N. Jeanie Santaularia, PhD MPH

Department of Epidemiology

University of Washington

3980 15th Ave NE,

Seattle, WA 98195

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Jaimie Gradus, DSc, MPH

American Journal of Epidemiology Guest Editor

Boston University

Boston, MA

John R. Pamplin II, PhD, MPH

American Journal of Epidemiology Guest Editor

Columbia University

New York, NY

Dear Drs. Gradus and Pamplin,

Please find attached an original research article entitled “The Mental Health Consequences Before and After George Floyd’s Murder in Minneapolis in Black, Latine, and White Communities,” for the special collection call on mental health.

Racialized police violence has been pervasive throughout United States history. The murder of Mr. George Floyd brought mainstream visibility to the health burden of police violence predominantly borne by racialized marginalized communities. However, most of the research conducted to date has been based on cross-sectional studies, self-reported measures, and limited consideration of geography.

In order to fill these gaps, our study seeks to evaluate the rate of mental health diagnoses over time and space after the murder of Mr. Floyd on May 25th, 2020 in communities in Minneapolis, Minnesota overall and race-stratified. We contribute to the existing literature by a) utilizing five years of time series and panel data to examine changes in response to the police murder, b) using an alternative measure of mental health diagnosis as opposed to self-reports, and c) examining the hyperlocal impact, and spatial heterogeneity therein, of the murder across Minneapolis, MN.

We believe our findings highlight the traumatizing effects of police violence and the short- and longer-term public health consequences for communities, particularly Black communities. Specifically, our results suggest that residing in advantaged neighborhoods did not insulate Black people from experiencing mental health diagnoses following the murder of Mr. Floyd.

NJ Santaularia conceptualized the study, analyzed the data, and wrote the paper. R Larson conceptualized the study, analyzed the data, and wrote the paper. C Robertson provided content expertise, reviewing and editing of the writing. C Uggen supervised the conceptualization, analysis and writing of the paper.

With best wishes,

N. Jeanie Santaularia (corresponding author), Ryan Larson, Christopher E. Robertson, Christopher Uggen