

2014

Chicanos and the Criminal Justice System

Scott Van Dyke

Eastern Washington University

Follow this and additional works at: http://dc.ewu.edu/srcw_2014



Part of the [Chicana/o Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Van Dyke, Scott, "Chicanos and the Criminal Justice System" (2014). *2014 Symposium*. Paper 28.
http://dc.ewu.edu/srcw_2014/28

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the EWU Student Research and Creative Works Symposium at EWU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2014 Symposium by an authorized administrator of EWU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact jotto@ewu.edu.

Chicanos in the Criminal Justice System



Scott VanDyke
ANTH 167
Dr. Martin Meraz-Garcia

Interactions in the Past

⌘ American Invasion of Mexico

This resulted in territory taken from Mexico and a lot of brand new “citizens.”

⌘ Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Chicanos that were now part of the USA were supposed to be considered as citizens that had the same rights as everyone else, but this did not happen.

⌘ Court Trials

Chicanos trying to appeal to the courts to keep their land were ignored and taken advantage of.

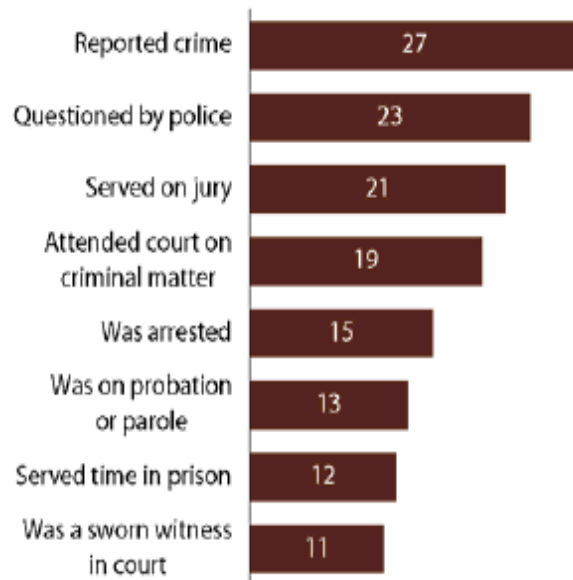
Interactions Now

- 56% of Chicanos say that they or their family has had some sort of interactions with the criminal justice system.

Figure 8

**Interaction with the Criminal Justice System
Among Hispanics**

(% saying they or an immediate family member interacted with the system in the five years preceding the survey)



Source: Pew Hispanic Center 2008 National Survey of Latinos

Trust

- Trust in the criminal justice system from Chicanos has been on a slight increase, but there is still a large disparity between Chicanos and Anglos

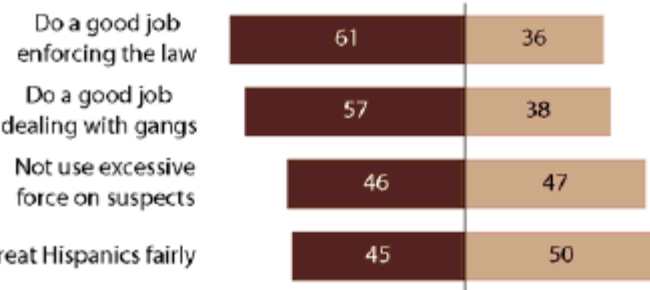
Figure 3

Confidence in the Legal System Among Hispanics

Question: How confident are you that...? (%)

■ A great deal/A fair amount ■ Just some/Very little

Police officers in your community will:



Courts in your community will:



Note: Responses of "Don't know" and "Refused" not shown
Source: Pew Hispanic Center 2008 National Survey of Latinos

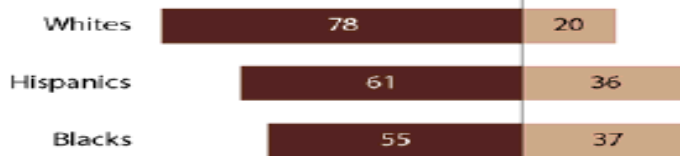
Figure 4

Confidence in the Legal System, by Race and Ethnicity

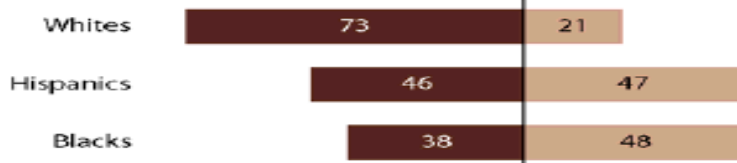
Question: How confident are you that police officers in your community will...? (%)

■ A great deal/A fair amount ■ Just some/Very little

Do a good job enforcing the law



Not use excessive force on suspects

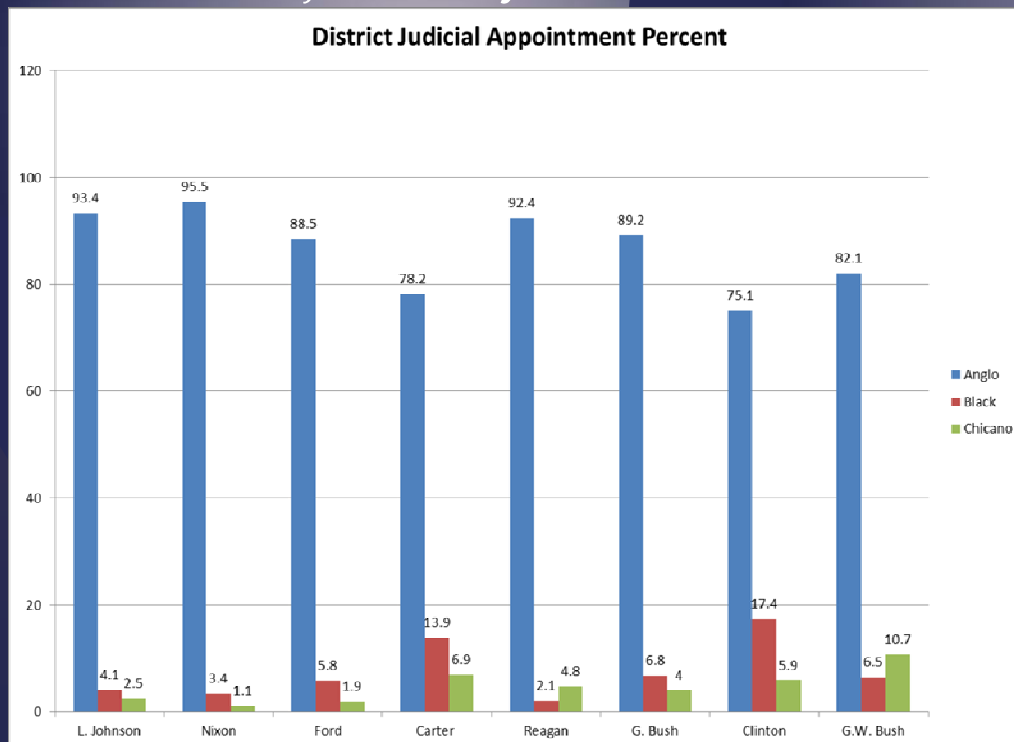


Note: Responses of "Don't know" and "Refused" not shown. Whites include only non-Hispanic whites. Blacks include only non-Hispanic blacks

Source: Hispanic results from Pew Hispanic Center 2008 National Survey of Latinos; white and black results from Pew Social & Demographic Trends, "Blacks See Growing Values Gap Between Poor and Middle Class; Optimism about Black Progress Declines," November 2007

Within the Criminal Justice System

- Recently there has been a steady increase in the amount of Chicano judges as part of the criminal justice system



The background is a solid dark blue. Two large, overlapping circles of a slightly lighter shade of dark blue are positioned in the upper half of the frame. The circles overlap in the center, creating a darker blue intersection. The text "Faces to the Numbers" is centered horizontally and vertically between the two circles.

Faces to the Numbers

Reynaldo Garza

- ⌘ First Chicano appointed to the Federal District Court
- ⌘ First Chicano to serve as a Chief Judge
- ⌘ As well as serving as a judge, Reynaldo Garza is an active part of the Chicano community and helps promote education



Ruben Castillo

- ⌘ First Chicano Judge to serve on the Federal Sentencing Commission
- ⌘ Judge Castillo is deeply committed to serving the community and ending racial prejudice.
- ⌘ . Judge Ruben was instrumental in the creation of Chicago's first Chicano congressional district. He was also nominated in 1994 by President Clinton becoming the first Chicano federal judge of Illinois



Future Interactions

- ⌘ As the Chicano population increases in the future, so will the number of interactions with the criminal justice system.
- ⌘ Likely increase to amount of judges appointed.
- ⌘ Hopefully there will be a greater trust of the criminal justice system in the Chicano community

Works Cited

- ⌘ Hugo Lopez, Mark , and Gretchen Livingston.
"Hispanics and the Criminal Justice System." *<i></i>*.
Pew Research, 7 Apr. 2009. Web. 8 May 2014.
<<http://www.pewhispanic.org/2009/04/07/hispanics-and-the-criminal-justice-system/>>.
- ⌘ "Latino judges." . Just the Beginning Foundation,
n.d. Web. 10 May 2014.
<<http://www.jtbf.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Latino%20Judges&category=Integration>>.
- ⌘ Lyles, Kevin. The Gatekeepers: Federal District
Courts in the Political Process . : Greenwood
Publishing Group, 1997. Print.