A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS INVESTIGATING RACIAL BIAS IN POLICE ENCOUNTERS AT A PUBLIC MEDICAL RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

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INTRODUCTION

- Black and Latino individuals are disproportionately represented in law enforcement encounters and the criminal justice system

- Many health and socioeconomic inequities stem from structural and interpersonal racism and racial bias in policing is one way it manifest in our society

- There are no studies investigating if disparities in police encounters also exists in a public medical research university

- Aim: To investigate racial/ethnic disparities in police encounters and arrests in a public medical research university

METHODS

- Design: retrospective analysis

- Setting: academic tertiary care center

- Timeline: 2010-2019

- Population: Campus and larger community

- Data source: Police encounter reports

- Means, standard deviations, frequencies, and percentages were calculated

- Bivariate and forward, stepwise multivariable logistic regressions

- Calculated RR using Poisson regression

- Statistical analyses were performed in STATA 16 software

RESULTS

- 5118 total police encounters, consisting of subjects (75%), arrestees (13%), and suspects (12%)

- 13.2% of encounters resulted in arrests

- Population characteristics summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Population Characteristics of Police Encounters, 2010-2019			
Variable	Not Arrested (n= 4438)	Arrested (n= 680)	Total (n=5118)
Age: mean (sd)[1]*	39.9 (15.9)	35.3 (12.1)	39.2 (15.5)
Sex: % (n)[2]			
Male	60.4% (2,641)	76.0% (516)	62.5% (3,157)
Female	39.6% (1,733)	24.0% (163)	37.5% (1896)
Race: % (n)[3]			
White	74.7% (3,065)	64.4% (434)	73.2% (3,499)
Black*	22.2% (912)	33.1% (223)	23.8% (1,135)
Asian/Pacific Islander	2.7% (127)	2.8% (115)	1.8% (12)
American Indian/Alaskan Native*	0.3% (13)	0.74% (5)	0.4% (18)
Ethnicity: % (n)[4]			
Non-Hispanic/Latino	79.6% (3,364)	90.9% (2,909)	72.3% (455)
Hispanic/Latino	19.1% (687)	27.7% (174)	20.4% (861)
Reason on campus: % (n)[5]			
Other	50.3% (2,099)	76.7% (486)	53.8% (2,585)
Patient	9.1% (381)	4.4% (28)	8.5% (409)
Visitor	12.9% (536)	15.3% (28)	13.2% (633)
Student	4.5% (186)	0.3% (2)	3.9% (188)
Employee	23.3% (970)	3.3% (21)	20.6% (991)

[1.] n=4,397; missing information on 14.1% (n=721)
[2.] n=5,053; missing information on 1.27% (n=65)
[3.] n= 4,779; missing information on 6.62% (n=339)
[4.] n=4,225; missing information on 17.45% (n=893)
[5.] n=4,806; missing information on 6.1% (n=312)
*p<0.001 using Student T-test/Chi-square

Black and Latino individuals were 1.52 and 1.41 times more likely to have an encounter lead to arrest respectively compared to White individuals even after controlling for confounding variables

- Black individuals were 7.79 times more likely to be arrested for a suspicious incident *

- Black individuals were more likely to be arrested for the following encounters: assault, theft, and suspicious incident *

- Latino individuals were more likely to be arrested for code violations and traffic incidents *

- Black and Latino individuals were more likely to be arrested if they were unaffiliated with the campus *

***Denotes statistically significant findings P < 0.05**

Conclusions

- Black and Latino are at higher risk of arrest than White individuals at a public research university medical campus setting

- Disparities in arrest rates at a medical research university may result in increased mistrust with health and medical institutions

References
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