

A Study of Truncations

and the CCRB

The Blake Fellowship

James Blake, an internationally known athlete, became interested in policing issues following an incident in which he, in a case of mistaken identity, was the victim of excessive force used by a New York City police officer.

The Blake Fellowship

The James Blake CCRB Fellows, funded through the settlement agreement reached with the City, will analyze the reasons for truncations and make recommendations aimed at increasing the number of full investigations.

An Overview of Truncations

- A complaint is “truncated,” when it is closed without being fully investigated or mediated.
- In 2018, 73% of complaints that originated with IAB were truncated, compared with 46% of complaints that originated with the CCRB.

Scope of Work

Focused on precincts that have some of the highest truncation rates:

- 75th in Brooklyn
- 42nd in the Bronx
- 105th in Queens.

Scope of Work

Expanded on investigative work:

- Discussed outreach methods the investigator
- Contacted C/V's to schedule interviews, giving option of either interviewing at the CCRB office or an alternate location.

Findings

Between June 13, 2019, and December 31, 2019, 17 cases converted from truncations into full investigations:

- About 46% from the 75th Precinct
- About 33% from the 42nd Precinct
- About 20% from the 105th Precinct

Findings

Effective solutions for returning truncations to full investigations:

- Utilizing empathy-focused listening and positive reengagement strategies
- Offering C/V's the option of a field interview during our first communication

Recommendations

Increase Resources

Explore creation of specialized units to handle particular tasks currently being performed by investigators in order to free up more time for C/V Field interviews.

Increase Resources

- Increase staff numbers for CCRB Outreach Unit.
- Dedicated public education budget.

Improve Training, Outreach

- Additional staff training on how to cope with working in a traumatic environment.
- Establish a more consistent and effective CCRB presence across the City.