

# POLICE ATTITUDE QUESTIONNAIRE

developed by

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESTORATIVE PRACTICES P.O. Box 1408 Bethlehem PA 18016-1408 USA phone 610/807-9791 fax 610/807-9745 www.restorativepractices.org

# **Police Attitudinal Survey**

This survey was developed for the Bethlehem Restorative Policing Experiment. It is a combination of two sets of scales reported reliable in previously published studies and two sets of scales found reliable in the Bethlehem Experiment.

This survey is intended to be given as a pretest before implementing a change program, and again as a posttest following at least 12 months later. Because police surveys traditionally have a poor response rate, pretest scores need to be matched to an individual s posttest scores (repeated measure design). This is only possible if the respondent is identified, by badge number. This is why the confidentiality statement is necessary, and should be signed by the Police Chief and the Research Director prior to distribution. Response rate can be increased by distributing the questionnaires during roll calls, and giving the time for them to be filled out before the officers assumed their assignments. The Questionnaire can also be mailed or hand delivered to individual officers not present during the roll calls.

The first set of scales is the 112-item Police Daily Hassles scales and the 82-item Police Uplifts scales. These scales measure the positive and negative work-related experiences common to police officers, and were developed from a systematic sample of 330 officers drawn from all ranks and work sections within the Victoria Police Department in Australia. The construct validity of the scales was supported by a series of factor analyses and cross-validated on a second sample of 404 police officers. Each of these scales was divided into operational and organizational items, hassles and uplifts scales and specific item subscales.

### Source:

Hart, P.M., Wearing, A.J. & Headey, B. (1993) Assessing police work experiences: Development of the police daily hassles and uplifts scales. *Journal of Criminal Justice*. 21(6): 553-72.

Hart, P.M., Wearing, A.J. & Headey, B. (1994) Perceived quality of life, personality, and work experiences: Construct validation of the police daily hassles and uplifts scales. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*. 21(3): 283-311.

The second set of scales used to measure changes in the police attitudes was taken from a study examining factors influencing the attitudes of police officers toward their roles and communities. These scales were developed with 761 officers employed by two large police departments in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

### Source:

Brooks, L.W. Piquero, A. & Cronin, J. (1993) Police officer attitudes concerning their communities and their roles: A comparison of two suburban police departments. *American Journal of Police*. 12(3): 115-39.

Five-point ordinal items measuring knowledge and support of family group conferencing for moderately serious juvenile offenses were also included in the questionnaire. In addition, on the posttest questionnaire, there were five-point ordinal items measuring support of family group conferencing for use with domestic dispute calls and for moderately serious adult offenses. Two additional scales measuring exposure to conferencing and support for conferencing were developed for the Bethlehem Experiment, which were both found to be reliable. Source:

McCold, P. & Wachtel, B. (1998). Restorative Policing Experiment: The Bethlehem Pennsylvania Police Family Group

Conferencing Project. U.S. Dept. of Justice, National Institute of Justice. Washington DC: U.S. Govt. Printing Office. [NCJRS 177564 and #177565]

The following is a survey to measure the attitudes and culture of your department. Your responses to this questionnaire will be held in the stricted confidence and will not be revealed to police administration. Your responses will only be used for research p urposes a nd all i dentifying information will be deleted upon completion of the study.

Police Chief	Research Director		
CONFID	ENTIAL		
badge number division	position / rank		
number of years in police service	age		
number of years in current assignment			
highest educational attainment less than high school degree			
high school degree	female		

Please indicate the degree to which each experience listed below <u>hassled or bothered</u> you during the <u>past month</u> as a result of police work.

defina <sup>:</sup> does r	tely <u>ot apply</u>	strongly a	applies
to me		•••	to me
	being responsible for	others	
	being told what to do b	y others	
	'bottling up' my fee	lings	
	complaints by the p	oublic	
-	concerns about the statu	s of police	
	court decisions being to	o lenient	
	courts setting inconvent	ent dates	
	dealing with abused of	hildren	
	dealing with assault	victims	
	dealing with pare	nts	
	dealing with other people	s problems	
	dealing with people who ab	use the police	
		···· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	dealing with road vi	ctims	
	delivering a death me		
	department handling of d		
	ty staying objective (not expr		
	dirty mass room		
	dirty mess room		
	disagreement about how to		
	doing things I don't ag	ree with	
		<u> </u>	
	doing work I don't	пке	
	equipment failui	re	_
$\square$			

defination defination	tely not apply	strongly applies
to me		to me
	exams (for work pur	poses)
	excessive pape	rwork
	feeling generally in	adequate
feelin	gs of having to conform to	'pressure' from peers
	feelings of just being	a number
	feelings of not being able	to do anything
	giving bad ne	WS
	going on a ra	aid
	going to dangerou	us calls
	having no say in decision	s that affect me
	having to make a for	cible arrest
	heavy traffi	
	hoax calls	
	inability to change th	
	inappropriate rules and	
	inconsistent application of	
	insufficient time to cor	
	interference in my decis	ions by others
		L
	irregular meal t	
		<u> </u>
	handling juver	
	lack of clarity in operatio	nal guidelines
$\Box$		

# hassles (continued)

	nately <u>is not apply</u> ne	strongly	applies to me	defina <u>does r</u> to me	tely not apply	strongly	<u>/ applies</u> to me
	lack of equipment				seeing other people in	miserv	
	lack of forward plann				shift work interfering with ot	her activities	
	lack of honesty about my work				sitting around then sudde	nly active	
			,				
	lack of police powe	rs			station instabilit		
						,	
	low morale				studying (for work pur	poses)	
						. ,	
	meeting deadlines				taking a road accident	report	
	missing meals				too much expected	of me	
r	not being able to charge someor	ne who is qu	lty	t	oo much red tape to get so	mething done	•
			, 🗆				
not bein	g able to get an admission from	someone wi	no is guilty		too much supervis	ion	
	not being able to speak n	ny mind			too much work to	do	
	not receiving recognition for a	ob well done	9		trying to show interest in	n people	,
	other members not pulling the	neir weight			unfair promotional p	olicy	
	outside interference with po	olice work			unfair rating syste	m	
	personality clashes at	work			unnecessary form	ns	
	poor administration	า	u	nreasonat	ole expectations from others	outside the o	departmen
	poor drivers on the re	bad			untidy work area	IS	
	poor facilities				wasting time in co	urt	
	poor media coveraç	je		W	vorking with people who are	inconsiderate	е
	problems with co-worl	kers		working	g with people who are not so	uited for polic	e work
	quick change over	S			working with people who c	lo not listen	
re	esponsibility without authority to	make decisi	ons	wo	rking with people who lack	professionalis	sm 
	rushed eating						

Please indicate the degree to which each experience below made you <u>feel good</u> as a result of police work during the <u>past month</u>.

		ngly applies to me	definate <u>does no</u> to me		strongly	<u>y applies</u> to me
	achieving a heavy workload	tome		helpful supervisi	ion	
	application of rules and policy			helping childre	 n	
<u> </u>	charging someone			helping complaina	ants	
	clarity of operational guidelines			helping motoris	ts	
	days off			helping the pub		
	delivering good news			honesty about my work b		
						,
	equipment being available			making tough deci	sions	
	equipment working			making popular dec		
	getting a good 'pinch'			meeting deadlin		
					es	
				obtaining an admission fi	rom a crook	
	getting a good result at court			opportunity for pron	notion	
					<u> </u>	
	getting along with peers			other officers doing the		
	getting things done			personal reaction from of	her officers	; 
					<u> </u>	
	going on a raid			public showing interest i	n my work	
					<i>.</i> .	
	going to good calls			receiving a good perform	ance rating	
_	good facilities		_	receiving a good promot	ions rating	_
					<u> </u>	
_	good roster		_	receiving thanks from t	he public	
_	having a say in decisions		_	accepting respons	ibility	_
_	having someone to turn to for help or	advice	_	results of my plans tak	ing effect	_
	shift work fitting in with other activit	ies		working hard	_	_
_	solving a problem		_	working with good per	formers	_
	_sufficient time with family			working with peopl	e I li <u>ke</u>	

## good feelings (continued)

definately <u>does not apply</u> to me	<u>s</u>	trongly applies to me	definat <u>does n</u> to me	tely lot apply	<u>st</u>	to me
support for my	work from my par	tner	w	orking with people	e who are conside	erate
tidy r	mess room		working	with people who k	now what they a	re doing
tidy	work area			working with peo	ple who listen	
How much do you kr	now about Fam	nily Group Conf	erences?			
nothing	heard about it	🗌 a little	)	quite a bit		a great deal
What is your opinion	of Family Gro	up Conferences	s for moder	ately serious ju	venile offense	s?
strongly oppose	oppose	🗌 no op	inion	support		strongly support
What is your opinion	of Family Gro	up Conferences	s for moder	ately serious a	dult offenses?	
strongly oppose	oppose	🗌 no op	inion	support		strongly support
What is your opinion	of Family Gro	up Conferences	s for respor	nding to domes	tic dispute call	s?
strongly oppose	oppose	🗌 no op	inion	support		strongly support
Have you attended to	raining for Farr	nily Group Conf	erences?	no yes	if yes, when?	
Have you ever attend	ded a Family G	Group Conferen	ce? 🗌	no 🗌 yes	if yes, how many	month / year /?
Have you ever condu	ucted a Family	Group Confere	ence?	no 🗌 yes	if yes, how man	ıy?
What percent of the	citizens in you	r area are willin	g to: (1-100	0%)		
Ca	all the police if	they see somet	hing suspic	cious?		
		press o	harges in r	ninor crimes? _		
			press char	ges in serious c	rimes?	
		repo	ort a crime	to police if they	are victimized	l?
How would you rate	the cooperatio	n of the prosec		e with your depa		outstanding
How would you rate	the support of	the local courts	• •	blice departmer		outstanding
How would you rate	the quality of p □ inadequate	olice services p	•	your police de	•	outstanding
How would the reside	onte rato tho a	uality of police				

For each of the following statements, indicate whether you agree or disagree with each.

I would arrest a fellow of	I would arrest a fellow officer for driving while intoxicated.							
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
I would give a fellow offic			_					
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
I would report a fellow of	ficer for using unneces	sary force (e.g. hitting, kick	king, punching) when m	aking an arrest.				
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
I would report a fellow of	ficer for violating a citiz	en's civil rights.						
strongly disagree	disagree		agree	strongly agree				
If police officers act in a	service capacity, this d	etracts from their ability to	fight crime.					
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
If police officers in high on neighborhoods would be		estrictions on their use of f	orce, many of the serio	us crime problems in those				
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Many of the decisions by	the Supreme Court in	terfere with the ability of po	lice to fight crime.					
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Most of the time the med	lia treat police fairly.							
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Most people in Bethlehe	m lack the appropriate	level of respect for police.						
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Most young people in Be	ethlehem respect police	officers.						
strongly disagree	☐ disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Patrol officers on the street are more effective if they are able to decide on their own when to enforce particular laws.								
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Police officers must sometimes use unethical means to accomplish enforcement of the law.								
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				
Police officers should as	sist citizens who are lo	cked out of their cars.						
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree				

Police officers should as	ssist sick or injured pe	rsons.							
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police officers should be	Police officers should be able to decide whether or not to enforce laws.								
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police officers should be	Police officers should be allowed to use chokeholds.								
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police officers should be	e allowed to use stun	guns.							
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police officers should ne	ot have to handle calls	that involve social or perso	nal problems where no	o crime is involved.					
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police officers would be	more effective if they	didn't have to worry about "	probable cause" requir	ements for searching citizens.					
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police should handle pu	ublic nuisance problem	IS.							
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police should help settle	e family disputes.								
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Police should only be al	ble to use deadly force	when someone's life is in c	langer.						
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Policing should be seen	as a service organiza	ition.							
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
Sometimes police are justified in using "questionable practices" to achieve good ends.									
strongly disagree	☐ disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
The likelihood of a police officer being physically assaulted in Bethlehem is very high.									
strongly disagree	disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
When a police officer is accused of using too much force, only other police officers are qualified to judge.									
strongly disagree	_ disagree	no opinion	agree	strongly agree					
	-								

Thank you for completing this questionnaire. Your opinion does matter.