

#152 Lauren Gruffi

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Attitudes Towards Policing in Inner-City Population of CKD, Dialysis, Kidney Transplant, and Family Medicine Patients

Background:

We investigated attitudes towards police departments in a marginalized and high-risk population and what demographic and health-related factors may be influencing those attitudes.

Methods:

A telephone survey was conducted with 62 pts in CKD (11), Dialysis (4), KTx (26), and FM (21) clinics. Pts completed a questionnaire regarding their overall attitudes towards policing, as well as a Multidimensional Health Locus of Control (MHLC) questionnaire. A composite score for attitudes towards police was created by finding the average of responses to six statements measured on the Likert scale (PoliceTrust). Higher composite score corresponds to more positive attitudes towards police. All analyses were performed using SPSS version 24. Variables were compared using Pearson correlation coefficient.

Results:

Mean age of population was 59.53 +/- 11.3, with 26 males (41.9%) and 36 females (58.1%). Pts with higher PoliceTrust scores were more likely to say they trust both state and federal guidelines to protect themselves from COVID19 ($r=0.352$, $p=0.009$; $r=0.320$, $p=0.018$), and less likely to believe that social distancing is necessary to keep themselves and others disease free ($p=0.044$). Pts with higher PoliceTrust scored higher on "MHLC - Powerful Others" ($r=0.295$, $p=.032$) and "MHLC - Other People" ($r=0.364$, $p=0.007$) and were more likely to have public than private insurance ($p=0.045$). Males were more likely than females to believe that police officers are well trained ($p=0.035$), and increased age was associated with the belief that the main priority of police is to keep us safe ($r=.286$, $p=0.025$) and disagreement with the statement that the main priority of police is to fill their quotas ($r=0.293$, $p=0.023$).

Discussion:

Identifying factors associated with negative perceptions of police is important to determine how to improve community relations and implement policies that help marginalized communities feel safe, and thus has significant public health implications.

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