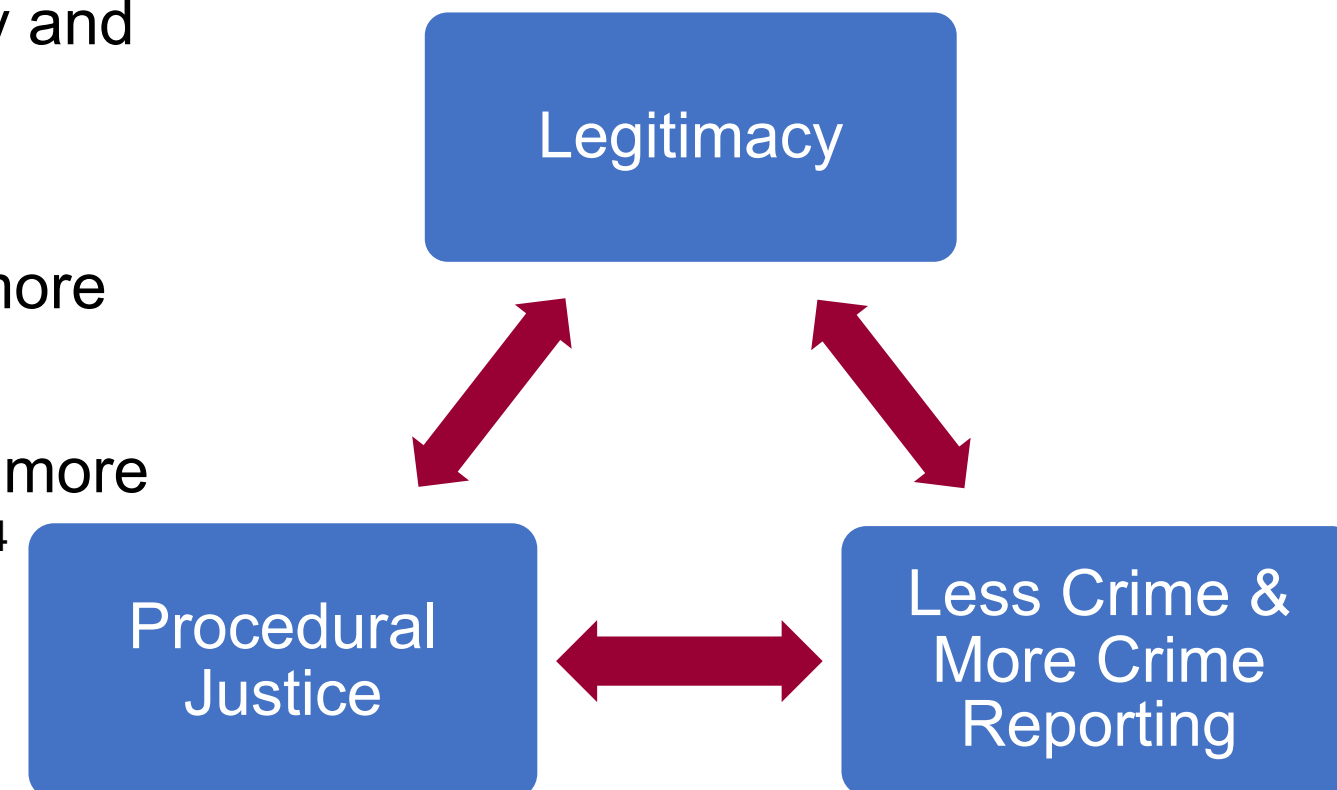


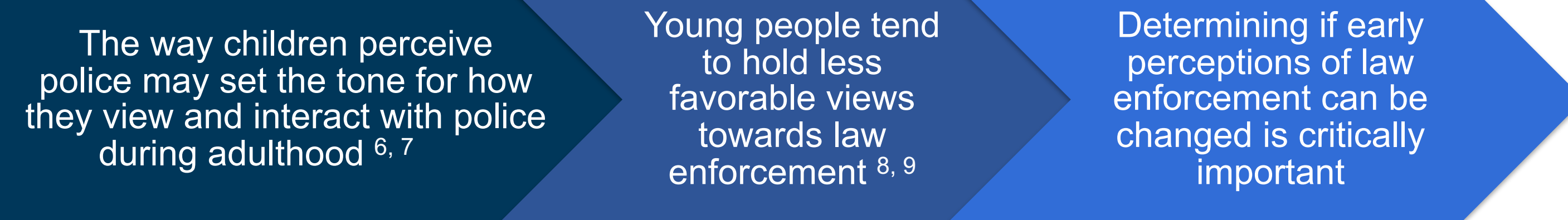
INTRODUCTION

Perceptions of law enforcement are critically important for increasing compliance and fighting crime

- Police who treat the public with respect, dignity and fairness foster positive perceptions of law enforcement^{1,2}
- People who view the police as legitimate are more likely to voluntarily follow the law^{1,3}
- Positive perceptions of the police are linked to more public cooperation such (e.g. reporting crime)⁴



Attitudes and beliefs about police begin to form during childhood⁵



Negative interactions tend to have more of an impact in shaping perceptions which means increasing positive interactions should be crucial in shaping these perceptions^{10,11}

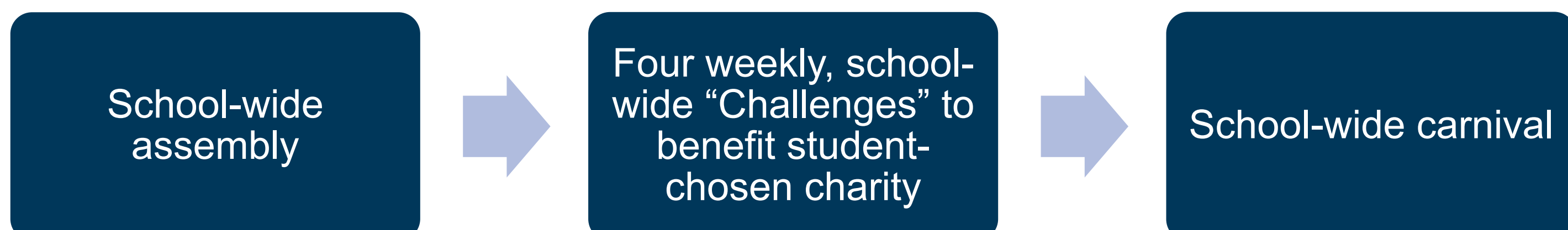
CURRENT FOCUS



TEAM KIDS 501(c)(3)

- TKC brings first responders and Team Kids Coaches into elementary schools
- Kids select a charity to support and work with law enforcement throughout the challenge
- TKC Leadership Team (LT) plans a carnival
- Carnival proceeds go to the charity

TEAM KIDS CHALLENGE



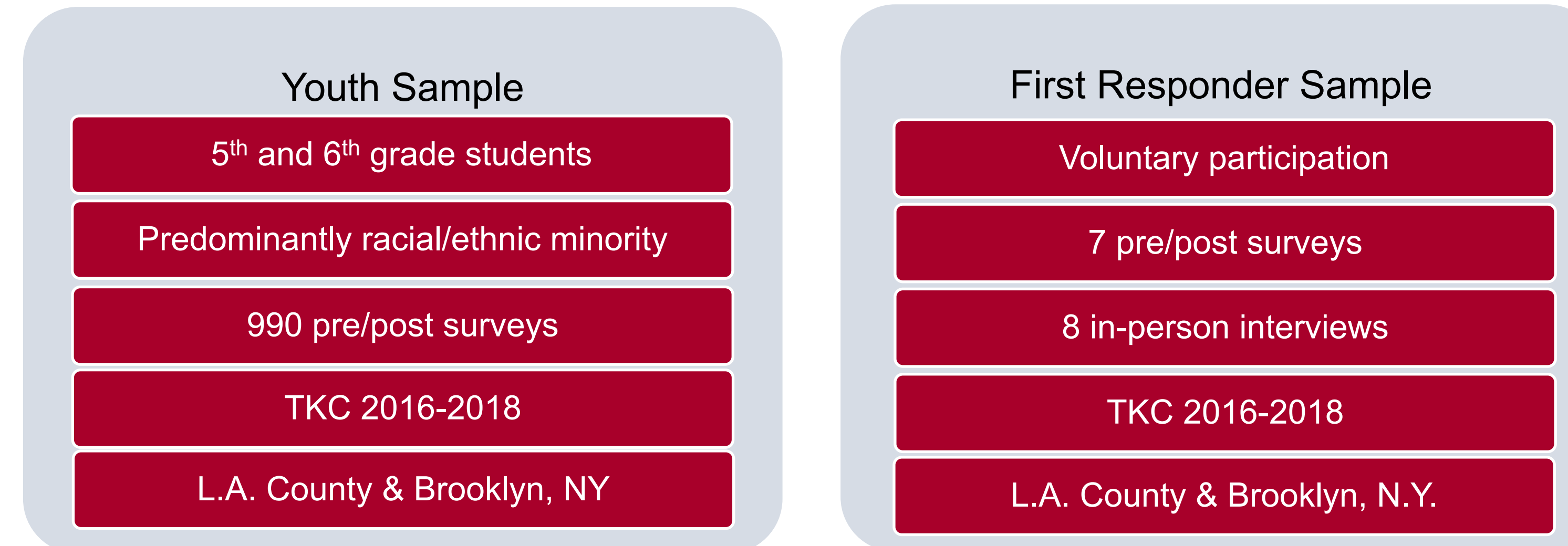
YOUTH SAMPLE

SES and Racial Breakdown

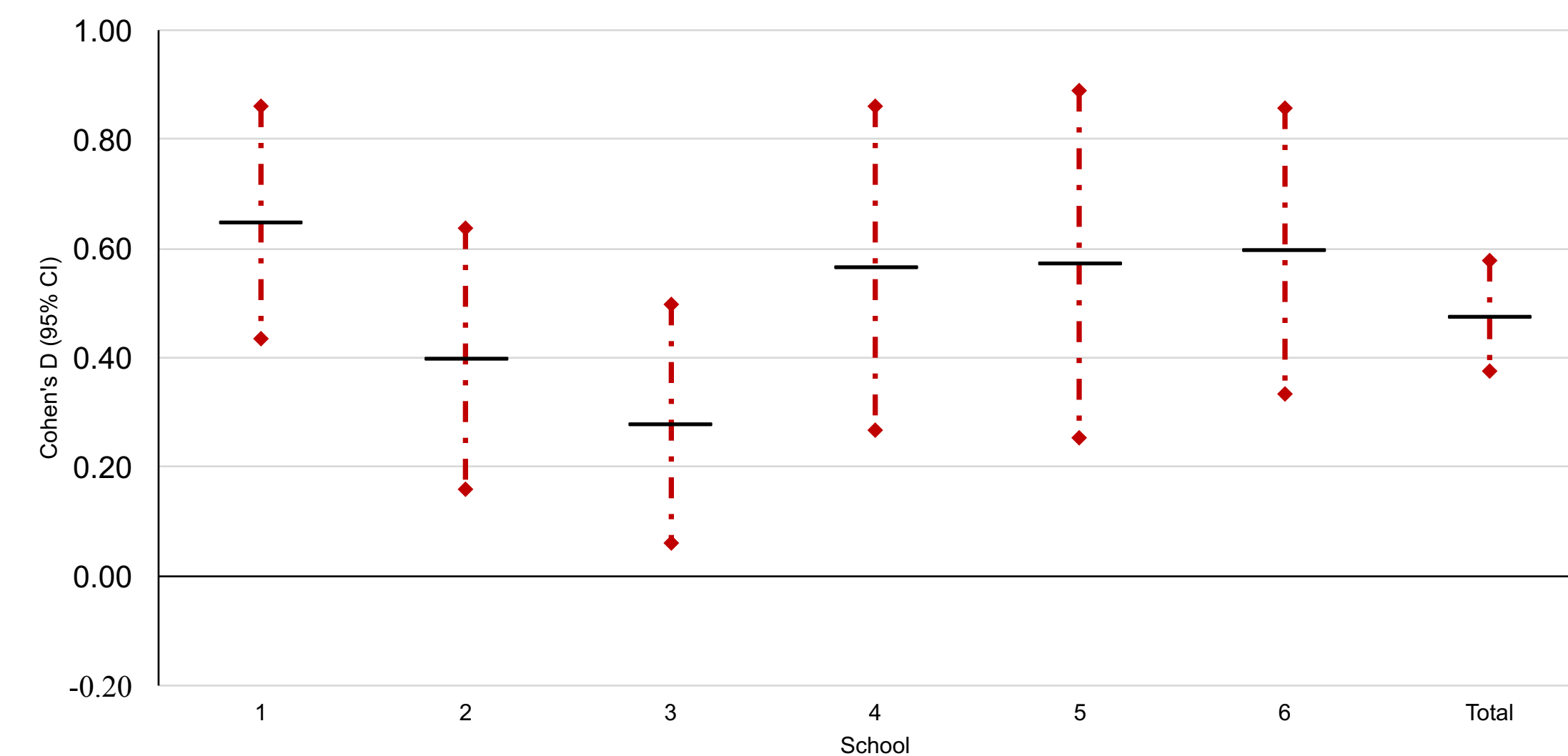
- 51% (School 1)
- 98% (School 2)
- 95% (School 3)
- 97% (School 4)
- 94% (School 5)
- 21% (School 6)

- 46% (School 1)
- 84% (School 2)
- 89% (School 3)
- 86% (School 4)
- 95% (School 5)
- 15% (School 6)

RESULTS

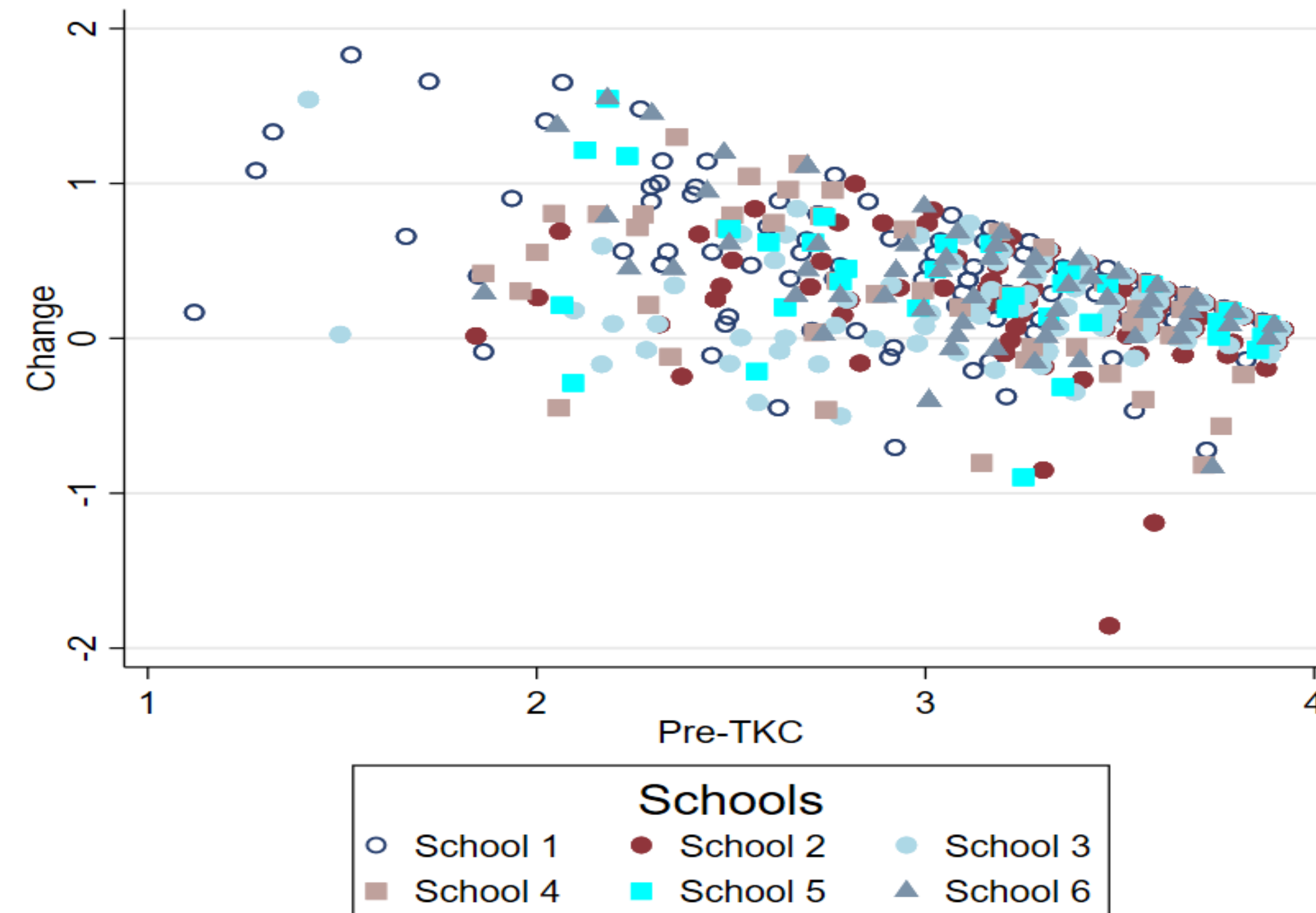


Effect Sizes of Change in Perceptions by School



This figure depicts the amount that youth' perceptions of police changed by school both in terms of effect sizes (Cohen's d), including 95% CIs. Values above "0" indicate that in a particular school, youth' perceptions of police improved. A value of .5 is considered a moderate-large effect size.

Individual Change in Perceptions



This figure depicts the slopes and intercepts for students within schools. Schools and youth with more negative perceptions of police at baseline reported larger increases in perceptions of police.

First Responder Greg*

• "TK has helped police officers take a different approach. [It] was like a kicker. The program pushed me way ahead in how I think about working with young kids."

First Responder Larry*

• "I think Team Kids gave us a way to relate to the kids that **humanizes** us a little bit...and that coincides with our mission to build relationships with the public...It breaks down the walls between us versus them."

First Responder Burt*

• "I was impressed when they were voting on where the money should go. They were the ones bringing up the environment, homelessness, and so on. It's pretty powerful, to see that. It's intense."

*Pseudonyms to ensure anonymity

DISCUSSION

Schools with higher percentage of students living in poverty and students who are Hispanic/Latinx or Black/African American had worse perceptions of the police



First responder participation in TKC resulted in increased job satisfaction and perceptions of the community

Youth

Perceptions of police can be changed at young ages, prior to the beginning of the age-crime curve and even in youth from areas with marked history of poor police-community relations

Youth should be provided a voice in decision-making because the effects were stronger when youth felt more involved

First Responders

First responders actively want to participate in TKC

Humanizes and demystifies first responders

Builds relationships between first responders and the community

Provides youth with a role model

Policy Implications

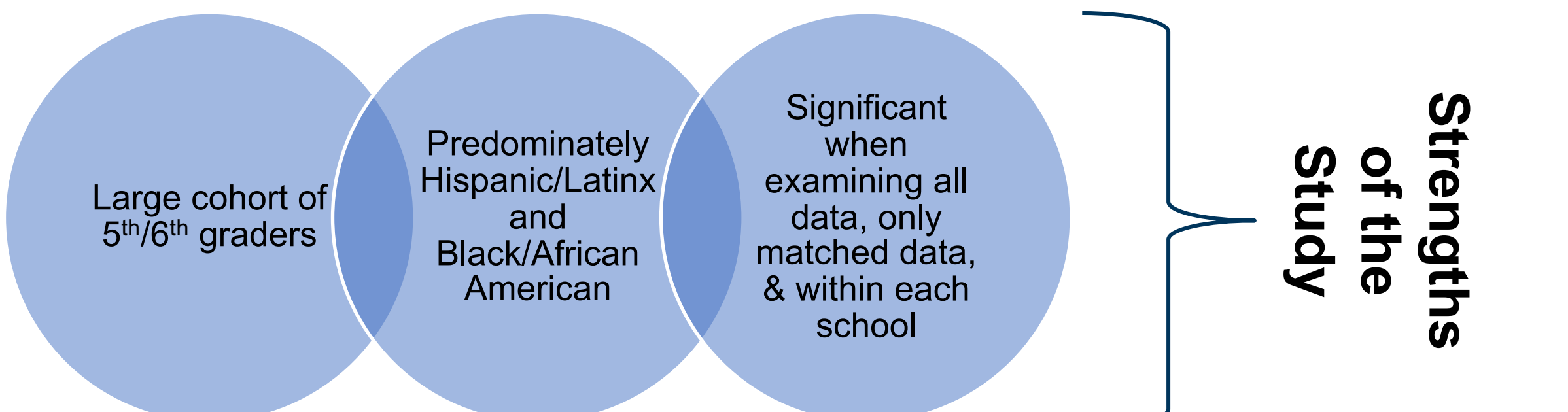
• Bringing first responders into schools to work collaboratively with youth improves police-community relations

• Youths' perceptions of police officers are still malleable, and as such, procedural justice researchers should be focusing on this age group

Research Implications

Implications for Policing

• How police officers interact with children matters because it has the potential to influence future compliance with the law and cooperation with the police



CONCLUSION

Positive encounters might be able to *improve* youths' perceptions of law enforcement

Positive encounters might be able to *improve* law enforcement perceptions of youth

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FIRST RESPONDER PERCEPTIONS