Police Contacts and the Health of Black New Yorkers

In 2013, the practice of Stop, Question, and Frisk was found to be racially discriminatory in NYC. Since then, stops have declined profoundly. However, racial inequities in the rates of stops have remained. This fact sheet describes findings from a recent study of New Yorkers that looked at the relationship between policing and the health of Black New Yorkers.

Did You Know?

- 1 in 3 Black New Yorkers reported being stopped by the police and 1 in 3 reported experiencing racial discrimination in the courts or by the police. These individuals were over 3 times more likely to report serious psychological distress than Black New Yorkers that did not have these experiences.*
- Black New Yorkers that were stopped by the police were 3.5 times more likely to report serious psychological distress than White New Yorkers that were stopped.*

Among all New Yorkers, Black New Yorkers had the strongest relationship between police contact and measures of poor mental health.

Approaches and Alternatives

- Community based programs can effectively address individual and community factors that put people at risk for a negative interaction with the police. These include:
  - Dispatching health professionals for mental health and substance use crises intervention and support (e.g., HEAT, BHeard)
  - Community-driven violence prevention programs (e.g., Cure Violence)
  - Programs that boost economic opportunities (e.g., the Summer Youth Employment Program)

*Prevalence among NYC adults in 2017
Information presented here reflect results from a published study.
For more please go to nyam.org/hd4nyc/our-work/