

# Birmingham

## 2015 COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS



**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA IS ONE OF SIX PILOT SITES FOR THE NATIONAL INITIATIVE** for Building Community Trust and Justice, a project to improve relationships and increase trust between communities and the criminal justice system and advance the public and scholarly understandings of the issues contributing to those relationships. In collaboration with the **U.S. Department of Justice**, the National Initiative is coordinated by the **National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College of Criminal Justice**, with partnership from the **Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School**, the **Center for Policing Equity at John Jay College and UCLA**, and the **Urban Institute**.

The National Initiative's work involves trust-building interventions with police departments and communities based on three pillars:

- Enhancing **procedural justice**: the way police interact with the public, and how those interactions shape the public's views of the police and their engagement in co-producing public safety.
- Reducing the impact of **implicit bias**: the automatic associations individuals make between groups of people and stereotypes about those groups, and the influence it has in policing.
- Fostering **reconciliation**: frank engagements between minority communities and law enforcement to address historical tensions, misconceptions, and mutual mistrust.

### Creating a Baseline for Evaluation

As part of the National Initiative's commitment to evaluating the effectiveness of its interventions, the Urban Institute surveyed residents from Birmingham's highest-crime neighborhoods regarding their perceptions of and attitudes toward criminal activity and the police department. The surveys were conducted through face-to-face interviews in fall 2015.

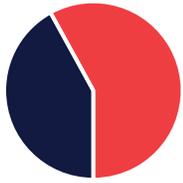
The following are highlights from the survey that show the distrust of law enforcement held by these communities, but also the potential for improved relationships given community residents'

willingness to work with police to improve public safety. They also provide a baseline from which the National Initiative will build new, or further tailor existing, interventions in Birmingham, and ultimately measure the impact of those interventions.

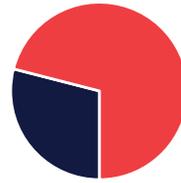
If you are interested in getting involved, or have suggestions, questions, or comments about the National Initiative, please reach out to us at [info@trustandjustice.org](mailto:info@trustandjustice.org) or contact the National Initiative's Birmingham Site Liaison Jerry Wiley at [Jerry.Wiley@birminghamal.gov](mailto:Jerry.Wiley@birminghamal.gov). We look forward to hearing from you.

# DISTRUST AND DISTANCE

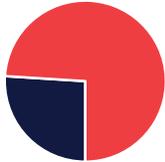
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**42%** of community members support how the police act in the community



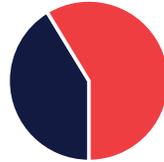
**29%** of community members trust the police



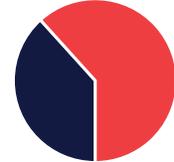
**26%** feel that police are part of their neighborhood



**29%** believe police officers are held accountable for wrong or inappropriate conduct



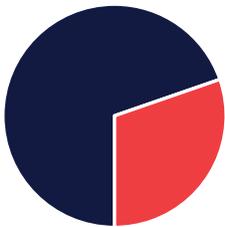
**43%** feel that officers will treat you differently because of their race/ethnicity



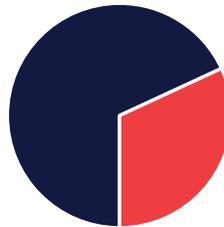
**38%** believe that police officers almost always behave according to the law when dealing with people

# COMMON GROUND AND POTENTIAL FOR PARTNERSHIP

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**70%** believe all laws should be strictly followed



**68%** think that obeying the law ultimately benefits **everyone** in the community



**67%** would call the police to report a crime



**65%** would provide information to the police to help find a suspect



**47%** would volunteer time to help the police solve a crime or find a suspect



**56%** would attend a community meeting with the police to discuss crime in the neighborhood

Survey items were based on a 5-point scale, and the percentages shown are of residents who answered 4 or 5, with 5 being either Strongly Agree (Distrust and Distance, But Common Ground) or Very Likely (And Potential for Partnership).