



University of Utah

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH JOURNAL

**PILOT TESTING A RAPPORT BUILDING CHECKLIST WITH LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AND IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES**

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*Objectives/Intro.* In Salt Lake City a young 17-year-old Somali refugee named Abdi Mohamed was shot by police officers and critically wounded (Whitehurst, 2016). As the case was examined, there was a realization of disconnect and misunderstanding between law enforcement and the young Somali refugee. This occurrence sparked a dialogue around strengthening trust and the creation of stronger rapport between law enforcement agencies (LEA) and immigrant communities. Immigrants are a broad category of individuals who also consist of refugees. Refugees are people who have escaped their own country due to political, religious, economic, or war related conflicts. For this particular study I will refer to the broader term of "immigrant" because this problem is relevant to other communities outside of just refugees.

If LEAs were more familiar with the hardships and struggles that immigrants face, then they may be able to prevent such unfortunate events. Similarly, if immigrants familiarize themselves with LEAs and gradually overcome their fear and suspicions, then they may feel safer and more willing to communicate their troubles. To develop positive ways of interaction and prevent the reoccurrence of circumstances such as Abdi Mohamed's, I would like to construct a list of rapport building practices that LEAs and immigrants can implement to reach a greater understanding and trust.

*Methods.* In order to construct an effective list of rapport building practices, it was necessary to gain a more precise perspective of the challenges surrounding the relationship between LEAs and immigrants in Salt Lake City. This process was accomplished through a qualitative study in the form of individual interviews, where there were eight total participants. Four of which were police officers from the Salt Lake City Police Department (SLPD) and the other four were immigrant and refugee service providers. Participants responded based on their background and experience. Their responses were recorded and transcribed.

*Results and Conclusion.* This research is still active and on-going; therefore, the results are currently being compiled. However, the preliminary results indicate that a section specifically about refugees embedded in the diversity curriculum for LEAs, would lead to better communication with refugee communities. Since the language barrier can be a significant dividing factor between LEAs and immigrants, a resource for immigrants where they are able to contact an interpreter would aid them in times of crisis. These are some of the potential practices that can be used to build harmony in Salt Lake City and beyond.

Through this research, I was able to analyze two distinct narratives: both the perspectives of LEAs and immigrant service providers. I had the opportunity to conduct interviews, and connect with many experienced and accomplished participants. This project would not have been successful if it were not for the participants who were willing to share their knowledge about this topic.