

# Evaluation of Public Perception of Law Enforcement Training in Connecticut

PRESENTER: **NikkiAnn Ryan**  
 MENTOR: **Dr. Kento Yasuhara**

## INTRODUCTION

- **Broadcasting** of officer mishandlings has drawn the attention of law enforcement toward **public perception**
- It is important for citizens to understand law enforcement training because it **influences** the relationship between **officers and citizens**
- If they deem the training to be **sufficient**, then they will likely view their officers as **effective and capable**
- If not, such views can lead to **poor officer-citizen relations** as well as hinder officers' ability to **control crime** (Decker, 1985)

## METHODS

- Used **Qualtrics software** to distribute a survey to residents of Connecticut
- The survey was composed of:
  - **Pre-learning** questionnaire
  - **Learning intervention** (short reading passage) followed by 3 multiple choice questions with facts from the reading
  - **Post-learning** questionnaire
- Analyzed results by conducting a **repeated measures MANCOVA** in SPSS

## RESULTS

- Participants' **self-rated level of knowledge** increased from T1 to T2
- Belief that the current training procedures are **sufficient** decreased from T1 to T2
- Support for **additional training** procedures **increased** from T1 to T2

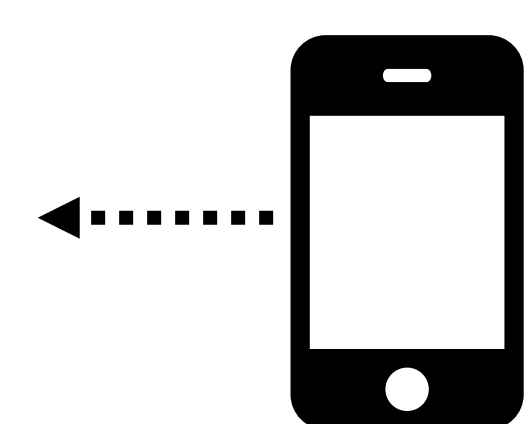
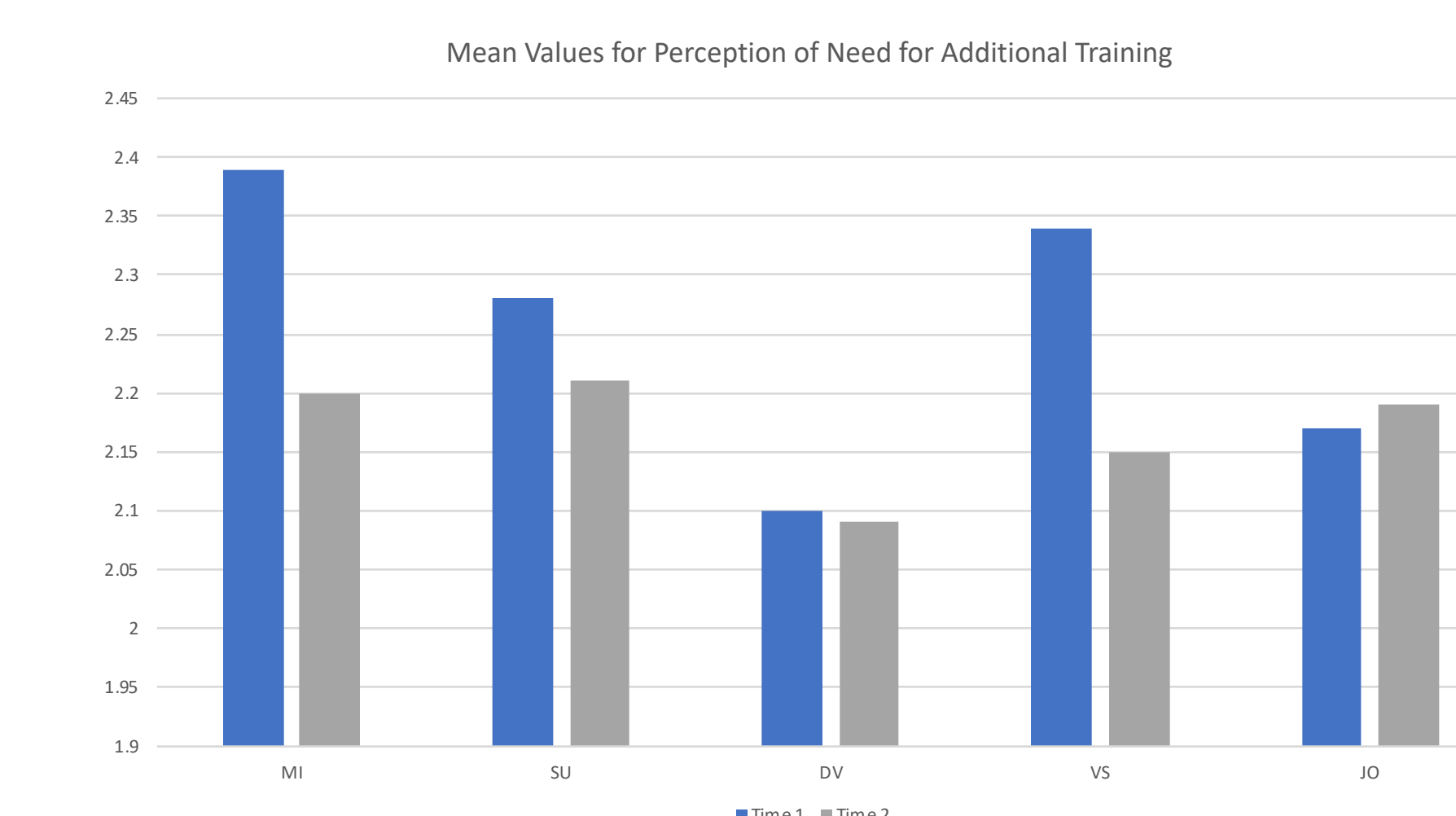
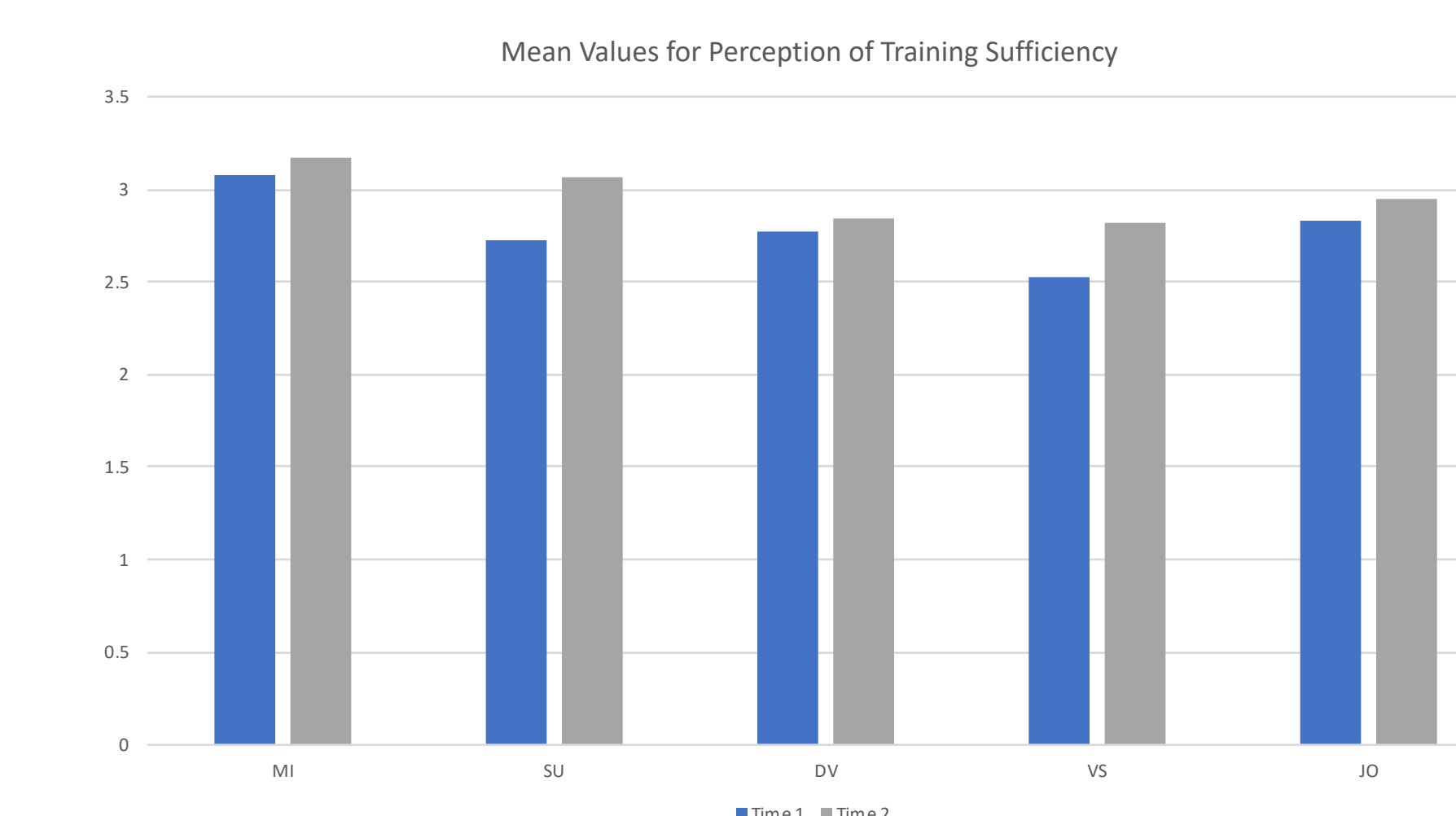
Connecticut residents support **additional training** for law enforcement officers regarding **specific human services.**

## Five human service categories examined:

- Individuals with mental illnesses
- Individuals with substance use disorders
- Domestic violence encounters
- Victim services
- Juvenile offenders

Table 1  
 Characteristics of the Sample (Census Data in Parentheses)

Characteristic	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	40	33.1	33.6	33.6
Female	79	65.3 (51.2)	66.4	100.0
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>				
Asian	4	3.3 (4.9)	100.0	100.0
Hispanic or Latino	10	8.3 (16.5)	100.0	100.0
Black or African American	15	12.4 (12.0)	100.0	100.0
Native American	2	1.7 (0.6)	100.0	100.0
Pacific Islander	0	0.0 (0.1)	0.0	0.0
White	92	76.0 (80.0)	100.0	100.0
Other	3	2.5	100.0	100.0
<b>Education level</b>				
High school diploma	25	20.7	21.0	21.0
Some college	30	24.8	25.2	46.2
2 year degree	13	10.7	10.9	57.1
4 year degree	30	24.8	25.2	82.4
Professional degree	15	12.4	12.6	95.0
Doctorate	6	5.0	5.0	100.0



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