Police Contacts and Health in New York City

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

Did You Know?

- **1 in 3** New Yorkers reported being stopped by the police. These New Yorkers are more than **2 times** more likely to report poor physical and mental health.*
- Among those stopped, Black New Yorkers were **3.5 times** more likely to experience serious psychological distress than White New Yorkers.*
- **1 in 10** New Yorkers reported being abused or threatened by the police. These New Yorkers are more than **2 times** more likely to report poor physical health and nearly **2 times** more likely to report poor mental health.*

Black New Yorkers and other marginalized communities bear a greater burden of the health consequences linked to interactions with police.

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/