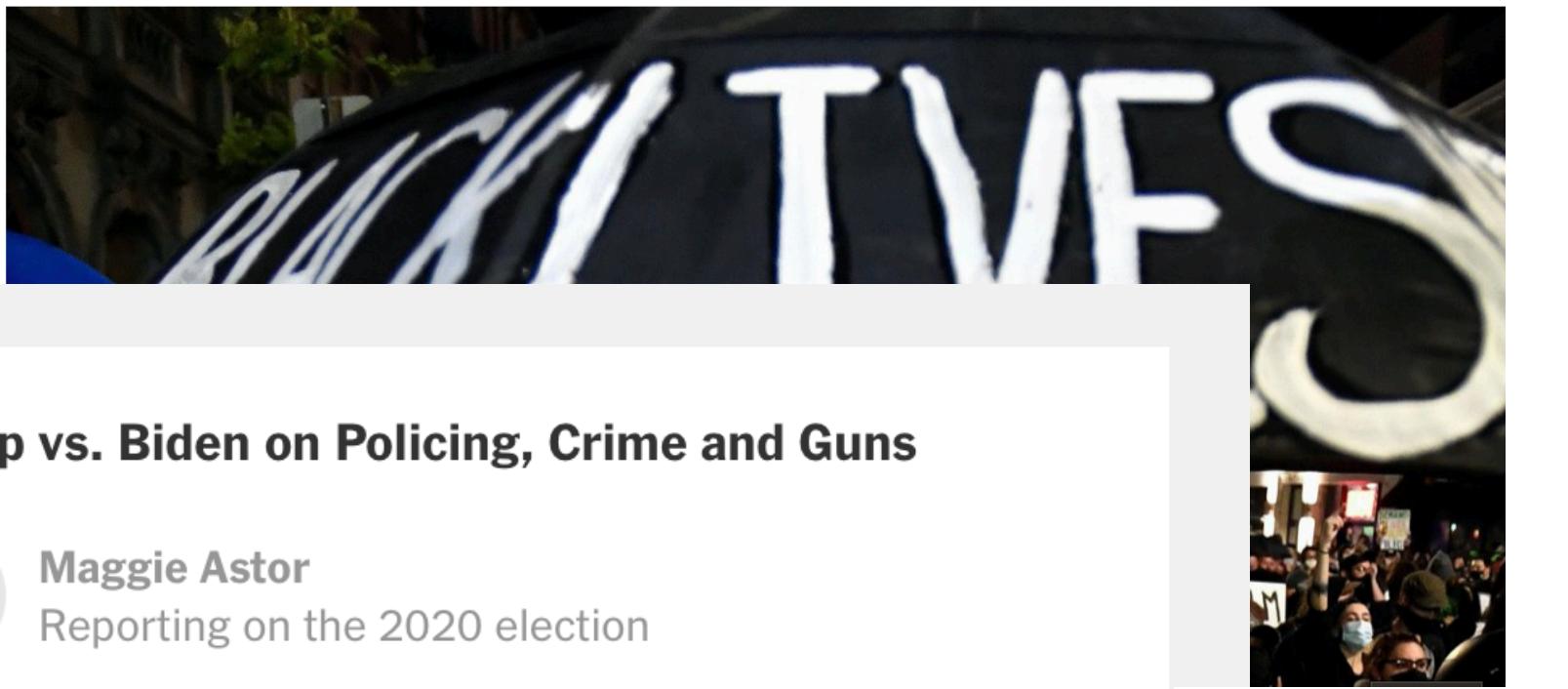


The Problem with Mental Health in U.S. Policing

Connor Pate

“He could be seen shouting incoherently
as he lay naked, handcuffed and hooded,
in the street on a frigid night.”

- Edgar Sandoval on the death of Daniel Prude (*New York Times*, Oct 9, 2020).

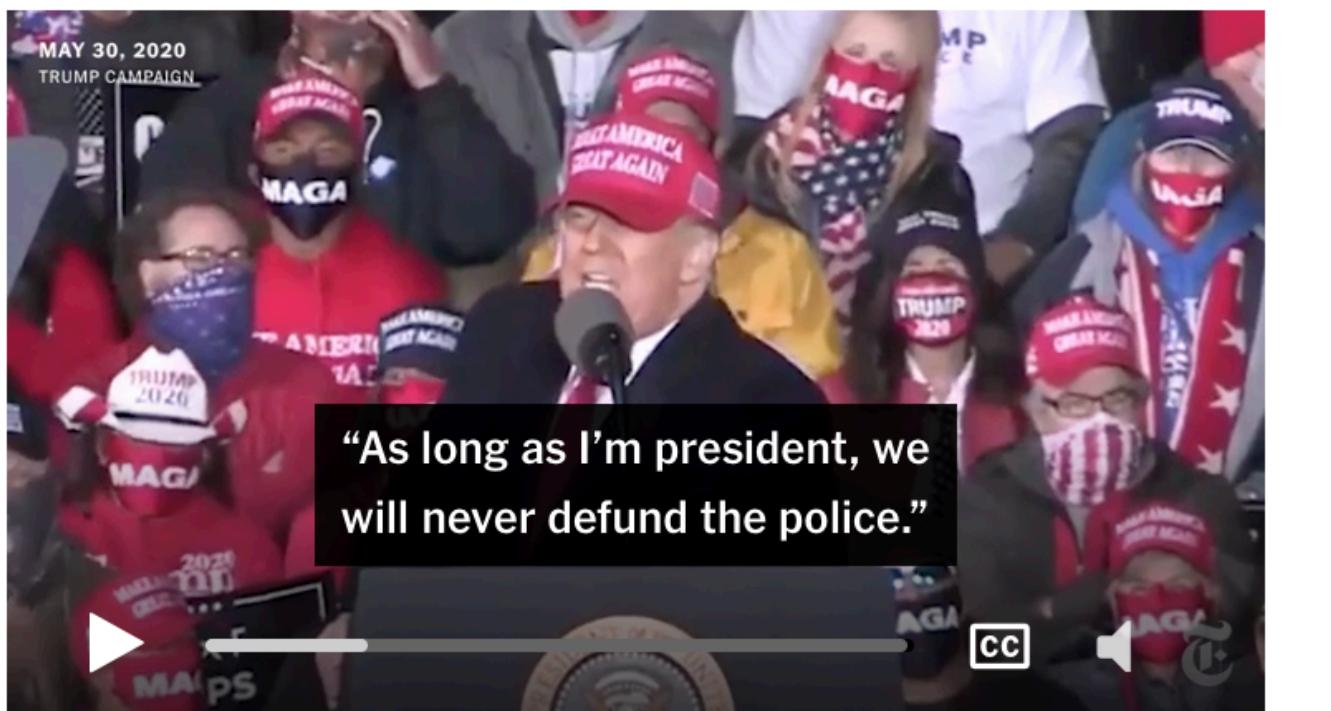


Trump vs. Biden on Policing, Crime and Guns



Maggie Astor

Reporting on the 2020 election



Police funding

Trump opposes calls to defund the police but has proposed cutting over \$500 million from programs that support law enforcement.

Biden wants to add funding for experts like social workers to respond to certain calls alongside officers. He doesn't want to defund the police.

Mental Health And Police Violence: How Crisis Intervention Teams Are Failing

September 18, 2020 · 5:00 AM ET

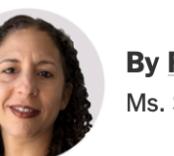
Heard on [All Things Considered](#)

By Edgar Sandoval

Opinion

Police Reform Is on the Ballot

When it comes to curbing violence by law enforcement, local elections matter most.



By Farah Stockman

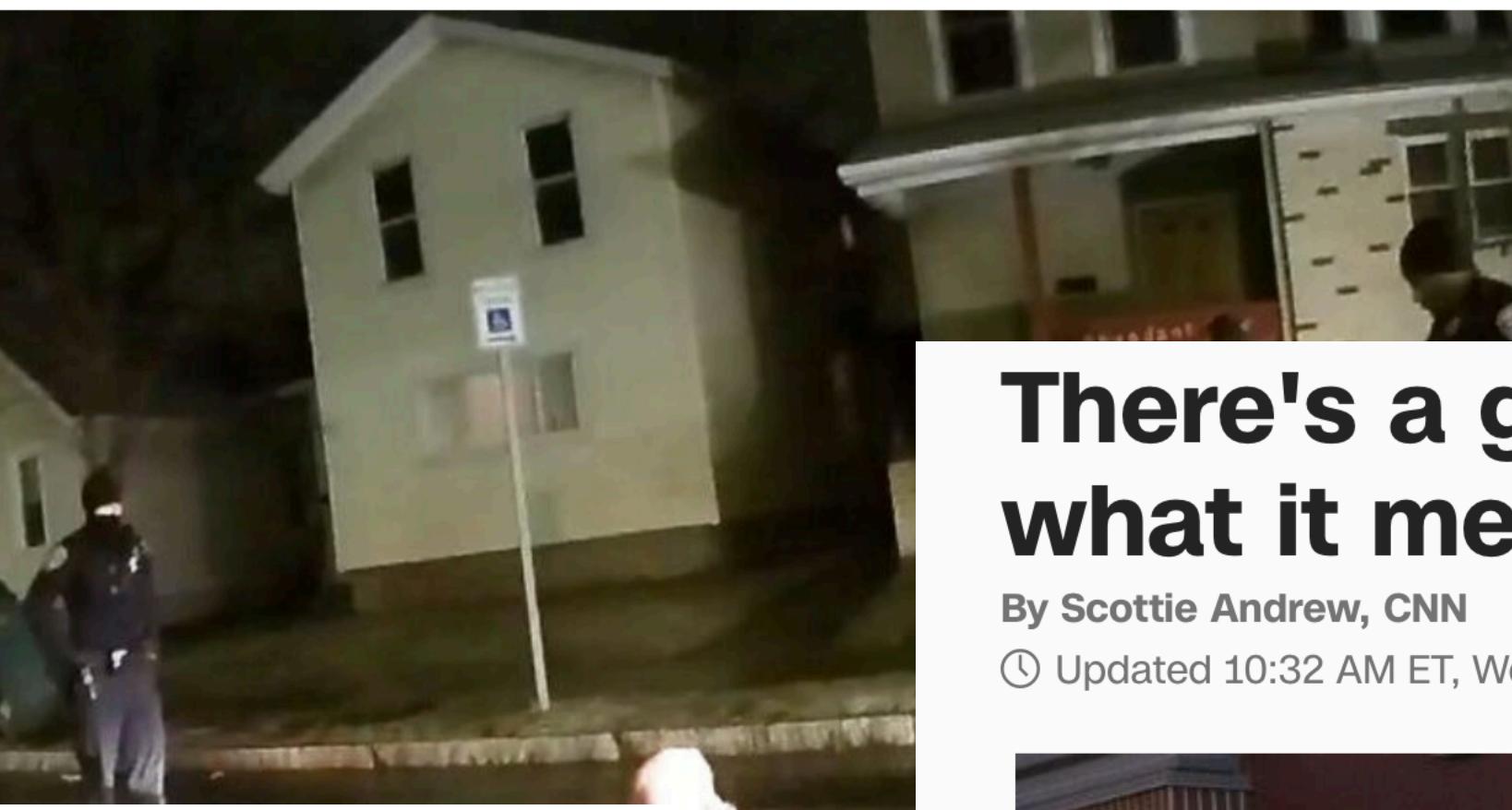
Ms. Stockman is a member of the editorial board.

Oct. 31, 2020



Daniel Prude Was in 'Mental Distress.' Police Treated Him Like a Suspect.

Rochester officers followed their training in restraining Mr. Prude, who was incoherent, but did little to calm him down or defuse his anger.



de on the gro
ce Department

There's a growing call to defund the police. What it means

By Scottie Andrew, CNN

Updated 10:32 AM ET, Wed June 17, 2020



More fr



Does 'defund the police' mean? A rallying cry sweeping the US - ed

ong advocated taking money from police and other services. The idea is now seeing a wave of support

[George Floyd coverage](#)



line up in front of the OPD headquarters on South Street as protesters arrive to demonstrate in San Francisco. (AP Photo/Joe Burbank)

~25%

**Since 2015, nearly a quarter of all people killed by police officers in America
have had a known mental illness.**

- NPR reporting on *The Washington Post's* police shooting database

One size doesn't fit all.

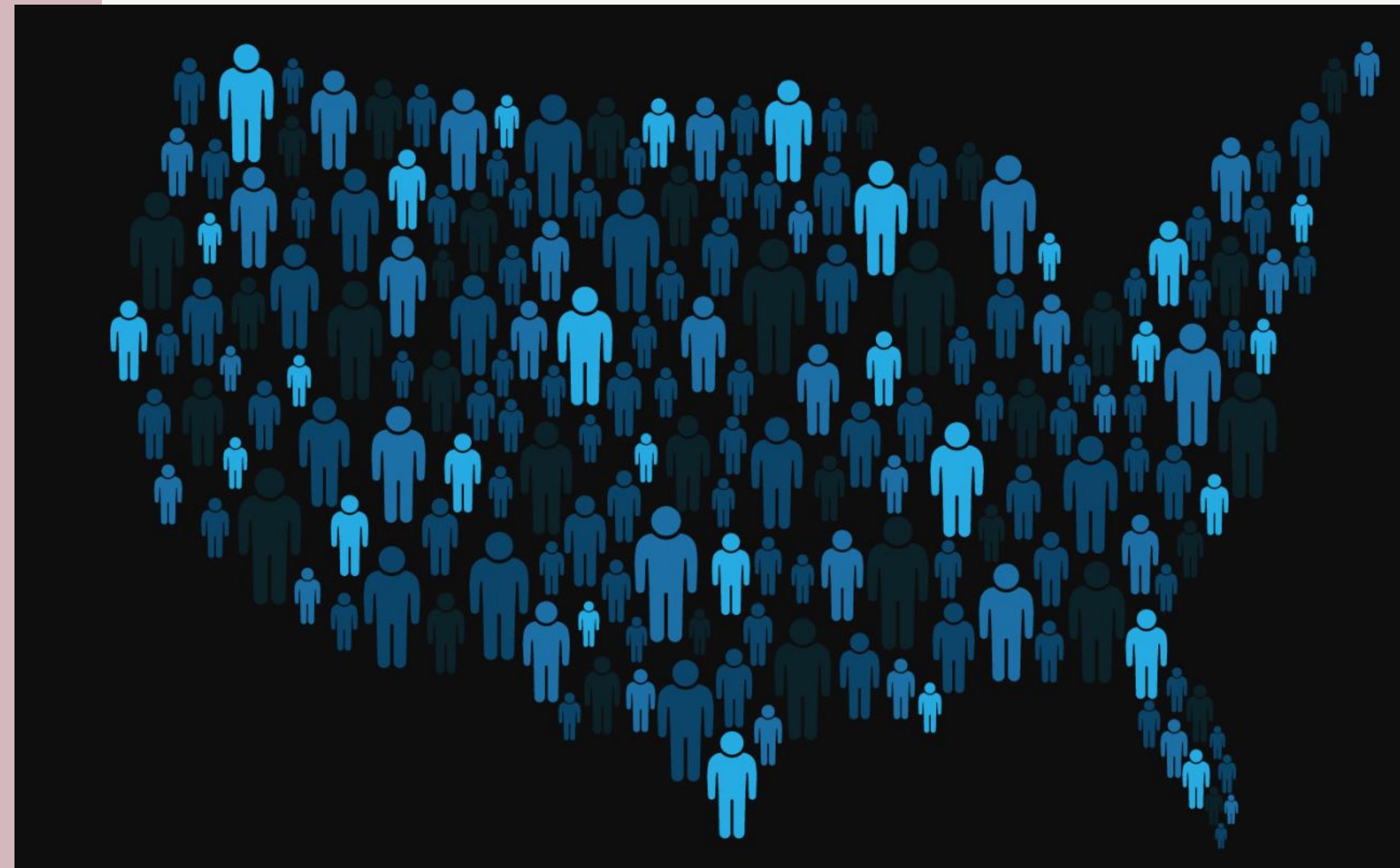
How an analysis of demographic data sourced from *The Washington Post's* Fatal Police Shootings Database may save those in most need of help.

Focus Areas

GENDER
(Age, Race, Location)

RACE
(Age and Gender)

LOCATION
(Age and Gender)



Gender and Race

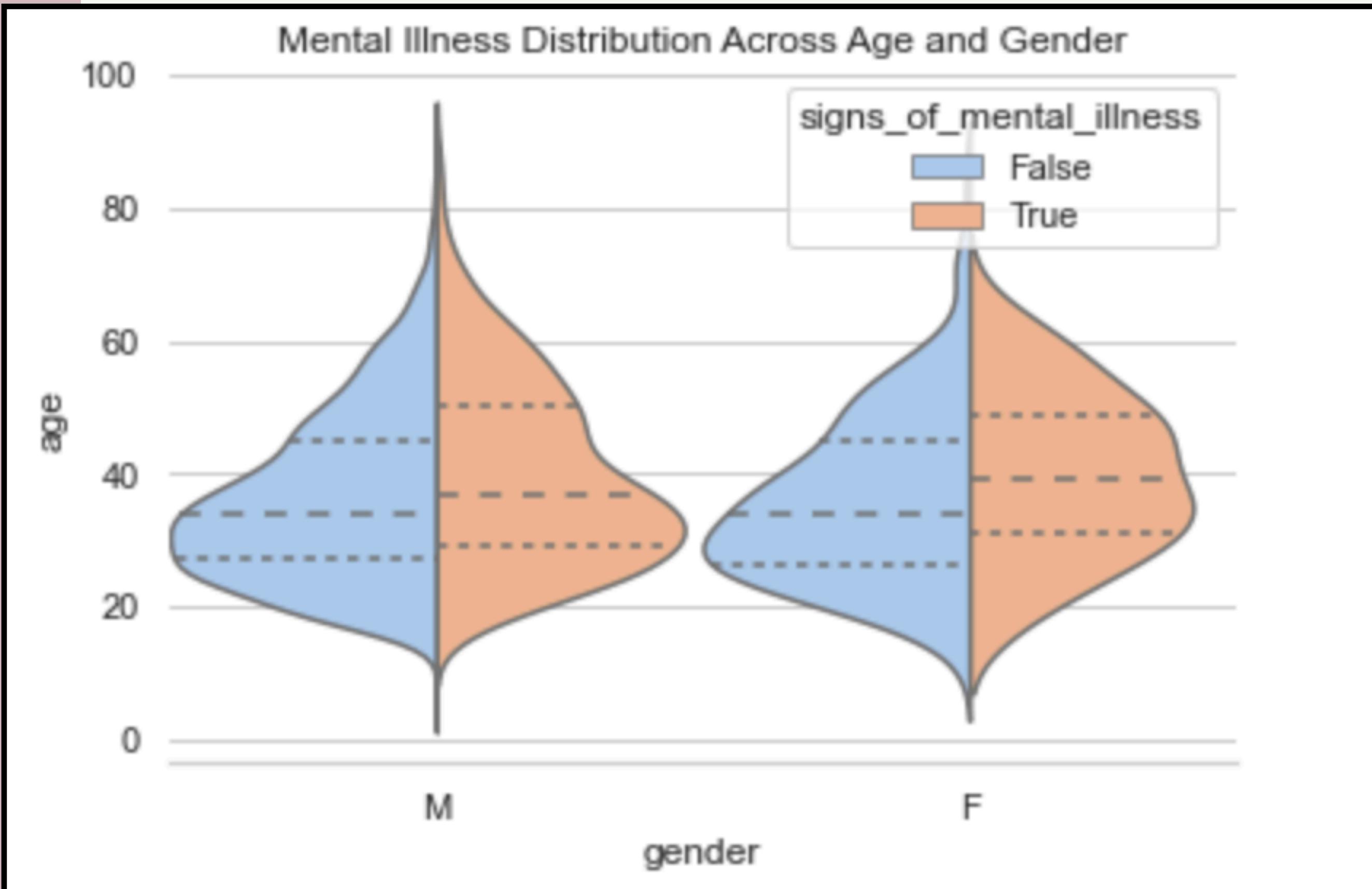
- Roughly 1/3 of women shot by police are reportedly suffering from some form of mental illness.
- Asian Americans and White (non-Hispanic) Americans report a disproportionately higher rate of mental illness.

signs_of_mental_illness	False	True
race		
A	0.755319	0.244681
B	0.845414	0.154586
H	0.819810	0.180190
N	0.814815	0.185185
O	0.787234	0.212766
W	0.705000	0.295000

signs_of_mental_illness	False	True
gender		
F	0.662698	0.337302
M	0.773100	0.226900

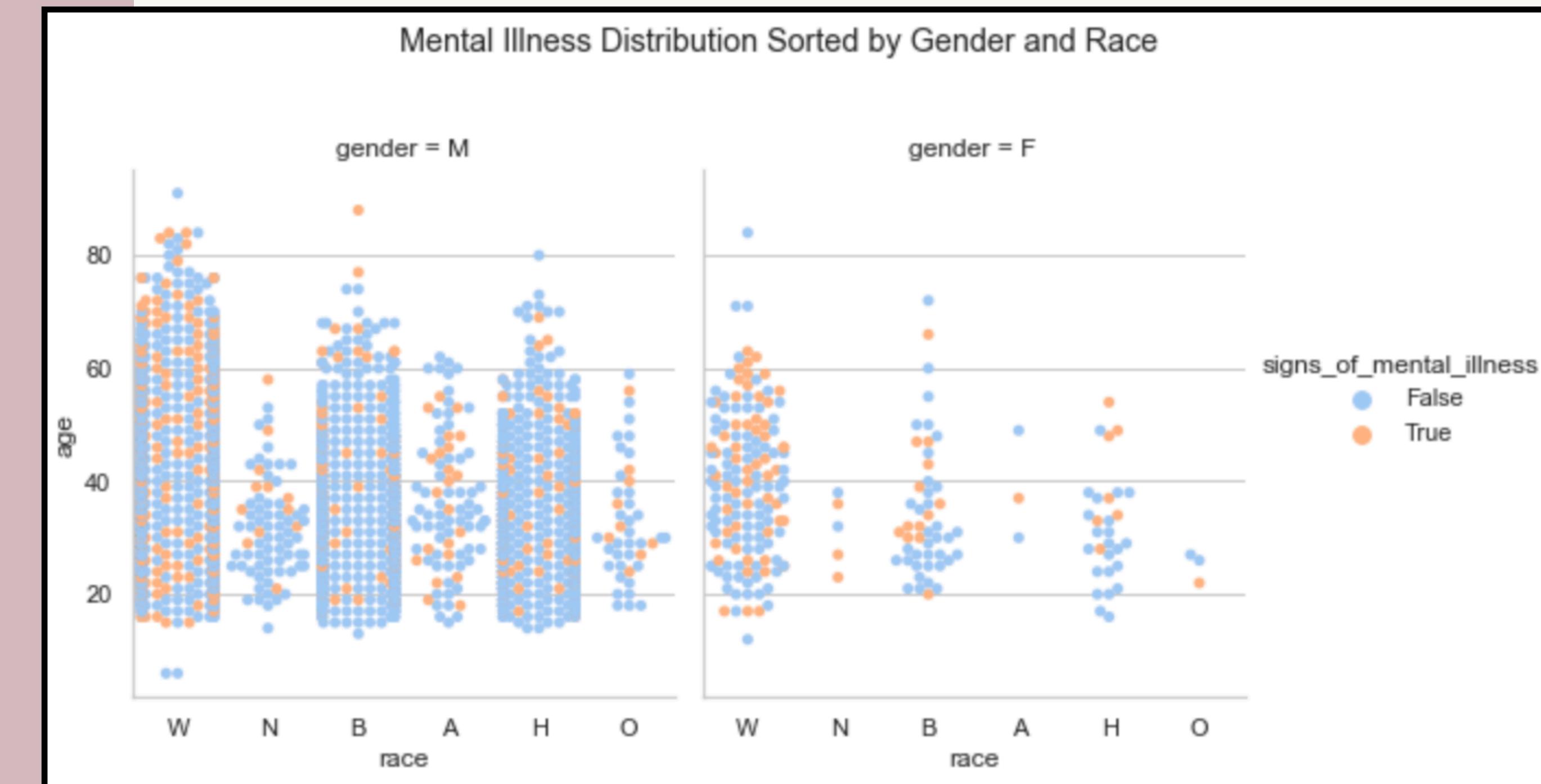
A consistent trend for women across age ranges.

A worrying sign for young men.



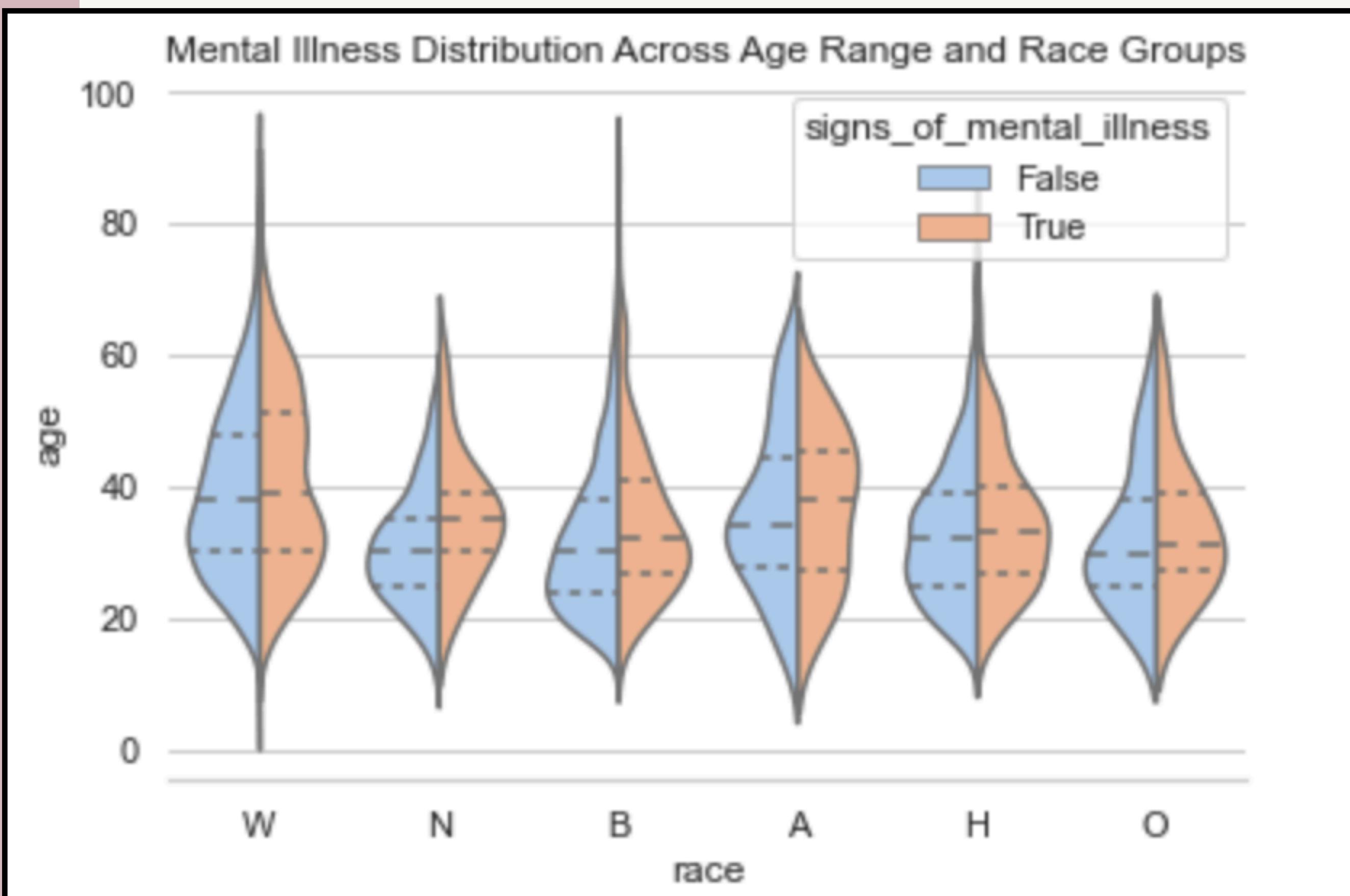
Age, race, and gender all overlap.

Black women and White Women report higher percentages of MI signs.



Each ethnicity and age bracket requires its own analysis.

- Black and Hispanic Americans have a higher rate of mental illness that peaks at middle age (<40).
- Asian Americans and White (non-Hispanic) Americans show a consistent trend, with the former peaking closer to middle age and above (>45).



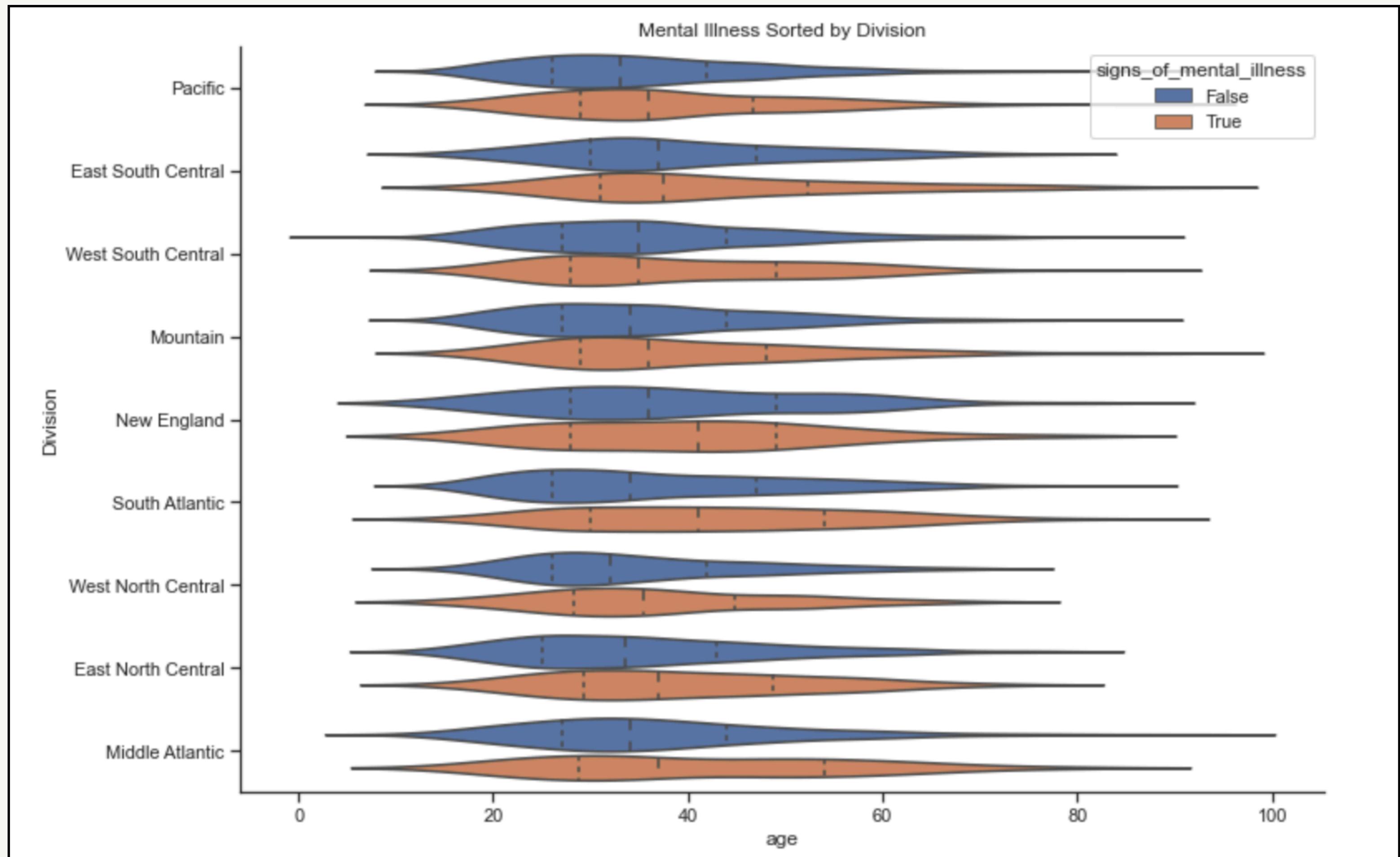
Location Matters (to an extent)

- The Middle Atlantic Division (New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania) contains the highest amount of fatalities with signs of mental illness.
- New England (Conn., ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT) follows the Mid Atlantic Division.
- East South Central and the Mountain Divisions contain the lowest amount.
- Are we looking at a population density issue? A higher confirmed rate in urban areas? A combination of the two?

signs_of_mental_illness	False	True
Division		
East North Central	0.746403	0.253597
East South Central	0.805621	0.194379
Middle Atlantic	0.703448	0.296552
Mountain	0.805621	0.194379
New England	0.721154	0.278846
Pacific	0.753401	0.246599
South Atlantic	0.750000	0.250000
West North Central	0.769886	0.230114
West South Central	0.795895	0.204105

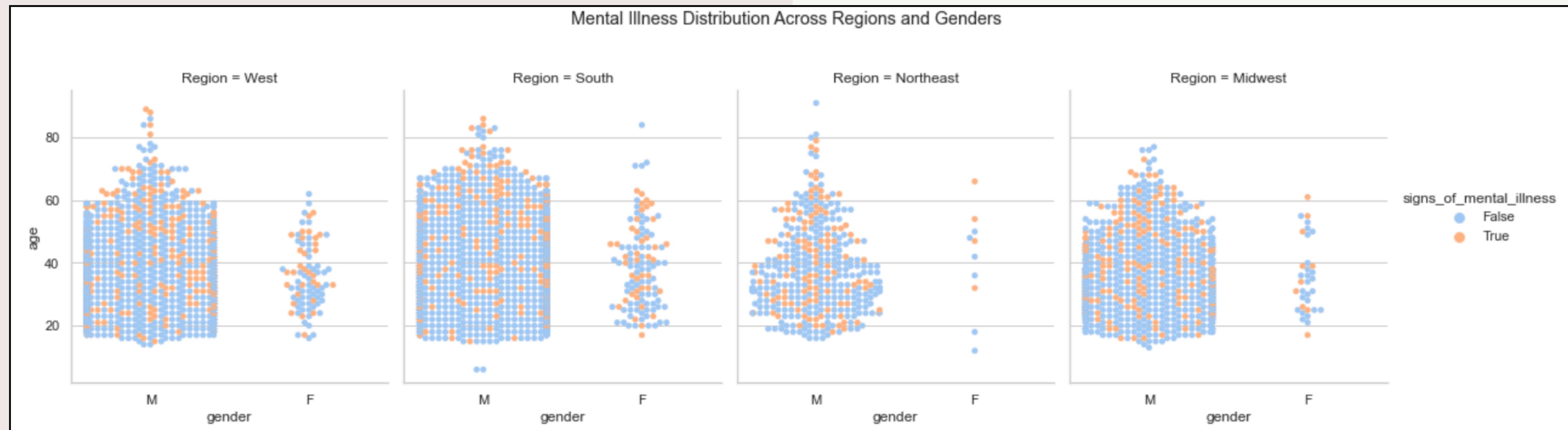
Different age groups require attention in different locations.

- New England's suspected cases of mental illness peak into middle age (>40), while the Mountain and W. South Central divisions peak in the 20s and 30s.
- The Mid Atlantic Division, perhaps due to its share of cases, has a steady through line throughout age brackets.



A Note on Location and Gender

- Depending on the Region (or Division), different demographics may need targeted help. If we abandon further analysis (states, cities) and shy away from a nuanced approach, different subsets of people may suffer more.



Four weeks after Mr. Prude's March 30 death, a police internal investigation cleared the officers — and said nothing about whether they were properly trained in how to handle an emotionally disturbed person or someone suffering from mental illness.

- Edgar Sandoval on the death of Daniel Prude (*New York Times*, Oct 9, 2020).

What's Next

- Response teams should be aware of the variables most closely aligned with mental illness or a mental health episode. This could be accomplished through enhanced training or a reallocation of resources toward crisis response teams.
- Furthermore, as a preventative step, outreach should be focused on the aforementioned demographics, those most likely to have signs of mental health issues.
- More data is needed on: rural areas, gender identification (non-binary, transgender), regional funding for crisis calls, fatal injuries not involving firearms (e.g., Daniel Prude).

Model Performance

71%

Based on the data provided by the *The Washington Post's* database, our current model accurately predicts:

- The presence of mental illness in police shooting fatalities 71% of the time
- The incorrect classification of someone with mental illness 72% of the time.

Improving Data Collection And Model Performance

- 1. Expand data collection. Primary dataset starts at 2015 - how would a larger database affect/improve analysis?**
- 2. Clarify data collection from across regions, specifically rural areas. Are mental illness cases being misrepresented?**
- 3. Set a standard for “signs of mental illness,” allowing for specific analysis and new data acquisition.**



987 people have been shot
and killed by police in the
past year

The Washington Post

People with Untreated Mental Illness 16 Times
More Likely to Be Killed By Law Enforcement

Treatment Advocacy Center

Thank you.