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Andrew Lawson, MA, MSc, MPhil, PhD

Medical University of South Carolina

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Dear Dr. Lawson,

Please find attached our article, “Temporal and Spatial Shifts in Gun Violence, Before and After a Historic Police Killing in Minneapolis.” To our knowledge, this is the first detailed empirical study to examine the relationship of firearm assault injuries and the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN. Using a uniquely constructed panel dataset and interrupted time series modeling, we assess the spatiotemporal pattern of firearm assault injuries post-killing.

Using the most recently available Zip Code Tabulation Area-level data from Minneapolis, MN, we find a sizeable short-term increase in the rate of firearm assault injuries (.015 per 1000 residents in the three months following the killing). Further, this increase was spatially situated in primarily Black, historically disadvantaged neighborhoods, showing that the consequences of police violence are disproportionately borne by underserved communities. Notably, we find that changes in police behavior or state COVID-19 regulation do little to explain this increase in firearm assault injury.

These findings will be informative in guiding future research at the nexus of punishment, policing, and public health. Such research can help identify the consequences of police violence on public health and establish for whom these consequences are most deleterious.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

With best wishes,

Ryan Larson (corresponding author), Jeanie Santaularia, and Christopher Uggen