

A Study of Implicit Racial Attitudes By Police and Corrections Compared to A Non-Criminal Justice Sample

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Law enforcement officers in America have been depicted by many as having negative racial attitudes about African-Americans, particularly over the last several decades. Indeed, media attention has focused upon incidents involving alleged brutality, such as the Rodney King beating in California, as being racially motivated. Such negative attention has created concern among law enforcement leaders across the nation who have initiated efforts to address this issue. Many states, including Florida, have mandated cultural diversity training to enlighten police officers about their racial attitudes and hopefully provide a better understanding of diverse minority groups. This study introduces an approach to the question or whether or not criminal justice personnel, both police and corrections, are significantly more biased towards minority groups, particularly African-Americans, than others in the general population.