



Dissecting the Dark Figure of Dis/ablist Violence: An Intersectional Examination of Reporting Behavior

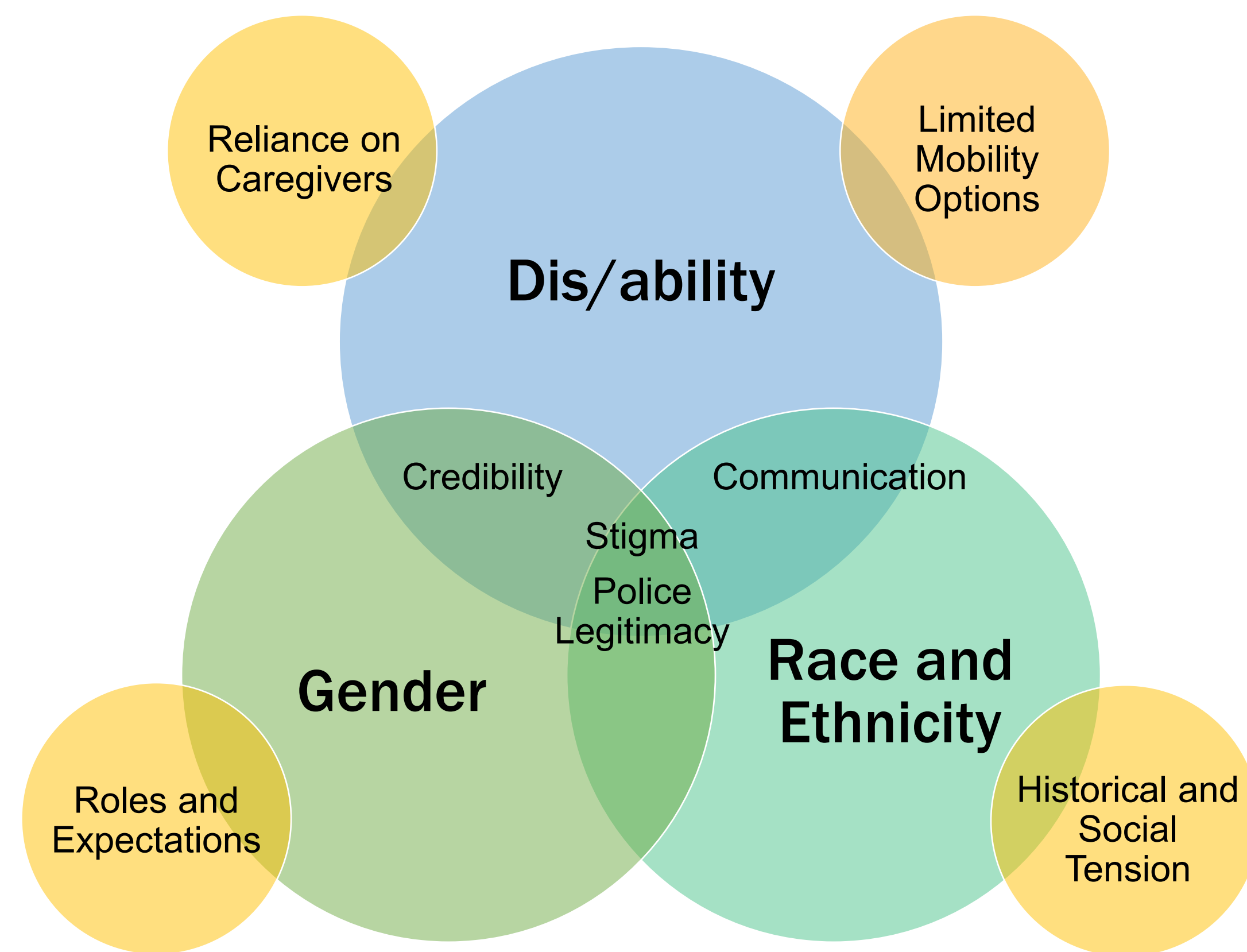
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Background

- 27% of adults in the United States have a dis/ability¹.
- Individuals with dis/abilities are 4x more likely to be violently victimized and are less likely to report these incidents to the police (38%) compared to non-dis/abled individuals (45%).
- Deeper examinations reveal people with dis/abilities experience unique circumstances that increase opportunities for victimization and make reporting incidents more difficult.³
- Similarly, ample literature demonstrates racial/ethnic minorities and females are at heightened risk of violent victimization and underreporting.
- An intersectional framework shows these circumstances may overlap depending on dis/ability type, race/ethnicity, and gender:



Research Question

Do intersections of race/ethnicity, gender, and dis/ability type affect whether an individual reports their violent victimization to the police?

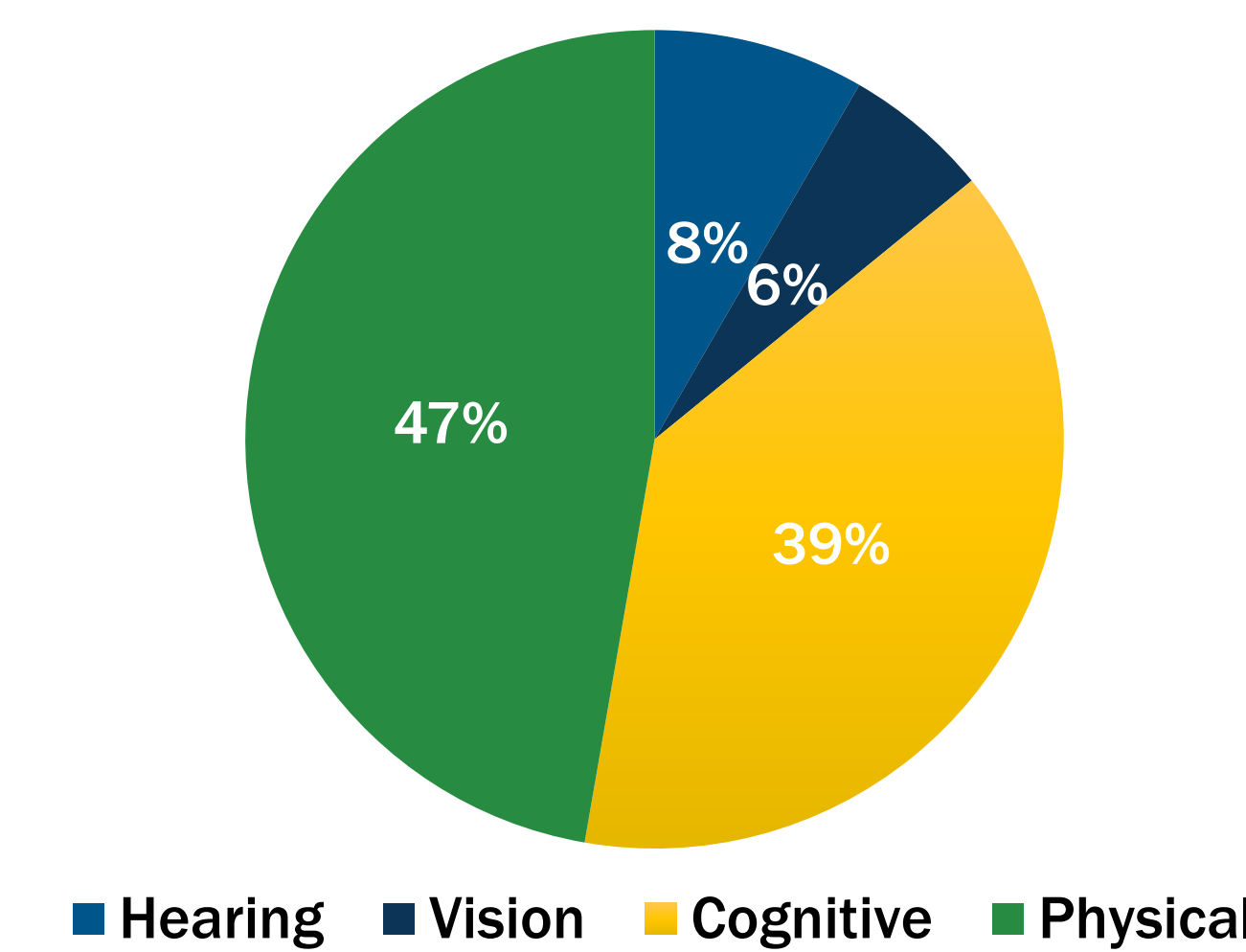
Hypotheses

1. Black individuals with a vision, hearing, or cognitive dis/ability are less likely to report their violent victimization as compared to White individuals with a physical dis/ability.
2. Females with a vision, hearing, or cognitive dis/ability are less likely to report their violent victimization as compared to White males with a physical dis/ability.

Data and Methods

- Data analyzed draws from the National Crime Victimization Survey from 2017 to 2020 (N=8,117).
- Logistic regressions were employed to understand reporting behavior across intersections of dis/ability, race/ethnicity, and gender.
- Supplemental analyses were examined to understand the reasons for not reporting.

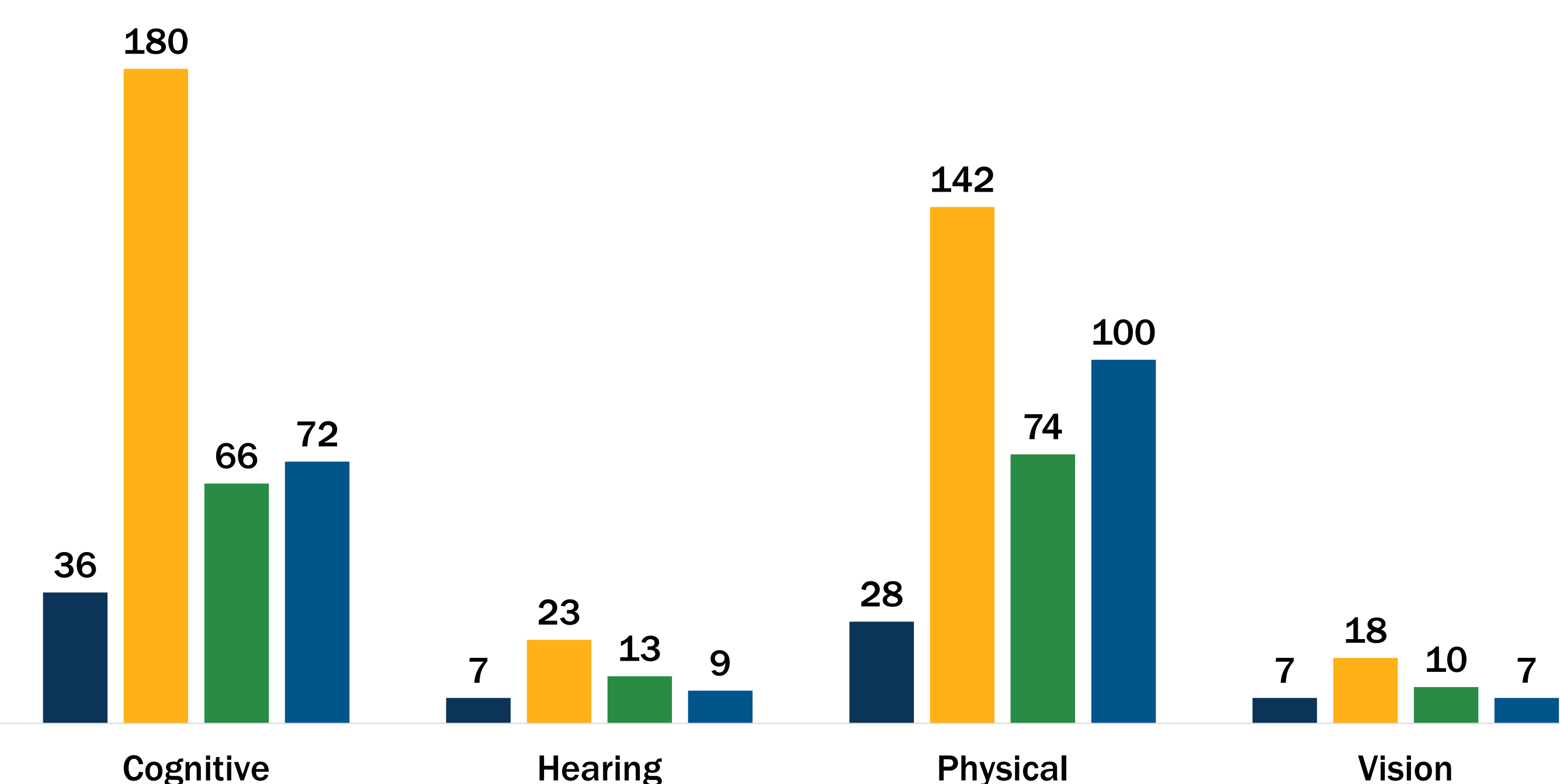
Individuals with Dis/abilities (N=2,027)



Conclusions & Future Research

Reasons for Not Reporting Across Dis/ability Types (N=607)

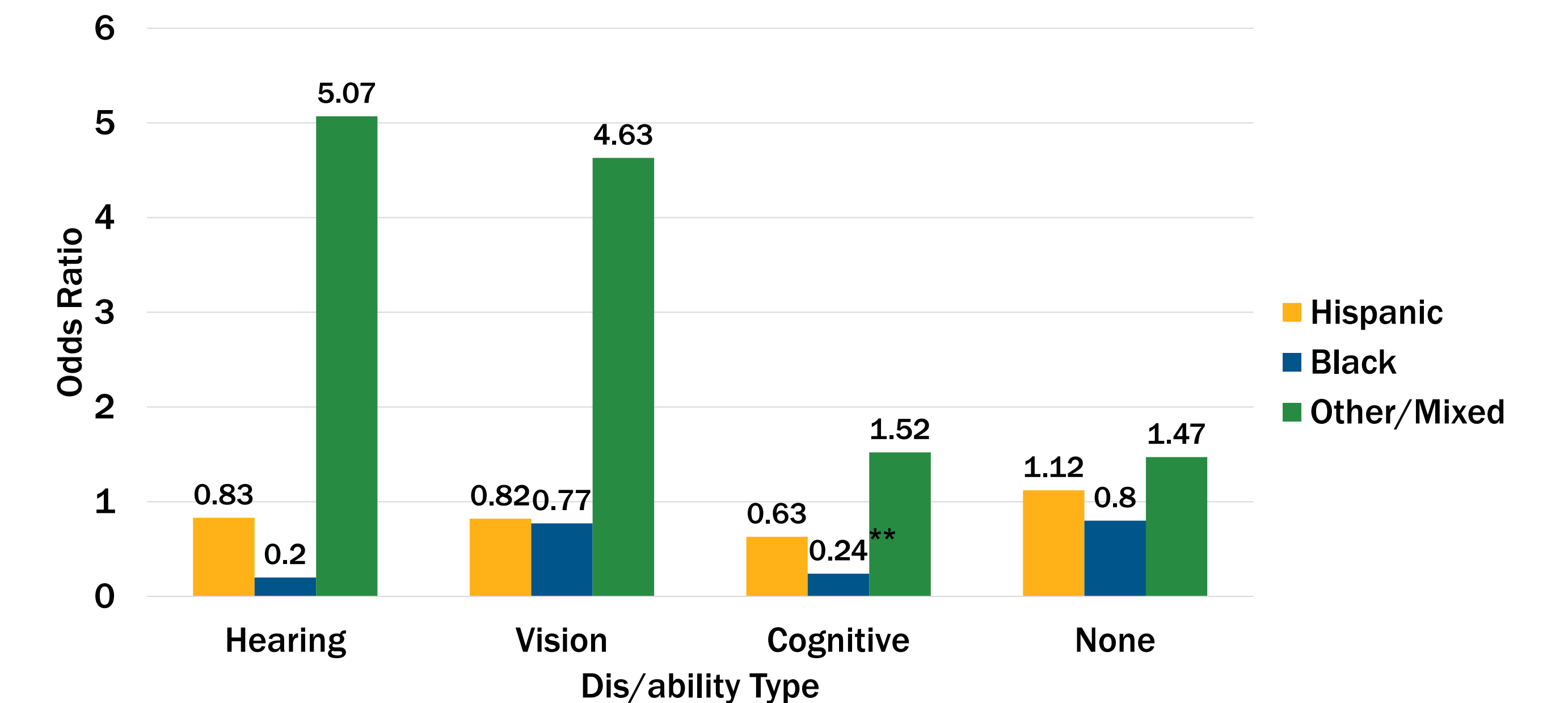
- 4 Administrative/Structural Barriers
- 1 Non-CJ/Personal Resources
- 3 Police Legitimacy Issues
- 2 Victim-Offender Relationship



- Black individuals with cognitive dis/abilities cited issues with police legitimacy as their most salient reason for not reporting.
- Other or mixed females with cognitive dis/abilities noted administrative and structural barriers as a more important reason for not reporting among those with cognitive dis/abilities.
- This analysis demonstrates dis/abled individuals with intersecting identities have differential experiences with victimization and utilizing the criminal justice system across types.
- Future criminal justice and criminology research should continue to develop more comprehensive measures of dis/ability and recognize its heterogeneity and intersectionality.

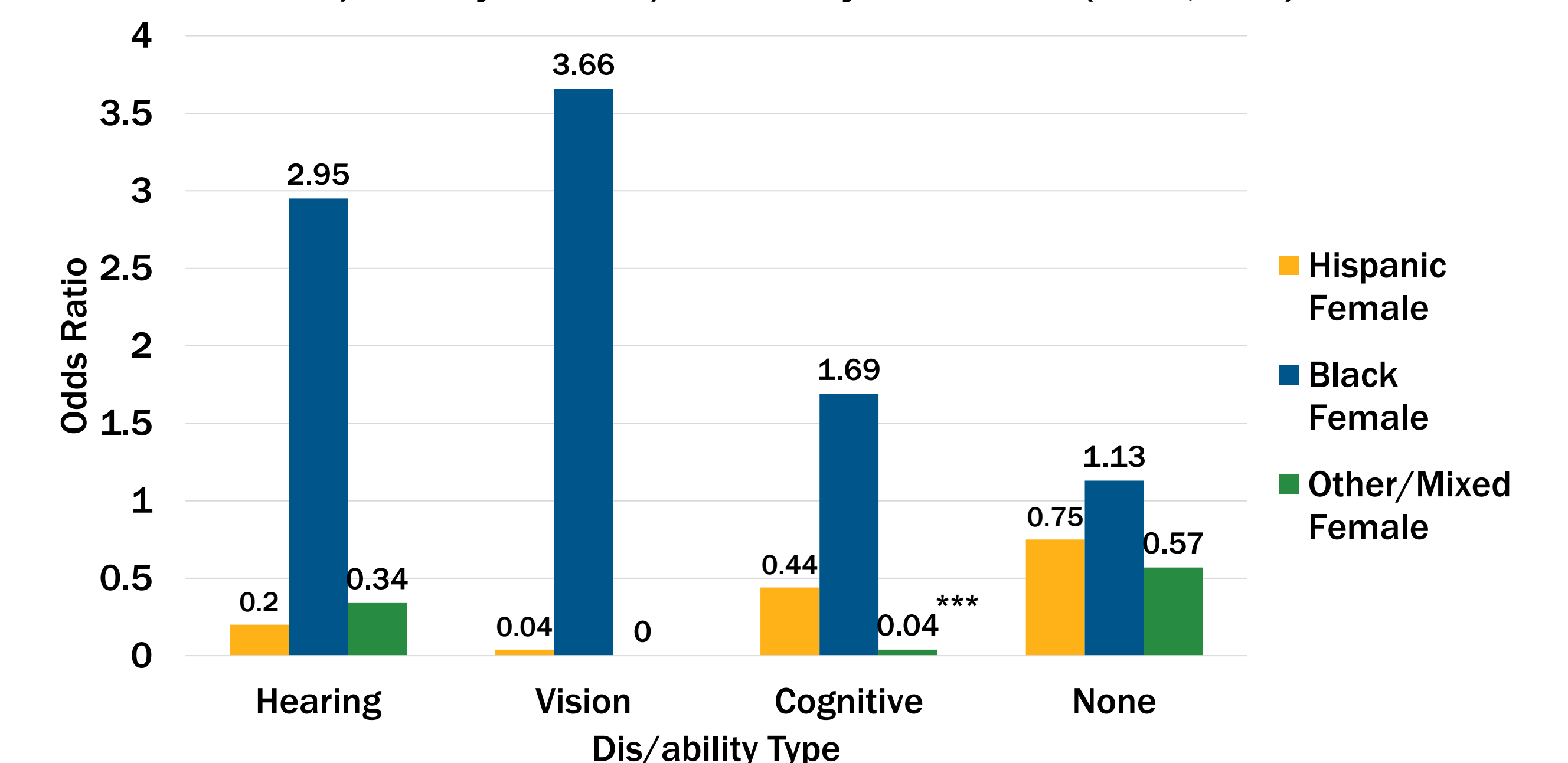
Results

Reporting to the Police: Dis/ability x Race/Ethnicity (N=8,117)



- **H1 Supported:** Black individuals with cognitive disabilities were **0.24 times** as likely to report their violent victimization to the police as compared to White individuals with physical disabilities ($p \leq 0.01$).

Reporting to the Police: Dis/ability x Race/Ethnicity x Gender (N=8,117)



- **H2 Supported:** Other or mixed racial/ethnic females with cognitive disabilities were **0.04 times** as likely to report their violent victimization to police as compared to White males with physical disabilities ($p \leq 0.001$).

References

- [1] CDC. (2018, November 26). Prevalence of Disabilities and Health Care | CDC. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- [2] World Health Organization. (2021, November 24). Disability and health. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/disability-and-health>
- [3] Harrell, E. (2021). Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009–2019—Statistical Tables.