**Chapter 11: Policing and Multiculturalism**

**Summary**

The news media is filled with stories involving police practices. Unfortunately, we often hear of the negative aspects of policing and failure to prevent crime. For instance, we rarely hear of the police officer who arrested the drunk driver and possibly saved several lives, or the officer who successfully defused a sticky situation verbally instead of violently. Instead, we hear of the officer who was arrested or the officer accused of racial profiling. To be sure, these events occur and should not be tolerated. However, those reading this chapter should bear in mind that most police officers abide by the law and are professional in their practice. Most are not racist, biased or hateful. They perform a difficult and controversial job that often places them in the spotlight. Unfortunately, the negative actions of a few officers are reflected on all. As a society, one of our primary goals with regard to social control remains to identify and remove from policing those who fail to appropriately do their job.

Perhaps the progress made with regard to multicultural policing is best summed by authors Hubert Williams and Patrick Murphy in their government report “The Evolving Strategy of Police: A Minority View, when they state: “significant progress has been made, however. Large numbers of blacks and other minorities have joined – and in many cases have become leaders of – our major departments.” They add that the use of violence against minorities has decreased, efforts have been made to make officers more sensitive to minority issues, and better educated police officers and leaders have enhanced the profession.[[1]](#endnote-1) Many signs point to a more positive future with regard to policing in a multicultural society.

1. Williams and Murphy, 1990, p. 13 [↑](#endnote-ref-1)