

## **A Comparison of the Attitudes of Male Police Officers toward Female Police Officers from 1976 to 1994**

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The first women to be assigned to uniformed patrol duties were not exactly welcomed with open arms by the male officers. An attitude survey, conducted in 1976 at three Tampa Bay area law enforcement agencies, found that the male officers expressed consistently negative opinions about the presence, ability and effectiveness of female officers.

Eighteen years later that same survey was readministered to the same three agencies. Substantial positive changes in attitudes were found. Female officers, however, are still not completely accepted as equal partners. There are still differences in perception between male and female officers regarding job performance, opportunities for advancement, and sexual harassment.