

# **An international comparison of the composition and motivations of volunteer officers in a UK and US police force**

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# Aim of research

- Compare the composition of the part-time volunteer police services in Cleveland Police, UK and the Orange County Sheriff's Office, Florida, USA.
- This included the uniformed volunteer's employment status, age, gender, years of experience, motivations for volunteering and the hours volunteered.

# Methodology

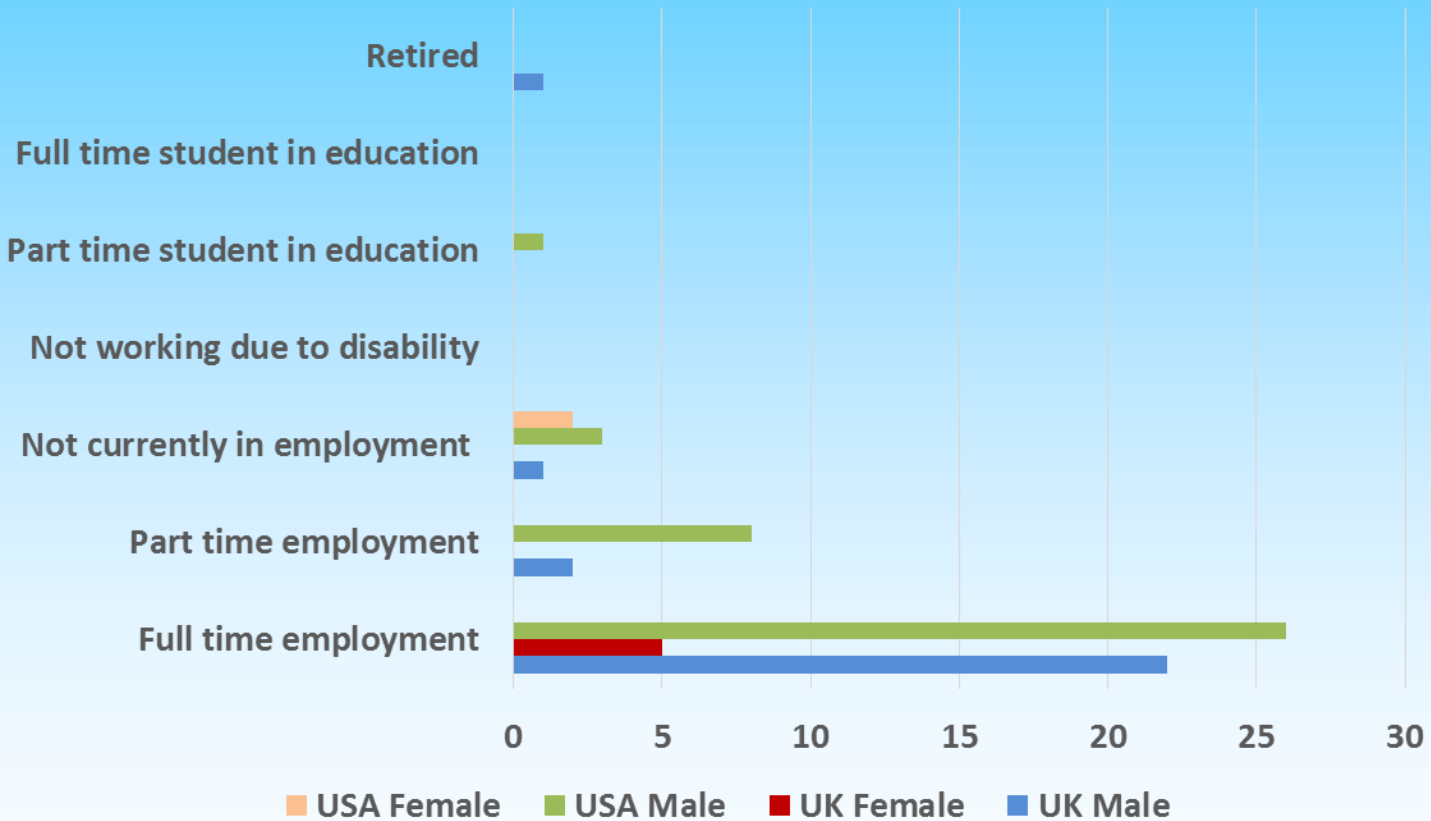
- Sought Institutional Review Board (USA) / Ethics Committee (UK) university approval.
- Approval of both volunteer police agencies and Force executives.
- Questionnaires were distributed to participants selected using convenience sampling during a regular meeting.
- Informed consent was obtained from each participant with their confidentiality assured.

# Participants

- Of the 72 part-time volunteer police officers within Cleveland Police, 31 participated.  
(The force has 1,378 regular officers)
- Cleveland Police covers an area of 600 km<sup>2</sup> with a high population density and high crime
- Of the 85 part-time volunteer deputies within Orange County Sheriff's Office, 40 participated.  
(The department also has 1,400 full-time deputies).
- Orange County Sheriff's Office covers an area of 2,600 km<sup>2</sup>. Also has high population density and high crime.

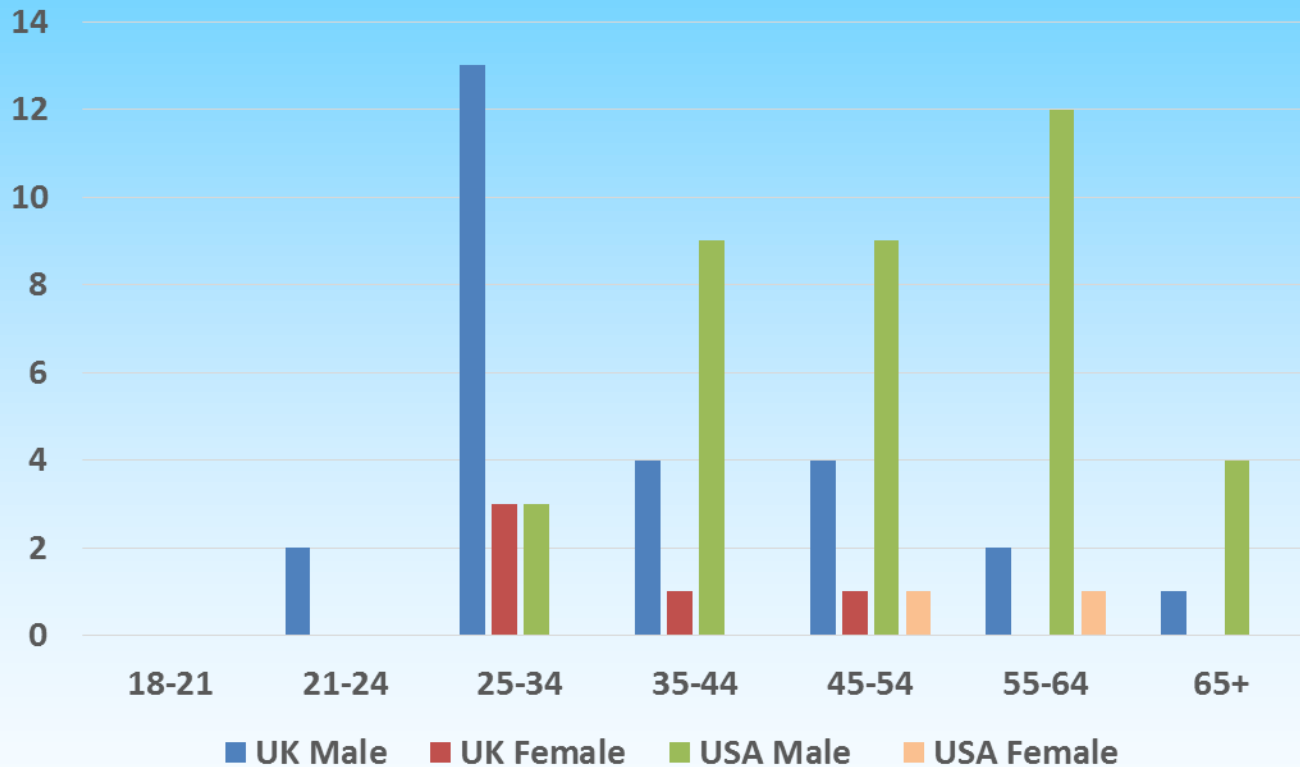
# Outcomes

## Current Status



# Outcomes

Age Range of Participants



# Outcomes

## Hours Donated per month

	UK	UK		USA	USA
	Male	Female		Male	Female
Mean	29	26.8		27.8	4
Median	30	21		20	4
Mode	16	16		20	8
Highest	120	60		80	8
Lowest	8	16		8	0

# Outcomes

## **Cleveland Police (UK) Motivations for Volunteering:**

- 42% of officers selected 'I want to join the regular police service and this provides an insight into that role',
- 36% of officers selected 'I want to contribute to my community',
- 32% of officers selected 'I have an interest in law and policing in general'



# Outcomes

## Orange County Sheriff's Office (USA) Motivations for Volunteering:

- 35% of deputies selected 'I have an interest for law and policing in general',
- 20% of deputies selected 'I want to contribute to my community'
- 20% of deputies selected 'I used to be a regular officer and want to make use of my knowledge and expertise'.
- 5% of deputies selected 'I used to be a regular officer and want to keep in touch with my colleagues'.

# Thoughts

- Volunteers participants were highly male dominated.
- Age range was predominantly younger in the UK with the US having a far more even spread of ages.
- Majority UK/US in full-time or part-time employment
- Average hours donated a month is 28.6 (UK) and 27.3 hours (USA).
- Motivations fell mainly into either the category of improved personal development or personal values.
- Quarter of US respondents reported that they are volunteers in the force because of prior employment.

# Implications

- Cost savings.  
Example: (West Yorkshire Police, 2012) reported that during the year 2011/2012, volunteer police officers completed over 129,000 duty hours, which would have cost over £2 million.
- Recruitment of students or those not in employment.
- Recruitment of more female volunteer officers and retired officers.
- Future research to be widened to include additional UK, US and European volunteer police services.

# References/Bibliography

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