

Alang, S, et al. (2017). Police brutality and black health: Setting the agenda for public health scholars. *American Journal of Public Health*, 107(5), 662-665.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5388955/>.

“Police brutality and black health: Setting the agenda for public health scholars” is written by Alang, et al (2017), and it discusses links between police brutality and its effects on the health of black people. The article focuses on a plethora of mechanisms through which police brutality is linked as a social determinant of the health of black people. The authors expound five of these mechanisms, fatal injuries that increase mortality rates, adverse physiological responses, racist public reactions that cause stress, bills that cause financial strain, and integrated oppressive structures that cause systematic disempowerment. The explicit audience includes public health scholars and black people, and the implied audience is researchers and students who may be studying systematic effects on black people. The authors' primary argument is that police brutality contributes to poor health outcomes and excess morbidity among Blacks, both directly and indirectly. The authors also expound on the fact that “Blacks are significantly more likely to experience police brutality than are Whites” (para. 3). Thus, making black people more susceptible to all the negative effects. These negative effects, according to the authors, are “linked to excess morbidity among Blacks” (para. 3). To support this claim, the authors discuss some of the mechanisms. From fatal injuries and adverse psychological responses to racist public reactions and proceeding events that may cause financial strain. By discussing different mechanisms, the authors capture readers with different perceptions and provide a basis for how “Police brutality affects individual and community health through its toll on productivity and on the economy” (para. 11). The authors use a variety of evidence to support their claim, such as an analysis done by a well-known newspaper, *The Guardian*, stating “young Black men were nine times more likely than other Americans to be killed by police officers.”(para. 4). Thus, providing statistical evidence that black people are more affected by police brutality than people from other ethnic backgrounds. They also utilize real-life stories and experiences of black people who, today, are either deceased or deeply affected by their experience with police brutality. Including persons such as "Freddie Gray (Baltimore, MD, 2015) and Sandra Bland (Waller County, TX, 2015)" (para. 5). This evidence not only arouses sympathy in the readers but also a sense of understanding. Even though the authors did not provide much direct evidence or instrumental case studies, they reassured the audience by stating that “the absence of perfect data is not an excuse for our neglect.” (para. 20), and proceeds to name a few more sources that scholars can use to validate their claim, "sources such as the Police–Public Contact Survey conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the New York City Stop and Frisk program” (para. 20). The evidence is reliable, and its validity can be proven as the authors use well-known sources such as *The Guardian*, a well-known newspaper, and modicum from other researchers whose works are published and validated by scholars. The evidence that the authors present precisely proves that black people are no doubt more susceptible to health risks as a result of police brutality, and thus, is appropriate to support their claim.