

A photograph of two New York City Police officers in uniform standing in Times Square. The officer on the left is a Black man with a beard, and the officer on the right is a white man. They are both wearing dark blue uniforms with peaked caps and duty belts. The background is a blurred city street with bright lights and signs. A semi-transparent blue box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

NYC Civics 101: Public Safety and Police Accountability

FIRE
LANE

NYC Civics @ Old Stone House

JULY

14

LOCAL GOV 101

Learn how NYC local government works and how residents can influence its decisions.

JULY

21

HOUSING

Understand why housing costs are rising and how residents can shape housing policy and advocate for their interests.

JULY

28

MEDIA LITERACY

Learn how to navigate local news in the age of AI and social media, identify credible information, and avoid misinformation.

SEPT

23

ELECTIONS AND GOTV

Learn how issue campaigns, primaries, and elections work and how to effectively mobilize voters and participate in campaigns.

OCT

14

POLICING & PUBLIC SAFETY

Learn what authority NYC has over policing and how residents can advocate for greater police presence or stronger accountability.

OCT

21

NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

Learn how services – from libraries and sanitation to parks – are funded and how residents can advocate for improvements.

What You Will Learn

- Who controls policing in NYC ?
- Who prosecutes crimes ?
- How can the Mayor change policing policy and tactics ?
- What role does city government play in immigration enforcement and other national enforcement efforts ?
- What can residents do to advocate for public safety and accountability ?

NYC Civics: Public Safety Mythbusters

Thumbs up = True 

Thumbs down = False 

1. More arrests always produce less crime.
2. The mayor can change policing priorities by appointing the police commissioner.
3. Every 911 call requires an armed police response.
4. The New York City Civilian Complaint Review Board disciplines police officers.
5. Police resources are allocated based on a neighborhood's local tax base.
6. Residents can attend precinct community council meetings to raise neighborhood concerns.

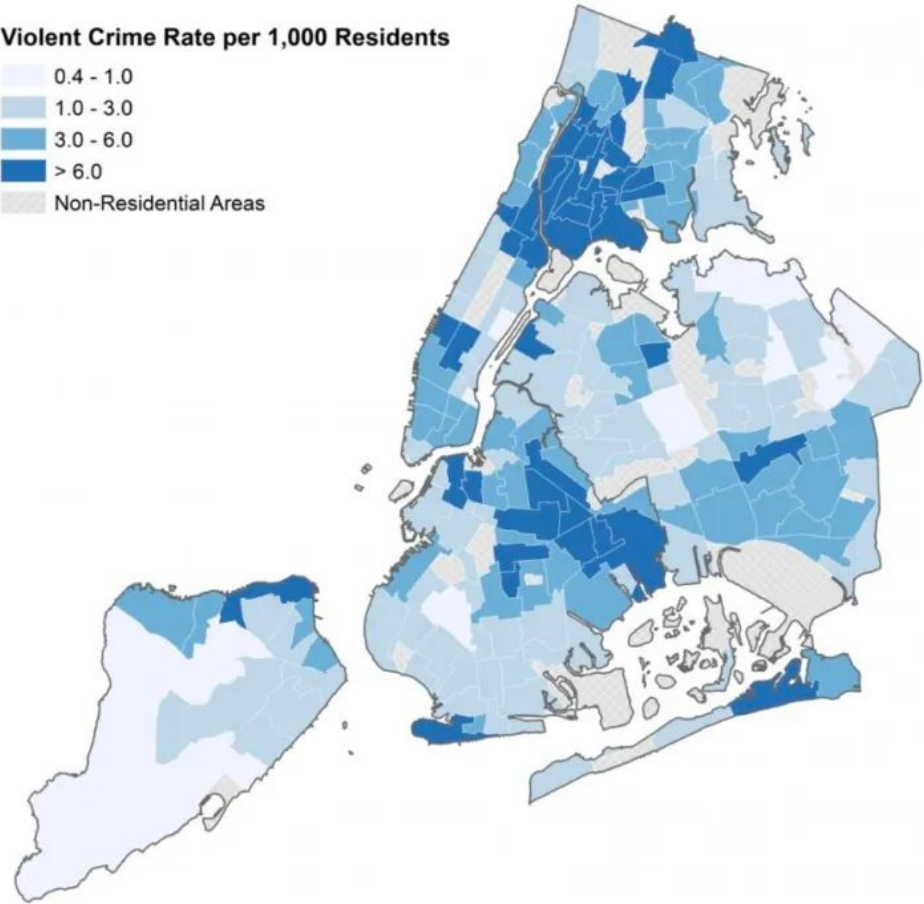
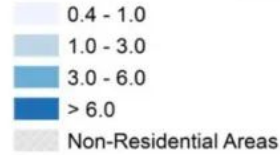


Crime Stats and How to Report a Crime



Crime Varies Across NYC

Violent Crime Rate per 1,000 Residents

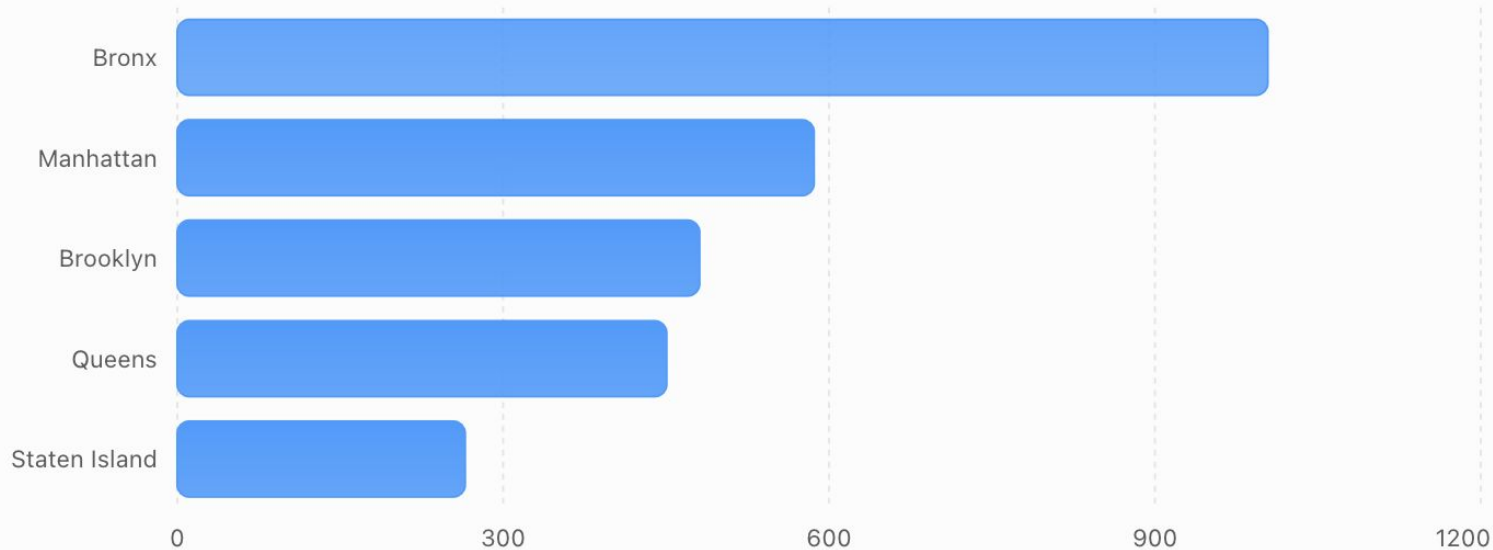


Sources: HPD tabulations of historic NYPD complaints (Source: NYC Open Data) and U.S. Census Bureau (Source: HUD AFFH-T). Notes: Data include valid homicide, robbery, and felony assault complaints reported to NYPD during calendar year 2017. Only complaints with spatial coordinates have been mapped, and the locations of some complaints are approximate. See NYPD documentation for additional notes. Rates are constructed using population in 2010.

Violent Crime Varies Across NYC

Violent major-felony rate by NYC borough, 2024

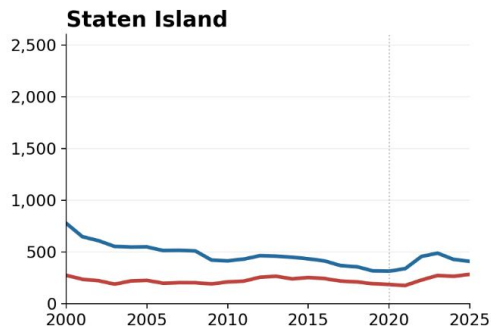
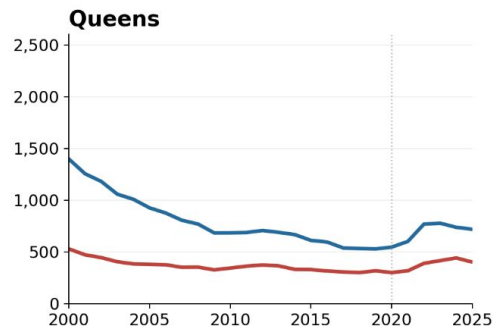
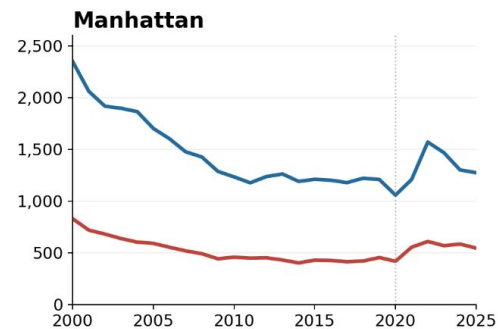
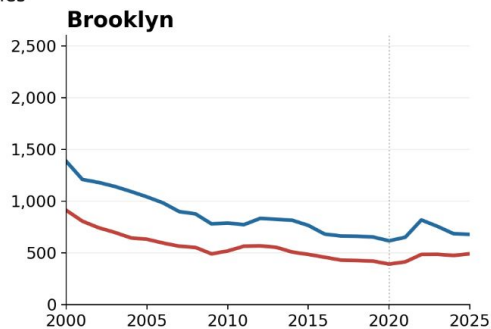
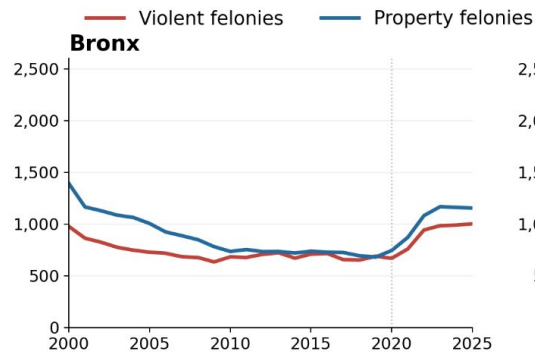
Murder + rape + robbery + felony assault, using NYPD definitions. Rate per 100,000 residents.



Source: Verité analysis of NYPD CompStat data and U.S. Census population estimates. 2024.

NYC Crime Rates Over Time (2000 to 2025)

NYC Crime Rates by Borough, 2000-2025



Reported crimes per 100,000 residents

Violent: murder/manslaughter, rape, robbery and felony assault.

Property: burglary, grand larceny and motor vehicle grand larceny.

Limited to NYPD's seven major felonies.
Excludes separately reported DOC crimes.

Sources: NYPD annual precinct tables; U.S. Census annual county population estimates via FRED. Rates calculated from counts.
Note: population estimate revisions create a break at 2020; rates use residents, including for crimes involving visitors or commuters.

How To Report a Crime: 911 vs. 311

911

- Immediate life-or-death emergencies
- Police
- Fire department
- EMS

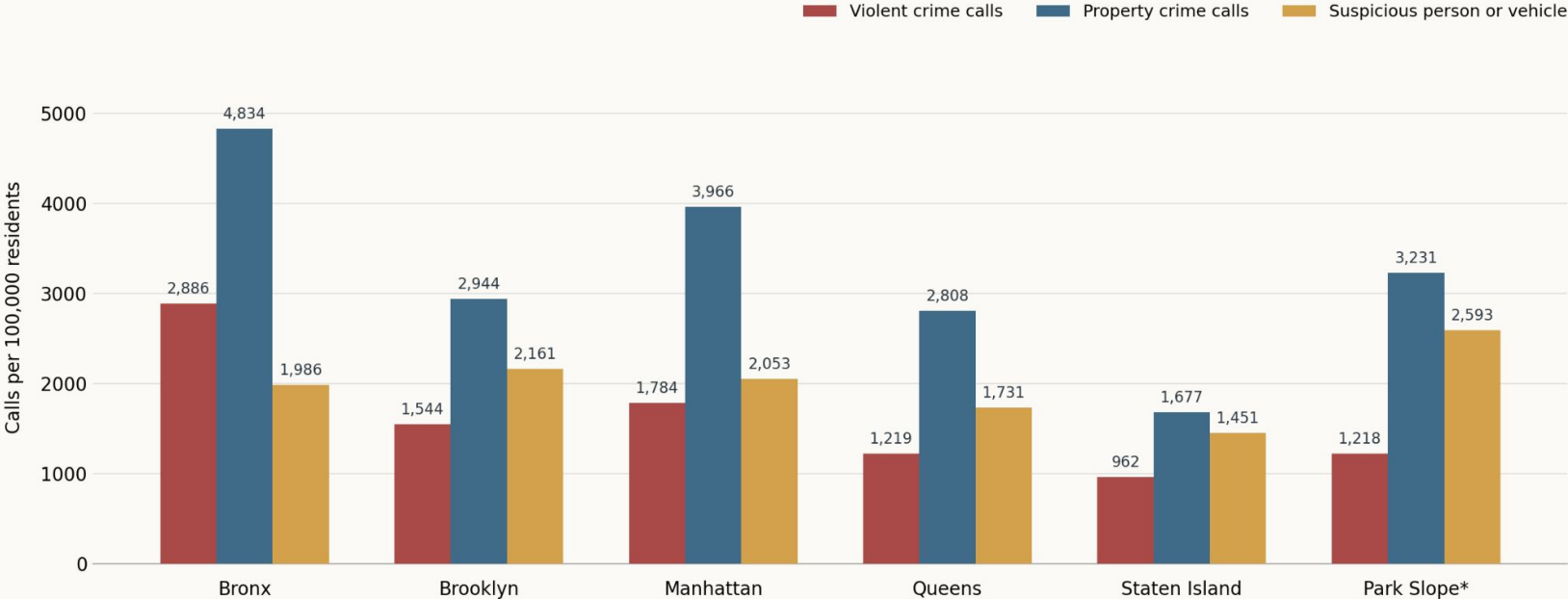
311

- City government information
- Municipal complaints
- Report issues like potholes, missed trash collection, graffiti, noise, etc
- Do not use 311 for issues that are not urgent

Patterns in 911 Calls Across NYC Boroughs

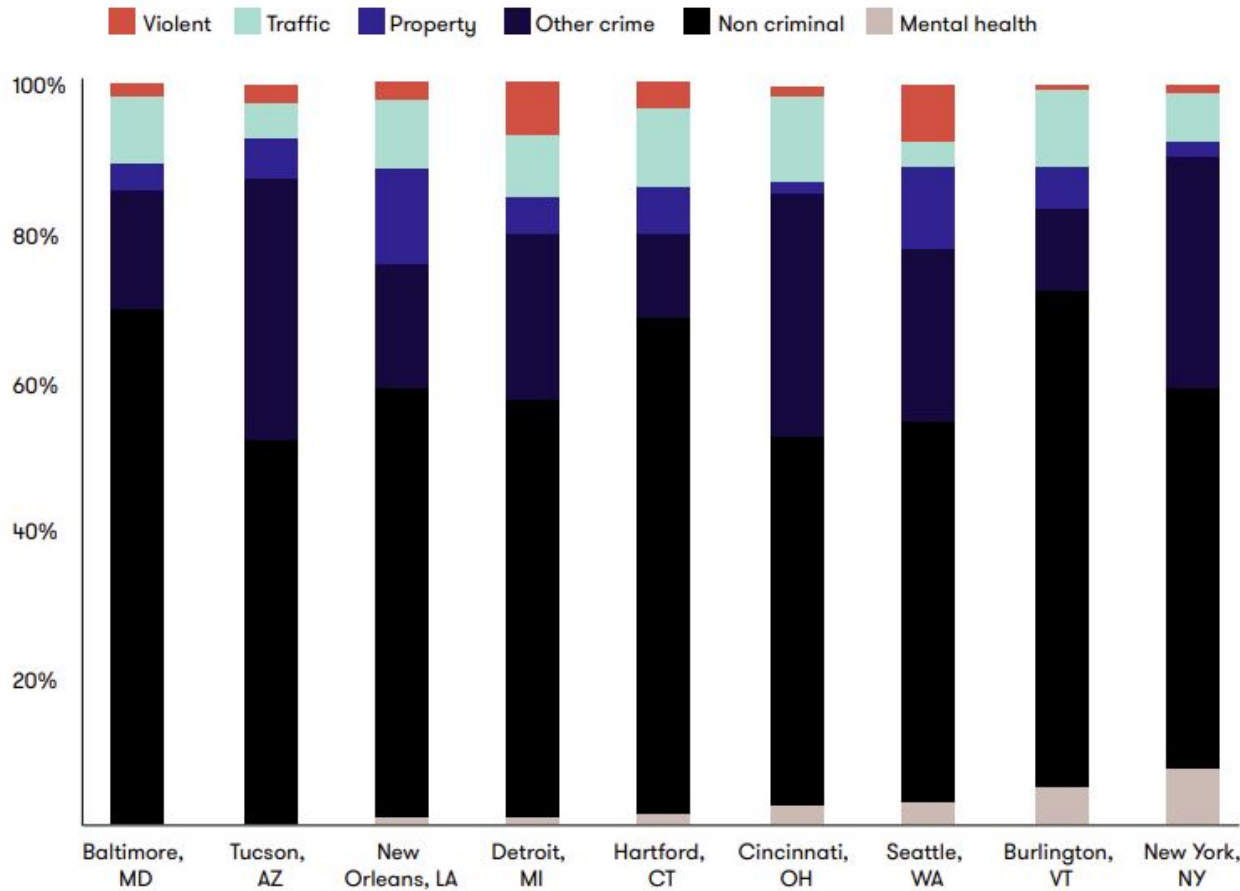
Police related 911 calls by borough and Park Slope, 2025

Approximate community initiated calls assigned to NYPD, per 100,000 residents.



Dispatch classifications, not confirmed crimes. *Park Slope uses the 78th Precinct as a proxy; its population is a 2020 Census count scaled by Brooklyn's 2020-25 change. Sources: NYC Open Data, NYPD Calls for Service; NYC DCP population estimates; John Keefe precinct census aggregation.

Figure 1. Breakdown of 911 Call Type Across Nine Cities Analyzed



How Do Police Spend Their Time? (In Major Cities)

How Do New Yorkers File Police Complaints?

You can file online [here](#) to report non-emergency property and minor damage incidents:

- Lost property (left by accident)
- Petit larceny - property valued at \$1,000 or less that was taken without your permission
- Criminal Mischief - intentional damage to property that is not over \$250
- Graffiti

For more serious crimes/felonies, call 911. The responding officers will file a report.

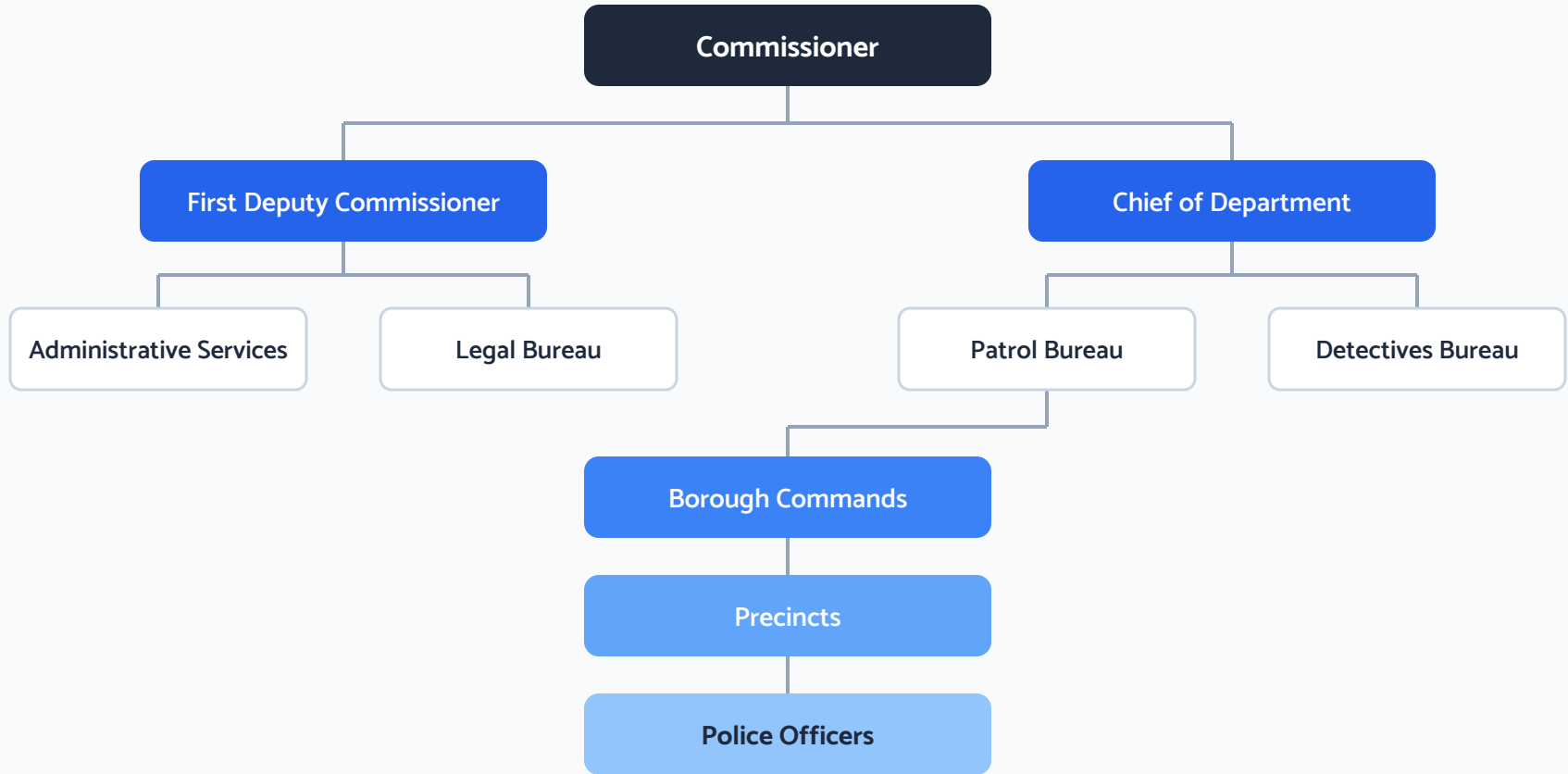
Use 311 to report police misconduct

- Report police misconduct to the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) for force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, etc
- If the CCRB finds misconduct, they will recommend discipline to the Police Commissioner



NYPD Structure and Role of the Police

What is the Structure of the NYPD?





IG & X (Twitter): @nypdpc
Website: nyc.gov/site/nypd/index.page

Police Commissioner

Current: Jessica S. Tisch

- Appointed by mayor (Commissioner Tisch was appointed by Eric Adams)
- Police Commissioner runs the entire NYPD (36,000+ officers & 78 Precincts)
- Sets policing policies and priorities (e.g., stop and frisk vs community policing).
- Manages NYPD's ~\$6 billion budget
- Appoints the Chief of Police and precinct commanding officers.
- Has final authority over officer discipline

Police Do Different Things



Patrol Officers

Largest and most visible bureau - enforce the law, preserve peace



Transit Officers

Prevent crime in mass transit, like subway safety or fare evasion



Housing Officers

Provides police services to public housing developments



Transportation Officers

Traffic enforcement, traffic management, and highway safety

What Functions Do NYPD Police Perform?

- Respond to emergencies and calls for service
- Prevent and investigate crime
- Maintain public order
- Enforce traffic laws and investigate collisions
- Make arrests and execute warrants
- Assist people in crisis

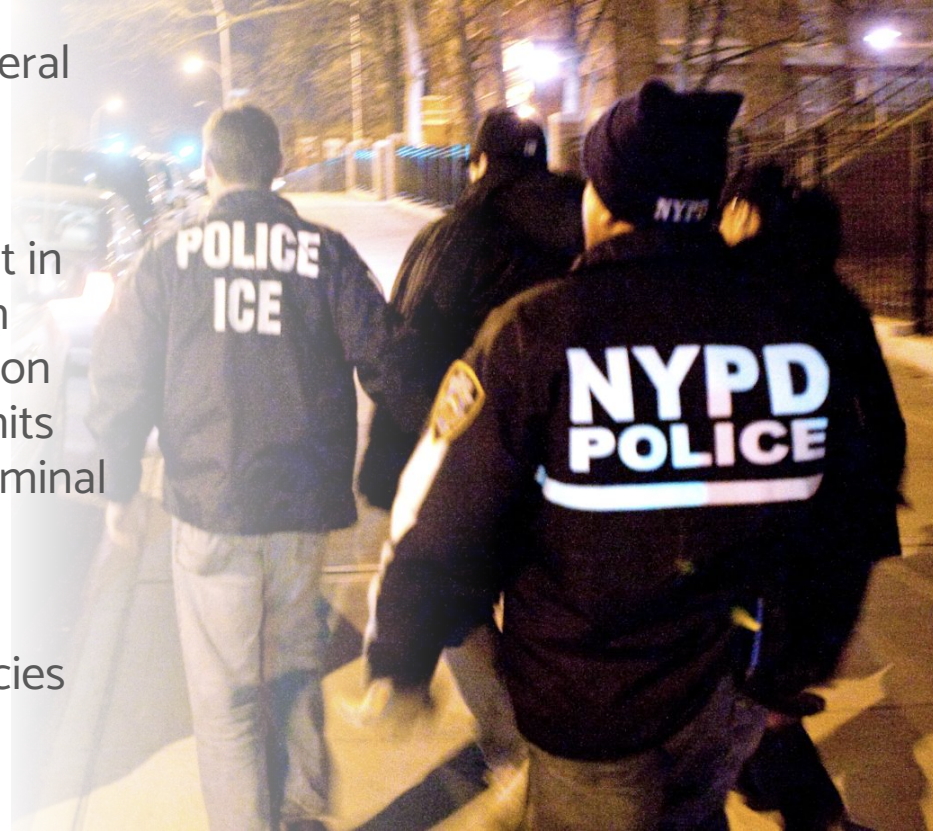


What NYPD Doesn't Do: Immigration Enforcement

NYPD has no legal authority to enforce civil federal immigration laws (they cannot detain or deport people for immigration violations)

NYC's sanctuary laws restrict NYPD involvement in immigration enforcement, including information sharing and collecting information on immigration status in routine policing interactions. This permits certain cooperation with federal agencies on criminal investigations."

Mayor Mamdani also created the Interagency Response Committee, which ensures that agencies are compliant with local sanctuary city laws.



How the Police Respond to Non-Violent Complaints: Office of Community Safety

- Established in 2026 by Mayor Mamdani to develop citywide community safety strategies
- Aims to address the root causes of crime and reduce reliance on police for non-violent 911 calls
- Offices focussing on gender-based violence, mental health, and hate crime prevention.
- Coordinates civilian response to non-violence crimes of



How the Police Respond to Non-Violent Complaints (Mental Health, etc.)

- B-HEARD - Calls that do not involve a weapon or imminent risk of harm will be addressed with EMTs + mental health workers (not police)
 - Active in 31 precincts
- SCOUT - Clinicians and MTA Police officers jointly engage people experiencing severe mental-health crises in the subway and connect them to care.

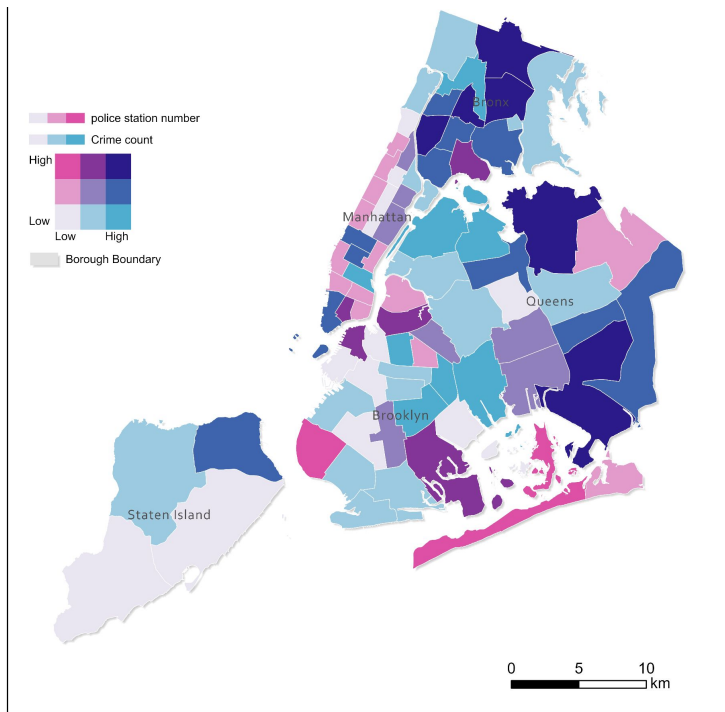


What happens in a Precinct?

- A **Precinct** is a local neighbourhood police station and the area it serves.
- 78 Police Precincts in NYC (typically 70k-150k residents).
- Precincts have some operational and enforcement discretion, like controlling local resource allocation & addressing neighborhood specific complaints/issues.
- Precincts cannot control policy and must execute department-wide directives.
- Precincts can apply low-level discipline but most discipline takes place at higher levels of the NYPD.



Where Do Police Go? Allocated Across Neighborhoods



More police are sent to areas with:

- Higher crime rates - NYPD analyzes crime data to identify “hot spots” & send more officers into these zones
- Larger volume of 911 calls that are more frequent and urgent
- Dense local population
- High-profile locations
- Transit hubs

Example: In 2022, Governor Hochul and Mayor Adams aimed to address transit crime by sending 1,200 additional overtime officer shifts to the subways

How Can Residents Engage NYPD? Precinct Council Meetings

Community Council Meetings - Precinct councils enable conversations between local residents, business owners, and police commanders

Meet precinct commanders and raise neighborhood safety and policing concerns.

Ask about enforcement priorities and follow up on police responses.

78th Precinct meetings: Typically the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM, at 65 6th Avenue, Brooklyn. Check the current schedule before attending.

Joining us: *Erika Clark, 78th Precinct Community Council President*



When Residents Demanded More Policing

After rise in anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021, organizations like Asian Americans for Equality advocated for increased police protection in Chinatown and Asian American communities.

The NYPD created the Asian Hate Crime Task Force, adding more patrols to neighborhoods with many Asian residents. They also employed 25 officers who can speak second languages to build better connections with the community.



How Do Elected Officials Shape Policing?



Who Makes Decisions on NYC Policing?



Mayor

- Sets policing priorities
- Appoints the Police Commissioner
- Proposes the NYPD budget
- Directs overall public safety strategy

City Council

- Approves the NYPD budget
- Passes local policing laws
- Holds oversight hearings
- Establishes accountability structures

Police Commissioners and NYPD

- Runs the NYPD
- Deploys officers
- Sets department policies
- Oversees officer training and discipline

DA

- Decides which crimes to prosecute
- Sets prosecution priorities

State Government

- Defines criminal laws
- Sets sentencing and bail rules
- Can expand or limit NYC's policing authority
- Partly funds policing.

Mayors Choose the Direction of Policing



Mayor Bloomberg

- Supported stop-and-frisk policies.
- Achieved low crime rates at the cost of alienation of Black and Latino New Yorkers.
- Selected a police chief known for stop-and-frisk from the Giuliani administration (92-94).



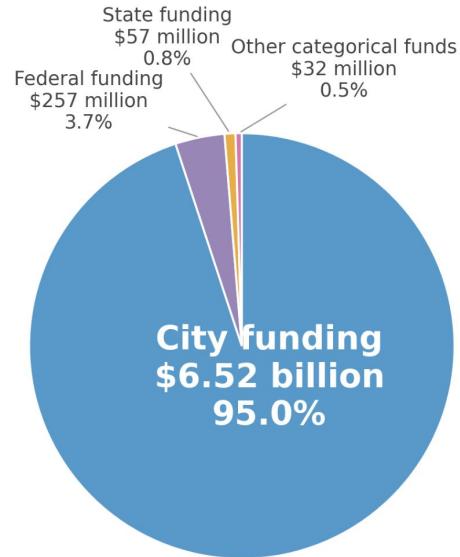
Mayor de Blasio

- Selected a police chief known for neighborhood policing (community policing) and de-escalation training.
- Expanded the use of body cameras

Mayor + City Council Controls Most of Police Funding

NYPD Funding Sources, FY2025

Actual operating spending: \$6.87 billion



City funding includes transfers from other city agencies. Percentages are rounded.

Source: NYC Council FY2027 Executive Budget Report, p. 12 (FY2025 actuals).

City Council Approves and Monitors the Police Budget

- Council votes to adopt the mayor's budget proposal (or modify the proposal)
- Holds oversight and budget hearings each spring - testimonies by police commissioner and analysis of NYPD spending
- Sets level of units of appropriation to control what the NYPD can spend money on

UNITS OF APPROPRIATION		BUDGET FUNCTION (AKA PROGRAM BUDGET)	
Operations	\$3,177,733,297	Administration	\$557,585,000
Executive Management	\$562,689,486	Chief of Department	\$798,271,000
School Safety	\$259,696,630	Communications	\$107,502,000
Administration	\$501,789,351	Community Affairs	\$14,527,000
Criminal Justice	\$87,692,365	Counter-Terrorism	\$47,321,000
Traffic Enforcement	\$146,413,354	Criminal Justice Bureau	\$57,803,000
Transit Police	\$217,004,020	Detective Bureau	\$328,643,000
Housing Police	\$168,761,056	Housing Bureau	\$172,558,000
		Intelligence Division	\$64,119,000
		Internal Affairs	\$70,273,000
		Organized Crime Control Bureau	\$185,022,000
		Patrol	\$1,470,319,000
		Reimbursable Overtime	\$25,747,000
		School Safety	\$259,730,000
		Security/Counter-Terrorism Grants	\$258,323,000
		Special Operations	\$65,500,000
		Support Services	\$156,881,000
		Training	\$107,867,000
		Transit	\$217,199,000
		Transportation	\$198,249,000

City Council Can Set Police Policy (e.g., Ban Aggressive Tactics)

Legislative Authority

City Council can pass binding local laws to regulate policing policy across the city.

Key Regulatory Powers & Oversight Mechanisms:

- **Regulate Tactics:** Ban aggressive maneuvers (e.g., chokeholds)
- **Mandatory Oversight:** Require equipment like body-worn cameras
- **Public Transparency:** Mandate public data collection on stops
- **Public Hearings:** Conduct active inquiry and oversight sessions

CASE IN POINT: POST ACT

The **Public Oversight of Surveillance Technology (POST) Act** requires the NYPD to publish use policies and impact assessments for surveillance tech to ensure full transparency.



Policy & Accountability

Local legislation serves as a direct legislative check on police operations, establishing clear boundaries and civilian oversight.

What Role Do States and the Federal Government Have on the Police?

- New York State controls training requirements for officers and law enforcement standards
- Federal Government can monitor any violations of the constitution through the DOJ (e.g., evaluating the constitutionality of stop and frisk).
- Federal government agencies cannot directly compel local police to change policy but can incentivize reform through funding incentives.
 - Federal court rulings can shape policing (e.g., Stop and Frisk).
- Department of Justice (DOJ) has the authority to inspect the NYPD for major violations.
- Federal government collaborates with NYPD specifically in counter-terrorism and drug enforcement.



Example: Federal Investigations into the Constitutionality of Stop and Frisk

- *Floyd v. City of New York* (2013) - A federal judge ruled that the NYPD's stop-and-frisk practices violated the constitution for racially discriminatory enforcement, finding stops were made without legal "reasonable suspicion"
- The court ordered reforms and appointed an independent federal monitor. Court-supervised reforms continued, along with a sharp decline in stops

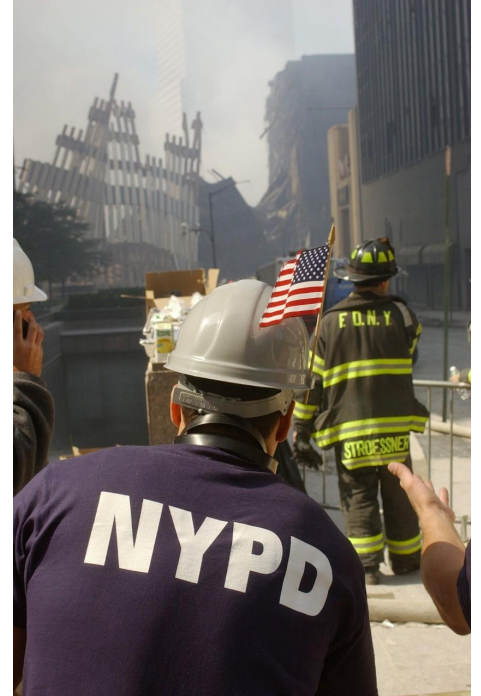


A photograph of two NYPD Counterterrorism officers from behind, standing in an urban setting. They are wearing dark blue uniforms with "NYPD COUNTERTERRORISM" printed on the back and matching caps. The officer on the left has "NYPD" on the back of his cap, while the one on the right has "CRO". In the background, there is a tall, multi-story brick apartment building and some bare trees. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

How Do Residents and Their Representatives Hold Police Accountable?

What is Police Accountability?

- Police accountability refers to mechanisms and methods for monitoring police misconduct or identifying bias and holding police accountable for misconduct or bias.
- Misconduct broadly can include treatment of people through policing practices (violence, harassment, racial profiling) or corruption.
- Police accountability can be internal (within the NYPD after a shooting), within government (DA or City Council processes); or bottom-up (residents pushing for accountability through civic engagement or activism).

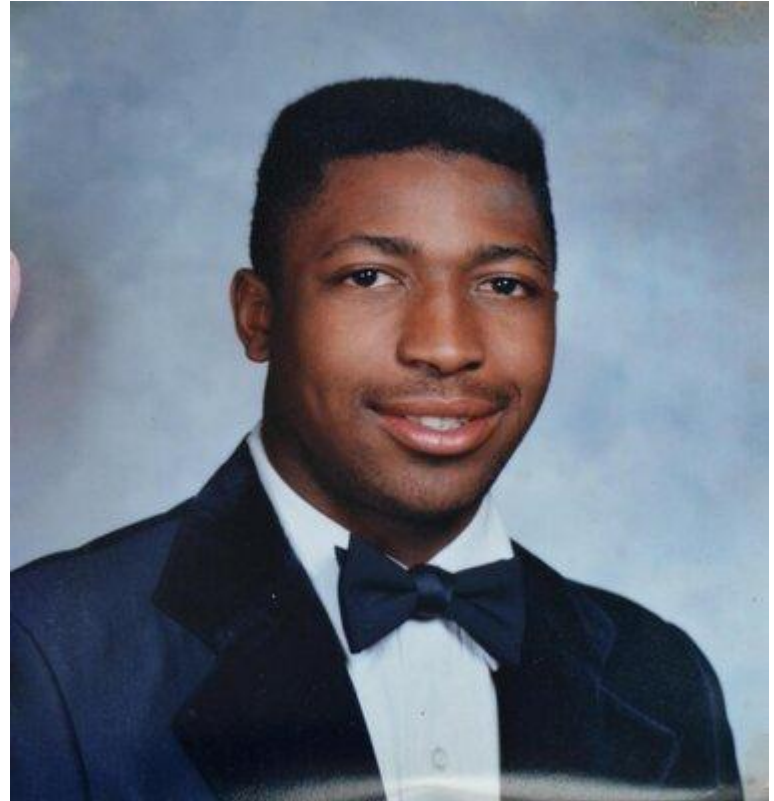


Problems of Police Accountability: Eric Garner

In 2014, Eric Garner was killed by an NYPD officer after put into a prohibited chokehold. He was unarmed & stopped by officer Daniel Pantaleo for allegedly selling loose cigarettes

After his death, there were protests and rallies against police brutality. Pantaleo, was fired from the NYPD in 2019. However, the grand jury failed to indict Pantaleo, so he was never criminally charged.

US Attorney Donoghue said that the government could not prove Pantaleo willfully used excessive force to violate Mr. Garner's rights.



Less Prominent Examples of Police Misconduct



Corruption

NYPD officer Andrew Nguyen accepted more than \$30,000 to assist a drug-trafficking operation. He pleaded guilty to bribery, narcotics, and firearms offenses in 2026.



Excessive Force

Shoving a bystander: An officer pushed a resident twice after he criticized the handling of an allegedly intoxicated driver. Body-camera footage showed no physical interference; CCRB substantiated unjustified force.



Sexual Exploitation

In Custody: Detectives Eddie Martins and Richard Hall arrested an 18-year-old woman and engaged in sexual acts with her inside their police van in exchange for releasing her. In 2019, both pleaded guilty to bribe receiving and received 5 years' probation.



Racial Profiling

NYPD gang database (2025 lawsuit): Civil rights groups alleged NYPD labeled Black and Latino residents as gang members based on ordinary activities, subjecting them to repeated stops and questioning.

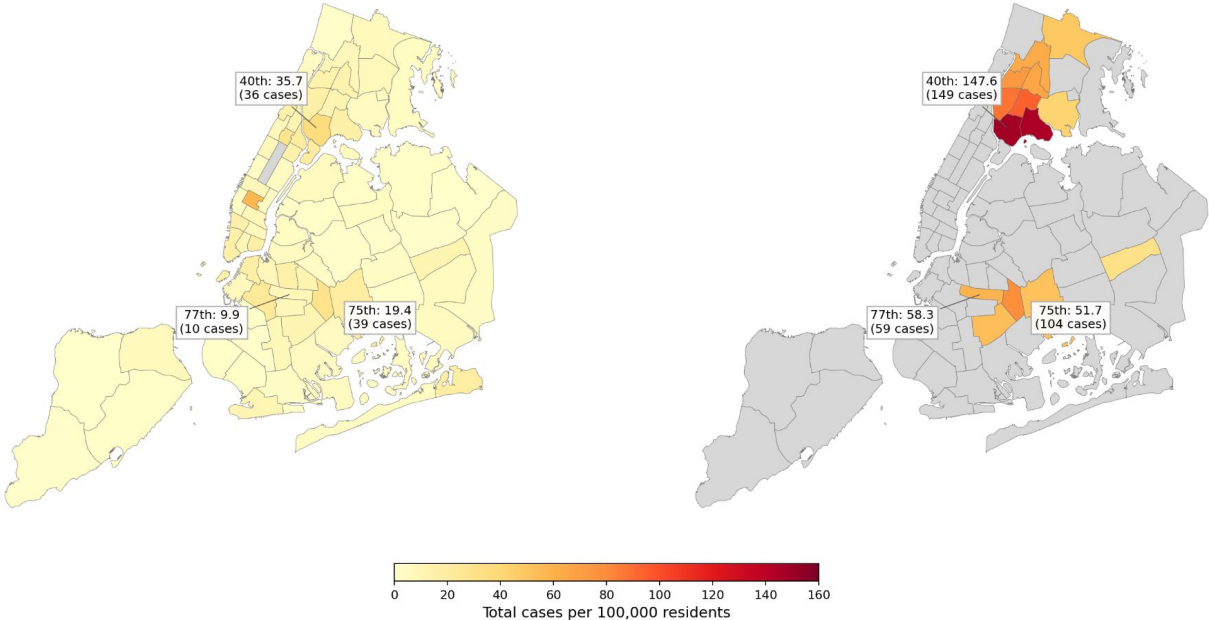
Police Misconduct Cases Across NYC (2019-24)

Police Misconduct Cases per 100,000 Residents

2019-2024 incident totals • 2020 Census population • Different measures; shared numeric scale

CCRB: substantiated force complaints

Comptroller: settlement cases



CCRB: 670 located complaints, each with ≥ 1 substantiated force allegation; 7 lack a precinct. Records as of Oct. 4, 2026.
Comptroller: 14 precincts with case counts in Figure 9 of the 2025 report. GRAY = not published here, not zero.
Settlement cases cover broader police misconduct; settlement does not establish liability. Counts and reporting cutoffs differ.
Sources: NYC CCRB Open Data; NYC Comptroller, A Blueprint for Department-Wide Restraint; 2020 Census / John Keefe.

A photograph of two NYPD Counterterrorism officers from behind, standing in a city street. They are wearing dark blue jackets with "NYPD COUNTERTERRORISM" printed on the back and matching caps. The officer on the left has "NYPD" on the back of his cap, while the one on the right has "CRO". In the background, there are tall apartment buildings and a person pushing a stroller. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the title text.

Institutions and Bottom-Up Pressure for Police Accountability

Transparency on Policing: How Do We Know if There is Bias, Misconduct, or Corruption?

- **Public police data:** Compare stops, searches, arrests, and use of force across racial groups and neighborhoods. Disparities can flag problems that warrant investigation ([Link](#))
- **Complaints and investigation findings:** CCRB reports document misconduct allegations and substantiated cases. ([Link](#)).
- **Commission to Combat Police Corruption—2024 report** (PDF): reviews Internal Affairs investigations and disciplinary outcomes. ([Link](#)).
- **Video and witness accounts:** Body cameras, recordings by residents, and testimony help establish what happened and test officers' accounts ([Link](#)).
- **Independent scrutiny:** Courts, the state Attorney General, federal monitors, journalists, and civic groups can uncover problems and challenge official explanations ([Link](#)).



Protest: BLM Activism and Use of Force Policy

The George Floyd protests demanded reform on police use of force, pushing for the 8 Can't Waits:

1. Ban chokeholds & strangleholds

2. Require de-escalation

3. Require warning before shooting

4. Exhaust all other means before shooting

5. Duty to intervene

6. Ban shooting at moving vehicles

7. Require use of force continuum

8. Require comprehensive reporting



Sustained citywide protests

Beginning May 28, demonstrations continued daily. On June 4, tens of thousands marched across the Brooklyn Bridge. [NBC New York](#)

Mobilization across neighborhoods

Marches spread from Harlem and Lower Manhattan to Brooklyn and Forest Hills, Queens. [CBS New York](#)

Demands beyond individual punishment

Protesters called for systemic reform and shifting NYPD funding toward community services under "Defund the Police." [ag.ny.gov](#)

Major confrontation with city government

NYC imposed a nighttime curfew. Authorities recorded **2,087 protest-related arrests** between May 28 and June 7.

What Did Protest Change?

Greater Transparency

New York repealed 50-a, opening police disciplinary records to public disclosure.

[nyc.gov](https://www.nyc.gov)

Stronger Protections

NYC enacted laws protecting the right to record police and prohibiting officers from covering badge numbers.

File #: Int 0721-2018

Restrictions on Force

State and city lawmakers added criminal penalties for certain chokeholds and dangerous restraints.

[Press Release](#)

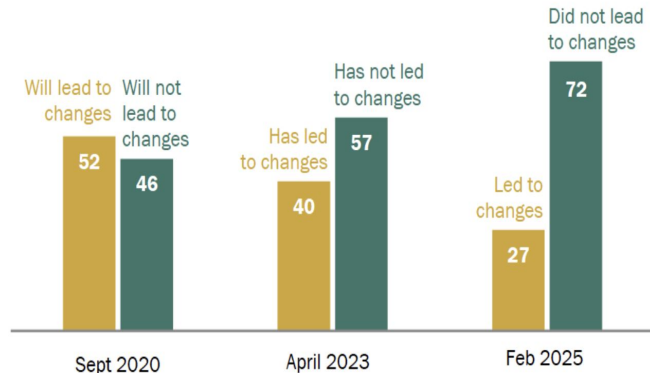
Limits Remained

The Police Commissioner retained final authority over officer discipline, including CCRB recommendations.

Key Exception

Most U.S. adults now say the focus on race after George Floyd's killing didn't lead to improvements for Black Americans

% saying the increased focus on issues of race and racial inequality following George Floyd's killing ____ that will improve/have improved the lives of Black people



Note: Shares of respondents who didn't offer an answer are not shown. Question wording varied slightly across the three surveys. Refer to the topline for more detail. Responses for the 2025 survey exclude those who said they "don't know enough to say."
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 10-17, 2025.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Who Investigates Misconduct Within the NYPD?

The NYPD has investigative processes that are triggered after police shootings (automatically) or after allegations are lodged.

- Force Investigation Division (FID) - Reviews police shootings and other serious uses of force.
 - When a civilian by police there is an automatic investigation.
- Department Advocate's Office (DAO) - Prosecutes disciplinary cases against officers after misconduct investigations.
- Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) - Investigates allegations of corruption and serious officer misconduct



DA Oversight

- DAs prosecute and investigate police misconduct & can press criminal charges against officers
- However, DAs rely on police to investigate and testify in their cases, so prosecuting the police they work with is rare.
- Before Black Lives Matter protests in 2020, this conflict was a big reason officers were so rarely charged after killing someone.
- In 2020, a law was passed to now take the case away from the local DA and gives it to the state AG instead for cases of police killings.
- Other types of misconduct (excessive force) are still up to each local DA. Some have voluntarily stepped aside and asked the state to handle all police cases.



State Oversight (AG Office): Automatic Investigations of Police-Caused Deaths

- If a police officer in New York kills someone, the state Attorney General's office investigates it. This is handled by a unit called the Office of Special Investigation.
- This applies whether the officer was on or off duty, or whether the person killed was armed or unarmed.
- If the AG's office finds the officer was at fault, they can bring the case to a grand jury and prosecute it themselves.
- There's also a separate watchdog office, LEMIO, that tracks misconduct complaints across all police departments in the state and recommends reforms, but can't prosecute itself.



Prosecution rates are still low - about 7.7% of cases were prosecuted (11 of 143 cases)

Example: When Has The State Held NYPD Police Accountable?

- In 2020, NY State Police Officer Christopher Baldner was sentenced to prison for manslaughter by New York Attorney General Letitia James.
- He rammed the back of a car with the police car, causing 11-year old Monica Goods to get ejected from the car, leading to her death
- He was sentenced to 2.5-7.5 years in prison



City Council Oversight Hearing

- The City Council Committee on Oversight and Investigations can hold hearings to investigate issues relating to property, affairs, or government
 - Civilians can testify to the committee about police misconduct & advocate for reform
- Committee on Public Safety oversees the NYPD, Civilian Complaint Review Board, and Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, courts, legal services, & District Attorneys
 - More focused on law enforcement + addressing crime, violence, and safety



This creates a public record of misconduct & can pressure the NYPD (although they cannot directly discipline officers)

Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB): What is It?

- The CCRB investigates complaints made against the police force and reports findings to the Police Commissioner. They make disciplinary recommendations and suggest changes to the NYPD.
- City officials appoint 15 civilian employees (residents of NY) who serve 3-year terms. Members usually work in community service.
- Examples of complaints you can make to the CCRB: unnecessary force, abuse of authority, discourtesy, offensive language, etc.



New York City
**Civilian Complaint
Review Board**

Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB): Does it Make a Difference?

- Effectiveness: Although a civilian advisory unit provides greater public transparency and engagement to law enforcement, the 2025 audit by New York City Comptroller found that:
 - CCRB's full investigations can take a long time; some are too close to their statute of limitations for the NYPD to consider, resulting in the NYPD closing **51.5%** of cases without review.
 - Chances of CCRB recommendations being implemented also depend greatly on the Police Commissioner - **78%** of cases under Jessica Tisch, while only **23%** of cases under Edward Caban.



New York City
**Civilian Complaint
Review Board**

When Have CCRB Recommendations Led to Prosecutions or Disciplinary Action?

Example of Eric Garner Case

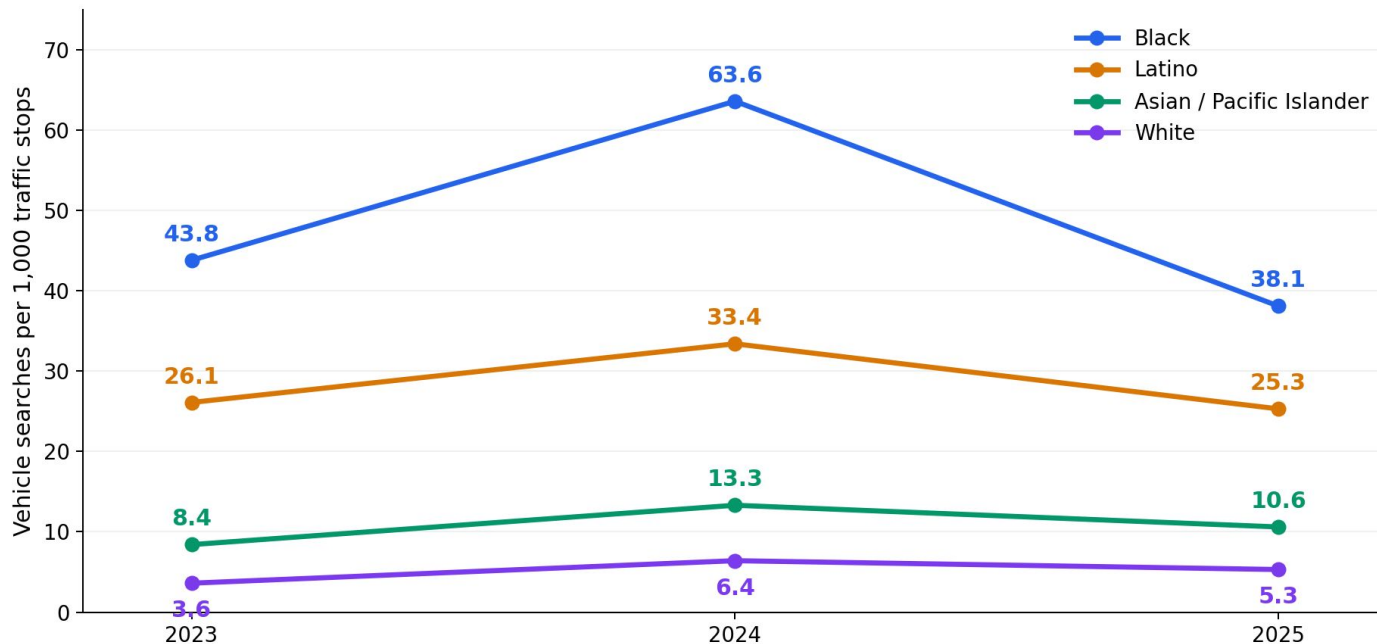
- The CCRB investigated the incident and found police misconduct. The CCRB's Administrative Prosecution Unit took the lead in prosecuting the officer during an internal NYPD departmental trial.
- Prosecutors from the CCRB argued that the officer's actions warranted termination without a pension, and the officer was later fired.



Challenge: Racial Bias in Policing

NYPD vehicle searches by race

Searches per 1,000 stopped drivers, 2023-2025



Source: NYPD Vehicle Stop Reports, NYC Open Data; calculations from incident records.
Unadjusted rates within each racial group and year.

What Institutions Monitor and Correct Racial Bias in Policing?

- Federal courts - Example: a federal judge found stop-and-frisk to be unconstitutional
- NYC Office of the Inspector General for the NYPD - produces independent studies of policies
 - Example: They saw how the NYPD handled cases of racial biases, and recommended the CCRB take over these cases - this was later implemented
- Attorney General - Civil Rights bureau - investigate patterns of discriminatory policing and sue under state law
- Department of Justice - can open investigations into police departments



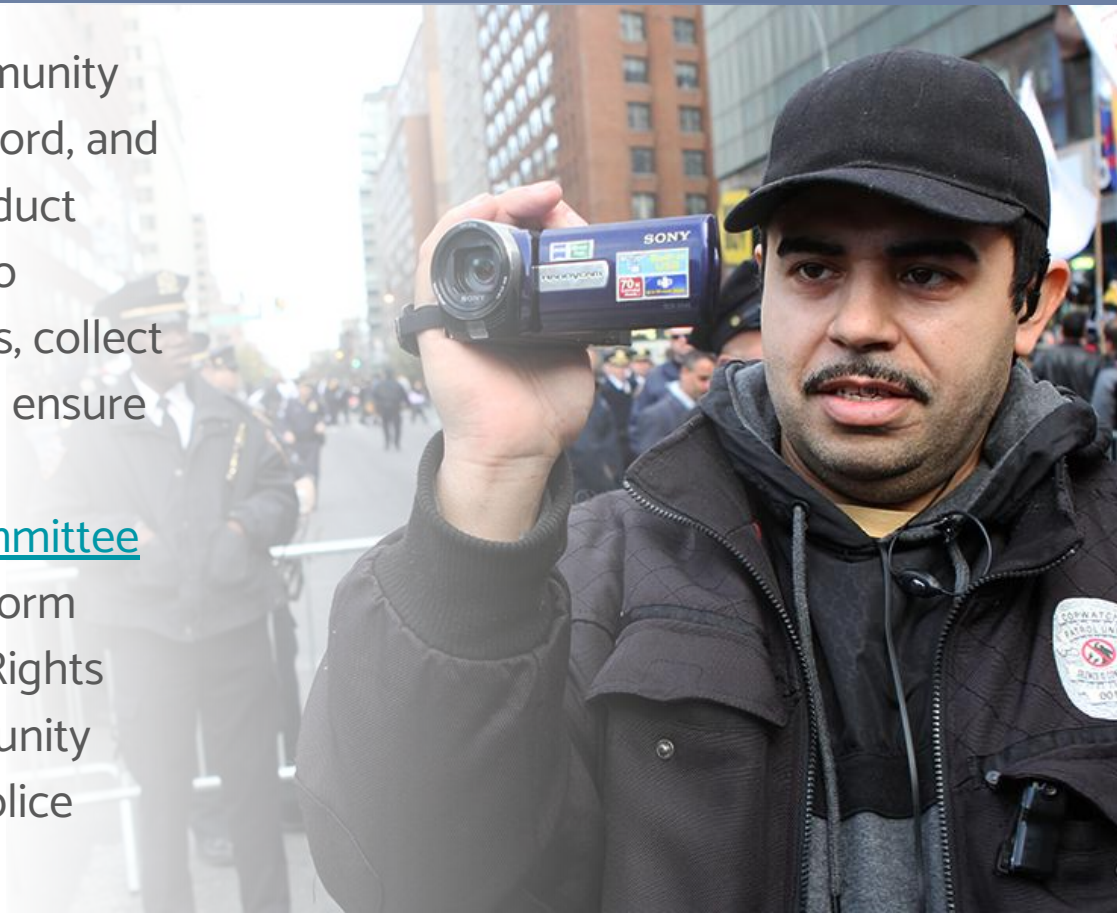
How Do Residents Demand Action to Reduce Bias in Policing?

- 2012 - Communities United for Police Reform organized to fight stop-and-frisks, specifically against Black and Latino people via organized rallies and a CopWatch network
- 2013 - Community Safety Act was passed to create the NYPD Inspector General and ban discriminatory profiling. This act serves as a stronger legal tool to challenge biased policing



What Do Local Civic Groups Do to Hold Police Accountable?

- [CopWatch NYC](#) - network of community members who legally monitor, record, and expose police activity and misconduct
- [Court Watch NYC](#) - volunteers who observe and monitor arraignments, collect data, and provide court support to ensure DA and judges' accountability
- Grassroots groups like [Justice Committee](#) organize & advocate for police reform
 - They often hold Know Your Rights events to educate the community about how to interact with police



Appendix



Chief of Police Department

Current: Michael J. LiPetri

- Oversees all uniformed operations of NYPD
- Appointed by and reports to the police commissioner (Jessica Tisch)
- Supervises other high-level commanders, such as Chief of Patrol and Chief of Detectives
- Coordinates city-wide responses to large public events and emergencies
- Commands approximately 35,000 NYPD Officers

NYPD Chiefs (Below Chief of Department)

- The NYPD also has chiefs of specific bureau/divisions who manage up to thousands of officers and direct daily operations.

Examples include:

- **Chief of Housing:** Oversees city's housing development. Helps reduce crime and target violations and other conditions
- **Chief of Transit:** Oversees transit bureau, which oversees the safety of New York Subway passengers. Members patrol the subway lines, stations, and passenger rail line.
- **Chief of Internal Affairs:** Oversees the Internal Affairs Bureau, which fights corruption within the NYPD



Specialized Units



Special Operations Bureau

Officers with highly specialized training, expertise, and equipment to support other NYPD units



Emergency Service Unit (ESU)

Responds to a wide range of calls for assistance & can be deployed to help outside of NYC



Aviation Unit

Provides advanced air-and-sea rescue in the NYC area (similar to role of Coast Guard)



Harbor Unit

Operate in NYC's ports with search and rescue, NYPD SCUBA, waterside facility patrols, etc



Mounted Unit

Crowd control at demonstrations, protests, concerts, sporting events, and parades



Strategic Response Group

Responds to citywide mobilizations, civil disorders, and major events

Community Policing and Community-Police Engagement

- Block Watcher Program
 - Community members are trained to recognize criminal activity and watch their blocks for unlawful activities. They then notify the NYPD via 311 or 911
- Ride-Along Program
 - Community leaders and residents can experience firsthand the everyday work that police officers do (monitor street, handle assignments), leading to trust and stronger police-community partnerships



De-escalation and Crisis-Intervention Training

- In 2021, the NYPD implemented the Integrated Communication, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) program to train all officers in de-escalation
 - Teaches officers to use conversation, distance, and mediation first instead of resorting to shooting (especially in mental health crises)
 - Focuses on situations where the suspect does not have a gun (~40% of all police shootings)
 - ICAT has shown a 36% reduction in officer injuries
- Police Academy trains recruits via Scenario-Based Training - provides hands-on practical training in communication & de-escalation



Office of the Inspector General - NYPD

The Office of the Inspector General for the New York City Police Department operates independently within the NYC Department of Investigation to oversee the NYPD.

What does the Office do ?

It conducts reviews, audits, and investigations into NYPD policies and practices to recommend improvements.

What is the goal ?

The goal is to improve the effectiveness of the NYPD, increase public safety, protect civil liberties and civil rights and increase the public's confidence in the police

How does it accomplish its mission ?

It issues public assessments and annual reports and receives public and anonymous feedback regarding police operations online.



You can submit a complaint : [HERE](#)

Or contact DOI's
OIG-NYPD by phone
at **212-806-5200**

Civic Groups Engaged with Policing

- [Center for Constitutional Rights \(CCR\)](#) - works to challenge discriminatory policing, taking cases to court. Previously, CCR led a class-action lawsuit against NYPD's stop-and-frisk practices, and found them liable for violations to the 4th (unreasonable searches) and 14th (racial discrimination) amendments.
- [Legal Aid Society of New York City](#) - as the primary public defender of NYC, they have fought against unjust policing in courtrooms. Beyond that, their website provides a [database](#) of law enforcement officers with misconduct records. Free [resources](#) also detail what to do when encountering a police officer, being arrested, facing a criminal court, etc.
- [NAACP Legal Defense Fund](#) - works to end racialized police brutality and promote police accountability through legal representation. E.g., working in tandem with the Legal Aid Society, they have filed a federal class-action [lawsuit](#) confronting the racially discriminatory NYPD Gang Database that unjustifiably targets Black and Brown New Yorkers.
- BIDs Public Safety - BIDs (Business Improvement Districts) often employ private security - unarmed security and hospitality ambassadors - to preserve a safe environment in the corridor. Funding is provided by local civic orgs. Their high visibility and faster response times effectively deter crime in those districts. Harlem's [125th Street](#), for example.