

RACE, PUNISHMENT AND VICTIMS OF CRIME – A SURVEY OF CURRENT ATTITUDES

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What impact does implicit forms of racial bias have on the sentencing of criminal offenders? This study examines the impact of offender, victim and sentencer race in the severity of sentences recommended. Participants read a series of crime vignettes that either included or excluded racial identifiers and were then asked to recommend a sentence. It is predicted that these results will demonstrate significant racial bias in the sentencing of criminal offenders. The results are a pilot study that will be further expanded in the 2012-13 academic year.