

Minorities in Law Enforcement

Michelle Brenner, Lei Gao, and Bukuriye Osmanovic
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Introduction

Law enforcement being an essential need in any society was plagued with racial discrimination within and outside the law enforcement community.

Minorities throughout history, such as the Irish, African Americans, and the Latin Americans faced unfair treatment and prejudices from the communities they were sworn to protect.

Minorities were constantly being denied the job, by facing competition with the dominant group, the Anglo-Saxons having first priority in any type of work force.



Figure 1. Samuel J. Battle the first appointed African American in the NYPD, June, 28, 1911.

History in the making...

Samuel J. Battle is recognized as the first African American sworn into the NYPD IN 1911

- The first African American Sergeant in 1926
- Becomes the first African American Lieutenant in 1935
- The first African American Parole Commissioner in 1941



Figure 2. Samuel J. Battle overcomes the color barrier as The New York Police Department welcomed its first Black officer.

Then and Now...

In 1911, the city of New York's population consisted of 2 percent of African Americans.

Today, African Americans make up 23 percent of the city's population, and 18 percent of all police officers. African Americans, Latin Americans, Asian civilians make up nearly 48 percent amongst all ranks, and among police officers they have been a majority since 2006.

Irish Americans in the NYPD

By the 1950's the NYPD had a significant amount of Irish Americans on the force. So significant that it made up approximately 50 percent of the force.



Figure 3. William O'Dwery was the 100th Mayor for New York City. He also served as a NYPD officer.



Figure 4. NYPD Emerald Society of Pipe & Drum Band was formed ten years after the NYPD Emerald Society.

In 1950 the NYPD Emerald Society was founded by Doris Burke and three other policewomen. Irish women were also active in the NYPD and served along with the men.

Site to visit:

<http://www.nypdcops.org/FratOrg/Emerald.htm>

Latinos in Law Enforcement

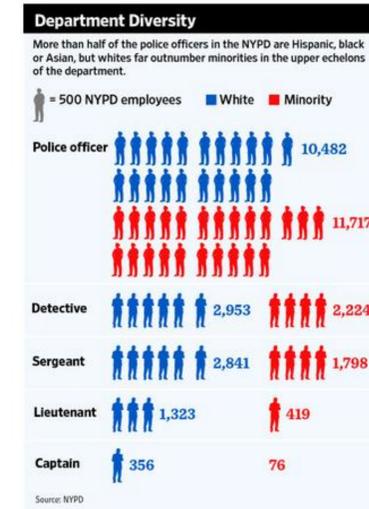


Figure 5. Latinos are a minority group in NYC. As seen in this chart, Latinos and other minorities in the red are taking half the shares within each department, until we reach the bottom however where the higher ranks are. Then you will see that the percentage gap is more dramatic.

Commissioner Raymond Kelly himself, says that, "Diversity helps the community relations and crime fighting."

Latino representation on the NYPD has increased 6 percentage points since 2001, reaching 25.7% last month, records show. In the officer ranks alone, Hispanics make up 29%.

Excerpt from: nydailynews

The excerpt above states that Latinos make up at least 29%. According to figure 3 minorities make up at least half of law enforcement or 50%, with Latinos being a minority, Latinos make up more than half of the minorities within law enforcement.

Change in Crime Rates: 2001 vs. 2010

Over the past 10 years, the overall rate of Index crimes per 100,000 residents declined 21 percent; the rate of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) fell 25% and property crimes (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) were down 20%. The largest reductions in crime rates were reported for motor vehicle theft, and robbery (see Appendix 1 for a state-wide, annualized comparison of crime rates).

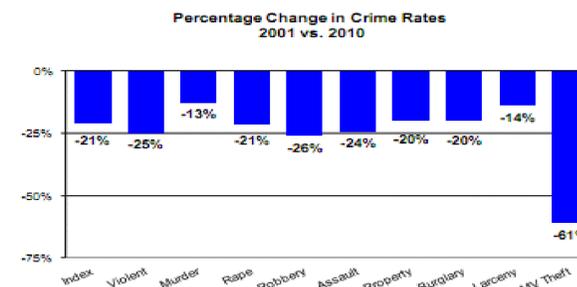


Figure 6. Though we can see that the charts aren't directly referring to one another, we can assume that they do correlate as minorities within Law Enforcement goes up while crimes go down.

Conclusions

With minorities groups increasing, the reputation of NYPD officers racial profiling being aggressive against the minorities will slowly be a thing of the past.

People can see how the NYPD integrates minorities into their force and that shows that their departments cares and want to solve their problems from different ethnic backgrounds.

From a community stand point, Latino immigrants and other minority civilians might be more willing to confront the police rather than feeling scared, running away when they encounter difficult situations.

Since most people are comfortable with ones that understands them and their difficulties, especially when there is no language barrier, having a more diverse force will lead to a better community for everyone.

In all, this represents the already diverse New York and its commitment and effort to make everyone comfortable.

