

#1

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Q1

What is your name?

Sharon Swanson

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

I did not know about the laws passed just after slavery ended to incarcerate black people. I did not know about the origin of the word patrol. I also did not realize how interwoven corporations, politicians, and the government were in their efforts to continue to continually morph into new systems of incarceration. I also learned that prisons are now so full we are instituting "house arrest" so people are never truly free of incarceration. I was aware of the prisons being full, just not the fact that this home detention is simply a pivot for the industry. This is not progress, it's profit and oppression by a different name.

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

There is not trust because trust has not been earned. Thus no investigation will be accepted as the truth because of the lack of trust and transparency.

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Change the narrative. A violent death occurred, regardless of the outcome of an investigation. A person is dead and the family is devastated. Families of people killed by police are suffering and must receive services, treatment, and respect for their pain and grief. They should be treated with respect and dignity. Police need to Make the time to appropriately inform and update families. The community deserves transparency. Do not shame or assume the person killed did anything wrong. Do not assume the officer did everything right. I do not understand the defensive posture of police when a person is killed. Legally defensible use of force means no "crime" was committed but a human being died violently and that must be respected and that loss should be grieved by all members of the community. The department should not investigate itself and there must be accountability built into any system that is created. Failure to fully adhere to the requirements of 940 or any subsequent legislation must be swift, public and those who cannot or will not adapt do not deserve to be in positions of trust and given the legal authority to use violence or enforce laws. If you can't follow the law why would we allow you to enforce it?

#2

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Q1

What is your name?

Jim Bloss

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

A better insight into what part the stigmatizing of anything, intentional or not, plays into furthering our ignorance of the unknown, creating fear and more ignorance - a downward spiral that ends up becoming ingrained in our brains, impacting even unconsciously, our attitudes and how we view the world - law enforcement included. Stigma is a root cause - racism is one of the results/symptoms/effects of stigmatization.

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Racism dehumanizes the interaction between human beings, making one of the players in an interaction "less" of a human being and more like a threat/thing that needs to be "taken care of" so that public safety is protected - In an investigation of police use of force there ends up being a "take" on this relationship that those who "deal with it" on a day-to-day basis are in a better position to "see it" and take care of it for those who can't see it for what it "is"(?). Thus the likelihood of investigations of police use of force by other police ends up "cutting a lot of slack" by the investigators who see what happened as necessary to get done what (they believe the rest of us can't see) "needs to be done".

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Plato quoted as saying that "Ignorance is the root of all evil" so certainly education is a must - But even more important is the need for understanding what needs to happen for "real change" to happen - and that is to understand the difference between cause and effect when examining an issue like racism - I think what was described in the movie "13" was an excellent summary of "how we got here from there" re racism as far as how the criminalization of minorities (in this case people of color) occurred - Recognizing this there certainly needs to be better "independent" oversight of any investigations of police use of force is there is any hint of racism being involved. But given the institutionalization and structuralizing of racism (as it is stigma-based) there needs to be a "concurrent" examination of the other interacting variables in a justice "system" - in which the "root causes" of what we see as effects are ferreted out and re-examined in relation to all of the other variable in that system - If we think we are fixing racism by treating to the effects "only" we are only going to get short-term positive results at the real root causes will end up overwhelming the short-term fixes and bring us right back to where we started. Racism exists because we do not do a full-up examination of the "entire" justice system that frames the day-to-day activities of law, justice and corrections. I would recommend that when we come up with Task Force recommendations about how to handle the current symptoms/effects of racism, one of them being excessive use of force by police/law enforcement, that we/the Task Force also make the recommendation that the Governor/legislature take the initiative to do a "complete" examination of the entire law, justice and corrections continuum in WA. State with the intent to ferret out/discover/identify these root causes and make the necessary changes that will reduce/eliminate the barriers to real justice for all in WA. State.

#3

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Q1

What is your name?

Jay Westwind Wolf Hollingsworth

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

The Critical Race Theory was an eye opener for the sheer detail and long timeline of white supremacy. The detail of the Institutional Racism detailed in this must be preserved and taught throughout our grade schools and through college. I also found Dr. Marks lessons really valuable as well giving me a groundwork to argue for change. I am ashamed of our white neighbors, some are my relatives, for perpetuating these crimes of hate on our BIPOC brothers and sisters. It is despicable and heart-breaking. I believe this needs to be taught to the adults as well. Mandatory Sentencing laws and 3 strikes law need to be abolished!

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

The History of the white-man's law on the investigations of police is simply the reason we cannot hold police accountable! Laws that make people criminals and the monetary incentives to hold them in labor camps, Prisons is shameful. Qualified immunity does the most harm to police accountability. Use of force policy is equally as bad. Allowing and training police to shoot to kill for any reason is bad. Limit police ability to kill to only when a suspect is armed with a gun or actively killing someone should be the only time an officer can fire their gun.

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Oversight by a BIPOC review board for the upcoming system we are designing. We must be vigilant in making this system transparent and judicial for all. A panel of judges who hear these cases. A special prosecutor not aligned with the current judicial system. A group of independent investigators trained to do this work who have statewide access to all the evidence, ability to find more evidence and to interview all witnesses. The racial equity lens must be used for all of these positions.

#4

COMPLETE

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Q1

What is your name?

Brian Moreno

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

It helped me better understand the long-standing narrative tied to policing, its origins, and how communities have had several hundred years of adverse experience with the system. Our family immigrated to this country within the last few generations and most "American" history / culture is difficult to have ties to. This creates a tension in evaluating the system as it is compared to how it used to be which forces us to examine what a renovated or wholly different system could look like. It's important to understand the entire picture in order to make recommendations for a process that builds trust and equity.

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Credibility and equity. If a community has been kept out of the system for a few hundred years, particularly when that system preyed on and marginalized the community to great lengths, there is no short road to ownership, representation, or transparency.

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

This seems to justify the need for new systems that are not tied to the legacy of policing. If possible, asking ourselves what community accountability means in modern practices. We need to recognize the great strides that law enforcement has made and marry that with policy that weaves community equity into its core values. An independent investigation by a team not connected to law enforcement and whose sole focus is auditing practices might establish a new model moving forward.

#5

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Q1

What is your name?

Yamin Trudeau

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

The role of the Irish in being used and wielded against black people.

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

It permeates all of it. If a system is built on the oppression of others, the oppression needs to be pulled from the roots or the bias will always remain a hinderance to true justice. This is especially true when we are given a system where police are left to police each other.

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Police policing each other is a system continues to fail the public trust and we need to look at creative alternatives, including accountability in any system moving forward.

#6

COMPLETE

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Q1

What is your name?

Spike Unruh

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

I knew generally about the history of policing; however, I did not appreciate the history of some communities that created laws, enforced by police, which discriminated against people of color.

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

The phrasing of this question is a bit concerning. The question assumes that the use of force was "excessive." In reality, the purpose of the investigation is to determine whether the force was excessive or whether it was reasonable and necessary under the circumstances.

The impact of historic racism is that it has led communities of color to distrust all actions of law enforcement regardless of the viability of the investigation. Investigators try to perform as unbiased, fair, and thorough investigation as possible. They critically look at officers' actions. Certainly, the history of racism in America and policing has caused citizens to distrust these investigations and the criminal justice process following police uses of force.

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

Provide training to all officers at police academies and in departments on the history of policing and the Black experience in America, along with other issues we're facing today in America, such as implicit bias. So that officers understand where the distrust stems from.

One other thing I'd like to address is an addition that's included in the Guiding Principles document – that this task force's recommendations be retroactive. That's impossible and would lead only to more distrust and doubt. That said, I believe it is possible and a good idea to conduct a review/audit of investigations moving forward to make certain that investigators following the independent investigation laws and rules currently in place.

#7

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Q1

What is your name?

Ben Krauss

Q2

From the homework and today's presentations, what did you learn about the history of policing that you did not know before?

I learned about vagrancy laws in in greater detail the most recent Task Force call.

I recently read "From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans, 9th Edition" (John Hope Franklin and Evelyn Higginbotham, 2010) . Much of what was presented during the Task Force call was covered in this book, and it's always helpful to learn more.

Q3

What is the impact of historic racism in policing on investigations of police use of excessive force?

I believe there is bias that those conducting 'policing investigations of police use of excessive force" are unaware of. This could impact many elements of the investigation.

Q4

What are some of the ways we can reduce the impacts of racism on investigations of police use of excessive force?

As noted in I-940, training to understand the implicit and explicit bias, cultural competency, and the historical intersection of race and policing are ways to reduce negative impacts of racism.

It is important to note that each element of this training would need to have an objective and effective performance track record to support the intended impact.
