

Social Impacts of Police Violence

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Motivation

The New York Times

Why Is Police Brutality Still Happening?

Videos of state-sponsored killings have been going viral for years.
Little has changed.

May 28, 2020



Motivation

Our current moment is a product of countless historical decisions about:

- Where to police?
- Who to police?
- How to police?

These decisions are themselves informed by **research**

Today's talk:

- *What do we know about effects of police on local communities?*
- *How does this intersect with representation in the academic institution?*

Research Landscape

What questions have empirical researchers asked about the effects of police historically?

Google Scholar search results for "effects of police". The interface shows a search bar with the query "effects of police" and a search button. Below the search bar, there are filters for "Articles" (About 1,570,000 results) and a sidebar with options like "Any time", "Sort by relevance", and "Create alert".

The search results are listed below, with red boxes highlighting specific articles and their titles. Red arrows point from these boxes to the corresponding research questions on the right.

- Using electoral cycles in police hiring to estimate the effects of police on crime** (SD Levitt - American Economic Review, 2002 - pubs.aeaweb.org) [PDF] jstor.org → Effects of police on crime deterrence
- General deterrent effects of police patrol in crime "hot spots": A randomized, controlled trial** (LW Sherman, D Weisburd - Justice quarterly, 1995 - Taylor & Francis) [PDF] heinonline.org → Effects of police on crime deterrence
- The effects of police surveillance and law enforcement on driver behaviour** (T Rothengatter - Current Psychological Reviews, 1982 - Springer) [PDF] springer.com → Effects of police on crime deterrence
- The effects of police work and professional relationships on health** (E Stotland - Journal of Criminal Justice, 1991 - Elsevier) → Determinants of officer stress
- What's Known About Deterrent Effects of Police Activities.** (JM Chaiken - 1976 - apps.dtic.mil) [PDF] dtic.mil → Effects of police on crime deterrence

Related searches include: police brutality, police officers, police force, police body cameras, police corruption, police misconduct, police racial profiling, and police use of force.

Research Landscape

What questions have empirical researchers asked about the effects of police historically?

Google Scholar effects of police

Articles About 1,570,000 results (0.08 sec)

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Since 2021
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Using electoral cycles in **police** hiring to estimate the **effects of police** on crime: Reply
SD Levitt - American Economic Review, 2002 - pubs.aeaweb.org
Justin McCrary (2002) demonstrates that a paper of mine on the subject of elections, **police**, and crime published in this journal (Levitt, 1997) suffers from programming and classification errors. It is with tremendous personal embarrassment that I acknowledge these mistakes ...
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General deterrent **effects of police** patrol in crime "hot spots": A randomized, controlled trial
LW Sherman, D Weisburd - Justice quarterly, 1995 - Taylor & Francis
Many criminologists doubt that the dosage of uniformed **police** patrol causes any measurable difference in crime. This article reports a one-year randomized trial in Minneapolis of increases in patrol dosage at 55 of 110 crime "hot spots," monitored by 7,542 ...
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[PDF] The **effects of police** surveillance and law enforcement on driver behaviour
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Police surveillance and enforcement activities can have a significant effect on the compliance of traffic rules and regulations. The extent to which road users are influenced by traffic law enforcement depends on the strategies used in **police** surveillance and on the ...
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The **effects of police** work and professional relationships on health
E Stotland - Journal of Criminal Justice, 1991 - Elsevier
Research by the author reported in detailed elsewhere indicates that **police** officers with low workloads are oriented toward their departments, particularly their sergeants, and suffer more stress when relations with others in their departments are negative. This research also ...
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Related searches

police **brutality** police **corruption**
police **officers** police **misconduct**
police **force** police **racial profiling**
police **body cameras** police **use of force**

What's Known About Deterrent **Effects of Police** Activities.
JM Chaiken - 1976 - apps.dtic.mil
Several techniques have been used to estimate the effect of **police** activities on the incidence of crime, including 1 cross-sectional analysis of reported crime rates in various jurisdictions as compared to resources devoted to the totality of **police** functions or certain ...
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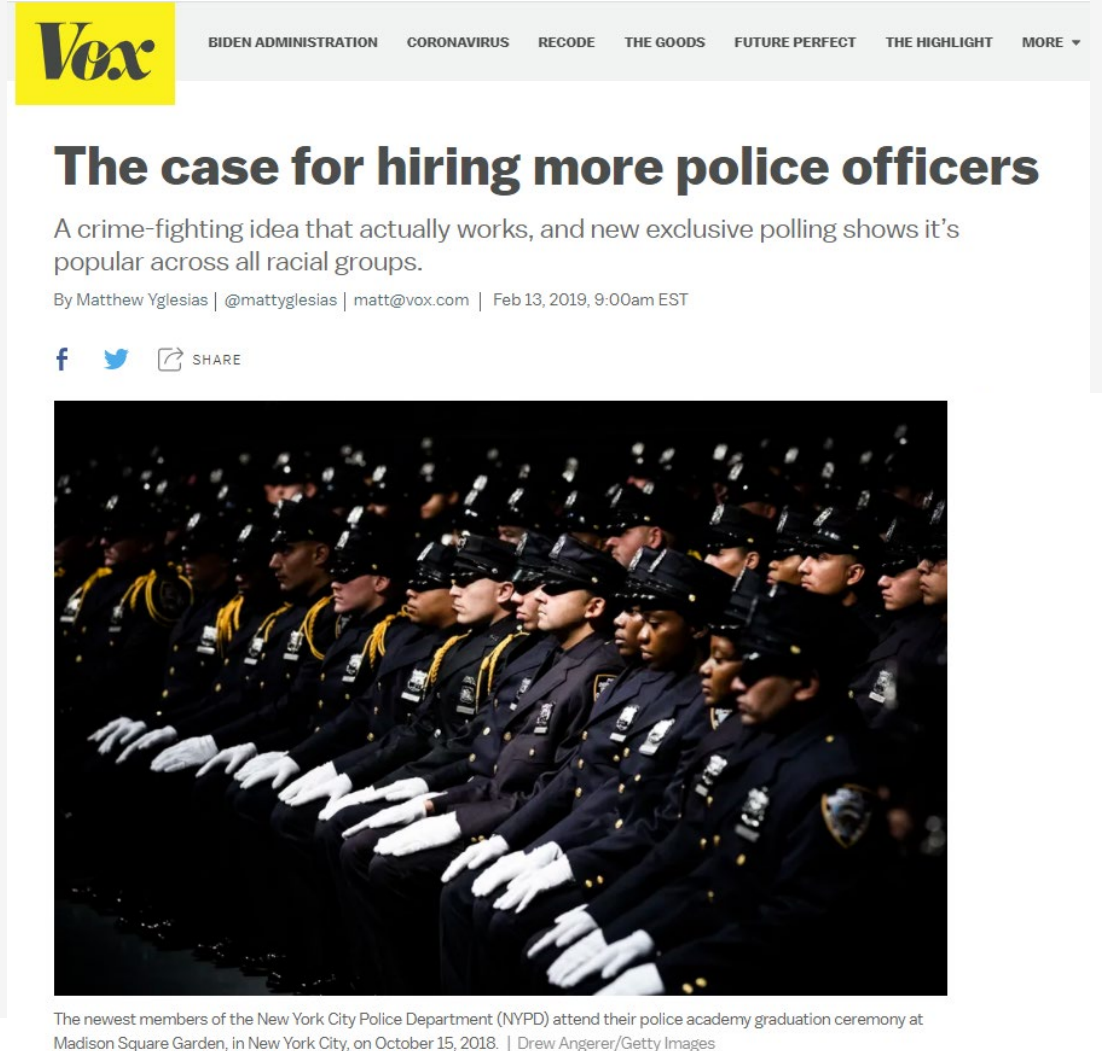
Narrow research questions

Narrow author set

Research Landscape

Research focusing on crime has led to the following consensus:

The research is clear: more cops = less crime

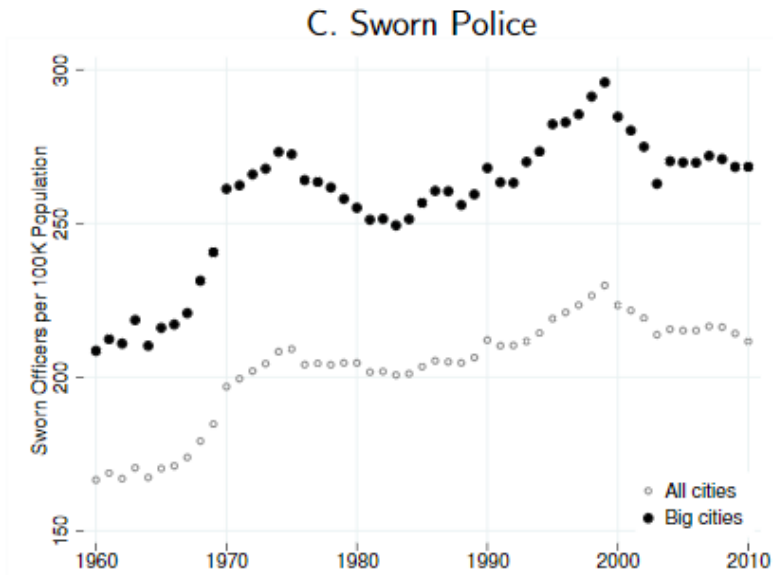


The screenshot shows a Vox article page. At the top left is the Vox logo. To its right is a navigation menu with links for 'BIDEN ADMINISTRATION', 'CORONAVIRUS', 'RECODE', 'THE GOODS', 'FUTURE PERFECT', 'THE HIGHLIGHT', and 'MORE'. The article title is 'The case for hiring more police officers' in a large, bold font. Below the title is a sub-headline: 'A crime-fighting idea that actually works, and new exclusive polling shows it's popular across all racial groups.' The byline reads 'By Matthew Yglesias | @mattyglesias | matt@vox.com | Feb 13, 2019, 9:00am EST'. Below the byline are social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and a 'SHARE' button. The main image is a photograph of a large group of police officers in dark uniforms and caps, sitting in rows. Below the image is a caption: 'The newest members of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) attend their police academy graduation ceremony at Madison Square Garden, in New York City, on October 15, 2018. | Drew Angerer/Getty Images'.

Policy Landscape

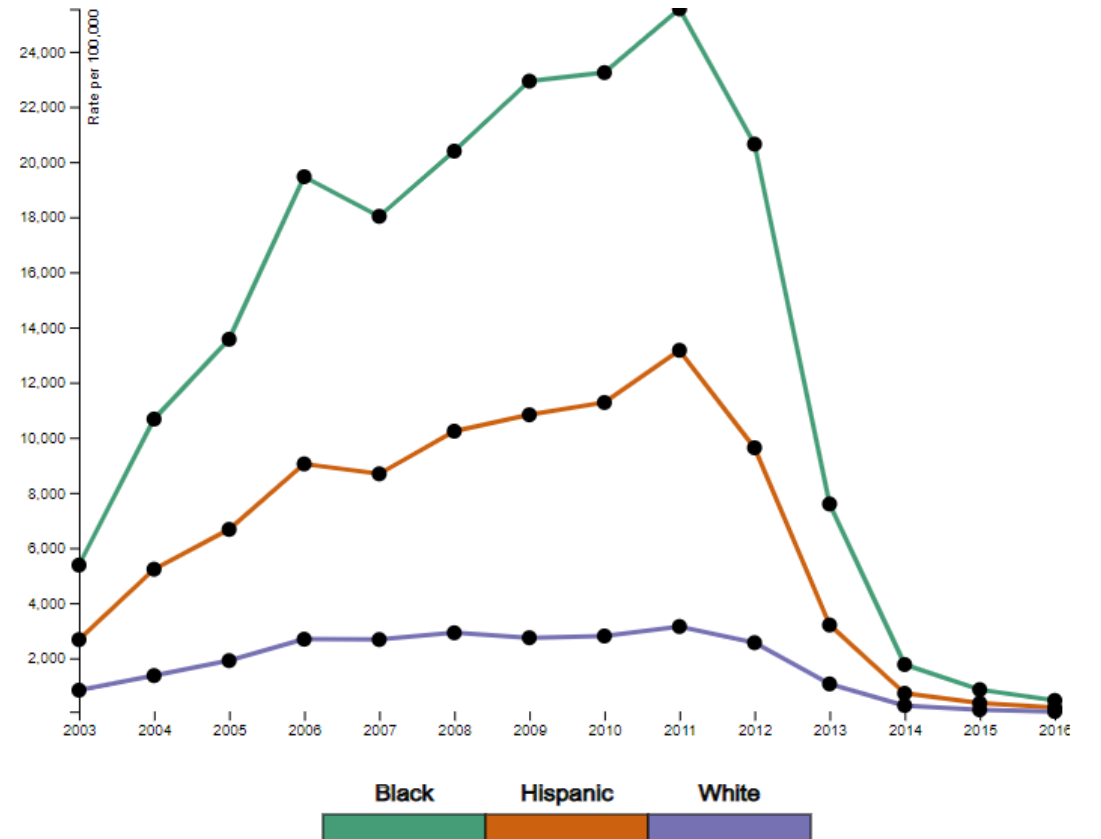
And is also reflected in actual policy

GROWTH OF POLICE PER CAPITA



Chalfin and McCrary (2013). "Are U.S. Cities Underpoliced?: Theory and Evidence."

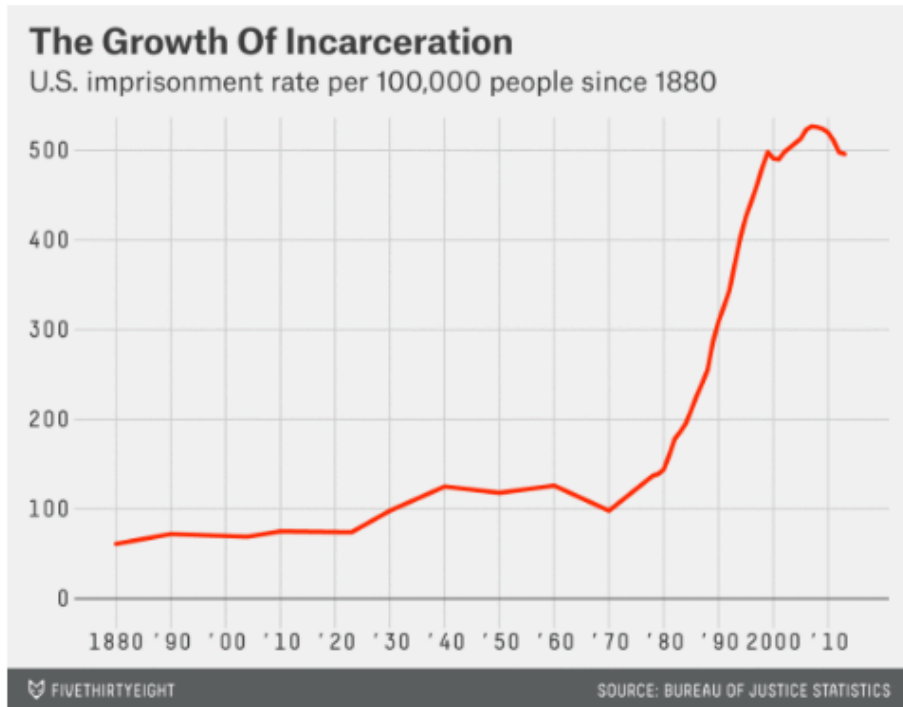
NYC Stop-and Frisk Rates by Race



Policy Landscape

And outcomes...

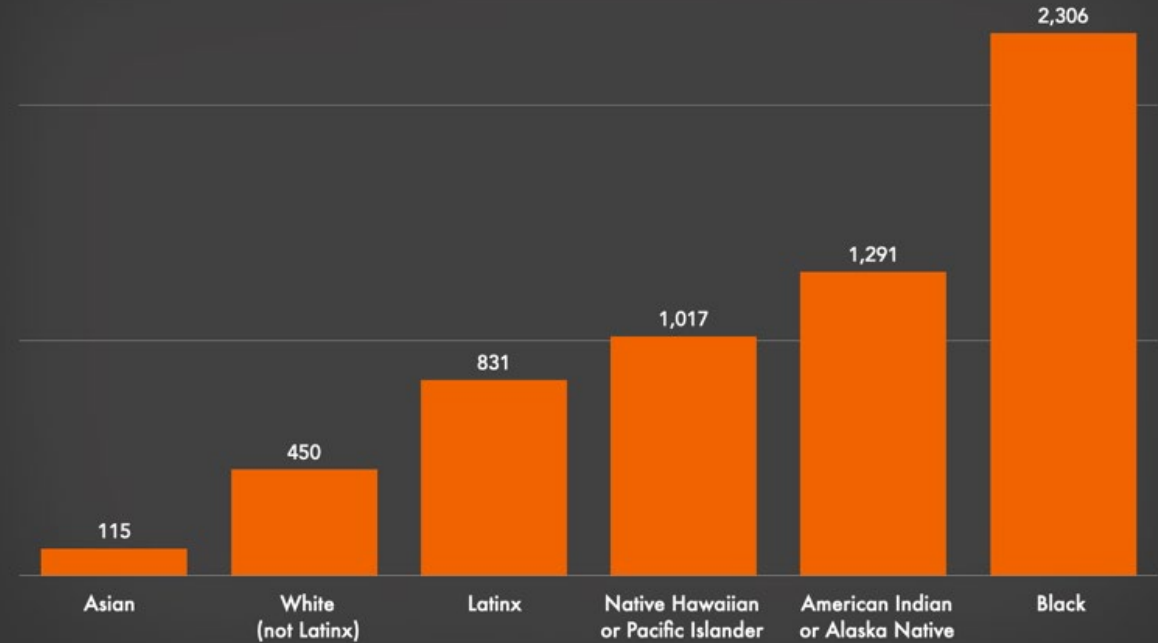
GROWTH OF IMPRISONED POPULATION



Oliver Roeder, "The Prisoner's Dilemma." *FiveThirtyEight.com*

U.S. incarceration rates by race and ethnicity, 2010

Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in each racial or ethnic category



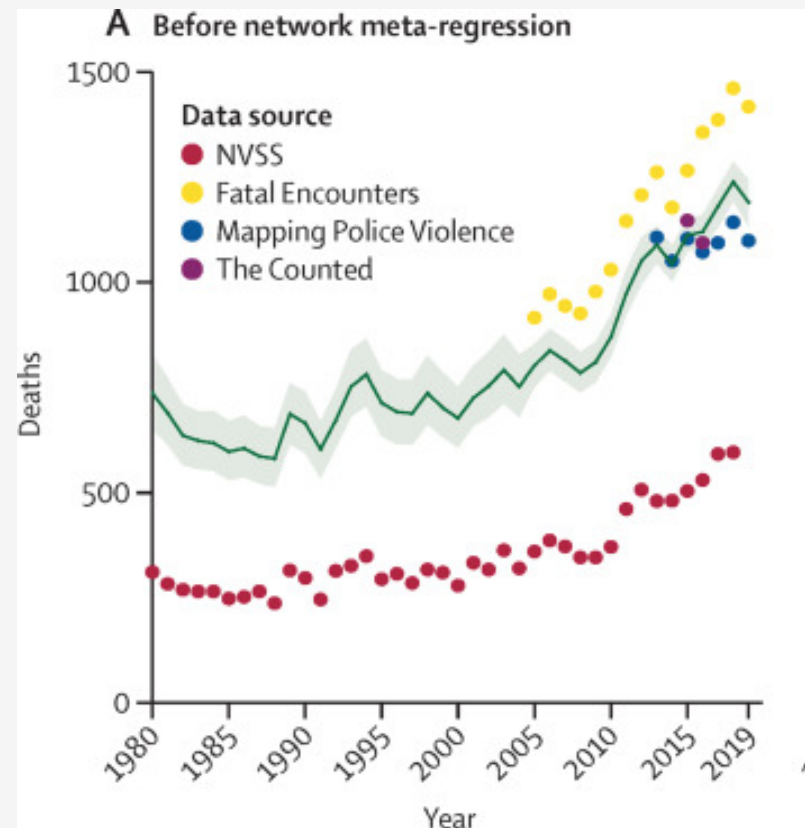
PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Calculated by the Prison Policy Initiative from U.S. Census 2010 Summary File 1. For the full data set and sourcing details, see www.prisonpolicy.org/data/race_ethnicity_gender_2010.xlsx

Policy Landscape

Leading to ~1,000 police-involved killings each year

- ~50% involve racial minorities; ~40% didn't have a gun
- <0.5% result in officer convictions



(Source: Lancet, 2021)

Use of force is “a feature, not a bug”

Role of Law Enforcement

At the same time, purpose of police is far broader than crime reduction:

*“The purpose of law enforcement in a free society is to promote **public safety** and uphold the rule of law so that **individual liberty may flourish.**” – Charles Koch Institute*

Crime is one input for public safety and community well-being, but it's not the only one:

- Procedural justice
- Trust in government
- Perceptions of safety
- Social cohesion
- Economic well-being
- Psychological well-being
- Etc.

Narrow frame for considering what impact police have on communities much less for determining optimal law enforcement policy

Role of Law Enforcement

Long history of public discussions about police and use of force beyond their impacts on crime

Kerner Commission Report (1968):

*"The atmosphere of hostility and cynicism is reinforced by a **widespread belief among [African-Americans] in the existence of police brutality and in a "double standard" of justice and protection--one for [African-Americans] and one for whites.**"*

New York Times (1858):

"The man Hollis was a notorious and most pestilent ruffian. That he deserved his fate is universally conceded...

*Yet, nothing could more forcibly illustrate the degradation into which local government has fallen. It is bad enough to have a gang of lawless and uncontrollable scoundrels among us, but **it is much worse to have their lawlessness imitated by the men whose special duty it is to enforce the law.**"*

Role of Law Enforcement

Largest urban protests and riots over past half-century were all sparked by acts of police violence

Murder of George Floyd (2020)



Ferguson Riots (2014)



Rodney King Riots (1992)



Watts Riots (1965)

But social impacts were never rigorously examined in the academic literature historically

Role of Law Enforcement

Only recently, have researchers interrogated broader questions about the role of police

Google Scholar

effects of police



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The effects of police violence on inner-city students
D.Ang - The Quarterly Journal of Economics, 2021 - academic.oup.com
Abstract Nearly 1,000 officer-involved killings occur each year in the United States. This article documents the large, racially disparate effects of these events on the educational and psychological well-being of Los Angeles public high school students. Exploiting hyperlocal ...
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Effects of police violence on student well-being

Body-worn cameras' effects on police officers and citizen behavior: A systematic review
C.Lum, CS Koper, DB Wilson, M Stoltz... - Campbell Systematic... , 2020 - eprints.qut.edu.au
Law enforcement agencies have rapidly adopted BWCs in the last decade with the hope that they might improve police conduct, accountability, and transparency, especially regarding use of force. Overall, there remains substantial uncertainty about whether BWCs can reduce ...
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This qualitative study investigated the personal experiences of police racial bias and brutality among 18 African American parents, the effect those experiences have had on them, how they discuss such incidents with their children, and which sources of strength the ...
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Effects of police on mental health of Black families

Effects of police body-worn cameras on citizen compliance and cooperation: Findings from a quasi-randomized controlled trial
M.Demir, AA Braga, R Apel - Criminology & Public Policy, 2020 - Wiley Online Library
Research Summary This study tests the effect of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on stopped drivers' perceptions of complying with police directives, obeying traffic laws, and cooperating with the police. A quasi-randomized controlled trial was conducted with drivers stopped at ...
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Effects of body-worn cameras on police actions and civilian complaints

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The overlooked perspective of police trust in the public: Measurement and effects on police job behaviors
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Many studies have looked at the public's trust in the police, but very few have examined police trust in the public. Based on Mayer, Davis, and Schoorman's model of trust, we conducted two studies. The first study created scales measuring the antecedents of trust and ...
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Relationship between community trust and police actions

Role of Law Enforcement

Only recently, have researchers interrogated broader questions about the role of police

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Diverse research questions

Diverse author set

Social Impacts of Police Violence

My work examines social impacts of police violence on aspects of community well-being beyond crime

How do police killings affect:

- Emotional and academic well-being of children
- Civic engagement and trust in government
- Civilian crime reporting and social unrest

Leverage highly-detailed, granular data on students/voters/911 calls and incident-level information on time and location of police killings

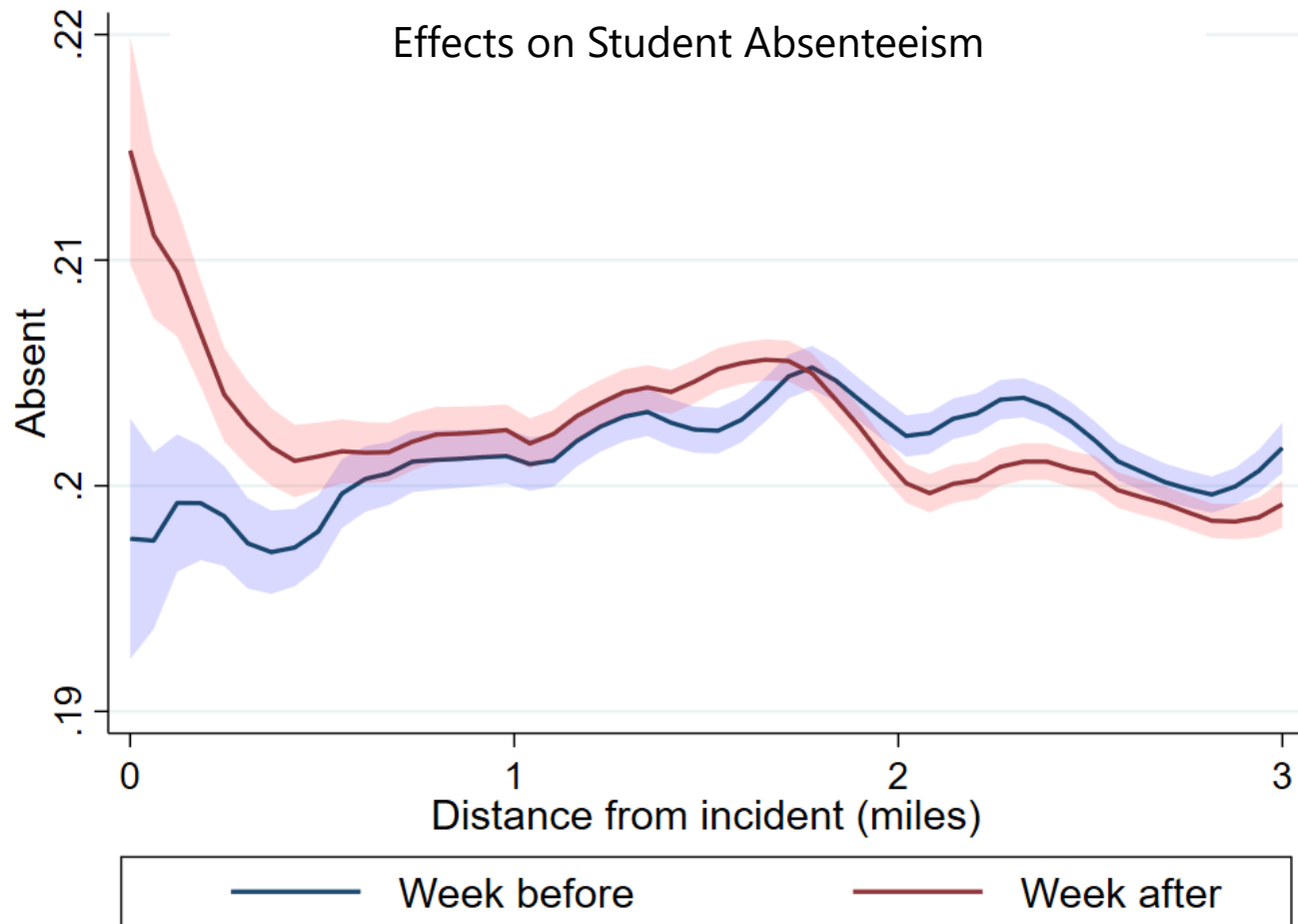
What do we find when we begin asking these questions?

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Combine detailed data from 2002-2016:

- 600+ police killings in Los Angeles
- Home address and outcomes of all public high school students (700k+)

Social Impacts of Police Violence



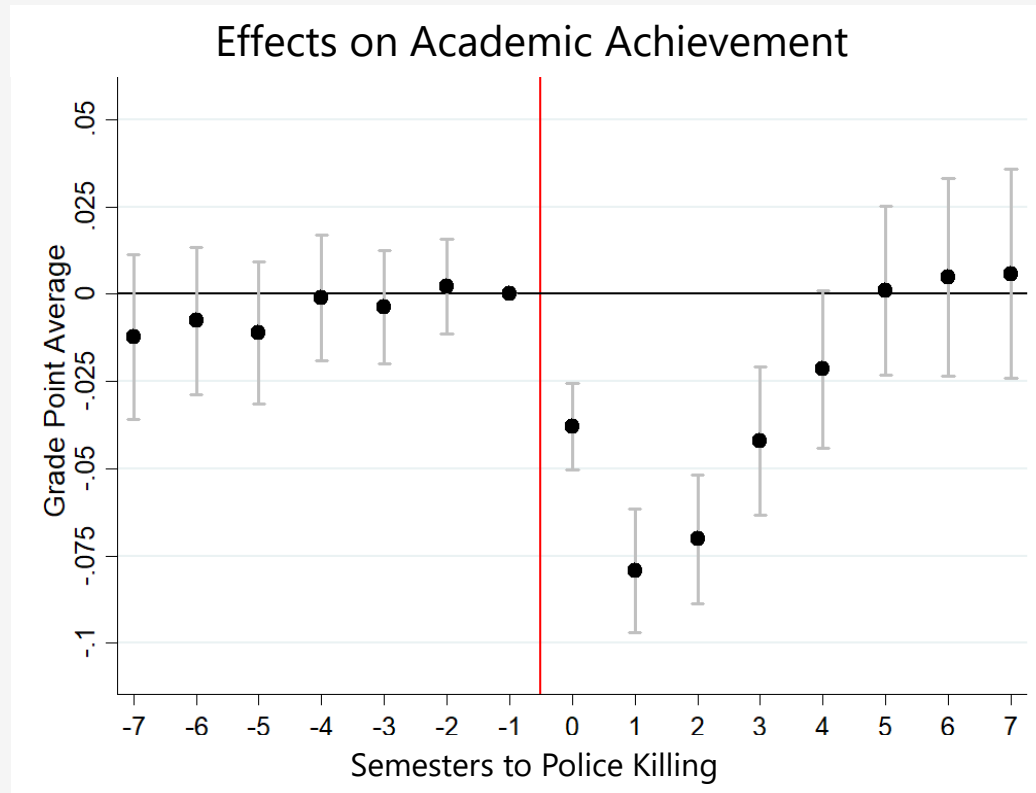
Combine detailed data from 2002-2016:

- 600+ police killings in Los Angeles
- Home address and outcomes of all public high school students (700k+)

Police killings significantly increase absenteeism among nearby students

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Ultimately, bleeding into educational achievement

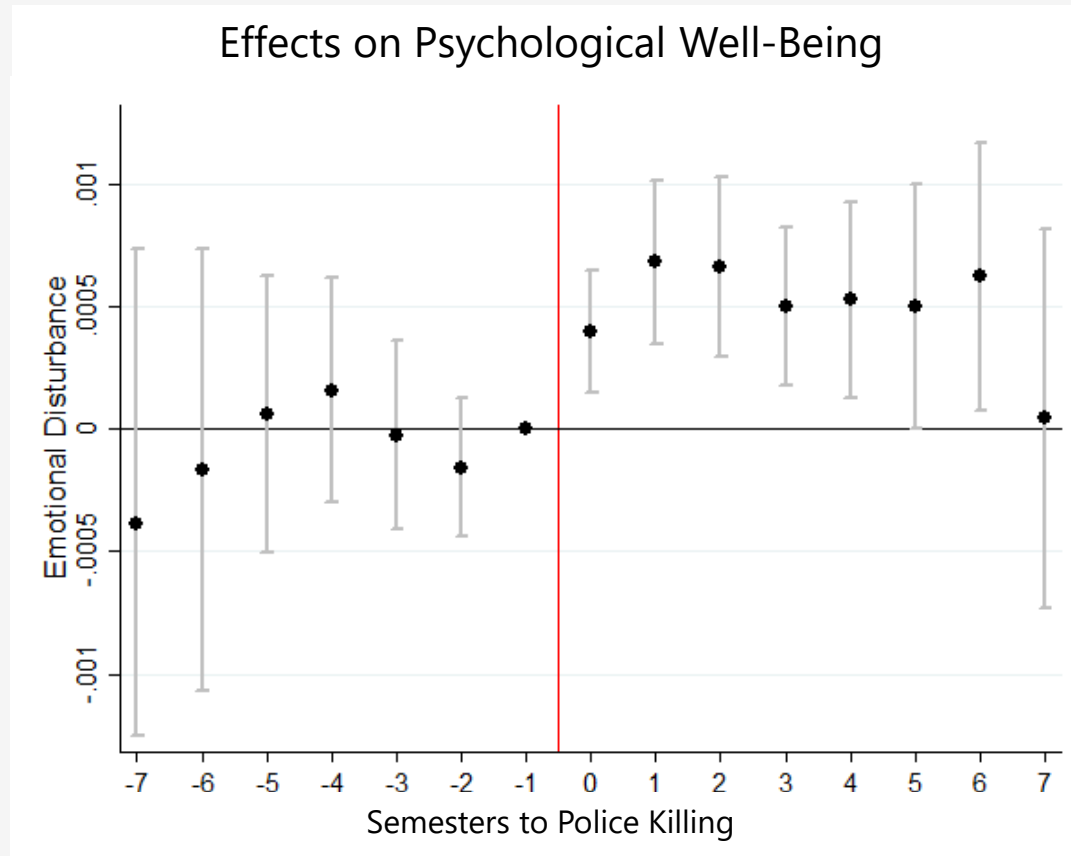


(Source: Ang, 2021)

- Students living near police killing experience large decreases in GPA lasting several semesters
- On average, 300 students affected by each killing in Los Angeles

Social Impacts of Police Violence

...and mental health

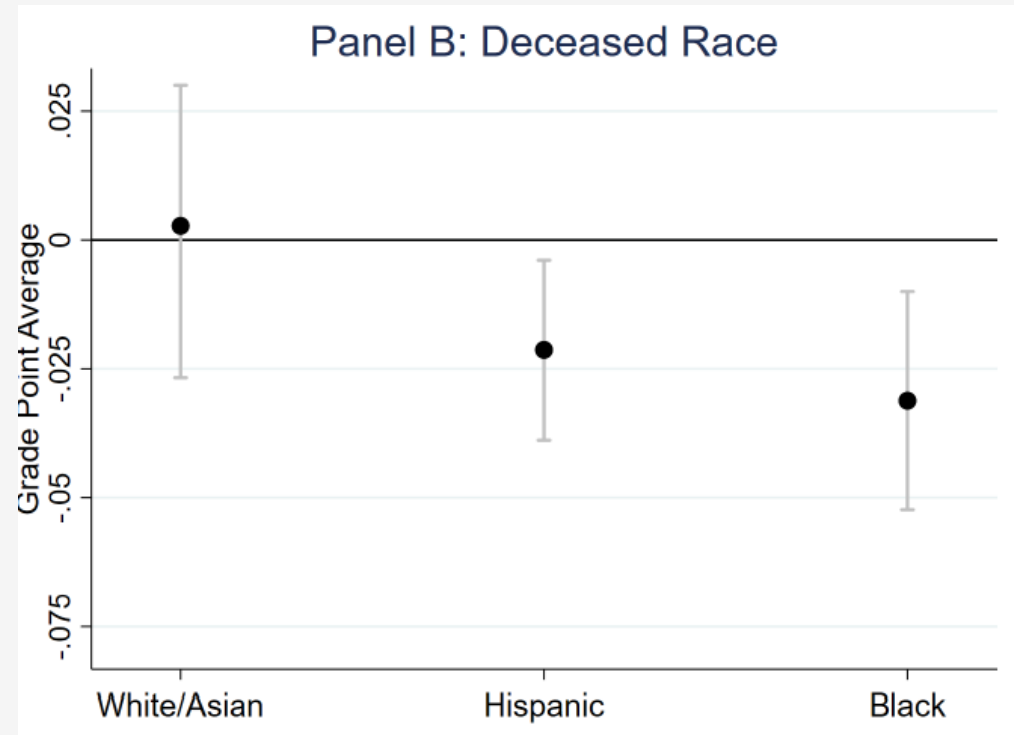
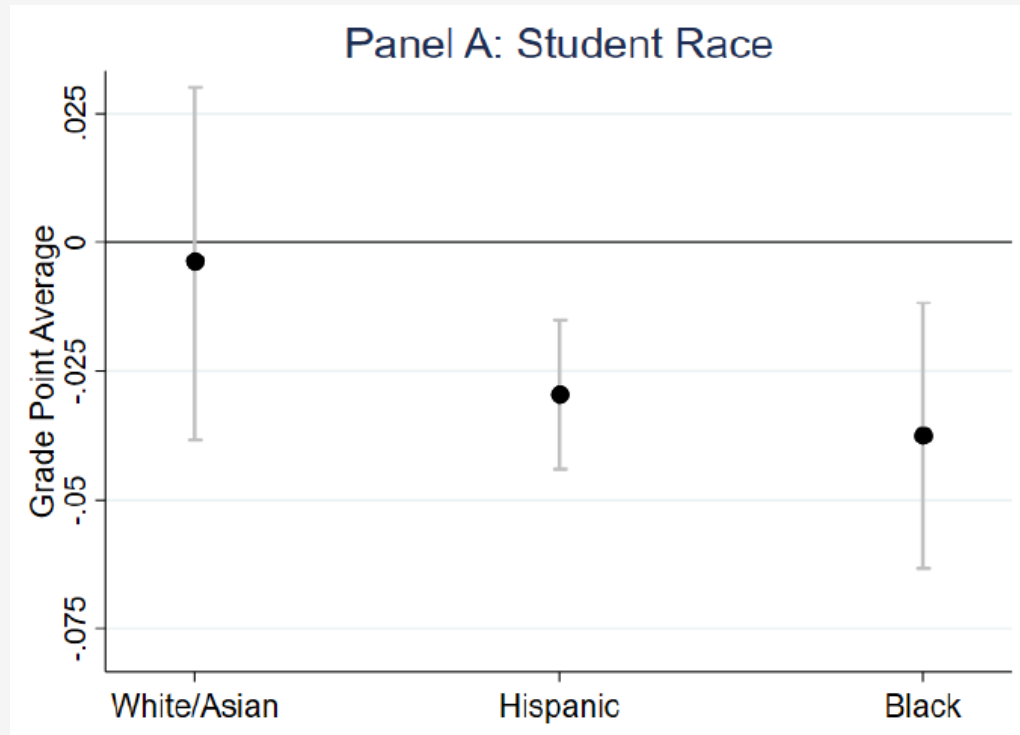


(Source: Ang, 2021)

Similar findings for adult mental health by DeVlyder et al. (2018) and Bor et al. (2018)

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Further exacerbating persistent racial disparities

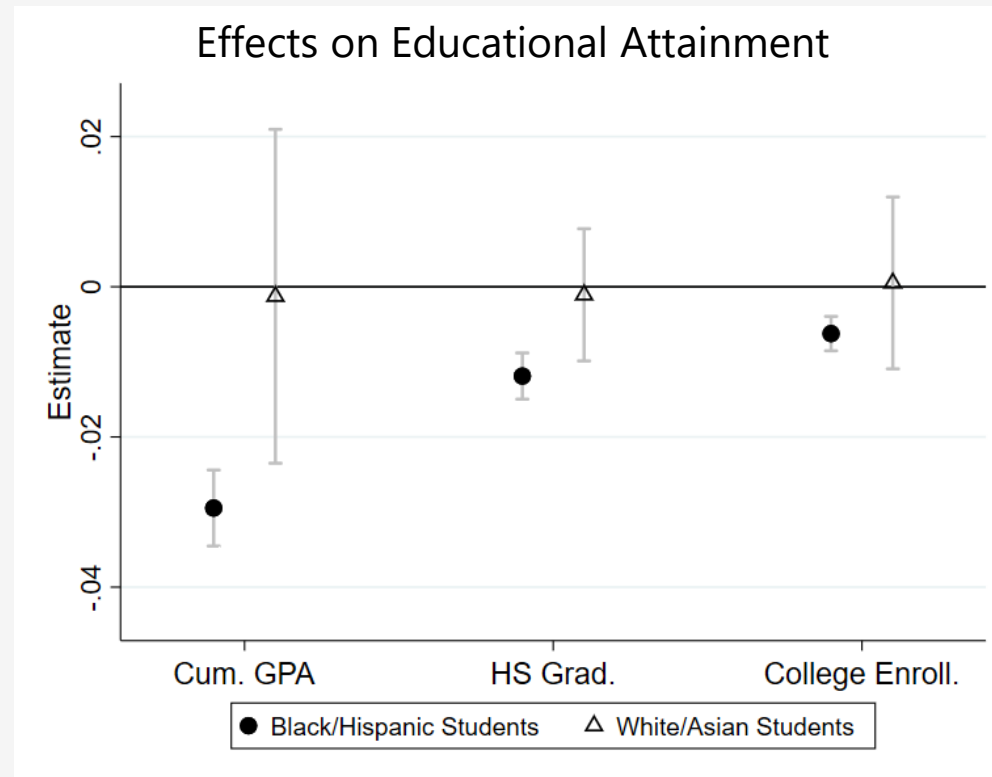


(Source: Ang, 2021)

- Effects borne entirely by underrepresented minorities
- Stem entirely from police killings of other minorities

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Long-run costs are potentially enormous

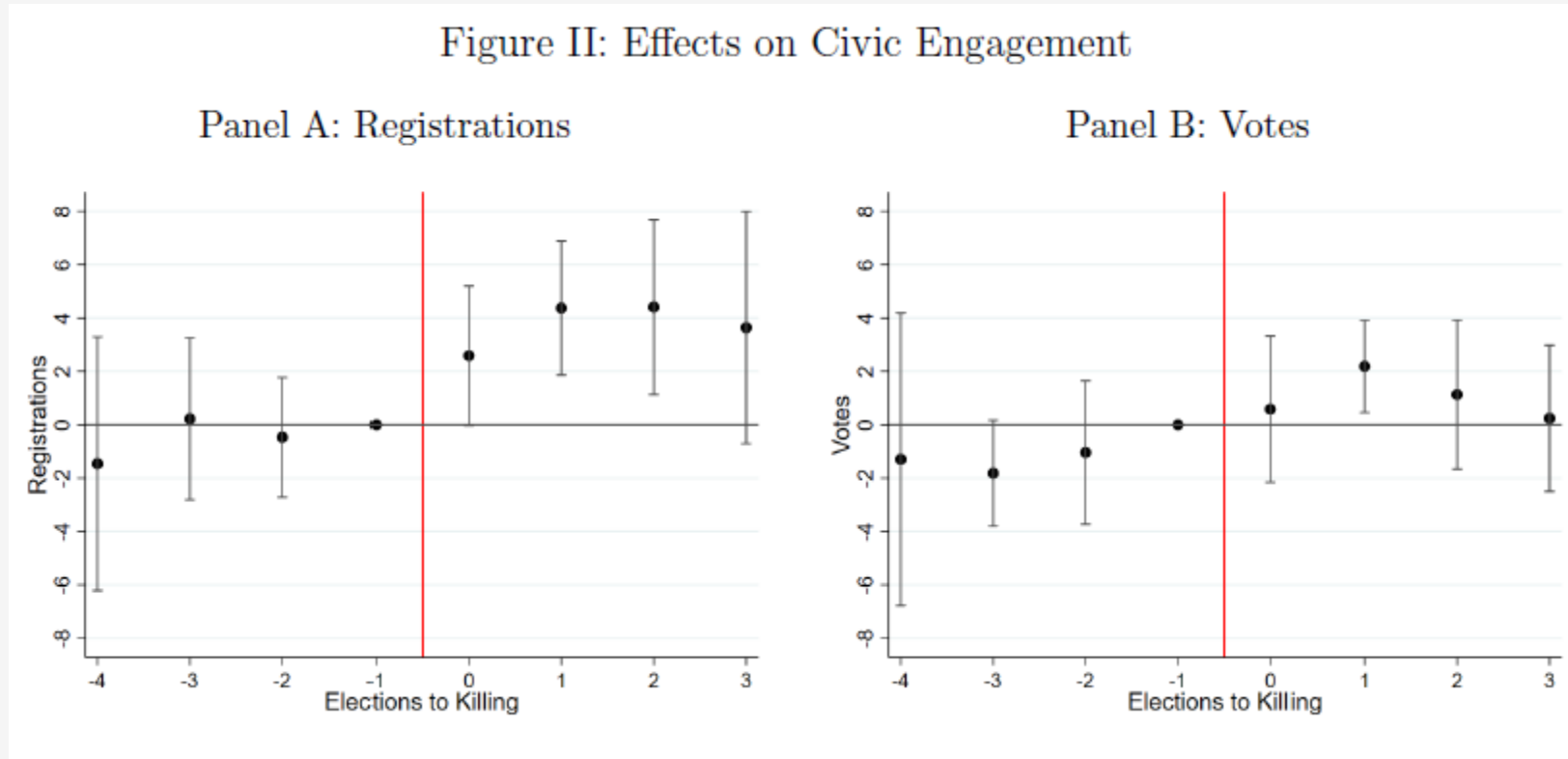


(Source: Ang, 2021)

From 2002-2016, over **2000 students of color** dropped out of L.A. high schools because of police killings

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Spillovers may extend to interactions with other government institutions



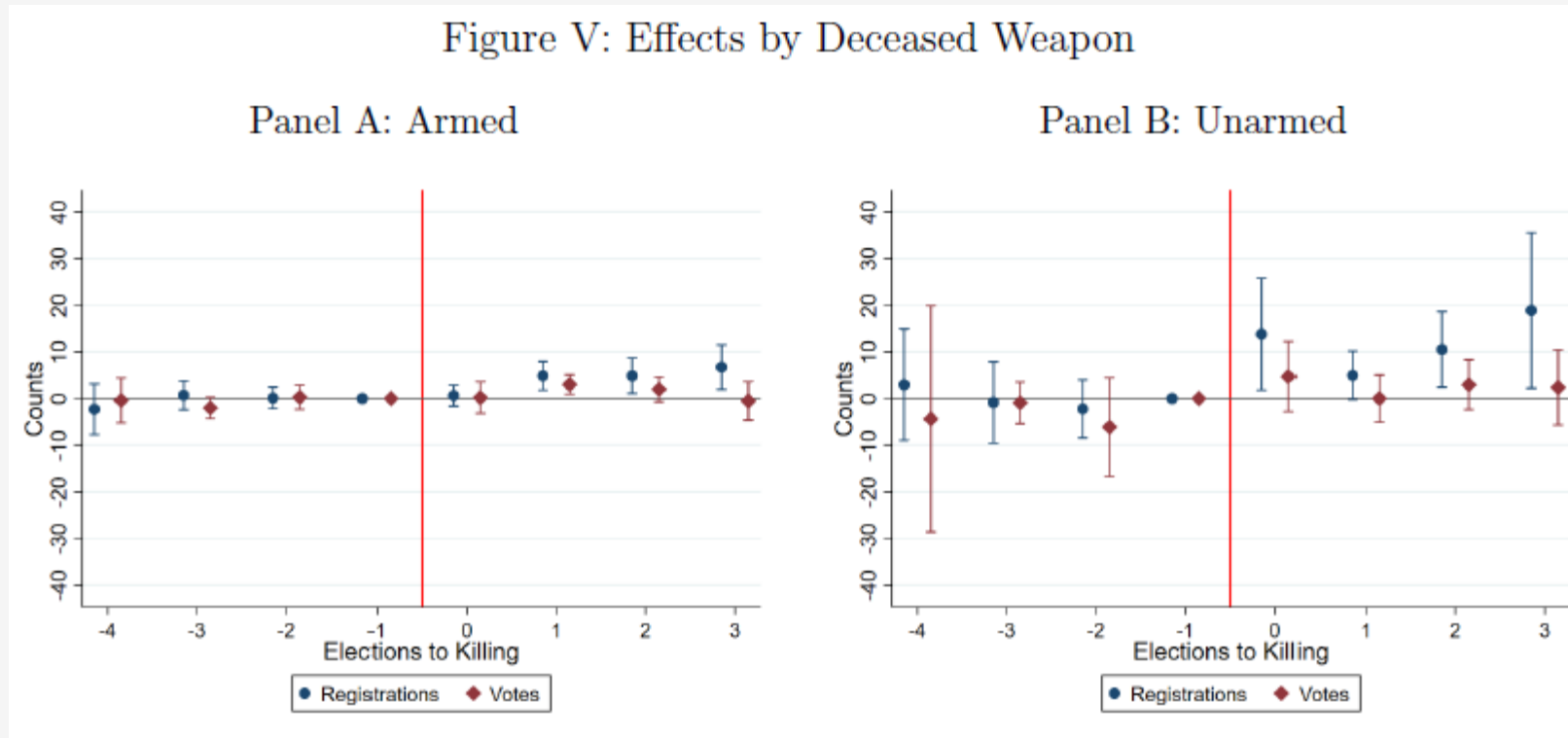
(Source: Ang and Tebes, 2021)

Voter registration and turnout increases among nearby residents

- Driven entirely by Black and Hispanic citizens

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Largest effects stem from least justified incidents



(Source: Ang and Tebes, 2021)

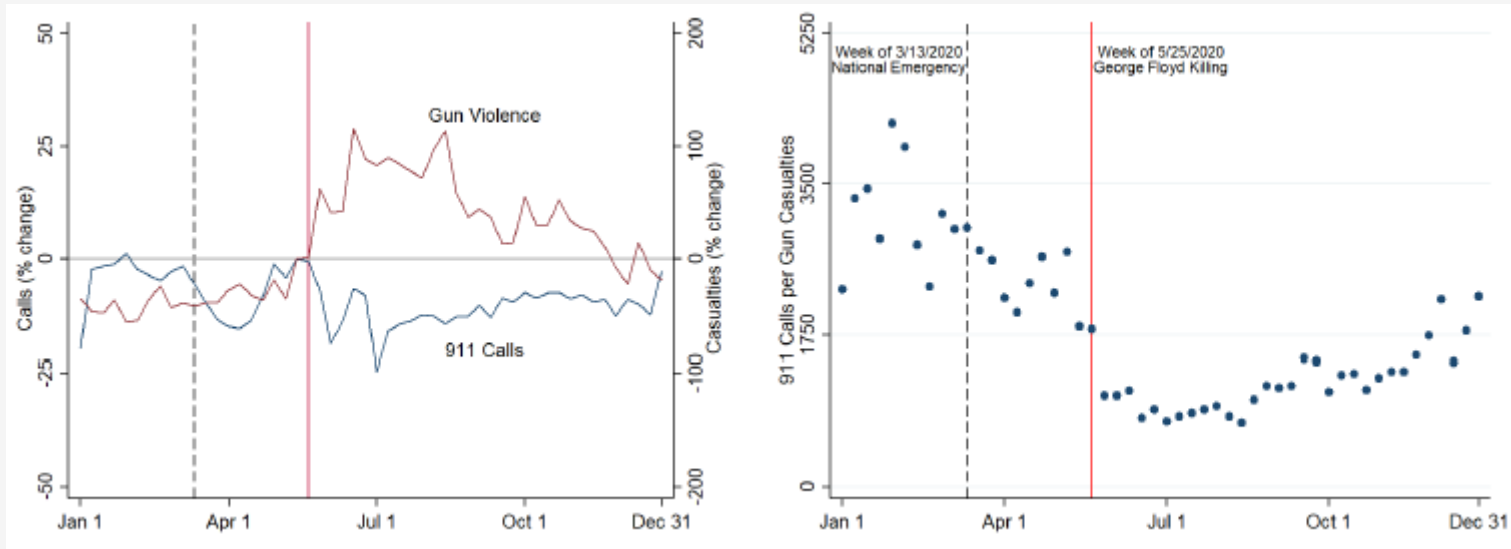
Accompanied by increased local support for criminal justice reforms

- Suggesting concerns about procedural justice and discrimination

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Even from criminological perspective, police violence may perverse effects

Effects of George Floyd's Murder on Violence and 911 Calls



(Source: Ang, Bencsik, Bruhn and Derenoncourt, 2021)

Gun violence casualties spiked and civilian crime reporting fell after George Floyd's murder
- Consistent with work by Lerman and Weaver (2014) and Desmond et al. (2016)

Social Impacts of Police Violence

Significant research finds that more police = less crime, but equally important to consider at what and whose cost?

- Increasing evidence that police violence may have caused significant social harm across a number of dimensions, particularly for racial minorities

From **policy** perspective, highlights potential role of alternative methods of fostering public safety

- Alternative policing strategies
- Role of community stakeholders and investment

From **research** perspective, emphasizes importance of diversity in academia

- Not zero-sum: *Who gets the job? Who is best at a given task?*
- Portfolio value: *Are we asking all the questions we need to make the right policy decisions?*