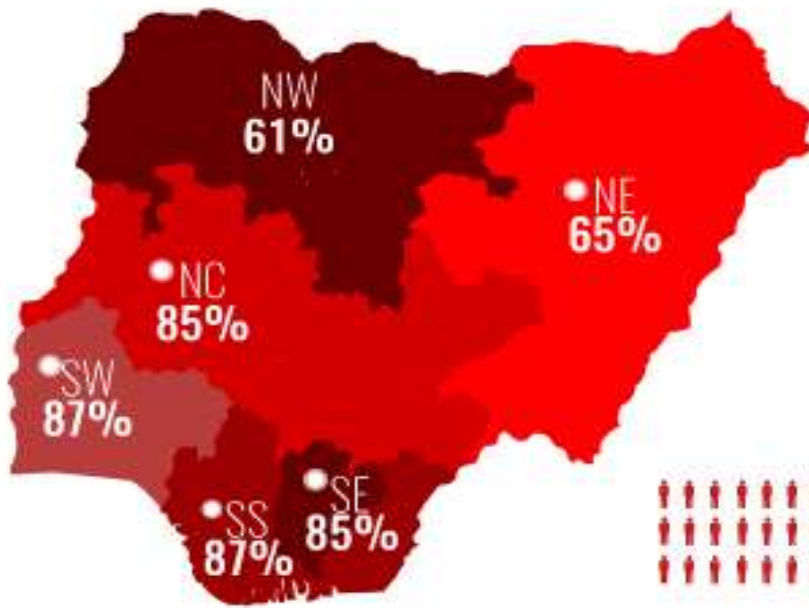


POLICE

Public Perception on **POLICE BRUTALITY**



77%

of Nigerians say that **Police Brutality** is a prevalent issue in Nigeria



What do you think is the main cause of police brutality?

34% **17%** **11%** **11%** **7%**

Poor Police Welfare

Inadequate training

Greed

Inexperience

Corruption

7%

Power Drunk

5%

Indiscipline

4%

Substance Abuse

2%

Poor Monitoring

2%

Poor Recruitment Process

PUBLIC PERCEPTION ON POLICE BRUTALITY

Nigerians Lament High Prevalent of Police Brutality; Poor Welfare, Inadequate Training Blamed.

Abuja, Nigeria. May 14th, 2019 – A new public opinion poll conducted by NOIPolls has revealed that a large proportion of Nigerians nationwide disclosed that police brutality on Nigerians is prevalent. Sadly, 40 percent of those interviewed further reported that they have either been or know someone who has been recently brutalised by Nigeria police personnel. For instance, according to news report, a teenage girl was killed by a stray bullet in a shootout between policemen and some cultists in Ikorodu on the 16th of March 2019. Also, on March 25th, an Okada rider was shot dead in Kilo, Surulere area of Lagos while, on March 31st, 2019, late Ademola Moshood was shot dead by police personnel few blocks away from his house in Lagos state. The increase in the case of Police brutality has led to intense pressure from the public to reform the Nigeria Police Force and as such the Nigerian Senate passed the Police Reform Bill in April 2019 for presidential assent. One of the outstanding features of the bill is that it provides internal disciplinary mechanism for any police officer that maltreats or kills an innocent citizen.

Further findings revealed that a larger proportion of Nigerians (34 percent) cited ‘poor police welfare’ as the major cause of police brutality on citizens. Other mentions include ‘inadequate training’ of the Nigeria police personnel (17 percent), ‘lack of contentment and greed’ (11 percent), ‘lack of experience’ and the issue of ‘corruption’ within the Nigeria Police Force amongst other mentions. Therefore, there is need for the deployment of a strict measure to curb the menace. The onus now lies on the executive to assent to the Police Reform Bill as a matter of urgency to ensure that this act is put to an end. These are the key highlights from the Police Brutality poll conducted in the week commencing **May, 6th 2019**.

Poll Background

The primary duty of a police officer is to protect citizens and properties. For instance, a police officer provides public safety by maintaining order, responding to emergencies and promoting good community relations. They also identify, pursue, and arrest suspects and perpetrators of criminal acts.

The Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is the principal law enforcement agency in Nigeria. Over the years, the Nigeria police is saddled with the responsibility of securing lives and properties, maintaining law and order and preventing, detecting and investigating criminal activities. Regrettably, public respect for the Nigeria Police Force is at an all-time low having been eroded by corruption, abuse of power and in some instances, a lack of capacity to actually prevent or solve crimes. The NPF rank and file is regularly found guilty of crimes ranging from extortion to rape, murder and now kidnapping.¹

Nigerians are increasingly losing hope and confidence in the Nigeria Police force owing to the recent brutality and killings by the operatives of the force. These include battering, shooting of innocent Nigerians, bribery, arrest of innocent Nigerians and unethical behaviors amongst others. For instance, the Public Complaint Rapid Response Unit of the Nigeria Police Force stated that Lagos, Rivers, and the Federal Capital Territory police commands recorded the

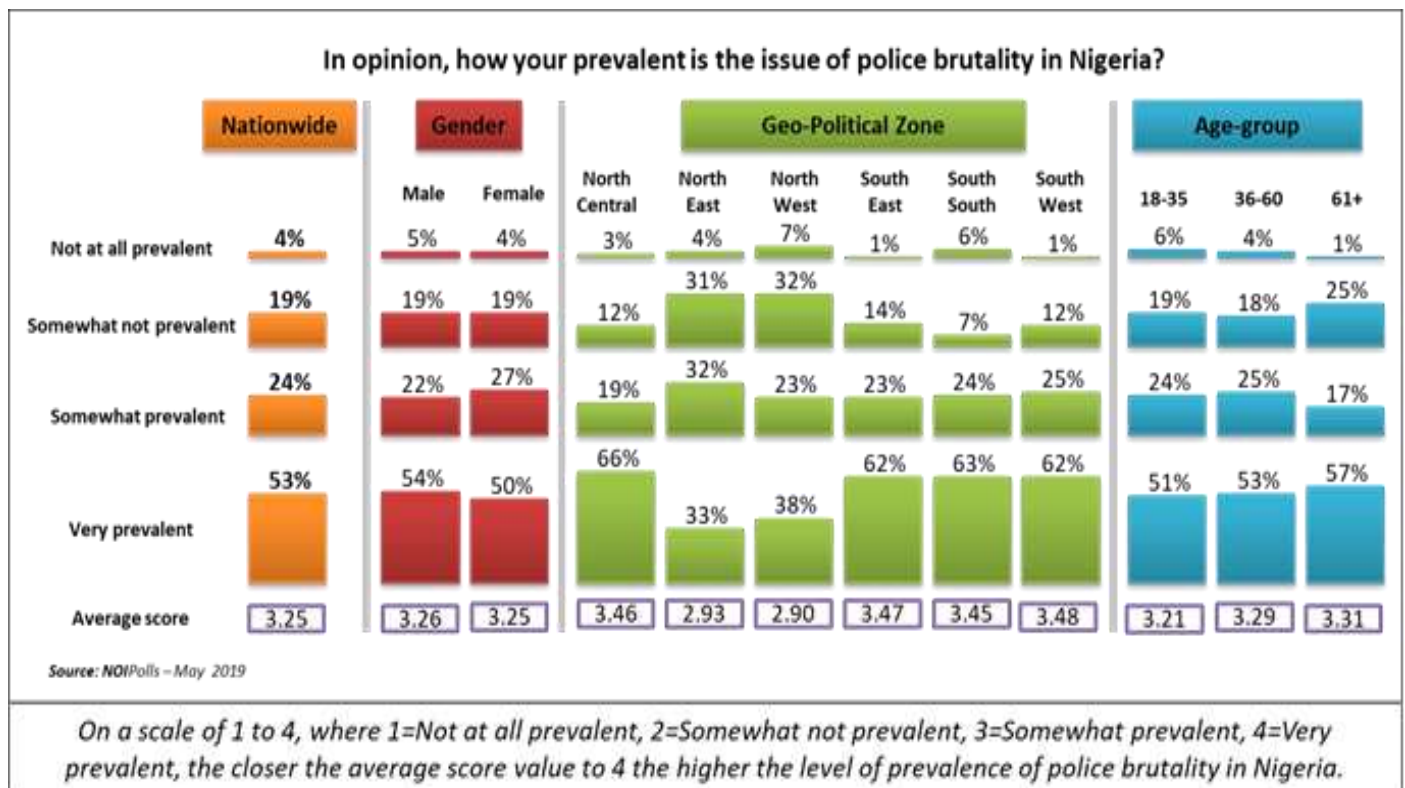
¹ <https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/nigeria-police-force-policing-with-force.html>

highest cases of police misconduct. The unit also acknowledged that it received 137 complaints against policemen in Lagos, 89 in Rivers and 82 in Abuja.²

Police brutality in Nigeria seems to prevalent, therefore, there is need for urgent and far-reaching measures to curb the menace. The passage of the Police Reform Bill by the Senate is commendable as the importance of this reform cannot be over emphasized. It is against this background that NOIPolls conducted a poll to gauge the opinion of Nigerians regarding police personnel brutality, illegal activities and suggestions on ways to curb the menace.

Poll Findings

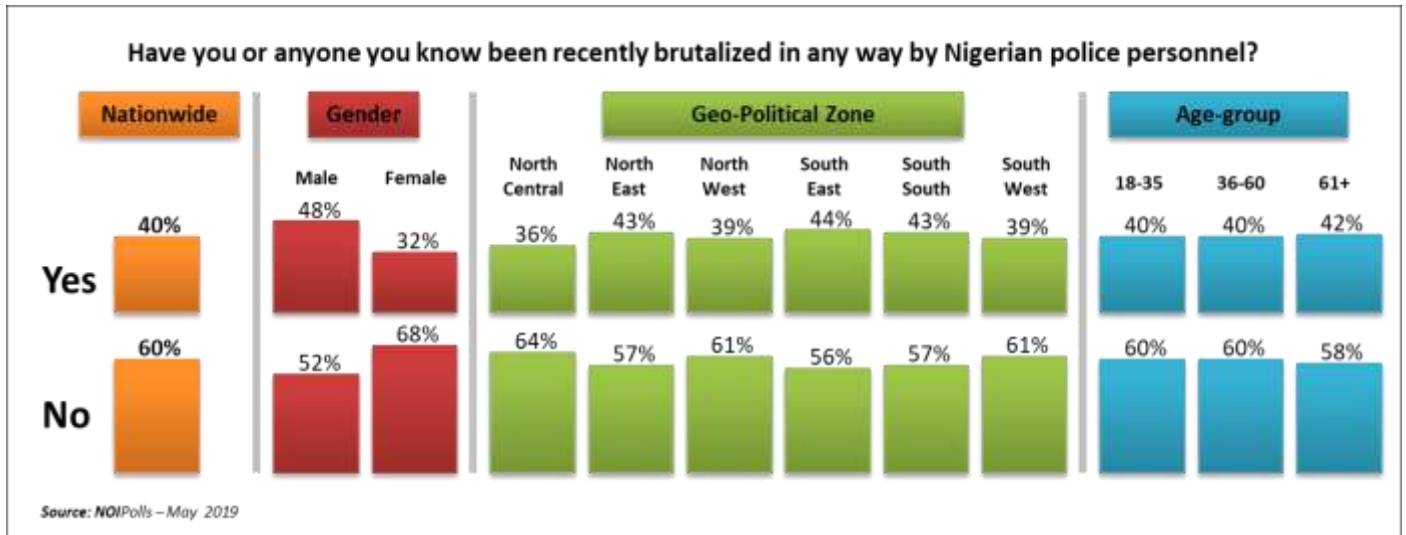
Police brutality is one of various kinds of police misbehaviour which involves unjustifiable violence by police personnel. In gauging the prevalence of police brutality in Nigeria, 77 percent of the respondents stated that the issue of police brutality in Nigeria is prevalent whereas, 23 percent claimed it is not prevalent. Analysis by geo-political zone showed that Nigerians residing in the South-South and South-West zones (87 percent each) accounted for the larger proportion of Nigerians who asserted that the issue of police brutality is prevalent.



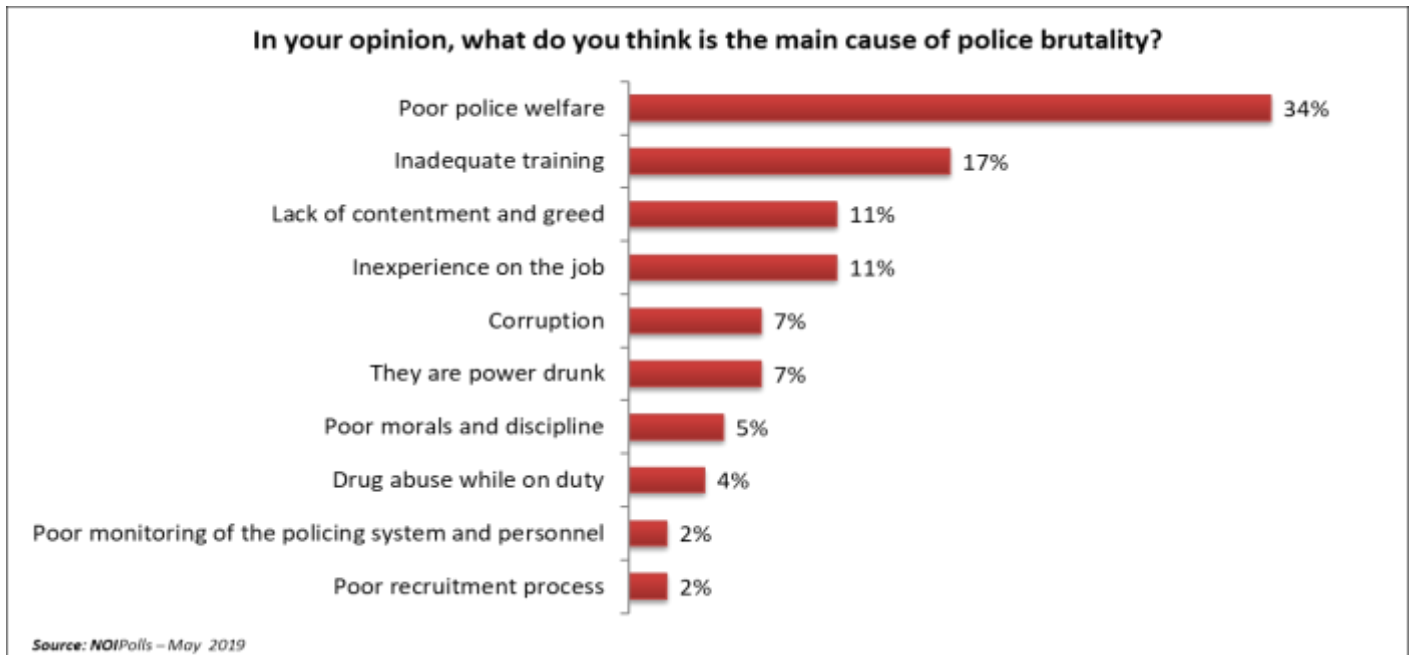
Respondents were further probed if they or someone they know has been recently brutalised in any way by Nigeria police personnel; and poll result revealed that 40 percent of the respondents have either been or know someone who has been recently brutalised by Nigeria police personnel. For instance, news report revealed that on March 2nd 2019, a police officer shot a bus driver dead in Mosan, Ayobo area of Lagos for refusing to give the police officer

² <https://punchng.com/lagos-rivers-top-cases-of-police-misconduct/>

some amount of money he had demanded from the bus driver.³ This is one of some incidents which have led to the death of an innocent Nigerian.



Subsequently, opinions on the main cause of police brutality were assessed and findings revealed that poor police welfare (34 percent) is the major cause of police brutality on citizens. This is followed by those who mentioned ‘inadequate training’ (17) of the Nigeria police personnel, ‘lack of contentment and greed’ (11 percent), ‘lack of experience’ and the issue of ‘corruption’ within the Nigeria Police Force amongst other mentions.



In conclusion, the poll has shown that police brutality on citizens in Nigeria is prevalent as indicated by 77 percent of Nigerians. Also, 4 in 10 Nigerians specified that they have either been or know someone who has been recently

³ <http://saharareporters.com/2019/03/01/happening-now-police-officer-kills-bus-driver-lagos-video>

brutalized by police personnel. Therefore, there is need for a far-reaching measure to curb the menace. The increase in the case of Police brutality has led to intense pressure from the public to reform the Nigeria Police Force and as such the Nigerian Senate passed the Police Reform Bill for presidential assent. One of the notable features of the bill is that it provides internal disciplinary mechanism for any police officer that maltreats or kills an innocent citizen.

Finally, while the passage of the Police Reform Bill is a laudable effort, it is worthy to note that the Nigeria police are privy to the fundamental human rights' provisions under chapter 4 of the 1999 constitution, as amended. Therefore, firearms against any citizen "except in self – defence or defence of others against threat of death or severe injury or to prevent the escape of a person who has committed a serious or deadly crime while resisting their authority" is unprofessional and barbaric.

Survey Method

The poll was conducted in the week commencing May 6th, 2019. It involved telephone interviews of a random nationwide sample. 1,000 randomly selected phone-owning Nigerians aged 18 years and above, representing the six geopolitical zones in the country, were interviewed. With a sample of this size, we can say with 95% confidence that the results obtained are statistically precise - within a range of plus or minus 4.65%.

NOIPolls Limited, is the No1 for country specific polling services in West Africa. We conduct periodic opinion polls and studies on various socio-economic and political issues in Nigeria. More information is available at www.noi-polls.com or download our mobile app NOIPolls on your smartphone.

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