



Author	Key Concept	Significance
Vollmer 1936	Professional police	No mention of discretion
Whyte 1943	Neighborhood	Different police response in different neighborhoods
Goldstein 1960	Police power to not invoke the law	Introduces concept of police discretion
LaFave 1962	Non-enforcement of the law	Describes discretion
Kadish 1962	Less enforcement of law in black neighborhoods	Equates discretion with racism
Piliavin & Briar 1964	Dependent on demeanor	Discretion based on juvenile suspect's demeanor, not race
Banton 1964	Discretion as a theoretical dilemma for police officer	Cops are in a bind in lower-class neighborhoods
Bitner 1967	As a learned skill	Discretion good

Author	Key Concept	Significance
Wilson 1968	Varies according to police department	Introduces "service," "watchman," & "legalistic" concept of policing
Alex 1969	Race of police officer	Black police officers have tougher job in black neighborhoods
Black & Reiss 1970	Complainant's desire regarding suspect	Wishes of black complainants responsible for disproportionate number of black arrests
Van Maanen 1978	The "asshole"	Suspects attitude key
Smith 1986	Class of neighborhood key, race not important	Equally treatment by police within an area; better treatment in better neighborhoods
Anderson 1990	Race, class, style of clothes, regular patrol officers versus specialized unit	Describes conflict of cultures in the ghetto

Author	Key Concept	Significance
Klinger 1997	Police district	Service varies by police district, regardless of neighborhood variations within district
Engel et al 2000	Demeanor	Demeanor not significant
Robinson & Chandek 2000	Domestic violence	Situational variables
Mastrofski et al 2000	Complainant's desire regarding suspect	Complainant's desire not very significant; severity of crime key
Jacobs 1999, 2000	Drug dealers, those who rob drug dealers	Avoidance of police key
Atwater v. Lago Vista 2001	Traffic violations and minor offences	U.S. Supreme Court ruling granted police authority to arrest for any offence
Moskos 2008	Officer-based variables more important than suspect-based variables	Desire for arrest-related overtime pay supersedes other variables

James Q. Wilson's Police Styles

- **Watchman:** order maintenance and a great deal of discretion
- **Service:** emphasizes the service role, rather than crime fighting role
- **Legalistic:** strict enforcement of the rules, crime fighter, rule enforcer (designed in part as anti-corruption).

Officer Discretion and Arrests
 Suspect-based & Institutionally based variables

Suspect-based variables: race, crime, age, demeanor, dress, education, employment.

Institutionally based variables: District, sergeant, crime rate.

Officer Discretion and Arrests
Officer-based variables

Officers who want to make a lot of arrests, do. Officers who don't, don't.

The single most important variable determining arrest discretion and arrest quantity is a police officer's **desire for overtime pay**

Officers in areas **with public drug dealing** have a limitless supply of arrestable offenders and can make as many arrests as they want.

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Arrests Per Officer (Variations between officers, six month period)

Officer	Arrests (total)	Felony arrests	Non-Felony Arrests	Traffic citations
Jake Atz	77	5	72	135
Charlie Bricknell	66	1	65	65
Terry Cox	49	6	43	59
Pat Duncan	31	11	20	18
Art Ewoldt	24	2	22	28
Gene Ford	20	8	12	20
Ross Grimsley	20	2	18	64
Tom Hamilton	18	0	18	19
Charlie Irwin	16	4	12	60
Gerry Janeski	11	3	8	40
Burt Kuczynski	10	2	8	36
Phil Lowe	10	1	9	28
Sherry Magee	4	2	2	5
TOTAL	356	47	309	577
MEAN	27.4	3.6	23.8	44.2
MEDIAN	20	2	18	36
STD DEV	22.7	3.2	22.3	34.0

Correlation Between:	F	Sig
Non-felony arrests and felony arrests	.075	.81
Non-felony arrests and traffic citations	.785	.001*
Felony arrests and traffic citations	.018	.95

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High-Discretion versus Low-Discretion Arrests

Officers have a lot of discretion for misdemeanor arrests and traffic citations. These are high discretion.

Officers have little discretion for felony arrests. These are low discretion.

If this were true, one would expect to find a correlation between the number of misdemeanor arrests and traffic citations (both high-discretion).

Similarly, one would expect to find little if any correlation between either of these two high-discretion activities and low-discretion felony arrests.

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