

Study gauges police-related stress among gay and bisexual men

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A study among a national cohort of gay and bisexual men reveals extreme police-related stress in men of color and low-income men, compared to their white and higher-income counterparts.

For the study, published in the *American Journal of Community Psychology*, CUNY SPH doctoral candidates Erinn Bacchus and Alexa D'Angelo, along with Professor Christian Grov, used data collected as part of the Together 5000 study, a U.S. national, internet-based cohort study of men, trans men and trans women who have sex with men.

As part of the cohort study, participants received annual internet-based surveys. On their 36-month assessments, which began in fall 2020 and ran through spring 2021, the researchers included measures on experiences regarding police-related stress. In total, 4,236 gay and bisexual men completed the assessment and were included in the final sample.

The results show that the odds of reporting extreme police-related stress were 2.7 times higher for Black individuals than for their white counterparts. Odds were also significantly greater for those who have experienced race-based or identity-based discrimination.

"People of color and [sexual minorities](#) have been historically over-policed and targeted based on their race/ethnicity and identity," says Bacchus. "Police-related stress should be considered for its potential deleterious effect on HIV vulnerability and reporting [violent crime](#)—such as [intimate partner violence](#) and hate crimes—to police."

More information: Erinn C. Bacchus et al, Experiences of police-related stress among a U.S. national cohort of gay and bisexual men, *American Journal of Community Psychology* (2023). [DOI: 10.1002/ajcp.12683](#)

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