

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE

# Ethnicity of young adults and unequal treatment by the police in the Ruhr Area

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## Abstract

Ethnic profiling is a worldwide discussed problem by scholars, especially in the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. To fill the gap of research on this topic concerning Europe and especially in Germany this thesis investigated whether there is evidence for unequal treatment of young adults in the age 12 to 25 by police officers in the Ruhr Area. Therefore, a survey questionnaire by the means of a paper survey (n = 127), which was handed out in the cities of Gelsenkirchen, Oberhausen and Recklinghausen and an online survey (n = 116) posted via Google Forms on the social network site of Facebook were conducted. Respondents of the respective survey questionnaire were male and female originating from different ethnic backgrounds. This thesis aimed at giving an answer to the main research question that reads 'To what extent is the number of police contacts of young adults in the age of 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area explained by their ethnic appearance?'

Non-parametric tests such as the Mann-Whitney U test showed that there is evidence to state that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance reported significantly more frequent contacts with the police than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. The regression analysis indicated that all independent variables (illegal individual behavior, ethnic appearance, availability on the streets and illegal group behavior) were relevant to the dependent variable of police contacts. One of the main findings was that illegal group behavior had the strongest impacts on the number of police contacts of young adults. Ethnic appearance ranked only second, which led this thesis to conclude that ethnic appearance was not the main and sole predictor for the number of police contacts in regarding this thesis.

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# 1. Introduction

With the development of the European Union the issues of integration and the abolition of border controls among the different member state countries implied new dimensions to the debate of ethnicity, crime and ethnic profiling (Albrecht, 1997). With regard to policing methods such as stop and search powers some scholars argue that these methods passed a significant shift from descriptive and analytical profiles based on individual behavior and objective evidence to preventive detection of crime, which is based on generalizations relating to race, ethnicity, nationality, etc. and hence present a form of ethnic profiling (Oi, 2013; Van der Leun & Van der Woude, 2011). Previous Anglo-American and European literature on this topic agree on this view and ascertain that there is a link between ethnicity and crime (Van der Leun and Van der Woude, 2011; Eijkman, 2010).

The Treaty of Amsterdam, which came into force in 1999, is an important one when it comes to migration and ethnic profiling, because it demands for a progressive establishment of an 'area of freedom, security and justice' (Guiraudon, 2000). According to this law, people originating from European Member States are able to move across borders without any restrictions. The attacks in Madrid, London and the US were prime examples of a contrast between an area of freedom, security and justice and crime as well as terrorism reaching the Euro Zone and the rest of the world. As a consequence the issues of terrorism, crime prevention, safety and ethnic minorities, were connected to each other in huge discussions that finally led to a prevention-focused counter-terrorism approach in the European Union (EU) (Eijkman, 2011).

The fact that ethnicity is at play in many situations dealing with ethnic minorities and the police occurring in the EU bears only one side of the problem. On the other side, apologies, mourning and collective guilt that arouse with the Holocaust and other acts of violence against minorities go along with people living in the EU always reminding them what taking ethnicity into account can result in (Delanty, 2005). In accordance to this, Article II of the Constitution for Europe makes clear that 'The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including rights of persons belonging to minorities', explicitly not including ethnicity. Romano Prodi once stated that the development of Union represents a model of consensual pooling and sovereignty in which every one of us accepts to belong to a minority (Lucarelli & Manners, 2006). In terms of this and regarding to these days, it should not be discussed or determined at all who belongs to the minority and who to the majority in a given country. With that said, it is even worse that ethnic minority groups, who live in several member states of the EU, made numerous complaints about their treatment by the police in case they had been in contact with them. Regarding an increasing amount of complaints it was perceived that ethnic profiling became also a European problem. Next to the Open Society Justice Initiatives' report in 2009, evidence for police stereotyping and discrimination of ethnic minority groups is present in several EU member states including France, Hungary, Bulgaria, Spain and Germany, which is outlined in more detail in the following paragraphs.

Having a look at France, Jobard et. al (2013) found proof that ethnic minorities living in France perceived law enforcement officers as acting prejudiced towards ethnic minority groups since thirty-six percent of Sub-Saharan Africans, all participating in a survey questionnaire, raised complaints of lack of respect during last time they were stopped. The percentage of North-Africans is a little bit lower than that but still high in comparison to only 15 per cent of people from the major population. For another thing, Sub-Saharan Africans confirmed that they were stopped about 3.2 times, which is on average one time more often than people from the major population. North-Africans faced also a higher proportionality of being stopped than people from the major population (Jobard et. al, 2013).

Also Hungary, Bulgaria and Spain are countries in the EU where police stereotyping and discrimination of ethnic minority groups is evidenced. Here for instance, people having a Roma ethnic background experienced a higher number of police contacts in comparison to the people from the major population (Neild, 2009). Another given example by Neild (2009) occurred in Spain, where ethnic minority groups confirmed of being victimized by Spanish police calling them ‘Arab shit’. As a matter of fact, even the Spanish National Ombudsman’s Office acknowledged that ethnic profiling is unfortunately present in the country (Neild, 2009).

In order to find out whether ethnic profiling is still present in parts of the EU this thesis focuses on a particular Euro Zone, namely the Ruhr Area (see Figure 1 in appendix), which is located in the western part of Germany. It seems to be an interesting case because this zone is significantly shaped by its religious and ethnic minorities. The trend of migration goes back to the 1950s and 1960s and was known many years before the Treaty of Amsterdam came into force. Many migrant workers, originating from Poland or Turkey for example, were increasingly recruited in order to satisfy the high demand for relatively cheap labor forces regarding the steel industry (Reuschke et. al, 2013). The most decisive reason why the Ruhr Area accounted for about 186 different nationalities in 2002 may be the fact that on the one hand those guest workers stayed in the Ruhr Area and got the idea of bringing their families too. On the other hand the strong political as well as economic ties established between Istanbul and Germany’s main immigration region, the Ruhr Area (Reuschke et. al, 2013), contributed as well to the situation so as many Turkish immigrants established themselves a new life in Germany. Besides the biggest ethnic minority group, which is composed of Turks, some crime statistics found that there has taken place an intense immigration of young people coming from eastern European countries as well, having led to an increased crime rate around 1995 (Albrecht, 1997).

More than 10 years later the situation between ethnic minority groups and the police had come to a crisis within the Ruhr Area. In 2007 an illustrative example took place where a court in Gelsenkirchen found that police officers violated the rights to freedom as well as the rights of association and religion while raiding a mosque in the city of Bochum in 2004. According to law, proper police action requires the application of the principal of proportionality, which was not present during the raid where the police officers detained and interrogated about 227 people of ethnic minority groups. On top of that, the police officers did not comply with judicial norms nor did they find evidence that a “concrete danger” was at play, which is actually a requirement by German law for exercising such police powers (Neild, 2009). Such recurring and questionable incidents between the police and young adults having a non-German ethnic appearance will encounter troublesome times maintaining a social balance in the society with regard to the future. In particular, the misuse of stop and search powers is not only a matter of unlawful discrimination but has also social and political consequences (Oi, 2013), so as the ill-judged use of stop and search powers not only affects the relationship between police and ethnic minority groups in a direct way but also in an indirect way with regard to the relationship with the whole population. Resulting from that and in case the police still targets ethnic minority groups without any justification the general population may adapt the same policy as police officers do, namely leading the way for promotion and reinforcement of stereotyping as well as unequal treatment. In the end, ethnic minority groups will be perceived as being dangerous and suspicious which influences the overall relationship among citizens in terms of insecurity and harm. Misused policing powers may also result in a loss of public support for the police and may even lead to de-legitimization of it (Bowling & Phillips, 2007). Finally, poor cooperation of the population and affected police efficiency may also occur (Oi, 2013). To tie this all together, this thesis provides evidence in addition to existing studies about whether German policing methods being practiced in the Ruhr Area are on the right track or if there is still significant evidence for ethnic appearance being a predictor for the number in contacts with the police.

In general, this thesis is based on previous research undertaken by Saharso and Svensson in 2014, which dealt with proactive policing and equal treatment of young adults. The principal aim of this thesis is then to find out whether young adults in the age 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area faced unequal treatment by the police based on their ethnic appearance in terms of more frequent contacts with the police within the last twelve months. For this reason the main research question guiding this thesis reads:

To what extent is the number of police contacts of young adults in the age of 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area explained by their ethnic appearance?

In order to answer the main research question, it was subdivided into a combination of more specific and both descriptive as well as explanatory sub-questions. These two sub-questions amount to the main research question as following. In the first place, a descriptive one showed whether young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance altogether face a higher number of police contacts or if young adults with a German ethnic appearance face the same number. Therefore, it reads:

To what extents do young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more frequent police contacts than young adults with a German ethnic appearance?

Moreover, the first sub-question supports the understanding of the main research question by giving evidence about what kind of relationship between ethnic appearance and police contacts is to be expected. If the sub-question reveals that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance face significantly higher numbers in police contacts than young adults with a German ethnic appearance, this could be one aspect leading to conclude that unequal treatment is at play.

In the second place, this thesis sought to give an explanation why young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance have more frequent police contacts if that is really the case. On the one hand, ethnic appearance is one possible factor for predicting police contacts. On the other hand factors such as illegal individual and illegal group behavior as well as hours spent on the streets might also predict the fact of getting in contact with the police. In other words, ethnic appearance would not be the main and sole predictor for police contacts in as much as the difference in such police contacts might be also predicted by the amount of hours a youth spent on the streets or the amount of illegal individual or illegal group behavior. Not taking such possible other factors into consideration would lead to inappropriate over-estimation of the sole factor of ethnic appearance. To be sure not to over-estimate the variable of ethnic appearance, this thesis introduced a second sub-question, namely:

To what extent is the relationship between ethnic appearance and police contacts explained by differences in hours spent on the streets, illegal individual behavior and illegal group behavior?

With this sub-question, it was tested for the impact of other possible predictors of police contacts. The results related to the second sub-question revealed detailed information which of the above-mentioned independent variables contributed to a lesser or greater extent to the assumption that young adults in the age 12 to 25 had contact with the police.

In general, it is expected that the results of this thesis show whether there is a weak or rather strong relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of having police contacts. The answers to the question of whether young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance reported more frequent police contacts than young adults with a German ethnic appearance are directly related to the study of Saharso and Svensson (2014), because they follow the same interest, namely finding evidence about ethnic profiling in specific Euro Zones. In the third place, this thesis should provide indication of the extent to which each of the independent factors influenced and explained the relationship between ethnic appearance and police contacts of young adults in the age of 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area. Results

given to sub-question relate to findings of what several other scientists have found. Findings of this thesis for hours spent on the streets can be related to the study conducted by Waddington et. al (2005) for example. Earlier findings of studies conducted by McAra and McVie (2005), Saharso and Svensson (2014) as well as by Ariza (2014) doing research on illegal individual and illegal group behavior can be directly related and interpreted in comparison to the findings of this thesis.

To reach the goal and answer the research question this thesis applies the following strategy. In the first place, the theoretical framework is presented, including the concepts of unequal treatment, police contacts, ethnic minority groups and the set of hypothesis. Hereby, the reader is provided with a theoretical background from which the hypotheses can be derived. The main purpose of this set of hypotheses (see Figure 2) is to guide and explain how the several variables in this study are linked. The hypothesis were tested according to Mann-Whitney U tests as well as a regression analysis conducted with the statistical program SPSS. Figure 2 sets the fundamental basis on which chapter three was established and affected the direction for the thesis's research methodology. Once the hypothesis and the relevant key variables for this study were established the hypothesis were tested with the help of a survey questionnaire. Chapter three then discusses the research design, data collection, the case selection, the variables' measurement as well as the analysis applied in this thesis more in depth. Section four demonstrates the results that have been found in the analysis. Finally, the thesis concludes with a discussion where it relates the findings of its analysis to the findings of other scholars. This thesis ends by giving some recommendations regarding future research on this topic and a final conclusive remark.



## **2. Theoretical Framework**

Over the years several scholars dealt with the relationship between ethnicity and the police. The following section provides the reader with an overview of all relevant concepts and theories that are linked to the topic. As a starting point the study of Saharso and Svensson (2014), an already existing study on which this thesis is based, is introduced. In addition, other already existing literature representing different concepts and perspectives regarding the policing style in Germany, unequal treatment and police contacts are discussed with regard of some key authors such as Saharso and Svensson (2014), Bowling and Marks (2015), McAra and McVie (2005), or Waddington et. al (2004). The overall goal of this chapter is to come up with a set of hypothesis that evolved with the elaboration of the existing literature on this topic and gave the thesis an adequate structure on how to conduct the analysis and derive answers from that. More in depth, the set of hypothesis consists of three elements, namely the main independent variable of interest, ethnic appearance, the dependent variable police contacts, and the other independent variables availability on the streets, illegal individual as well as illegal group behavior. By the end of this chapter the reader should have an understanding of all aspects being part of the main research question so as chapter three then continues to explain how this theoretical chapter is transferred into practice.

### **2.1 Study from 2014 as a starting point**

In order to form a fundamental basis for this thesis it was decided to lean on an existing study conducted in the Netherlands and dealing with equal treatment of young adults by the police in relation to their ethnic appearance. The existing study ‘Proactive policing and equal treatment of ethnic minority youths’ was written by Saharso and Svensson and published in 2014. The scholars performed an empirical investigation among 231 young adults and interviewed them on the street as well as in youth centers to establish whether the policing style of proactivity results in unequal treatment of ethnic minority youths. Their main finding was that besides considerable outcome inequality, the extent of unequal treatment of ethnic minority youths was limited. The study of Saharso and Svensson seemed to be a good point to start with regard to this thesis, because it set some key concepts that are relevant to investigate for unequal treatment of youth by the police. Moreover, it provided a convincing survey questionnaire to measure the theoretical concepts in real life and hence regarding this thesis. Keeping all this in mind the following paragraphs discuss the policing style in Germany, unequal treatment and police contacts more extensively.

In this thesis it was decided to investigate on the relationship between ethnic appearance and police contact in Germany because research on this topic is lacking for this area, since most of previous research on this topic originates from the United States, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. Furthermore, Germany is a highly diversified country with respect to ethnicity, which in turn makes it more interesting and urgent to find out whether ethnic appearance is at stake as one of the main predicting factors regarding unequal treatment by the police.

### **2.2 Policing style in Germany**

In comparison to many other countries such as the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, Germany applies not a proactive policing style but rather a reactive and at the same time repressive policing style that should be used to solve minor up to major crimes. The repressive style is mainly based on rules, laws and obligations. This is because of the centralistic model in Germany, which is coordinated by the upper police management and the government (Lukas & Gauthier, 2011). Countries applying a proactive policing style demonstrate to be successful with it and hence pull the

trigger for being a prime example regarding the implementation of this style in Germany. Over the last ten years police officers were given more power in order to act and investigate on a more individual basis meaning to establish a stronger and more direct contact with citizens and especially young adults by relying on experiences of who is in need for the police officers' attention and who is not.

### **2.3 Stop and Search Power**

The next concept, which is of importance to this thesis is the one of the stop and search power. Historically speaking, the power of stop and search has been used in order to control poor or minority populations. These laws rely on a racially defined concept and use the notion 'the other' for individuals belonging to minority groups. There are two kinds of contacts between individuals and police officers, individual-initiated contacts on the one hand and police-initiated contacts on the other hand (Skogan, 2006). This thesis focused on police-initiated contacts since being stopped by a police officer is the most frequent and often the first and only incident an individual has with the coercive arms of the state (Bowling & Marks, 2015). Furthermore, 'Stop, police!' is a command that grants authority in any language as Bowling and Marks (2015) put it. The main aim of this police power is to 'prevent offenses ranging from antisocial behavior to serious gang violence and terrorism.'(p. 4) It therefore represents a power that does not only focus on minor or major crimes but in accordance with Bowling and Marks (2015) the stop and search power is also essential and different from other police powers because it can build up on its minor suspicions. Meaning that it can lead the way to the right suspects committing a crime without having to arrest the person directly just based on suspicion. Having made the decision to stop a person based on several different grounds this policing method offers police officers absolute power to stop and search people including their belongings in public places and to question them. As Bowling and Marks (2015) and many other authors argue, each of such stop and searches conducted by police officers should be based on reasonable grounds that are characterized as being 'objective, justifiable, explicable and acceptable to the person stopped.'(p. 3) There are many and more detailed terms related to reasonable grounds for suspicion, but this thesis decides that Bowling and Marks (2015) put it in the most appropriate way including every possible form of suspicion characteristics. As an example, behavioral patterns such as 'running or hurrying' are experienced frequently and hence deliver easily the required grounds for suspicion for the police officer. In addition to that, personal characteristics such as style of dress, age, and physical appearance are given as grounds as well but only next to other reasonable ones.

### **2.4 Unequal treatment and differential behavior**

In the fourth place, this thesis introduces the theory of unequal treatment because of differential behavior. Over the last decade, a big discussion arose debating whether police officers stick to these reasonable grounds or if they also use inappropriate grounds such as the individuals' ethnic appearance only to investigate on ethnic minorities for possible crimes. Unequal treatment of ethnic minority groups deriving from situations like this as well as their overrepresentation concerning crime and disorder may be triggered too by public calls for tougher policing on youth crime and the introduction of proactive policing methods (Saharso & Svensson, 2014). Saharso and Svensson (2014) relate to literature demonstrating that there is indeed extensive police discrimination against young adults of ethnic minorities, and that it is rather pervasive and structural than responsible and effective. Police discrimination can occur within many forms, the one that is focused on in this thesis is ethnic profiling. Saharso and Svensson (2014) found evidence that young adults from ethnic minorities reported significantly higher numbers of police contacts and significantly lower quality of these contacts with the police (p. 10). But as an overall conclusion of their study it is important to note

that these outcome inequalities are not the result of unequal treatment but of justifiable distinctions made by the police on other grounds. Other scholars such as Van der Leun and Van der Woude (2011) and Junger (1989) hold the opinion that no study showed clear evidence of police discrimination in the Netherlands for example. Further, it is concluded that ethnic appearance cannot be seen as a plausible explanation for group differences regarding crime and disorder (Van der Leun & Van der Woude, 2011), but many Dutch scholars acknowledge that ethnic appearance influences rather than causes differences in criminal involvement. Fitzgerald and Carrington (2011) agree to it and state that discrimination is not the reason why juveniles with a migration background experience different treatment. It is rather the agenda of the police to look for certain signals that indicate higher illegal individual behavior. They propose that young adults with a migration background have such signals more often, making them look suspicious to police officers and thereby increasing their overall number of encounters with the police.

Summing it up, Eijkman (2011) is of the opinion that 'ethnic profiling has proven quite ineffective – and sometimes even counterproductive – in actually combating terrorism' (p. 101). With this quote it can be stated that policing methods on a global scale went into the wrong direction over the past years. In fact, ethnic profiling did not lead police officers to dangerous terrorists but instead made police officers focusing on people fitting into the profile of terrorists. The most distressing aspect about this situation is that those people being victimized because of ethnic profiling methods do not have any intention to harm anyone in the certain country as it is assumed. Moreover, such mistakable situations do not contribute to the fighting of terrorism. In other words, people with an ethnic background will not make any effort to help the police because of being falsely accused by officers who are also driven by the public call that all people belonging to a certain ethnicity are terrorists. It should be added that 'such forms of police discrimination are of course morally and legally unacceptable, and also threaten to undermine police legitimacy and police effectiveness.' (Saharso & Svensson, 2014, p.1) Recent events such as the urban riots in France in 2005 or the 2011 riots in the United Kingdom are the results of just described police discrimination prompting such ethnic tension (De Rooij, 2014; Schneider, 2008). After Saharso and Svensson (2014) most police officers defend themselves against any proof of outcome inequality between ethnic groups with the argument of their different behavior. To put it differently, it is assumed that diverse ethnic groups behave differently and that is the reason why they are treated in another way. According to McAra and McVie (2005) there is an extensive range of factors in which ethnic groups behave differently.

## **2.5 Illegal individual and illegal group behavior**

One of these factors McAra and McVie (2005) relate to is illegal individual behavior. It is suggested that more negative experiences with the police result in higher individual criminal offending rates within ethnic minority populations. Bowling and Phillips (2007) for example found that black people were more likely involved in crime than the majority population. More particularly, blacks were three times as likely to be arrested in contrast to the expectations regarding their numbers in the general population. Another study showed that individuals with a criminal score 10 times that of others has an almost four times greater odds of having police contact (McAra & McVie, 2005). Self-report studies for instance asked a sample of respondents whether they have committed any criminal offences from a list in the past year. These studies demonstrated that rates of involvement in offending are comparable among white and black respondents and significantly lower among Asian respondents. The main disadvantage of such self-report studies is that they are only as reliable as the honesty of the people interviewed (Bowling & Phillips, 2007). Although previous studies did not show any difference between ethnic minorities and the major population regarding illegal behavior, the concept of illegal individual behavior is, however, a good indicator for this study and can help finding out whether there

is a difference among ethnic minorities and the majority population in the Ruhr Area. Besides the argument of McAra and McVie (2005) that serious illegal behavior is a strong predictor of police contacts, another factor in which ethnic groups behave differently is represented in the situation where ‘youngsters also first attract police attention as a result of keeping the wrong company’ (p. 26). With this statement of McAra and McVie the aspect of group belonging is added to the individual criminal offending situation. Now, it can be said that either young adults individually like to commit crimes or they do not like to commit crimes themselves but hang out with other young adults in their leisure time, mostly their friends, who then commit crimes and bring everyone around them in trouble. The authors support the fact that the participation in street-based groups gives young adults two opportunities. For one thing young adults feel safe because of the great number of company they enjoy in such street-based groups and for another thing young adults are provided with an environment in which they can show how independent they are. Having the ‘wrong’ friends, who already experienced contacts with the police, makes young adults twice as likely to have police contacts with regard to the study of McAra and McVie and hence seems to be a good reason for contemplating illegal group behavior as a concept for this thesis (McAra & McVie, 2005).

## **2.6 Youth in public**

A further behavioral difference, namely time spent on the streets, is discussed by Ariza (2014), Saharso and Svensson (2014) as well as by Waddington et. al (2004). In general, all authors come to the same conclusion so as Saharso and Svensson argue ‘that different racial or ethnic groups place themselves at greater or lesser risk of being stopped by the police through their differential use of public space.’ (Saharso & Svensson, 2014, p.5) Preceding research showed that the factor of having an active street-life places young adults at the risk of encounter police contact (McAra & McVie, 2005). Some young adults seem to be more likely “available” on the streets because of their demographic factors such as age, ethnic origin, and gender than others who in contrast spend more time at home or at work because of their specific demographic factors (Bowling & Phillips, 2007). Other research points out that even once it was controlled for all possible demographic factors in the analysis, racial disproportionality was still present. The data of the relevant study was based on a national random sample and lead to the conclusion that unrelated to the demographic factors that make this person “available” to be stopped and searched the fact of being black increases the opportunity of being stopped and searched. Besides the fact that former research only distinguished between black and white people, the concept of availability on the streets enriches this thesis by including many different ethnic minority groups in order to explain possible disproportionality in contacts with the police.

## **2.7 Set of Hypotheses**

Based on the literature discussed above, it is assumed that there is a relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of police contacts. Ethnic appearance is seen as the predictor of getting in contact with the police, but as argued by some authors, it cannot be seen as the sole factor causing young adults more frequent police contacts than others. Therefore, some predictor variables, being independent in their nature, will be introduced so as it can be proven which of these factors has what kind of influence on the relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of police contacts. In the end it is possible to state whether there is a strong or rather weak relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of police contacts and which variable is more likely to be a predictor for police contacts than others. With that in mind, the major assumption of this thesis is that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more frequent contacts with the police than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. With that said, Hypothesis 1 reads:

$H_1$  = Young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more frequent police contacts than young adults with a German ethnic appearance.

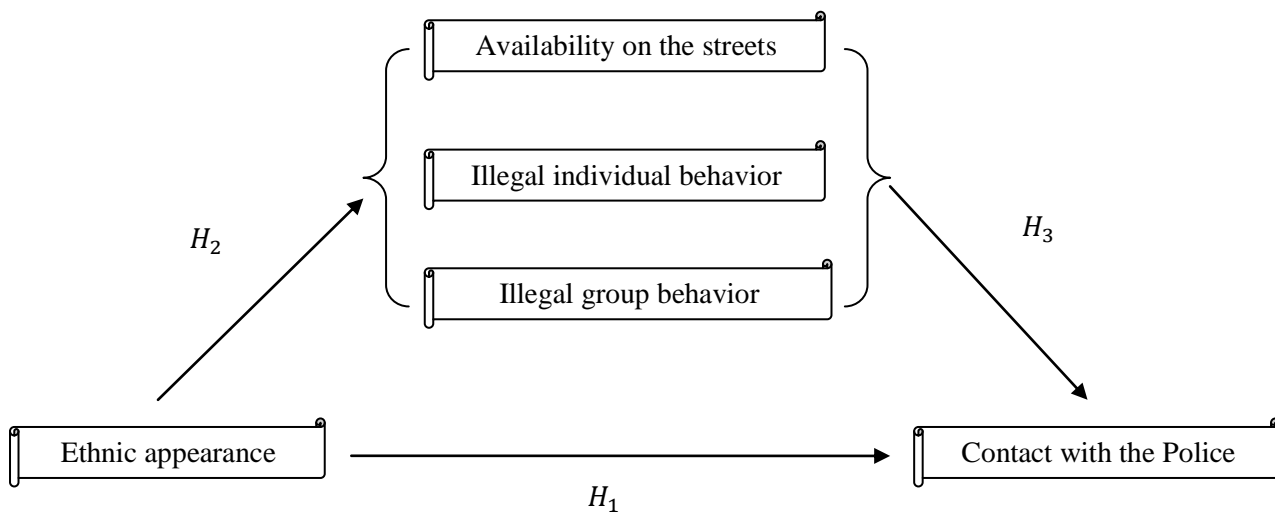
In the second place, it is assumed that the relationship between ethnic appearance and police contacts is affected by differences in hours spent on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior. Here, ethnic appearance stays constant while it is assumed that each of the other independent variables might have also an impact on young adults to have contact with the police. Consequently, hypothesis 2 reads as following:

$H_2$  = Young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more hours spent on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior than young adults with a German ethnic appearance.

In case ethnic appearance turns out not to be the sole predictor for young adults to have contact with the police it seems interesting to find out which other factors may explain the number of contacts with the police except for ethnic appearance and to what extent they do so. Following that assumption, hypothesis 3 is:

$H_3$  = The number in police contacts can be rather explained by hours spent on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior than by ethnic appearance.

Figure 2: Set of Hypotheses including applied variables



Source: invented by the author of this thesis

In order to test the likelihood of being stopped by the police this thesis includes four independent variables, namely ethnic appearance, availability on the streets, illegal individual as well as illegal group behavior. These variables are said to be independent because they are resistant to changes of other variables. In contrast, the number of police contact may change when one of the independent variables changes as well. That is why the number of police contact is dependent on the behavior of all the independent ones. For Hypothesis 3 we include two control variables, namely gender and educational level of the respondents in order to make sure that these variables do not explain away the entire association between the independent variables and the total number of police contacts. Therefore, this thesis put the control variables into the model first, followed by the other independent variables this thesis is actually interested in to test.

## **2.8 Conclusion**

Within this chapter a theoretical background was delivered leading the reader the way by starting with the concepts and theories used through the main research question of this study and its two subsequent questions and ends with a set of hypothesis that set further structure regarding the research methodology and analysis part of this thesis. The beginning was made by introducing a study from 2014 that investigated same kind of research to the greatest extent with the difference of focusing on another Eurozone, namely the Netherlands. Having set the basis for this thesis it then was stated that the German policing style gave police officers more power over the last years so as they became able to act more individually meaning to rely on their experiences in order to determine which youth are in need for their attention and who are not. Deriving from this rather proactive style of policing this thesis introduced the police-initiated contact also referred to as the stop and search power, which seemed to be the most frequent and often first kind of incidents young adults experience with the coercive arm of the state. In addition to it, Bowling and Marks (2015) are in line with some other authors that stop and search powers still need to be based on reasonable grounds to be sure that neither stereotyping nor discrimination is at stake. To put it differently some authors argued that unequal treatment is not the result of discrimination by the police but instead the outcome of differential behavior being made by young adults. In order to prove for such differential behavior this thesis introduced the concepts of illegal individual and illegal group behavior as well as the hours spent on the streets. In the end, we came up with a set of hypotheses having a central function so as it gives an idea of how the variables are linked with each other and what can be assumed. Moreover, the set of hypotheses had an impact on the research design, on what procedures were most appropriate to be applied, on how the dependent and independent variables needed to be measured and what kind of statistical tests needed to be conducted to get significant results.

### **3. Research Methodology**

Given the previous chapter we are now provided with a theoretical framework for this thesis. Chapter three then continues by delineating the method applied in this thesis in order to answer the thesis' main- and sub-questions. The relationship between ethnic appearance and police contacts calls for a specific choice of research design that needs to be made. Also the method of data collection, including case selection on the one hand, methods and a description of the questionnaire that was used on the other hand needed to be selected carefully. It is essential to narrow the case selection down to the respondents having most valuable information for this thesis. Therefore, it is discussed why young adults with and without a migration background and in the age 12 to 25 are perceived as most appropriate for this thesis. At last, the method of data analysis is addressed. Here, an overview of how to measure police contacts, ethnic appearance, availability on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior and what kind of statistical test were most appropriate to test the set of hypotheses resulting from the theoretical framework are given.

#### **3.1 Choice of Research Design**

The beginning is made by choosing for an appropriate research design. This choice seems to be of utmost importance because it determined the strategy to be conducted. To put it differently, it means to lead the way for transferring the theoretical part into the practice. Therefore, this thesis represents a strategy, designed to achieve a comparison between young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance and young adults with a German ethnic appearance in the age 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area. The aim of this is to demonstrate whether there is an imbalance in use of police powers across unlike social groups in a small selection of German cities located in the western part of Germany. A correlational survey in form of a cross-sectional self-completion survey used in a post test only design was decided to be the most adequate research design for this thesis. The idea was to base this thesis on survey data collected with the help of a self-completion survey, because variables such as the time young adults spend on the streets and the extent of illegal behavior are not directly observable. Furthermore, the survey was conducted in three different cities namely, Gelsenkirchen, Oberhausen and Recklinghausen. The first two cities belong to the core Ruhr Area whereas Recklinghausen just borders the core cities in the Ruhr Area. As Reuschke et. al (2013) outlined, the Ruhr Area is known for its ethnic diversity. The assumption of finding a significant number of participants, who fit within the profile of being male or female, being in the age of 12 to 25 and having a migration background or not, was confirmed. In sum, the cross-sectional aspect of the research design was important to consider because it offered possibilities to collect more data from young adults having a migration background or not than just collecting data in one of the Ruhr Area cities. However, it was not the intention to draw a comparison between the three cities.

The data collection process itself was performed at a particular point in time that is to say after the treatment was given, which means in this case after young adults experienced contact with the police. Since this thesis follows a time span of about three months it is not possible to conduct a pre- and post-test design. The data per se are of quantitative nature and contributed to the answer of the research questions by using the statistical software SPSS. More in depth, SPSS helped to analyze the data and to draw conclusions from it. The key variables were already illustrated by the set of hypotheses in chapter two and are discussed in more depth concerning their measurement in the methods of data analysis section.

### 3.2 Case Selection and data collection

It is not only the question of what strategy to follow in order to answer the research questions but it is also essential to know from whom the data were required to do so. Thus, the units of analysis of this thesis were young adults in the age of 12 and 25. Data from these young adults were collected during March and April in 2015 (11.3.–12.04.2015). Studies such as the one of Saharso et. al (2014) and the one of Ariza (2014) were based on samples having the same age range, which makes this thesis to rely on previous positive experiences setting such an age range as well. More in depth, the focus rested on young adults, both male and female living in one of the German cities, namely Gelsenkirchen, Recklinghausen and Oberhausen. On the one hand it was chosen for these particular cities because according to Reuschke et. al (2013) Gelsenkirchen and Oberhausen number along the core cities of the Ruhr Area, whereas Recklinghausen does not but borders them directly (Figure 2 see appendix). Additionally, all three cities are rich in their ethnic homogeneity and seem popular to be visited by the people, which made it convenient to gather data. Gelsenkirchen for example is the hometown of the researcher. This made it easy to collect many data in a short period of time because of very low traveling time that needed to be undertaken in order to get to the places where young adults seem to hang around. An approach like this leaved room for the possibility to have encountered many young adults fitting into the preferred profile we were looking for. Furthermore, this thesis is in line with the statement of McAra and McVie (2005) that having an active street-life places young adults at a higher risk of getting in contact with the police. Therefore, it was assumed to find many young adults on the streets in Gelsenkirchen, hanging around popular public places to meet with their friends after school or at the weekends. Here, the argument of having the 'wrong' friends, brought up by McAra and McVie (2005), came into play, since young adults, who already experienced contacts with the police, are twice as likely to have police contacts with regard to the study of McAra and McVie. With regard to Recklinghausen, it was narrowed down to one academic high school of the city because of a personal contact to one of the schools' teacher. Here, the self-completion questionnaire was given to different classes of the Petrinum academic high school covering ages of thirteen to seventeen of the respondents. The third city where data was collected was Oberhausen, which is known for its big and exclusive shopping mall 'the Centro'. In particular, 'the Centro' has an commuting area of about 20 million people covering many social as well as cultural levels, meaning to include people from lower social areas up to top managers. Since, Saharso and Svensson (2014) argue that different ethnic groups place themselves at a greater or lesser risk of being stopped by the police because of their differential use of public space it was assumed that many young adults fitting the desired profile for this study can be found at the weekend in this shopping mall, next to the fact that it is a popular meeting point with friends among young adults in order to spend time together, go shopping, and having something to eat and drink. This assumption was also confirmed so as data could have been collected there in a successful way. The aspect of convenience is addressed in more detail within the following paragraph.

In contrast to other studies undertaken in the United Kingdom for example, this thesis does not only distinguish between black and white but rather take account of more ethnic minority groups such as Polish, Turkish, Moroccan, etc. This thesis followed also a rather obtrusive approach, for the reason that young adults were approached in public places, in the school or in the shopping mall in order to be asked to fill in the survey. With regard to prior research conducted on this topic a sample of around 250 participants seemed to be a good basis to make inference about the sample. After having collected all data this thesis amounts to a sample of 243 respondents, which is close to the desired seize of sample for this research.



### **3.3 Sampling**

Given the research design outlined above this thesis opted for a non-probability sampling strategy. In particular, it was chosen for a convenience sampling strategy because of its prevailing advantages. For one thing, the convenience sample was made up of subjects that seem to be most easily accessible to the researcher. In other words, young adults were easily found in local malls and promenades such as the Centro Oberhausen as well as in schools such as the Petrinum academic high school in Recklinghausen. One decisive aspect for collecting data at these places was that the three cities provided this thesis with good bases regarding homogeneity so as to find young adults fitting within the desired profile mentioned above. Other advantages of relying on convenience sampling are its simplicity, velocity and the fact that it does not need a large budget to be conducted. These were the primary reasons to choose for this kind of sampling technique. In contrast to that, a possible drawback of this technique is the difficulty to generalize the findings of this research to other subjects. According to that, this thesis is aware that it cannot generalize its findings to whole Germany for example but it can provide contribution for already existing studies in the area of incidents between young adults and the police. Taking into account the advantages and disadvantages of survey questionnaires it is to say that they are weak on validity and strong on reliability. According to Babbie (2010) surveys face a certain artificiality, which therefore puts a strain on the surveys' validity. By way of example this basically means that a participant is not only driven by prejudices although the participant gives prejudiced answers about his or her experiences with the police. Reliability on the other hand is strong by providing a standardized stimulus to all participants. Thereby, unreliability in observations made by the researcher is eliminated to a great extent. The data collection method of using a survey entails several other advantages and disadvantages. For instance, surveys and especially self-administered ones are a useful tool in describing characteristics of a large population that needs to be studied (Babbie, 2010). As Babbie (2010) argues a large number of cases are important for both descriptive and explanatory research. Flexibility of a survey enabled this thesis to ask many questions on the given topic, which was the young adults' experience with police in this case. Another disadvantage of surveys is represented in its inability to measure ongoing and changing social action of participants, because this kind of techniques is only capable of recalling self-reports of past actions. To tackle possible difficulties in order to find participants the questionnaire was distributed online as well. The questionnaire was digitalized through the online survey tool of Google Forms and was uploaded as well as distributed in social networks such as Facebook or by E-Mail. Google Forms facilitated the distribution by providing access to the questionnaire via a link. With this additional method of data collection this thesis sought to be on the safe side regarding the sample size, so as the problem of having a too small sample size did not need to be confronted. At the end of the data collection stage, this thesis was able to amount to a total number of  $n = 116$  respondents only with the help of the online survey tool. On paper  $n = 127$  questionnaires were filled in, which led this thesis to an overall number of 243 participants.

### **3.4 The Questionnaire**

As stated above, data for this thesis aimed to be collected via the tool of a survey questionnaire. The survey questionnaire itself derived from an already existing data collection instrument provided by the study of Svensson, Sollie and Saharso in 2012. The questionnaire was translated into German and asked a mixture of closed question with both, a horizontal- and a vertical format, as well as closed questions in form of a Likert scale. This gave the participants the opportunity to decide to what extent they agree or disagree on a given statement. Besides, there were also two open-ended questions. The first one offered the participant to outline his or her experiences with the police whereby the second

open-ended question asked for general comments. Key issues addressed in the questionnaire were for example leisure activities including hanging out, friendship patterns, gang membership, friends' offending, experience of victimization, and the use of drugs alcohol.

Generally, the questionnaire can be divided into four parts ranging from A to D. Part A deals with background information of the participant. Here, questions about his or her age, gender and education are asked, hence data for the control variables gender and educational level were taken from questions out of part A. In part B the participant was requested about his or her friends and their relationship. An example question for this part may be: How many hours do you spend with your friends and where are you meeting up with them? Part B then provided questions related to the variable measuring how many hours on average young adults spent on the streets per week and hence took into account the concept discussed by Ariza (2014), Saharso and Svensson (2014) as well as by Waddington et. al (2004). The third part of the questionnaire, Part C, was interested in the participants' experiences with the police, asking about the kind as well as the number of police contacts he or she had within the last 12 months. Here, question C1e for example provided a good opportunity to get an idea about the dependent variable police contact representing the concept of police-initiated contacts discussed by Bowling and Marks (2015). Lastly, part D asked the participant to indicate what individual illegal behavior he or she committed within the last 12 months as well as what illegal behavior he or she witnessed regarding his or her friends. Therefore, also the final two concepts discussed by McAra and McVie (2005) were covered with questions out of part D of the survey questionnaire.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Analysis**

Having worked out an adequate basis in form of the theoretical framework, its resulting set of hypothesis and the main aspects of the research methods, including the design, the sampling strategy and the data collection method it can now be discussed how the variables of police contact, ethnic appearance, availability on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior, outlined in the set of hypothesis (see chapter two), will be measured in the survey questionnaire. In other words, this section provides the reader with information on the variables' measurement, which is linked to the way of how the data were analyzed on the one hand and which led this thesis to come up with meaningful answers to its sub- and main research question on the other hand.

The dependent variable police contact is the first variable to be discussed. The participants were asked different questions representing different kinds of police contact. Further, they needed to indicate how often they experienced each of the different kinds of police contact in the last twelve months. Part C of the survey questionnaire addressed the youth's experience with the police asking questions such as 'How many times were you/ your group of friends stopped by the police without a reasonable suspicion by the police officer?' or 'How many times were you stopped by the police because of a false accusation?' These were just two example questions that were relevant for measuring the dependent variable police contact. Previous research showed that the several questions addressing the measurement of police contact gave more significant results if there were created a new variable summing up all contacts with the police within the last twelve months. The study of Svensson et al. (2011) measured this item in a similar way and it turned out to work well. Having this in mind, whenever this thesis refers to police contact it always sums up the answers of the C1 questions. In other words, the variable police contact represents the total number of police contacts young adults had within the last twelve months, which in turn equals the number of police contacts given as answer to question C1e of every respondent's questionnaire.

The second variables' measurement to be discussed is the one of ethnic appearance. Within part A of the questionnaire participants were asked to which of the given ethnic backgrounds he or she feels related. The questionnaire offered a lot of possible ethnic backgrounds such as Russian, Polish, Turkish, Moroccan, Kurdish, German, etc. As the study by Svensson et al. (2011) showed the concept of ethnicity has become highly discussed in science in the last years. To keep this item manageable for this study, a different approach was followed by focusing on the issue of ethnic appearance. Regarding an adequate measurement for this variable this thesis relied on the participant's personal experience and asked them to indicate how they think a police officer or other people would perceive their ethnic appearance while being on the streets. Here, respondents could have indicated to be a young adult with a non-German ethnic appearance or to be a young adult with a German ethnic appearance. A possible drawback of this kind of measurement could be the misinterpretation of the respondent's ethnic appearance itself so as young adults having another ethnic background than the German one mistakenly indicate to be perceived as young adult with a German ethnic appearance instead of indicating to have a non-German ethnic appearance. In sum, this called for a dichotomous variable, in particular dividing up the group into German and non-German young adults.

Availability on the streets is the next variable that needed to be discussed in terms of its measurement. Besides questions related to the average amount of hours per week the participants spent on different activities the concept of availability was directly operationalized by question A5f: How much time do you spend on being outside, on the streets or in a shopping mall? Next to Waddington (2004), who used this concept for populations available for stop and searches, Svensson et al. (2014) relied on this measurement as well. According to them, it was noted that if young adults are available for a police contact, they are also more likely to be subject to such an incident with the police.

In the fourth place, illegal individual behavior called for an adequate measurement. The concept of illegal individual behavior was measured by using fourteen self-report delinquency items giving information about what delinquent acts were performed by the participant within the last twelve months. Examples of such concrete forms of illegal behavior were taking soft/hard drugs, selling drugs, having a violent incident with somebody, skipping school, stealing something, being drunk in public, etc. In particular, participants were asked to indicate whether they committed the certain offences or not. All respective items can be found in the questionnaire from D1a to D1n. Using such self-reporting items always bear the possibility of bringing around some risks as for example that the results of young adults in this thesis' case are only as honest as the respondents indicate to be with their answers to the questionnaire. Therefore, it is likely that young adults simply indicate to be half as delinquent as they actually were because they feel ashamed or might think that anyone might punish them if they find out about the young adult's real illegal behavior. All in all, this thesis needed to rely on the respondents' honesty and kept this limitation in mind when it came to interpreting the results of this thesis.

Finally a measurement measuring illegal group behavior was due. The involvement of the participants in delinquent youth groups was measured by the same fourteen self-report delinquency items as was used for measuring illegal individual behavior. For this variable these items were applied to the relevant group of friends of each of the respondent. In particular every respondent was asked to indicate whether his or her friends had shown each of the delinquent acts within the last twelve months or not. Here again, all respective items of illegal group behavior are listed in the questionnaire from D2a to D2n. Besides, it is worth to say that this thesis undertook a change in coding the data according to the illegal group behavior variables. Since the data were collected in a combination of paper and online survey questionnaires it was necessary to transform the original question 'How often did your group of friends commit the following illegal behavior?' with the answer possibilities 'not at all', 'once or twice', 'twice or more' into 'Did your group of friends commit [illegal behavior] within the last twelve months?' providing the answer possibilities 'Yes' or 'No'. The main reason for this

question and answer transformation was the format of the online survey, so as the original question could not have been asked and answered in this way.

### **3.6 Method of Testing Analysis**

With the delivery of the theoretical framework, the methods part and the variable's measurement in mind it can now be argued in what way the data were statistically described and tested to come reasonable answers regarding the main and sub research questions of this thesis. Next to that, it seems important to state why this thesis distinguished between method of data analysis and method of testing analysis. The main aim of the distinction was just to make clear that there was a need to perform the analysis within two steps. Firstly, we had to transform the data, mostly given in words, into numerical values. With this the thesis was enabled to make the second step, meaning to carry out statistical descriptions and tests of the data. In addition, both steps of analysis, the descriptive one and the testing one, are statistics. This thesis distinguished between descriptive statistics and testing statistics because for one thing the descriptive statistics provided statistical information about the background of the respondent's answers given to the survey questionnaire whereas for another thing the testing statistics are related to the main- and sub questions testing each related hypothesis in order to draw conclusions from it. Having stated that this thesis was based on quantitative data it meant to conduct the statistical analysis by using the statistical program SPSS in its twentieth version.

The next step after having set up measurements for every variable included a bivariate test of correlation and was important to be undertaken for answering the all three research questions, because the test of correlation showed to what extent the variables are relevant to each other. In case the test would have shown no significant correlation then the respective variables used so far for this thesis needed to be reconsidered. If it turned out that there was no significant correlation between two of the variables this thesis should have considered to replace the certain variable with another that seemed more relevant for this thesis. In general, the bivariate test of correlation can be applied in two possible ways, depending on the results of the Kolmogorov-Sminov test. Option one is conducting a bivariate test of correlation by means of the Sperman's rho test. Option two is conducting the same test but by means of the Pearson's r test. For variables that show to be normally distributed, option two may be applied. Hence, for variables that show to be significantly skewed the Sperman's rho needs to be applied. The purpose of calculating the correlation coefficients is to relate the relevant variables to each other and to prove whether the correlation seems to be significant. As shown in Table 6 (see page 24) the data for this thesis do not follow a normal distribution, leading to use non-parametric tests for the statistical analysis.

Hypothesis 1 assumed that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more frequent contacts with the police than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. This hypothesis called for a comparison of the means of two independent groups. In other words, this thesis sought to find out the difference of the total number of police contacts between young adults with a German ethnic appearance and young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance. Therefore, a Mann-Whitney U test was applied.

Hypothesis 2 assumed that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance spent more time on the streets, reported more individual illegal and more group illegal behavior than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. In this case, the same test, Mann-Whitney U test, was applied in order to compare the two groups concerning their time spend on the streets, their illegal individual and illegal group behavior. Until now the statistical tests were important to approve the given background and theoretical part of this study. The following step sought to help answering the main- and sub-research questions.

To evaluate the linear relationship between the different independent variables and the one dependent variable this thesis made use of a multiple regression analysis. As confirmed by some scholars multivariate regression analysis proved to be appropriate for this thesis because it can be ascertained to what extent the relationship between ethnic appearance and police contact is explained by differences in the other independent variables. For this thesis, the dependent variable is police contact. On the other hand we have ethnic appearance, availability on the streets, illegal individual behavior, and illegal group behavior as the independent variables. Since this thesis is interested in the effect of the independent variables on the dependent one, we had to include control variables that could have influenced the results once they were omitted. For this thesis, the variables that were controlled for are gender and educational level of the respondents. To assure that these variables do not explain away the entire association between the independent variables and the total number of police contacts, this thesis put the control variables into the model first. With this, it was ensured that these control variables got credit for any shared variability that they may had on the dependent variable before the predictor variables do so. In the end, it can be stated that any observed effect of the independent variables was independent of the effects of the variables that were controlled for.

The main aim of regression analysis was to find estimates of treatment effects. With that said, the analysis gave evidence about how the dependent variable changes, when different independent variables varied, with two other variables being controlled for. To put it differently, the analysis showed to what extent the frequency of police contacts varied if we controlled for gender and educational level and if ethnic appearance, availability on the streets, illegal individual behavior or illegal group behavior were applied. Hypothesis 3 presumed that more hours spent on the streets, more illegal individual and more illegal group behavior lead to more frequent police contact. In order to test this assumption a non-parametric Spearman's Rank correlation was carried out.

### **3.7 Conclusion**

To sum it up, chapter three has delivered an overview of the methods used in this thesis to meet the needs for answering the research questions. In particular, this chapter argued why this thesis opted for a cross-sectional post-test only design so as the relationship between ethnic appearance and police contacts could have been investigated in an adequate way. Furthermore, young adults with and without a migration background in the age 12 to 25 and living in one of the three Ruhr Area cities Gelsenkirchen, Oberhausen and Recklinghausen seemed to be most appropriate target group for collecting data according on the topic of young adults and the police. The data collection was based in a former invented survey questionnaire made up by Svensson et. al (2012) whereas the data collection process itself took place in March and April 2015. This thesis opted for a non-probability sampling strategy, which in particular was specialized into a convenience sampling strategy. To give room for the reader of getting an idea of how the theory was transferred into practice measurements for every relevant variable that is present in the set of hypothesis were given. Finally, method of testing analysis was discussed to give the reader an overview of what statistical tests were performed to test the hypotheses related to the sub-questions, contributing to the overall answer given to the main research question of this thesis.

As a next step in the process of this thesis, the corresponding teacher of the secondary school in Recklinghausen was contacted, young adults were approached in the public in the cities of Gelsenkirchen and Oberhausen. After the data collection was completed the answers given by the respondents were converted into the statistical program SPSS with the help of the codebook (see appendix) adjusted for this particular survey questionnaire. In the next chapter the results of the analysis, descriptive and statistical, are presented.

## 4. Results

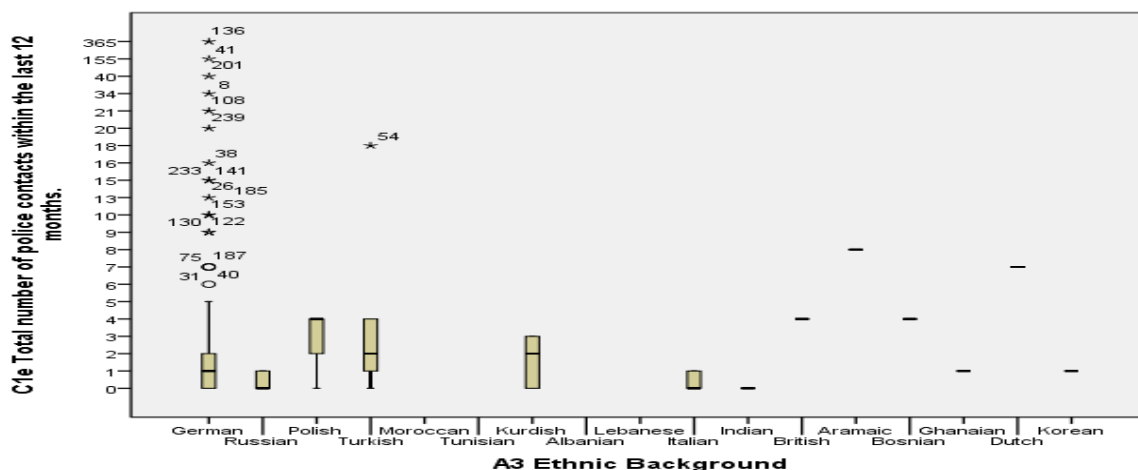
Chapter four presents the results that were drawn from the analyses according to answer the main – and sub-questions underlying this thesis. This chapter is divided into two parts representing each step that was taken to perform the whole analysis, whereby the first part addresses the results from the descriptive analysis and the second part sets its focus on the results from the testing analysis. Also, the answers to the main – and sub-questions related to this thesis are mainly given during the second part whereas the first part only provides an overview of the answers in general.

First of all and before revealing any results from the analyses, the data needed to be transformed from any kind of responses into standardized numerical values so as the statistical program SPSS could have conducted any description, test and table. Therefore, a codebook especially adjusted for the survey questionnaire of this thesis was created. Such a codebook used in survey research aims at fulfilling two purposes. On the one hand a codebook leads the way through the process of coding responses that were collected with the questionnaire. On the other hand it functions as a documentation of the layout and code definitions of the data file. The respective codebook for this thesis can be found in the appendix.

### Results from the descriptive analysis

Step one includes all the descriptive statistics, which are seven in total. In particular, different tables and charts were created to demonstrate the background information regarding experienced contacts with the police, perceived ethnic appearance, hours spent on the streets, and reported illegal behavior. To begin with the results related to the dependent variable of this thesis Table 1 (see appendix) indicates the answers given to question C1e of the survey dealing with the total number of police contacts. Here, 97.1 per cent of the respondents, representing 236 young adults, gave valid answers whereas there were missing values for 7 respondents, accounting for only 2.9 per cent. Around 41.2 per cent of the respondents had no contact with the police at all within the last twelve months. 19.2 per cent got in contact with the police once and 14 per cent twice. As shown in Figure 3, there were two extremes noticeable, namely respondent number 136 with 365 contacts with the police and respondent number 41 with about 155 police contacts. From the survey questionnaire it was plausible that these two respondents have parents that work for the police and that is why they indicated having contact with the police that often. Therefore, no real bad behavior of these two young adults was at stake which would have led them to such a high frequency of police contacts. For that reason, these observations were excluded regarding the statistical analysis of this thesis in order not to affect the valid answers and hence the results for the relevant hypotheses.

Figure 3: Box plot of frequency of police contacts by ethnic background

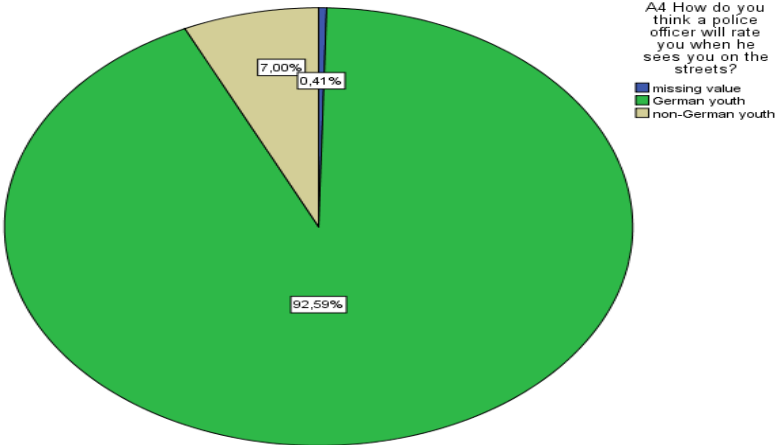


Note. N = 243

Source: data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Secondly, Figure 4 is the next descriptive statistics we are dealing with, since it illustrates the answers given to question A4 that were related to the independent variable ethnic appearance. Having a look at Figure 4, let us conclude that only 7 per cent of young adults, who participated in the survey questionnaire, thought that they appeared as a non-German youth to a police officer. Table 2 (see appendix) on the other hand indicates that there were 25 respondents in total that should have indicated to have a non-German ethnic appearance, representing 10.29 per cent. This might be the result of the possible drawback of this kind of measurement mentioned earlier in this thesis, meaning that young adults misinterpret their physical appearance and hence falsely indicate to have a German ethnic appearance when in fact they have a non-German one. Besides, most of the respondents, namely 92.59 per cent, appeared to be German adults, which seems not very surprising.

Figure 4: Pie chart representing the respondent’s ethnic appearance

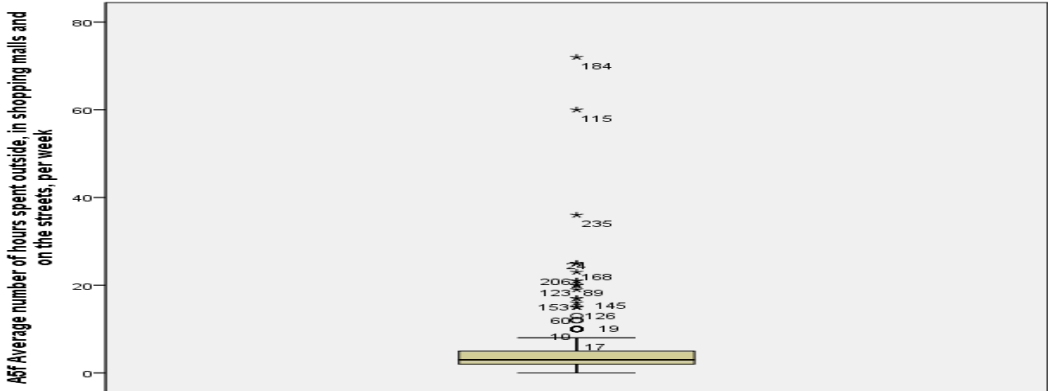


Note. N = 243

Source: data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

In the third place, we took a look at Figure 5 indicating that there were some outliers (marked by a circle) and several extremes (marked by an asterisk (\*)) for the variable ‘availability on the streets’ measured by the average hours spent on the streets within a week. The three highest extremes represent respondent number 184 who indicated having spent 72 hours per week on the streets. Respondent 115, who hung out on the streets for 60 hours and respondent 235 indicated having spent 36 hours on average on the streets per week. A week contains 168 hours, which makes the two highest extremes very unlikely to be realistic. In other words, these respondents may have misunderstood the question or simply given an invalid answer.

Figure 5: Box plot of average hours spent on the streets per week



Note. N = 243

Source: data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

As a consequence, these observations were excluded regarding the testing analysis in order not to affect the valid answers and hence the results for the relevant hypotheses. Taking that into account, the results for the variable measuring young adult's availability on the streets (see Table 3) signify that respondents spent on average 26.37 hours per week on going to school or to university with a standard deviation of 13.67. Only 4.61 hours per week were spent on the streets with a standard deviation of 4.91 by the respondents of this thesis. That makes availability on the streets the second lowest ranked activity according to the average hours spent per week. Visits to youth centers, discos or cafes claimed the lowest number of hours spent during a week with 3.06 hours and a standard deviation of 4.336.

Table 3: Distribution of the hours per week spent by young adults on doing different activities

Activities	Mean	Std. Deviation	N	
			Valid	Missing system
At school/ University	26.37	13.67	240	3
Doing homework	5.99	6.86	242	1
Working	11.33	16.13	241	2
Doing sports, hobby	10.21	9.63	241	2
Cafes, youth centers or discos	3.06	4.34	241	2
On the streets	4.61	4.91	239	4

*Note.* Hours spend per week

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Fourth, Table 4 then provides an overview of all kinds of illegal behavior including frequencies and percentages the participants experienced or conducted individually within the last twelve months. With regard to the table, it can be stated that with 113 traffic rule violation, representing 57.36 per cent of the valid answers given by young adults (N = 197), this item was the most often committed illegal behavior. On average every second respondent committed a traffic rule violation within the last twelve months. Secondly, 81 respondents indicated being drunk in public within the last year, which represents every third youth. According to the percentages it can be said that of 203 (N) respondents 39.90 per cent indicated that they were drunk in public within the last twelve months. Not paying for driving with the bus, train, or etcetera is ranked the third most often committed criminal behavior with about 79 times and representing 38.73 per cent of 204 (N) respondents . In contrast, only 1.46 per cent of the respondents ,that is three times, indicated to break in or attempted to break in somewhere within the last twelve months, meaning every 81st respondent. Being capable of measuring illegal individual behavior in a general sense, all items were summed up into a newly created variable named, illegal individual behavior.



Table 4: Illegal individual behavior

Illegal individual behavior	Frequency	Valid percent	N	Missing system
Not paying for bus, train, etc.	79	38.73	204	39
Traffic rule violation	113	57.36	197	46
Skipping school	42	20.59	204	39
Purposely damaging things of others	23	11.22	205	38
Smudging walls, fences, bus seats or alike with paint	6	2.93	205	38
Stealing or attempting to steal	10	4.88	205	38
Breaking in somewhere or try to do so	3	1.46	205	38
Beating up someone	9	4.41	204	39
Lying about age to buy alcohol or cigarettes	33	16.18	204	39
Carrying a weapon for protection	13	6.37	204	39
Being drunk in public	81	39.90	203	40
Using soft drugs	42	20.59	204	39
Using hard drugs	12	5.88	204	39
Selling drugs	8	3.92	204	39

*Note.* Answers are given on a yes or no basis

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

In the fifth place, answers given to illegal group behavior items being indicated in the survey questionnaire from questions D2a to D2n are represented in Table 5. Generally speaking, one can recognize almost the same pattern for the items traffic rule violation, not paying for bus, train, etc., being drunk in public, and breaking in somewhere or try to do so as was found for illegal individual behavior. Therefore, 123 respondents indicated that their group of friends committed a traffic rule violation, which represents every second group. In other words, 65.78 per cent of the 187 valid given answers of the respondents committed a traffic rule violation within the last twelve months. In the second place it was indicated that 116 groups of friends did not pay for driving with the bus or the train. That is 60.73 per cent of 191 respondents and means every second group of friends perpetrated this kind of criminal behavior. With 115 times, about 60.85 per cent of 189 respondents indicated that their group of friends was drunk in public. This ranks 'being drunk in public' as the third most committed criminal behavior regarding groups of friends. Here, also every second group of friends was once drunk in public within the last twelve months. The least common illegal behavior among group of friends was breaking in somewhere with only ten indications, which is every 24th group of friends representing around 5.26 per cent of 190 respondents. Regarding the fact that this variable still measured illegal behavior but now related to the respondent's friends it was decided again to sum up the items to a new variable called illegal group behavior.

Table 5: Illegal group behavior

Illegal group behavior	Frequency	Valid percent	N	Missing System
Not paying for bus, train, etc.	116	60.73	191	52
Traffic rule violation	123	65.78	187	56
Skipping school	82	43.16	190	53
Purposely damaging things of others	49	25.79	190	53
Smudging walls, fences, bus seats or alike with paint	20	10.58	189	54
Stealing or attempting to steal	26	13.54	192	51
Breaking in somewhere or try to do so	10	5.26	190	53
Beating up someone	31	16.32	190	53
Lying about age to buy alcohol or cigarettes	58	30.53	190	53
Carrying a weapon for protection	27	14.29	189	54
Being drunk in public	115	60.85	189	54
Using soft drugs	84	44.21	190	53
Using hard drugs	32	17.02	188	55
Selling drugs	26	13.76	189	54

*Note.* Answers are given on a yes or no basis

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

At last, Table 6 gives an impression of the dependent and independent variables and its descriptive statistics that are most important in this thesis. The last column provides information about the test of normality for each variable, which we discuss in chapter five because it relates rather to results from the testing analysis than to the results of descriptive analysis. With regard to the first row of Table 6, we can see that on average young adults had 4.44 contacts with the police within the last twelve months. Furthermore, we can note that every second youth (mean = 2.3196) committed one of the listed illegal behaviors within the last year. The number of illegal behavior almost doubled to 4.1080 when it was related to groups of friends, which means that every fourth group of friends committed one of the listed kinds of illegal behaviors within the last year. Finally, young adults spent an average of 5.24 hours per week on the streets.

Table 6: Overview of dependent and independent variables

Dependent and independent variables	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Test of normality
Total frequency of police contacts	236	0	365	4.44	26.004	.00
Ethnic appearance	243	0	2	1.07	.265	.00*
Illegal individual behavior	194	.00	10.00	2.3196	2.06900	0.04
Illegal group behavior	176	.00	14.00	4.1080	3.33205	.002
Availability on the streets	242	0	72	5.24	7.683	.028

*Note.* N = 243

\*1 Test of normality is not applicable, because ethnic appearance is a dichotomous variable

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

## Results from the testing analysis

Given the results from the first step of the whole analysis, namely the descriptive analysis we can now turn to the second step that was undertaken, meaning to show the results that were drawn from the testing analysis. The first thing to do was to test all relevant variables according to their normal distribution. Therefore, the Kolomogorov-Smirnov test was applied to test whether the data followed a normal distribution or not. Regarding Table 6 it can be seen that the results of the Kolomogorov-Smirnov test for the variables frequency of police contacts, illegal individual behavior, illegal group behavior and availability in the streets did not follow a normal distribution. As a consequence, the hypotheses needed to be tested by using non-parametric tests, being dealt with in the following part. Besides that the main aim of this section was to present the results of the bivariate test of correlation in terms of the Sperman's rho test, the Mann-Whitney test for hypotheses one and two, as well as the results of the non-parametric Spearman's Rank correlation concerning hypothesis three. This thesis chose for a critical  $\alpha = 0.05$  for all respective hypotheses.

In the second place the data showed not follow a normal distribution, which led us to opt for option one, a bivariate test of correlation by means of the Sperman's rho test, to find out whether the used variables in this thesis were relevant to each other and to prove if their correlation seemed to be significant. Table 7 (see appendix) gives an overview of the correlation between ethnic appearance and the total number of police contacts. The Spearman's rho test came to the conclusion that the significance level of the correlation coefficient between ethnic appearance and the total number of police contacts is .259 (2-tailed). In other words, the probability of finding a correlation coefficient of at least .074 between ethnic appearance and the total number of police contacts if there is no linear relationship between both variables in the population equals 26 per cent. Applying a critical  $\alpha$  of 0.05 therefore led to the acceptance of the assumption that the variables used for this thesis were relevant to each other.

Table 8: Summary of Mann-Whitney U test results for hypotheses

	Z - value	P - value	Significance
Hypothesis 1	-1.436	P > 0.05	.151
Hypothesis 2 (availability on the streets)	-.411	P > 0.05	.681
Hypothesis 2 (illegal individual behavior)	-.459	P > 0.05	.646
Hypothesis 2 (illegal group behavior)	-.185	P > 0.05	.853

Note.  $\alpha = 0.05$

Thirdly, Table 8 summarizes the results for the Mann-Whitney U tests related to Hypothesis 1 and Hypothesis 2. In particular, Hypothesis 1 was tested by means of a Mann-Whitney U test to find out whether young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance had more frequent contacts with the police than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. The test results showed to be negative and not significant with a z-value = -1.436 and a p-value > 0.05 (see Table 8; and Table 10 in appendix). Next to that Table 9 (see appendix) indicates that young adults with a German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of 116 contacts with the police, whereas young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of about 140 contacts with the police.

For Hypothesis 2 a Mann-Whitney U test was conducted as well. It was assumed that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance were more available on the streets, and report more illegal individual and illegal group behavior than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. Regarding availability on the streets it can be stated that the test was negative and not significant with a z-value = - .411 and a p-value > 0.05 (see Table 7; and Table 12 in appendix). After Table 11 (see

appendix) young adults with a German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of 121.49 hours per week being available on the streets and young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance had a lower mean rank with only 114.16 hours per week. Taking a look at illegal individual behavior the test showed to be negative and not significant with a z-value = - .459 and a p-value > 0.05 (see Table 7; and Table 14 in appendix). Here, young adults with a German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of 97.54 concerning illegal individual behavior and young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of illegal individual behavior of 91. Illegal group behavior was the third variable that was tested with regard to Hypothesis 2. In this case the test turned out to be negative and not significant with a z-value = - .185 and a p-value > 0.05 (see Table 7; and Table 16 in appendix). It can be inferred from Table 15 (see appendix) that youth with a German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of illegal group behavior of about 88.22 and youth with a non-German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of 85.78.

Fourth, Hypothesis 3 called for a regression analysis to evaluate the linear relationship between the dependent variable and the different independent variables in this thesis. In order to do so, the data were entered in SPSS with a block entry method, meaning to enter the variables in two different steps – the two control variables in step 1, and the four independent variables in step 2 (see Table 17 in appendix). The whole regression analysis was undertaken and reported in four paces. In the first place Table 18 shows the percent of variability in the dependent variable that can be accounted for by all the predictors together. In other words, it gives an idea about the interpretation of the R-square. In particular, the change in  $R^2$  is a way to evaluate how much predictive power was added to the model by the addition of another variable in step 2. In this case, the percent of variability accounted for went up from 2.1 % to 11.3% - much of an increase.

Table 18: Regression Analysis: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the estimate	Change statistics				
					R Square Change	F Change	df1	df2	Sig. F Change
1	.146 <sup>a</sup>	.021	.009	3.224	.021	1.764	2	162	.175
2	.336 <sup>b</sup>	.113	.079	3.108	.092	4.088	4	158	.004

Note.

a. Predictors: (Constant), A6 current type of school, A2 Gender

b. Predictors: (Constant), A6 current type of school, A2 Gender, A4 Ethnic appearance, Illegal Individual behavior, A5f Average hours spent on the streets, Illegal group behavior

Secondly, Table 19 shows that the first model (educational level and gender) did not predict scores on the total number of police contacts to a statistically significant degree with a p – value of .175 > .05. On the other hand, the second model (educational level, gender plus ethnic appearance, illegal individual behavior, availability on the streets, and illegal group behavior) predicted scores on the total number of police contacts to a statistically significant degree, because of a p – value of .004 < .05 (see Table 19). As a conclusion it means that ethnic appearance, illegal individual behavior, availability on the streets, and illegal group behavior had an effect above and beyond the effects of educational level and gender.

Table 19: Regression Analysis: ANOVA<sup>a</sup>

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean square	F	Significance
1	Regression	2	18.331	1.764	.175 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	162	10.393		
	Total	164			
2	Regression	6	32.425	3.358	.004 <sup>c</sup>
	Residual	158	9.657		
	Total	164			

Note.

a. Dependent Variable: C1e Total number of police contacts within the last 12 months.

b. Predictors: (Constant), A6 Current type of school, A2 Gender

c. Predictors: (Constant), A6 current type of school, A2 Gender, A4 Ethnic appearance, Illegal Individual behavior, A5f Average hours spent on the streets, Illegal group behavior

Thirdly, Table 20 gives an impression of the predictor and control variables. It represents the regression weights and significance levels for each model. Since only the predictor variables from the second model were statistical significant (see Table 19), we are not able to interpret the coefficients from the first model but from the second model.

Table 20: Regression Analysis: Coefficients<sup>a</sup>

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig.
1	(Constant)	.480	.863		.556	.579
	A2 Gender	.944	.504	.146	1.873	.063
	A6 Current type of school	.002	.113	.001	.019	.985
2	(Constant)	-2.047	1.239		-1.652	.101
	A2 Gender	.644	.496	.099	1.299	.196
	A6 Current type of school	.039	.111	.027	.354	.724
	A4 Ethnic appearance	1.659	.838	.150	1.979	.050
	A5f average hours spent on the streets	-.031	.056	-.047	-.564	.574
	Illegal individual behavior	.163	.167	.102	.980	.329
	Illegal group behavior	.201	.105	.206	1.913	.058

Note.

a. Dependent variable: C1e Total number of police contacts within the last 12 months.

In addition to Table 20, the estimated regression equation reads as following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Police contact} = & -2.047 + .644 \times \text{Gender} + .039 \times \text{Current type of school} + 1.659 \\
 & \times \text{Ethnic appearance} - .031 \times \text{hours spent on the streets} + .163 \\
 & \times \text{illegal individual behavior} + .201 \times \text{illegal group behavior}
 \end{aligned}$$

The regression coefficients for availability in the streets is the only one with a negative sign compared to gender, educational level, ethnic appearance, illegal individual behavior and illegal group behavior. In this way, it can be said that if the 'availability' variable decreased the number of police contacts decreased too. For every difference in being male or female, the probability of having contact with the police increased by 64.4 per cent. For every difference in a particular type of school the probability of having contact with the police increased by 3.9 per cent. With regard to ethnic appearance it is to say, that with every difference in a particular ethnic apparent feature the probability of being stopped by

the police increased by 165.9 per cent. For every increase in a unit of illegal individual behavior the probability of having contact with the police increased by 16.3 per cent. Coming back to illegal group behavior it can be stated that with every increase in a unit of illegal group behavior the probability of getting in contact with the police increased by 20.1 per cent.

As a final pace in the whole regression analysis, we took a look at whether the results from the regression analysis were significant or not. From Table 20 it can be derived that the significance level of the correlation coefficient between ethnic appearance and the total number of police contacts is  $.05 = .05$  and for this reason declared as being significant. In particular, it means that this result is inconsistent with the assumption that the null hypothesis is true so as we reject the null hypothesis. With a significance level of the correlation coefficient between availability on the streets and the total numbers of police contacts of  $.574$  and having applied a critical  $\alpha$  of  $.05$ , we accept the null hypothesis for this variable with the result that availability was a predictor of having police contacts as well. In the third place we have a significance level of the correlation coefficient between illegal individual behavior and the total number of police contacts of about  $.329 > .05$ , leading us again to accept the null hypothesis for this variable and conclude to see illegal individual behavior as a predictor for having contact with the police. The significance level of the correlation coefficient between illegal group behavior and the total number of police contacts is  $.058$  and hence slightly greater than the critical value  $.05$  so as it is also accepted that the null hypothesis for this variable is true and that illegal group behavior was a predictor for having contact with the police.

In sum, this chapter has delivered an analysis that was undertaken in two steps. Within the first step it was revealed that 41.2 per cent of the respondents had no contact with the police in the last twelve months. 19.2 per cent had contact with the police once and 14 per cent of the young adults got in contact with the police twice. With regard to the answers given in the survey questionnaire it appeared that only 7 per cent thought of being perceived as a non-German young adult concerning their physical appearance. The rest of the respondents accounted for being German. By the means of the survey questionnaire the respondents were asked to indicate an average amount of hours spent on certain activities in a week during the last twelve months. Among doing to school/ university, doing sports, doing homework, working and visiting youth centers, cafes and discos only 4.61 hours per week were spent on the streets, which makes it the second lowest ranked activity. Next to that, it was found that traffic rule violations were the most often committed illegal kinds of behavior whereas breaking in somewhere appeared to be the least often committed one. The findings ranks concerning illegal kinds of behavior were the same for both, illegal individual as well as for illegal group behavior. The second step of the analysis set its focus on testing the data in terms of proving whether Hypothesis 1, 2 and 3 were statistically significant or insignificant. For Hypothesis 1 and 2 we can state that both showed to have insignificant results. Hypothesis 3 tested for two models, because of the variables' entry method. Here, only the second model predicted scores on the total number of police contacts to a statistically significant degree, meaning that ethnic appearance, illegal individual behavior, availability on the streets, and illegal group behavior had an effect above and beyond the effects of educational level and gender. What the results exactly mean for this thesis and in relation to previous findings of other scholars is discussed within the next chapter.

## 5. Discussion

Given the descriptive and statistical analysis of the data for this thesis chapter five provides a discussion accompanied by interpretation of the results, answers to the main research question and its sub-questions and closes with a final concluding remark.

Since the analysis showed that all variables were relevant to each other, a fundamental basis for further interpretation of the results was present. Therefore, the results for Hypothesis 1 indicated that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more frequent police contacts than young adults with a German ethnic appearance, since they had a mean rank of about 140 contacts with the police compared to young adults with a German ethnic appearance having a mean rank of only 116 contacts with the police. The second hypothesis assumed that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance report more hours spent on the streets, more illegal individual behavior and more illegal group behavior. Regarding availability on the streets it is to say that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance spent significantly more hours per week on the streets than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. Instead they spent on average 7 hours less on the streets than German ethnic youth. This contradiction can be the result of Type II Error, meaning not to reject the null hypothesis when in fact the alternative hypothesis is true. Secondly, it is ascertained that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance showed more illegal behavior than young adults with a German ethnic appearance although they ranked slightly higher with a mean of 97.54 illegal behaviors compared to only 91 for German ethnic youth. Here, also the Type II Error might come up, leading this thesis to falsely accept the null hypothesis. Thirdly, it was tested for illegal group behavior. Here, the statistical results indicate that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance had friends that were significantly more likely to commit illegal behavior than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. In this case, Type II Error is also present since youth with a German ethnic appearance had a mean rank of about 88.22 and youth with a non-German ethnic appearance had a lower mean rank of 85.78.

Results from hypothesis 3 are formulated as following. It was found that there exists a relationship for every independent variable with the dependent variable. With the following results of the analysis it was determined which of the independent variables has the strongest impact on the number of police contacts. Since all observed variables were not measured in the same kind of unit, the standardized regression coefficient, Beta  $\beta$ , was more appropriate to be used. In general, these values give an idea about the direction whether positive or inverse, and the weighting of each independent variable relative to the other independent variables in explaining the variation of the dependent one. Taking a look at the relationship between ethnic appearance and the total number of police contacts we can state that a  $\beta$  of .150 (see Table 20 on page 28) stands for the second strongest relationship among all independent variables. With regard to availability on the streets it was found to be the weakest and at the same time only negative relationship between being available on the streets and the number of police contacts with a  $\beta$  of -.047 (see Table 20 on page 28). According to availability on the streets this thesis verifies previous research conducted by Ariza (2014), Saharso and Svensson (2014) and Waddington et. al (2004), who found evidence for significant differential use of public places for different ethnic groups. Here, we still have to keep in mind the possibility of the Type II Error mentioned earlier. The third independent variable that was tested with regard to its relationship with the number of police contacts was illegal individual behavior. In this case, the second strongest relationship is present with a  $\beta$  of .102 (see Table 20 on page 28). In the fourth place, it was tested for the relationship between the two variables of illegal group behavior and the number of police contacts. As given by Table 20 the  $\beta$  for these two variables is .206 and stands for the strongest positive relationship. Having said that, this thesis agrees with McAra and McVie (2005) that the independent variable named illegal group behavior was a strong and in this case the main predictor of

having contact with the police. Important to note for this thesis is that ethnic appearance had only the second strongest impact on the dependent variable and led us to conclude that ethnic appearance was not the main predictor for having contact with the police. The weakest impact on the dependent variable had variable measured by the number of hours youth spent on the streets.

Based on the results drawn from the analysis undertaken in chapter four the main research question and its sub-questions can be answered now. Since the null hypothesis concerning Hypothesis 1, and respectively to sub-question one, cannot be rejected because of an insignificant outcome, young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance reported more frequent police contacts than young adults with a German-ethnic appearance. This finding complies with the findings of the study from Saharso and Svensson (2014) and disagrees with Van der Leun and Van der Woude (2011) as well as with Junger (1989) saying that there is no significant evidence found in order to say that police discrimination is at stake. The same pattern goes for sub-question two. The null hypothesis assumed that the independent variables of availability on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior explain the differences in the number of police contacts rather than the independent variable of ethnic appearance does. This is only the case for illegal group behavior. Illegal individual behavior and the number of hours spent on the streets indicated to have a weaker relationship to the number of police contacts than ethnic appearance did. In sum, the answer to sub-question two reveals that the number of police contacts can be explained to a great extent by illegal group behavior and only to a very small extent by the number of hours spent on the streets. This is in line with the argument of Bowling and Marks (2015) so as stop and searches conducted by police officers should be based on reasonable grounds that are characterized as being ‘objective, justifiable, explicable and acceptable to the person stopped.’ Illegal group behavior therefore represents a reasonable ground next to the aspect of ethnic appearance. Hence, ethnic appearance cannot be seen as the sole plausible explanation for group differences regarding crime and disorder as Van der Leun and Van der Woude (2011) put it. The answers to sub-questions one and two amount to the answer that is given to the main research question. Thus, it can be stated that the relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of police contacts with young adults in the age of 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area was a semi-strong one. Besides ethnic appearance, there are other factors such as illegal group behavior that had a stronger influence on the probability of having contact with the police.

As a consequence, the current policing style applied in the Ruhr Area led to unequal treatment of young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance compared to young adults with a German ethnic appearance.

There are two main experiences that can be concluded from this thesis and its results. On the one hand it was recognized that experiences of young adults with the police were very sensitive. This might have been the reason because of changing patterns in young adult life’s from time to time, meaning that young adults are getting in contact with the police, illegal behavior and hanging out with friends in early age, or because of carefulness that is at play when people and especially young adults express their opinion about the police in public. One of the most interesting impressions that were made during the operationalization process of this thesis was the motivation of young adults to participate and share their experiences once it was clear what the survey questionnaire was about. A small number of adults did not take the answering of the survey questionnaire for real so as they gave exaggerated and stupid answers, which led this thesis to omit these. This kind of problem was already addressed by Bowling and Phillips (2007) who stated that the main disadvantage of self-report studies is that they are only as reliable as the honesty of the people participating. In contrast and besides this small number, almost all young adults took the survey questionnaire seriously and were willing to contribute to the thesis. Many of them appreciated the chance of talking about their experiences and feelings concerning their contacts with the police by commenting on the survey questionnaire and asking for the results as soon as they are available. On the other hand it can be stated with regard to the descriptive statistics that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance were not as



overrepresented as in other countries such as the United Kingdom.

Having paid attention to all aspect of this thesis there are some recommendations for future research that would enrich research on this topic. In the first place it is recommended to conduct the study by means of the data collection process over a longer period of time rather than three to four weeks. This may enable further research to collect data from a larger sample and even from a random sample, which is always preferred over a non-random sample. Secondly, it would be helpful to translate the survey questionnaire into more languages. With the translation of the survey questionnaire into other languages than German and English future research can reach even those young adults that do not master the German or the English language. As a third aspect it is recommended to combine quantitative with qualitative research. With regard to the first recommendation of expanding the period of time for the study it would be more helpful to conduct interviews with young adults that may allow a deeper insight and understanding of what the respondents mean by their answers.

## 6. Conclusion

This thesis followed the purpose of finding out what the relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of police contacts of young adults in the age 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area was. Therefore, data was collected between March and April in 2015 by means of a survey questionnaire in paper form regarding the cities of Gelsenkirchen, Recklinghausen and Oberhausen as well as in online form via Google Forms and Facebook. In total 243 young adults completed the survey questionnaire. On the one hand the overall findings of this thesis are similar to what Saharso and Svensson (2014) found and hence verify their assumptions. More in depth, Saharso and Svensson (2014) found that ethnic minority youth reported significantly more often to have had proactive contact with the police than Dutch youth. This thesis in turn answered the main research question in as much as the relationship between ethnic appearance and the number of police contacts with young adults in the age of 12 to 25 in the Ruhr Area is a semi-strong one. Additionally, it approved that young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance had more frequent police contacts than young adults with a German ethnic appearance. On the other hand, both the study from Saharso and Svensson (2014) as well as this thesis differ slightly since this thesis argued that there were other factors such as illegal group behavior that influenced the probability of having contact with the police more than ethnic appearance. Saharso and Svensson (2014) for example state that if the variables availability on the streets, illegal individual and illegal group behavior were introduced “the explanatory power of ethnic appearance is strongly reduced and no longer statistically significant” (p. 11), which is true regarding their study conducted in 2014. With regard to this thesis, something similar but still different was found in as much as after having introduced the three independent variables only illegal group behavior seemed to be a stronger predictor for having contact with the police instead of ethnic appearance. The explanatory power of ethnic appearance was not that strongly reduced as in the study of Saharso and Svensson (2014), because it had a stronger predictive power than the other two variables illegal individual behavior and availability on the streets. All in all, this thesis concludes that the current policing style applied in the Ruhr Area leads to unequal treatment of young adults with a non-German ethnic appearance compared to young adults with a German ethnic appearance.

The European Union should value the results this thesis has delivered because it contributes to already existing research on this topic and work done by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights for example. In general, the European Union offers its citizens as well as many foreign citizens to start a new life within one of the European countries. Politicians, police officers and European citizens play a crucial role in this process so as they should pay more attention to peacefully integrate these people within a stable community. The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) is the EU department responsible to deal with police stops and minorities in the first place. Moreover, the FRA could work with the findings this thesis has delivered to expand their knowledge in terms of understanding and preventing discriminatory ethnic profiling in the EU, and in this case in the Ruhr Area. Since, it is desirable to collect data from almost every Euro Zone, the FRA should support research related to this topic so as it can establish an adequate strategy to counter discriminatory ethnic profiling in a Union which is based on freedom, security and justice. Only if the FRA is able to get a full overview of the situation, it can organize and implement specific instruments fighting the unfortunate situation in the EU. Moreover, the FRA is simply bound to substantial information before it can address a speech to cities and local communities concerning the implementation of developed instruments.

Apart from that, this thesis gave another impression namely that police powers seemed to be misused to a certain extent so as some of the respondents indicated disappointing comments in the survey questionnaire. In other words some respondents think that the police act arrogant and unfair when it comes to an encounter between young adults and the police in the public. One of those behaviors was witnessed several times as the respondents stated that the police officers did not hear

both sides of the situation and decided to the disadvantage of the young adult. Since ethnic profiling in the Ruhr Area was evidenced by this thesis, it agrees with Bowling and Phillips (2007) as well as with Oi (2013) that the reported experiences may result in a loss of public support for the police. As an overall concluding remark this thesis recommends to politicians as well as every other European citizen to pay attention of maintaining a social balance in the society instead of harming it by misused police powers and misjudgments of young adults. Such proactive and judgmental behavior may result in the fact that young adults, who are already staying or coming to Germany to start a new life, may not rely on the police if they are in need of their help. And that is not something Germany or the EU should be proud of.

According to that, a good starting point to counteract ethnic profiling in the EU and especially in Germany would be to undertake this study countrywide in order to get an idea of the severity concerning ethnic profiling. Only if we have plausible results indicating which areas face the problem of ethnic profiling and hence are in need for revision, those responsible – German politicians, German Police – having something to work with in cooperation with the FRA. Together, they should come up with a strategy to cope with this problem threatening the social balance in the society in the future. Another aspect for future research builds upon the former suggestion. Since this is a European related project, it is recommended to establish such a study within every member state of the European Union under scrutiny of the FRA. Therefore, it is important that European citizens know what is going on in their countries, who once declared to grant the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including rights of persons belonging to minorities' where it is made clear that European identity is based on values explicitly not including ethnicity.

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# Appendix

Figure 2: Ruhr Cities within North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany

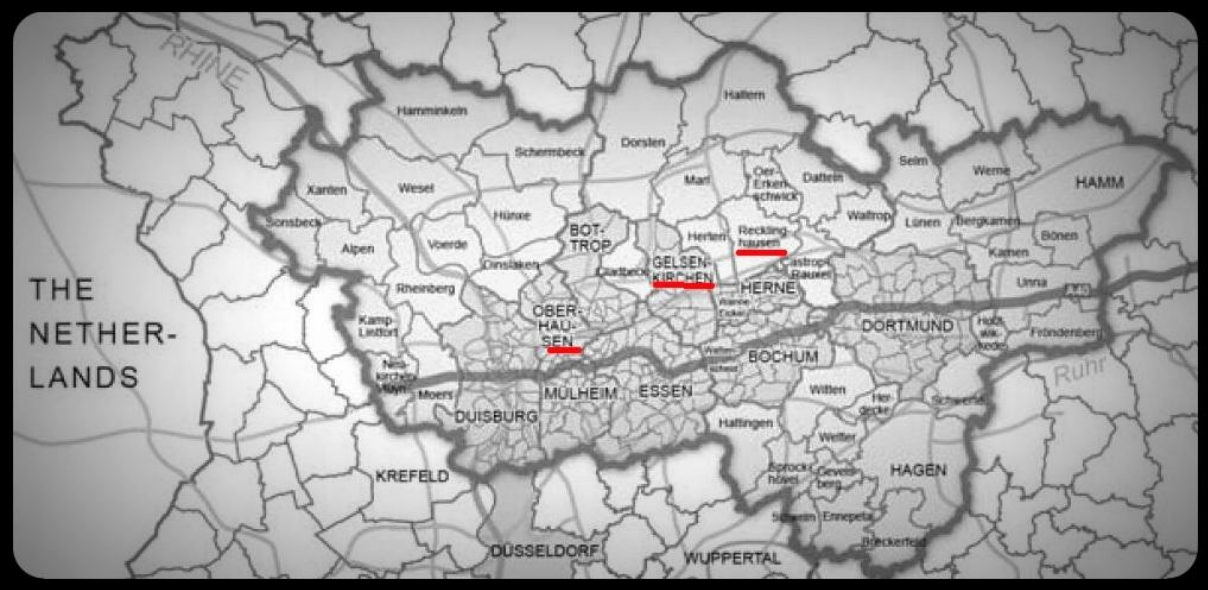


Table 1: Total number of contacts with the police

Number of police contacts	Actual number of police contacts	Percent
0	100	41,2
1	48	19,8
2	34	14,0
3	11	4,5
4	11	4,5
5	9	3,7
6	1	0,4
7	4	1,6
8	1	0,4
9	3	1,2
10	3	1,2
13	1	0,4
15	2	0,8
16	1	0,4
18	1	0,4
20	1	0,4
21	1	0,4
34	1	0,4
40	1	0,4
155	1	0,4
365	1	0,4
Total	236	97,1
Missing System	7	2,9
Total	243	100,0

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 2: Ethnic background in total numbers

Ethnic background	Frequency	Percent
German	218	89,7
Italian	4	1,6
Indian	1	0,4
British	1	0,4
Aramaic	1	0,4
Bosnian	1	0,4
Ghanaian	1	0,4
Dutch	1	0,4
Korean	1	0,4
Russian	3	1,2
Polish	3	1,2
Turkish	6	2,5
Kurdish	2	0,8
Total	243	100
Missing system	0	0
Total	243	100

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis



Table 7: Spearman's rho test for ethnic appearance and number of police contact

Control variables			Ethnic appearance	Total number of police contacts
	A4 How do you think a police officer will rate you when he sees you on the streets?	Correlation Coefficient	1,000	,074
		Significance (2-tailed)	.	,259
Spearman's rho		N	243	236
	C1e Total number of police contacts within the last 12 months.	Correlation Coefficient	,074	1,000
		Significance (2-tailed)	,259	.
		N	236	236

Source: data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 9: Hypothesis 1: Mann-Whitney U test: Ranks

	Ethnic appearance	N	Mean rank	Sum of Ranks
Total number of police contacts	German youth	218	116,30	25354,00
	Non-German youth	17	139,76	2376,00
	Total	235		

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 10: Hypothesis 1: Mann-Whitney test: Test statistics

	Total number of police contacts
Mann-Whitney U	1483,000
Wilcoxon W	25354,000
Z	-1,436
Asymp. Significance (2-tailed)	,151

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 11: Hypothesis 2: Mann-Whitney U test for availability on the streets: Ranks

	Ethnic appearance	N	Mean rank	Sum of Ranks
Total number of police contacts	German youth	225	121,49	27334,50
	Non-German youth	16	114,16	1826,50
	Total	241		

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 12: Hypothesis 2: Mann-Whitney U test for availability on the streets: Test statistics

	Average hours available of the streets per week
Mann-Whitney U	1690,500
Wilcoxon W	1826,500
Z	-,411
Asymp. Significance (2-tailed)	,681

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 13: Hypothesis 2: Mann-Whitney U test for illegal individual behavior: Ranks

	Ethnic appearance	N	Mean rank	Sum of Ranks
Total number of police contacts	German youth	177	97,54	17265,00
	Non-German youth	16	91,00	1456,00
	Total	193		

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 14: Hypothesis 2: Mann-Whitney U test for illegal individual behavior: Test statistics

	Illegal individual behavior
Mann-Whitney U	1320,000
Wilcoxon W	1456,000
Z	-,459
Asymp. Significance (2-tailed)	,646

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 15: Hypothesis 2: Mann-Whitney U test for illegal group behavior: Ranks

	Ethnic appearance	N	Mean rank	Sum of Ranks
Total number of police contacts	German youth	159	88,22	14027,50
	Non-German youth	16	85,78	1372,50
	Total	175		

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Table 16: Hypothesis 2: Mann-Whitney U test for illegal group behavior: Test statistics

	Illegal group behavior
Mann-Whitney U	1236,500
Wilcoxon W	1372,500
Z	-,185
Asymp. Significance (2-tailed)	,853

*Source:* data collected and analyzed by the author of this thesis

The Code book for the questionnaire used in the youth and police survey:

Source: data invented by Saharso et al. (2012) and analyzed by the author of this thesis

Question No.	Variable Name	Variable description (variable label)	Coding (value label)
-	RespNum	Respondent number	Number: 1...N
A1	Age		Number of years
A2	Gender		F = Female M = Male
A3	EthnicBg	Ethnic background	1 = German 2 = Russian 3 = Polish 4 = Turkish 5 = Moroccan 6 = Tunisian 7 = Kurdish 8 = Albanian 9 = Lebanese 10 = Italian 11 = Indian 12 = British 13 = Aramaic 14 = Bosnian 15 = Ghanaian 16 = Dutch 17 = Korean
A4	EthnicAppearance	How do you think a police officer will rate you, when he sees you on the streets?	1 = German youth 2 = non-German youth
A5a	AvSchoolUni	Average number of hours spend on going to school / university, per week	Number of hours
A5b	AvHomework	Average number of hours spend on doing homework, per week	Number of hours
A5c	AvWork	Average number of hours spend on work, per week	Number of hours
A5d	AvSportHobby	Average number of hours spend on sport and hobby, per week	Number of hours
A5e	AvCafeYouthCClub	Average number of hours spend in cafes, youth centers and clubs, per week	Number of hours
A5f	AvOutsideMallStreet	Average number of hours spend in shopping mall and on the streets, per week	Number of hours
A6	TypeSchool	Current type of school	1 = primary school 2 = secondary school 3 = comprehensive school 4 = middle school 5 = lower secondary school 6 = vocational school 7 = university 8 = other

<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
A7	DesSchool Certificate	Desired school leaving certificate	1 = university degree 2 = A level 3 = university of applied science entrance qualification 4 = secondary school diploma 5 = secondary modern school qualification 6 = other
A8a	ALotTimeAtHome	I spend a lot time at home	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
A8b	LikeStayAtHome	I like to stay at home	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
A8c	GoAnywhere ThanStay	I would rather go anywhere than staying at home	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
B1	HaveFriends	Do you have friends with whom you regularly hang out?	0 = no 1 = yes
B2	HowManyFAtOnce	With how many friends at once do you usually meet up?	Number of friends: 1...N
B3	DaysWithFriends	How many days per week do you spend with your friends on average?	0 = less than once a week 1 = once a week 2 = twice a week 3 = three times a week 4 = four times a week 5 = five times a week 6 = six times a week 7 = seven times a week
B4	HoursWithFriends	How many hours per day do you spend together with your friends?	Number of hours
B5a	MeetFriends Home	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out at home?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B5b	MeetFriends School	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out at school or on the school grounds?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B5c	MeetFriends Street	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out on the streets?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies

<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
B5d	MeetFriends Mall	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out in the shopping mall?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B5e	MeetFriends YouthC	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out in a youth center?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B5f	MeetFriends ClubAs	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out in a club or association?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B5g	MeetFriends BarDisco	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out in a bar or disco?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B5h	MeetFriends Elsewhere	When the weather is nice and warm, do you and your group hang out elsewhere?	0 = does not apply 1 = applies
B6a	GroupWithout Trouble	We are a quiet group and nobody has trouble with us.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
B6b	ComplainAboutGroup	Other people complain about our group.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
B6c	OurGroupIsScary	Other people are scared of our group.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
B6d	TrustInOurGroup	Other people trust our group.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C1a	TimesStopped	How often have you been stopped by the police in the last 12 months?	Number of times stopped
C1b	InvolvementStop AndSearch	How often were you involved in a stop-an-search operation in the last 12 months?	Number of times being involved
C1c	StopWithout ExpReason	How often did the police appeal to you or your group without an explicit reason within the last 12 months?	Number of proactive contacts
C1d	WrongSuspicion	How often were you stopped by the police because you were wrongly suspected?	Number of proactive contacts

<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
C1e	TotalNumberContacts	Total number of contacts with the police within the last 12 months.	Number of contacts
C2a	PenaltiesFines	How often did you get penalties/ fines within the last 12 months?	Number of penalties/ fines
C2b	Warnings	How often did you get warnings within the last 12 months?	Number of warnings
C2c	ShowIDCard	How often did you have to show your ID card to the police within the last 12 months?	Number of times showing ID card
C2d	StopSearchesStreet	How often were you stopped and searched in public within the last 12 months?	Number of times being stopped and searched in public
C2e	TakenToPoliceStation	How often were you taken to the police station within the last 12 months?	Number of times being taken to police station
C2f	ConfiscationGoods	How often did the police confiscate goods of you within the last 12 months?	Number of times goods have been confiscated
C2g	BanFromPremises	How often were you / your group banned from a premise within the last 12 months?	Number of bans
C2h	PoliceAtHome	How often did the police come to your home within the last 12 months?	Number of police visits
C3a	PoliceTreatmentCorrect	The police treated me in a correct manner.	0 = no contact with the police within last 12 months 1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C3b	PoliceTreatmentJust	The police treated me in a just manner.	0 = no contact with the police within last 12 months 1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C3c	PoliceTreatmentSameManner	The police would have treated me in the same manner as anyone else in that situation.	0 = no contact with the police within last 12 months 1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree

<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
C3d	PoliceTreatmentRespect	The police treated me with respect.	0 = no contact with the police within last 12 months 1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C3e	PoliceTreatmentFriendly	The police treated me friendly.	0 = no contact with the police within last 12 months 1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C3f	CommentsPoliceContact	Comments given by respondents concerning their contacts with the police	Sentences
C4a	PoliceImportantFunction	The police exercises an important function.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4b	GoodPoliceOnStreets	It is good that there is police on the streets.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4c	MorePoliceOnStreets	There need to be more police officers on the streets.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4d	PoliceGivesSafeFeeling	The police on the streets give me a safe feeling.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4e	PoliceIsReliable	Police officers are reliable.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4f	PoliceFunctionsIn GoodManner	Police officers exercise their function in a good manner.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree



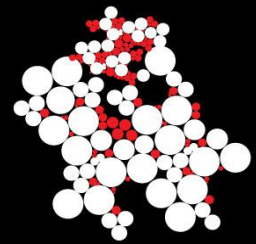
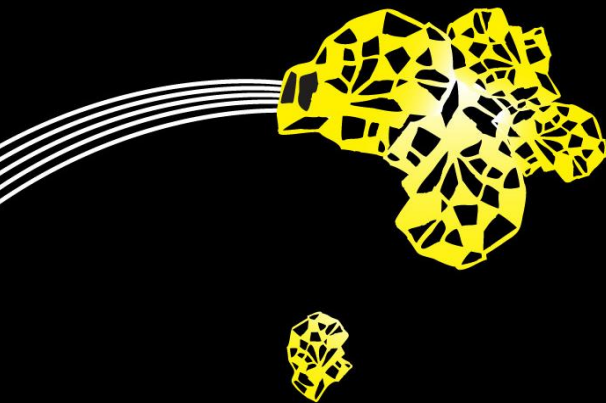
<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
C4g	PoliceBehaviorGood WenNecessary	Police officers behave good when it is necessary.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4h	PoliceKnowsHappening OnStreets	Police officers know what is happening on the streets.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4i	DoingNothingThen PoliceDoNothing	When you do nothing then the police will not do anything to you.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4j	PoliceJust	Police officers are just.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4k	PoliceTreatmentAlike	Police officers treat everyone alike.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4l	FYouthsArrestedQuickly	Foreign youth are being arrested more quickly.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4m	CollaborationAsWitness	I collaborate when the police want me as a witness.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4n	IfBanILeave	If the police bans me from a premise I leave without discussion.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
C4o	AsWitnessContactPolice	When I witness that someone tries to steal a car I try to inform the police.	1 = strongly agree 2 = agree 3 = neutral 4 = disagree 5 = strongly disagree
D1a	Not paying for bus, train, etc. Individual	Did you not pay for the bus or train while driving with it within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1b	TrafficViolation Individual	Did you commit a traffic violation within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes

<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
D1c	SkippingSchool Individual	Did you skip school within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1d	PurposelyDamage Individual	Did you purposely damage things of other within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1e	Smudging Individual	Did you smudge walls, fences, bus seats or alike with paint within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1f	Stealing Individual	Did you attempt to steal within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1g	BreakingIn Individual	Did you try to break into somewhere within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1h	BeatingUp Individual	Did you beat up anyone within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1i	LyingAboutAge Individual	Did you lie about your age to buy alcohol or cigarettes within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1j	WeapongForPortection Individual	Did you carry a weapon for protection within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1k	DrunkInPublic Individual	Were you drunk in public within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1l	SoftDrugs Individual	Did you use soft drugs within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1m	HardDrugs Individual	Did you use hard drugs within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D1n	SellingDrugs Individual	Did you sell drugs within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2a	Not paying for bus, train, etc. Group	Did your group not pay for the bus or train while driving with it within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2b	TrafficViolation Group	Did your group commit a traffic violation within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2c	SkippingSchool Group	Did your group skip school within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2d	PurposelyDamage Group	Did your group purposely damage things of other within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2e	Smudging Group	Did your group smudge walls, fences, bus seats or alike with paint within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2f	Stealing Group	Did your group attempt to steal within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2g	BreakingIn Group	Did your group try to break into somewhere within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2h	BeatingUp Group	Did your group beat up anyone within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2i	LyingAboutAge Group	Did you group lie about your age to buy alcohol or cigarettes within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes

<b>Question No.</b>	<b>Variable Name</b>	<b>Variable description (variable label)</b>	<b>Coding (value label)</b>
D2j	WeapongForPortection Group	Did your group carry a weapon for protection within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2k	DrunkInPublic Group	Was your group drunk in public within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2l	SoftDrugs Group	Did your group use soft drugs within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2m	HardDrugs Group	Did your group use hard drugs within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D2n	SellingDrugs Group	Did your group sell drugs within the last 12 months?	0 = no 1 = yes
D3	Comments	Final comments	sentences
	IllegalIndividualBehavior	Sum of all illegal individual activities	Number of all illegal individual activities
	IllegalGroupBehavior	Sum of all illegal group activities	Number of all illegal group activities

# The Questionnaire:

## UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE.



Vielen Dank, dass du an dieser Studie teilnimmst.

Mit diesem Fragebogen möchten wir herausfinden, wie du als Jugendlicher über die Polizei denkst und was für Erfahrungen du mit der Polizei gemacht hast. Erst stellen wir einige allgemeine Fragen, danach fragen wir nach deinen Erfahrungen mit der Polizei.

Der Fragebogen ist völlig anonym, du brauchst keinen Namen einzutragen und dein Name wird auch nicht notiert.

Du kannst ohne Bedenken ehrliche Antworten geben. Sollte es dennoch Fragen geben, auf die du nicht antworten möchtest, dann brauchst du das auch nicht zu tun.

Dies betrifft nur den Interviewer:

Interviewer: .....

Datum:

Ort: .....

Bemerkungen:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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Dieser Fragebogen wurde im Rahmen des Forschungsprojekts Proaktive Durchsetzung, Gleichbehandlung entwickelt. Kontakt: Dr. J. S. Svensson (j.s.svensson @ utwente.nl).

## A. Hintergrundfragen

**A1** Wie alt bist du? (bitte eintragen): ..... Jahre alt

**A2** Geschlecht?

- männlich
- weiblich

**A3** Welchem ethnischen Hintergrund fühlst du dich selbst zugehörig ?

- Deutsch
- Russisch
- Polnisch
- Türkisch
- Marokkanisch
- Tunesisch
- Kurdisch
- Albanisch
- Libanesisch
- Sonstige (bitte eintragen).....

**A4** Wie denkst du schätzt dich ein Polizist ein, wenn er dich auf die Straße sieht?

- Als einen Deutschen Jugendlichen
- Als einen nicht-Deutschen Jugendlichen

**A5** Wieviel Zeit verbringst du pro Woche mit den folgenden Aktivitäten?

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| a. Zur Schule / Uni gehen  | ..... Std. pro Woche |
| b. Hausaufgaben machen   | ..... Std. pro Woche |
| c. Arbeiten  | ..... Std. pro Woche |
| d. Sport und Hobby   | ..... Std. pro Woche |
| e. Kaffeebesuche, Jugendzentrum, Diskothek etc.                        | ..... Std. pro Woche |
| f. Draußen sein, dich auf der Straße oder im Shoppingzentrum aufhalten | ..... Std. pro Woche |

**A6** Welche Schulform besuchst du? (Wenn du nicht mehr zur Schule gehst, bitte die letzte besuchte Schulform angeben)

- Grundschule
- Gymnasium
- Gesamtschule
- Realschule
- Hauptschule
- Berufsschule
- Universität
- Sonstige (bitte eintragen).....

**A7** Welchen allgemeinbildenden Schulabschluss strebst du an?

- Hochschulabschluss
- Abitur, allgemeine oder fachgebundene Hochschulreife
- Fachhochschulreife, Abschluss einer Fachoberschule
- Realschulabschluss, Mittlere Reife, Fachschulreife
- Hauptschulabschluss
- Sonstige. Welchen?: .....

**A8** Inwiefern stimmst du den folgenden Aussagen zu?

	Stimme voll zu	Stimme eher zu	neutral	Stimme eher nicht zu	Stimme gar nicht zu
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 irgendwo hin als zuhause zu bleiben	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## B. Fragen bezüglich deiner Freunde und deines Freundeskreises

**B1** Hast du einen oder mehrere Freunde mit denen du regelmäßig "abhängst"?

- Ja
- Nein → Fortfahren mit Rubrik C

**B2** Mit wievielen Freunden gleichzeitig triffst du dich meistens? (Dich selbst miteinbezogen)

Mit ..... Personen (Bitte Anzahl angeben)

**B3** Wieviele Tage pro Woche treffen sich du und deine Freunde meistens?

- Ungefähr ..... Tage pro Woche (bitte Anzahl angeben)
- Weniger als einmal pro Woche

**B4** Wieviele Stunden verbringt ihr ungefähr an einem Tag zusammen?

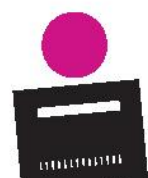
Ungefähr..... Stunden am Tag (Bitte Anzahl angeben)

**B5** An welchem Ort triffst du dich bei schönem, warmem Wetter mit deinen Freunden (maximal 3 Antworten)?

- Bei einem von uns zuhause
- In der Schule / Schulgelände
- Auf der Straße
- Im Einkaufszentrum
- In einem Jugendzentrum
- In einem Club oder Verein
- In einer Diskothek oder Kneipe
- Woanders (bitte eintragen)

**B6** Inwiefern stimmst du den folgenden Aussagen über deinen Freundeskreis zu?

	Stimme voll zu	Stimme eher zu	neutral	Stimme eher nicht zu	Stimme gar nicht zu
a. Wir sind eine ruhige Gruppe, die mit niemandem Ärger hat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Man beschwert sich über unsere Gruppe	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Andere Menschen haben Angst vor uns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Andere Menschen vertrauen uns	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## C. Fragen bezüglich deiner Erfahrung mit der Polizei

**C1** Bitte trage ein wie oft die folgenden Dinge in den letzten zwölf Monaten (ungefähr) vorgekommen sind.

Bitte eintragen

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| a. | Wie oft bist du in den letzten zwölf Monaten wegen einer Verletzung der Verkehrsregeln oder aufgrund eines anderen Verstoßes von der Polizei angehalten worden?                 | ..... mal |
| b. | Wie oft hast du in den letzten zwölf Monaten eine Polizeikontrolle miterlebt?   | ..... mal |
| c. | Wie oft ist es in den letzten zwölf Monaten vorgekommen, dass ein Polizist dich und/oder jemanden aus deiner Gruppe angesprochen hat, ohne dass es dazu einen klaren Grund gab? | ..... mal |
| d. | Wie oft wurdest du in den letzten zwölf Monaten von der Polizei angehalten weil du zu Unrecht verdächtigt wurdest   | ..... mal |
| e. | Wie oft hattest du insgesamt in den letzten 12 Monaten mit der Polizei zu tun?  | ..... mal |

**C2** Wie oft die folgenden Dinge in den letzten zwölf Monaten (ungefähr) vorgekommen sind.

Bitte eintragen

- |    |  |           |
|----|--|-----------|
| a. | Hast du in den letzten 12 Monaten Bußgelder verhängt bekommen? Wie oft?                                    | ..... mal |
| b. | Hat die Polizei dir oder euch (deiner Gruppe und dir) eine Verwarnung gegeben? Wie oft?                    | ..... mal |
| c. | Hast du der Polizei deinen Personalausweis zeigen müssen? Wie oft?   | ..... mal |
| d. | Bist du auf der Straße durchsucht worden? Wie oft?   | ..... mal |
| e. | Wurdest du schon einmal mit auf das Polizeipräsidium genommen? Wie oft?                                    | ..... mal |
| f. | Hat die Polizei etwas von dir beschlagnahmt? Wie oft?  | ..... mal |
| g. | Hat die Polizei dir oder euch (deiner Gruppe und dir) gegenüber einen Platzverweis ausgesprochen? Wie oft? | ..... mal |
| h. | Ist die Polizei bei dir zuhause gewesen? Wie oft?  | ..... mal |

**C3** Inwiefern stimmst du folgenden Aussagen bezüglich deiner Begegnungen mit der Polizei in den letzten zwölf Monate zu? (Wenn du keine Begegnungen mit der Polizei in den letzten 12 Monaten hattest dann Frage überspringen)

	Stimme voll zu	Stimme eher zu	neutral	Stimme eher nicht zu	Stimme gar nicht zu
a. Die Polizei hat mich korrekt behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Die Polizei hat mich gerecht behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Die Polizei hat mich so behandelt, wie jeder andere in dieser Situation behandelt worden wäre	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Die Polizei hat mich mit Respekt behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Die Polizei hat mich freundlich behandelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**C3b** Möchtest du eine Erläuterung zu deinen Aussagen bezüglich deiner Begegnungen mit der Polizei geben?

.....

.....

**C4** Inwiefern stimmst du folgenden Aussagen zu?

	Stimme voll zu	Stimme eher zu	neutral	Stimme eher nicht zu	Stimme gar nicht zu
a. Die Polizei übt eine wichtige Tätigkeit aus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Es ist gut, dass es Polizei auf der Straße gibt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Es muss mehr Polizisten auf den Straßen geben	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Die Polizei auf der Straße gibt mir ein sicheres Gefühl	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Polizisten sind zuverlässig	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Polizisten führen ihre Tätigkeit gut aus	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Polizisten treten gut auf wenn es nötig ist	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Polizisten wissen was auf der Straße passiert	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Wenn du nichts tust, tun dir Polizisten auch nichts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Polizisten sind gerecht	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. Polizisten behandeln jeden gleich gut	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Ausländische Jugendliche werden schneller festgenommen als deutsche Jugendliche	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Wenn die Polizei mich als Zeuge befragen will, arbeite ich mit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Wenn die Polizei mir einen Platzverweis erteilt, gehe ich ohne zu diskutieren	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
o. Wenn ich sehe, dass jemand in ein Auto einbrechen will, versuche ich die Polizei zu verständigen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



## D. Verbotene Dinge tun

Wir würden gerne wissen ob du und deine Freunde manchmal Dinge tun, die verboten sind. Wenn du das bei manchen Dingen nicht sagen möchtest, verstehen wir das natürlich. Mach dir aber keine Sorgen, denn der Fragebogen ist anonym.

	D1		D2		
	Hast du das selbst in den letzten 12 Monaten getan?		Wie oft haben deine Freunde das in den letzten 12 Monaten getan?		
	Nein	Ja	Keinmal	Einmal oder zweimal	Mehr als zweimal
a. Schwarzfahren im Bus oder Zug	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
b. Eine Verkehrsübertretung begehen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
c. Schule schwänzen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
d. Absichtlich Dinge anderer beschädigen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
e. Mauern, Zäune, Bussitze und dergleichen mit Farbe beschmieren	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
f. Etwas stehlen oder versucht zu stehlen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
g. Einbrechen oder versucht einzubrechen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
h. Jemanden versprügelt	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
i. Über das Alter lügen um Alkohol oder Zigaretten kaufen zu können	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
j. Eine Waffe mit sich tragen zum Schutz	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
k. In der Öffentlichkeit betrunken sein	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
l. Weiche Drogen nehmen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
m. Harte Drogen nehmen	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
n. Drogen verkauft	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**D3** Dies ist das Ende des Fragebogens. Hast du selbst noch Fragen oder Anmerkungen?

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.....

**Vielen Dank für deine Mitarbeit !**