Report Summary

Respondents: 416 random registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number.

Dates Surveyed: 03/09/2021-03/10/2021

Response Rate: 67.3%

Results Summary: A majority of respondents believed non-police first responders (i.e. mental health, medic. or crisis workers) are better trained to deal with individuals experiencing a street crisis connected to mental health, substance use, or homelessness (87.1%), are better trained to perform wellness checks (86.4%), and are preferred over police officers to respond unwanted persons (48.9%). When asked if Portland Police are best equipped to deal with people having a mental health crisis, 80.4% of respondents responded no. When asked if they believed Portland Police had a positive impact on homelessness in their neighborhood, 61.1% respondents indicated no. When asked if they had ever decided to not call 911 during a crisis because a police presence would make them or others feel unsafe, 49.3% said no. Of the respondents, 58.6% had heard of Portland Street Response. Of respondents, 10.7% identified as a person of color.

Open ended responses (141 responses) were coded using direct content analysis. Common themes included positive support for mental health worker involvement in crisis response (15.6%), Portland Street Response or a similar program (12.1%), Portland Police (10.6%), additional police training (8.5%), and collaboration between crisis response and Portland Police (7.8%) and included negative sentiments regarding perception of city response to homelessness (14.2%) or personal experience with police (7.8%).
Who do you think is better trained to deal with someone experiencing a street crisis connected to mental health, substance use, or homelessness?

416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate. Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021.

Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org
Who do you think is better trained to deal with an unwanted person?

- Non-Police First Responder: 48.9%
- Police Officer: 41.1%
- Other: 9.6%

416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate. Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021

Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org
Who do you think is better trained to deal with a wellness check?

- 86.4% Non-Police First Responder
- 9.3% Police Officer
- 3.9% Other

416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate. Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021

Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org
Do you think Portland Police are the best equipped to deal with people having mental health crises?

- No: 80.4%
- Undecided/NA: 13.9%
- Yes: 5.7%

416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate. Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021.

Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org
Do you believe Portland Police officers have a positive impact on homelessness in your neighborhood?

- **No**: 61.1%
- **Undecided/ NA**: 22.9%
- **Yes**: 15.7%

416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate.

Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021

Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org
Have you ever decided not to call 911 during a crisis because a police presence would make you or others feel unsafe

416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate. Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021

Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org
416 registered Portland voters consented to the survey via a text-enabled phone number. Survey had a 67.3% response rate.
Surveyed on March 9th, 2021 through March 10th, 2021
Contact: info@mckelveyconsulting.org