Police use of force is not a new phenomenon, and in certain situations may be necessary to protect the public. However, events in the United States have prompted several groups to declare that law enforcement’s use of excessive force is a matter of public health (1,2). In 2012, an estimated 1 in 291 police stops or arrests resulted in hospital treatment for injuries (3). People of color (POC) are particularly more likely to experience potential lethal force when police uncover criminal activity and this disparity is greatest for black youth compared to white youth (6-8).

Recent reform efforts have substantially reduced the number of stops annually; however, it is important to also look at interventions that will reduce the likelihood of police violence during the stop. This project describes the creation, testing, printing, and distribution of a Know Your Rights (KYR) car sticker.

METHODS

Study Population

The target population is individuals between the ages of 18 (inclusive) and 89 (exclusive) whose primary mode of transportation is driving a car. We aim to recruit individuals using University of Colorado email lists from a wide range of income and education levels, as well as accuracy of the racial/ethnic, gender, and age makeup of the community.

Exclusion criteria include:

- Individuals who identify as POC
- Controls: individuals outside of our specified age range, and individuals who identify differently than the predominant population as anything other than car, or as a passenger in a car.

Data Collection and Measures

We will conduct one-hour, virtual interviews with participants using a structured interview questionnaire. We will collect both quantitative and qualitative data. For the purposes of this paper, we will focus on the four main topics of discussion:

- Driving history and habits
- Experiences with law enforcement in a traffic stop
- Knowledge of rights and responsibilities during a traffic stop
- Thoughts on the KYR sticker

We will also conduct one-hour focus groups with 8-10 participants on the same main topics of discussion (emergent codes/topics), the team will develop a set of codes from multiple readings of and immersion in the transcripts. Coded transcripts will be entered in to Atlas.ti qualitative data management software in order to analyze participant type and setting.

CONCLUSION

- This study addresses the pressing issue of police use of force, particularly in the context of traffic stops, as a significant public health concern. By developing and testing the KYR car sticker, we aimed to empower individuals with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate encounters with law enforcement safely and effectively. We hope to understand the importance of proactive interventions in promoting awareness of legal rights and responsibilities, particularly among communities disproportionally affected by police violence.
- The development and implementation of the KYR car sticker represent a step towards fostering greater trust, transparency, and accountability in law enforcement, which is critical in more detail rights during a police stop, in both English and Spanish.
- We will conduct one-hour focus groups with 8-10 participants on the same main topics of discussion (emergent codes/topics), the team will develop a set of codes from multiple readings of and immersion in the transcripts. Coded transcripts will be entered in to Atlas.ti qualitative data management software in order to analyze participant type and setting.

- Quantitative data obtained from the surveys will be analyzed statistically and graphed using GraphPad Prism version 9 (GraphPad Software Inc, La Jolla, CA, USA).

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