

Racial disparities in involuntary psychiatric commitment of youth in Allegheny County

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Motivation

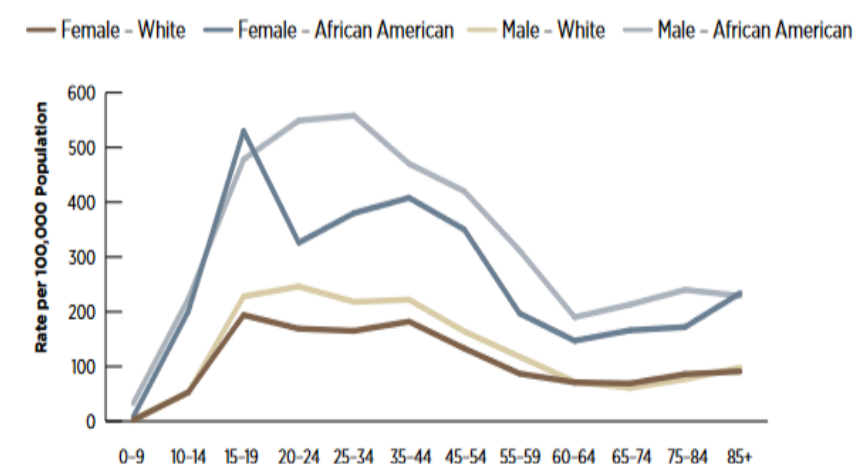
Can we understand why are Black youth are so much more likely to have involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations? Will understanding help us address this disparity?

Project Description

- We will:
- Examine county claims records to understand predictors of race differences in IPCs
- Examine county narratives of IPCs to learn more about the contexts of IPCs
- Conduct interviews with Black and non-Black individuals who have experienced IPCs

Context

- We currently know little about why there are pronounced racial disparities in IPCs, or the contexts in which IPCs occur
- This work will lay the groundwork for understanding this important disparity regionally, and ultimately, nationally



Allegheny County Department of Human Services, 2015



Black Youth are 2.5 times more likely to experience an involuntary psychiatric commitment. We aim to learn why, and if IPCs can be made more equitable.



Adam Riches Mindful:
<https://knowyourmeme.com/photos/1787907-drawings-made-by-people-with-mental-illness>

Project Deliverables

- We will:
- Identify predictors of racial disparities in IPCs
- Provide rich detail of the context of IPCs and race disparities in IPCs, through analysis of clinical IPC narratives
- Gain in depth experience of the lived experience of IPC and racial differences in these experiences through interviews

Potential Impact

- This work will contribute to our understanding of causes of racial disparities in involuntary psychiatric commitments, an important, but potentially very damaging, crisis intervention. Ultimately, this knowledge may help us ameliorate the need for IPCs, and race differences in IPCs.

References and/or Acknowledgements

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