Police Crime and Offense Outcomes: Examining the Effect of Officer Rank, Sex, and Criminal Offense Type on Offense Outcomes

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ABSTRACT
Individual- and agency-level variables have emerged as salient factors for understanding police misconduct. Officer rank and sex are two such factors associated with differences in police crime. One area that has received less attention in the literature is the link between individual characteristics, criminal offense type, and case outcomes including case disposition, conviction, and employment. This study uses data from the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database (scan QR Code above) to examine the association between officer rank, sex, and criminal offense type in relation to case disposition, conviction, and employment outcomes.

METHOD
The data for this project were collected as part of a larger research project on police crime. The data were compiled from multiple news sources and court documents from the years 2005-2018. The news sources used for this project were primarily discovered through Google News™ search engine and Google Alerts™ email update service. For the years 2005-2018. The data for this project were collected as part of a larger research project on police crime. The data were compiled from multiple news sources and court documents from the years 2005-2018. The news sources used for this project were primarily discovered through Google News™ search engine and Google Alerts™ email update service. For more information, scan the QR code above.

DISCUSSION

- Employment outcomes, case disposition, and type of conviction appear to be similar for male and female officers.
- Employment outcomes:
  - A higher percentage of males lost their job while a higher percentage of females had no action taken for sex-related crimes.
- Case disposition:
  - A higher percentage of females were not convicted for violence-related and profit-motivated crimes compared to males.
- Types of convictions:
  - Similar for males and females.
- Overall, line officers make up most cases. Females and males appear to be equal in relation to employment outcomes, case disposition, and type of conviction.

Table 1. Officer Demographics for Criminal Arrest Cases from 2005-2018 (N = 18,563)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Final Employment Outcome</th>
<th>Case Disposition</th>
<th>Type of Conviction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15,511 (93.6) No Action</td>
<td>1,052 (6.4)</td>
<td>1,250 (72.0)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1,052 (6.4) Suspended, Kept Job</td>
<td>2,709 (28.3)</td>
<td>4,328 (23.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rank</td>
<td>Lost Job 10,337 (62.4) Case Disposition 3,242 (20.0)</td>
<td>Convicted 8,257 (49.9) Unknown 4,324 (26.1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Line Officer</td>
<td>12,508 (75.5)</td>
<td>Not Convicted 3,982 (24.0)</td>
<td>Unknown 4,324 (26.1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figures 1a-1e. Final Employment Outcome

Figures 2a-2e. Case Disposition

Figures 3a-3e. Type of Conviction

Support for this project was provided by the Wallace Action Fund of Tides Foundation.