

Home Office Police Uplift Programme

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Overview of the Data Fellowship

I spent eight weeks working for the Police Uplift Programme on various projects to do with policing. This poster will explore a project which studied the role of police-initiated contact on influencing public satisfaction and confidence. I also assisted in a project investigating the barriers to Black recruitment in the police, for which I conducted a literature review on perceptions of the police among Black communities. For this project I worked on context slides providing graphs created by pivot tables on excel displaying a breakdown of Black police officers, joiners, leaves and promotions.

Data Analysis

My first task was to read a report by Myhill and Beak (2008) on Public Confidence in the Police and summarise the key analysis and findings. Next, I was asked to build on the report and analyse the relationship between satisfaction with police-initiated contact and public confidence in the police. I was provided with a cleaned and shortened version of the British Crime Survey to use as a dataset for my analysis. Using excel, I first created cross-tabulations displaying the relationship between personal characteristics such as age and police confidence. Next, for individuals who had been stopped by the police, I explored the relationship between their satisfaction with the experience and their confidence in the police. I compared this for two different types of police stops; vehicle stops and stops on foot.



*A police officer carrying out a vehicle stop, a form of police-initiated contact.
(Metro, 2020)*

More specifically, I compared people's confidence in the police with their levels of satisfaction about factors such as not providing a reason for the stop, or for a search, the reason given for the stop/search if provided, and more.



A police officer conducting a stop and search (Lincolnshire Police, 2021)

Findings

- My main findings reflected the reports findings. In the case of police-initiated contact, where the experience was satisfactory this did not relate to higher odds of confidence in the police. However, individuals who had experienced unsatisfactory police-initiated contact had lower odds of confidence in the police.
- I created a PowerPoint presentation for my findings and presented in a meeting with various members of the Policing department at the Home Office.

Key Skills Learnt

Quantitative:

Before the internship, I was not particularly experienced in using Excel. I followed the Q-Step training videos as well as online tutorials, and obtained help from colleagues when necessary to understand data analysis in Excel, including creating pivot tables and crosstabulations. After using Excel for various projects my skills have massively improved and I now feel confident in using Excel for data analysis in future.

Time Management:

I improved my time management skills by keeping a 9-5 routine, balancing my time between multiple projects and meeting deadlines.

Teamwork:

We worked collaboratively on the barriers to Black recruitment literature review. Meeting regularly to share ideas and findings emphasised the importance of teamwork in the workplace.

Networking:

Attending weekly meetings with my immediate team as well as larger scale department meetings, and one-to-one discussions to aid my development all greatly improved my ability to network, which in turn improved my confidence.