Checkpoint 4 Findings

The first graph is constructed with officers represented as nodes and officers mentioned in the same allegation represented as edges. By looking at the average clustering in different categories we are able to extract racial disparities from the data. For the sake of simplicity I will be focusing on Black and White complainants as they make up the majority of the data. Looking at the data by police district, the districts with the top three highest clustering averages are 10th (0.48), 11th (0.44), and 15th (0.42). All three of these districts are majority Black with Black populations of 57%, 74%, and 85% respectively–all Black majority districts. On average, the higher the proportion of Black residents in the police district, the higher the clustering average. Overall, Black residents have the highest clustering average (0.346). White residents have the second lowest clustering average (0.316) only just higher than the Hispanic clustering average (0.312). High clustering averages suggest officers are more likely to commit misconduct in groups against Black residents than they are against White residents. Because we have seen a consistent pattern of misconduct against Black residents, this is not surprising. Officers committing misconduct in groups against a demographic that sees statistically higher misconduct is consistent with our findings from previous investigations and suggests an even more systemic presence of misconduct within the Chicago police department.

Our second question was aimed at further uncovering differences in Black vs non-Black complaints against the police. Each node in this graph represents a complaint type and each edge represents an officer involved in both types of complaints. The graph looks specifically at officers who have offended in more than one category. By constructing the graph in this way, we are able to determine if officers involved in multiple different complaint types generally have the same groups of complaints filed against them. For example, do officers with high use of force complaints have a higher propensity to also have illegal search complaints filed against

them? After querying the data, we determine White complainants have 104 edges between 19 allegations with an average clustering of 0.84, Black complainants have 132 edges between 19 allegations with an average clustering of 0.90, Hispanic complainants have 97 edges between 17 allegations with an average clustering of 0.82, and Asian/Pacific Islander complainants have 6 edges between 13 allegations with an average clustering of 0.84. For simplicity I will be focusing mainly on the discrepancies between the White complainants and the Black complainants as they make up the majority of the data.

White complainants have 104 edges, meaning there exists 104 connections between two complaint types from the same officer. Black complainants have 132 connections between two complaints from the same officer. This data suggests that not only are officers more likely to commit misconduct against Black residents, but each officer is more likely to commit a wider range of misconduct against Black residents compared to White residents. However, the average clustering for White complainants is 0.84 whereas the average clustering for Black complainants is 0.90. This means the types of allegations coming from Black residents are more concentrated in the same allegations than they are for White complainants. Thus, although officers are more likely to commit a wider range of police misconduct against Black residents, the majority of the type of police misconduct is still concentrated within a smaller number of allegation types than those against White residents. Because both the number of connections and the average clustering is higher for Black complainants than White complainants, Black complainants must experience higher levels of police misconduct across the board and experience higher levels of police misconduct concentrated in specific categories like use of force and false arrest (from checkpoint 3) than their White counterparts.

This graph suggests that Black residents are targeted in specific ways (use of force etc.) as the clustering rates for officers with multiple allegations are higher for Black residents than any other racial demographic. The graph also suggests that Black residents are victims of higher counts of police misconduct when compared to other demographics because of the

higher count of edges meaning either 1) officers are committing misconduct in a larger number of categories against Black residents than any other racial demographic group or 2) more officers are committing misconduct in more than one category against Black residents than any other racial demographics group.

Overall, the two graphs tell a similar story to one another and are consistent with the data we have analyzed so far. Black residents are more likely than any other racial demographic to be on the receiving end of police misconduct, and are likely to have higher rates of misconduct in specific categories. The higher rates of officers committing misconduct in multiple categories against Black residents raises the question of why. Are there specific reasons officers are more inclined to commit a broader array of misconduct against Black residents or is it simply a function of higher complaints rates for Black residents? Either way, our data analysis continues to demonstrate a pattern of police misconduct specifically against Black residents.