinterpretation was that case study research is most beneficial when creating hypotheses. The final misinterpretation concerning qualitative case study research was that case study research holds biases toward confirming the researcher's preconceived constructions (Astalin, 2013).

Information gathered from the research question will explain how an individual's perceptions or biases can influence or not influence how the Missouri Stop and ID statute is interpreted.

Concept of the Study

The concept behind this research study was to evaluate how social constructions of law enforcement in Saint Louis, Missouri affect how they execute Missouri's Stop and ID statute. The data for this study was collected through interviews with Saint Louis law enforcement and community members who interact daily. In this study, I addressed the underlying issues that fuel this tumultuous relationship.

Identify Research Tradition

The qualitative case study research method was selected for this research study. (Patton, 2015). Qualitative research has five different methods: phenomenology, ground

theory, narrative, ethnography, and case study (Creswell, 2013). For this research study, I selected the case study approach. A case study analyzes one or more cases regarding a particular subject. There are three types of case studies, but for this study, I used the comparative case study approach. This approach focused on a single issue but uses two or more cases to depict the issue. These cases are bounded because they share common focuses and goals. I identified the participants from the inner city of St. Louis that met this study's requirements. Then I started the data collection process through in-depth interviews using a teleconferencing software platform.

Rationale Chosen Tradition

The justification for choosing a qualitative research method with a case study approach was because it analyzes multiple people's experiences when it comes to the social construction individuals may have while executing or obeying the Stop and ID statutes of Missouri. This approach also became a voice for the two sides. Over the last forty years, case study research has experienced meaningful methodological improvements (Harrison et al., 2017). This improved approach provided a comprehensive, detailed understanding of numerous issues across various disciplines. (Harrison et al., 2017). This approach enabled researchers to understand the participant's perception of the Stop and ID Initiative.

Role of the Researcher

Research indicated that qualitative researchers emphasized depth rather than breadth when conducting research (Schwartz, Sadler, Sonnert, & Tai, 2009). This

allowed the researcher to clarify specific situations and individuals in target populations (Rubin & Rubin, 2012). According to Michael Quinn Patton, in *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods Integrating Theory and Practice*, qualitative research required skills, training, insight, and capabilities (Patton, 2015).

My role as the researcher included collecting, analyzing, and coding data collected from community stakeholders and St. Louis City and County Law Enforcement about the social constructions that influence how the Stop and ID initiative was implemented in Saint Louis, Missouri communities. I collected data from participants in the form of interviews. I conducted semi-structured, semi-formal, open-ended question interviews using teleconferencing software (Zoom) to explore the police-community relations in Saint Louis, Missouri communities.

I attempted to establish a rapport by explaining the interview process, what the hope for the research was, and by assuring confidentiality with all the participants' personal information. To reduce the likelihood of bias on the researcher's part, I removed my personal feelings, opinions, and thoughts from the data collection process by strictly relying on the data collected. In a second attempt to build rapport, I provided participants with the questions in advance to give them time to process the information and draw from their experiences.

Researchers must also be impartial, nonjudgmental, and unbiased interviewer, focusing on using active listening skills. Researchers must also be observant to gather information pertinent to implicit biases and other law enforcement influences that

determine how the Stop and ID initiatives are enforced in Saint Louis communities. Qualitative researchers must put aside their personal biases to understand the research participants (Abawi, 2012). Researchers analyzed the phenomena of particular circumstances or events through the lived experience of the participants.

Methodology

The target population for this qualitative study was law enforcement and community members that interact daily in Saint Louis, Missouri. The sample size was 10 participants: five (5) police officers and five (5) community members. Qualitative research tended to analyze smaller groups because it allowed the researcher to focus on the in-depth experience and outcomes of the participants. The sampling strategy used for this qualitative research study was purposeful sampling. Purposeful sampling produced an in-depth understanding of identified cultures or groups of individuals (Patton, 2015). The criteria for this research in St. Louis City or County Law Enforcement have daily interactions with community stakeholders and community members who are part of these interactions. These two groups were identified and invited to participate in this study using purposeful sampling techniques with specific inclusion and exclusion criteria. To meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria for this study, each participant must be:

1. Live or work in Saint Louis.
2. Law enforcement participants have to be employed by a St. Louis City or County Law Enforcement agency.

3. Law enforcement participants must have prior knowledge of and experience with the Stop and Frisk and Stop and ID statues
4. Community stakeholders have to be personally affected or familiar with someone that was affected by the Stop and ID initiative
5. St. Louis City or County Law Enforcement participants have to interact with community stakeholders in their everyday work assignments.

Purposeful sampling was used over random sampling techniques because of the requirements for individuals to participate in the study. The sample for this study was selected from St. Louis City or County officers on active patrol assignments throughout Saint Louis, MO, and individuals from the community who have first-hand knowledge or personal interactions with St. Louis City or County Law Enforcement. Facebook advertising was also used to help to solicit potential participants to an anonymous survey by clicking on the Facebook advertisement and redirecting them to Google Forms. There was a link at the bottom of the ad, which directed the potential participant to Google Forms and signed the Inform Consent Form electronically. If the potential participant agreed to the consent, they clicked on the agree tab and enter the online survey.

The consent form provided all prospective participants with information about the study's nature, using interview data, and agreeing to take part in the study. Participants received notifications of their option to withdraw from the study before agreeing to participate in the study. Individual participation in the study was voluntary, and involvement in the study could have been terminated at any time. The decision not to take

part would not result in any loss of benefits to the participants if participants are selected to participate in the study.

Participant names were not used in the research study to stay in compliance with confidentiality guidelines. Saint Louis has a large metropolitan population (over 300,000) and currently has over 400 civilian employees and 1,300 sworn officers in St. Louis City Police Department. St. Louis County Police Department has about 1015 commissioned officers and 328 professional staff members. Participants were provided information on the purpose of the research before agreeing to participate in this study.

Data Collection

Each participant was required to complete an informed consent to participate in the research to follow Walden University's IRB approval guidelines. All participants were notified via email of this research's purpose and the importance of anonymity of each participants' response. Each participant was informed of their ability to remove themselves from the research at any time without penalty.

The qualitative research method used for this research was semi-structured interviews. Semi-structured interviews are spoken questionnaires in which a list of prearranged open-ended questions was asked that warrant a discussion. Semi-structured interviews would provide an in-depth opportunity to discuss the research questions. These interviews allowed researchers to get feedback from both sides so that an informed decision could be made on whether an issue exists between law enforcement and the community. If conducted at a mutually agreed-upon place, interviewees become

comfortable and give the researchers valuable information to further their research. The research questionnaire was used to measure the perceptions of law enforcement and community stakeholders on social constructions that cause a disconnect in the relationship between law enforcement and Saint Louis, Missouri communities they took an oath to protect. I trusted the previously reviewed literature to identify the information needed for survey questions. I collected the data through semi-structured interviews using a teleconferencing software platform. The interviews were documented and later transcribed and coded.

Validity

When conducting qualitative research, Staller (2012) explained that researchers and the academic community rely on the researcher's information to be credible. Staller (2012) identified three significant areas of validity in research, which are a construct, internal, and external. Construct validity applied to the degree to which the subject is being researched. Internal validity applied to the collection and analysis of the data. External validity focused on the ability of the researcher to duplicate theories in any setting.

Triangulation also assisted researchers with proving research validity. Triangulation took the study from the research question to the conclusion (Staller, 2012). I verified validity in several ways; using a case study research design helped to capture in-depth, real-life experiences of the participant. After each zoom interview, the researcher transcribed the data utilizing REV.

Reliability

When conducting qualitative research, reliability and accessing quality helped minimize the number of errors researchers would find using your research in future studies (Staller, 2012). The interview questions were created based on information analyzed from previous research. The participants were provided an overview of the research study but will not be provided with any details that would constitute personal bias to preserve the research's authenticity.

Before starting the data collection process, I received approval from Walden University's Institutional Review Board (IRB). IRB approval allowed the researcher to interview human subjects. I ensured that the participants understood the purpose of the research, that participation is voluntary, and participants can stop the interview at any time without penalty.

Ethical Concerns

Ethical concerns may emerge when using human subjects in research. It was the researcher's responsibility to protect all participants involved in the research process from start to finish. Ethical issues that could arise during the data collection process are issues concerning validity. The investigation process could be queued because the population was not randomly selected. There are many reasons it is imperative to stay in compliance with ethical norms in research. Norms contribute to the research's focus, such as an individual's understanding, truth, and the prevention of mistakes. For example,

prohibitions against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data aid the truth and reduce the risk of errors (Resnik, 2015),

There are several challenges to using the case study approach, including finding appropriate cases to use in the study. A second challenge could be identifying if the research question can be answered using a single case or if multiple cases are warranted. Selecting the suitable purposeful sampling criteria and not having access to multiple data sources could pose a challenge to research. The objective of this approach was to describe in detail the particular concerns, complications, and experiences law enforcement in the City or Counties of St. Louis and community members encounter when making decisions concerning or implementing policies as it pertains to the Missouri Stop and ID statutes.

Setting

Staller (2010) found that it is best to conduct research studies in their natural settings. Using natural settings was relevant because making participants comfortable was a part of building rapport. The setting plays an essential role for researchers in comprehending the elements of research participants' lived experiences. Despite the importance of allowing participants to remain in their natural environments, for this study, no face-to-face interviews were conducted due to current Covid-19 protocols, scheduling conflicts and the researcher's location at the time of this study. After Walden University's Internal Review Board approval, the researcher used LinkedIn and Facebook social media sites as a means of selecting some of the participants. The questions were

forwarded using LinkedIn and/or Facebook and returned at the participant's convenience through that same communication method. Other participants selected were recruited via phone or email.

Procedure

This qualitative case study research design aimed to answer the research questions by reviewing previous research, fieldwork, and in-depth interviews. The interview instrument in this research included demographic questions, including participants' gender and occupation. This research employed two sets of questions based on the participants role in the community, i.e., St. Louis law enforcement or non-law enforcement, to gather detailed information. There were questions for law enforcement personnel and a different set of questions for community stakeholders.

Data Analysis Plan

The data analysis plan obtained valuable detailed information from research participants that answered the research question for this study. The data analysis software used to transcribe participants' interviews was REV. REV supported qualitative research by assisting researchers with organizing and analyzing qualitative data such as interviews, surveys, articles and web content. The information gathered and the participants' information were protected because participants were not asked to identify themselves. REV archived the data for safekeeping. It was the responsibility of the researcher to input collected information line by line for accuracy.

Summary

This chapter provided research to investigate and analyze the way Stop and ID statutes are enforced by Saint Louis law enforcement in the State of Missouri. Chapter 3 discussed whether social constructions of Saint Louis law enforcement contributed or promoted how Stop and ID statutes were enforced. The objective of this research study was to identify some of the social constructs and implicit biases to improve law enforcement services throughout the State of Missouri and the country. This research study aimed to answer the research question and also be a source for future research on this topic and other topics targeting ways to improve police-community relations. My hopes for this research were to become a contributor to criminal justice reform.

This chapter analyzed a qualitative research methodology and design, the participants' sampling process, the interview setting, and instrumentation. Chapter 3 included reviewing the data collection procedure, data analysis, validity, reliability, and ethical concerns. Chapter 4 discussed in detail the findings and data results from the interviews of research participants.

Chapter 4: Results

Introduction

Differences in social constructions, perceptions based on one's personal experiences cause a disconnect in the relationship between law enforcement and Saint Louis, Missouri communities they took an oath to protect. The purpose of this study was to evaluate whether differences in social constructions affect what and how public and policing policies are implemented. The research's purpose was also to answer the research question.

RQ1- How do community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes in Saint Louis? In Chapter 4, I reported the findings as well as documented the procedures followed to collect the data. I described the common themes identified during the interviews. I concluded Chapter 4 with a summarization of answers to determine if social constructions played a role in how the Stop and ID Initiatives was implemented.

Research Setting and Participant Recruitment

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the safety of the participants, data was collected via Zoom. Initially participants were reluctant to conduct the interviews on video but I reassured them that their identities will not be disclosed. I also reassured them that they do have the option to conduct the interviews without being on camera. Zoom did not impact or change the data collected on my topic. I collected the data for this

qualitative research study from St. Louis area law enforcement and community members that interact daily to determine if social constructions play a part in how law enforcement implements the Stop and ID initiative. IRB approval was received from the Walden University Institutional Review Board prior to starting the recruitment (IRB approval number 06-02-21-0664713). The recruitment for this research and interviews conducted through a recorded video conferencing platform were all in accordance with Walden University's IRB guidelines.

Participant Demographics

The population of interest for this study were St. Louis area law enforcement and community members that interact daily. Each of the 10 participants selected met the criteria for the study. The law enforcement participants are still actively working with the St. Louis population. The average interview time for community members was approximately 30 minutes. The average interview time for law enforcement participants was approximately 15 minutes. The interview times varied between law enforcement and community members because during my interviews, community members were very talkative but law enforcement personnel were direct and straight to the point. Table 1 illustrates the participants coded name, role in the research and gender. Gender was selected so that the answer and research would not be biased by excluding the opinions of one of the sexes.

Data Collection

I contacted several potential candidates via social media. The participants responded to my inquiries and several questions were posed to determine if they met the requirements of the study. The recruitment platforms used to identify potential participants were LinkedIn and Facebook. Of the 24 participants contacted via social media based on the information advertised on the participants profile, 12 were eliminated because they did not meet the requirements or just weren't comfortable providing information about a department they were currently employed by. The other two were eliminated due to this particular research requiring only 10 candidates.

I followed the data collection procedures outlined in my IRB approved application. To my knowledge, none of the participants experienced any compromising circumstances that may have negatively influenced the process or obstructed their participation in the study. Participant Informed Consent forms were emailed with the participation agreement. All participants replied "I consent" acknowledging that they received the consent form and wanted to be a part of the study. Participants engaged in semi-structured interviews using my Interview Protocol (Appendix A & B). Interviews were recorded via Otter, a password protected data resource accessible by this researcher only, and uploaded for review on a password protected computer. Themes identified during the data analysis were categorized to answer the research questions.

Table 1

Demographic Table Participants		
Participants	Role in Research	Gender
GG 01	Community Member	Female
MM 02	Community Member	Male
JJ 03	Community Member	Female
RR 04	Law Enforcement	Male
HH 05	Community Member	Male
PP 06	Law Enforcement	Male
LL 07	Community Member	Male
SS 08	Law Enforcement	Male
KK 09	Law Enforcement	Female
FF 10	Law Enforcement	Female

The study's coded participants' name, community roles and gender. Fifty percent community members and fifty percent law enforcement members. Sixty percent male participants forty percent female.

Data Analysis

Table 2

Community Member Themes Generated from Participant Interviews		
Themes	Frequency	Other
Negative Interactions	5 of 5	personal interactions
Perception	5 of 5	negative perceptions
Disconnect	5 of 5	disconnect exist
Trust police	5 of 5	undetermined if they trust
Restore	2 of 5	do not know how to restore
	3 of 5	get to know the community

Themes identified in community participant interviews during the research.

Theme 1: Negative Interactions

Each of the five-community member participants indicated that they have had negative interactions with law enforcement. To elaborate on Berger and Luckmann's social constructionist theory, Jadotte indicated that unbiased reality can be constructed socially through the transformation of observations into morals, morals into behaviors, behaviors into standards, and standards into institutions. This framework is suggested to be a possible theoretical mechanism that may describe how reality and identity can be socially constructed (Jadotte, 2020).

GG 01 explained: that she observed negative police community interaction when she observed law enforcement place her brother in custody. Her perception of this interaction was negative and caused negative social constructs to be formed of law enforcement.

MM 02 explained: that he experienced firsthand negative police community interaction when he was pulled over for his car's window tint. He described this interaction as harassment and this encounter molded his social constructs of law enforcement.

JJ 03 explained: that for her it has been many years but that early encounter changed her perception of law enforcement in a negative way. She indicated that she was arrested for speeding by an officer she perceived as prejudice. She stated that she beat the case because it was a

bogus case. In beating the case, she believed that there was a racial premise to the stop molding her social constructions of law enforcement.

HH 05 explained: also indicated that it's been a while since he personally has had any encounters with law enforcement. He did explain secondary trauma experienced by his observation of police community relations in his community. He explained this interaction as officers drawing guns on three juveniles and making them get on the ground facedown because they looked suspicious. This was actually a Stop and ID stop. He indicated that this brought back social constructs of his negative views of law enforcement.

LL 07 explained: like the last interviewee she has not personally had a negative interaction in many years. The interaction that molded her social constructs of law enforcement occurred in 1992. She indicated that law enforcement forced their way into her home and attacked her mother after responding to a loud music complaint.

Connection to Existing Literature

Rana Suh suggest that racial profiling has become a confrontational subject in the law enforcement community over the last twenty years. There has been a growing number of reported occurrences where law enforcement personnel across the country

have been accused of targeting certain groups, creating negative interactions between law enforcement and the community. These negative interactions have placed racial profiling in the spotlight and a hot topic as it pertains to police reform in the media (Suh, 2020).

John A. Shjarback, David C. Pyrooz, Scott E. Wolfe, and Scott H. Decker suggest that negative attention and increased scrutiny of the police may have affected traffic stops in Missouri. Given this negative attention, police administration should implement training and community-outreach programs to increase trust among law enforcement and the community (Shjarback, Pyrooz, Wolfe, & Decker, 2017).

Theme 2: Negative Perceptions

Each of the five-community member participants indicated that they have negative perceptions of law enforcement. Jessica Estrada (2020) indicated there are two kinds of individuals in this world: individuals who see the glass as half full and those individuals who see the glass as half-empty. This thought process is referred to as perception, and our perceptions impact how we as a people experience life (Estrada, 2020).

GG 01 explained: that she has a negative perception of law enforcement because the officers she has encountered present as cocky and judgmental. She also indicated that some officer's social constructs prevent them from being just and making sound decisions.

MM 02 explained: that he too has a negative perception of law enforcement and went as far as labeling them bullies. He also indicated that some abuse their power as law enforcement personnel. Lastly, he

believes that when law enforcement performs like this, the community forms negative social constructs about law enforcement.

JJ 03 explained: that she has a negative perception of law enforcement due to the negative media attention that the bad cops get. She also indicated that she does not feel safe when interacting with law enforcement due to social constructs formed surrounding the negative police conduct in the media.

HH 05 explained: that he believes that he believes that the police community relationship needs to improve. He indicated that it is not all on law enforcement that needs to improve he believes that the community could improve on a few things pertaining to law enforcement themselves. He points at transparency on both entities as a possible resolution

LL 07 explained: that she too has a negative perception of law enforcement and explained that officers are quick to use force instead of employing less lethal weapons or using the use of force continuum. She believes that officers need to refer back to their training when dealing with the community.

Connection to Existing Literature

Adam Fine, Sachiko Donley, Caitlin Cavanagh, and Elizabeth Cauffman suggests that interactions amongst law enforcement and minority may have incited a “crisis” in the American law enforcement community. Minorities perceptions of law enforcement

declined while their worry about crime continued to be unchanging. Adolescence perceptions of law enforcement recently reached record lows during the last decade and the racial divide in perceptions appear to be growing (Fine, Donley, Cavanagh, & Cauffman, 2020).

Sarah Garcia suggest that law enforcement presence tends to increase in disadvantaged communities and that police target black and latino community members at a higher rate than white community members (Garcia, 2021). These practices have put police officers under a microscope with calls from the community asking for reform and/or dismantling of the police department (Garcia, 2021).

Theme 3: Disconnect

Each of the five-community member participants indicated that they do believe that there is a disconnect between law enforcement and the community. Andy Thayer (2016) indicated that law enforcement and the community must become involved with one another for both entities to be successful. He indicated that the two entities must remove the barriers and create a community where the law enforcement and community members are equal. He went on to say regardless of national origin, we as a human race must integrate and find resolutions together (Thayer, 2016).

GG 01 explained: that she believes a disconnect exists between law enforcement and the community. She indicated that the only way to restore the relationship is for the officers to get to know the community the protect and serve.

Connection to Existing Literature

Nancy La Vigne, Pamela Lachman, Shebani Rao, and Andrea Matthews suggest that extensive use of stop and frisk in high-crime communities was intended to have an effect on crime by discouraging community members from being in possession of weapons and/or narcotics. However, some officer's use of stop and frisk is intended to protect the safety of officers and the community. Stop and frisk may have affected the overall reduction in crime in recent years (La Vigne, Lachman, Rao, & Matthews, 2014). Research indicates that citizens stopped by law enforcement view these experiences as unjustified, unfair and overly aggressive tactics (La Vigne, Lachman, Rao, & Matthews, 2014).

Justin Allen suggests that the strategies used by the Champaign Police are grounded in race causing a disconnect between law enforcement and the community. The author suggest that the slave patrolling systems utilized during slavery, is premised on a philosophy that whites are superior. This racial reasoning is the fundamental incentive that fuels slave patrolling practices used in the past and present (Allen, 2010).

Theme 4: Community Trust

Each of the five community member participants indicated that they believe that the community does not trust law enforcement. Law enforcement requires community trust to effectively conduct their work duties. In the debate over trust in law enforcement and legitimacy, very little attention has been paid to what law enforcement actually does to build community trust. Avoiding the assumption that trust occurs in a dialogue

between the community and law enforcement, Schaap (2021) indicates that trust-building strategies develop in random social and institutional situations. Schaap went on to say that law enforcement is the most important factor in determining public attitudes towards law enforcement (Schaap, 2021).

GG 01 explained: that she believes that people want to trust law enforcement but the negative media attention makes it hard to do that.

MM 02 explained: that the trust with law enforcement has basically dropped based on everything that have taken place with unarmed shooting against blacks.

JJ 03 explained: that she believes law enforcement is necessary but the community does not trust them.

HH 05 explained: It all depends on the community. In the inner city I would say no. In the suburbs maybe because they are not treated the same. How can you trust somebody that you don't see? It's definitely a lack of trust in the community.

LL 07 explained: No

Connection to Existing Literature

Gale Academic Staff suggest that the majority of United States law enforcement officers are respectable men and women, and the conduct of a few bad officers are not demonstrative of all law enforcement personnel (Gale Academic Staff, 2020). Gale Academic Staff went on to say that they acknowledge that the conduct of bad

personnel erodes community trust. These behaviors make it difficult for good officers to do their jobs. Gale Academic Staff believes that America should hold officers that participate in transgressions accountable for their actions, while guaranteeing that good law enforcement has the resources they need to serve and protect the community (Gale Academic Staff, 2020).

Clair White, David Weisburd, Sean Wire suggest that law enforcement is experiencing a challenging period of disorder and reform as occurrences of law enforcement use of forces against minority community members continue to draw nationwide media attention. These authors also suggest that these events have little influence on views of police acceptability (White, Weisburd, & Wire, 2018).

Table 3

Law Enforcement Themes Generated from Participant Interviews		
Themes occurrence	Frequency	% of frequency of
Negative Interactions	4 of 5	no negative interactions
Negative Publicity	4 of 5	disturbed by the publicity
Disconnect	4 of 5	a disconnect exist
Social constructs of Officers disconnect	4 of 5	L/E views effect
Restore interactions	5 of 5	more community

Themes identified in law enforcement participant interviews during the research.

Theme 5: Restore

Each of the five law enforcement participants indicated that they believe the way to restore the relationship between law enforcement and the community is by having more community interactions. The United States Department of Justice (DOJ) indicated that it is imperative for law enforcement to be seen in the communities they serve and make efforts to get to know their residents (U.S. Department of Justice, 2015). The research indicates that many communities do not network with law enforcement outside of enforcement contacts. The DOJ believes that negative contacts can result in the community developing undesirable connotations about law enforcement. The DOJ went on to say that if law enforcement finds opportunities to interact with community members in a non-enforcement context it will aid in reducing biases that community members and law enforcement may have by helping both entities break down social constructs. Personal interactions between law enforcement and the community build mutual trust, which is vital to addressing neighborhood problems and reducing crime (U.S. Department of Justice, 2015).

RR 04 explained: that he believed by reaching out to the community.

PP 06 explained: that law enforcement should get involved in community programs to aid in building a relationship with the community.

SS 08 explained: that his old police chief used to walk through the community when there was a crime in a neighborhood as a show of force and to encourage the community that things are going to change.

KK 09 explained: that spending time with the community and having dedicated officers work certain areas would restore or rebuild the relationship between law enforcement and the community. She also indicated that bringing back programs like the police athletic league where officers volunteered in the community and the community saw them outside of the uniforms would be beneficial.

FF 10 explained: that she believes that having open forums with the community can aid in restoring the relationship.

Connection to Existing Literature

Luis Arroyo suggested that community policing allowed the community and law enforcement to collaborate to address community issues that plagues the community daily. Those collaborations created partnerships necessary to effectively improve the community lifestyles (Arroyo, 2021). Law enforcement officers' social constructions, coupled with appreciation towards building a healthy positive relationship with the communities they serve, will culminate in an optimistic and progressive role in increasing community involvement with community activities enabling law enforcement and community members to work towards unity (Arroyo, 2021).

John Marx suggest that it is important for police departments to have open, collaborative relationships with the community they serve. Marx also suggests that law enforcement needs to take responsibility for their wellbeing by conditioning themselves to appropriately handle the undesirable effects of the law enforcement profession. Law

enforcement administration needs to encourage their personnel by having the proper resources in place. When law enforcement exemplifies wellness, they serve the public most effectively (Marx, 2016).

Evidence of Trustworthiness

Credibility

Credibility is equivalent to internal validity in quantitative research and addresses the truth-value aspect of the research (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). The credibility aspect of qualitative research refers to the researcher's ability to correlate the findings with the participants' experiences. According to previous research, a number of community members do not trust the individuals who took an oath to protect and serve them. During the interviews for this research, participant MM02 indicated that trust in law enforcement has dropped because of everything that have taken place with the shooting of unarmed blacks by law enforcement across the United States. Participant HH05 indicated that he believes trust in law enforcement by community members depends on the community. He believes that the inner city does not trust law enforcement. Nevertheless, he believes suburban community members may be more inclined to trust law enforcement since they are not treated the same as urban residents. To ensure credibility of this study, all interviews were recorded, and the recordings were submitted to a transcription service called REV for transcribing. During the interview stages, the

researcher reiterated that none of the participants identifying information would be disclosed to encourage the use of their authentic voices.

Transferability

Transferability defines, not just the experiences, but their context as well, so that the experiences become significant to outsiders (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). I established transferability by providing the audience with evidence that this research's findings could be appropriate to other studies. The information and perceptions attained from the interviews may be applicable in future police community relations research studies. The information gathered may also be appropriate for future research pertaining to how policies are utilized in impoverished communities. Lastly, the findings from this research could also be utilized in future research addressing Stop and ID initiatives. The strategy I used to ensure transferability was to meticulously define the research study's framework and the assumptions that were vital to the research.

Dependability

Dependability consists of the aspect of consistency (Korstjens & Moser, 2018). Dependability identifies the ability of your research study to be replicated. During the data collection process, participants were identified and recruited using two social media platforms; Facebook and LinkedIn. The interviews were collected using Otter, an audio recordings website and transcribed via REV verbatim. The researcher did not review the

audio prior to uploading it to REV, so everything transcribed was based on what was heard by REV representatives. The audit records for this research study includes audio recordings of the interview and verbatim transcriptions from REV.

Confirmability

Confirmability addresses the aspect of impartiality (Korstjens & Moser, 2018).

Confirmability in qualitative research addresses objectivity and research biases. To avoid research biases, I utilized lay individuals and the guidance of my committee to review and provide constructive feedback. My research committee read the information to assess if bias or any assumptions were already made prior to gathering the data.

In order to assess confirmability in this study utilized the epoch strategy. I censored my professional role from this study and used the role of a researcher. As a researcher, it was vital to get the interviewees' authentic voices and remove any preconceived biases I may have had because of my profession. By removing bias, I helped the research remain objective.

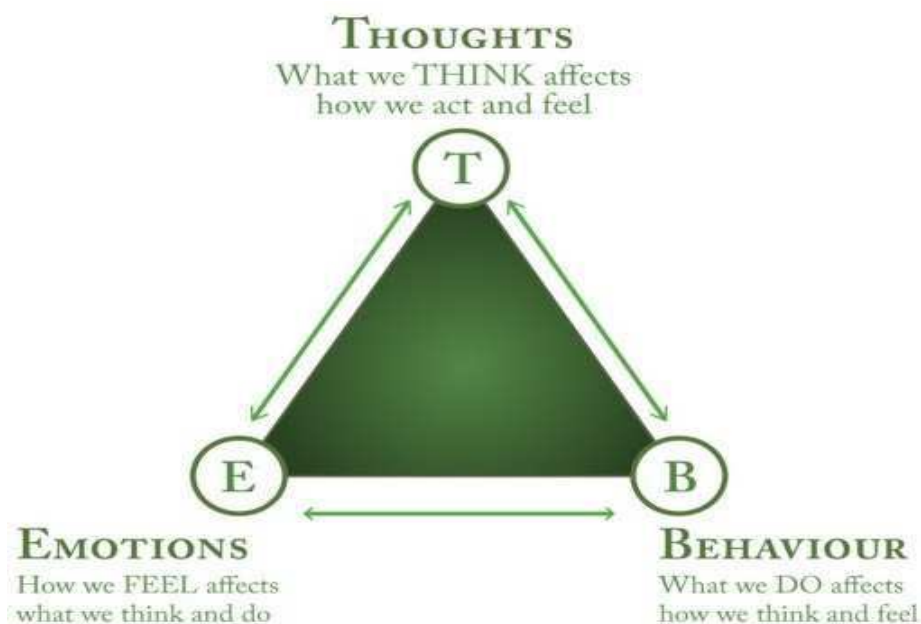
Results

The purpose of this research was not to draw a premature conclusion because of negative media exposure on this topic, but to gather information from involved parties to first identify community public perception and social constructions that influence which laws are implemented by law enforcement in Saint Louis. Also, to identify if there is indeed a disconnect between St. Louis law enforcement and the community they serve,

and to provide resolutions to this problem. one's perceptions can either be their greatest asset or the cause of one's demise, based on their interpretation.

To quote Omar Itani from his blog titled "You Are What You Think: How Your Thoughts Create Your Reality," British philosopher James Allen wrote in a publication in 1903: "As a man thinks, so he is; as he continues to think, so he remains." The last emperor of the Pax Romana, Marcus Aurelius verbalized: "A man's life is what his thoughts make of it." Ralph Waldo Emerson, who led the transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century transcribed: "A man is what he thinks about all day long" (Itani, 2020). If we were to follow this logic, one's social constructs can cause a disconnect between two entities and if one has a negative perception of a group, policies implemented would reflect that negative perception. This premise is outlined in the cognitive model.

Figure 2



Example of the cognitive model

(Jordan, 2018)

The cognitive model identifies how one's social constructs influence the way one feels and behaves (Whalley, 2020). Our thoughts and perceptions produce our feelings and our feelings drive our actions. For example, if I like being outdoors near snow and enjoy skiing, the thought of going to the ski slopes makes me feel happy. These thoughts and feelings are going to lead me to plan events that consist of skiing (Dawcarroll, 2019). So, to address the research question: How do community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes in Saint Louis? It is clear that social constructs can have a negative and/or positive impact on laws and statutes in any community. All ten interviewees agree that there is a disconnect between law enforcement and the community that needs to be addressed. Each of the interviewees

believe that social constructs can influence how a person acts in everyday or political settings.

Summary

This chapter provided a summary of the results from the research study. Each participant via recorded and transcribed interviews recounted interactions between St. Louis law enforcement and the community. In addition, participants identified the problem and possible resolutions to aid in restoring the relationship between law enforcement and the community. The themes that developed contributed to the research question and the overall research study.

The final chapter will provide additional information identifying how the themes and results of this research study contribute to current literature. The chapter will also provide an explanation of the findings, identify how the theoretical framework can be applied to this research, provide recommendations for future research, and clarify implications for social change.

Chapter 5

Introduction

This qualitative study was conducted with the purpose of evaluating whether differences in social constructions, that is, police perceptions versus public perceptions, affect what and how policies are implemented. For this research, 5 Missouri law enforcement officers and 5 community members that interact daily each completed a semi-structured interview lasting no more than an hour as outlined in the IRB documents.

The study and interviews were created around this qualitative research question:

RQ1- How do community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes in Saint Louis?

The key findings for this research aligned with previous research. The research identified that an actual disconnect does exist between law enforcement and the community. Additionally, the research identified that the community has a distrust for law enforcement due to past interactions. The research also indicated that social constructions do guide how people think which subsequently guide their political view when implementing policies.

In chapter 1 of this research, the background statement, problem statement, the purpose of the study and the research question were explained in detail. In addition, the theoretical framework was explored, the nature of the study, and key terms were defined for understanding. Finally, the research's assumptions, scope, limitations, and significance were demonstrated. In chapter two of this research, a descriptive review of

current literature as it pertains to the social constructions of a target population theory was completed, as well as current and historical information surrounding the Stop and Frisk Initiatives and laws and policies derived from the Stop and Frisk Initiative.

The purpose of chapter 2 was to identify gaps in the literature surrounding if community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes. Chapter three explained the research design, the rationale of this study, identified my role as the researcher, the research's methodology and issues of trustworthiness within the study. Chapter four consisted of an explanation of the data collection process for this study, the data analysis, the setting, participants recruitment and interview procedures, the research's results and the trustworthiness of this research. Chapter 5 is an explanation of the findings, the limitations of the research, recommendations for future research on the topic and the implications this research has on social change.

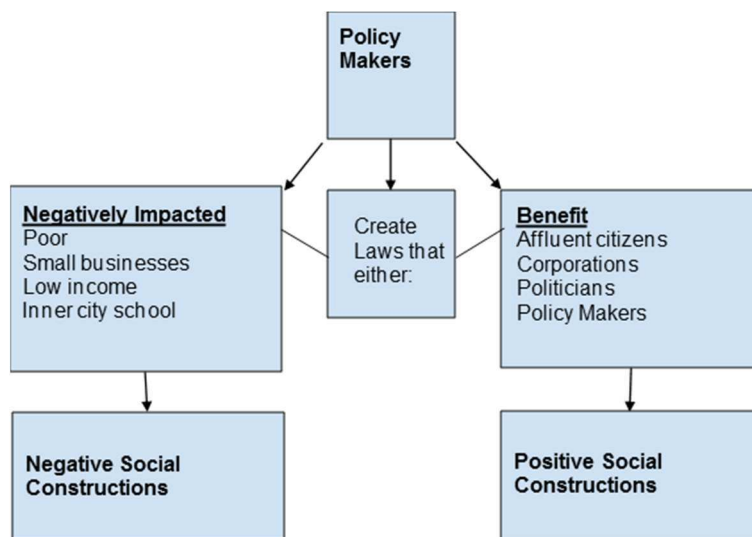
Interpretation of Findings

This qualitative research study was conducted to identify if community public perception and social constructions influence which laws are implemented by law enforcement in Saint Louis. The research also hoped to identify if there is a disconnect between St. Louis law enforcement and the community they serve and to provide resolutions to this problem. Semi-structured interviews permitted me to gain an in-depth understanding of the relationship between law enforcement and the community in St. Louis, MO. The interviews allowed this researcher to humanize this disconnect.

The research identified that there is indeed disconnect between law enforcement and the community. The research also identified that one's social construction can influence laws implemented and how those laws are carried out. These findings confirmed previous research conducted indicating that a disconnect exist and that both entities need to have a personal relationship in order to protect the community. Everyone that participated in this research indicated that a disconnect exist. Previous research indicates that dialogue is warranted, however, changing policies and training both community members and law enforcement will take steps in the right direction in repairing this relationship.

The findings support the conceptual framework. Policy makers creates laws that either negatively impact or benefit community members causing social constructions in those affected. Those that benefit from such policies do not have negative social constructs towards law enforcement like those that are negatively impacted.

Figure 3



Conceptual framework

Limitations of the Study

10 participants from the St. Louis metropolitan area were selected based on the sampling criteria to participate in a semi structured interview lasting no more than 60 minutes. The research participant criteria were limited because the researcher only interviewed active law enforcement who were in community positions like patrol, drug units, gang units, etc., excluding law enforcement personnel that were retired or in administrative positions who would have had firsthand knowledge of these practices. The community participants were also limited because the researcher specifically chose individuals that had firsthand knowledge of the Stop and Frisk Stop and ID practices excluding community members that may not have known about these practices but could have provided insight on police community relations and/or a disconnect between law

enforcement and the community. This was a conscious decision made on my part because the research aimed to identify if social constructions affect how policies are implemented and carried out. The Stop and Frisk Stop and ID policy is such a policy.

A few limitations to trustworthiness were identified while completing the research. Community members were not hesitant to provide information. In fact, some provided more than enough information on my topic. However, law enforcement interviewees were not as forthcoming. They were straight to the point when answering questions and did not freely provide any additional information. A second limitation to trustworthiness for my research may have been that the information was all self-reported through the lens of the interviewees. Self-reported data is considered less reliable and prone to social desirability bias (Smith, Edwards & Free, 2018).

Recommendations for Future Research

Due to gaps in the research regarding social constructs and policy implementation, future research is warranted. This research clearly identified that there is a disconnect between law enforcement and the community. The research also identified that a person's social constructs can influence policy decisions and how those policies are carried out. This research can be the start of, not only dialogue, but the beginning of legislative changes aimed at reducing crime that does not target a specific area to create an inclusive society and begin filling the gaps for this community problem. Legislative change should target crime not people. A second possible recommendation for future research is to take this study statewide to identify which communities are impacted by

policies that target a certain population and which are not. Future research could prove or disprove those policies implemented on the grounds of negative social constructs harshly penalize some in the community while benefiting others is a nationwide problem and identify possible solutions to creating a cohesive working relationship between those community members and law enforcement. A third possible recommendation for future research is to compare communities based on finances to see if wealthier communities experience the same types of policing strategies. A historical quote, “You get what you pay for” may be true if research shows that affluent community do not have police community issues with policies being implemented and carried out to target that population.

Implications for Social Change

This qualitative research study was completed to fill the literature gap concerning social constructs and its effect on policy implementation. Recent research confirms that a disconnect exist and often employs dialogue as the possible resolution to repair the disconnect. The stop and Frisk/ Stop and ID policing strategy is built on the premise that allows officers to use their discretionary authority. A police officer is allowed and permitted to act according to his or her discretion when it comes to stopping people, arresting them, and using force to arrest them. Police discretion involves some degree of flexibility in the law so that the spirit of the law is ensured. However, in the name of

transparency, revising the discretionary authority of officer's policies would ensure that when using discretion, the greater good of the community is considered. Revising this authority would also increase the possibility that most officers seasoned or rookies are removing personal biases when using discretion and placing the community at the forefront of their decision making.

As for community member, they can become more involved in the criminal justice process by applying for positions, implementing policies, electing officials that would make decisions in their best interest or being positive community activist for social change. There are community police academies where community members can get a better understanding of the role of police officers. Each locality has a hiring board that post influential positions throughout the city. The community can also attempt to get to know the officers that patrol their neighborhood during events like National Night Out or community forums.

My research confirmed previous literature, that dialogue is needed but offers further recommendations to resolve this issue. This research also embraces its effects on social change and the greater good for all citizens. While the researcher is optimistic that this research will shed light on a major issue that plagues the community and law enforcement, the researcher also hopes that change can start one community at a time and make America a better place for all. This research has the ability to produce social change in impoverished communities and the law enforcement that are tasked to patrol those areas by providing evidence of the advantages of a cohesive relationship between the two

entities. Consequently, restoring this relationship could have some effects on prison over crowdedness, unsolved crimes, and police response times to crimes.

Conclusion

Sir Robert Peel, the “Father of Modern Policing” indicated that the police are the public and the public are the police; police officers are only members of the public who are paid to perform duties that are incumbent upon every citizen in the interest of community welfare. Chapter 5 provided information that included how the findings of this research study can be interpreted, how the social constructions of target populations theory can be applied, the limitations of the research, implications on future research as well as social change. This qualitative research study was selected to provide insights into police community relations, and fill a research gap, regarding if community public perception and social constructions influence government laws and statutes. The themes that originated during the data analysis stage confirmed the disconnect between law enforcement and the community. These themes also confirmed the need to repair this relationship. The themes also confirmed that further research is warranted to bridge the gap.

References

- Abawi, L.-A. (2012). Introducing refractive phenomenology. *International Journal of Multiple Research Approaches*, 6(2), 141-149. DOI:10.5172/mra.2012.6.2.141
- Allen, Justin (2010). Slave Patrolling as a Precursor to the Current Policing of Blacks in Champaign, Illinois. Retrieved from http://eblackcu.net/portal/archive/files/amira-davis-papers_11d0608e13.pdf
- Andrews, T. (2012). What is social constructionism? *Grounded Theory Review an International Journal*, 11(1). Retrieved from <http://groundedtheoryreview.com/2012/06/01/what-is-social-constructionism/>
- Angelle, P. S. (2017). Beliefs and behaviors of two high school principals in developing a sense of school community for students. *NASSP Bulletin*, 101(1), 5–22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192636517694957>
- Arnold, R. D. (2011). *The logic of congressional action*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Pr.
- Arroyo, L. (2021). *How Civilian Academies are Improving Relationships between Law Enforcement Officers and Citizens*. Proquest. <https://www.proquest.com/openview/bb8ab12ee410f58b69c3415a36039a64/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>
- Astalin, P. K. (2013, January). Qualitative research designs: A conceptual framework. Retrieved from <http://indianresearchjournals.com/pdf/IJSSIR/2013/January/13.pdf>

- Avdija, A. S. (2014). Police stop-and-frisk practices: An examination of factors that affect officers' decisions to initiate a stop-and-frisk police procedure. *International Journal of Police Science & Management*, 16(1), 26-35.
DOI:10.1350/ijps.2014.16.1.325
- Baxter, P., & Jack, S. (2008). Qualitative case study methodology: Study design and implementation for novice researchers. *The Qualitative Report*, 13(4), 544-559.
Retrieved from <https://nsuworks.nova.edu/tqr/vol13/iss4/2>
- Better Together Staff. (2015). Overcoming the challenges and creating a regional approach to policing in St. Louis city and county (pp. 1-79, Rep.). St. Louis MO.
Retrieved from <https://www.policeforum.org/assets/stlouis.pdf>.
- Boushey, G. (2012). The social construction of target populations. Retrieved from <http://faculty.sites.uci.edu/gboushey/files/2013/08/BousheyTargetsDiffusion.pdf>
- Braga, A.A. (2008). Problem-oriented policing and crime prevention (2nd ed.). Monsey, NY: Criminal Justice Press
- Brodeur, J., & Walsh, W. F. (2018, February 20). Police. Retrieved from <https://www.britannica.com/topic/police/Police-and-minorities>
- Bureau of Justice Assistance Staff. (1994). Understanding community policing - NCJRS.
Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles/commp.pdf>
- Bureau of Justice Assistance Staff. (2013). CompStat – Its origins, evolution, and future in law enforcement agencies. Retrieved from <https://www.bja.gov/Publications/PERF-Compstat.pdf>

- Clark, J. P., & Bittner, E. (1972). The functions of the police in modern society. *Contemporary Sociology*, 1(3), 243. DOI:10.2307/2063988
- Cobbina, J. (2016, April 13). Ferguson residents and protesters view police perceptions of race and crime. Retrieved from <http://berkeleyjournal.org/2016/04/ferguson-residents-and-protesters-views-about-police-perceptions-of-race-and-crime/>
- Copeland, K. (2013). There were high hopes and high projections: Examining the social construction of target populations in the policy design of the Arkansas Lottery Legislation. Retrieved from <http://scholarworks.uark.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1931&context=etd>
- Creswell, J. W. (2008). Educational research: Planning, conducting, and evaluating quantitative and qualitative research (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.
- Dawcarroll. (2019, September 04). The Relationship Between Thoughts, Feelings and Behaviors. Retrieved August 9, 2021, from <https://debbiewoodallcarroll.com/the-relationship-between-thoughts-feelings-and-behaviors/>
- Dictionary.com Staff. (2018). Dictionary.com. Retrieved from <https://www.dictionary.com/>
- Donovan, M. C. (2005, June 24). Social constructions of people with AIDS: Target populations and United States policy, 1981–1990. Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1541-1338.1993.tb00548.x>

- Dr Matthew Whalley, D. H. (2020, July 05). What is Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)? Retrieved August 9, 2021, from <https://www.psychologytools.com/self-help/what-is-cbt/>
- Estrada, J. (2020, February 06). How your perception is your reality, according to psychologists. Retrieved September 8, 2021, from <https://www.wellandgood.com/perception-is-reality/>
- Eck, J.E. and W. Spelman. (1987). Problem-solving: Problem-oriented policing in Newport News. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice.
- Ferreira, B. R. (1996). The use and effectiveness of community policing in a democracy. Retrieved from <http://www.ncjrs.gov/policing/use139.htm>
- Fine, A. D., Donley, S., Cavanagh, C., & Cauffman, E. (2020). Youth Perceptions of Law Enforcement and Worry About Crime from 1976 to 2016. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 47(5), 564–581. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093854820903752>
- Fradella, H. F., & White, M. D. (2017). Reforming stop-and-frisk. *Criminology, Criminal Justice, Law & Society*, 18(3), 45-65. Retrieved from <file:///home/chronos/ua433eab045562e11830b463ca31a61534b171b71/Downloads/2723-reforming-stop-and-frisk.pdf>.
- Gale Academic Staff, (2020) COMMUNITY TRUST AND LAW ENFORCEMENT. States News Service, NA. <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A627565889/EAIM?u=minn4020&sid=ebSCO&xid=afffb5bb>

- Garcia, S. E. (2021). Students' Perceptions of the Role of Law Enforcement, Police Use of Force, and Defunding the Police. Proquest.
<https://www.proquest.com/openview/98a68a80fd6009e1d32c9e67d5bcc0a9/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=18750&diss=y>.
- Gill, P., Stewart, K., Treasure, E., & Chadwick, B. (2008). Methods of data collection in qualitative research: interviews and focus groups. *British Dental Journal*, 204, 291-295. DOI:10.1038/bdj.2008.192
- Goldstein, H. (1979). "Improving policing: A problem-oriented approach." *Crime & Delinquency* 25: 236–258.
- Goldstein, H. (1990). Problem-oriented policing. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
- Government of Canada, D. O. (2015, January 07). Police discretion with young offenders. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/yj-jj/discre/org/styles.html>
- Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership Staff. (2016). What is Servant leadership? Retrieved from <https://www.greenleaf.org/what-is-servant-leadership/>
- Hahn, H., & Jeffries, J. L. (2003). Urban America and its police: From the postcolonial era through the turbulent 1960s. Boulder: University Press of Colorado.
- Harrison, Helena; Birks, Melanie; Franklin, Richard & Mills, Jane (2017). Case study research: Foundations and methodological orientations [34 paragraphs]. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung / Forum: Qualitative Social Research*, 18(1), Art. 19,

Hogan, N. L. (1997). The social construction of target populations and the transformation of prison-based AIDS Policy. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 32(3-4), 77-114.

DOI:10.1300/j082v32n03_04

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629\(198601\)14:1<6:AID-](http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:1<6:AID-JCOP2290140103>3.0.CO;2-I)

[JCOP2290140103>3.0.CO;2-I](http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/1520-6629(198601)14:1<6:AID-JCOP2290140103>3.0.CO;2-I)

<http://nbn-resolving.de/urn:nbn:de:0114-fqs1701195>.

Immigrant Legal Resource Center Staff. (2018). Stop and Identify statutes in the United States. Retrieved from

https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/stop_identify_statutes_in_us-lg-20180201v3.pdf

Itani, O. (2020, April 21). You Are What You Think: How Your Thoughts Create Your Reality [Web log post]. Retrieved August 9, 2021, from

<https://www.omaritani.com/blog/what-you-think>

Jadotte, Yuri. (2020). Shades of Skin, Shades of Power: Social Constructionism as the Grand Theory for the Structure/Agency and Reality/Identity Conundrums. 14. 12-37.

Jordan, A. (2018, June 14). COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY TRIANGLE: THOUGHTS BECOME THINGS [Web log post]. Retrieved August 9, 2021,

from <https://atashajordan.com/thoughts-become-things/>

Justice.gov Staff. (2018). Importance of police-community relationships and resources.

Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/crs/file/836486/download>

- Justin Allen. (2010). Slave Patrolling as a Precursor to the Current Policing of Blacks in Champaign, Illinois. Retrieved from http://eblackcu.net/portal/archive/files/amira-davis-papers_11d0608e13.pdf
- Kim, B. (2001). Social Constructivism. Retrieved from <http://www.coe.uga.edu/epltt/SocialConstructivism.htm>
- Korstjens, I & Moser, A (2018) Series: Practical guidance to qualitative research. Part 4: Trustworthiness and publishing, *European Journal of General Practice*, 24:1, 120-124, DOI: 10.1080/13814788.2017.1375092
- La Vigne, Nancy G., Pamela Lachman, Shebani Rao, and Andrea Matthews. 2014. Stop and Frisk: Balancing Crime Control with Community Relations. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.
- Law Enforcement Action Partnership Staff. (2019). Police-community relations. Retrieved from <https://lawenforcementactionpartnership.org/our-issues/police-community-relations/>
- Lexico.com. (2020). Definition by Oxford Dictionary on Lexico.com. Retrieved from <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition>
- Maria Husmann (2015). "Social constructions of obesity target population: an empirical look at obesity policy narratives," *Policy Sciences, Springer; Society of Policy Sciences*, 48(4), pages 415-442, December.
- Marx, J. (2016). Building Community Trust Requires Supporting Healthy Officers. *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 8–11.

- McLeod, S. (1970). Sampling methods. Retrieved from <https://www.simplypsychology.org/sampling.html#:~:text=The target population, is the, take part in the investigation. &text=Generalisability refers to the extent, population we are interested in.>
- McMillan, D. W., & Chavis, D. M. (1986). Sense of community: A definition and theory. *Journal of Community Psychology, 14*(1), 6-23.
- Meares, T. (2018). Can the police regain trust? Retrieved from <https://insights.som.yale.edu/insights/can-the-police-regain-trust>
- Medaris, M., & Huntoon, A. (2009). Strategies for policing innovation (SPI). Retrieved from https://www.bja.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?Program_ID=80
- Muhlhausen, D. B. (2018). Director's corner: proactive policing - What we know and what we don't know yet. Retrieved from <https://nij.gov/about/director/Pages/muhlhausen-proactive-policing.aspx>
- Murphy, P. (2010). Weapons stop didn't violate the Fourth Amendment, says Missouri Supreme Court. Retrieved from <https://eds-a-ebSCOhost-com.ezp.waldenulibrary.org/eds/detail/detail?vid=6&sid=e468c126-28ec-4270-8f24-928784d73ccb@sessionmgr4007&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ==#AN=L54777702LUSA&db=bwh>

- Muscato, C. (2017). The history of police-community relations: Analysis & strategies. Retrieved from <http://study.com/academy/lesson/the-history-of-police-community-relations-analysis-strategies.html>
- Nadal, K. L., Davidoff, K. C., Allicock, N., Serpe, C. R., & Erazo, T. (2017). Perceptions of police, racial profiling, and psychological outcomes: A mixed methodological study. *Journal of Social Issues*, 73(4), 808-830. DOI:10.1111/josi.12249
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2018) Proactive Policing: Effects on Crime and Communities. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. <https://doi.org/10.17226/24928>.
- National Institute of Justice Office of Justice Programs (2017). Policing strategies. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/policing/policing-strategies>
- New York Civil Liberties Union and the NYCLU Foundation Staff. (2019). Stop-and-frisk data. Retrieved from <https://www.nyclu.org/en/stop-and-frisk-data>
- Novak, K., Fox, A., Carr, C., McHale, J., & White, M. (2015). Kansas City, Missouri smart policing initiative - SPI. Retrieved from [http://www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com/sites/default/files/spotlights/Kansas City SPI Spotlight FINAL 2015.pdf](http://www.strategiesforpolicinginnovation.com/sites/default/files/spotlights/Kansas%20City%20SPI%20Spotlight%20FINAL%202015.pdf)
- Parker, L. (2015). Critical race theory in education and qualitative inquiry: What each has to offer each other now? *Qualitative Inquiry*, 21(3), 199–205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077800414557828>

- Parris, D. L., & Peachey, J. W. (2013). Encouraging servant leadership: A qualitative study of how a cause-related sporting event inspires participants to serve. *Leadership, 9*(4), 486–512. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1742715012470675>
- Patterson, D., & Keefe, R. (2008). Using social construction theory as a foundation for macro Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3334&context=jssw>
- Patton, M.Q. (2015). *Qualitative research & evaluation methods: Integrating theory and practice* (4th Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE
- Pierce, J. J., Siddiki, S., Jones, M. D., Schumacher, K., Pattison, A., & Peterson, H. (2014). Social construction and policy design: A review of past applications. *Policy Studies Journal, 42*(1), 1-29. DOI:10.1111/psj.12040
- Police Accountability Tool Staff. (2017). Police accountability tool. Retrieved from <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/cities>
- Purdue Writing Lab Staff. (2019). Critical Race Theory // Purdue Writing Lab. Retrieved from [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writid.\)ng/writing_in_literature/literary_theory_and_schools_of_criticism/critical_race_theory.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writid.)ng/writing_in_literature/literary_theory_and_schools_of_criticism/critical_race_theory.html)
- Resnik, D. (2015). What is ethics in research & why is it important? Retrieved from <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/research/resources/bioethics/whatis/index.cfm>
- Ross. (2010). Poor police-community relations. Retrieved from http://samples.jbpub.com/9780763771386/Ross_71386_CH08_115_130.pdf

- Rubin, H. J., & Rubin, I. S. (2012). *Qualitative interviewing. The art of hearing data* (3rd Ed.) Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE
- Schaap, Dorian (2021) Police trust-building strategies. A socio-institutional, comparative approach, *Policing and Society*, 31:3, 304-320, DOI: 10.1080/10439463.2020.1726345
- Schneider, A. L., & Ingram, H. M. (1997). *Policy design for democracy*. Lawrence: Univ. Press of Kansas.
- Schneider, A., & Ingram, H. (1993). Social construction of target populations: Implications for politics and policy. *American Political Science Review*, 87(2), 334-347. DOI:10.2307/293904
- Schwartz, Marc & Sadler, Philip & Sonnert, Gerhard & Tai, Robert. (2009). Depth Versus Breadth: How Content Coverage in High School Science Courses Relates to Later Success in College Science Coursework. *Science Education*. 93. 798 - 826. 10.1002/sce.20328.
- Shjarback, J. A., Pyrooz, D. C., Wolfe, S. E., & Decker, S. H. (2017). De-policing and crime in the wake of Ferguson: Racialized changes in the quantity and quality of policing among Missouri police departments. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 50, 42–52. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcrimjus.2017.04.003>
- Smith, C., Edwards, P., & Free, C. (2018). Assessing the validity and reliability of self-report data on contraception use in the Mobile Technology for Improved Family

Planning (MOTIF) randomised controlled trial. *Reproductive health*, 15(1), 50.

<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12978-018-0494-7>

Stacey, K., & Vincent, J. (2011). Evaluation of an electronic interview with multimedia stimulus materials for gaining in-depth responses from professionals. *Qualitative Research*, 11(5), 605–624. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1468794111413237>

Staller, K. (2010). Qualitative research. In N. J. Salkind (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of research design* (pp. 1,159-1,164). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage

Stop-And-Frisk: Smart policing or violation of rights? (2013). Tell me more. Retrieved from

<http://link.galegroup.com.ezp.waldenulibrary.org/apps/doc/A340206191/OVIC?u=minn4020&sid=OVIC&xid=f60b4e62>

Suh, R. (2020). Racial Profiling. *Research Starters: Sociology*.

Thayer, A. (2016, October 20). The Disconnect Between Community and Police.

Retrieved September 8, 2021, from <https://loevy.com/blog/disconnect-community-police/>

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Staff. (2020). Proactive policing - Effects on crime, communities, and civil liberties in the United States.

Retrieved from

https://sites.nationalacademies.org/dbasse/claj/currentprojects/dbasse_167718

- Travis P. Wagner & Lisa A. Morris (2018) Improving comprehension of public policy design using social constructions of target populations theory, *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 24(2), 195-215, DOI: 10.1080/15236803.2018.1429813
- U.S. Legal, I. (2020). Stop and identify statute law and legal definition. Retrieved from <https://definitions.uslegal.com/s/stop-and-identify-statute/>
- United States Department of Justice Staff. (2013). Smart policing collaboration principles. Retrieved from http://www.lisc.org/media/filer_public/9d/c4/9dc46966-b5f1-4549-b295-2676c99ba6f3/spi-collaboration_principles.pdf
- U.S. Department of Justice. (2015). Importance of Police-Community Relationships and Resources... Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/crs/file/836486/download>
- United States Department of Justice Staff. (2020). Publications. Retrieved from <https://cops.usdoj.gov/>
- Wagner, T. P., & Morris, L. A. (2018). Improving comprehension of public policy design using social constructions of target populations theory. *Journal of Public Affairs Education*, 24(2), 195-215. DOI:10.1080/15236803.2018.1429813
- White, C. (2017, March 09). Failure to identify to a police officer: Laws & penalties. Retrieved from <https://www.criminaldefenselawyer.com/crime-penalties/federal/Failure-identify-police-officer.htm>

White, C., Weisburd, D., & Wire, S. (2018). Examining the Impact of the Freddie Gray Unrest on Perceptions of the Police. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 17(4), 829–858.

Appendix

Appendix A

Interview Questions for Community Stakeholders

1. Describe any negative interactions you have had with law enforcement?
2. What is your perception of law enforcement?
3. Do you believe there is a disconnect between law enforcement and the community?
4. Why do you believe that disconnect exists?
5. Do you believe the community trust law enforcement?
6. How do you believe these issues started?
7. What do you believe the community can do to reduce tension in their interactions with law enforcement?
8. How much do the social constructs of the officers play a part in this disconnect?
9. How much do the social constructs of the community play a part in this disconnect?
10. How do we restore this relationship?

Appendix B

Interview Questions for Law Enforcement

1. Describe any negative interactions you have had with community stakeholders?
2. How do you feel when you read or hear negative communication about police conduct?
3. Do you believe there is a disconnect between law enforcement and the community?
4. Why do you believe that disconnect exists?
5. Do you believe law enforcement trust the community?
6. How do you believe these issues started?
7. What do you believe law enforcement can do to reduce tension in their interactions with the community?
8. How much do the social constructs of the officers play a part in this disconnect?
9. How much do the social constructs of the community play a part in this disconnect?
10. How do we restore this relationship?

Appendix C

Invitation to Participate

Dear ()

My name is Tyrone Carter, and I am a graduate student working on my doctoral research study at Walden University. The focus of my doctoral study is to identify if social constructions play a role in how St. Louis law enforcement implements the Stop and ID initiative. Potential participants will be law enforcement personnel and community members from the City of St. Louis or St. Louis County that have been involved with the Stop and ID Initiative. The criteria for individuals to participate in the study include: (a) must live or work in Saint Louis, (b) law enforcement participants must be employed by a St. Louis City or County Law Enforcement agency, (c) law enforcement participants must have prior knowledge of and experience with the Stop and Frisk and Stop and ID statues, (d) community stakeholders must be personally affected or familiar with someone that was affected by the Stop and ID initiative, and (e) St. Louis City or County Law Enforcement participants must interact with community stakeholders in their everyday work assignments.

This study is voluntary, potential participants are free to accept or turn down the invitation, and such action will not attract any penalty or repercussions. For participants that accept to take part in the study they will be asked to attend an interview session to answer some questions relating to the research focus, lasting for 45 to 60 minutes. During the interview the participant can choose not to answer any question the participant does not feel comfortable answering or can withdraw from the study all together. The

identities of participants will be kept private. No monetary or other incentives shall be provided to participants. Participants for the study will not be individuals that I have authority or familiarity with. As a participant in the study, you will receive a 1-2-page summary of my interpretations of the data.

If you meet the above-mentioned selection criteria and interested in participating in this study, please send an email to notify me of your acceptance. On receipt of your acceptance, I will send a copy of the informed consent form for your review and signature, and a copy of the interview questions that you will be asked during the interview. I will also be following up with phone call (or email) to schedule a date, time, and venue for the interview.

Please let me know if you have any questions about the study.

Regards,

Tyrone Carter

Appendix E

CONSENT FORM

You are invited to take part in a research study to determine if social constructions play a role in how St. Louis law enforcement implements the Stop and ID initiative. The researcher is inviting law enforcement personnel and community members that interact daily in St. Louis communities to be in the study. This form is part of a process called “informed consent” to allow you to understand this study before deciding whether to take part.

This study is being conducted by a researcher named Tyrone Carter who is a doctoral candidate at Walden University.

Background Information:

The purpose of this study is to identify if an officer’s views of society play a role in how St. Louis law enforcement implements the Stop and ID initiative. The study will also take into consideration the opinions of community members that have observed the Stop and ID initiative used by St. Louis law enforcement.

Procedures:

This study involves the following steps:

- Participate in a single recorded interview (less than 60 minutes of your time).

Voluntary Nature of the Study:

Research should only be done with those who freely volunteer. So, everyone involved will respect your decision to join or not. If you decide to join the study now, you can still change your mind later. You may stop at any time. The researcher seeks 10 participants to volunteer for this study (5 law enforcement officers and 5 community members).

Risks and Benefits of Being in the Study:

Being in this study could involve some risk of the minor discomforts that can be encountered in daily life, such as bringing back unpleasant memories. With the protections in place, this study would pose minimal risk to your wellbeing.

This study offers no direct compensation to individual volunteers. The aim of this study is to improve police community relations in the City of St. Louis, Missouri.

Payment:

No reward will be provided for your participation in this study. However, each participant will receive a summary of the findings.

Privacy:

The researcher is required to protect your privacy and keep all information confidential. Your identity will be kept in a password protected computer, within the limits of the law. The researcher will not use your personal information for any purposes outside of this research project. Also, the researcher will not include your name or anything else that could identify you in the study reports. The researcher will utilize a code system for the participants only known to this researcher. If the researcher were to share this dataset with another researcher in the future, the researcher is required to remove all names and identifying details before sharing; this would not involve another round of obtaining informed consent. Data will be kept secure by the researcher in a locked box. Data will be kept for a period of at least 5 years, as required by the university.

Contacts and Questions:

You can ask questions of the researcher by email. If you want to talk privately about your rights as a participant or any negative parts of the study, you can call Walden University's Research Participant Advocate. Walden University's approval number for this study is 06-02-21-0664713 and it expires on June 1, 2022.

Participants can print or save the consent form for their records. You may ask the researcher or Walden University for a copy at any time using the contact info above.

Obtaining Your Consent

If you understand the study well enough to make a decision to participate, please reply to my email with the words 'I Consent.'

Appendix F

Confidentiality Agreement Form

Confidentiality Agreement**Name of Signer:**

In the process of collecting data for my research A Social Constructivism View of Police Community Relations in Saint Louis' Inner-City Communities, I will have access to information, which is confidential and should not be disclosed. I acknowledge that the information must remain confidential, and that improper disclosure of confidential information can be damaging to the participant.

By signing this Confidentiality Agreement I acknowledge and agree that:

1. I will not disclose or discuss any confidential information with others, including friends or family.
2. I will not in any way disclose, copy, release, sell, loan, modify or destroy any confidential information except as properly authorized.
3. I will not discuss confidential information where others can overhear the conversation. I understand that it is not acceptable to discuss confidential information even if the participant's name is not used.
4. I will not make any unauthorized transmissions, inquiries, modification or purging of confidential information.
5. I agree that my obligations under this agreement will continue after termination of the job that I will perform.
6. I understand that violation of this agreement will have legal implications.
7. I will only access or use systems or devices I am officially authorized to access and I will not display the operation or function of systems or devices to unauthorized individuals.

Signing this document, I acknowledge that I have read the agreement and I agree to comply with all the terms and conditions stated above.

Signature: _____

Date: _____