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Disproportionate Enforcement: How African Americans are Disadvantaged in California

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Introduction:

Homelessness has become an epidemic in California, with signs of the crisis noticeable every time people enter an urban or heavily populated area. There are at least 115,491 unsheltered people in California alone, making up 30% of the US homeless population according to PPIC.[1] Alongside growing concerns about drug use and mental health issues, homelessness continues to grow despite the many efforts to combat the problems about why homelessness occurs, such as Homekey and Section 8 housing.

We know that homelessness is a problem that requires a holistic approach. Exploration of multiple policy areas is necessary to combat homelessness, as there are many reasons why one person would experience it in the first place. However, Black Americans have experienced a history of disadvantages that have made a living harder in the US. How impactful is this recent history of discrimination toward Black Americans being able to afford housing? This research will look through arrest dispositions and rates of California counties, in the years 2019-2021, by race to find if there are changes in policing and compare with homeless rates of Black Americans to deduce any relationship between the changes in policing leading to higher arrests among Blacks and lead to higher homeless rates for that particular racial group as a result of continuing the cycle of poverty that many Black Americans struggle with.

I hypothesize an increase in arrest rates within Black American populations would increase Black homeless rates, as the people in this racial group would be unable to escape the cycle of poverty brought on by historical discrimination brought about by laws passed in California.

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[1] Jennifer Paluch, and Joseph Herrera, "Homeless Populations Are Rising around California," Public Policy Institute of California (Public Policy Institute of California, April 14, 2023), https://www.ppic.org/blog/homeless-populations-are-rising-around-california/.

Background and Significance:

Black Americans make up a disproportionate share of the homeless population in many counties in California. Additionally, the higher the population of Black Americans, the higher the homeless rate in the county. Black Americans, in particular, comprise 26.6% of all homeless in the state of California while being only 5.3% of the total population.[2] Whites comprise 34.3% of the homeless population but only 29% of the total population.[3] A difference of 5.3 for Whites and 21.3 for Blacks. This discrepancy most likely means there are unique circumstances facing Black Americans where they are more likely to become homeless than other groups where their increase in numbers in population correctly goes along with their rate of homelessness.

Homelessness in California has many factors, from mental illness to the high costs of living and housing prices. However, Black Americans have had a history of systematic discrimination based on race, exacerbating the former issues. From crime bills to the practice of redlining, the effects of the past have continued to affect Black Americans in their day-to-day lives as American citizens. The resulting high incarceration rates as a result of these policies have worsened economic prospects and increased familial instability in Black communities specifically, which fuels homelessness. A study done by Christopher J. Lions and Becky Pettit analyzed how incarceration disproportionately affects the economic mobility and stability of African Americans. On average, serving time in prison reduces annual income gains by over 30% for African American males.[4] This compounds existing racial wage disparities and

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[2] Kate Cimini, "Black People Disproportionately Homeless in California," CalMatters, October 5, 2019, https://calmatters.org/california-divide/2019/10/black-people-disproportionately-homeless-in-california/.
[3] Ibis.
[4] Lyons, Christopher J., and Becky Pettit. "Compounded Disadvantage: Race, Incarceration, and Wage Growth." Social Problems 58.2 (2011): 257–280.

dramatically diminishes earnings over a lifetime. Coupled with a long history of housing discrimination and residential segregation, mass criminalization of African American communities through biased policing and sentencing has systematically denied black families opportunities to build financial security and intergenerational wealth.

Redlining actively discriminated against minority communities, particularly Black American, Hispanic, and other marginalized groups. The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) and private lenders played critical roles in implementing the practice by creating color-coded maps to assess neighborhoods' desirability for investment and lending. The government designated areas populated by minorities or Black Americans as high-risk or "redlined."[5] As a result, residents in these neighborhoods faced significant barriers to accessing loans, insurance, and other financial resources. It perpetuated social and economic disparities by systematically disinvesting in Black areas, hindering Black residents' ability to purchase homes. These adverse effects persist today as those communities continue to experience the enduring consequences of the practice. Although redlining is now illegal, and explicit discriminatory practices are prohibited, the historical impacts of redlining endure, leading to ongoing systemic inequalities. Black Americans continue to experience higher rates of poverty than their White counterparts. The lack of wealth accumulation due to redlining has also contributed to a significant racial wealth gap. Additionally, redlining has impacted education and health outcomes for Black Americans in California. Schools in redlined neighborhoods often lack resources, leading to lower-quality education. These areas also face higher levels of environmental pollution, limited

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[5] Gross, Terry. "A 'forgotten History' of How the U.S. Government Segregated America." *NPR*, 3 May 2017,
www.npr.org/2017/05/03/526655831/a-forgotten-history-of-how-the-u-s-government-segregated-america.

access to healthcare facilities, and poorer health outcomes.[6] Even if someone in these

neighborhoods manages to receive housing, they still lack the income to survive, making them

more prone to commit violent crimes than those in the middle or high classes, leading to

persistent poverty.

The 1994 Crime Bill would also cause a massive increase in incarceration rates by

reinforcing the 1986 anti-drug act, which allowed possession of 5 grams of crack to receive a

minimum 5-year sentence along the lines of 500 grams of powder cocaine.[7] Since the drug

typically was used in predominantly Black and in urban areas already overpoliced, it resulted in

an uptake of drug-related arrests amongst the group 100:1.[8] Furthermore, California during this

time has also made a substantial amount of arrests for possession of marijuana From 1990

through 2009, police made 850,000 arrests for possessing even the most minor quantities, while

from 2000 to 2010 jumped to 1 million arrests.[9] Arrests within several counties within the state

are more skewed, showing a disparity of Black Americans being arrested for possession at a

higher rate than the population makeup in other counties. For example, in Los Angeles County,

from 2006-2008, Blacks made up 10% of the county but made up 30% of the arrests for

marijuana possession. San Diego County has Black Americans make up 5.6% of the population

but 20% of the arrest rates for possession since these drug offenses constituted drug felonies. It

appears that the 1994 Crime Bill resulted in felony arrest rates overwhelmingly skewed against

Blacks and a higher prison rate.

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[6] Martin, Erik J. "What Is Redlining? An Overview of America's Legacy of Racism in Real Estate." *Bankrate*, www.bankrate.com/mortgages/what-is-redlining/. Accessed 29 May 2023.
[7] Ray, Rashawn, and William A. Galston. "Did the 1994 Crime Bill Cause Mass Incarceration?" *Brookings*, 9 Mar. 2022, www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2020/08/28/did-the-1994-crime-bill-cause-mass-incarceration/.
[8] Ibis.
[9] Levine, Harry G., et al. "Arresting Blacks for Marijuana in California - Drugpolicy.Org." *Drug Policy*, drugpolicy.org/sites/default/files/ArrestingBlacks.pdf. Accessed 18 May 2023.

With much legislation greatly impacting people's lives, California needs to look back on the long-term effects of its policies. Specifically, as it's one of the most diverse states in the US with a history of discrimination against Black Americans. Learning the impacts of this history of prejudice will allow us to understand its effects on the community and lead to the use of proper equitable solutions to fix the issues at hand, specifically regarding California's housing crisis. How impactful a criminal record is for Black Americans who have received more arrests due to a history of discrimination will be another way to discuss policies that can correct this injustice.

Theory:

A pronounced issue with incarceration is the creation of criminal records. Incarceration can also exacerbate mental illness and lead to permanent changes in the brains and personalities of people. Mental problems are a common issue for people experiencing homelessness in society.[10] However, when someone is arrested and charged in the US, they receive a criminal record that then becomes public information. Employers often look up criminal background information to determine potential employees' risks to the company. According to the University of Michigan, in 2017, applicants without criminal records were 60% more likely to get job callbacks. Even fairly minor felony records have a significant negative impact on an applicant's chances for employment.[11] If it's true that Black Americans are getting felony records at a higher rate, then they would be more likely to experience these negative consequences. With no way to earn income, Black Americans face poverty if not already living through it.

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[10] Fazel, S., Geddes, J.R., & Kushel, M. (2014). The health of homeless people in high-income countries: descriptive epidemiology, health consequences, and clinical and policy recommendations. The Lancet, 384(9953), 1529-1540. https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61132-6. Amongst high-income countries, such as the US the authors report 25-50% of homeless individuals have mental health problems, much higher than the average 20% prevalence in the general adult population.

[11] Agan, Amanda, co-author. "The Effect of Criminal Records on Access to Employment." Starr, Sonja B., co-author. Am. Econ. Rev.: Papers & Proc. 107, no. 5 (2017): 560-64.

Poverty generates significant psychological and emotional stress, affecting individuals' mental well-being. The strain of financial hardship combined with limited resources to meet basic needs contributes to emotional instability and impulsive decision-making, increasing susceptibility to engage in criminal acts. Additionally, some impoverished individuals may perceive limited legal alternatives to improve their situations.[12] When access to legitimate means of income, education, and its effects appear restricted, some individuals may turn to criminal activities as a desperate measure to meet their needs.

Because Black Americans may receive felony arrests at a higher rate than their White counterparts, I theorize that the disproportionate arrest rates amongst Black Americans make them unable to receive the funds necessary to afford housing, leading them to face homelessness at a much larger rate. The large consequences as a result of incarceration such as the loss of employment, and opportunities for employment as well as the large costs of court fees and attorneys fees make it harder to save up the income needed to afford housing. Already facing poverty due to the racist practices targeting Black Americans, it is much harder to avoid police presence as poverty often leads to crime, creating a cycle of poverty and incarceration. With the largest Black American population in the country, this theory can explain why California also has the highest homeless rates.

Other hypotheses explaining Black Americans' high homeless rates may consider how individual cultures move around in the state. The lack of diversity ensures that how one racial group performs overall depends on the municipal policies and laws that a specific county enforces to better the lives of its constituents. If they are doing a poor job and a racial group is

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[12] Human Rights Watch. "Criminalization of Poverty as a Driver of Poverty in the United States." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020, www.hrw.org/news/2017/10/04/criminalization-poverty-driver-poverty-united-states.

highly concentrated there, it may worsen the conditions of that group as an aggregate. Meanwhile, other counties with better living conditions will proportionately influence a racial group.

There are ongoing discussions and debates in California specifically on Black reparations as a remedy for Black Californians impacted by the laws passed in California. Those in favor of the reparations believe that the 800 billion dollar price tag to pay every Black Californian will help atone for California and its history of discrimination against these people.[13] However, opponents believe that because California was never a slave state, it is irresponsible to burden a generation of Californians with the bill to pay millions of people for the color of their skin. But whether or not this compensation will help Blacks overcome poverty-stricken issues has yet to be seen.

Amid growing concern over racial justice and how arrests impact Black Americans' lives, it is worthwhile to suggest policies that would provide solutions to past injustices that forced many Americans to experience a cycle of poverty and crime. Homelessness is one of the most significant issues facing California today and requires a multi-leveled approach to solving it because for multiple reasons people end up on the streets. It is significant to consider the racial aspect of homelessness as it affects many Black Americans today.

Methodology:

My independent variable for this research will be the Black Californian arrest rates by county, publicly given by the DOJ. My dependent variable is the Black American homeless rates

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[13] Associated Press. "Reparations for Black Californians Could Top $800 Billion." *NBCNews.Com*, 29 Mar. 2023, www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/reparations-black-californians-top-800-billion-rcna77160.

in each California county. The casual mechanism of this is the policing tactics and environments that result in higher arrest rates for one race; the criminal records generated and the poverty enforced as a result of police action may lead to causing a higher rate of homelessness for that particular race, making them unable to create the income necessary to afford housing.

I am using crime statistics available through Open Justice, a Department of Justice-affiliated website that the public can use to look up databases on arrests. The Arrest Disposition database has information on all felony and misdemeanor arrests in the state of California by county from 1980 to 2021.[14] This dataset includes the aggregated counts of arrests sorted by gender, race, age, and offense level. For this research, I will focus on race and to rely on the most recent data for 2021.

Arrests made with the outcome being "arrestee's release" are omitted from use in the data set. This means that either it's a case of mistaken identity or the arresting agency does not believe there is enough evidence to convict. When released, no criminal record was likely added to the person's file, making it impossible for work agencies to see there was an arrest. I also omitted juvenile arrests as police may arrest a juvenile for actions that are not criminal for adults, such as truancy.

Finally, some cases in the dataset described the number of arrests within the particular population as N/A. Typically this has only occurred in counties with small populations, with the probability of criminality occurring much lower than in more populated counties. We can't assume that there are typically no arrests in a given racial group if it is otherwise not listed. As a result, I omitted these data points. Alpine, for example, is a heavily forested county and only has

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[14] "State of California Department of Justice." OpenJustice. Accessed May 17, 2023. https://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data.

an overall population of around 1,252. However, while it does have a count for White American

arrests, it does not have a count for Black Americans, so the comparison analysis won't include

it.

I will also use the Continuum of Care programs or COCs. They are programs throughout

the US designed to promote community-wide efforts to end homelessness. They provide funding

to nonprofit providers and work alongside state and local governments to rehouse homeless

individuals and their families.[15] They also do counts on who receives this care and provide

estimates on the number of homeless individuals. The Open Data website gathers the counts on a

database in all 58 counties in California, separated by age and race.[16] Like the crime statistic

data, I will focus mainly on the racial aspect of the data given.

However, there are several problems: COCs in specific counties don't count certain years

for their homeless rates. As a result, the dataset is incomplete for specific counties. A

relationship between arrest and homeless rates for those counties can't be made, as independent

providers who do not receive federal funding can opt out of the program and not report the

homeless they survey.[17] Unlike the DOJ, COCs do not require to report their findings to the

public, so finding a relationship may be more challenging with those gaps. Another issue

regarding the data is, unlike the Crime Statistics data I have gathered, the Open Data source does

not always list every individual county on its own. Some counties, such as Alpine, are grouped

with Amador, which affects the overall numbers and makes it invalidated to compare with the

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[15] COC: Continuum of care program - hud exchange. Accessed May 22, 2023.
https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/.
[16] "People Receiving Homeless Response Services by Age, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender." *California Open Data*, 11 Apr. 2023, data.ca.gov/dataset/homelessness-demographics.
[17] Consumer Services and Housing Agency Business, "Acting to Prevent, Reduce and End Homelessness," CA.gov, accessed May 3, 2023, https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich/hdis.html.

other set of data that lists each county separately. For these reasons, the final analysis will not include those counties, except for any analysis focusing solely on arrests by county.

Finally, I will use county population rates in conjunction with the two to calculate percentages and per capita rates based on the population of the counties. All counties have gotten their county populations based on the 2020 Census and the state government's estimates for the county populations of 2019 and 2021. Because the overall populations are all different between counties, comparing arrest and homeless rates on a county basis will require that I convert the raw numbers and account for natural disparities in the population. Los Angeles County is one of the most popularized counties, which attributes to having one of the highest homeless populations. However, I will examine if there are factors that aren't based on population causing a rise in homelessness, and thus based on a per capita basis.

I based the calculations on a per capita of 5k to address the differences in population. Experimentation with 100k and 10k has caused impossible calculations for the given counties, sometimes producing arrests and homeless rates higher than the entire county population for specific counties or producing non-existent numbers such as .01 arrest rates. 5k provided a good midground to middle out the lower and highly populated counties to provide meaningful representation that is more or less equal to the effects of arrest rates on homelessness.

I hypothesize that the higher the arrest rates increase in an area for Black Americans, the higher the homeless population is for Black Americans, leading to a more significant homeless population. My Independent variable is the number of felony arrests for Black Americans per 5k residents of Black Americans per county. At the same time, the dependent variable is the estimated number of the Black homeless population per 5k residents of Black Americans per county.

Using the data, I will sort into different visuals for my findings. With 58 counties, it is a large-n study, cross-sectional analysis that will analyze 2019 to 2021. Because I am trying to determine if higher incarceration rates lead to higher homeless populations, I will use a scatter plot, with the X variable being my independent variable of Black American arrest rates and my dependent variable being the homeless population as my Y variable. I include the arrest rates from the DOJ and the homeless rates of the COCs. Arrest rates are based on a 5k per capita basis to account for differing populations amongst the counties, taking into account a critical confounding variable in research projects that analyze different geographical areas for their behavior.

Another visual added is a bar graph showing the differences in arrest rates between the top 10 populated counties. It will illustrate how large of a discrepancy between arrests of Black and White Californians there is. I will also add a histogram of all 58 counties to distribute the number of arrests and profile how many counties have specific numbers of arrests for each racial group to include all counties, no matter the size.

Finally, one of the simplest ways I can show racial disparities amongst homelessness and felony arrest records is by using a world graph with the 58 counties, with the homeless dependent variable being colored in severity between Black and White racial groups for one map and the felony arrest independent variable for another map. It will consider possible geographical reasons for any disparities between arrest and homeless rates and find patterns within racial groups regarding homelessness versus arrest rates.

These figures will help determine if there is support for my hypothesis that increased criminal arrests have increased disparity in Black American homeless population rates. If this is true, then there would need to be a change in policing that would require background checks to

be less biased against Black Americans or changes in laws regarding arrests that lead to disproportionate incarceration rates for a particular race in California.

Analyses:

After gathering the data into a spreadsheet that aligns different data points through several organizations with one another, I have found several results that support my hypothesis. Arrests for Black Americans are disproportionately higher. There is evidence of implicit bias in Law Enforcement actions. When comparing the rates with homelessness, felony arrest rates show a moderate correlation answering the amount of black unhoused and their situations. Misdemeanors show no correlation whatsoever. Arrests for Blacks are higher in more populated counties than in less populated counties. At the same time, the homeless rates are also more pronounced in the higher populated counties.
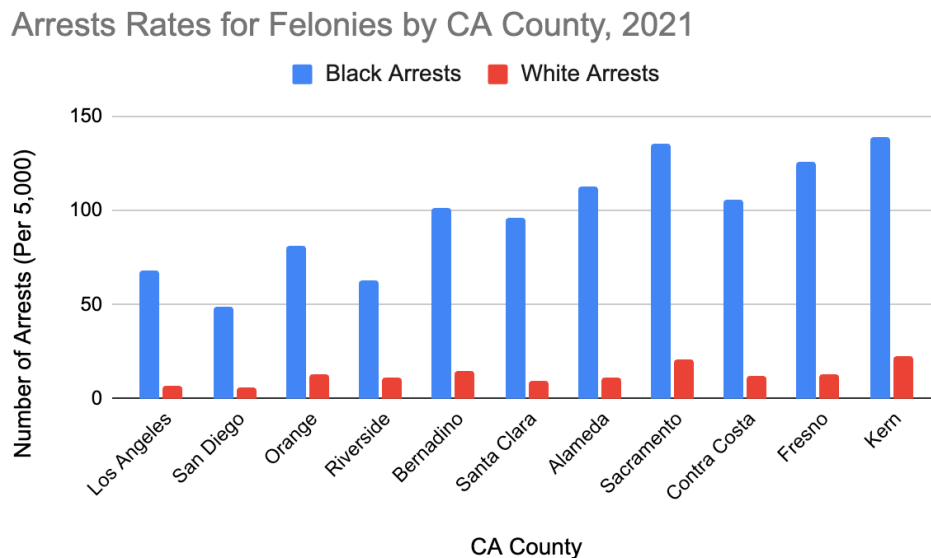

Figure 1. Top 10 populated CA counties. Documented felony arrests and convictions by race in 2021. Data Source: OpenJustice

The arrest rates amongst counties based on the DOJ show when controlled by population, Black Americans are disproportionately arrested compared to White Americans in most counties for felony crimes. Figure 1 compares California's top 10 populated counties in 2021, with Black Americans in blue and White Americans in red.

Not all of the populous counties carry the highest homeless rate among one another, with Black Americans. Los Angeles has the highest Black population, but when accounting for population, Blacks in Sacramento and Kern are receiving felony arrests at a much higher rate.

White Americans are but a quarter of arrest rates, with none of the counties illustrating more than 20 arrests per 5,000 white individuals. Kern and Sacramento not only represent the counties with the highest black arrest rates amongst the group, but it also has the highest White American felony arrest rates. The drastic increase between the counties and Sacramento and Kern may be due to overall crime occurring in the counties.

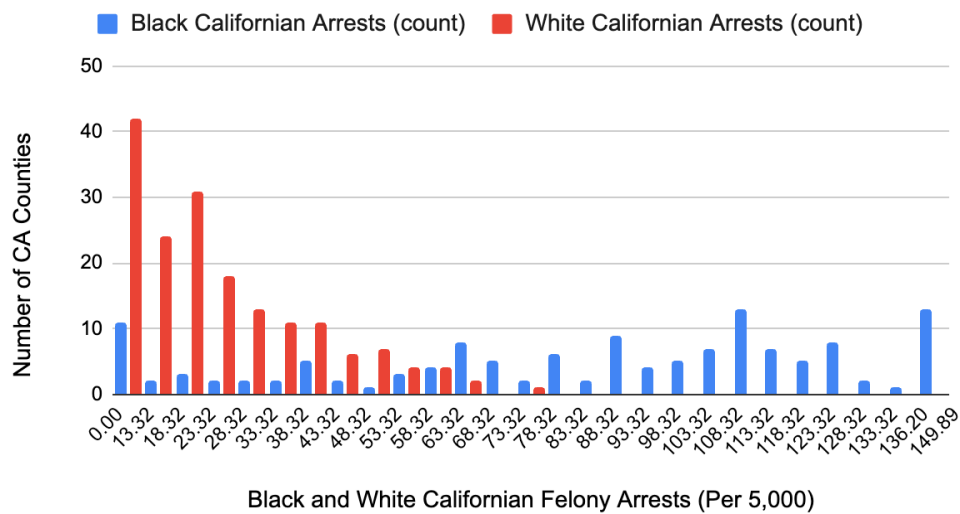Histogram of CA Counties for Felony Arrests, 2019-2021

Figure 2. Documented felony arrests by race in the years 2019-2021. Data Source:

OpenJustice

Figure 2 showcases all 58 counties in a histogram-styled chart from 2019 to 2021. Each number on the X axis represents the minimum number of arrests needed to surpass and move on to the next highest X. A county with a number amount of Black or White felony arrests will go on one of the columns if they are equal to or less than the number depicted. This highlights the vast disparity of felony arrests amongst all counties overall.

The chart specifically compares the felony arrests of White and Black Americans, highlighting that White Americans' arrests do not surpass a certain threshold among all the counties. This observation suggests that white Americans' felony arrest rates tend to cluster around a particular level and do not vary significantly across counties. In contrast, the chart indicates that black Americans consistently exceed the threshold of felony arrests across various counties.

This finding implies that Black Americans experience higher felony arrest rates, persistently going beyond a certain level throughout the studied period (2019 to 2021). Law Enforcement may be targeting Black Americans more often than they would for White Americans. Implicit bias may play a role in this regard, which are unconscious attitudes and stereotypes that can influence decision-making, including law enforcement actions.

Distribution of Black Felony Arrests Per Cap, 2021

Distribution of White Felony Arrests Per Cap, 2021

Panel A.

Panel B.

Distribution of Black Homeless Per Cap, 2021

Distribution of White Homeless Per Cap, 2021
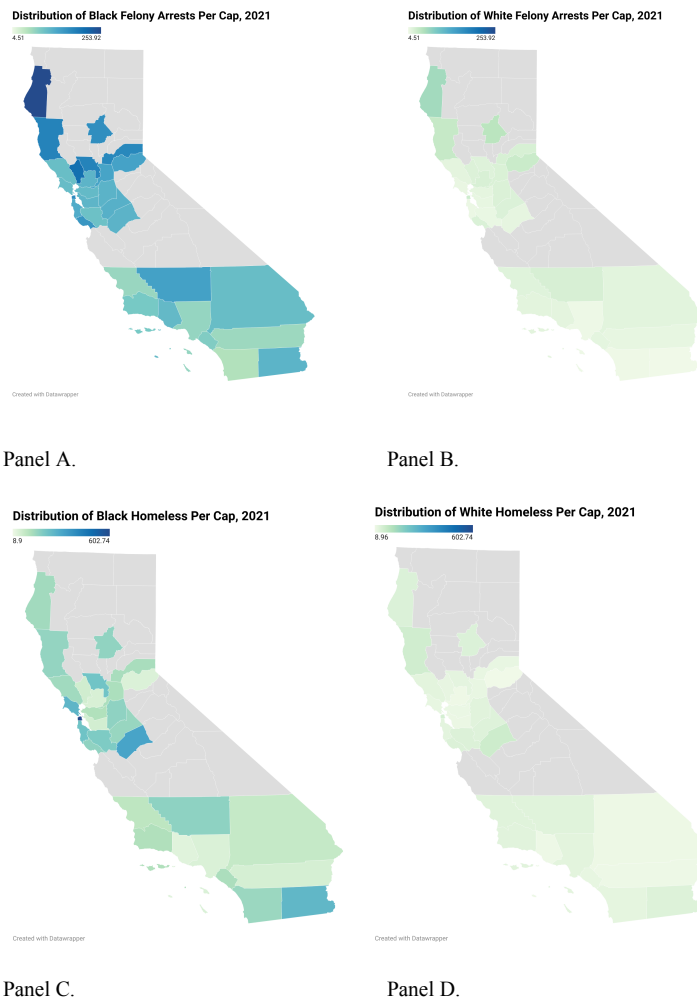
Panel C.

Panel D.

Figure 3. Distribution of Black and White felony arrests, and Black and White homeless rates 5k per county, 2021. Data Sources: California Open Data Portal, OpenJustice

Figure 3 features a series of choropleth maps for the distribution of homeless and felony rates across available counties in the year 2021. Panel A looks into Black felony rates, and B looks into Black homeless rates. Panels C and D look into White felony and homeless rates respectfully.

When comparing the distribution regarding felony arrests and homeless rates, the trend is relatively the same for southern regions. However, arrests for Black Americans are more

outstanding compared to their population in the Northern and Coastal regions than in the

Southern areas. The differences when comparing arrest rates are far more drastic. Humboldt, for

example, has 258 arrests per 5k Black Americans, but the homeless rate is comparable to Orange

County despite the arrest rate being only 80 per 5k Black Americans.

When comparing the state overall, Black Americans face higher disparities in felony

arrests in more populous counties than in less populated counties.

With all the maps presented, Black Americans have significantly higher maximum

statistics in both homeless and arrest rates. When considering differing racial populations across

California, the averages of these two rates are higher for Blacks than their white counterparts.

Humboldt County is a significant outlier due to the high arrest rates for Black and White

Americans per capita. Arrests for Blacks were 258 per 5k, while Whites were 140 per 5k. A good

explanation for this may be related to the city's drug issues. Humboldt County is known for its

illegal drug activities.[18] Law enforcement agencies may focus their efforts on drug enforcement,

which can result in higher arrest rates across different racial groups.

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[18] *BSCC – Board of State and Community Corrections*,
bscc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/humboldt_county.pdf. Accessed 28 May 2023.

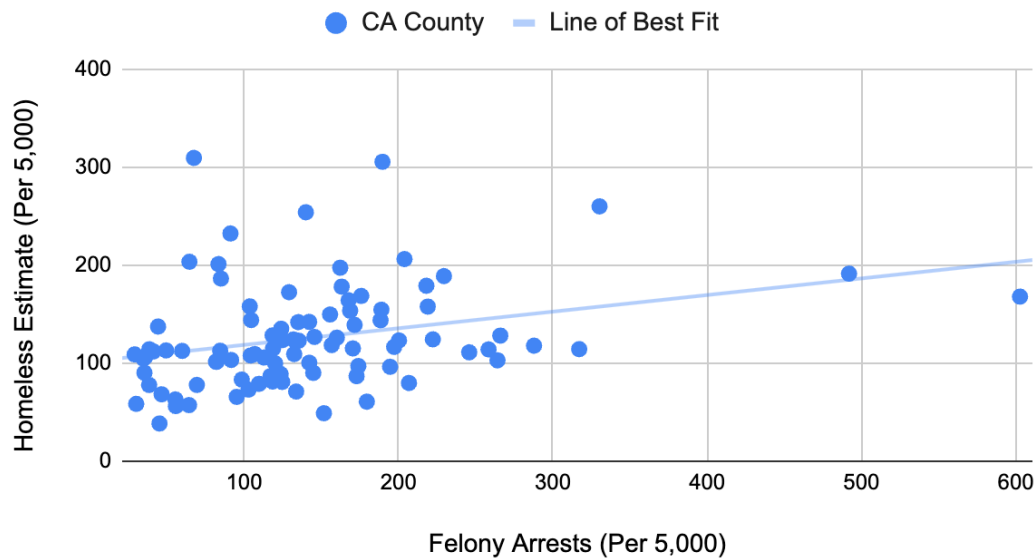## Black Homeless to Arrest By County, 2019-2021

Figure 4. Felony arrests to homeless counts per county, 2019-2021. Data Sources: California Open Data Portal, OpenJustice

In Figure 4, there is a moderate correlation that dictates as arrest rates for Black Americans in a particular county rise, the homeless rates for Black Americans rise. The figure supports my hypothesis that the r value shows a moderate correlation at r= .3.

Counties that are experiencing high homeless rates and low arrest rates most likely have low crime rates, and felony arrests do not represent the main reason why Black Americans who are homeless ended up on the streets. However, there is a positive trend that reasons for many Black Californians that are unhoused, felony arrests are likely to have caused their current situation.

San Francisco County has consistently been an outlier for the three years, with a high homeless population and an estimated Black homeless population of 5565, or 603 per 5k Black

homeless per capita. San Francisco is experiencing one of the more significant homeless crises than other cities, such as Los Angeles and Sacramento. However, San Francisco also is experiencing more crime in the city. The data set shows Black Americans are also arrested at much higher rates, though it has declined as the years go on, with 259 in 2019, 191 in 2020, and 167 per 5k Black residents in 2021.

After noticing the lower arrest rates in San Francisco, I compared more counties by years. The scatter plot shows that felony arrests tend to have decreased in 2021 for one county, but have been higher in prior years. However, homelessness has increased. One possible reason for this is the COVID pandemic sweeping the country. Shutting down the country has led to many people being unable to afford living costs, and as a result, homelessness increase. This theory explains this discrepancy with lower arrests and higher rates and should have been accounted for when performing this study.

Research Limitations:

At one point during the data calculations, there was an issue where one county, Sierra, had an extremely high arrest rate for a population that otherwise had a low population. Sierra's inclusion expanded the X axis for figure 4, giving the impression that arrest rates are higher than homeless rates. It is unclear what gave the county a higher number than other counties. It may be due to the census numbers for black populations used for my calculations not lining up accurately with my two variables, such as how Alpine also had a black population of 2 for one year but an arrest count of 4 for Black Americans. It could also be an issue of my definition of a small county. Or, it could be a mis-input when collecting the data from several databases that caused the anomaly. I omitted the county from the data plot. When that happened, the correlation

did not have a notable change. Still, the visual changed drastically, giving a more accurate depiction of the correlation by cutting the maximum horizontal axis.

Other issues regarding the research are that other confounding variables could not have been accounted for given the limited time and the lack of data to compare with the given homeless rates. One possible confounding variable was unemployment within each county. The problem with datasets concerning unemployment was that it was impossible to single out race in one specific county. Either the program counted unemployment within a particular county or with one race in the state. There were also median income household rates; however, there was a lot of data missing for Black Americans in comparison to White Americans, so trying to find a connection with both arrests and homeless counts available for a majority of California Counties would mostly be meaningless as it would be impossible to find a correlation with counts on one variable drastically lower. Finally, as mentioned in the analysis of figure 4, the covid pandemic should have been accounted for, as the jump from 2020 to 2021 has shown arrest rates being far less of a factor in homelessness compared to the pandemic.

Implications:

The findings of this research have highlighted several implications that highlight the current policing system responsible for putting Black Americans on the streets. The results showcased disproportionate arrest rates, regional disparities, and local dynamics within California.

The conclusion of disproportionate arrest rates between Black and White Americans raises significant research implications. This discovery suggests that Black Americans are being arrested at higher rates than their White counterparts across California, indicating a potential racial bias within the criminal justice system in California. Further research should delve into the

underlying factors contributing to these disparities. As for regional disparities, researchers could do more to explore the influence of local policies by county. Variations in police tactics could also contribute to differences in arrest rates.

Understanding the root causes of these disproportionate arrest rates is crucial for addressing systemic inequities and promoting fairness in law enforcement practices. One avenue of research is to examine the role of implicit biases and racial profiling in policing California. Investigating whether implicit biases contribute to the disproportionate arrest rates would shed light on the potential mechanisms behind the observed disparities, and it may help decrease Black American homelessness as a result.

Conclusion

This research explored the possible relationship between arrest rates among Black Americans and their homelessness rates in California. The findings shed light on historical discrimination and systemic inequalities affecting Black Americans, making them more vulnerable to homelessness. By examining arrest dispositions and rates across California counties from 2019 to 2021, and homeless rates for Black Americans, this study revealed significant disparities in homelessness rates between racial groups. Black Americans were disproportionately affected, suggesting that policing has a considerable impact on Black homelessness. I conclude that this most likely results from the poverty conditions generated due to loss of income, and resources due to the policing targeting historically low-income neighborhoods typically occupied by Black Americans. The study also examined historical factors perpetuating the cycle of poverty and homelessness for Black Americans in California.

Black Californians have been affected negatively by policies that intentionally or

unintentionally targeted them. As a result, many of them fail to rise out of the poverty-stricken conditions, leading them to greater incarceration rates. For California to focus on racial issues, it needs to look into current law enforcement tactics and prioritize a race-conscious approach to ensure the economic well-being of Black Americans in these neighborhoods. Providing schooling, jobs, and other homeless preventive measures to these neighborhoods will help Black Americans that the drug crime bills and redlining of the past have disenfranchised.

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