

# Racism and involuntary psychiatric commitments in the US

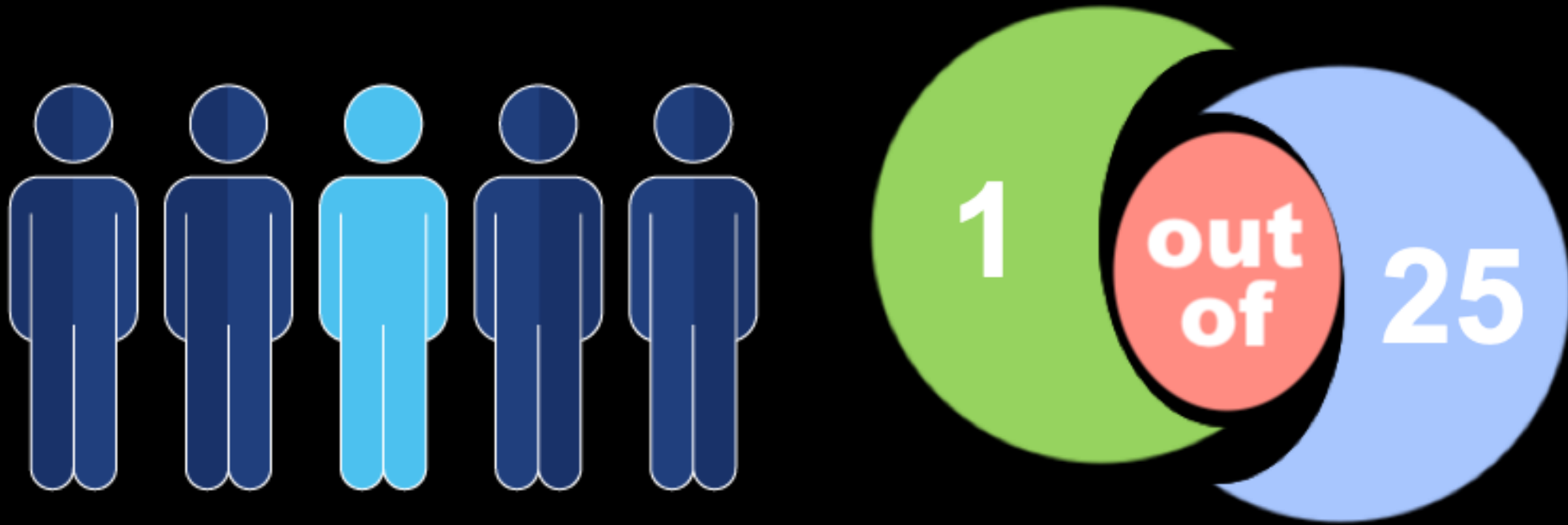
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The Ohio State University

9/15/2023



*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About Mental Health. What is mental health?*

*National Institute of Mental Health. URL: <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>*



# Committed

THE BATTLE  
OVER  
INVOLUNTARY  
PSYCHIATRIC  
CARE

- *Danger to self*
- *Danger to others*
- *Gravely disabled*

Nothing says "I love you" like an involuntary commitment.



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## **Bias in Mental Health Assessment and Intervention: Theory and Evidence**

**Lonnie R. Snowden**PhD

[+] [Author affiliations, information, and correspondence details](#)

## Articles

### Racial and Ethnic Inequities in Inpatient Psychiatric Civil Commitment

Timothy Shea ✉, M.D., Samuel Dotson, M.D., Griffin Tyree, M.D., M.A.S., Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo, M.D., M.S., Stuart Beck, M.D., Derri Shtasel, M.D., M.P.H.

**Published Online:** 12 Aug 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.202100342>

Vol. 18 | Spring 2019

➤ [Aggress Behav. 2007 May-Jun;33\(3\):272-80. doi: 10.1002/ab.20188.](#)

### Unemployment and civil commitment: a test of the intolerance hypothesis

Ralph Catalano <sup>1</sup>, Lonnie Snowden, Martha Shumway, Eric Kessell



HENRY  
NORTH  
The

### Involuntary Civil Commitment

Marvin S. Swartz ✉, M.D.

**Published Online:** 1 Dec 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.ps.711202>

5x<sup>†</sup>

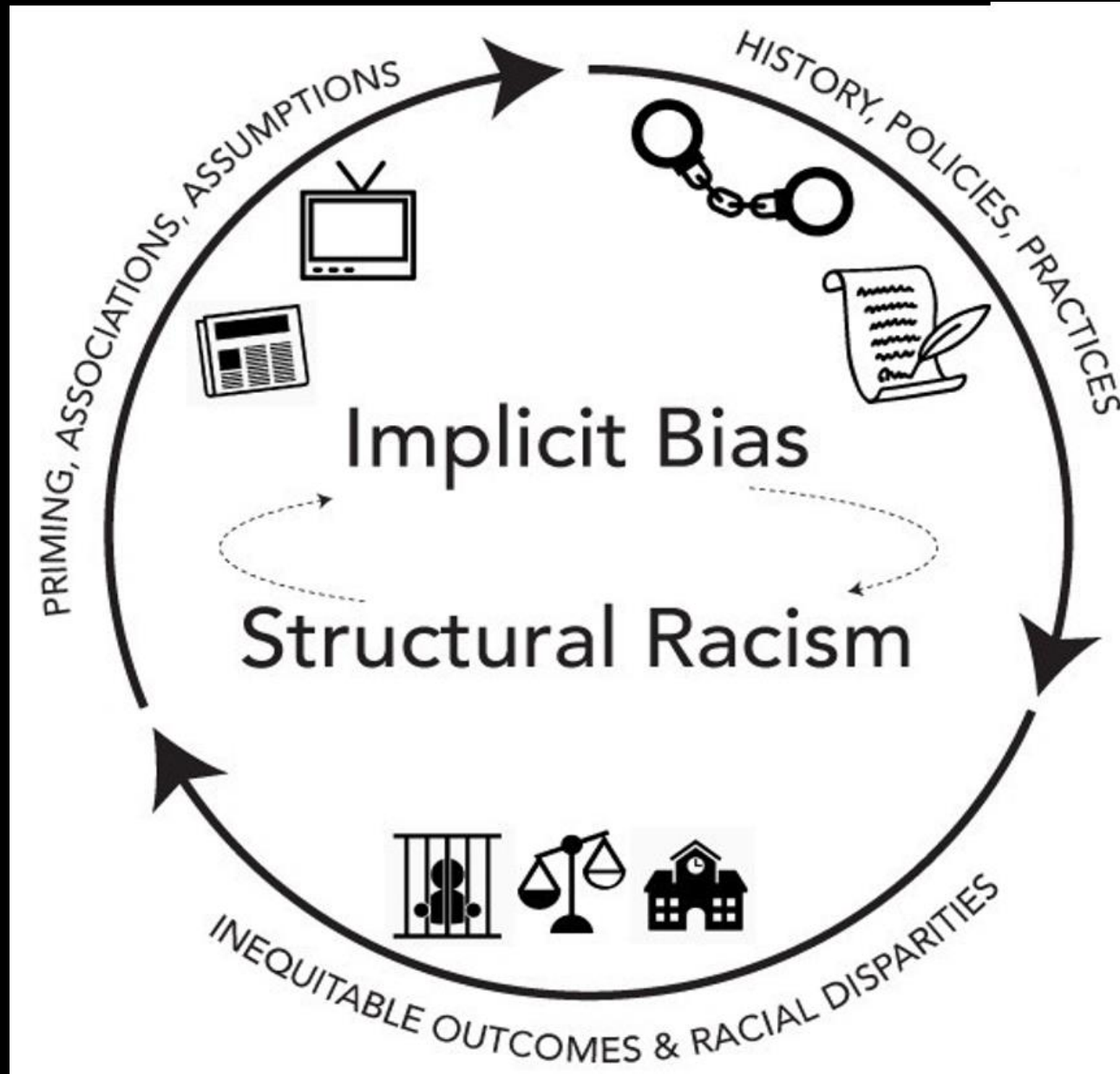


6x<sup>\*</sup>



\* Nellis, A. (2016). The color of justice: Racial and ethnic disparity in state prisons. *The Sentencing Project*.

† Singh, P. (2020). Macroeconomic antecedents of psychiatric emergencies and inpatient admissions in the US. *eScholarship, University of California*.



Source: The National Equity Project. (2019).

RESEARCH ARTICLE

[HEALTH AFFAIRS](#) > [VOL. 28, NO. 3](#): MENTAL HEALTH CARE: BETTER, NOT BEST

# Racial Disparities In Involuntary Outpatient Commitment: Are They Real?

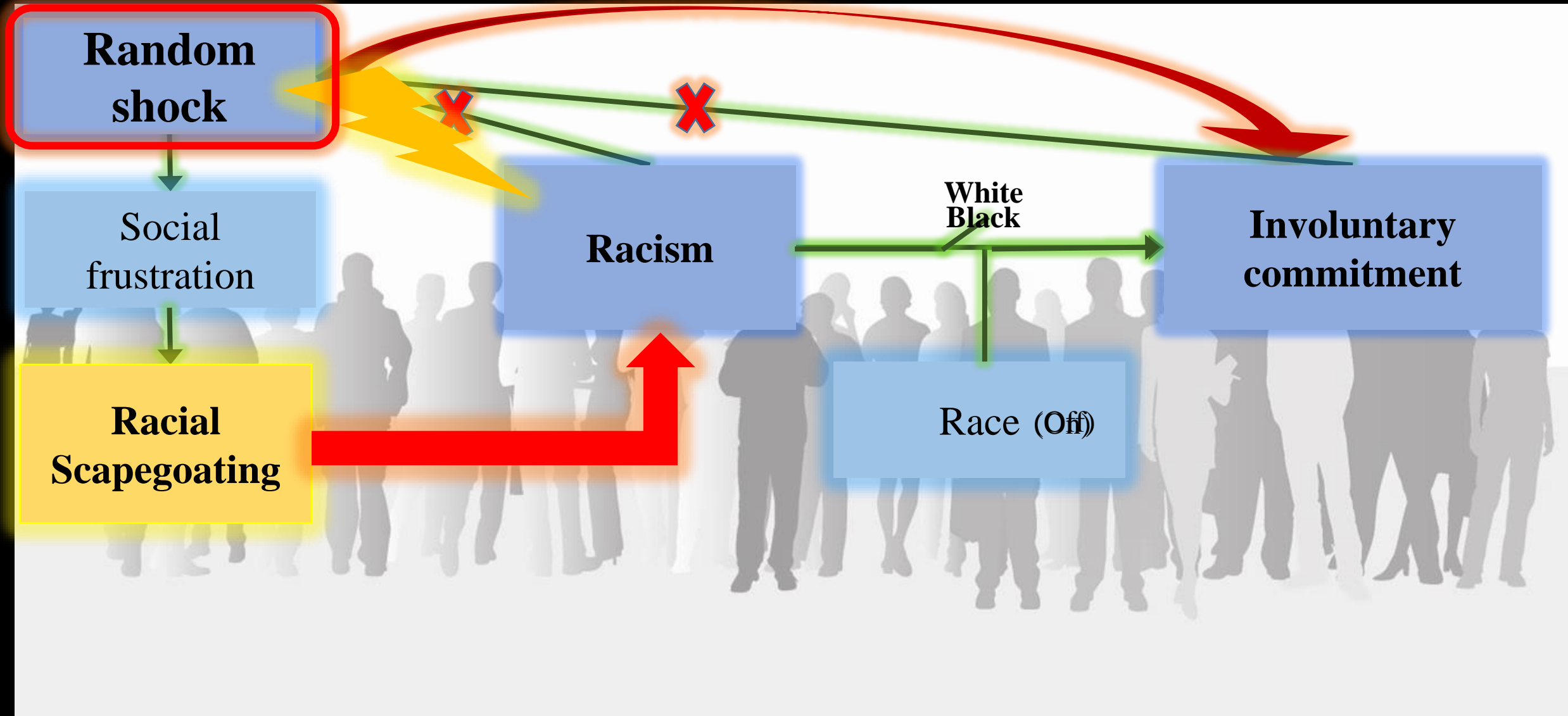
[Jeffrey Swanson](#), [Marvin Swartz](#), [Richard A. Van Dorn](#), [John Monahan](#), [Thomas G. McGuire](#),  
[Henry J. Steadman](#), and [Pamela Clark Robbins](#)

**CORRELATION**

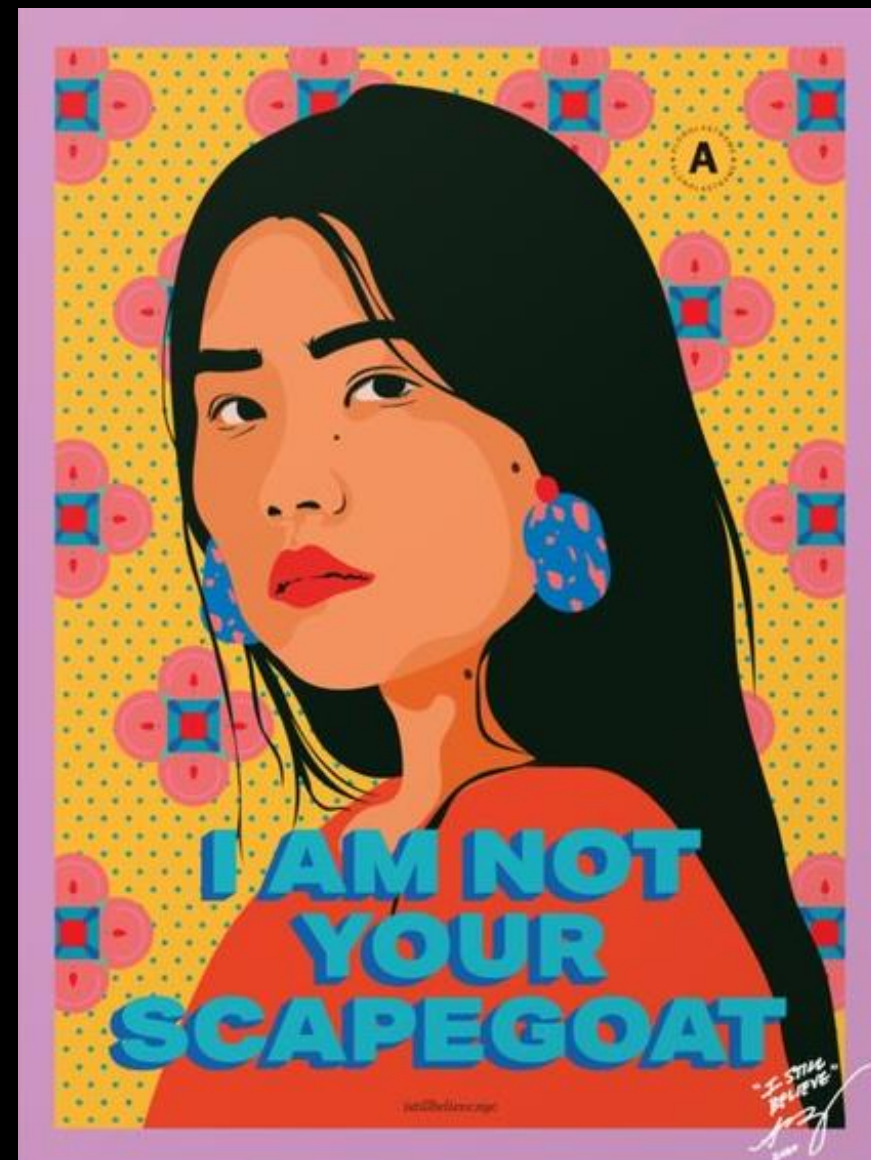


**CAUSATION**

# “Random” shocks → Causality







# Frustration- Aggression- Displacement Hypothesis

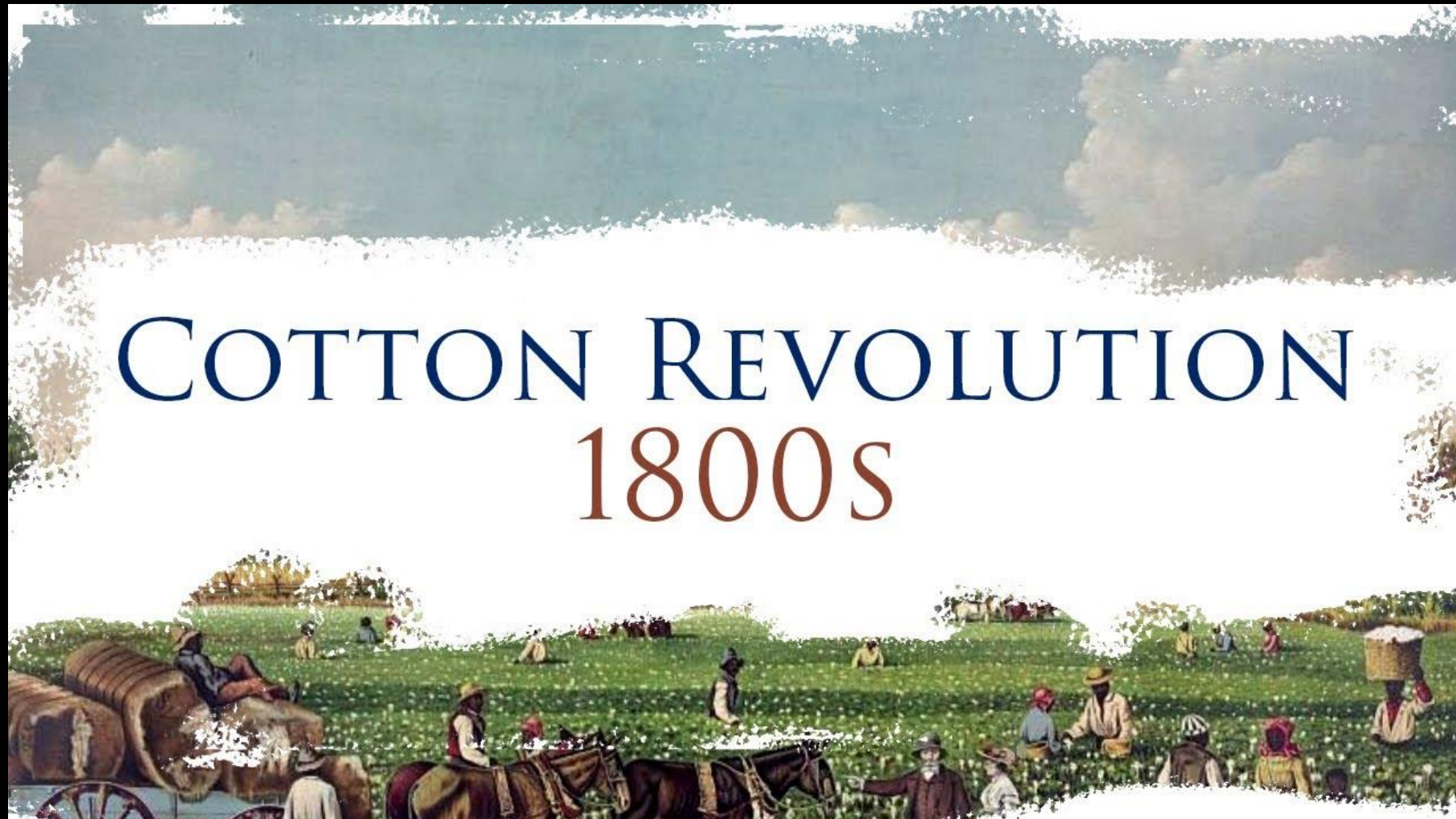
*Dollard et al, 1939; Berkowitz, 1989*



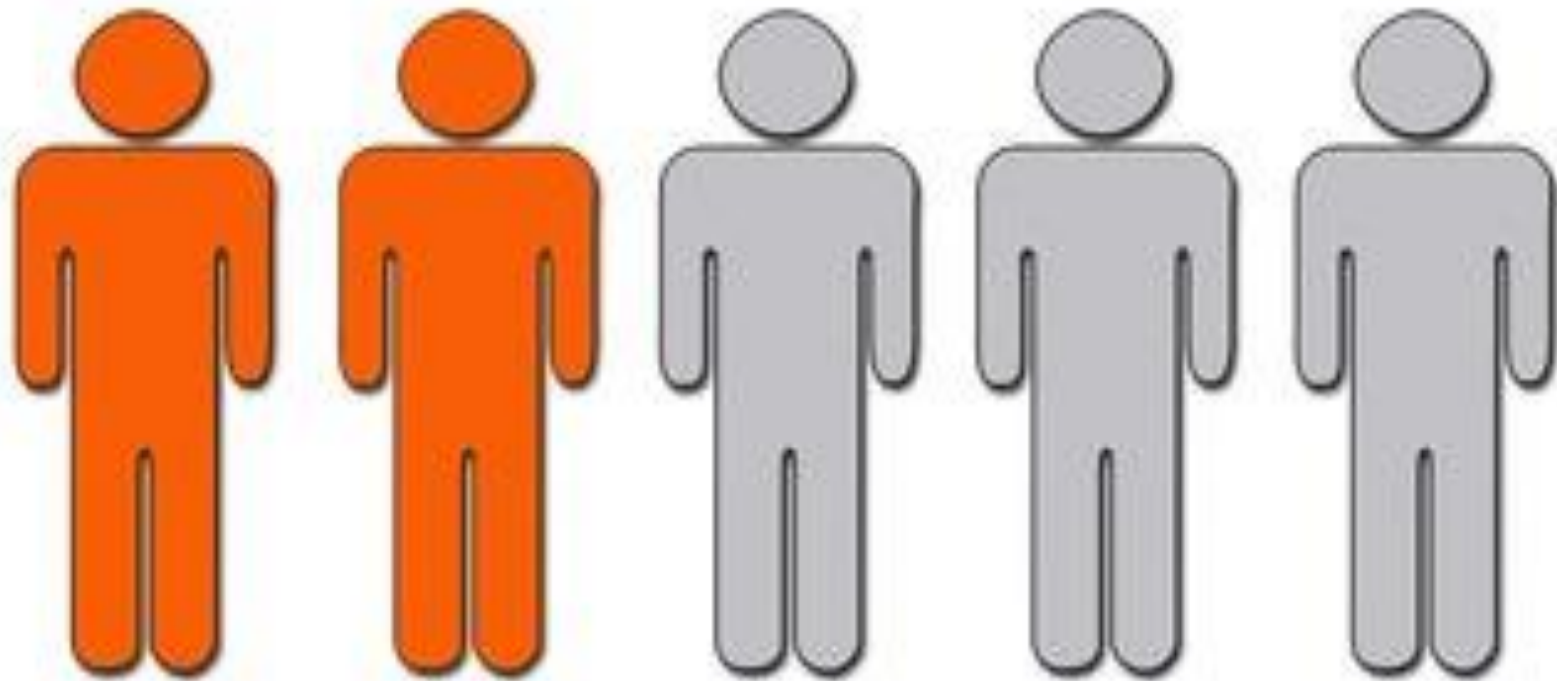
## Psychiatric Services

### Involuntary Psychiatric Examinations for Danger to Others in Florida After the Attacks of September 11, 2001

Ralph A. Catalano, Ph.D., Eric Kessell, M.P.H., Annette Christy, Ph.D., and John Monahan, Ph.D.



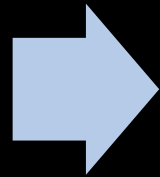
Hovland, C. I., & Sears, R. R. (1940). Minor studies of aggression: VI. Correlation of lynchings with economic indices. *The Journal of Psychology*, 9(2), 301-310.



Did involuntary psychiatric admissions increase among Black Americans during the 2008 recession?

Did involuntary psychiatric admissions increase among Black Americans during the 2008 recession?

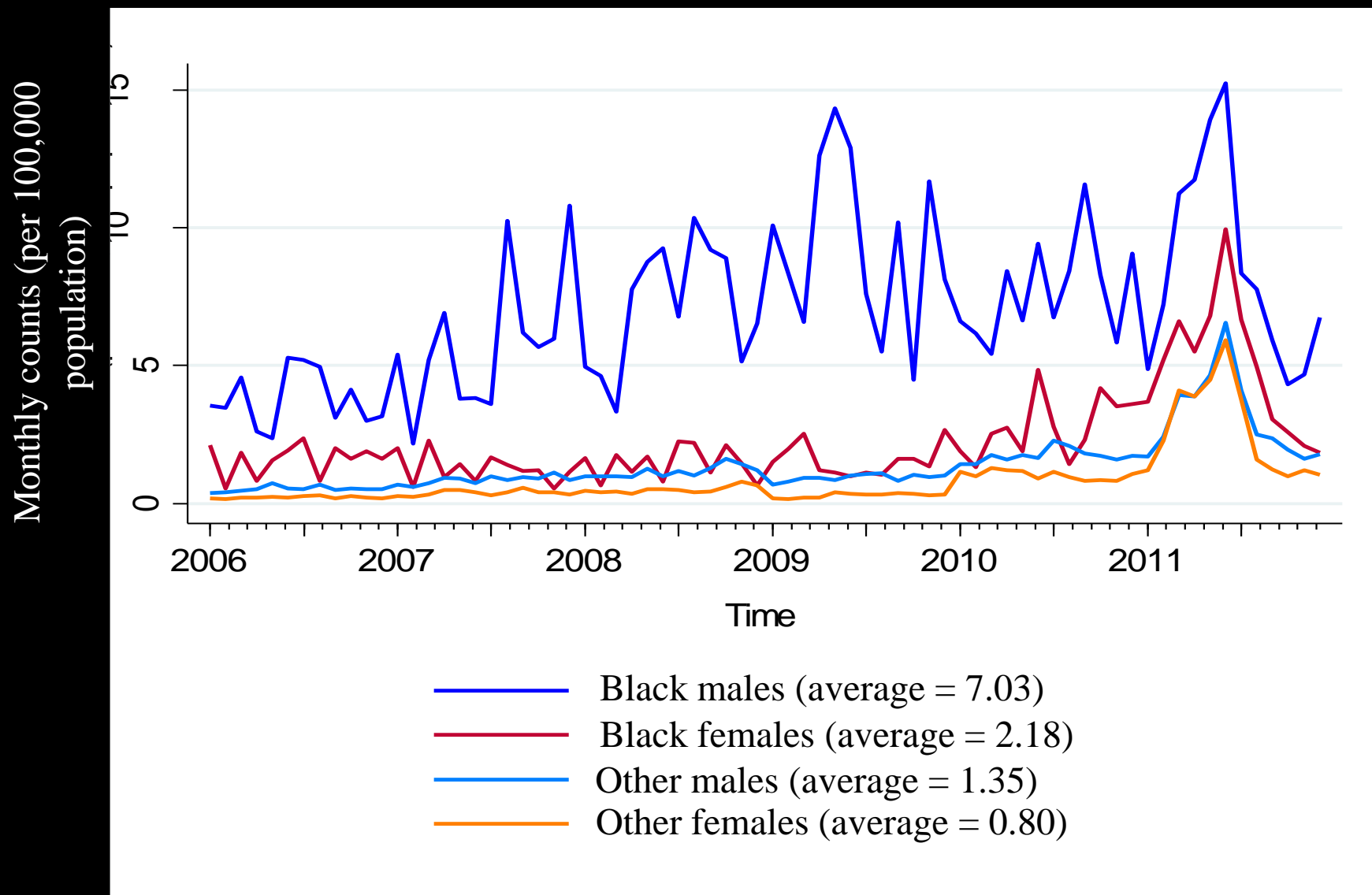
**Monthly change  
in number of  
employed persons**



**Monthly change in involuntary  
psychiatric admissions among Black  
Americans**

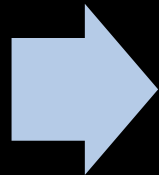
4 US States (AZ, CA, NY, NJ); 2006 to 2011; 13 million psychiatric admissions

# Involuntary psychiatric inpatient admissions (per 100,000 popn)



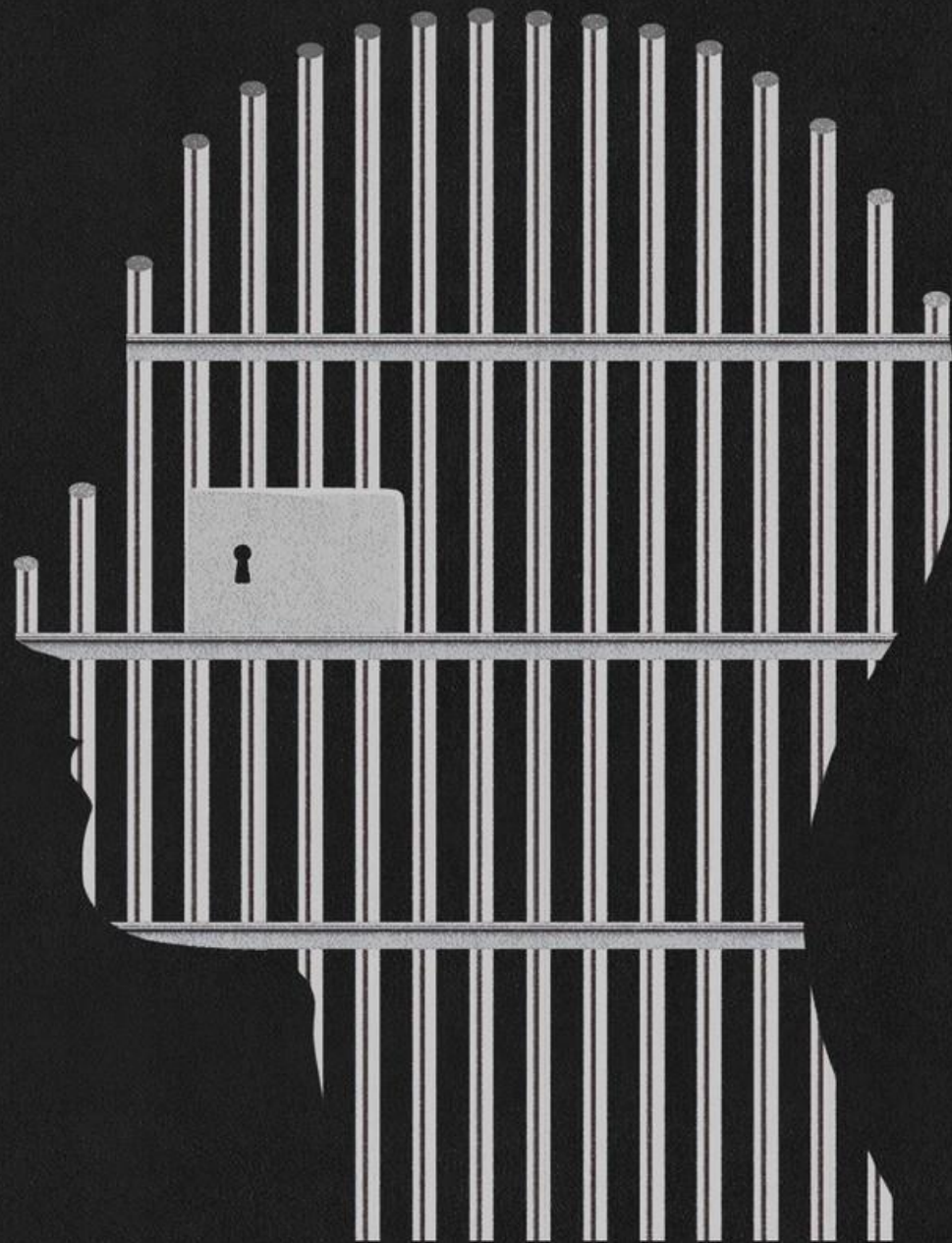
# Did involuntary psychiatric admissions increase among Black Americans during the 2008 recession?

**Decline in  
number of  
employed persons**



**Increase in involuntary psychiatric  
admissions among Black Males**

- 3% increase per unit decline in monthly employment change
- 995 additional commitments among Black males over study period
- No statistical detection among other race/sex categories





Menu

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# New York mayor orders some homeless people involuntarily hospitalized for mental illness

Dec 1, 2022 6:35 PM EST



# THE PROTEST PSYCHOSIS

How Schizophrenia  
Became  
a Black Disease

JONATHAN M. METZL

*Author of Prozac on the Couch*





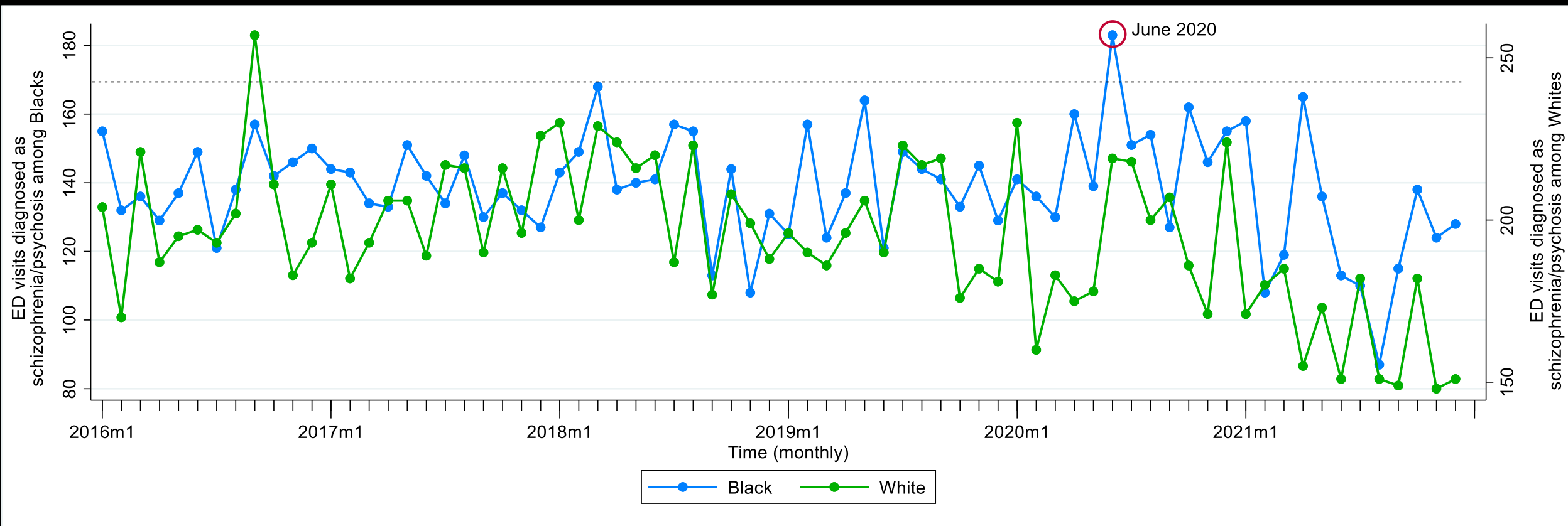
HOW WE RISE

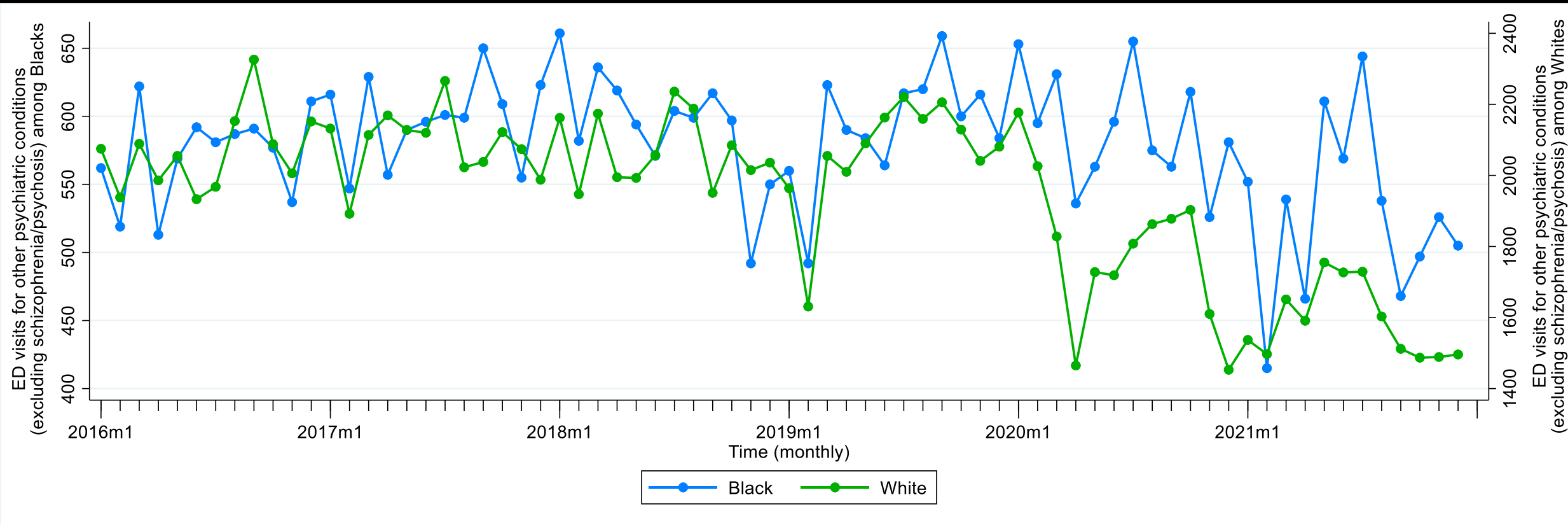
# How “excited delirium” is misused to justify police brutality

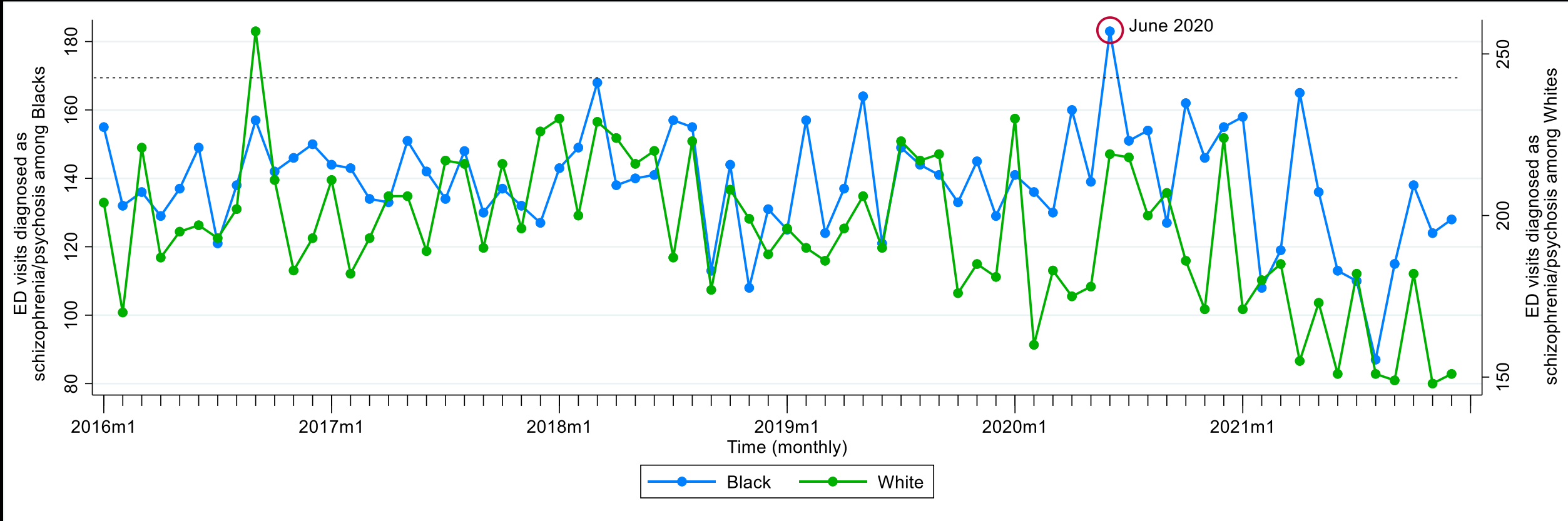
Joshua Budhu, Méabh O'Hare, and Altaf Saadi · Monday, August 10, 2020

HOW WE RISE









What we don't measure, we can't change.

Thank you!