



# WPPA 2018 WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEY



The **Wisconsin Professional Police Association** (WPPA) continues to lead the nation in proactively seeking out the opinions of those residents and communities they serve. WPPA remains the only law enforcement organization nationally that produces an annual survey and shares it publicly. This is the **6th annual poll** conducted by **St. Norbert College's Strategic Research Institute** from February 26 - March 28, 2018 of 400 residents (250 landline; 150 cell phone) by Random Digit Dial.

The WPPA prides itself in asking the tough questions facing law enforcement today, and for using the invaluable insights provided by the people it serves to advance a public dialogue on the future of policing in Wisconsin.

## KEY FINDINGS

**COMMUNITY PRIORITIES:  
KEEPING COMMUNITY SAFE FROM CRIME #1  
*6 YEARS RUNNING!***

	High Priority
<b>SAFE FROM CRIME</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>IMPROVING EDUCATION</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>IMPROVING LOCAL ECONOMY</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>MAINTAINING ROADS &amp; HIGHWAYS</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>PROTECTING ENVIRONMENT</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>INCREASING EMPLOYMENT FOR VETERANS</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>HOLDING LINE ON TAXES/GOVT. SPENDING</b>	<b>41</b>

## PERCEPTIONS

**YOUR LOCAL POLICE FORCE-APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE HOW IT HANDLES ITS JOB?**

*\*Non-white respondents (62%)*

**45%**

**STRONGLY APPROVE**

**40%**

**SOMEWHAT APPROVE**

**HAVING A WELL-FUNDED POLICE FORCE IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE?**

*\*Non-white respondents (79%)*

**93%**

**AGREE**

**AMOUNT OF TIME SPENT IN NEIGHBORHOODS?**

*\*Non-white respondents who say "About Right" has grown three years running (27%, 41%, 64%)*

**73%**

**ABOUT RIGHT**

**20%**

**TOO LITTLE**

**DANGEROUSNESS OF BEING A POLICE OFFICER OVER PAST 5 YEARS**

**49%**

**MORE DANGEROUS**

**42%**

**ABOUT THE SAME**

## CONCEALED CARRY ISSUES

**WISCONSIN SAFER SINCE 2011 LAW CHANGE?**

*\*"Less Safe" has nearly doubled since 2017 (17%); "Safer" has stayed virtually the same*

**39%**

**STRONGLY APPROVE**

**21%**

**SOMEWHAT APPROVE**

**32%**

**LESS SAFE\***

**FAVOR OR OPPOSE TEACHERS CARRYING GUNS IN SCHOOLS?**

*\*64% of females "Oppose" compared to 50% of males*

**39%**

**FAVOR**

**57%**

**OPPOSE**

**"CONSTITUTIONAL CARRY"-FAVOR OR OPPOSE ALLOWING CITIZENS TO LEGALLY CARRY CONCEALED WEAPONS WITHOUT ANY TRAINING?**

**6%**

**FAVOR**

**94%**

**OPPOSE**

## USE OF DEADLY FORCE: NECESSARY & JUSTIFIED? RACE TRENDS

**HOW MUCH OF A PROBLEM DO YOU FEEL RACISM IS IN OUR SOCIETY?**

**38%**

**MAJOR PROBLEM**

**11**

**NOT MUCH**

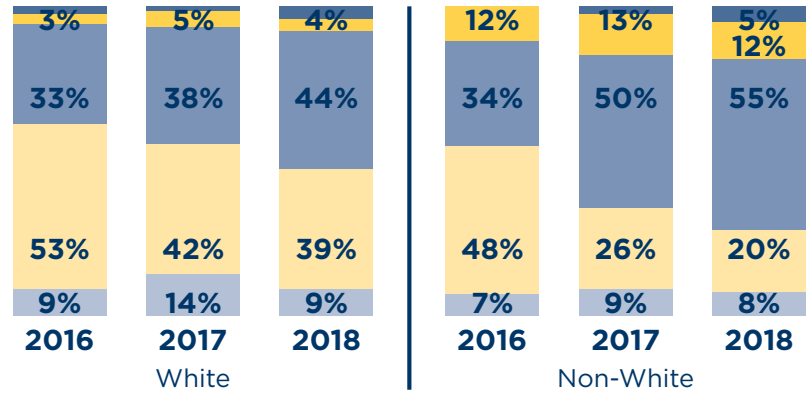
**42**

**SOMEWHAT**

**9**

**NOT**

**WHEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS USE DEADLY FORCE, HOW MUCH OF THE TIME DO YOU BELIEVE IT IS NECESSARY AND JUSTIFIED?**



Always Most of the Time Some of the Time Never Not Sure

- ▶ Non-White skepticism—Some of the Time and Never—about deadly force has grown the past three years
- ▶ In general, more White respondents throughout the years feel the use of deadly force is Always or Most of the Time **necessary and justified** compared to Non-White respondents

**PERCEPTION VS. REALITY**

MOST OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE SHOT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN WISCONSIN ARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN, OR A MEMBER OF A MINORITY GROUP

REALITY

22% strongly agree  
34% somewhat agree  
17% somewhat disagree  
14% strongly disagree

57% white (2017)  
(70% white 2016)

IN THE PAST YEAR, HOW MANY PEOPLE FATALLY SHOT BY WISCONSIN POLICE DO YOU BELIEVE WERE ARMED? WOULD YOU SAY...

REALITY

8% all  
31% most  
41% some  
3% none  
17% not sure

92% armed (2017)  
(100% armed 2016)

- ▶ In general, more Non-White than White respondents Strongly Agree that most of the people shot by law enforcement officers in Wisconsin are Black, African American, or a member of a minority group.
- ▶ In 2018, 19% of White respondents Strongly Agree compared to 35% of Non-White respondents
- ▶ More Non-White respondents in 2018 (11%) believe All people fatally shot by Wisconsin police were armed than in 2017 (2%). Additionally much fewer Non-White respondents report Some in 2018 (34%) than in 2017 (70%)

**BODY CAMERAS**

**WOULD YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE REQUIRING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO WEAR BODY VIDEO CAMERAS**

*\*Highest score in four years \*2017 = 84%*

**94% FAVOR**

## DRUG POLICY & PERCEPTIONS

### MARIJUANA SHOULD BE LEGAL TO USE IN WISCONSIN FOR:

- A. MEDICAL AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES **39%** YES
- B. ONLY FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES **45%** YES
- C. NOT BE MADE LEGAL **15%** YES

▶ More males (47%) than females (32%) feel marijuana should be made **Medically and Recreationally Legal** while more females (52%) than males (38%) feel marijuana should be made **Medically Legal Only** in Wisconsin.

DO YOU THINK POLICE OFFICERS SHOULD TREAT PEOPLE ADDICTED TO **OPIOIDS** AS *CRIMINAL OFFENDERS* OR PERSONS IN NEED OF *CARE AND TREATMENT*?

- 77%** CARE AND TREATMENT
- 16%** CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

## WAGES & BENEFITS

DO YOU FAVOR OR OPPOSE ALLOWING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO **NEGOTIATE** A CONTRACT WITH THEIR EMPLOYERS OVER THEIR **WAGES AND BENEFITS**?

- 72%** FAVOR
- 22%** OPPOSE

## METHODOLOGY

### TELEPHONE SURVEY

- ▶ Telephone interviewing dates were from February 26th, 2018 to March 28, 2018.
- ▶ 400 members of the general public completed the telephone survey:
  - ▶ 250 landline interviews.
  - ▶ 150 cell phone interviews
- ▶ Sampling strategy was a Random Digit Dial (RDD) sample for landline with random selection of respondent at the household level; random selection of cell phone numbers.
- ▶ The survey represents a scientific random sample of individuals who live in Wisconsin.

The data was weighted to more accurately reflect the demographic make-up of the area under study. Survey weights are derived from 2016 population estimates (most recent data available).

All questions were cross tabulated with the various demographic groups; only statistically significant differences at the .05 level are reported. A difference between groups at the .05 level means that we can be 95% sure that the correlation between two values did not occur by chance only.