

TITLE: Effects of Personal Hygiene and Arrest Rates

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Introduction: A number of studies in multiple disciplines suggest that more attractive people receive benefits that less attractive people do not. The question remains- is there a significant correlation between personal hygiene and arrest rates?

Method: For the past year, research assistants have been collecting data on this issue via observational research with a police jurisdiction in the Southeast. Researchers have been recording the final course of action taken by the officer, and suspect's physical features. The key measures that have been recorded are: whether a suspect had poor or good dental hygiene, poor or undetectable odor, and whether their skin was in poor or good condition.

Analysis: In the data that has been collected thus far, the likelihood of an individual with poor dental hygiene being arrested was calculated at 34.8%. However, the likelihood of a suspect with good dentition being arrested was 7.7%. According to the analysis on both suspect odor and facial condition, there also appeared to be a significant association between being detained and poor hygiene. For example, suspects whose body odor was recorded as poor were arrested in 33% of encounters, as opposed to those with undetectable odor (19.6% arrested). As for poor facial condition, suspects recorded with such conditions were arrested in 30.8% of police encounters. Suspects recorded with good facial conditions were recorded to have a 17.2% likelihood of being arrested.

Conclusion: All of these associations were significant at the $p < .05$ level using chi-square tests of independence.

Keywords: Hygiene, Arrest, Odor, Dentition, Skin