

## Only 2% of black Chicagoan' allegations of police misconduct were sustained

June 7 2019

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Analyzing the data on 10,077 citizen complaints lodged against the Chicago Police Department between 2011 and 2014, a pair of New York University researchers has found that just 2 percent of allegations made by black Chicagoans resulted in a recommendation for sanction against an officer, compared to 20 percent for white complainants and 7 percent for Latino complainants.

The study by Jacob W. Faber, assistant professor at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, and Jessica Kalbfeld, [doctoral candidate](#) in NYU's Sociology Department, underscores the impact and implications of racial distrust in a highly segregated city.

"We have shown that not only are officers rarely disciplined for alleged misconduct, but that there are significant racial disparities in the outcomes of a process ostensibly designed to provide accountability in a highly segregated city," writes Faber and Kalbfeld in the article for the June issue of *City and Community*, a journal of the American Sociological Association.

"Although we are unable to prove explicit racial discrimination, the inequalities created and/or perpetuated by this process are still of great import to the policed communities, the CPD [Chicago Police Department] and criminologists. Perceptions about (or the reality of) the unfairness of the disciplinary process may reduce trust in [law enforcement](#) and exacerbate tensions between communities of color and the police," the authors wrote.

The paper also shows that racial disparities in the adjudication of citizen allegations of [police](#) misconduct are further shaped by the race of the officer involved and neighborhood context: incidents alleged by white citizens in high-crime and predominantly [black neighborhoods](#) are more likely to result in a recommendation that the officer be punished, as are incidents involving a black officer.

The paper is titled "Complaining While Black: Racial Disparities in the Adjudication of Complaints Against Police."

Provided by New York University

Citation: Only 2% of black Chicagoan' allegations of police misconduct were sustained (2019, June 7) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-06-black-chicagoan-allegations-police-misconduct.html>

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