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Background

- Critical Race Theory & the Criminal Justice System
 - Race permeates all stages and processes of the criminal justice system, starting with police street encounters, interactions during police calls for service, and in the discretionary decision-making and powers of individual officers (Stinson, 2020).
- Institutional Racism in Policing
 - *Terry v. Ohio* (1968) laid the foundation for the continued proliferation of racially biased policing. Blacks are almost three times more likely than Whites to be pulled over by the police in a traffic stop (Epp, et al., 2014).
 - Many police officers fear Black people (Stinson, 2020). Gabbidon (1994) coined the term “blackaphobia” to describe fear of Blacks as criminals.
- Police Legitimacy & Procedural Justice
 - Police legitimacy is established through informal judgments people make about procedural justice (i.e., whether they are treated fairly by the police).
 - Many Black people are very distrustful of the police (Anderson, 2000).
- Police Militarization
 - Police typically invoke a warrior mentality and work in quasi-military organizations.
 - The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing (2015) recommended that “law enforcement culture should embrace a guardian mindset to build public trust and legitimacy.”

Methods

- This study is part of a larger research project on police crime that examines cases of nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers arrested since January 1, 2005.
- Google News search engine and Google Alerts are utilized to find and track cases and officers.
- Inclusion Criteria:
 - Individual was a sworn nonfederal law enforcement officer at the time of arrest and/or commission of the crime
 - Officer was arrested on or after January 1, 2005
 - Officer was arrested and/or criminally charged.
- Unit of analysis: Criminal arrest case
 - This allows for us to track multiple cases for a singular officer
- This study focuses on victim race in police crime arrest cases during the decade 2005-2014.
- One limitation of the study is that missing data on victim race in many cases reduced the sample size.

Descriptive Statistics

- Our sample includes **865 criminal arrest cases**. Victim race is known for all cases.
- Descriptive statistics are tabled for officer, agency, and victim characteristics.
 - 94.3% of cases involve a male officer
 - 52.6% of cases occurred while the officer was on-duty
 - Cases ranged in officer rank from street level officer to chief
 - Officer's age ranged from 21 to 73 ($\bar{x} = 37.38$, $sd = 8.77$)
 - Officer's years of service ranged from 0 to 49 ($\bar{x} = 10.91$, $sd = 7.68$)
 - 91.6% of cases involve an officer employed by an agency within a metropolitan county
 - 42.3% of cases involve an officer employed by an agency within the Southern region of the United States
 - **38.7% of cases involve a victim whom was identified as Black**
 - 73.8% of cases involve a victim whom was a stranger or acquaintance to the officer
 - 85.2% of cases involve an adult victim
 - 63.0% of cases involve a male victim

(Full Tables are Available Upon Request)

Bivariate Associations

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Victim Race Bivariate Associations

Variable Label	<i>N</i>	χ^2	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>V</i>
Geographic Region	865	85.282	3	<.001	.314
Officer's Race - Black	696	54.690	1	<.001	.280
Official Capacity	865	58.404	1	<.001	.260
Agency Scandal/Cover-Up	865	46.939	1	<.001	.233
Duty Status	865	42.773	1	<.001	.222
Officer Brandished Gun	865	36.340	1	<.001	.205
Violence-Related	865	32.392	1	<.001	.194
Officer's Chief Under Scrutiny	865	32.415	1	<.001	.194
Alcohol-Related	865	29.858	1	<.001	.186
Profit-Motivated	865	25.781	1	<.001	.173
Weapons Law Violations	865	16.482	1	<.001	.138

(Full Tables are Available Upon Request)

Bivariate Associations

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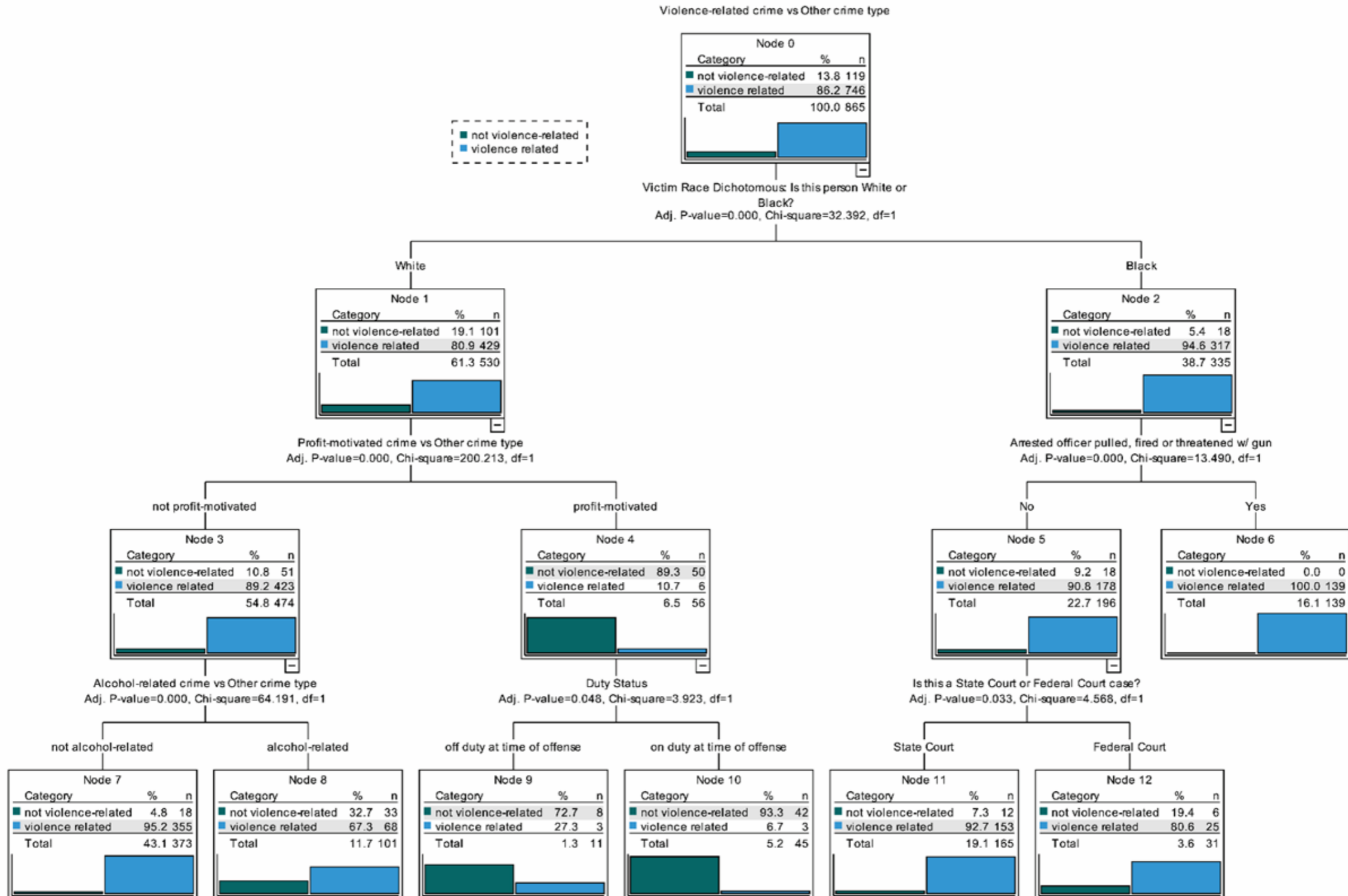
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Violence-Related Bivariate Associations

Variable Label	<i>N</i>	χ^2	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>V</i>
Offense Characteristics					
Profit-Motivated	865	309.215	1	<.001	.598
Alcohol-Related	865	29.699	1	<.001	.185
Drug-Related	865	22.576	1	<.001	.162
Police Sexual Violence	865	12.718	1	<.001	.121
Sex-Related	865	5.506	1	.019	.080
Duty Status	865	5.083	1	.024	.077
Officer and Victim Characteristics					
Victim's Ethnicity - Hispanic	865	67.121	1	<.001	.279
Victim Injury	809	57.000	3	<.001	.265
Victim's Race - Black	865	32.392	1	<.001	.194
Child Victim	863	6.705	1	.010	.088
Officer's Sex	865	4.098	1	.043	.069
Employing Agency Characteristics					
Geographic Region	865	11.688	3	.009	.116

(Full Tables are Available Upon Request)

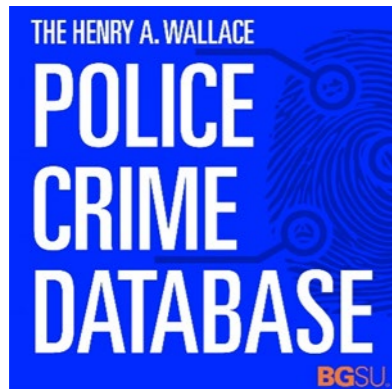
CHAID Model



Conclusion

- Criminal arrest cases of law enforcement officers with Black victims are more strongly associated with violence-related crime compared to police crime against non-Black victims.
- Over 40% of the arrest cases involve police crimes against Black victims where the arrested officer brandished a firearm.
- Policy Implications?

Thank you!



Henry A. Wallace Public Police Crime Database

<https://policecrime.bgsu.edu/>

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