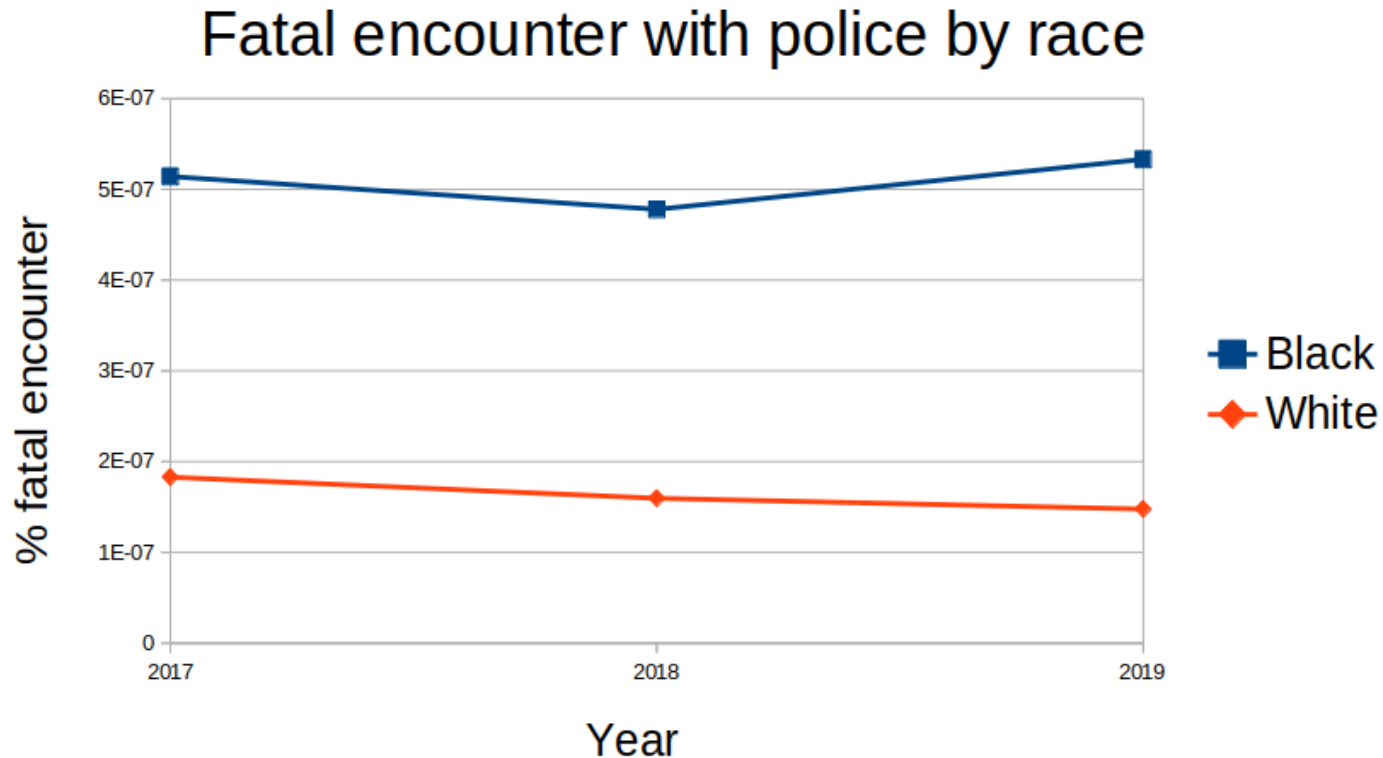


# Implicit bias and fatal police encounters

Alexander Ahmann

# Introduction

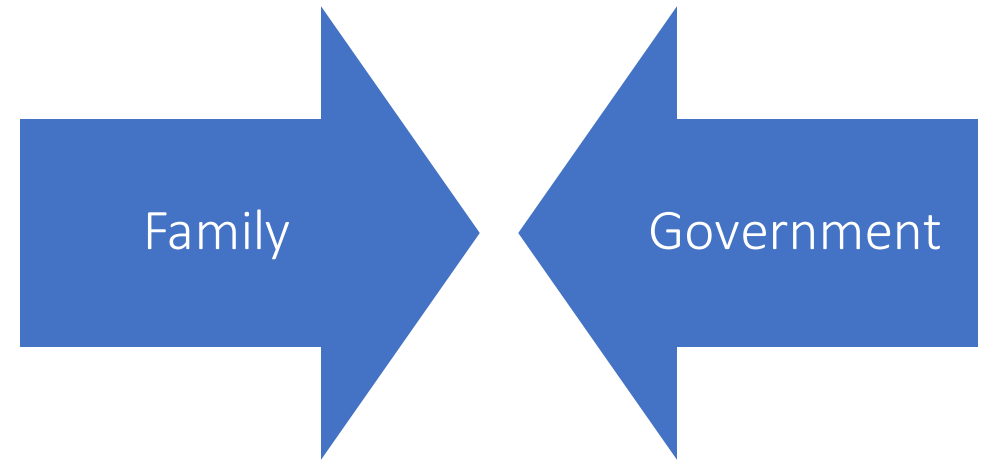


Source: Statista (2020a, 2020b)

- Ethnic minorities more likely to suffer fatal encounter by law enforcement
- There is strong evidence that implicit biases affect police officers decision making.

# Why should we care?

- Social institutions affected by blacks being disproportionately attacked is the family and government.
  - Black families are being "torn apart" when losing a loved one
  - Law enforcement is an arm of the government.



# Personal investment into this problem

- Social justice causes
- The art of the problem
- Sociology research



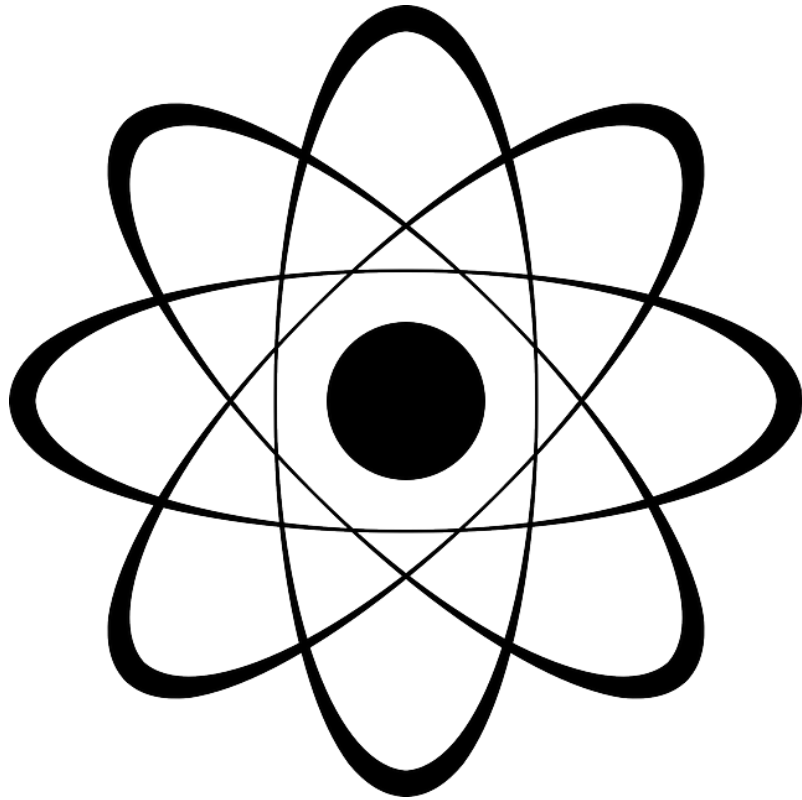
Source: cityccl.org



Source: *Art of the problem*  
YouTube channel

"Are blacks more likely to suffer fatal encounter with the police compared to whites because of implicit racial bias?"

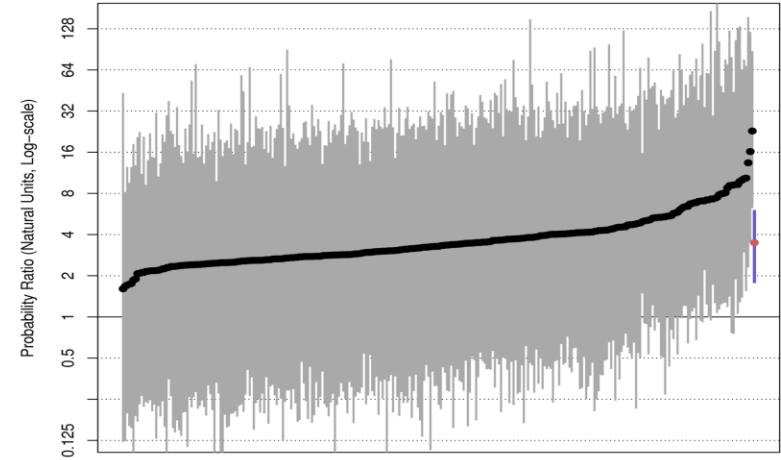
# Scientific method



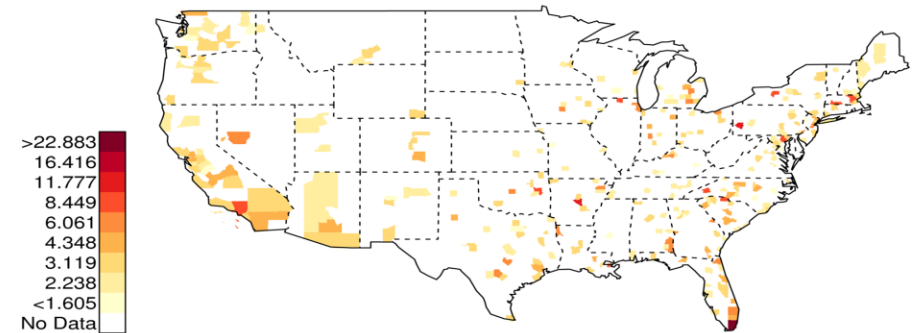
- Scientific thinking
  - Can help clarify thoughts
  - Can help with decision making
- Evidence can help guide decisions
- Literature review of previous research jobs
- Annotation and commentary of the studies

# Race and fatal police encounters

- Black and unarmed are more likely to suffer fatal police encounters than white and unarmed
- See risk ratios chart on right (fig. 6a)



(a)



(b)

Ross (2015, fig. 6)

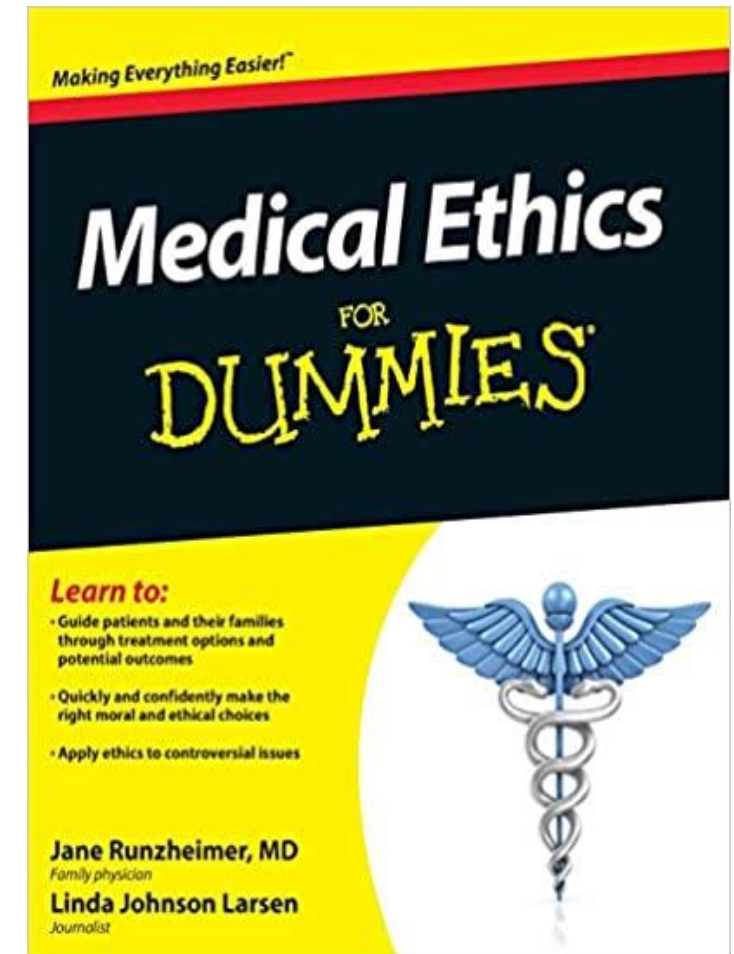
# Implicit bias, police and black fatality

- "In counties where Blacks harbored more implicit bias towards Whites, Blacks died at a higher rate." (*Leitner et al, 2016*)
- "The results indicated civilians from 'other' minority groups were significantly more likely than Whites to have not been attacking the officer(s) or other civilians and **that Black civilians were more than twice as likely as White civilians to have been unarmed.**" (*Nix et al 2017*)



# Ethics & Policy Implications

- Ethics
  - Scientific thinking can help clarify our thoughts
  - Must be careful though
  - Consider ethics
  - Think via negativa (*Taleb, 2010*)
- Policy implications?
  - Body cameras
  - Police accountability
  - Dearming police



# Conclusion

- Blacks are more likely to suffer a fatal encounter...
  - ... and this is (in part at least) because of implicit bias
- We must attack this problem for the sake of
  - Blacks and other minorities
  - Social justice

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