

POLICE-YOUTH ENCOUNTERS: DEFINING AND ADDRESSING THE LEGITIMACY PROBLEM

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THE CURRENT POLICING STRATEGY

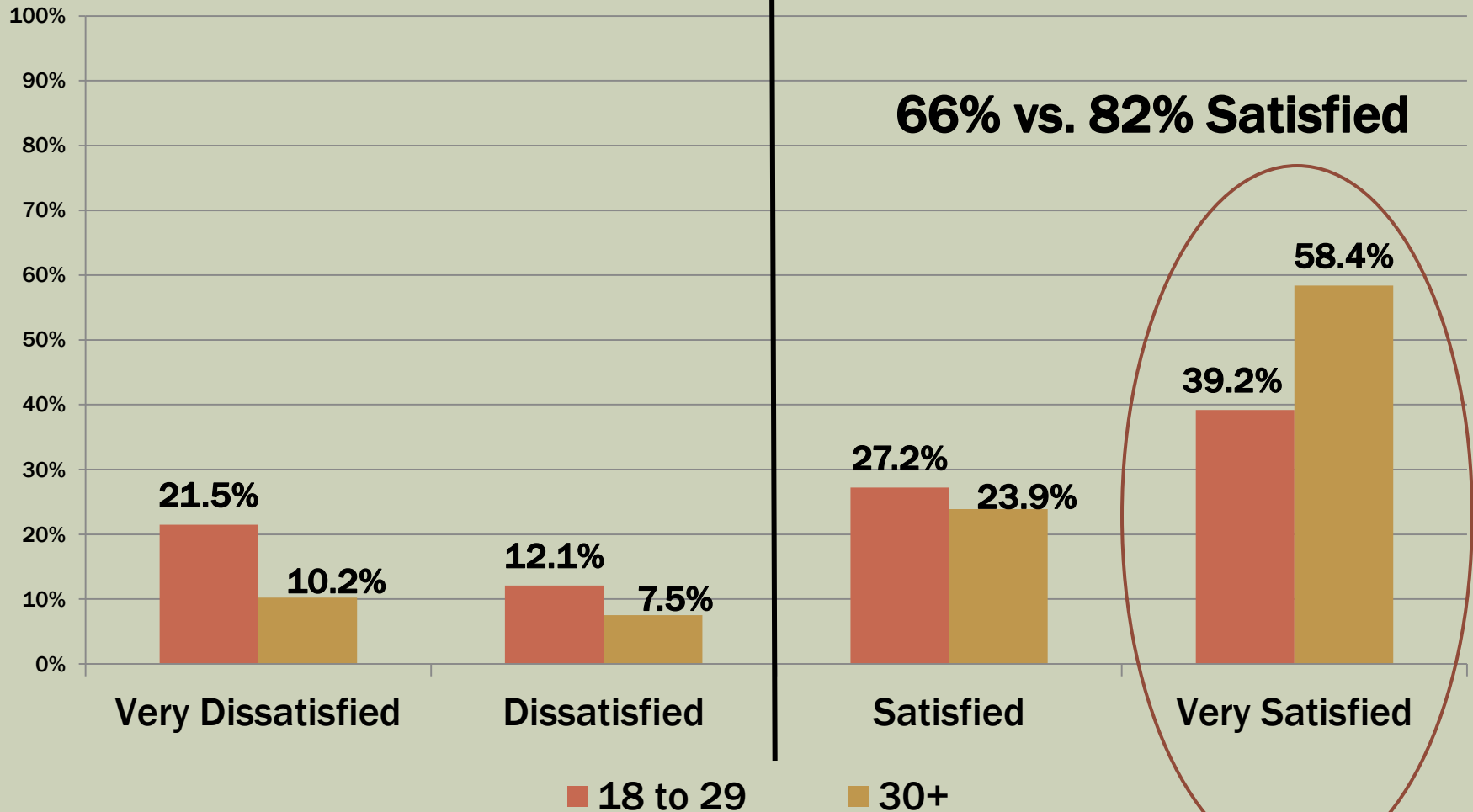
- Street crime is a youth problem
- Strategy focuses on “hot spots” and “hot people”
- Widespread use of “Terry stops” – searching for weapons, drugs
- Sending several messages to youth

THREE CORE PROBLEMS WITH THE STRATEGY

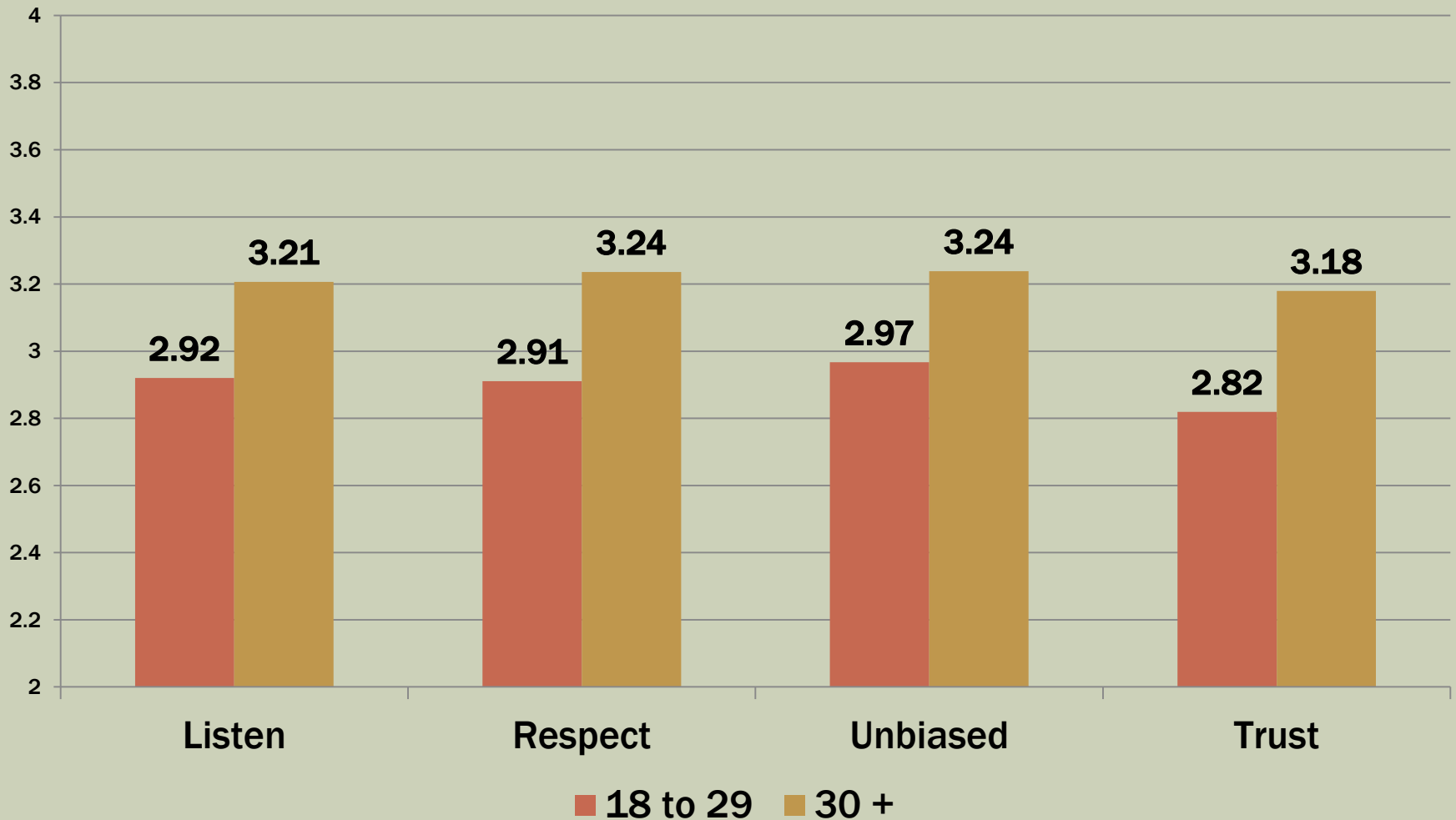
- Indiscriminate and discriminate coverage
- Potential criminogenic effects
- Negative police-youth interactions can adversely affect police legitimacy

OVERALL SATISFACTION WITH THE POLICE ENCOUNTER BY AGE

NATIONAL POLICE RESEARCH PLATFORM:
POLICE-COMMUNITY INTERACTION SURVEY (N=7453)



OFFICER'S PERFORMANCE BY CITIZEN'S AGE (HIGHER SCORE = HIGHER RATING ON 1-4 SCALE)



LEGITIMACY

“A psychological property of an authority, institution, or social arrangement that leads those connected to it to believe that it is appropriate, proper, and just.” (Tyler, 2006, p. 375).

CONSEQUENCES OF PROCEDURAL INJUSTICE AND WEAK LEGITIMACY

- Less willing to cooperate (e.g. "no snitch culture")
- Less willing to comply with requests
- Less willing to obey the law
- More likely to file complaints, lawsuits, and generate negative media coverage

SOLUTIONS AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- Use stop-and-frisk (“Terry” stops) surgically and less frequently
- Train officers and supervisors in the methods of Respectful Engaged Policing (REP) – methods of interacting
- REP should include friendly stops, questions unrelated to interrogations, and relationship building
- Promote foot patrols, not squad patrols

BENEFITS OF RESPECTFUL ENGAGED POLICING (REP) MODEL

- Learn the social landscape and identify problems
- Build rapport and reduce the “No Snitch Culture”
- Identify and respond to high-risk youth and repeat offenders
- Strengthen police legitimacy and prevent crime

THANK YOU

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