

POLICE CORRUPTION IN THE UNITED STATES



INTRODUCTION

Corruption, as defined by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Community (MACC), is giving or receiving incentives, in cash or kind, to perform a task related to one's job. It also occurs among government employees, including the police. Police corruption happens when officers misuse their authority for personal gain.

CAUSES OF POLICE CORRUPTION IN US

MONEY

- LOW PAY AND FINANCIAL STRUGGLES LEAD OFFICERS TO ACCEPT BRIBES.
- POORLY FUNDED POLICE DEPARTMENTS MAKE THE PROBLEM WORSE.
- SOLUTION: PAY OFFICERS BETTER AND IMPROVE FINANCIAL CONTROLS.

PERSONAL PROBLEMS

- STRESS, ADDICTION, OR PERSONAL ISSUES CAN LEAD TO BAD BEHAVIOR.
- LACK OF MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT MAKES THIS WORSE.
- SOLUTION: OFFER COUNSELING, MENTAL HEALTH HELP, AND TRAINING ON ETHICS.

POOR TRAINING & LEADERSHIP

- SOME OFFICERS ARE NOT TRAINED TO HANDLE ETHICAL CHALLENGES.
- WEAK LEADERS FAIL TO STOP OR PUNISH CORRUPTION.
- SOLUTION: TEACH ETHICS, ENFORCE RULES, AND EVALUATE LEADERS REGULARLY.

LACK OF OPENNESS

- HIDDEN DECISIONS AND SECRET PROCESSES ALLOW CORRUPTION TO GROW.
- SOLUTION: USE BODY CAMERAS, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT, AND PROTECT WHISTLEBLOWERS.

SOURCES:

CHAPPELL, 2022; NEWBURN, 1999; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, 2022

CASES OF POLICE CORRUPTION

BLACK LIVES MATTER

George Floyd (2020)

- Killed during an arrest when a police officer knelt on his neck for over 9 minutes. Sparked global protests against systemic racism and police brutality. The officer was convicted of murder, amplifying calls for police reform and accountability.

Breonna Taylor (2020)

- Fatally shot during a botched no-knock raid at her home. Her death fueled protests demanding changes to police procedures and accountability. Public dissatisfaction grew over the lack of perceived justice in the case.



LA Sheriff's Deputy Scandal (2023)

- Deputies in Los Angeles County were implicated in corruption, including sexual assault, drug dealing, and misuse of resources. Reports of gang-like "cliques" engaging in criminal activities sparked public outrage and highlighted systemic issues of accountability and oversight in law enforcement.

Excessive Force Against University Protests (Israel-Palestine War)

- Students protesting the Israel-Palestine conflict faced excessive force from police, including tear gas, pepper spray, and arbitrary arrests. These actions drew criticism for suppressing free speech and raised concerns about the over-militarization of campus police, echoing historic crackdowns on protests in the 1960s.



IMPACT ON COMMUNITY

SOCIAL MOVES AND PROTEST

Injustices are experienced by people or communities as a result of corrupt police actions.

LOST PUBLIC TRUST

Improper cooperation between police and the community

ECONOMICS CONSEQUENCES

Greater business expenses for insurance, security measures, and losses from theft or vandalism

CRIME RATES

Many illegal activities are possible to do

ACTIONS TO PREVENT POLICE CORRUPTION

SET UP ANONYMOUS REPORTING
TEACH POLICE ETHICS
USE BODY CAMERAS
CHECK POLICE FINANCES
COMMUNITY MONITORING
PUNISH CORRUPTION STRICTLY
WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY



PREVENTING POLICE CORRUPTION CENTERS ON CREATING A TRANSPARENT SYSTEM, HOLDING OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS, AND BUILDING STRONG TRUST BETWEEN THE POLICE FORCE AND THE COMMUNITY.