State of Incarceration Virtual Summit
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Victimized by the State: Police Victimization and Associations with Perceptions of the Police

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Police Violence: What we know

- Recognized as public health issue
- Persistence of police violence despite efforts to address it
- Dominant empirical examination - those most at risk, health and mental health effects, samples including males
- Measurement issues - lack of mandated data repository; how PV is defined varies
Police Violence: What we know

- Disparities in police violence
  - Black and Latino individuals more likely to experience PV even when controlling for crime
  - Men more likely than women to experience PV; some empirical work finds that women with a history of IPV and SV report PV as well
  - LGBTQ report excessive force, harassment and discrimination by the police

- Immigration status, education and income levels also linked to PV
Police Perceptions: What we know

- Perceptions of the police among minority groups overall are low
- Perceptions vary across different demographic factors (e.g. age, gender, race, immigration status, LGBTQ, etc.) and prior crime involvement

Less is known about how specific forms of PV and Police perceptions are linked among more diverse samples
Current Study

- Using Police Practices Inventory (PPI) we explore this gap in how PV is defined and explore its connection to specific domains of how the police are perceived
- Research Questions:
  - What are the differences in police perceptions across demographic factors, including racial and ethnic identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, income, education, and U.S. born status (U.S. born or non-U.S. born)
  - Are there differences in police perceptions due to specific forms police victimization exposure, controlling for confounding factors (e.g. demographics and prior crime involvement)?
Data and Methods

- 2017 Survey of Police-Public Encounters, a cross-sectional, demographically representative survey of adults in Baltimore and New York City (N = 1,000).
- **Police Violence** - Using the PPI; specific forms of PV perpetrated by the police were measured (police neglect, psychological, physical, and sexual violence)
- **Police Perceptions** - police legitimacy/trust, police effectiveness, and satisfaction with police performance

- We assessed differences in mean scores of perceptions of the police among a variety of demographic factors
- OLS regressions modeled associations between PV (in separate models) and each outcome variable of interest regarding police perceptions of the police controlling for demographic factors and prior crime involvement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SAMPLE DESCRIPTION (N = 1,000)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean current age (SD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transgender</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black or African American non-Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>White non-Hispanic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, Multiracial, Other)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Born</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sexual minority (lesbian/gay/bisexual)</td>
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<td>Police Victimization Exposure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neglectful Victimization</td>
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<td>Psychological</td>
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<td>Physical</td>
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<td>Sexual</td>
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Results

- Individuals exposed to PV who were younger, female, had lower levels of education and income, identified as a racial/ethnic minority, had prior criminal involvement, and were U.S. born held less favorable police perceptions.
- Exposure to all other forms of police victimization was associated with less favorable perceptions of police effectiveness, controlling for confounding factors.
- However, police legitimacy/trust and satisfaction with police performance were associated with all forms of police victimization except for sexual victimization.
Limitations

- Data are cross-sectional; causal links are challenging to make
- Self-reported experiences may not capture the situational context
- Not generalizable to other U.S. cities (e.g. participants resided in NYC and Baltimore)
- Police perceptions were lower among LGB participants but weren’t statistically significant
- Small sample size among transgender participants (n = 6)
- Small sample size of individuals exposed to sexual victimization perpetrated by the police (n = 42).
Conclusion and Future Research

Previously avoided measurements of police violence are addressed in this paper by exploring more specific forms of police victimization beyond physical force.

- **Gendered findings** and need for future research - #SayHerName campaign and calls to arrest the police who killed Breonna
- Mixed-methods research needed to unpack the unique impact of different forms of police victimization, specifically sexual victimization
- Prospective/Life course research on PV
- Larger samples of transgender/nonbinary individuals and groups
Smart Decarceration

- Community driven approaches to safety that reduce and eliminate these early pathways to the criminal legal system that are often harmful, as seen in this study
- Support to historically victimized groups
- Reliance on historical accounts of these issues to inform future initiatives and to ground oneself in the pervasiveness of police violence
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