

Data, Study, and Evaluation Committee
Friday, April 25 at 9am

AGENDA

I. Review of Answers from Researchers. 9:00am-9:20am

TREC Recommendation in Question: STUDY RACIAL DISPARITY IN PROTESTS. Commission a study of whether there are racial disparities in how protests and demonstrations are policed in North Carolina.

See answers from Researchers below.

II. District Attorney Advisory Panel. 9:20-9:40am

The District Attorney Advisory Panel has been formed and had an introductory meeting two weeks ago. We will brainstorm speakers for the various topics below.

DESCRIPTION

District Attorney Advisory Panel will assist with the implementation of its policy recommendations. This Panel consists of district attorneys, and if necessary, their senior ADAs, who are committed to promoting racial equity in our criminal justice system. Members do not need agree with every recommendation of the Task Force, but only be open to conversation.

Members will:

- Provide prosecutorial insights and perspectives on the implementation of TREC recommendations.
- Suggest implementation strategies, identify allies, flag potential roadblocks, help promote ideas.
- Make comments and suggestions on model policies, “one-pagers,” presentations, implementation guides, and other documents.
- Meet as a group approximately once per month but may also interact via email or one-on-one.

SESSION TOPICS

1. Expunction Efforts
2. Public Defender Offices
3. De-prioritization of Low Level Offenses: Marijuana
4. De-prioritization of Low Level Offenses: Traffic Offenses / Class 3 Misdemeanors (Post-Charge Diversion)
5. Restorative Justice Practices
6. Case Resolution
7. Habitual Felon Status
8. Officer Involved Use of Force
9. Pretrial Policies
10. Juvenile Justice
11. Juries

III. New Learning Series Ideas. 9:40-10:00am

We will brainstorm ideas for new Learning Series events. We are currently working on a Learning Series session on *Addressing Childhood Trauma* but we need additional ideas!

Answers from Researchers

Florida State University Research Proposal

a. Can you tell us more about this Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)?

ACLED is a non-profit organization that collects data related to political violence and protest events across the globe. The organization collects data concerning dates, actors, locations, fatalities, and types of political violence and demonstrations in the United States in a similar manner as other regions of the world. ACLED defines political violence as the use of force by a group with a political purpose or motivation. Protests are coded in three ways: (1) peaceful protest; (2) protest with intervention; (3) excessive force against protesters; and (4) violent demonstration. Events must have three or more people involved for data to be collected. The data does not include all violence such as those motivated by criminality as well as domestic/interpersonal violence. Standard police enforcement is also not collected. This includes instances in which law enforcement may have used force, but it is within the bounds legal grounding of their work. For analysis, coding, and data collection, ACLED utilizes local and national partnerships such as the Bridging Divides Initiative at Princeton University. In addition to ACLED, there are other similar data sources that we have identified. These other sources analyze news articles at the local level to provide more information regarding the make-up of demonstrations.

b. How will you determine the racial make-up of a protest?

Determining the demographic make-up of a protest is obviously a difficult task. Even detailed images and videos do not accurately

provide information such as the age, gender, and race of an individual. There are a few measures that can be utilized to determine a best guess of the demographic characteristics of a given protest. For example, arrest and citation (civil and traffic) data from specific incidents can provide part of the puzzle. Other approaches include survey research specific to North Carolina to identify the aforementioned characteristics of protests. The Pew Research Center enlisted a similar type of study. For our purposes, identifying specific demonstrations will be key in the approach we use in estimating the demographic composition of groups. For example, institutions of higher education (UNC, ASU, etc.) tended to have higher on average attendance for demonstrations. This would provide a starting point for data collection of this magnitude.

c. How will gain access to police department data?

Data from law enforcement agencies will be gathered primarily through records requests. As mentioned in the initial description, although this process can be tedious it guarantees a unique data set that is specific to our research questions surrounding the circumstances of protests and demonstrations. A similar data set was created by the Stanford Open Policing Project with the topic of traffic stop data. Much of the data for the project is available through a records request. For example, dispatch data is readily available and can provide information such as the number of law enforcement personnel assigned the specific incidents, number of arrests made, and potentially the reason for the arrest. Arrest reports will also provide information surrounding arrests as well as information regarding arrestees and witnesses. However, we hope to also utilize readily accessible government data when possible, such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS).

1. NC Wesleyan College Research Proposal

- a. **This research proposal is very focused on the permitting process. Will you be looking at any of the other processes like how and why certain equipment is used during protests and the procedures around the use of police escorts?**

Yes, a small sample of these policies/practices will be included during the data collection process.

- b. **Can you tell us more about how you will assess how people are policed?**

Our focus is on consistencies and inconsistencies in policies and practice across N.C. The permitting review process is critical in answering the questions of what type of staffing, considerations/practices and uniformity of the police response.

- i. **What will the interviewing process look like?** We are seeking a generic response to the experience from both law enforcement and applicants.
- ii. **What methodology will you use to ensure you have a representative sample of interviewees.** A convenience sample based on the agencies that provide information.
- iii. **How many localities would you plan to examine and how would you select them?** Nine local and county agencies, dispersed across NC (including those agencies who have had recent protest that were covered by the media.)

