



National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) Knowledge Corner:

Police-Public Contact Survey



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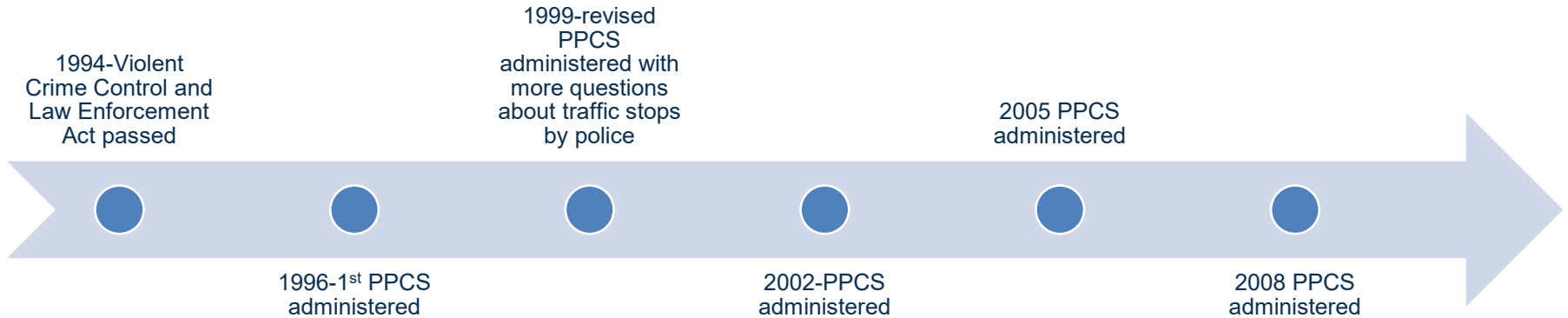


Purpose of the Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS)

- Interactions between the police and the public have been of high interest and received frequent media attention in recent years
- The PPCS is the sole national source for data on nonfatal police use of force, including excessive force
- The PPCS provides:
 - High-level estimates on the number and nature of the public's contacts with police
 - Characteristics of persons who had some type of contact with police during the year
 - Data based on resident perceptions and self reports



History of the Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS)



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History of the PPCS, cont.

2011

Revised PPCS administered with more questions about types of contact, street stops, and voluntary contacts with police

2018

PPCS administered with questions about verbal and sexual harassment, and behavior motivated by bias or prejudice

2015

Revised PPCS administered with several changes including enhanced screener asking if contact resulted in arrest, updated officer characteristics, and use of force questions asked to all residents

2020

PPCS administered with resident action questions included



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2022 Police-Public Contact Survey

- Administered July-December 2022
- Has the same questions as the 2020 PPCS
- Administered to NCVS-eligible respondents age 16 or older
- Asked about contact with police in the past 12 months and their most recent contact
- Of the 130,000 NCVS-eligible respondents
 - 96,500 completed the PPCS questionnaire
 - 74% response rate



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Types of contact

Police-initiated

- Traffic stop, driver
- Traffic stop, passenger
- Street stop
- Arrested
- Other approach

Resident-initiated

- Reported a possible crime
- Reported a noncrime emergency
- Reported a nonemergency
- Participated in a neighborhood or block watch
- Sought other help

Traffic accident

- Contact related to a traffic accident



2022 PPCS questionnaire structure



- Contact screener questions- asking about types and frequency of each type of contact
- Most recent contact
- Characteristics of street stop
- Characteristics of traffic stop
- Officer characteristics
- Outcome of stop
- Outcome of voluntary contacts
- Police behavior and resident perceptions



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Uses for PPCS data

- PPCS can provide national estimates of a variety of topics including:
 - Use of nonfatal force, including excessive force
 - Police misconduct
 - Resident conduct or actions toward police
 - Legitimacy of police stops
 - Complaints against police
 - Satisfaction with police



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PPCS webpage:

<https://bjs.ojp.gov/data-collection/police-public-contact-survey-ppcs>

Police–Public Contact Survey (PPCS)

Data Collection Status: Active

Frequency: Periodically since 1996

Latest Data Available: 2020

The Police–Public Contact Survey (PPCS) provides detailed information on the characteristics of persons who had some type of contact with police during the past year, including those who contacted the police to report a crime or were pulled over in a traffic stop. The PPCS interviews a nationally representative sample of residents age 16 or older as a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The survey provides information with which to examine citizens' perceptions of police behavior and response during these encounters.

Methodology



Questionnaires



Publications and Products



Documentation



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Questions?

- View other [Knowledge Corner videos](#) on YouTube
- See the [NCVS page on the BJS website](#) for more information on the NCVS
 - See the [NCVS, 2016: Technical Documentation](#) for more information about the methodology and instrumentation
- Email AskBJS@usdoj.gov with questions – emails are forwarded to BJS statisticians with topical expertise
- Access [NCVS public-use data files](#) at the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) at the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
 - See the annual codebooks for more information



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