1. Date submitted: 08/04/2022

2. Submitted by: Nadia Stanley

3. Working title: Determining the Relationship Between Mental Health Disorders and Wrongful Convictions Among Unhoused Individuals.

4. Research question(s) and hypotheses to be addressed in the proposed manuscript:

1. Do unhoused individuals who have certain mental health disorders (Schizophrenia, Bipolar disorder, PTSD, and other Anxiety disorders) report wrongful convictions more often that unhoused individuals without those certain mental health disorders?

H1: Unhoused individuals with certain mental health disorders will experience wrongful convictions at greater frequencies, as compared to unhoused individuals without those certain mental health disorders.

2. Is there a relationship between race and wrongful convictions among unhoused individuals?

H2: Minority groups of unhoused individuals, specifically African American individuals, will experience wrongful convictions at greater frequencies than Caucasian unhoused individuals.

5. Background (based on previous research findings):

* Many unhoused individuals report feeling targeted and harassed by police.
  + “The general feeling among the homeless is that the police dedicate a lot of time to harassing them,” (McNamara, Crawford and Burns, 2013).
  + “…homeless individuals argued that the system ensures that they will be arrested and incarcerated,” (McNamara, Crawford and Burns, 2013).
  + “There is some evidence of increased rates of offending, but it has also been acknowledged that those living on the streets are disproportionately targeted by police with heavy handed responses for minor offences, such as public urination and begging,” (McNamara, Crawford, and Burns, 2013, as cited in Hopkin et al.).
* Past research has shown that individuals with mental illness are more susceptible to providing false confessions.
  + “We surveyed 1,249 offenders with mental disorders from six sites about false confessions (FCs) and false guilty pleas (FGPs). Self-reports of FC ranged from 9 to 28%, and FGPs ranged from 27 to 41% depending upon site,” (Redlich, Summers, and Hoover, 2010).
  + “The likelihood of falsely confessing was higher among… those with mental illness…,” (Mogavero, 2019).
  + “The odds of someone with a mental illness falsely confessing are 21.6 times greater than the odds of someone without a mental illness confessing (OR = 21.6,p< 0.001),” (Mogavero, 2020).
* Research has also shown that individuals with mental illness have a more difficult time understanding their rights.
  + “…adults with mental disabilities… are particularly at risk when it comes to understanding the meaning of *Miranda* warnings. In addition, they often lack the capacity to weigh the consequences of rights waiver, and are more susceptible to waiving their rights as a matter of mere compliance with authority,” (Kassin et al., 2010).
  + “… mentally disordered defendants in the current study had widespread difficulties in understanding all but the simplest warnings,” (Rogers et al., 2007).
* Race plays a role in wrongful conviction.
  + “… African Americans spent longer in prison before being exonerated, had more wrongful conviction factors, including the highest for official misconduct and false accusations, and they were more likely to be exonerated from crimes against persons, than for property or society,” (Goldstein, 2019).

6. Analyst: Brad Canell

7. Co-authors: Jess Becerra, Blayner Barker, & Michael Businelle

8. Dataset and variables needed, list the dependent and independent variables and covariates:

**Dataset**: Link2Care

**Independent**: Mental health disorder (The Brief Homelessness Questionnaire; question 9 & Self-Rated Health Questionnaire; questions 20, 21, 22, & 23)

**Dependent**: Self reports of wrongful conviction (The Brief Homelessness Questionnaire; questions 15)

**Potential Covariates**: Education/Sex/Age

9. Descriptive results (e.g., independent t-test, ANOVA, or chi-square test – attach tables or figures if needed)

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10. Analytic plan:

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11. Expected outcome(s):

I expect to see greater frequencies of unhoused individuals with mental health disorders report wrongful convictions compared to unhoused individuals without mental health disorders. Furthermore, I expect there will be a greater proportion of wrongful convictions among minority individuals as compared to Caucasian individuals.

12. Take home message(s):

Unhoused individuals, individuals with mental illness, and individuals who belong to a minority group are all vulnerable to the possibility of wrongful arrest and conviction. Research that exposes these vulnerabilities can encourage policy and procedure reform that will lead to more ethical processes of interrogation, arrest, and questioning in court.

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