Checkpoint 2: Data Exploration

In this checkpoint, we seek to answer to create two different visualizations that will help us explore further explore which factors lead officers to have allegations sustained against them. The two visualizations are:

- A text table comparing number of sustained and not sustained allegations, organized by neighborhoods, and broken down by race of the person filing the misconduct allegation.
- Stacked bar chart with each bar being a category of misconduct complaint and each bar showing the percentage that were disciplined.

The first visualization (Figure 1) is designed to show how both the racial disparities in who submits complaints of officer misconduct and racial disparities in the sustaining of those misconduct allegations. The top percentages show the percentage of allegations that are not sustained and that are sustained, respectively. The colors show what percentage of the not sustained and sustained pools of allegations for that neighborhood are from that race, so a darker color means that a race contains a higher number of either sustained or not sustained allegations as compared to the other races in that neighborhood. Therefore, the colors show how the race of the person filing the complaint impacts the way in which it is received and ultimately acted on. The table is also ordered in descending order from most total allegations to least, with the cutoff at 1500 total allegations. However, this cutoff includes many allegations with race unlabeled so the totals in the table are generally lower.

Looking at Englewood, for example, we see that only 7.25% of misconduct allegations filed by African Americans are sustained while both Hispanics and White people have their allegations sustained at at least 25%. Additonally, a huge proportion of the not sustained complaints are from African Americans as the color indicates at first glance and the count backs up upon further inspection. However, Englewood is over 94% African American so the number of complaints is proportional to the population and so it may seem that this disparity may be due to the demographics of the neighborhood. However, other neighborhoods have a plurality of not sustained allegations filed by African Americans but are much more diverse, including Rogers Park (27% African American), Lake View (9.2% African American), and River North(10% African American). This disparity suggests a possible bias in the way in which police examine complaints from African Americans as compared to other people and may be a contributing factor to police officers remaining on the force after committing misconduct. Additionally, the fact that the neighborhoods at the top of the list containt the largest raw number of misconduct allegations and are predominantly African American suggests that they also bare the brunt of policing and therefore police misconduct in Chicago, worsening the lives of the people in those neighborhoods. While there is always a possiblity that these all of these allegations are being evaluated fairly and this is just how the numbers shake out, it seems far more likely that there is extreme bias in how allegations are either sustained or not sustained based on the race of the person filing the complaint.

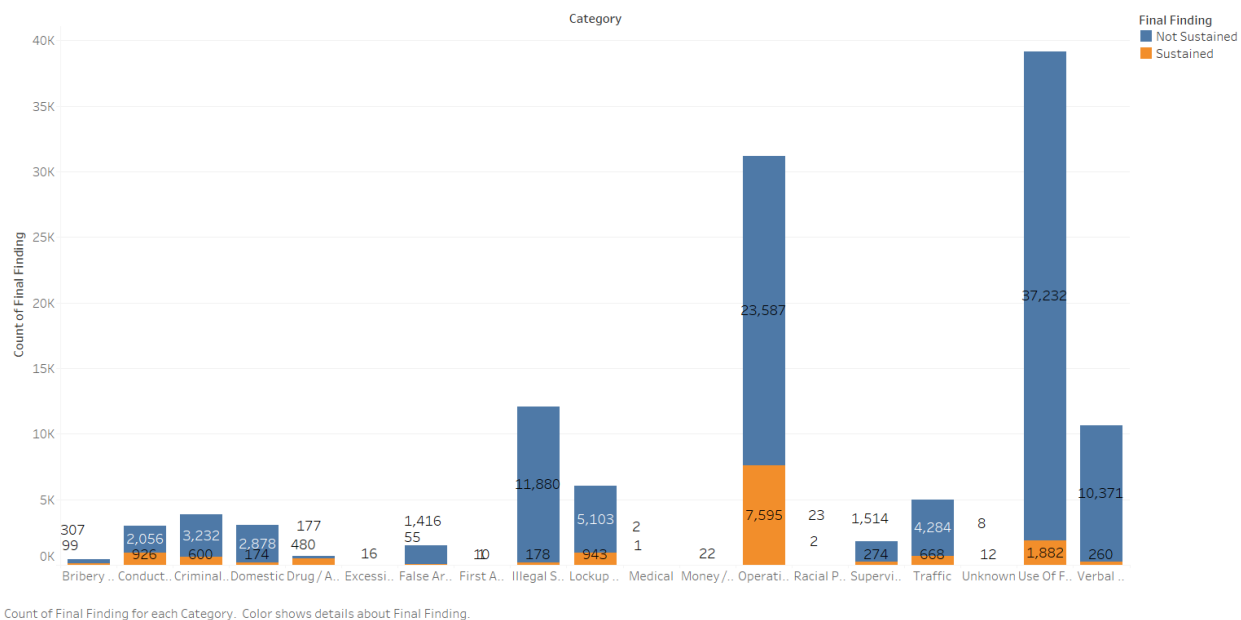# Sustained vs. Not Sustained Allegations by Neighborhood and Race

% Total by Race: 0.24% — 98.89%

Name	Black Not Sust..	Black Sustained	Hispanic Not Sust..	Hispanic Sustained	White Not Sust..	White Sustained	Asian/Pacific Islander Not Sust..	Asian/Pacific Islander Sustained	Native American/Ala.. Not Sust..	Native American/Ala.. Sustained
Englewood	92.75% 1,356	7.25% 106	64.29% 18	35.71% 10	74.58% 44	25.42% 15		100.00% 2		
Austin	94.37% 922	5.63% 55	57.58% 19	42.42% 14	56.90% 33	43.10% 25		100.00% 2		
Auburn Gresham	93.92% 818	6.08% 53	85.71% 6	14.29% 1	37.50% 6	62.50% 10	100.00% 2			
Garfield Park	97.33% 730	2.67% 20	83.33% 20	16.67% 4	75.61% 31	24.39% 10	66.67% 2	33.33% 1		
Humboldt Park	97.77% 438	2.23% 10	90.91% 150	9.09% 15	87.80% 36	12.20% 5	100.00% 8			
North Lawndale	95.25% 441	4.75% 22	73.08% 38	26.92% 14	73.33% 22	26.67% 8				
Grand Crossing	94.19% 503	5.81% 31			75.00% 6	25.00% 2				
Chicago Lawn	89.47% 340	10.53% 40	94.44% 68	5.56% 4	84.62% 22	15.38% 4			100.00% 2	
Roseland	94.71% 412	5.29% 23		100.00% 4	64.29% 9	35.71% 5				
South Shore	93.98% 390	6.02% 25	25.00% 4	75.00% 12	57.14% 8	42.86% 6				
New City	94.65% 283	5.35% 16	91.30% 63	8.70% 6	94.12% 64	5.88% 4				
South Chicago	92.07% 360	7.93% 31	84.00% 21	16.00% 4	20.00% 2	80.00% 8				
Woodlawn	96.55% 336	3.45% 12	100.00% 5		53.70% 29	46.30% 25				
Chatham	91.52% 356	8.48% 33	100.00% 2		50.00% 2	50.00% 2				
River North	96.12% 223	3.88% 9	84.62% 33	15.38% 6	77.42% 72	22.58% 21				
Belmont Cragin	89.00% 89	11.00% 11	98.37% 181	1.63% 3	75.38% 49	24.62% 16				
Douglas	86.69% 228	13.31% 35	63.64% 21	36.36% 12	41.67% 10	58.33% 14	100.00% 4			
Loop	85.82% 115	14.18% 19	87.50% 35	12.50% 5	81.34% 109	18.66% 25		100.00% 1		100.00% 1
Little Village	92.59% 50	7.41% 4	95.08% 174	4.92% 9	91.11% 41	8.89% 4				
Lake View	94.21% 114	5.79% 7	94.29% 33	5.71% 2	80.18% 89	19.82% 22	100.00% 4		100.00% 6	
Logan Square	76.81% 53	23.19% 16	91.38% 106	8.62% 10	82.54% 52	17.46% 11				
West Pullman	87.61% 191	12.39% 27			76.92% 10	23.08% 3				
Grand Boulevard	91.16% 196	8.84% 19		100.00% 2	83.33% 10	16.67% 2				
Rogers Park	96.88% 155	3.12% 5	100.00% 8		88.24% 30	11.76% 4	50.00% 2	50.00% 2		
Uptown	98.46% 128	1.54% 2	100.00% 12		95.45% 42	4.55% 2	100.00% 4			
Little Italy, UIC	86.59% 71	13.41% 11	63.64% 14	36.36% 8	70.83% 17	29.17% 7	100.00% 1			

% of Total Count of Final Finding and count of Final Finding broken down by Race and Final Finding vs. Name. Color shows % of Total Count of Final Finding. The marks are labeled by % of Total Count of Final Finding and count of Final Finding. The view is filtered on Race and Name. The Race filter keeps Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, Native American/Alaskan Native and White. The Name filter has multiple members selected.

Figure 1: Sustained vs. Not Sustained Misconduct Allegations by Neighborhood and Race

The second visualization (Figure 2) shows allegations broken down by category. Immediately, what stands out is that Use of Force and Operation/Personnel Violations seem to make up a majority of allegations when combined. However, Operation/Personnel Violations seem to be sustained significantly more often than Use of Force allegations. While we can't tell the specifics of each complaint based on just this graphic, we can make some guesses as to why Use of Force allegations lead to significantly less sustained allegations than Operations/Personnel Violations and most other categories of misconduct. These reasons include police refusing to hold each other accountable, which seems to be a big theme throughout the qualitative investigations into the Chicago Police Department. Additionally, Operations/Personnel violations seem to be easier to prove than Use of Force cases, which presumably rely on civilian and police accounts of the incident, with the police typically probably siding with their fellow officers unless a video or medical records can prove serious misconduct. This graphic also helps show that the best way to cut down on police misconduct would be to attempt to cut down on the use of force and generally instructing officers to be less combative towards the civilians they police since many of the categories such as Illegal Search, Verbal Abuse, and Use of Force all occur when officers interact with civilians.

Figure 2: Sustained and Not Sustained Allegations Broken down by Misconduct Category