

**The Milwaukee Community Justice Council
Consent Form for Participation in a Research Survey
Perceptions of Criminal Justice in Milwaukee**

Principle Investigator:

Co-Investigator(s):

Survey Title: Perceptions of Criminal Justice in Milwaukee County

What is the purpose of this survey?

The Milwaukee Community Justice Council (CJC) is an umbrella organization comprised of criminal justice agencies, policy-makers, and stakeholders that work collaboratively to improve the Milwaukee criminal justice system's effectiveness, fairness, and efficiency. The CJC is seeking input from the community to advise their future efforts that increase public safety and the quality of life in our community. The purpose of this survey is to evaluate public perception by assessing public attitudes and beliefs about various topics that relate to criminal justice in Milwaukee.

How many people will participate in this survey?

Approximately 400-600 people that are residents of Milwaukee County and are at least 18 years old will take part in this survey.

What will happen in this survey?

You will be asked to complete a survey about your attitudes and beliefs about various topics relating to criminal justice in Milwaukee. This survey will take you about 10-15 minutes to complete.

What are the possible risks of being in this survey?

We do not anticipate that participating in this survey will cause you harm or discomfort. Your participation is completely voluntary and you may stop at any point in time.

How will my privacy be protected?

No personally identifying information that can be linked to your responses on the survey will be collected from you at any time during your participation in this survey.

What are my rights during the research survey?

You may stop your participation at any point in time. You may also request that your data be destroyed and not included in the survey.

How many times may I participate in this survey?

You may participate in this study only once. If you have already submitted a completed survey, please DO NOT complete another.

Will I receive anything for being in this survey?

If you are completing the survey online, you have the opportunity to attend a future which will be held at the Clinton Rose Senior Center (3045 N Dr. Martin Luther King Drive) from 9:30AM-11:00AM. The meeting will release the results of this survey as well as provide more context for the purpose, use, and scope of this survey. The results of this survey will also be posted on the CJC Website www.milwaukee.gov/cjc. Refreshments will be provided January meeting as well as an on-site raffle with multiple winners.

What if I have questions about this survey or about my rights as a research participant?

If you have any questions or concerns, you are welcome to contact one of the Co-Investigator(s) of the survey: ----- . This survey has been reviewed by the ----- . If you would like to discuss your rights as a research participant by someone who is not affiliated with the Milwaukee Community Justice Council to discuss problems, concerns, and questions please contact ----- .

Please enter the following anonymous information, which will be used to match your responses:

Last four digits of personal phone number: _____

Month and Year of Birth: (Drop-Down)

Please answer the following questions about your current job:

Your work status is best characterized as:

- Unemployed
- Employed
- Retired

Does your job relate to the Milwaukee County criminal justice system?

- a. Yes
- b. No

What is your title/role?(Drop-down)

Please answer the following demographic questions:

Gender:

- Male
- Female
- Transgender

Race:

- African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native American or Pacific Islander
- White or Caucasian
- Multiracial
- Other
- Choose not to respond

Ethnicity:

- Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Highest Level of Education:

- Some high school
- Completed high school or GED
- Some college
- Completed college
- Some graduate school
- Completed graduate school

Last year, that is 2013, what was your total family income before taxes?

- Less than \$10,000
- 10 to under \$20,000
- 20 to under \$30,000
- 30 to under \$40,000
- 40 to under \$50,000
- 50 to under \$75,000
- 75 to under \$100,000
- 100 to under \$150,000
- 150,000 or more
- Don't know
- Refused

Municipality Zip-code:(Drop-down)

Length of time at current residence:(Drop-down)

- 0-6 Months
- 7-12 Months
- 13-24 Months
- Over 24 Months

Housing Status:

- Homeowner
- Renter
- Staying with family or friends
- Homeless

I have served a period of incarceration in Wisconsin

- a. Yes
- b. No

Thank you for answering this important information so we can best understand your responses!

In the next section, please answer the following questions about the effectiveness of the Milwaukee County criminal justice system:

1. The criminal justice system is fair to defendants
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree
2. The criminal justice system is fair to crime victims
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree
3. Cases go through the criminal justice system in a timely manner
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree

Please answer the following questions about personal safety:

1. I feel that the crime rate in my neighborhood has decreased in recent years
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree

Progress meter

2. How visible are the police in your neighborhood? Would you say...

- Very visible
 - Somewhat visible
 - Not very visible
 - Not at all visible
 - Don't know
 - Refused
3. In your opinion, how visible SHOULD the police be in your neighborhood?
Would you say..
- Very visible
 - Somewhat visible
 - Not very visible
 - Not at all visible
 - Don't know
 - Refused
4. How satisfied are you with the level of police visibility in your neighborhood?
Would you say...
- Very satisfied
 - Somewhat satisfied
 - Not very satisfied
 - Not at all satisfied
 - Don't know
 - Refused
5. I feel safe walking in my neighborhood during the day
- a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree**
6. I feel safe walking in my neighborhood during the evenings
- a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree**

Please answer the following questions about causes of crime:

Please indicate the 3 main causes of crime in Milwaukee:

- Drug/alcohol addiction
- Drug trafficking
- Family breakdown
- Poverty
- Lack of job skills
- Lack of opportunities for employment
- Gangs
- Income inequality
- Easy access to handguns
- Defendants having too many rights
- Ineffectiveness of the criminal justice system
- Undocumented immigration
- Human trafficking
- Racial segregation
- Dependency on public assistance
- Declining neighborhoods
- High truancy and/or drop out rates in the public education system
- Child welfare system
- Lack of resources for persons who are mentally ill
- Other

Please answer the following questions about your impression of the criminal justice system:

1. I understand the components of the Milwaukee County criminal justice system and how they work
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree
2. I believe that we send too many people to prison in Wisconsin for longer periods of time than are necessary
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree
3. I think that Wisconsin is spending too much money on incarceration
a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree

4. Compared with other states Wisconsin has the highest incarceration rate among African American males
 - a. **True**
 - b. **False**
 5. Since 2009, the total number of individuals in Wisconsin prisons has fallen
 - a. **True**
 - b. **False**
 6. Most violent crimes are committed by those who are strangers to the victim
 - a. **True**
 - b. **False**
 7. I think that a high incarceration rate ultimately makes our community safer
 - a. **Strongly agree** b. **Agree** c. **Disagree** d. **Strongly disagree**
 8. I am in favor of incarceration alternatives such as diversion and deferred prosecution programs for first time or low-risk offenders
 - a. **Strongly agree** b. **Agree** c. **Disagree** d. **Strongly disagree**
 9. I do not believe that we should place an emphasis on treatment for offenses in which alcohol or drugs is a factor
 - a. **Strongly agree** b. **Agree** c. **Disagree** d. **Strongly disagree**
 10. Which one of these two statements most aligns with your opinion:
 - a. In determining punishment for a crime the only thing that matters is the seriousness of the crime committed
 - b. In determining punishment for a crime the judge should take into account other considerations besides just the seriousness of the crime, such as the impact of incarceration on the offender's job and family, whether the offender presents low risk for committing additional crimes, and whether effective treatment is available in the community for any ~~underlying mental health or addiction problems~~
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11. I believe that the violent crimes that occur in our community are committed by all races and ethnicities
- a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree**
12. When I receive news about crime in our community I feel scared
- a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree**
13. When I receive news about crime in our community, I believe that there are often many sides to a story that cannot be covered by the mainstream media
- a. Strongly agree b. Agree c. Disagree d. Strongly disagree**
14. Please choose your main source of local information on local crime and the justice system:
- a. WITI – TV (FOX) Channel 6
 - b. TMJ4 – TV Channel 4
 - c. WISN – TV Channel 12
 - d. Public Radio
 - e. Newspaper
 - f. Social Media

Please answer the following questions about personal/household history with CJS (arrest; jail or prison time):

1. Have you or an immediate family member ever been charged with any type of crime, excluding traffic violations?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
2. Has a law enforcement officer initiated any contact with you in Milwaukee County in the last 12 months?

- a. Yes
 - b. No (*If no, skip to the next section*)
3. If yes, how many times? _____

For the next few questions, I would like for you to think just about the most recent time that an officer initiated contact with you.

4. Do you believe that the officer had a legitimate reason for initiating the contact?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Do you believe that the police engaged in racial profiling?
- a. Yes
 - a. No
6. Were you treated with courtesy and respect?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
7. Were you placed under arrest?
- a. Yes
 - b. No

Please answer the following questions about personal/household crime victim history:

1. I have been a victim of a crime in Milwaukee County
- a. Yes
 - b. No

If the person answer yes to the above question they are directed to the following:

2. Approximately when have you most recently been the victim of a crime in Milwaukee County?
3. Was the crime reported?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No (*If no, skip to 7*)
4. I believe the police responded appropriately to the incident
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
5. Those who responded directed me to the available resources
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
6. One or more family members or close friends of mine have been the victim of a crime in Milwaukee County
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
7. I believe that the Milwaukee County criminal justice system does as much as it can to protect and restore victims of crime
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

Please answer the following questions about what impact the criminal justice system has had on your neighborhood:

1. Of the people who live on your block, how many do you think have served time in jail or prison?

- 0
- 1
- 2
- More than 2
- Don't know
- Refused

Please answer the following additional questions:

1. According to a UWM study, Wisconsin had the highest rate of black adult male incarceration in 2010, with 12.8% of black males between the ages of 18 and 64 in jail or prison. The state with the next highest rate of black male incarceration was Oklahoma, at 9.3 percent. The national average for the rate of black male incarceration is 6.3 percent. Why is Wisconsin's black male incarceration rate so high?

Please indicate the top three reasons:

- Racial Segregation
- Poverty
- Education System
- Local laws and public policy
- State laws and public policy
- Lack of jobs
- Lack of leadership
- Wisconsin's criminal justice system is too lenient
- Wisconsin's criminal justice system is too harsh

2. Recidivism is the act of reengaging in criminal offending despite having been punished. What works in reducing recidivism?

Please indicate the top three reasons:

- Boot camps
- Longer prison sentences
- Shorter prison sentences
- Strict probation and parole policies
- Access to jobs
- Access to healthcare
- Skills training
- Personal responsibility
- Harsh punishment

Progress meter

- AODA treatment
- Evidence-based programs

The Milwaukee Community Justice Council (CJC) is online at www.milwaukee.gov/cjc and has a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/milwcjc). The CJC meets every other month from 9:30AM-11:00AM (January, March, May, July, September, and December—to avoid the day before Thanksgiving) on the **fourth Wednesday** at the Clinton Rose Senior Center, located at 3045 N Dr. Martin Luther King Drive.

In addition to these forums, how should the Council be interacting with the community?

- Neighborhood presentations (announced in major media outlets)
- Schools/partnerships with MPS and other school districts
- Focus groups/listening Sessions
- Criminal Justice Stakeholder “Open Houses” (courts, DA, public defender, ect.)
- Quarterly Newsletters (electronic)
- Regular updates through social media
- Other (allow response)

Thank you for being a part of this important survey! We hope that you will attend the January 28th, 2015 meeting of the CJC at which the results of the study will be presented. The results will also be posted at www.milwaukee.gov/cjc.

Do you have anything else that you would like to share?
