Executive Summary
"Use-of-force Patterns across DPD Police-Citizen Race/Ethnicity"

By: Katelyn Jetelina[1], PhD MPH; Steve Bishopp[2], PhD; Jennifer Reingle Gonzalez[1], PhD; Alex Piquero[3], PhD; Wesley Jennings[4], PhD

Project Aim:

To assess use-of-force patterns across all possible race/ethnicity police-citizen dyads (e.g. White-officer/Black-suspect, Black-officer/Hispanic-suspect, etc.) at the Dallas Police Department
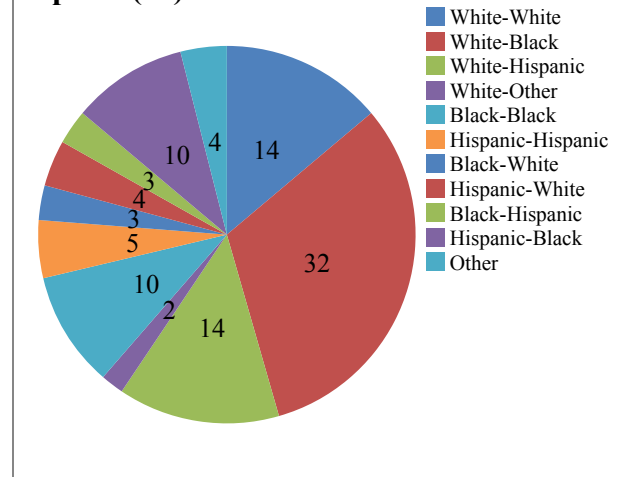
Data:

- 5,630 Blue Team reports filed from 2014-2015

Findings:

- Among all 2014-2015 Blue Team Reports:
  - 1,693 DPD officers submitted at least one
  - 32% of officers filed 4 or more reports
  - 55% reported soft-empty hand control, 39% stated hard empty hand control, and 7% stated intermediate weapon use
  - 43% of citizens were under the influence
  - 15% displayed mental health symptomology
- **Figure 1**: The most common use-of-force interaction was between a White officer and Black civilian (White-Black) (32%). The second most common interaction was White-White (14%) and White-Hispanic (14%)

Figure 1: Officer-citizen race/ethnicty dyads in Blue Team Reports (%)

- After accounting for officer-level factors (e.g., sex, tenure), civilian-level factors (e.g. sex), and situational level factors (e.g., civilian under influence, civilian mental health symptomology, and service type)
  - **White officers were not more likely to use force with Non-White civilians across all types of use-of-force**
  - Black officers with Black civilians were **less likely** to use hard-empty hand control
  - White-Black, Hispanic-White, Black-Hispanic, and Hispanic-Black were **more likely** to use intermediate weapons use than White-White

Policy Implications:

- It's important for the Dallas Police Department to continue to improve trust and legitimacy within the police-citizen interaction, especially with respect to use-of-force. This has been, and should continue to be, accomplished through public informational transparency via open-data from most operational units within DPD.
- Implicit bias training should continue to incorporate officers' decision-making through high-quality, scenario-based, judgment training. DPD may consider coupling this with meta-cognitive approaches, like coaching officers the constructive and deliberate practice of recognizing the way they think and why.

[1]University of Texas Health Science Center; [2]Dallas Police Department, Caruth Police Institute; [3]University of Texas, Dallas; [4]South Florida University