New York Latino and African American Young Adults
Perceptions of the NYPD and Stop and Frisk

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Introduction
Racial profiling of Latino Americans and African Americans in New York City is a growing issue. The “Stop and Frisk” method can be seen in large numbers by law enforcement around the country specifically targeting Latinos and African Americans; the differences in numbers can be seen when compared to various racial groups. Latino American and African American young adult interaction with law enforcement can be negatively impacted with racial profiling.

Research Questions
• How does racial profiling affect the interaction of young adults, of Latino or African American backgrounds with government authorities, more specifically police officers?
• How do African Americans and Hispanics suffer discrimination in modern times and how does it impact their mentalities?

Background
African Americans and Hispanics have suffered discrimination for many years. Racial profiling is a form of discrimination in which assumptions are made based on racial features. Racial profiling has been a method used by police officers to stop individuals. The most recent cases of this method have occurred with the Stop and Frisk policy. Although the Stop and Frisk policy was deemed unconstitutional, racial profiling has become a basis for stopping individuals. This process has resulted in many individuals feeling discriminated and disrespected.[6]

Methods

Methods of Research
• We would research 400 adults from African American and Latino backgrounds.
• Ask them their view on racial profiling from the N.Y.C police officers.
• Ask them if they have been a victim of racial profiling.
• Research other articles/research by other social scientists asking the same questions.

From this we can focus on them personally, observing their body language.

Findings
• For decades, African Americans and Hispanic Americans have been subjected to this type of profiling and the question is does that affect how they view law enforcement and officers. [4]
• Also to take notice that the officer’s race plays a role in determining the level of racial profiling. [1,4]
• Racial profiling levels can also be found related to drug use since African Americans and Latinos are considered to be the two main groups associated with it. [1,3]

Conclusions
The perceptions of the NYPD by young Hispanic and African American adults is one that needs to be fixed immediately. The targeting of these minority groups by the NYPD and their stop and frisk law is one of the reasons these two groups have such a negative relationship. There are several solutions available to help mend the troubled relationship, but we must act quickly.

References