

# Contacts of minority and majority juveniles with the police



An exploratory research on the number of contacts that minority and majority juveniles have had with the police and the number of negative police actions experienced during those contacts



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## Preface

I remember one Sunday morning, while my little cousin and I were waiting for the train to go to church. Suddenly, two police officers came in our direction and asked why we were standing at the station. I replied that we were waiting for the train. Apparently my statement did not satisfy the police officers. One of them kept on asking questions like how long we had been living in Germany and if he could see our passports. After showing him my passport and telling him that I do not have the passport of my little cousin, he asked me why at all I was walking with her. I explained to him that we were on our way to church. Eventually the train arrived and the police officers left. In the train my little cousin asked me why they asked us so many questions and I explained to her that it is their job. However, I felt that they consciously targeted us and not any other person standing at the station because an *us* and *them*<sup>1</sup> feeling exists in the legal institutions.

My personal experience of being queried by the police (who treated me like an out-group-member) lead me to the decision to academically investigate the topic of juveniles and the police. To be more precise, I decided to investigate if the number of contacts that juveniles of ethnic minority background have with the police differ from the number of contacts that native German juveniles have with the police. Moreover, I wanted to figure out if negative police actions that were undertaken during the contacts can be replicated across the groups of ethnic minority and native German juveniles. I want to use this preface to give thanks to some people who contributed in one way or another to the success of my work. First of all I would like to thank God for giving me the knowledge and wisdom to undertake my university study. It is not everybody who has the privilege to even enter a university building-and I am very grateful for that experience. Furthermore, I want to thank my family, friends and boyfriend for their support.

My special thanks go to Linda who supported me with the calculations of my findings and the police in Gronau who gave me useful insight into their daily work. Finally, I want to thank my supervisors Mrs. Saharso and Mr. Svensson for their immense support and guidance. Words cannot express how happy I am that I had the opportunity to work with you. During my thesis preparation not everything went the way we might have expected but you still encouraged me and gave me the time I needed to finish with my thesis.

Enschede, February 2012-03-06

*Sheller Rempe*

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<sup>1</sup> According to Perdue et al. the notion of us and them refers to the concept of in-group and out-group. The in-group and out-group are social groups to which an individual feels related to. If one feels associated with the in-group the attitude towards the out-group is negative and vice versa (Perdue et al., 1990).

## **Abstract**

The interaction between juveniles and the police is one that is very important in our society. One might only think of the police as arm of the state that deals with criminal cases. However, getting an insight into the relationships between juveniles and the police shows that the police also work together with different institutions (e.g. schools). By having cooperation's with other institutions the police try to take preventive actions so that delinquent juveniles can be integrated into the society and will not break the law.

This study, which was undertaken in June 2011, surveyed 35 ethnic minority and native German juveniles living in the city of Gronau. The respondents were asked about the contacts they have had with the police. All respondents at least one time had personal contact with the police and were asked to give an insight into the nature of that contact. In addition to examining how often each juvenile had contact with the police and how many times they experienced negative actions of the police, the study also evaluated in which sense ethnicity, individual delinquency and availability on the streets impacted the different encounters of juveniles with the police.

One major finding of this study is that ethnic minority juveniles do not have significantly more contact with the police than their native counterparts. Hence, initial assumptions that prejudice of police officers exists in the legal institutions were not confirmed.

The only explanations the thesis found for having a high number of contacts with the police are the involvement of juveniles in delinquency and the availability of juveniles on the streets as this makes him or herself approachable for the police.

Examining whether the type of negative actions both groups have received during the contacts differ showed that in general juveniles are punished in relation to the crime they have committed. There was no evidence that police officers treat one group different from the other.

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# **1. Introduction**

## *1.1. Background*

The police is known as friend and helper in many countries of the world. Some people think of the police as an arm of the state that is responsible for identifying criminals and protecting citizens. On the other hand, others have a rather different image which reflects the police as an institution that hands out fines and is responsible for the safety in the cities (Lenz, 2010). Research has shown that “personal contact and police visibility are of central importance in the formation of public confidence and police legitimacy”, (Bradford et al., 2009). As Tyler (1990) stated, “the public perception of the ways people are treated by authorities like police officers can be important in influencing thoughts about both the legitimacy of the authority and subsequent cooperation with it.”

Hence, if people consider that they were fairly treated by the police they are more likely to comply with police officers instructions and are also more likely to cooperate with the police (Tyler and Hue, 2002). Many scholars state that the communication of officers with the people is the most important tool for encouraging people and giving them a feeling of belonging to the system. “By their actions and demeanour officers communicate not only that they are acting fairly and properly but that those who they are dealing with are worthy of respect, consideration and police attention in a positive way”, (Bradford et al., 2009; Rosenbaum et al., 2005). However, “vicarious experiences- such as stories about the police heard by others” – may be equally important whilst creating an opinion about the police (Bradford et al., 2009).

Along with the ever growing general literature on the interactions with police and juveniles (Clark and Wenninger, 1964; Leiber et al., 1998), recent years have seen an important increase in studies that focus on contacts of ethnic minority groups with the police (Macpherson, 1999; Waddington et al. 2004). However, in Germany the comparison of natives’ and immigrants’ contact with the police is scarcely available because records are not kept about the nationality of alleged offenders. Hence, it is crucial to analyse why contacts actually arise and to examine which racial and ethnic groups get more into contact with the police and why.

## *1.2. Problem statement*

Prior research undertaken in several countries showed that a lot of investigations have been done concerning the relationships between the police and juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds (Clark and Wenninger, 1964; Leiber et al., 1998). The United Kingdom (UK) for example which is known for its enforcement of stop and search practices has been criticized by many scholars for unlawfully discriminating against the ethnic minority living in that country. The right to stop and search has been conferred on the police in the UK according to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in 1984 (PACE). Through this parliamentary act legislative frameworks were implemented which ascribed powers to police officers in Wales and the United Kingdom on how to combat crime. Furthermore, the act also implied “codes of practice” for the exercise of the competences ascribed to the police (Waddington et al., 2004: 3). Nevertheless, the power is mostly used against ethnic minority juveniles in the UK (Macpherson, 1999).

In the case of Germany “research on ethnic minorities’ involvement in crime is highly sensitive”, (Albrecht, 1997). It is difficult to investigate which criminal act was committed by which nationality. This is because German police categorizes suspected criminals only as having *foreign citizenship* or *national citizenship* for statistical purposes. Both notions in turn do not give any idea about the concepts of ‘ethnicity or visible minority’ involved in criminal actions. However, official statistics indicate that the crime involvement of people with ethnic minority background is higher than that of the native German population”, thus according to Albrecht (1997) ethnic minorities are more in contact with the police because they are more involved in crime. This view is also supported by Cohen (1995) who claimed that juveniles belonging to the lower class and minority are more likely to hold on to negative norms and values associated with ‘delinquency’. Some scholars claim that a high interaction exists between the police and ethnic minority youth due to ‘Institutional Racism’ (Macpherson, 1999). Other scholars in turn regard the ‘availability’<sup>2</sup> of the different ethnic groups as factor for being more often stopped by the police (Waddington et al., 2004).

Looking at all these prior studies it is evident that two possibilities exist to have a higher number of contacts and to receive more negative actions from the police during those contacts. The literature has shown that either ethnic minority groups have more contacts and receive more negative actions during those contacts because they belong to a lower social class and therefore are more involved in crime or simply because of their ethnic backgrounds, which in turn would point to racism in the police actions. What so far is missing is a study which compares the total number of contacts ethnic minority<sup>3</sup> and native German<sup>4</sup> juveniles have had with the police and the negative police actions that have been experienced during those contacts.

This thesis focuses on whether juveniles with ethnic minority backgrounds have different numbers of contacts and experience different actions during those contacts with the police as compared to their native counterparts. Moreover the thesis investigates if interactions between juveniles and the police occurred because juveniles did not behave according to the law or if other factors introduced in this thesis may have influenced the interactions. Consequently, the main research question for the study is:

*Do the number of police contacts and the number of negative actions that ethnic minority juveniles experience during those contacts differ from those of native German juveniles? And, if so, how can this be explained?*

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<sup>2</sup> Availability is a measure of the visibility of juveniles on the streets. Higher availability means a greater chance of coming into contact with the police (Waddington et al., 2004).

<sup>3</sup> There is sensitivity about the concept of belonging to an ethnic minority background. In this thesis ethnic minority juveniles are considered as juveniles that are of non – Western background. Of course there might be juveniles that were born in Germany and whose families are living there since generations. Some even have changed their cultures, languages and religions and adapted to the host societies. However, due to single factors like, e.g. their skin colour , their hair colour or their surname they are still excluded from the majority of the society the once that are in a dominant position. This are factors that lead people to say that they are the minority in a country.

<sup>4</sup> Native German juveniles are considered as those who were born in Germany and have native (white) German parents.

### *1.3. Relevance*

Punch (2006) stated that there are three possible areas that provide relevance to a study. He referred to these areas as adding to knowledge in the area, to practitioners and to policy consideration.

First of all, as mentioned before available data in this field of study is very rare. There are sufficient data available about interactions with the police and juveniles of ethnic minority background in other countries but in Germany this data are missing. Hence, through this research indeed knowledge in that area can be added.

Secondly, practitioners and especially governmental institutions and the police can profit from the present research, because the police as face of the public authority needs to stand above all suspicion of partiality. Through this study, gaps in the system may be revealed and a change will occur. It is of necessity to investigate if there is a difference in contacts between ethnic minority and native German juveniles because statistical surveys taken in 2010 estimated that there were 6.753.621 legal ethnic minorities living in Germany (Statistisches Bundesamt, n.d.). This statistic shows that ethnic minority juveniles nowadays make up a significant part of the population. Hence, if this part is treated differently on the basis of their ethnic background, disorderly and inflammatory interactions between the police and ethnic minority juvenile will arise.

The third issue which deals with the importance in terms of policy making is also covered. Referring to the Police and Criminal Evidence Act of the UK, the thesis could help governments to implement appropriate policies so that ethnic minority groups will not feel ignored and neglected from their host countries. This reasoning is supported by Leiber et al. (1998) who stated that "the improvement of the police relations with the public depends on the development of better policing styles and practices." As the recent riots case of the UK showed, a disordered and inflammatory interaction between the police and ethnic minority juveniles can lead to a potential area of conflict between multi-ethnic urban societies (Muir, 2011). If a conflict between multi-ethnic urban societies arise the end result is public disorder where social peace is at risk. If through this paper policy makers figure out that those conflicts between juvenile (especially juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds) with the police take place because the legal institutions are not behaving fairly, changes in policies may be the starting point for social peace.

### *1.4. Thesis Outline*

In order to analyze if there is a difference in number of contacts and number of negative actions experienced during those contacts, it is first of all necessary to introduce the theoretical framework of the study. After first investigating which literature is necessary to address the research question, the theoretical framework part presents the most important theories regarding the main concepts used in our study which are: availability, ethnicity and individual delinquency. Moreover, the theoretical framework section takes a look at the contact concept. Having introduced the necessary theories, hypotheses are formulated on the basis of those theories. In the methodology part a practical background of the study is provided and the hypotheses formulated in the theoretical framework part are elaborated. To investigate whether the hypotheses can be verified or not, the dependent and independent variables are operationalised. To get an answer to the research question the result section tests the hypotheses with the help of the Spearman's rank correlation. In

the concluding discussion section the thesis will give an answer to the research question whether the number of police contacts and the number of negative actions that juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds experience during those contacts differ from those of native German juveniles? Moreover, the aim of the thesis is to explain possible differences in number of contacts.

## **2. Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical part starts with a brief description of the contact concept. The goal is to explain what actually defines contact with the police in this thesis. Following this, the central independent concepts of ethnicity, availability and individual delinquency will be examined. Lastly, a model is established which presents the relationships between all these concepts.

### **2.1. Contact with the police**

In this thesis contact is seen as the total number of contacts juveniles have had with the police. The assumption made here is, that there are more police contacts with juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds than with juveniles of native German background. Having looked at the number of contacts, the thesis further looks at the number of negative actions during those contacts. The assumption made then is that there are more negative types of actions applied by the police if the person involved is of ethnic minority background than if the person involved is of native German background. To figure out if this is the case, the thesis examines whether there is a difference in the total number of contacts that ethnic minority and native German juveniles have with the police and if the outcomes of the direct contact with the police are replicated across ethnic minority and native German juveniles.

#### **2.1.1. Type of Contacts**

There are two kinds of police contacts that can be distinguished: *contacts with a positive character* and *contacts with a negative character*. Contacts with a positive character are: "reporting a crime, reporting a traffic accident, being a victim of a crime, being a witness to a crime and requesting information from the department", (Bartsch and Cheurprakobkit, 2004). As juveniles that had contacts with a positive character are considered to equally have had experienced positive actions and treatment by the police, the thesis puts emphasis on negative police-initiated contacts or in this thesis also called contacts with a negative character. Being arrested and being giving a traffic citation are examples for that (Cheurprakobit, 2006). Typical questions when examining the contacts of people with the police are, how often were you contacted by the police although you did not do anything wrong and what happened during your interactions with the police.

#### **2.1.2. Police – Citizen Relation**

It is important to get an understanding of the police–citizen relation which is known as a problematic one. It frequently appears to citizens that police officers are not doing their job correctly and in some cases citizens even think that police officers are exceeding their boundaries. Hence, citizens with a non-favourable attitude towards the police do not want to cooperate with the police (Reising and Parks, 2000). Police officers in turn are of the view that most citizens hold a very hostile notion on them (as institution) and their work (Smith and Hawkins, 1973). This leads to a misunderstanding between both groups. What comes along with this are self-fulfilling consequences. The police take more authoritarian attitude in order to assure that actions are seen as legitimate and authority will not be questioned and the citizens alter their perception so that criticism of police behavior are more likely (Smith and Hawkins, 1973). What remains on the one hand are citizens that have experienced negative actions by the police and thus feel dissatisfied and disaffected with their police service and on the other hand we have police officers that feel wrongly understood by their citizens. Referring

back to the issue at hand, it is important to investigate if the later mentioned dissatisfaction of experiencing a negative police action is the same for ethnic minority and native German juveniles. Many scholars state that the more contact the police has with an ethnic group, the more conflict (e.g. discrimination) arises (Forbes, 1997; Brewer and Gartner, 2001; Pettigrew, 1998). The main idea behind this assumption is that “the world is experiencing two major intergroup trends- massive migration and increased group conflict”, which lead to more contact and more negative opinions between different groups (Pettigrew, 1998). As Brewer and Gartner (2001) stated there is a “mutual distrust between ingroup and outgroup<sup>5</sup>, and intergroup competition”, which leads to a negative correlation if interracial groups have contact with each other.

Ending at this point, the result of the thesis would be that ethnic minority juveniles are more in contact with the police and thus also more often experience negative police actions. This statement could be backed with the fact that the police domain is still a national one which is difficult to understand for ethnic minority groups. Hence, ethnic minority members that need to adapt in a new country and mostly do not behave according to the law come into conflict with the policies more often than native German juveniles and thus have more contact with the police. However, this would not only present ethnic minority juveniles as being the only delinquent citizens in a country but it would also refer to the police being discriminative because of only focusing on ethnic minority groups as committing delinquency. Thus, it is important to find a significant basis on which to state that one group is more or maybe even no group is more in contact with the police. Moreover, it needs to be investigated if the actions both groups undergo during their contacts are the same. To get a starting point, the thesis introduces the independent variables which are necessary to explain why negative contacts with the police in general might occur.

## 2.2. Ethnicity

Across the globe thousands of ethnic minority group members legally and illegally cross their home borders and look for new opportunities in other countries. Over 6.7 million legal ethnic minority group members lived in Germany in 2010. Having their own tradition, heritage, religion, language and customs (those things identify an ethnic group=ethnicity), they try to settle in their country of adoption. Ethnic minority members mostly have a non-Western background, are most often not able to speak the language of the new country and they do not understand the legal system. This means that misunderstandings arise when it comes to encounters with the legal institutions and especially interactions with the police are seen to be conflicting (Egharevba, 2009). On the basis of this, many scholars claim, that the police treat ethnic minority juveniles differently. However, most of the researchers claim that the difference in treatment does not have anything to do with difficulties to adapt to the host society but to ‘Institutional Racism’, which is described as following:

*The collective failure of an organisation to provide an appropriate and professional service to people because of their colour, culture, or ethnic origin. It can be seen or detected in processes, attitudes and behaviour which amount to discrimination through unwitting prejudice, ignorance, thoughtlessness and racist stereotyping which disadvantage minority ethnic groups (Macpherson, 1999).*

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<sup>5</sup> The in-group and out-group are social groups to which an individual feels related to. If one feels associated with the in-group the attitude towards the out-group is negative and vice versa (Perdue et al., 1990).

Examining British research shows that “blacks were more than twice as likely to be stopped as whites,” (Norris et al., 1992).” Hereby, it is often stated that they were stopped on no grounds. Moreover, the terrorist attacks on the world trade centre in America in the year 2001 have lead to a more sharpened separation of who might be seen as a risk for social security and who might not (Mythen and Walklate, 2008). The argument that social security needs to be provided is on the heart of social debates. As the Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (2004) stated, tackling terrorism is the duty of a state. Hence, every suspicious person needs to be checked. Based on this discussion, the following hypothesis is derived:

*Hypothesis 1: Juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to get into contact with the police and experience more negative actions during those contacts compared to native German juveniles.*

### **2.3. Availability**

While some scholars assert that ethnicity is the cause for the frequent interactions between ethnic minority juveniles and the police, others state that the factor of availability is the crucial force for a person to be stopped by the police (Waddington et al., 2004). The authors state that the pattern of stop and search can be explained through the population available on the streets. Hence, they conclude that “if different racial and ethnic groups are disproportionately present or absent in public spaces, they offer differential opportunities for the police to stop and search them”, (Waddington et al. 2004). Jefferson (1993) claimed that “being the wrong age, sex and class in the wrong place at the wrong time, displaying the wrong demeanour attitude, spells trouble to the police.” Derived from this statement the next two hypotheses are formulated.

*Hypothesis 2: Ethnic minority juveniles are more available on the streets than native German juveniles.*

*Hypothesis 3: Being more available on the streets leads to a higher number of contacts with the police.*

### **2.4. Individual Delinquency**

Several scholars have already analyzed that “an unfavourable attitude towards law is associated with generally poor adjustment of the respondents to their social situation” (Clark & Wenninger, 1964). Clark and Wenninger (1964) stated that conditions like unemployment and no education were related to a negative attitude to law. Linked to this statement is the *Theory of deprivation* which refers to people’s discontent when comparing their own economic situation with people that are better off. For the fact that people who lack something consider themselves to be behind the society they try to achieve new ways not to be deprived anymore (Davis, 1959).

Hence, people experiencing unemployment; having only a poor or no education; low average income and a low socioeconomic status, are more likely to become criminal, because they want to find a way out of their misery (Albrecht, 1997). As Leiber et al. stated those juveniles facing these situations are the ones that failed to achieve conventional goals such as a stable job (Leiber et al., 1998). In their lives exists no parallel between their social realities and the goals which the rest of the society follows. Hence, the *status of frustration* emerges and what goes along with it is reaction formation, whereby

individuals start to achieve their own goals ignoring the values and norms of the rest of the society. An advocate of the aforementioned statement is Cohen (1955), who claims that: Juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds “attribute the cause of their failure to the social order rather than to their own shortcoming.” He states that ethnic minority members try to tackle the situation they find themselves in, in their own way (e.g. stealing). In a statement Cohen (1955) made, he said:

*It is true that some ethnic groups look more tolerantly on certain kinds of delinquency than others do... (and)...that respect for the courts and the police are [...] less well established among some groups... (1955:34).*

This statement and the already mentioned theories helped formulating the last two hypotheses of the thesis:

*Hypothesis 4: Ethnic minority juveniles are more likely than native German juveniles to commit delinquent acts.*

*Hypothesis 5: A higher level of delinquency leads to a higher number of contacts and consequently more negative actions are experienced during those contacts with the police.*

## 2.5. Hypotheses and model

As explained at the beginning of this chapter the thesis tries to investigate whether the number of contacts with the police and the number of negative actions experienced during those contacts differ between ethnic groups and native groups. It is of great importance to understand for which reason; if at all there is a difference in number of contacts and number of negative actions during those contacts, one group is more in contact with the police than the other. This section has dealt with 3 independent variables which are important when explaining why at all contacts with the police can arise. The explanations so far are based on a lot of literature. To get a compact understanding of how the examined concepts stand in relationship with each other Figure 1 is provided.

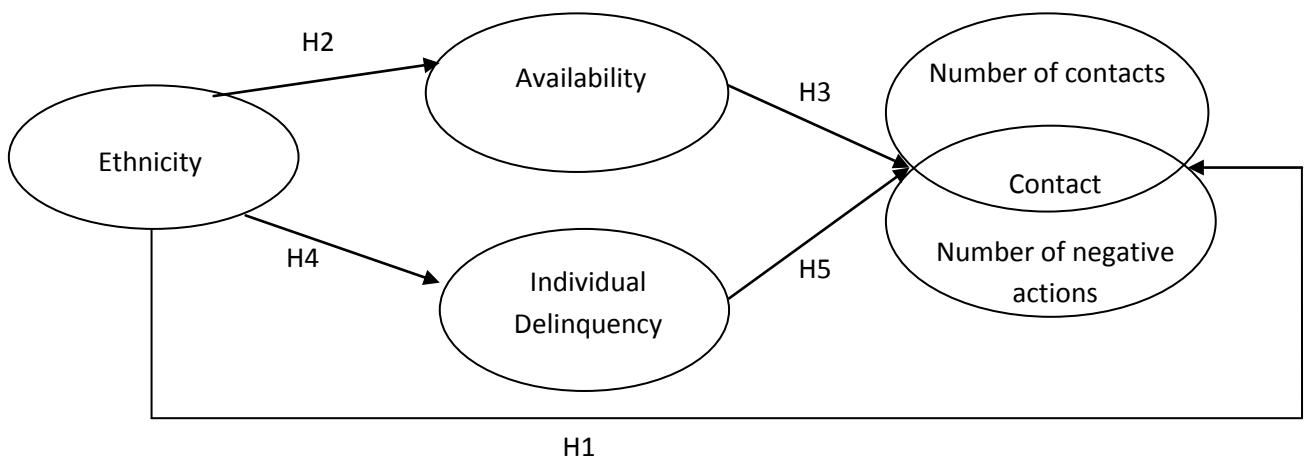


Figure 1: Relationship of used concepts

Figure 1 shows a diagram, in which arrows are used to illustrate the relationships that are investigated.

The first relationship is the one between ethnicity and contact. This is the main relationship necessary to be discussed in this thesis. It is assumed that juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds come more into contact with the police. They are furthermore also assumed to experience a higher number of negative actions during those contacts. This relationship is based on the first hypothesis.

*Hypothesis 1: Juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to get into contact with the police and experience more negative actions during those contacts compared to native German juveniles.*

The second relationship illustrated in the figure is the one of ethnicity and availability. The hypothesis conducted for this relationship is:

*Hypothesis 2: Ethnic minority juveniles are more available on the streets than native German juveniles.*

Derived from this assumption is Hypothesis 3 which states that:

*Hypothesis 3: Being more available on the streets leads to a higher number of contacts with the police.*

The last two relationships looked at are the ones between ethnicity and delinquency and delinquency and contact with the police.

The hypotheses derived for those two relationships are:

*Hypothesis 4: Ethnic minority juveniles are more likely than native German juveniles to commit delinquent acts.*

*Hypothesis 5: A higher level of delinquency leads to a higher number of contacts and consequently more negative actions are experienced during those contacts with the police.*

### **3. Methodology**

#### *3.1. Data and Sample*

The thesis draws on data gathered through a survey conducted in the period of 15.06.2011-30.06.2011 in a Callcenter in the city of Gronau (Westfalen). The focus was laid on the city of Gronau for several reasons. First, it was considered interesting to focus on a German city which does not count as a metropolitan region (e.g. Berlin) but as a large town. Mostly surveys are carried out in bigger cities because the expected response is higher due to a larger segment of the population that can be reached. Gronau with 46.553 inhabitants (whereby 5847 are of ethnic minority backgrounds) counts as a large town (Landesdatenbank, 2011).<sup>6</sup> Thus, it seemed appropriate to choose for Gronau as place for the study. Furthermore, the fact that Gronau borders the Netherlands was interesting since drug consumption rooms are tolerated there (De Jong and Weber, 1999). It seemed interesting to investigate how the city deals with its criminal offences, be it drugs offences through dealers that want to bring drugs to Germany or other criminal offences like for example burglary.

Lastly, a key factor for the decision to hold the study in Gronau was a one day internship at the police station in Gronau. During that internship facts about criminal statistics in Gronau were shared. To figure out whether the contacts between juveniles of ethnic minority and native German backgrounds with the police differ, a total of 35 juveniles living in Gronau Westfalen were surveyed. The respondents were assured that their answers will be kept confidential. A questionnaire was randomly distributed to the respondents in a Callcenter located at the Bahnhofstraße<sup>7</sup> in Gronau (the area was chosen because it is known as lower class area in Gronau (Borck, 2011)). It was assumed that the community that gathers in the Callcenter belongs to the same social segment and thus all respondents were assumed to at least one time have had contact with the police, be it ethnic minority juveniles or native German juveniles.

During the survey, potential participants with an ethnic minority background or native German background were asked (while entering the Callcenter) if they were interested to participate in a survey that deals with the relationship of juveniles and the police in Gronau. The final sample consisted of 35 juveniles aged 12-21 years.

The survey serves as part of a larger exploratory study concerning the topic juveniles and the police, carried out by the department of social risk and safety study (University of Twente). The department of social risk and safety study created the survey questions with the help of literature and it also tested the questions in prior research (De Leeuw van Weenen, 2011; Van Dijk 2010; Svensson et al., 2012).

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<sup>6</sup> Criminal offences like burglaries, brawls and drug dealing (through the borders with the Netherlands) are everyday occurrences in Gronau (Borck, 2011).

<sup>7</sup> The Bahnhofstraße in Gronau is known as the most fearing place in the Borken district (Borck, 2011).

### *3.2. Variables for the analysis*

As Babbie states in his book the practice of social research, "for the researcher testing a hypothesis, [...], the meaning of variables is exactly and only what the operational definition defines,"(Babbie, 2007:45). For this reason the next section operationalises the necessary variables for the study.

#### **3.2.1. Dependent variables: Number of police contacts and negative treatment during the contacts**

##### *Contact Frequency with the police*

In this section the concept of number of contacts is looked at. Questions like how many times have you been stopped by the police or how many times did the police stop you without you doing anything bad should provide for an answer to the frequency that ethnic minority and native German juveniles have had contact with the police. In the questionnaire 6 questions were asked concerning how many times juveniles have been in contact with the police within the past 12 month.

**Table 1: Descriptive statistic for the frequencies of all respondents having contact with police (N=35)**

Variable	Mean	S.D.	Data Distribution				
			Min.	25 quartile	Median	75 quartile	Max.
How many times have you been stopped by the police?	3.54	6.688	0	1.00	1.00	3.00	30
How many times have you been involved in a police check?	3.57	6.180	0	0.00	2.00	5.00	30
How many times did a police officer wanted to talk to you without special occurrences?	3.40	6.218	0	0.00	1.00	3.00	30
How many times have you contacted the police?	0.37	0.690	0	0.00	0.00	1.00	3
How many times did the police stop you without you doing anything bad?	3.37	6.651	0	0.00	1.00	3.00	30
How many times did you in total have had contact with the police?	4.74	7.350	0	1.00	3.00	5.00	30

The variable of number of contacts with the police which is broken down into 6 different types of contacts shows that there is a respondent having contact with the police 30 times (Table 1). These interactions with the police arose because the police wanted to talk to the respondent without him having done anything bad according to the respondent. However, in this study that specific case where the police wanted to talk to a respondent 30 times is an outlier (extreme case). Due to this outlier the data distribution is skewed to the left.

In this thesis only the descriptive of how many times in total the respondents have had contact with the police within the last 12 months is used as measurement for number of contacts. The mean for total number of contacts with the police is 4.74 and the standard deviation is 7.35. The non parametric one sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test (Table 2) is used to look at the distribution of the data. With a z result of 2.03 and the p-value of 0.001%, which is below alpha (0,05%) the null hypothesis is rejected and the distribution of the total number of contacts with the police is not normal.

Table 2: Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for the measurement of normal distribution (N=35)

**One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test**

		How many times did you have contact in total with the police during the last 12 months?
N		35
Normal Parameters <sup>a</sup>	Mean	4.74
	Std. Deviation	7.350
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.343
	Positive	.343
	Negative	-.259
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		2.030
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.001

a. Test distribution is Normal.

*Number of negative actions respondents experienced during interactions with the police*

Beside the questions concerning number of total contacts 8 questions were asked concerning the number of negative actions the respondents experienced during their interactions with the police. Asking juveniles about the number of negative actions they have experienced during their contacts with the police, they indicated the number of times they have experienced different kinds of negative actions (Table 3).

Table 3: Descriptive statistics for type of contacts respondents have had with the police (N=35)

**Descriptive Statistics**

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Get tickets	35	0	9	1.09	1.991
Warning	35	0	3	.49	.742
Check ID	35	0	50	3.83	8.655
Frisked on the street	35	0	30	1.51	5.095
Taken to the police station	35	0	25	1.14	4.237
Personal item be confiscated	35	0	30	1.09	5.084
Expelled from one place	35	0	30	1.86	5.248
Police in your home	35	0	10	1.14	2.315
Valid N (listwise)	35				

Table 3 shows the type of contacts the respondents have had with the police. From the sample data ( $N=35$ ) it gets visible that the most likely case for respondents to have contact with the police is when the police checks their ID. Checking ID has a mean of 3.83 and a standard deviation of 8.66. This is followed by being expelled from one place with a mean of 1.86 and a standard deviation of 5.25. The data in Table 3 also shows that getting a warning is the lowest reason for having contact with the police with a mean of 0.49 and a standard deviation of 0.74.

To see if the variables are correlated and thus can be used as one variable for number of negative actions in this study, the internal consistency for the 8 items is calculated with the help of Cronbach's Alpha. The Cronbach's Alpha coefficient 0.89 shows that there is a strong internal consistency among the 8 items. Hence, the items can be seen as one type.

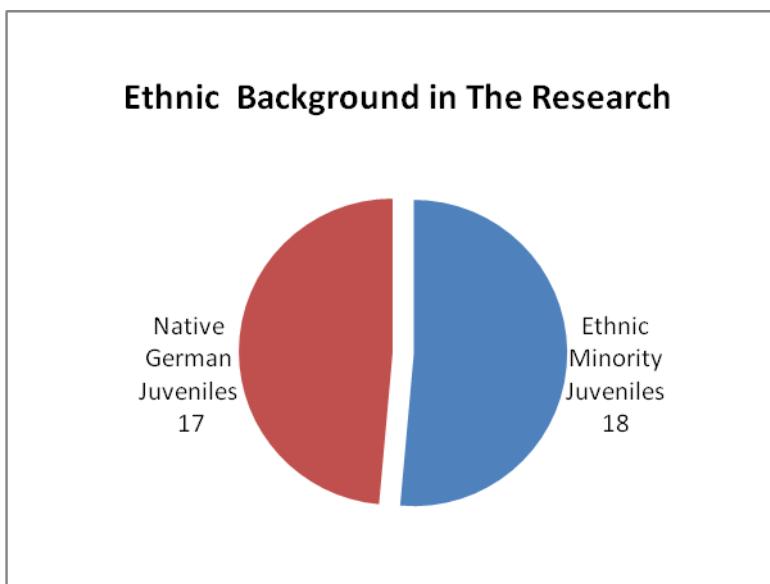
Due to the high Cronbach's Alpha result, the eight variables can be used and be computed as one variable. The new variable *number of negative actions* is a variable that is used as the result of summing up the total items of negative actions into one variable. The mean for the number of negative action is 11.6 and the standard deviation is 25.6.

### 3.2.2. Independent variables

#### Ethnicity

Concerning ethnicity juveniles were asked which ethnic background they feel themselves related to. As Figure 2 shows 17 of the respondents consider themselves as native German juveniles, whereas 18 stated that they are related to an ethnic minority background. Although there are different ethnic groups integrated in the variable being of ethnic minority background the thesis will sole deal with the concept of ethnicity as being native German and being of ethnic minority background. Hence, there is no distinction made between the different ethnic groups of the study.

Figure 2: Pie Chart showing the Ethnic Backgrounds of respondents split into the totals for ethnic minority and native Germans ( $N=35$ )



### *Availability*

To operationalize the concept of *availability*, the respondents were asked 6 questions about how many hours per week they a) go to school, b) do housework, c) go to work, d) do sports or a hobby, e) visit the cafe, f) just spend time outside (e.g. shopping, meeting friends etc.). Table 4 shows a descriptive statistic for places where the respondents spend time. Out of 35 respondents which participated in the study only 33 answered the questions concerning availability. Thus, the valid data for availability is 33. The data shows that the maximum hour a person spends outside is 130 hours in a week. The reason given is that he visits the cafe with friends and meets them at places like the youth centre or the station. However, the highest sum for all respondents being available on the street is explained through working (712 hours).

**Table 4: Descriptive statistic for places where 35 persons showing availability on street (hours) (N=33)**

	Valid N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Going to school</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>20.94</b>	<b>21.021</b>
<b>Doing homework</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>2.76</b>	<b>5.810</b>
<b>Work</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>20.94</b>	<b>32.176</b>
<b>Hobby and Sport</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>5.70</b>	<b>7.439</b>
<b>Going out, visiting cafe, youth centres, etc.</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>10.55</b>	<b>22.375</b>
<b>Being outside</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>522</b>	<b>15.82</b>	<b>20.012</b>

In a next step the descriptive of being outside is taken as the measurement for availability in this study. It is assumed that a person can only come into conflict with the authority if the person is outside and thus available for the police. Police officers do not enter bars in general if they are not specifically called to solve an issue in that bar. Hence, being outside is the main measurement for availability in this study. The mean for being outside is 15.82 with a standard deviation of 20.01. Figure 3 shows that the distribution of the data is skewed to the right.

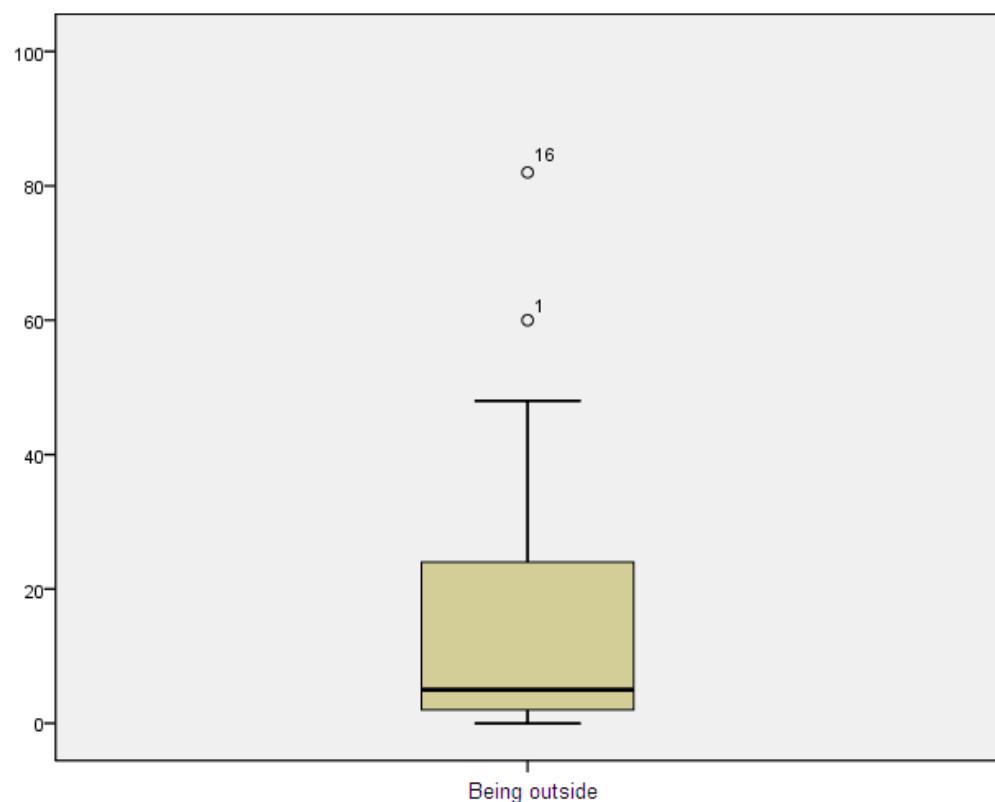
To see if the data is normal, the non parametric one sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test is performed in Table 5. This test is also called chi square goodness-of-fit test. The result of the test shows that with a z result of 1.52 and a p-value of 2% (which is below alpha 5%), the data significantly departs from normality. Reasons for not normal distributions are extreme values. There are some respondents that claim to be outside very often (e.g. 130 hours), which lead to the data not being normal.

**Table 5: Kolmogorov-Smirnov test for the measurement of normal distribution (N=33)**

**One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test**

		Being outside
N		33
Normal Parameters <sup>a</sup>	Mean	15.82
	Std. Deviation	20.012
Most Extreme Differences	Absolute	.264
	Positive	.264
	Negative	-.215
Kolmogorov-Smirnov Z		1.516
Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)		.020

a. Test distribution is Normal.



**Figure 3: Box plot of the distribution of respondents' data for the variable being outside (N=33)**

### *Individual delinquency*

There are 14 questions concerning Individual delinquency in this thesis also interchangeably only called delinquency. Respondents were asked to indicate how often they have committed each of the stated offenses in the last 12 month. If the respondents admitted that they have committed an offense, they had the option to choose between committing an offence *1-2 times* and having committed offences *more than two times*. Those offences that had never been committed through the respondents were answered with *no time committed*.

As Table 6 shows, this thesis only considers 9 items as important to look at, when evaluating how many offences have been committed by the respondents. The percentage shows that offences like beating someone (34.29%), carrying weapons for self defense and intentionally damaging things (both 20%) are offences often committed by the respondents. On the other hand, do the respondents claim that most of them never sell drugs (94.29%), try to rob someone (88.57%) and a high percentage (85.71%) of the respondents admit to have never taken hard drugs.

Table 6: Offences committed by respondent in % (N=35)

	Never	Once or Twice	More than twice
Intentionally damaging things	65.71%	14.29%	20.00%
Littering/Painting on the wall	82.86%	8.57%	8.57%
Attempt/Stealing something	74.29%	17.14%	8.57%
Attempt to rob/Burglary	88.57%	2.86%	8.57%
Beating someone	51.43%	14.29%	34.29%
Carried weapon for self defense	74.29%	5.71%	20.00%
Taken light drugs	62.86%	22.86%	14.29%
Taken hard drugs	85.71%	5.71%	8.57%
Selling drugs	94.29%	0.00%	5.71%

For a researcher selecting scales to include in a study it is important to find scales that are reliable (Pallant, 2007:95). Hence, it is important to examine whether the items that make up the scale for individual delinquency “hang together” (Pallant, 2007:95). To see if the 9 chosen items measure the same underlying concept, the Cronbach’s Alpha is conducted. The Cronbach’s Alpha of these 9 items is .77, which shows that there is an internal consistency among the items. For the fact that a Cronbach’s Alpha above .7 is seen as an ideal one, the underlying items can be used for the scale in this thesis.

Making clear that there is only one variable for individual delinquency all 9 delinquency variables of the 35 respondents are summed up. Through computing the 9 variables for the 35 respondents into one variable of delinquency, the researcher gets one score for the variable of individual delinquency with a mean of 1.39 and a standard deviation of 0.41.

### *3.3. Summary of the variables used in the study*

**Table 7: Overview of the variables used in the study**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Min</b>	<b>Max</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std</b>
Total number of contact	35	0	30	4.74	7.35
Number of negative actions	35	0	151.00	11.6	25.6
Ethnicity	35	1	2	1.51	0.51
Availability	33	0	82	15.82	20.01
Individual Delinquency	35	1.00	2.56	1.39	0.41

Table 7 presents the dependent and independent variables that have been established for the study. The variable *total number of contacts* has a mean of 4.74 and standard deviation of 7.35 for all 35 respondents. The minimum of having contact with the police for this variable is 0 and the maximum is 30 times. The variable *number of negative actions* has a mean of 11.6 and a standard deviation of 25.6 for all 35 respondents. The later variable was conducted by summing up the eight variables concerning the types of negative actions respondents experienced during their interaction with the police. *Ethnicity* is a dichotomous variable. Hence, this variable allows the researcher to rank observations in terms of being native German and belonging to an ethnic minority. There were 35 respondents in the study, whereas 17 were of native German background and 18 of ethnic minority background. The minimum for ethnicity is 1 (native German background) and the maximum is 2 (ethnic minority background). The ethnicity mean is 1.51 and the standard deviation is 0.51.

The questions concerning *availability* were answered by 33 respondents. The summed up availability variable has a mean of 15.82 and a standard deviation of 20.01. The last variable *individual delinquency* has been conducted through computing the 9 variables for the 35 respondents into one

variable of delinquency. The scores for that variable are a mean of 1.39 and a standard deviation of 0.41.

## 4. Results

In this section the scheme of Figure 1 is applied in practice to get an answer to the established 5 hypotheses, which are:

*Hypothesis 1: Juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds are more likely to get into contact with the police and experience more negative actions during those contacts compared to native German juveniles.*

*Hypothesis 2: Ethnic minority juveniles are more available on the streets than native German juveniles.*

*Hypothesis 3: Being more available on the streets leads to a higher number of contacts with the police.*

*Hypothesis 4: Ethnic minority juveniles are more likely than native German juveniles to commit delinquent acts.*

*Hypothesis 5: A higher level of delinquency leads to a higher number of contacts and consequently more negative actions are experienced during those contacts with the police.*

In the same manner will the result chapter help to find an answer to the research question of the study which is:

*Do the number of police contacts and the number of negative actions that ethnic minority juveniles experience during those contacts differ from those of native German juveniles? And, if so, how can this be explained?*

As described in the methodology section, the two dependent variables of the study are number of contacts with the police and number of negative actions experienced during those contacts with the police. The independent variables of the study are: ethnicity, availability and individual delinquency.

Turning towards a more detailed analysis of the relationships investigated in the study the Spearman's rank correlation is applied (see Table 8).

**Table 8: Spearman's rank correlation outcome for the most significant variables influencing contact and negative actions with the police**

Correlations							
			Total number of contacts	Number of negative actions	Ethnic Background	Availability	Individual Delinquency
Spearman's rho	Total number of contacts	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.688**	-.079	.453**	.484**
		Sig. (1-tailed)	.	.000	.325	.004	.002
		N	35	35	35	33	35
	Number of negative actions	Correlation Coefficient	.688**	1.000	-.014	.488**	.512**
		Sig. (1-tailed)	.000	.	.469	.002	.001
		N	35	35	35	33	35
	Ethnic Background	Correlation Coefficient	-.079	-.014	1.000	.200	.110
		Sig. (1-tailed)	.325	.469	.	.132	.265
		N	35	35	35	33	35
	Availability	Correlation Coefficient	.453**	.488**	.200	1.000	.340*
		Sig. (1-tailed)	.004	.002	.132	.	.027
		N	33	33	33	33	33
	Individual Delinquency	Correlation Coefficient	.484**	.512**	.110	.340*	1.000
		Sig. (1-tailed)	.002	.001	.265	.027	.
		N	35	35	35	33	35

\*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (1-tailed).

\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (1-tailed).

The Spearman's correlation is used to calculate the relationships between the dependent and independent variables. Spearman's rank was used as measurement due to the skewed nature of the data distribution.

Table 8 shows that ethnicity is not significantly correlated with the dependent variables total number of contacts and number of negative actions during those contacts. Looking at the correlation shows that ethnicity is negatively related to both dependent variables (-.08 total number of contacts and -.01 number of negative actions).

Availability (.45\*\*) and individual delinquency (.48\*\*) are significantly correlated to the dependent variable total number of police contacts.

Moreover are availability (.49\*\*) and individual delinquency (.51\*\*) significantly correlated to number of negative actions. The correlation between availability and individual delinquency further shows that both variables are significantly related to each other (.34\*).

The data also indicates that the more juveniles have contact with the police in general, the more negative actions they experience with the police. The correlation for this relationship (.69\*\*) is also significant.

It can be mentioned at this point that ethnic backgrounds do not play a significant role in having contact with the police and receiving more negative treatments during those contacts. There is no evidence for this. Hence, ethnic minority juveniles do not tend to have more contact with the police and they do also not tend to report more negative on those contacts than native German juveniles.

However, what do these findings mean for the hypotheses formulated at the beginning of this analysis? Hypothesis H1 is not supported by the data. The analysis shows that the number of contacts a juvenile has with the police is not based on ethnic background. Moreover, it can be said

that ethnic background does not determine the number of negative actions a juvenile experiences. Continuing with Hypothesis H2 shows that also in this case no support for the hypothesis can be found by the data. The assumption was that ethnic minority juveniles are more available on the streets than native German juveniles. However, the Spearman's correlation shows that there is no correlation between ethnic background and availability on the streets.

The third Hypothesis H3 was concerning the relationship of availability on the streets and the higher number of contacts with the police. Table 8 shows that this relationship is significant and thus supported by the data. Hence, the null hypothesis that being more available on the streets does not lead to a higher number of contacts with the police can be rejected. Thus, juveniles who are more available on the streets have a higher number of contacts with the police.

The last but one Hypothesis H4 was interested in getting an answer to the relationship of ethnicity and delinquency. The assumption made was that ethnic minority juveniles are more likely than native German juveniles to commit delinquent acts. Since there is no significant correlation between those two variables H4 is not supported by the data.

Finally, the fifth Hypothesis H5 stating that delinquency leads to a higher number of contacts and consequently more negative action during those contacts with the police is supported by the data. There is a significant relationship between delinquency and total number of contacts and the number of negative actions received during those contacts. Hence, the null hypothesis that there is no relationship can be rejected.

## 5. Discussion and Conclusion

Although in several countries research has been undertaken concerning the relationship between juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds and the police, in Germany this data is still scarce. This was an incentive to investigate how the relationship between juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds and juveniles with native German backgrounds with the police is.

The aim of the thesis has been to use data, which was gathered in a survey, to explore the linkage between ethnicity and having a higher number of contacts with the police. Moreover, the author was interested in figuring out if the negative actions that ethnic minority juveniles experience during those contacts differ from those of native German juveniles. Questions that arose at the beginning of the study were: Do police treat ethnic minority juveniles different, in line with Institutional Racism that is documented in lots of literature? And, if so, where does this different way of treating ethnic minorities originate from? Are ethnic minority members more criminal or are they more available on the streets? Other assumptions were that ethnic minority group members are more disrespectful towards police authorities because they have heard a lot of bad stories about the police in their community. This leads them to exhibit negative actions towards the police and thus come more into conflict with the police.

It is obvious, that a single study cannot give answer to all these questions. However, the analysis at least gives an answer to whether there are differences in police contacts between ethnic minority juveniles and native German juveniles.

The data confirms that being available on the streets and committing delinquent acts significantly lead to more contacts with the police. However, there is no evidence that ethnic minority juveniles are more available or commit more delinquent acts than native German juveniles. Hence, both groups, depending on the crime committed, are subjects to the same rate of negative police actions and the same number of contacts with the police.

Although, there is a considerable body of literature stating that Institutional Racism exists, the data presents that in Germany prejudice in the police sector does significantly not exist. There is no statistical basis to believe that ethnic minority juveniles have more contacts with the police than native German juveniles. Furthermore, they also do not have more negative actions during those contacts than their native counterparts. Yet, overall perceptions that ethnic minority group members are treated differently on the basis of their ethnicity remains because ethnic minority juveniles feel that they are more often targeted by the police and that they are subject to more negative actions by the police than native German juveniles. However, as stated before this perception of being not fairly treated is not reflected in the results. This might be due to the fact that in the survey homogenous groups were compared. Both the native German and the ethnic minority juveniles were part of the same lower class. Hence, there is no difference in social class background. The comparison of groups that belong to the same social class background reveals that there is no significant variation for both groups in number of contacts and number of negative actions experienced at the hands of the police; as long as there is no difference in the number of times they are available on the streets and the number of times they in average commit crime. If both factors

are the same on average then the police treat both ethnic minority juveniles and native German juveniles equally.

The thesis has shown that the difference in number of contacts and number of negative actions received during those contacts must be caused by something else than police prejudice.

The remaining question is why do ethnic minority juveniles consider themselves more negatively treated by the police authorities? The answer to this is that ethnic minority juveniles are over-represented in disadvantaged classes. They are the ones hanging out on the streets and not the middle class or upper class children and therefore they have a bigger chance to have police contacts. Furthermore, they are more involved in crime than native middle class or upper class children. The initial intuition that police targets them more than native German juveniles comes through the fact that they compare themselves with the rest of the society, which in turn is not as much represented at the bottom of the society as they are. Hence, it can be stated that it is not Institutional racism or prejudice which make them worse off but it is the social class in which they find themselves which makes them feel targeted by the police. In this case it can be stated that social class background is the intermediating factor between ethnic backgrounds and police contacts rather than ethnicity.

Concluding, it can be said that the author did not find any evidence of police discrimination. The number of police contacts and the number of negative actions that juveniles of ethnic minority backgrounds experience during those contacts do not differ from those of native juveniles. There is no confirmation that police officers treat juveniles differently on the basis of their ethnic background. On the contrary, what can be said is that both groups of native German and ethnic minority juveniles are treated the same on the basis of the crime they have committed and on their availability on the streets.

## **6. Research Suggestions**

Generalisations from this study should be made with appropriate caution. The findings of the study were based on 35 respondents - who are living in the same city. It would be advisable to conduct the study in different regions of Germany so that a comparison can be made for overall Germany and even on an international level. Furthermore, a longitudinal study would provide researchers with more time to gather a bigger sample and thus collect more data. The bigger the sample, the easier it is to achieve sufficient statistical power. The risk this study faced was that too wide confidence intervals could have been achieved with a sample of only 35 respondents. Moreover small samples increase the chance of errors while testing the hypotheses. Hence, the advice to further researchers would be to get a bigger sample. Working with schools that are located at "Brennpunkte" and youth centres could be helpful.

Research on ethnic minorities and criminal offences committed by them is very limited. This made it very difficult for the researcher to compare if ethnic minority or native German juveniles were more in contact with the police. The researcher had to start the entire work from scratch and thus had to spend lots of time investigating (be it through the police in Gronau or querying the juveniles) about the contact that juveniles and the police remembered through their experiences or their friends and colleagues experiences. It would be appropriate for the authority to have a systematic and continuing data collection which provides with information about criminal statistic for different ethnic groups. This data base could even help to identify weak and positive points in the criminal justice process which might be the causes for minority related issues (Albrecht, 1997).

Lastly, the researcher suggests that there should be further research on the impact and nature on the encounters involved when juveniles and the police get into contact.

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## Appendix

# UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.



Interviewer: ..... Datum: ..... Wo: ..... nr: .....

*Vielen Dank, dass du an dieser Umfrage teilnimmst.*

Mit diesem Fragebogen möchten wir gerne herausfinden, wie du als Jugendlicher über die Polizei denkst und wie deine Erfahrungen mit der Polizei sind. Zunächst einmal werden dir eine Anzahl allgemeiner Fragen gestellt. Danach erscheinen Fragen die Polizei betreffend.

Deine Antworten können dazu beitragen, dass sich das Verhältnis zwischen Jugendlichen und der Polizei in Zukunft verbessert.

Der Fragebogen ist anonym. D.h. du musst keinen Namen eintragen und dein Name wird auch nachträglich nicht notiert. Die Ergebnisse dieser Studie werden nur zu Forschungs- und Studienzwecken ausgewertet und verwendet.

Da deine Anonymität gewahrt ist, kannst Du ehrlich antworten und musst dir keine Sorgen wegen eventuellen Konsequenzen machen. Falls es doch Fragen geben sollte, zu denen du keine Antwort abgeben möchtest, kannst du diese auch offen stehen lassen.

Viel Spaß beim Ausfüllen des Fragebogens

## A. Hintergrundfragen

**A1** Wie alt bist du? Bitte hier eintragen : .....Jahre alt

**A2** Welches Geschlecht hast du:

- männlich
- weiblich

**A3** Welchem ethnischen Hintergrund (Herkunft) fühlst du dich selber angehörig?

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Deutch       | <input type="radio"/> Tunesisch                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Russisch     | <input type="radio"/> Kurdisch                             |
| <input type="radio"/> Polnisch     | <input type="radio"/> Albanisch                            |
| <input type="radio"/> Türkisch     | <input type="radio"/> Libanesisch                          |
| <input type="radio"/> Marokkanisch | <input type="radio"/> Sonstiges, bitte hier eintagen ..... |

**A4** Wie viel Zeit verbringst du pro Woche mit den folgenden Dingen?

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| a. Zur Schule gehen  | ...Stunden pro Woche |
| b. Hausarbeiten ausüben  | ...Stunden pro Woche |
| c. Arbeiten  | ...Stunden pro Woche |
| d. Sport und Hobby   | ...Stunden pro Woche |
| e. Ausgehen, Kaffeebesuche, Jugendheim usw.?                           | ...Stunden pro Woche |
| f. Draußen sein, sich auf der Straße/im Shopping Center aufhalten usw. | ...Stunden pro Woche |

**A5** In welcher Schulform befindest du dich (Falls du nicht mehr in die Schule gehst, fülle bitte die letzte Schulform ein, die du besucht hast.)

- Grundschule
- Sonderschule
- Hauptschule
- Gesamtschule
- Realschule
- Gymnasium
- Berufsschule
- Universität
- Sonstiges, bitte hier eintragen.....

**A6** Inwiefern treffen die folgenden Aussagen zu?

	Sehr zutreffend	Zutreffe nd	Ich weiß es nicht	Ziemlich unzutref fend	Voll und ganz unzutreff end
a. Ich bin viel zuhause	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Ich finde es schön zuhause zu sein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Ich gehe lieber woanders hin, als mich zuhause aufzuhalten	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Meiner Meinung nach führe ich ein gutes Leben	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Ich habe gute Freunde	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Ich bin zufrieden mit dem, was ich habe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Ich habe gute Chancen im Leben	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**A7** Inwiefern vertraust du folgenden Menschen?

	viel vertrauen	ziemlich viel vertrauen	wenig vertrauen	kein vertrauen
a. Deiner Familie	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Politikern	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Leiter von Institutionen(e.g. Jugendheim)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Polizisten	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Lehrern	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Menschen, denen du das erste Mal begegnet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## B. Fragen über deine Freunde und deinen Freundeskreis

**B1** Hast du eine Gruppe von Freunden mit denen du „abhängig“?

- Ja
- Nein → Fahre fort mit Rubrik C

Die nächsten Fragen beziehen sich auf dich und deine Freunde, mit denen du dich am meisten trifft.

**B2** Mit wie vielen Freunden gleichzeitig triffst du dich meistens? (Bitte beziehe dich selbst auch mit ein).

- 2-4 Personen
- 5-10 Personen
- 11-20 Personen
- Mehr als 20 Personen

**B3** Wie oft kommst du mit deinen Freunden meistens zusammen?

- Täglich, fünf oder mehrmals pro Woche
- Drei oder viermal pro Woche
- Ein oder zweimal pro Woche
- Weniger als einmal pro Woche

**B4** Wie viele Stunden seid Ihr dann ungefähr insgesamt an einem Tag zusammen?

- Weniger als eine Stunde
- 1-2 Stunden
- 2-3 Stunden
- Länger als 3 Stunden

**B5** An welchem Ort triffst du dich mit deinen Freunden, wenn das Wetter schön ist (du kannst maximal 3 Antworten ankreuzen)

- Bei einem von uns zuhause
- An der Schule und auf dem Schulhof
- In einem Sportclub oder Verein
- Auf der Straße

- In einem Kaufhaus
- Bei einem Jugendtreff
- In der Diskothek oder in einer Gaststätte
- An einem anderen Ort (wo denn):.....

**B6** Welcher Abstammung gehören die meisten Mitglieder deines Freundeskreises an (du kannst maximal zwei Antworten ankreuzen)

- Deutsch
- Türkisch
- Polnisch
- Russisch
- Libanesisch
- Kurden
- Albaner
- Marokkanisch
- Sonstiges (Trage bitte ein).....

**B7** Wie alt sind die ältesten Mitglieder deines Freundeskreises? ..... (bitte eintragen)

**B8** Wie alt sind die jüngsten Mitglieder deines Freundeskreises? ..... (bitte eintragen)

**B9** Inwiefern stimmst du den folgenden Aussagen zu?

	Stimme voll zu	Stimme zu	Ich weiß es nicht	Stimme nicht zu	Stimme voll und ganz nicht zu
a. Wir sind eine ruhige Gruppe, die keinem etwas zu Leide tut	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Man beklagt sich über unsere Gruppe	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Andere Menschen haben Angst vor uns	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Andere Menschen fühlen sich in unserer Gegenwart sicher	<input type="radio"/>				

## C. Fragen über deine Erfahrungen mit der Polizei

**C1** Bitte trage ein wie oft folgende Dinge in den abgelaufenen zwölf Monaten vorgekommen sind.

Trage bitte ein

- a. Wie oft wurdest du durch die Polizei angehalten wegen einer Verletzung der Verkehrsregeln oder wegen einer anderen Übertretung ..... mal
- b. Wie oft hast du in den letzten 12 Monaten eine Polizeikontrolle miterlebt ..... mal
- c. Wie oft ist es vorgekommen, dass ein Polizist ohne besondere Vorkommnisse mit dir (und deinen Freunden) reden wollte? ..... mal
- d. Wie oft hast du alleine oder mit anderen zusammen Kontakt zur Polizei aufgenommen, z.B. weil du Hilfe brauchtest? ..... mal
- e. Wie oft ist es vorgekommen, dass du durch die Polizei angehalten wurdest, obwohl du nichts gemacht hast? ..... mal
- f. Wie oft hattest du in den letzten 12 Monaten insgesamt mit der Polizei zu tun? ..... mal

**C2** Welche Vorkommnisse sind während der Kontakte, die du mit der Polizei in den letzten 12 Monaten hattest, aufgetreten?

Trage ein

- a. Hast du eine oder mehrere Geldbuße bezahlen müssen? Wie oft? ..... mal
- b. Hat die Polizei Verwarnungen gegen dich (und deine Freunde) ausgesprochen? Wie oft? ..... mal
- c. Hast du deine Personalien vorzeigen müssen? Wie oft? ..... mal
- d. Bist du auf der Straße gefilzt worden? Wie oft? ..... mal
- e. Wurdest du auf das Polizeipräsidium mitgenommen? Wie oft? ..... mal
- f. Hat die Polizei Dinge die dir gehören in Beschlag genommen? Wie oft? ..... mal
- g. Wurdest du alleine, oder mit Freunden durch die Polizei von einem Ort vertrieben? Wie oft? ..... mal
- h. Ist die Polizei bei dir zuhause gewesen? Wie oft? ..... mal

**C3** Die folgenden Aussagen beziehen sich darauf, wie du das Verhalten der Polizei dir gegenüber in den abgelaufenen 12 Monaten empfunden hast (wenn du in den abgelaufenen 12 Monaten keinen Kontakt mit der Polizei hattest, überspringe diese Frage bitte).

	Sehr zutreffend	Zutreffend	Ich weiß es nicht	Ziemlich unzutreffend	Voll und ganz unzutreffend
a. Ich wurde gut von der Polizei behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Ich wurde gerecht von der Polizei behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Ich wurde so von der Polizei behandelt, wie jeder andere in meiner Lage auch behandelt worden wäre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Ich wurde mit Respekt behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Ich wurde grob behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Ich wurde freundlich behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**C3b** Möchtest du eine Erläuterung zu deinen soeben ausgewählten Antworten abgeben?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**C4** Wie oft hast du in den abgelaufenen 12 Monaten mitbekommen, dass deine Freunde durch die Polizei angesprochen wurden?

.....mal (bitte eintragen)

**C5** Die folgenden Aussagen beziehen sich darauf, wie du das Verhalten der Polizei gegenüber deinen Freunden in den abgelaufenen 12 Monaten empfunden hast (wenn deine Freunde in den abgelaufenen 12 Monaten keinen Kontakt mit der Polizei hatten, überspringe diese Frage bitte).

	Sehr zutreffen d	Zutreff end	Ich weiß es nicht	Ziemlich unzutref fend	Voll und ganz unzutreff end
a. Meine Freunde wurden gut von der Polizei behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Meine Freunde wurden gerecht von der Polizei behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Meine Freunde wurden so durch die Polizei behandelt, wie jeder andere in Ihrer Lage auch behandelt worden wäre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Meine Freunde wurden mit Respekt behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Meine Freunde wurden grob behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Meine Freunde wurden freundlich behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

C6 Inwiefern stimmst du den folgenden Aussagen zu?	Sehr zutreffend	Zutreffend	Neutral	Ziemlich unzutreffend	Voll und ganz unzutreffend
a. Die Polizei übt eine wichtige Tätigkeit aus	<input type="radio"/>				
b. Es ist gut, dass die Polizei auf der Straße ist	<input type="radio"/>				
c. Es muss mehr Polizisten auf der Straße geben	<input type="radio"/>				
d. Polizisten sorgen für mehr Sicherheit in der Stadt	<input type="radio"/>				
e. Polizisten sind zuverlässig	<input type="radio"/>				
f. Polizisten führen Ihre Tätigkeit gut aus	<input type="radio"/>				
g. Polizisten treten, wenn es notwendig ist gut auf	<input type="radio"/>				
h. Polizisten wissen was auf der Straße passiert	<input type="radio"/>				
i. Polizisten sind hilfsbereit	<input type="radio"/>				
j. Polizisten behandeln Jugendlichen mit Respekt	<input type="radio"/>				
k. Wenn du nichts tust, werden Polizisten dir auch nichts tun	<input type="radio"/>				
l. Polizisten sind gerecht	<input type="radio"/>				
m. Polizisten behandeln jeden gleich gut	<input type="radio"/>				
n. Polizisten behandeln deutsche Jugendliche mit mehr Respekt als ausländische Jugendliche	<input type="radio"/>				
o. Polizisten behandeln deutsche Jugendliche größer als ausländische Jugendliche	<input type="radio"/>				
p. Ausländische Jugendliche werden schneller verhaftet als deutsche Jugendliche	<input type="radio"/>				
q. Wenn die Polizei mich als Zeuge befragt, bin ich kooperativ	<input type="radio"/>				
r. Wenn die Polizei mich von einem Ort	<input type="radio"/>				

verdrängt, gehe ich ohne zu  
diskutieren

- s. Wenn ich mitverfolge, dass jemand in  
ein Auto einbricht, versuche ich die

## D. Verbotene Dinge tun

Wir möchten gerne wissen ob du und deine Freunde manchmal verbotene Dinge tut. Falls du zu manchen Aussagen keine Stellung beziehen möchtest, haben wir Verständnis dafür. Es würde unserer Umfrage jedoch sehr helfen, wenn du so viele Vorkommnisse wie möglich schilderst. Vergiss bitte nicht, dass (wie am Anfang erwähnt) die Umfrage anonym ist.

	Wie oft hast du in den letzten 12 Monaten folgendes getan?		
	Kein Mal	Ein oder zwei Mal	Mehr als zwei Mal
a. Schwarzfahren im Bus, Zug oder in der Bahn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Ein Verkehrsdelikt begehen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Die Schule schwänzen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Absichtlich Dinge anderer beschädigen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Wände, Zäune, Bussitze und ähnliches mit Tinte oder Farbe beschmieren	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Etwas stehlen oder probieren etwas zu stehlen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Irgendwo eingebrechen oder probieren einzubrechen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Jemanden verprügeln	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Nicht die Wahrheit über dein Alter sagen, um irgendwo reinzukommen oder um etwas zu kaufen (z.B. Alkohol).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Eine Waffe mit sich getragen zum Schutz	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. In der Öffentlichkeit betrunken sein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Weiche Drogen eingenommen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Harte Drogen eingenommen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Drogen verkauft	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Wie viele aus deinem Freundeskreis haben in den letzten 12 Monaten folgendes getan?		
	Keiner	Ein oder zwei	Mehr als zwei
o. Schwarzfahren im Bus, Zug oder in der Bahn	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
p. Ein Verkehrsdelikt begehen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
q. Die Schule schwänzen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
r. Absichtlich Dinge anderer beschädigen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
s. Wände, Zäune, Bussitze und ähnliches mit Tinte oder Farbe beschmieren	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
t. Etwas stehlen oder probieren etwas zu stehlen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
u. Irgendwo eingebrechen oder probieren einzubrechen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
v. Jemanden verprügeln	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
w. Nicht die Wahrheit über dein Alter sagen, um irgendwo reinzukommen oder um etwas zu kaufen (z.B. Alkohol).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
x. Eine Waffe mit sich getragen zum Schutz	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
y. In der Öffentlichkeit betrunken sein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
z. Weiche Drogen eingenommen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
aa. Harte Drogen eingenommen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
bb. Drogen verkauft	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**D2** Dies ist das Ende des Fragenbogens. Hast du selber noch Fragen oder Anmerkungen?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Ich bedanke mich sehr für deine Teilnahme an dieser Umfrage!**

