



Frank Zeidler Center for Public Discussion

*Deep Listening. Fostering Trust. Bridging Communities.*



## Milwaukee Police & Youth Listening Circles #6

March 27, 2019

This program was generously funded by Ron and Micky Sadoff.  
Thank you to Don & Sallie Davis Boys & Girls Club for hosting this event.

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<h2>Table of Contents</h2>
----------------------------

Executive Summary.....3

Feedback Forms .....5

Annex – Pledges .....20

## Executive Summary

The sixth Milwaukee Police & Youth Listening Circles session was hosted at the Don & Sallie Davis Boys & Girls Club on March 27, 2019. Milwaukee police officers, and youth participated in five listening circles, each led by a trained facilitator from the Zeidler Center. The topic of this session was “Enjoying life in the neighborhood”. During the Facilitated Dialogue, each participant was given the opportunity to respond to two rounds of questions:

*“Describe a time when you saw or heard about youth and officers having fun in the neighborhood. What came to mind?”*

*“What activity would be cool to do with police and youth over the summer? Where would you like it to happen?”*

After the Facilitated Dialogue, participants were invited to speak in the Connected Conversation. This is an open conversation that encourages participants to follow up with each other by discussing what was heard during the structured part of the facilitated dialogue. To initiate the discussion, participants were invited to answer the following questions:

For youth:

*“What comes to your mind when you see an officer come in a room?”*

*“What, if any, police policies are confusing to you? Which did you want to know more about?”*

For officers:

*“What is your favorite activity to do in the neighborhood and why?”*

For all:

*“What questions of curiosity do you have for each other that came up during the go-arounds?”*

Finally, participants were invited to make a pledge and respond to the following question: *“What is one thing you will do in the neighborhood to get to know a youth/officer better?”* Overall, many participants pledged to instigate conversation between one another when they see each other in the neighborhood and connect with each other at neighborhood events and through sports.

The topic of these Listening Circles was defined by some of the youth who participated in the Zeidler Center Youth Facilitator Training which involved Don & Sallie Boys and Girls Club youth.

**Questions about this dialogue may be directed to:**

Zeidler Center for Public Discussion

(414) 239-8555

[office@zeidlercenter.org](mailto:office@zeidlercenter.org)

## Feedback Forms

### Demographics

#### Youth Participants:

##### Gender:

Male: 92%

Female: 8%

##### Age:

12: 29%

13: 43%

14: 14%

16: 14%

##### Zip Code:

53204: 55%

53207: 9%

53208: 9%

53212: 9%

53215: 9%

53221: 9%

##### Race/Ethnicity:

African-American/Black: 39%

Native American: 17%

Latinx/Hispanic: 44%

#### Police Officer Participants:

##### Gender

Male: 67%

Female: 33%

##### Age

18-24: 17%

25-34: 17%

35-44: 33%

45-54: 33%

##### Zip Code

53202: 17%

53207: 17%

53209: 33%

53215: 17%

53219: 17%

##### Race/Ethnicity

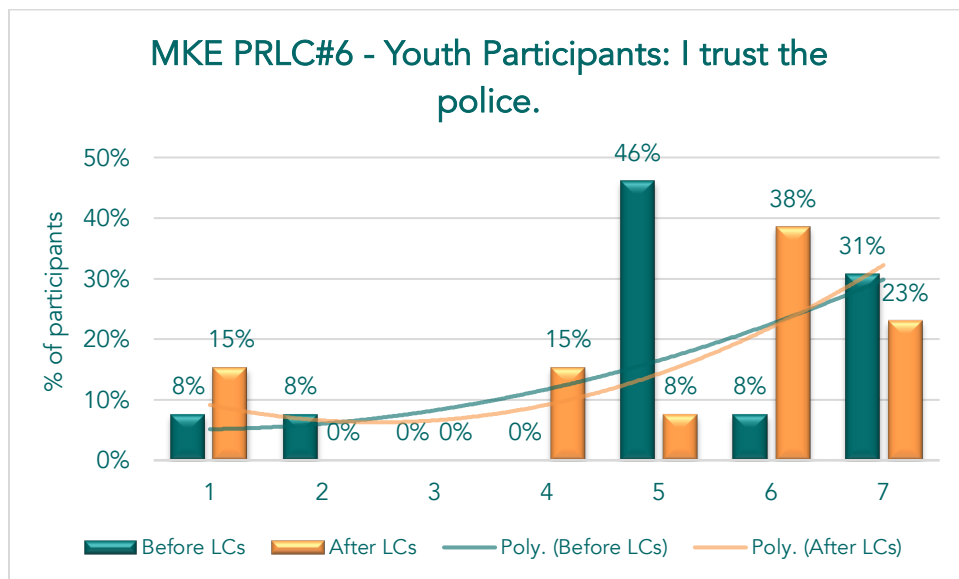
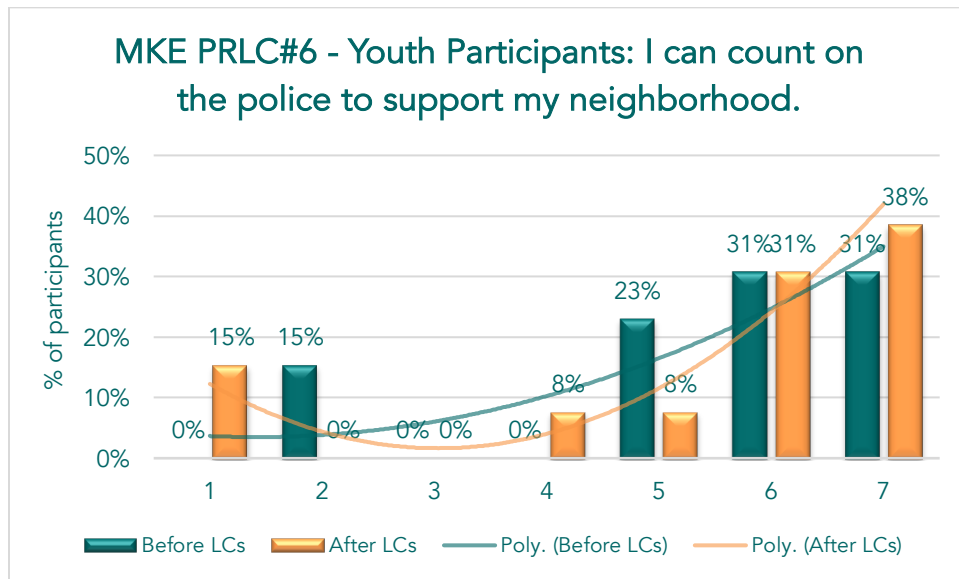
African-American/Black: 30%

Asian: 10%

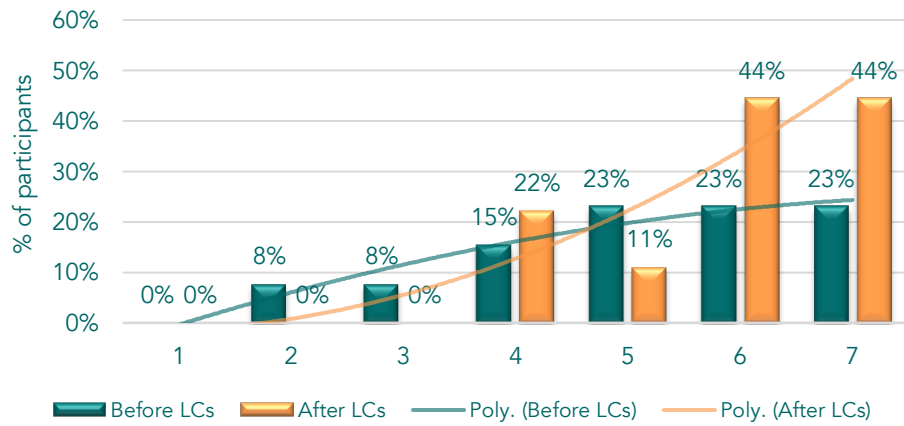
White/Caucasian: 60%

## Quantitative Data

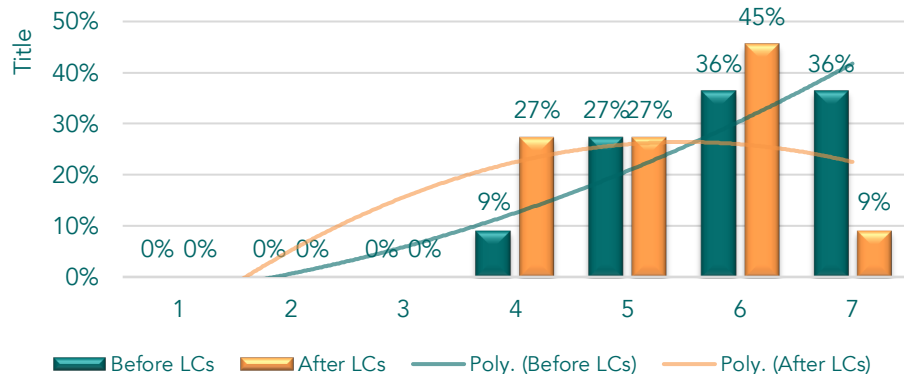
### Youth Participants:



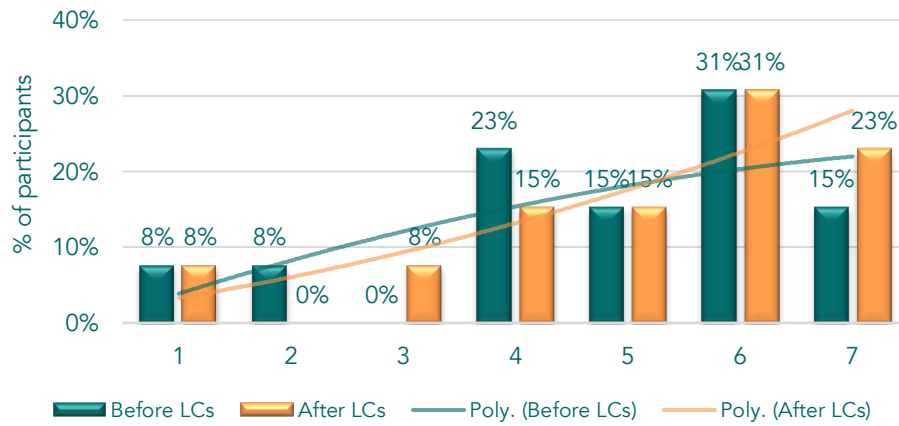
### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: I believe youth and police relations will improve.



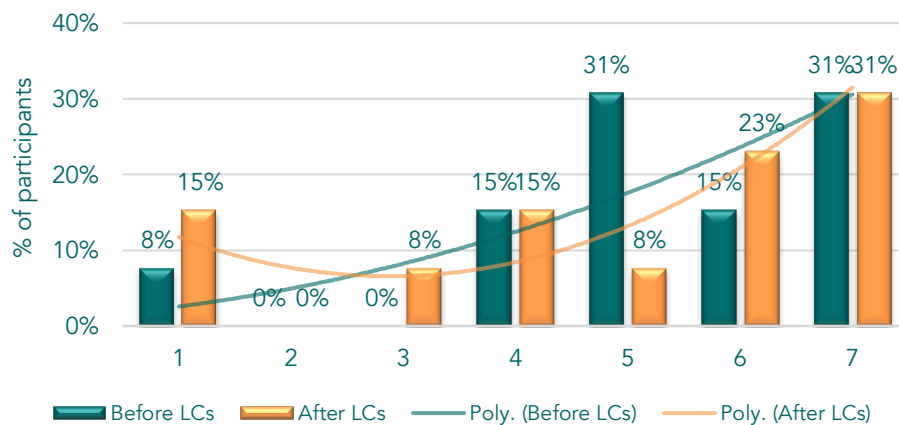
### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: I believe listening circles help build trust between police and youth.



### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: I feel confident speaking with an officer.

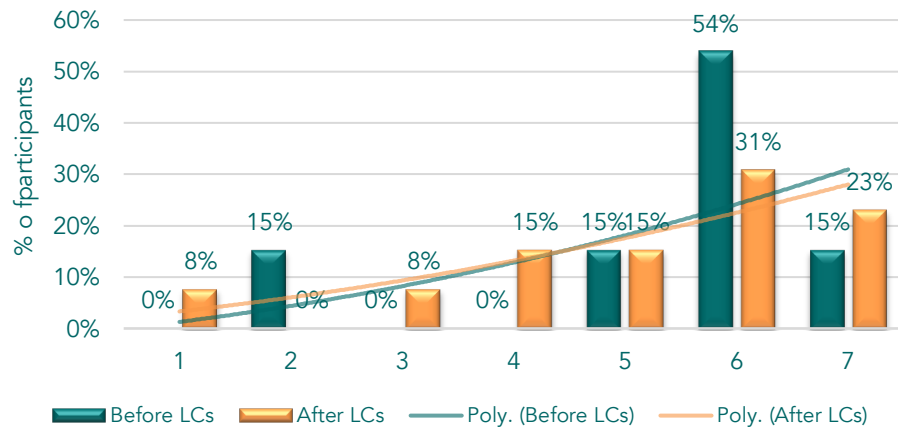


### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: I feel officers are interested in who I am.

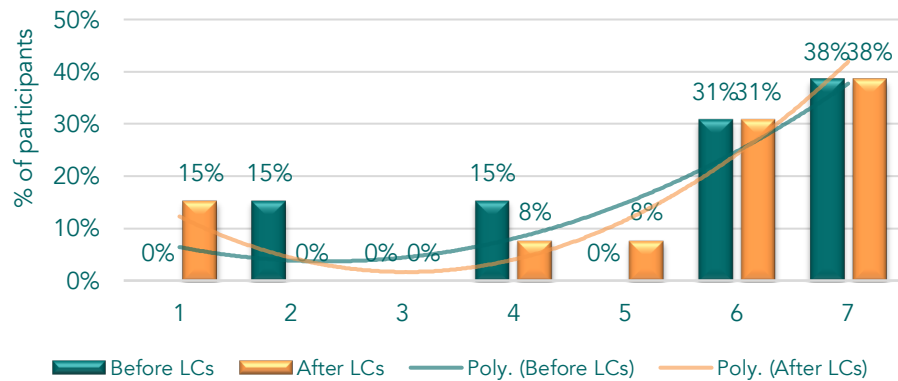




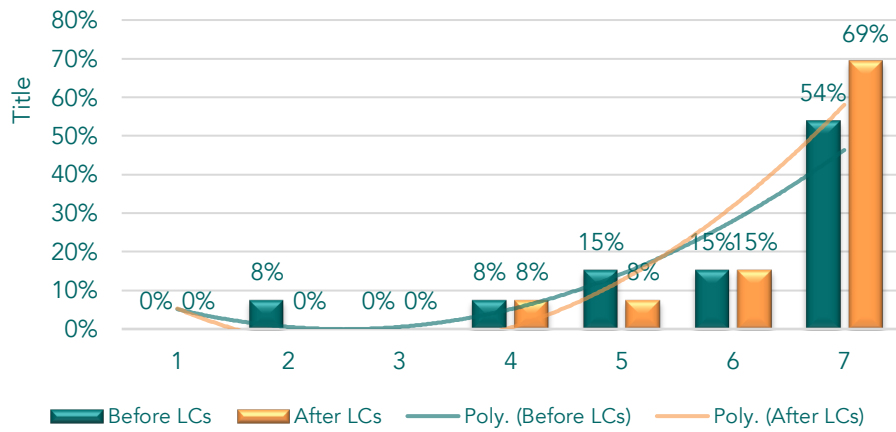
### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: I feel officers listen to what I have to say.



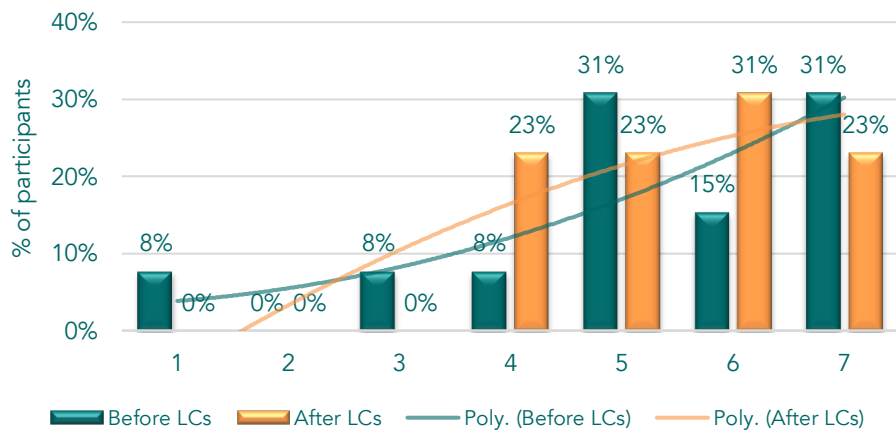
### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: The police really care about what is good for my neighborhood.



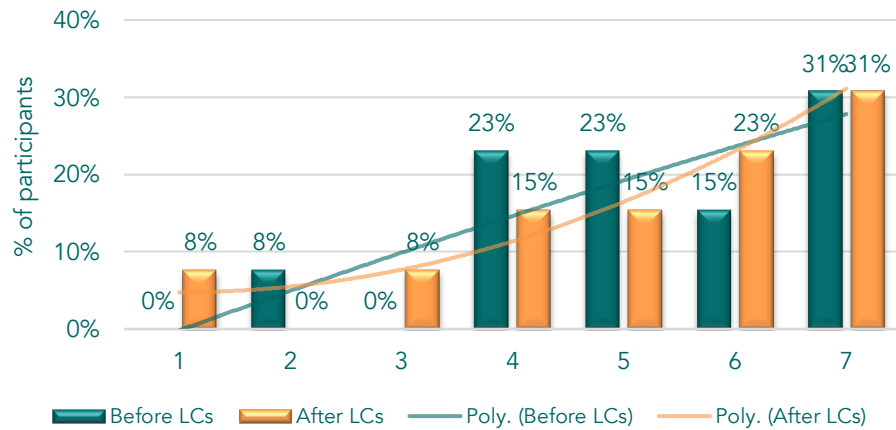
### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: Police officers are hard working.



### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: Police officers are usually polite.

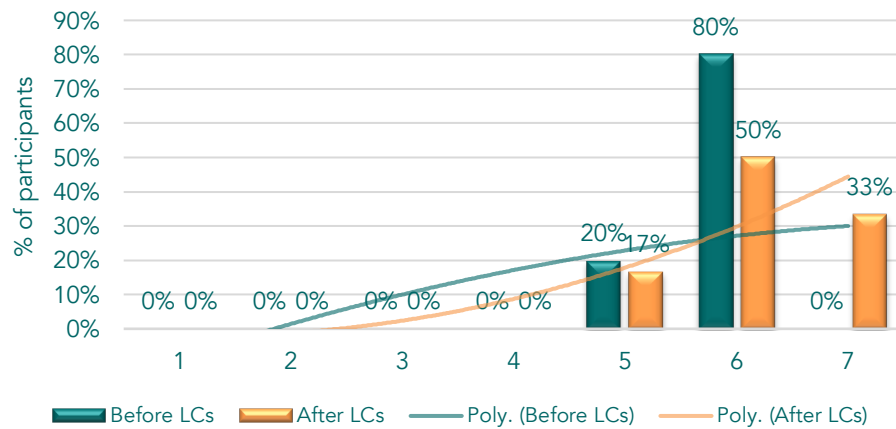


### MKE PRLC#6 - Youth Participants: Police officers discriminate minority people.

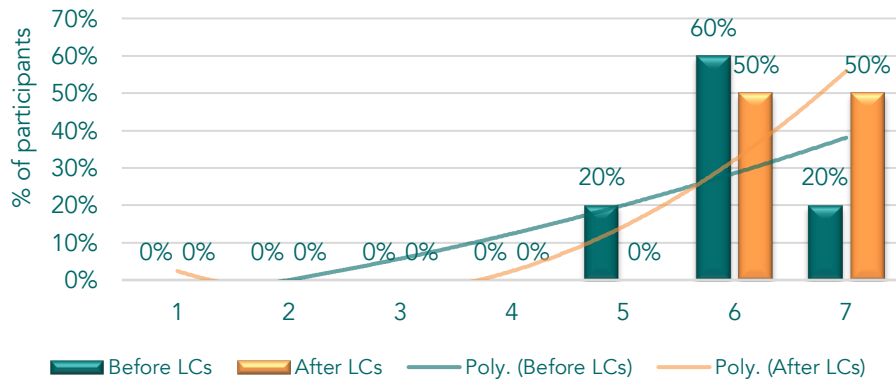


### Police Officer Participants:

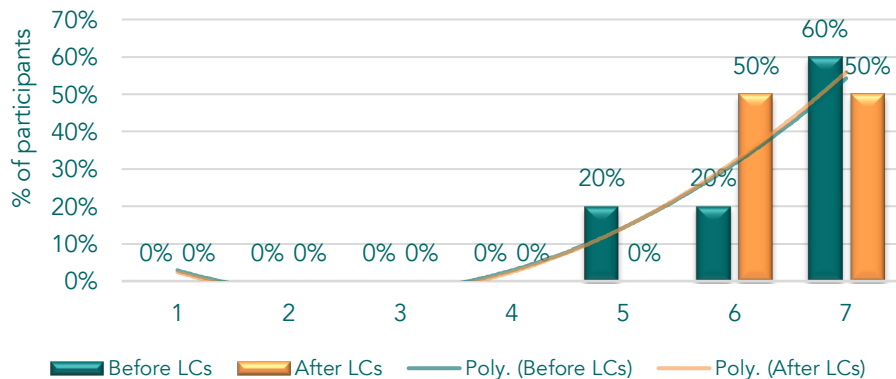
### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: I believe youth and police relations will improve.



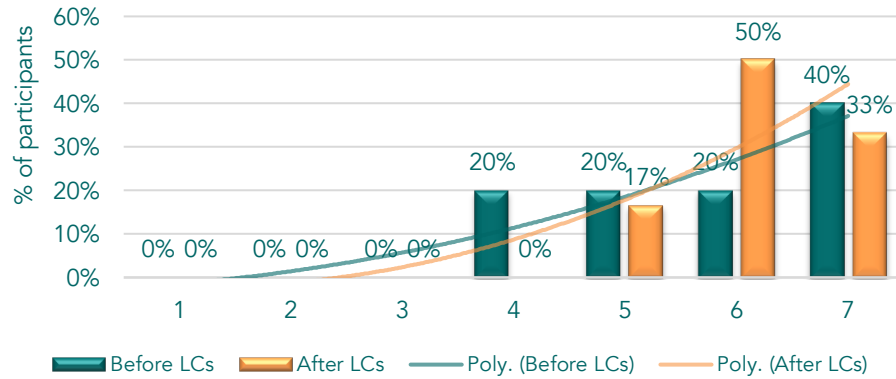
### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: I believe listening circles help build trust between police and youth.



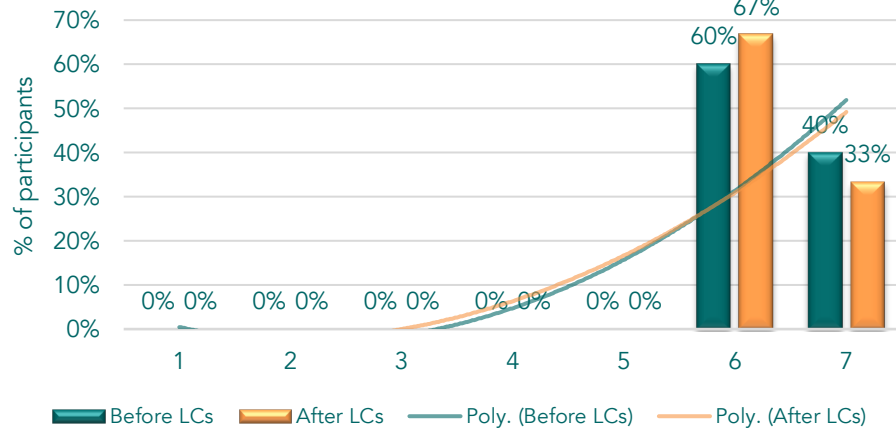
### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: It is important as an officer to spend time talking with youth in the neighborhood.



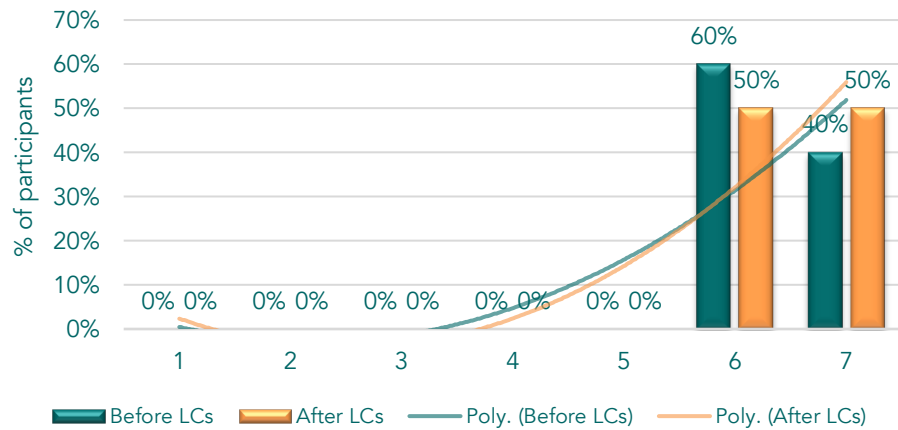
**MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: All youth should be treated with respect regardless of their attitude.**



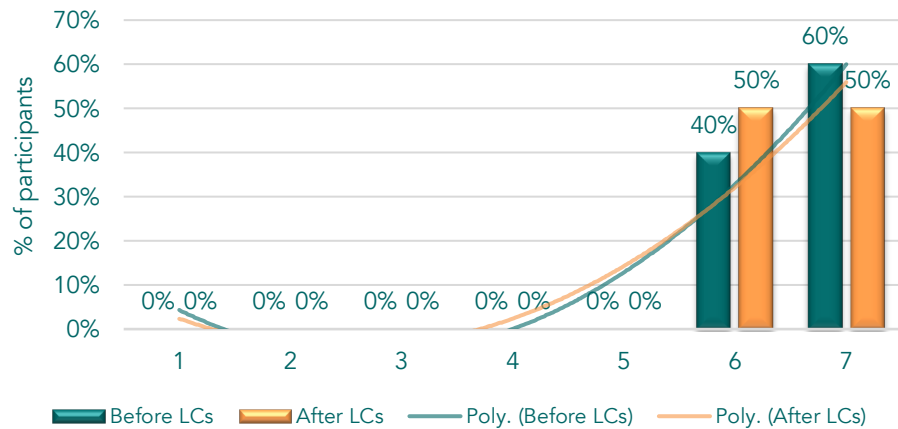
**MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: I know how to communicate with youth.**



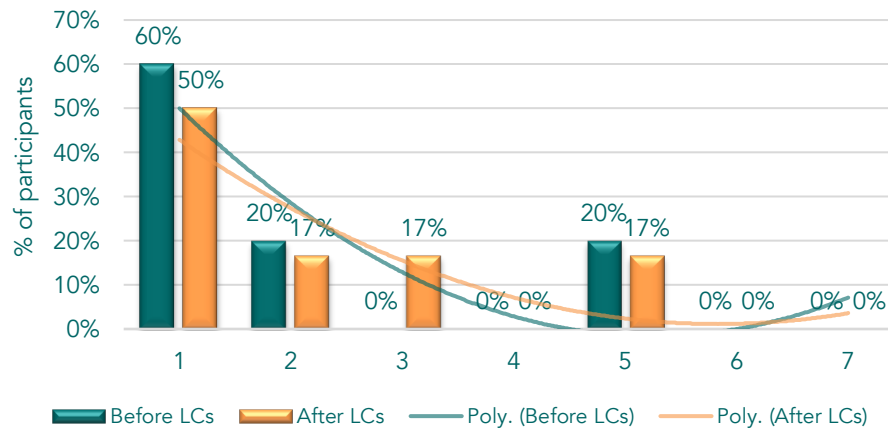
### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: I show empathy and compassion in situations involving youth.



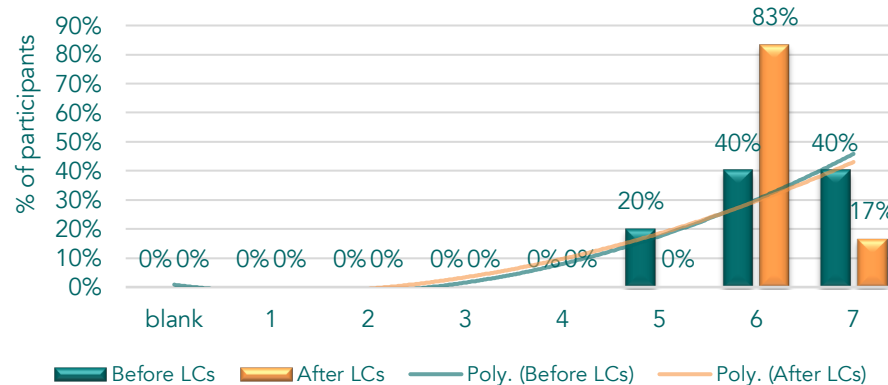
### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: I try to have friendly demeanor when dealing with youth.



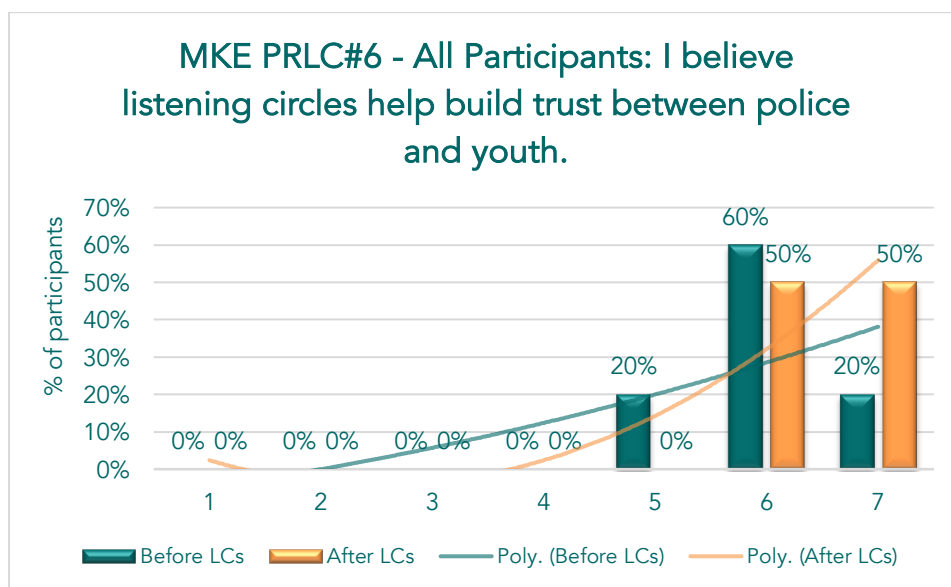
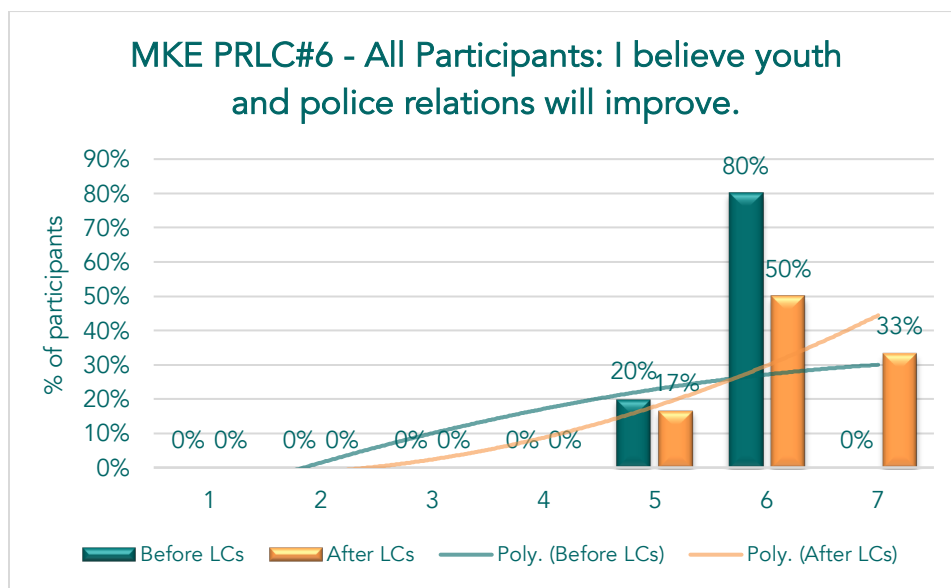
### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: It is OK to be rude to youth when they are rude to me.



### MKE PRLC#6 - PO Participants: I try to answer all of the youth's questions during a stop or encounter.



## All Participants:



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## Qualitative Data

### Youth Participants:

What are one or two things you have learned today?

- Cops are super nice people.
- I learned how the police use their K-9.
- To listen to one another.



- That a search and a pat down is 2 different things.
- Something new about the officers. Not all cops are the same.
- That John like donuts.
- The police are really cool. They really help people.
- What the FBI does and what police do.
- Made great talk from police officers. Known me to cooperate in group telling what officer work here for.
- That police have people and kid back.
- Police age and name.
- Blank (x5)

What was your favorite part?

- Learning about them and games.
- When we play rock, paper, scissors.
- The end with questions.
- Talking in the group.
- When we were talking about police.
- The food and chatting
- When we did icebreakers.
- Rock, paper, scissor; knowing our name in the groups, sharing us speak.
- Sharing.
- When I ate food.
- Blank (x6)

What was your least favorite part?

- There were no least part for it was fun.
- Telephone game.
- The start.
- The quiet moments in our group.
- Nothing.
- Nothing at all.
- Notes.
- The money.
- Nothing.
- I liked everything.
- Blank (x6)

### **Police Officer Participants:**

#### What do you feel was the most beneficial part of today?

- Getting a chance to help youth understand what my job is like.
- Getting to know the youth in my neighborhood and seeing the youth I have already interacted with through other programs.
- Participating with youth involved.
- Just talking with them.
- Youth asking a lot of questions.
- Blank

#### What did you like least about today?

- I wish each group had more space so that we didn't overhear the other groups and have trouble hearing ourselves.
- Nothing, it went well.
- Too few in our circle.
- Nothing all was important.
- That group ended.
- Blank

### **All Participants:**

#### What topics would you like to talk about at an upcoming police and youth listening circle?

- I would enjoy a discussion about how we can help change negative perceptions of police.
- Youth impressions and how they formed them, what would help change them. What programs are important to them.
- What the youth would like to see the police do in their neighborhood.
- More questions for the youth regarding do they respect the police, or do their friends and family respect the police and why.
- I don't know.
- How they do stuff in their station.
- Why police like donuts?
- I'm not sure.
- What do officers wear.
- More background history and all.
- Nothing.
- Silent ball/game.
- How police can help you get better at things and succeed.
- How they catch bad guys.

- Blank (x8)

## Annex – Pledges

***Pledge Prompt:** “What is one thing you will do in the neighborhood to get to know a youth/officer better?”*

- I will talk to officers and ask them where they grew up and what it was like there.
- I will talk to the officers.
- When I see an officer, I will make conversation with them to get to know them better.
- I will spend more time with them.
- I will help a youth to get to his bus and help a youth to shovel snow.
- I will ask a police officer that I see outside about his family, his job, and what their favorite things to do are.
- I will make an effort to do park and walks when I am patrolling neighborhoods in Milwaukee.
- I will make an effort to speak to police in general, because I do not speak to police right now, on purpose.
- Come to more listening circles.
- Continue to stop and talk to youth in areas/neighborhoods in which I patrol.
- Ask officers more questions when they’re in my neighborhood.
- Talk with officers in my neighborhood.
- Help people in need with officers – especially the elderly.
- Playing basketball with officers while having a conversation.
- Block parties.
- I would like to play football with an officer.
- While on duty I will continue to pull over when I’m afforded some free time in between calls to talk to the youth and also sit on the porches and have conversations with the residents in the neighborhood.
- I like checking in on the youth at their homes that have been absent from school and see how their doing. There are some youth who need a little more motivating, so I might challenge them to show up for school and with an incentive. I.e. breakfast etc.
- I will give an officer or youth 1 vs. 1 game to play with me to help us connect.
- I will continue to offer my friendship to both youth and the officers I come in contact with.