

WELCOME
TO THE
NDACAN
SUMMER
TRAINING
SERIES!

Article Presentation: “Family surveillance: Race, police and the reporting of child abuse and neglect.”

- **Presenter: Frank Edwards**
- **August 21, 2019**

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research
Cornell University

NDACAN SUMMER TRAINING SERIES SCHEDULE

- July 17th, 2019 - Introduction to NDACAN
- July 24th, 2019 - Overview of NCANDS Data
- July 31st, 2019 - Overview of AFCARS and NYTD Data
- August 7th, 2019 - Strategies for Managing Data
- August 14th, 2019 - Linking NCANDS, AFCARS, and NYTD Data
- **August 21st, 2019 – Article Presentation: “Family surveillance: Race, police and the reporting of child abuse and neglect.”
Frank Edwards, Rutgers University**

SESSION OVERVIEW

- This paper provides an example of how you can use NDACAN administrative data (NCANDS) to answer questions about child welfare services across counties
- I use NCANDS to produce county-year estimates of child abuse and neglect reports by reporter type (RptSrc)
- I use multilevel models to explore how and why police report child abuse and neglect at different rates across places and within places over time

**FAMILY SURVEILLANCE:
RACE, POLICE AND THE REPORTING OF
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT**

FRANK EDWARDS, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY



SESSION OVERVIEW

- This paper provides an example of how you can use NDACAN administrative data (NCANDS) to answer questions about child welfare services across counties
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FAMILY SURVEILLANCE IS A PRODUCT OF ORGANIZATIONAL ACTION

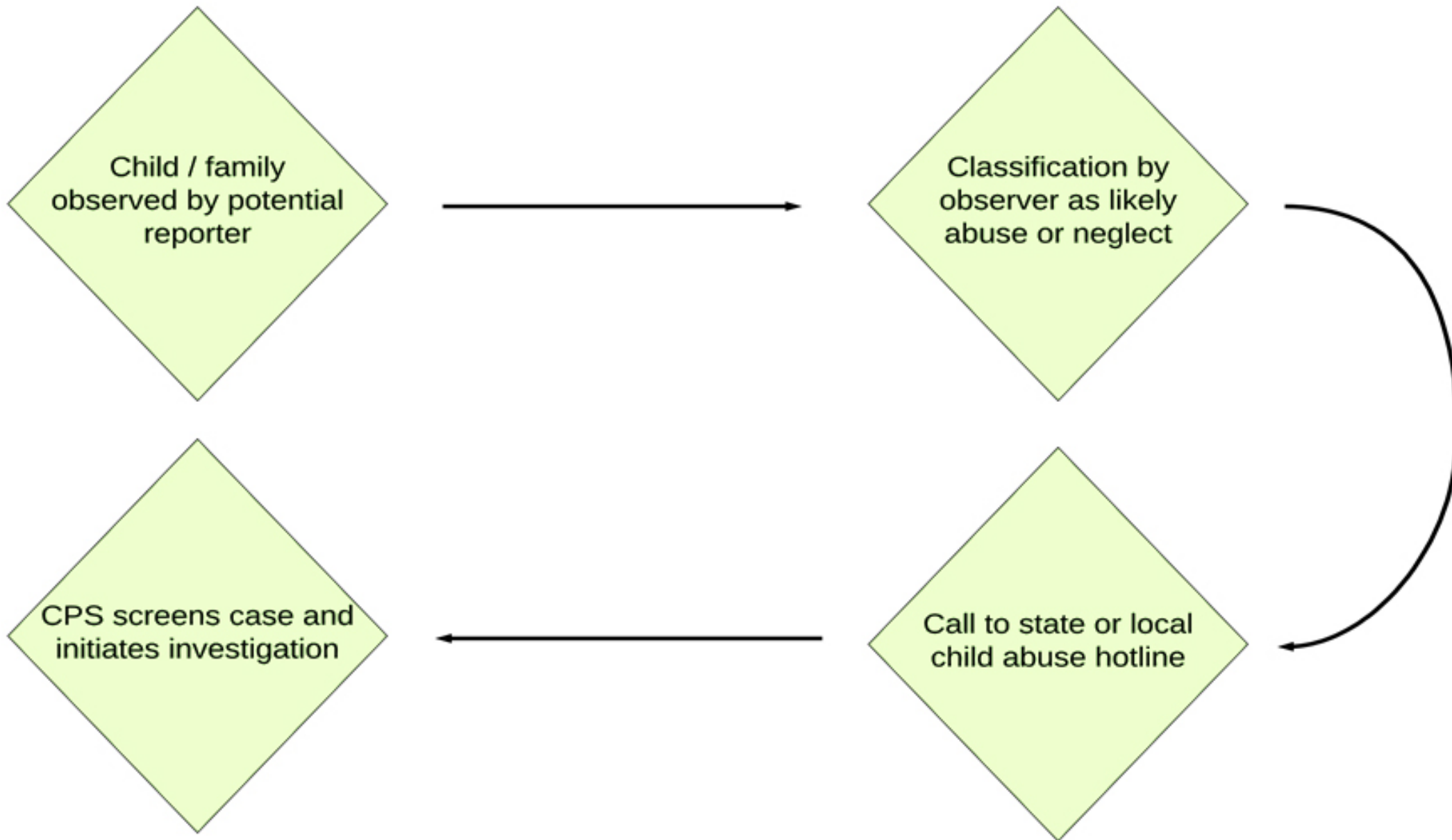
1. What role do police agencies play in the surveillance of families for signs of abuse and neglect?
2. Does policing help to explain variation in the intensity of family surveillance?
3. Do inequalities in exposure to surveillance help to explain upstream child welfare inequalities?

INSTITUTIONAL TIES BETWEEN POLICE AND CHILD PROTECTION AGENCIES

Police are involved in child protection investigations

- Mandated coordination in most jurisdictions for initial contact, risk assessment
- Informal, discretionary relationships in a small number of jurisdictions (e.g., WA)
- Primary police responsibility for investigation in small number of jurisdictions (FL,AR)

SURVEILLANCE AND THE PRODUCTION OF AN INVESTIGATION



INEQUALITIES DRIFT ACROSS CONTEXTS

Unequal policing may cause child welfare inequalities

- Detection
- Stigma
- Detaining caregivers
- Straining resources

LIMITS OF THIS DESCRIPTIVE DESIGN

- Micro-level relationships
- Selection: crime and child maltreatment

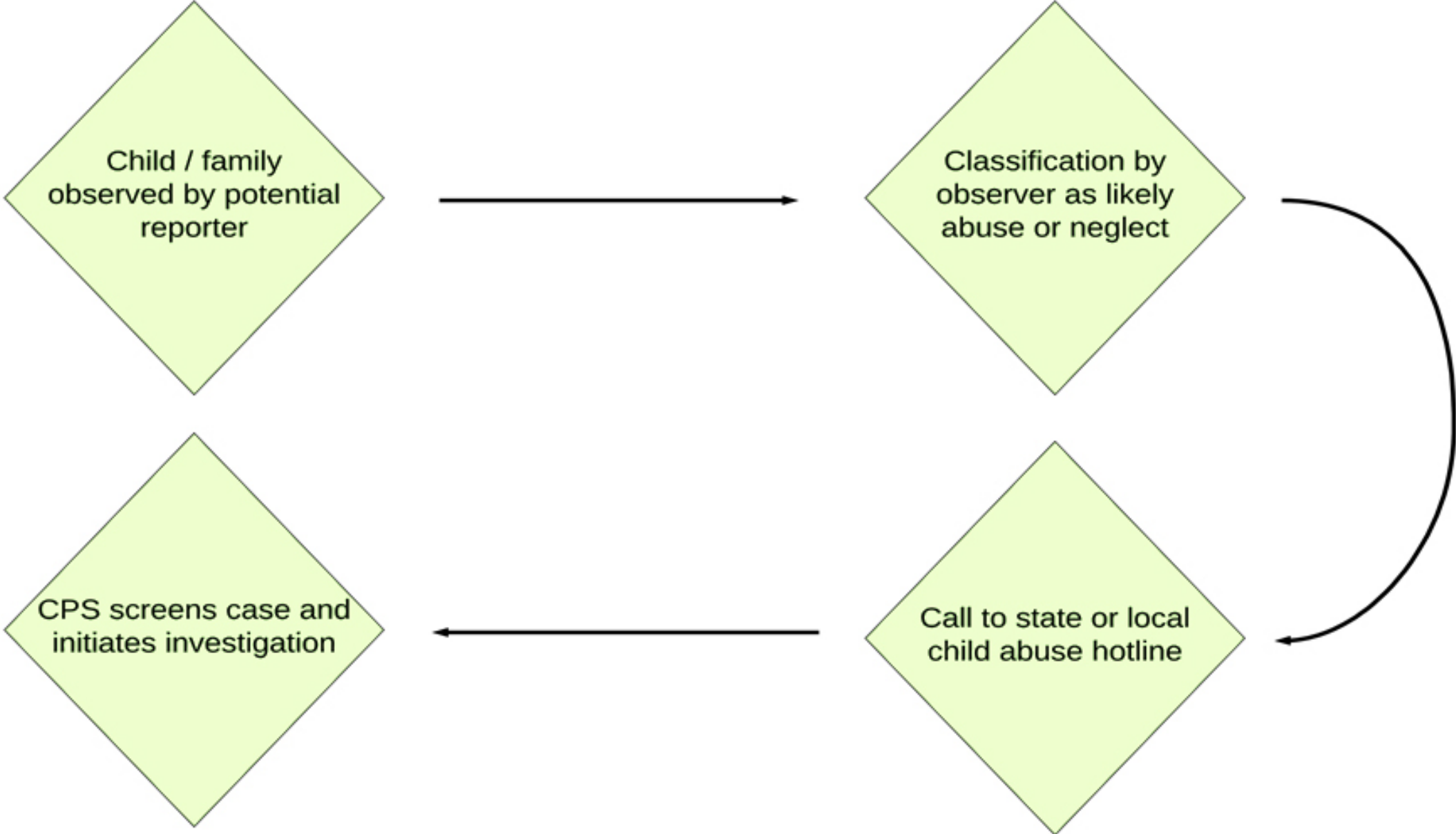
DATA AND METHODS

FOCAL MEASURES: OUTCOMES

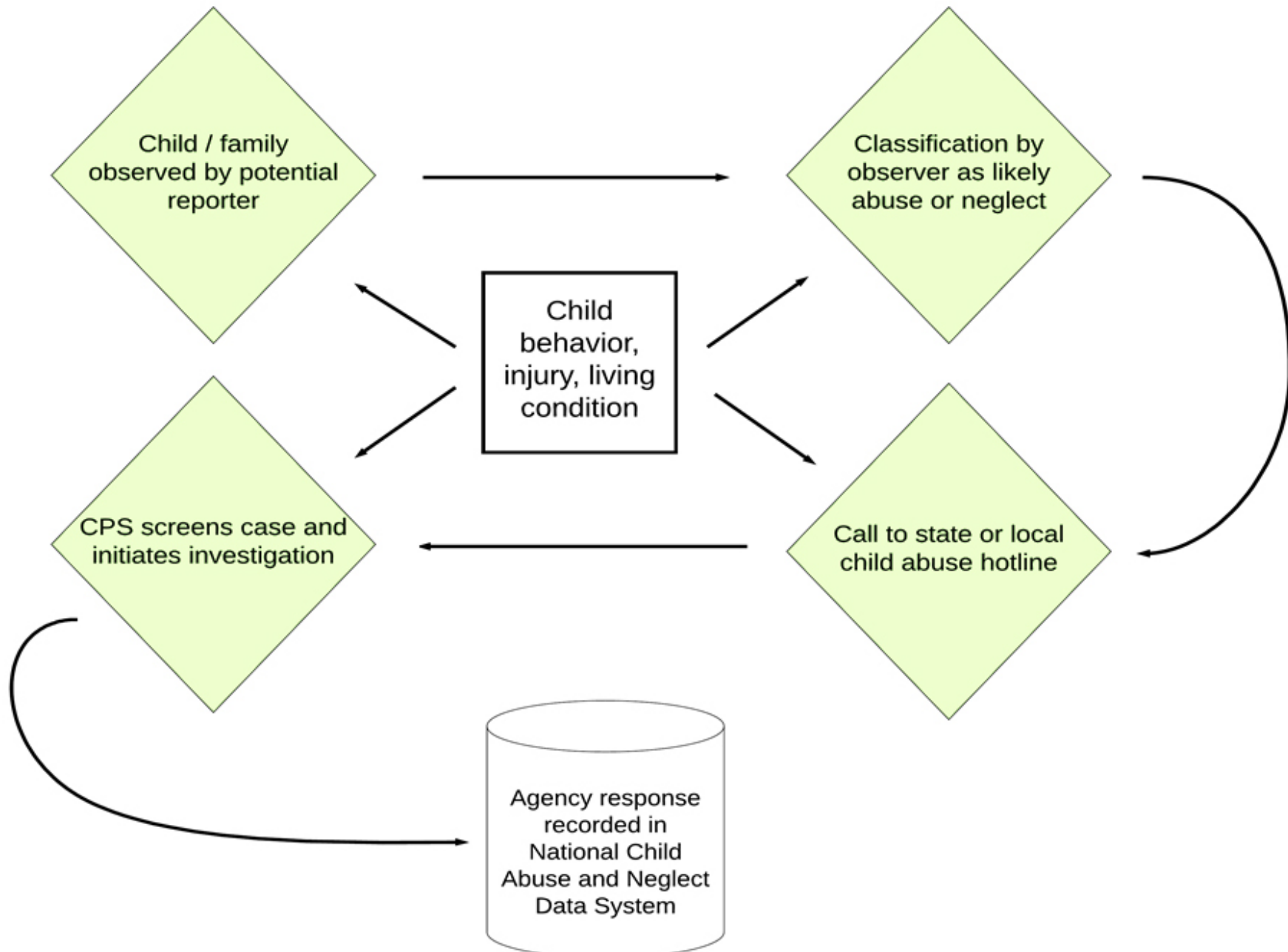
National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS), child file

- Measure: screened-in reports of suspected abuse/neglect from police by county, year, and race
- *Data quality concerns*: unstable rate estimates for counties with small subpopulations, missing data on race, report source

DATA GENERATING PROCESS



DATA GENERATING PROCESS



FOCAL PREDICTORS, CONTROLS, AND OTHER MEASURES

Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: Arrests by Age, Sex, and Race, Summarized Yearly. 2001-2015

- County-level rates by year, race, and offense
- Offense categories: all, violent, drug, quality of life
- Error and missingness: Within-agency interpolation, MI

Other measures: full-time officers per capita, number of police agencies, population by age, race, year; population composition by race, child poverty per capita, county metro type

MULTILEVEL MODELS OF INVESTIGATED MALTREATMENT REPORTS

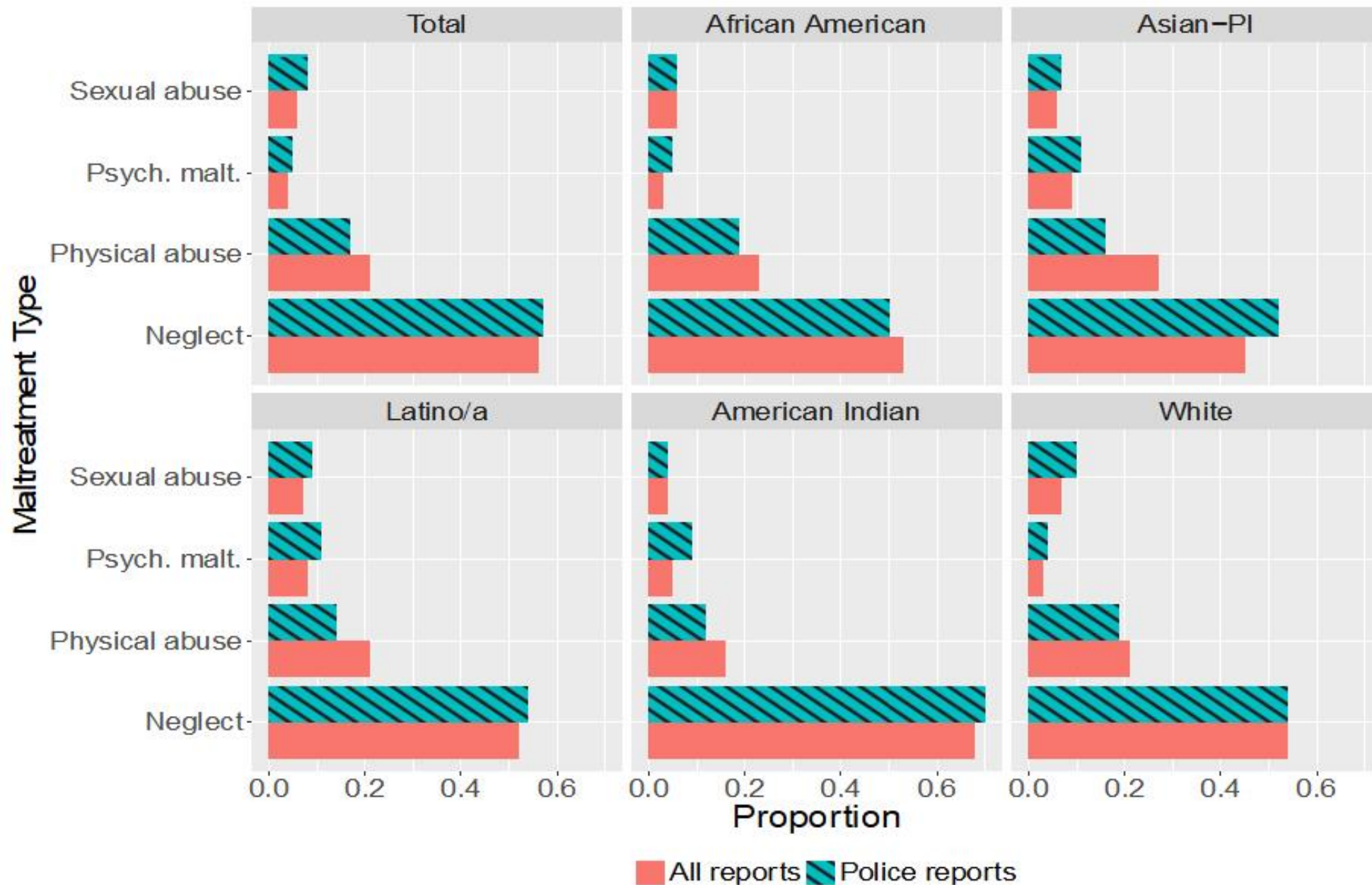
For county i , year j , race k , and child population m

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y &\sim \text{Poisson}(\lambda) \\
 \log(\text{E}(Y \mid \mathbf{x})) &= \lambda = \gamma + \theta + \varepsilon + \log(m) \\
 \gamma &= \beta + \zeta \\
 [\zeta, \varepsilon] &\sim \text{MVN}(0, \Sigma)
 \end{aligned}$$

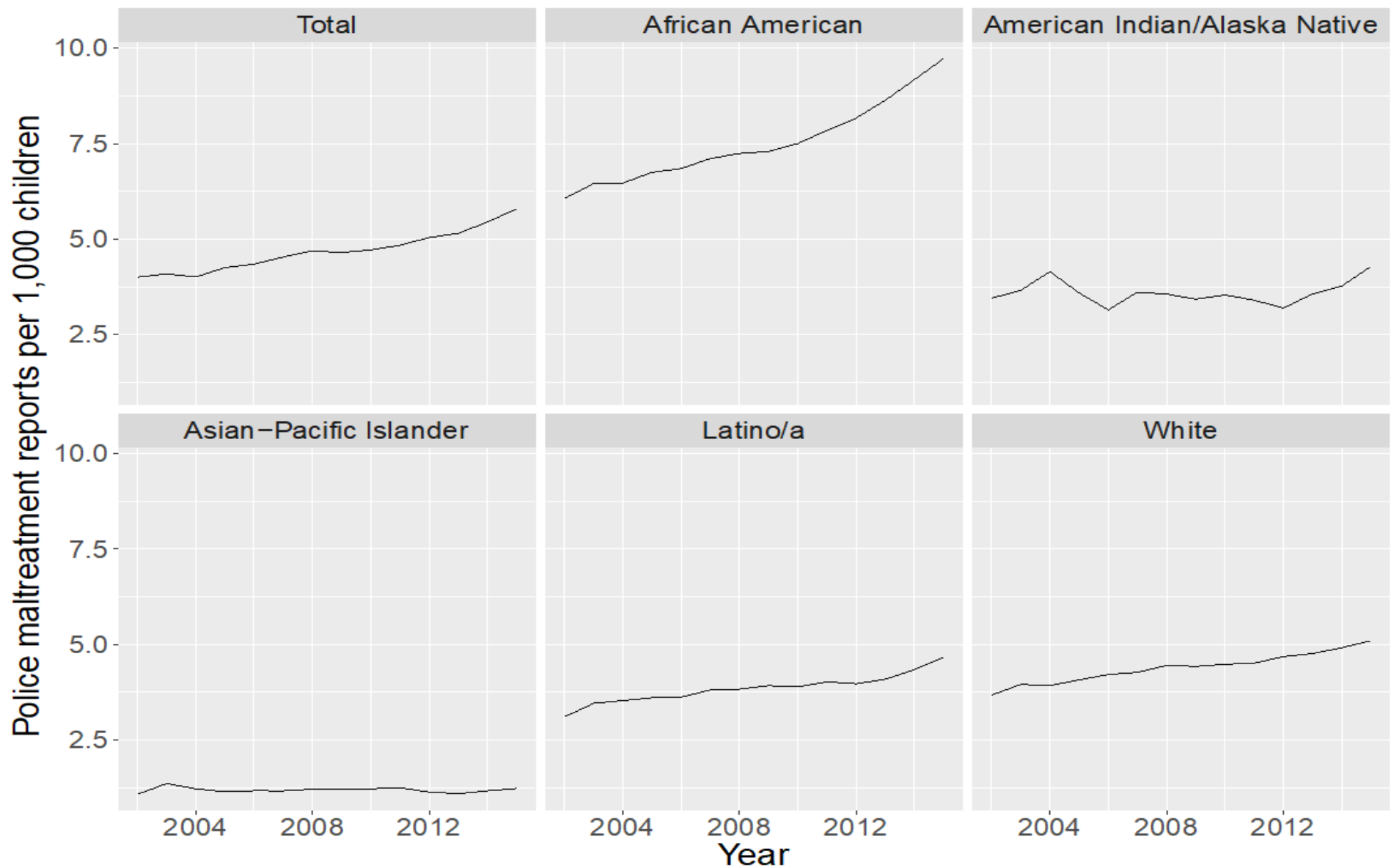
$$= \beta_j + \beta_{\bar{x}} + \beta_{(x - \bar{x})} \cdots \beta_{\bar{x}} + \beta_{(x - \bar{x})}$$

FINDINGS

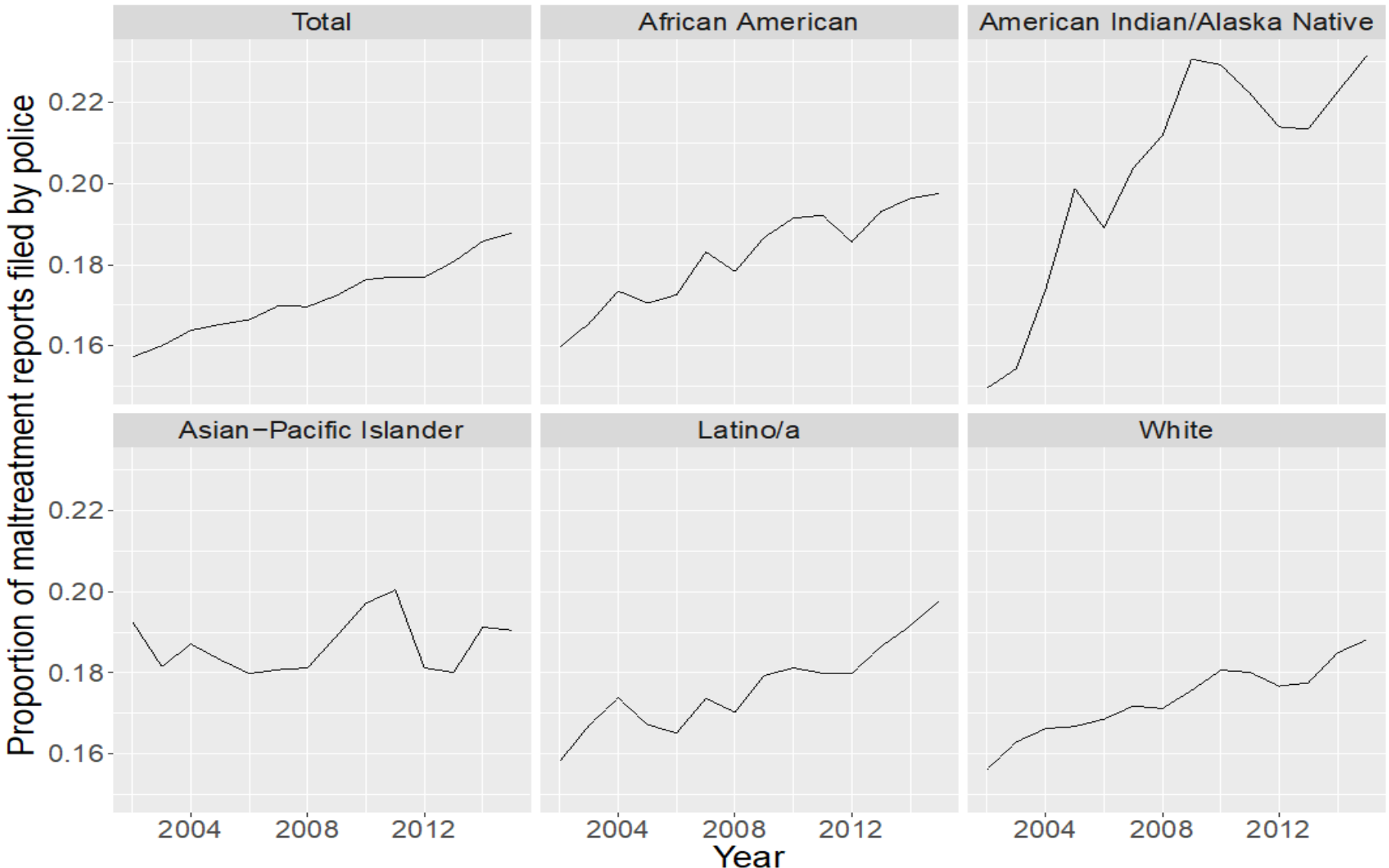
SUSPECTED MALTREATMENT TYPES BY RACE



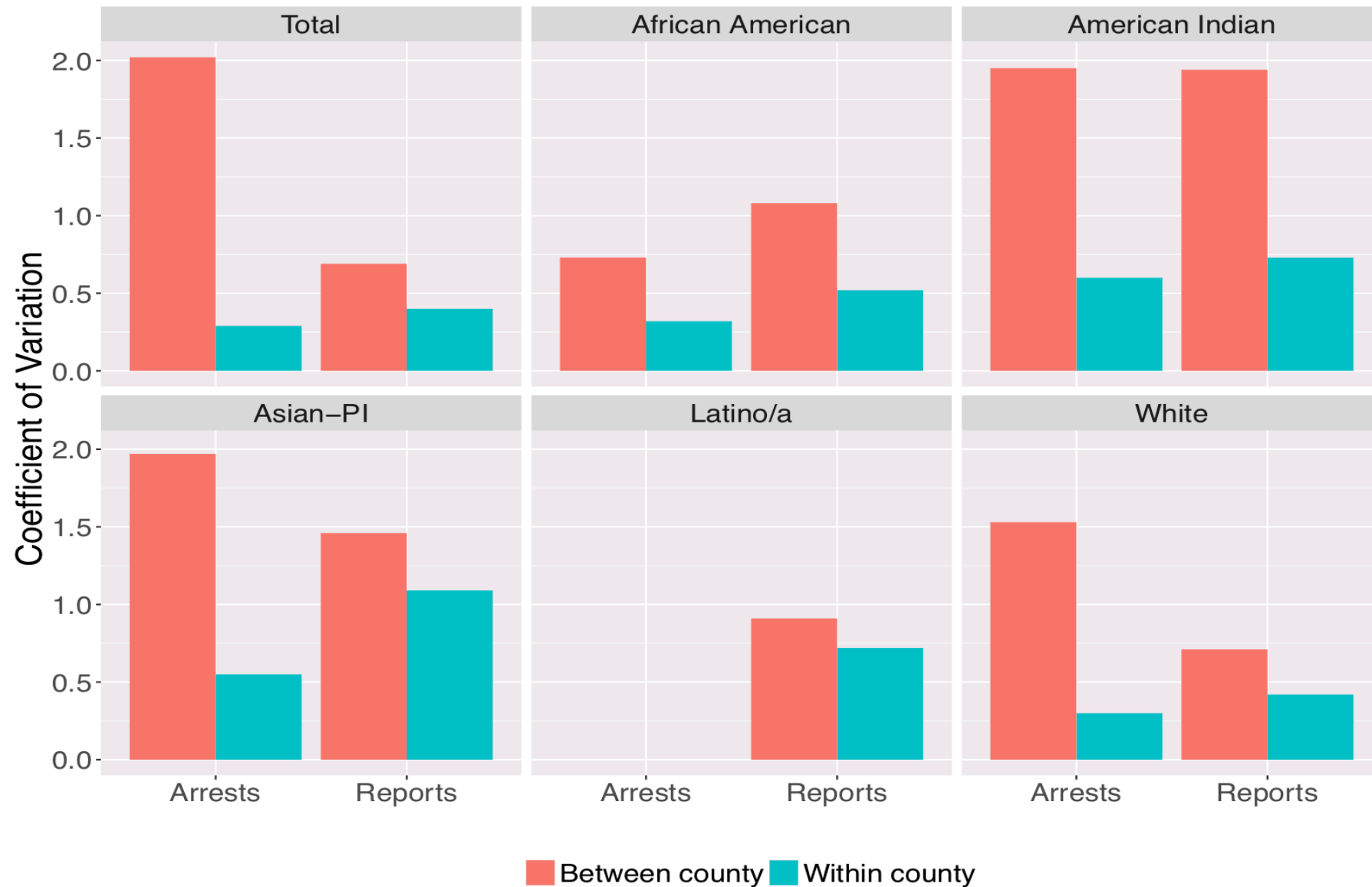
RATES OF POLICE MALTREATMENT REPORTING BY RACE



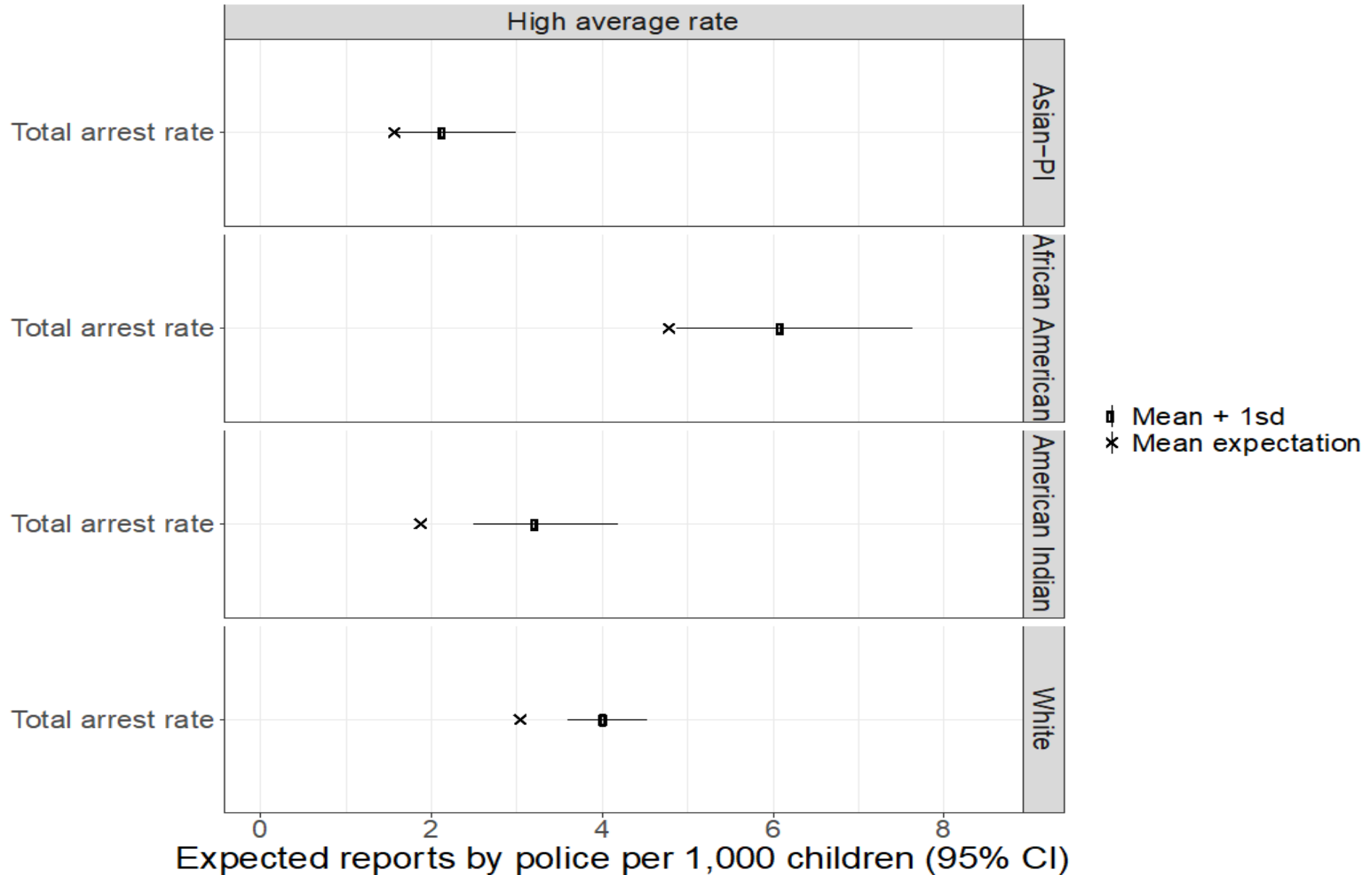
PROPORTIONS OF ALL MALTREATMENT REPORTS FILED BY POLICE BY RACE



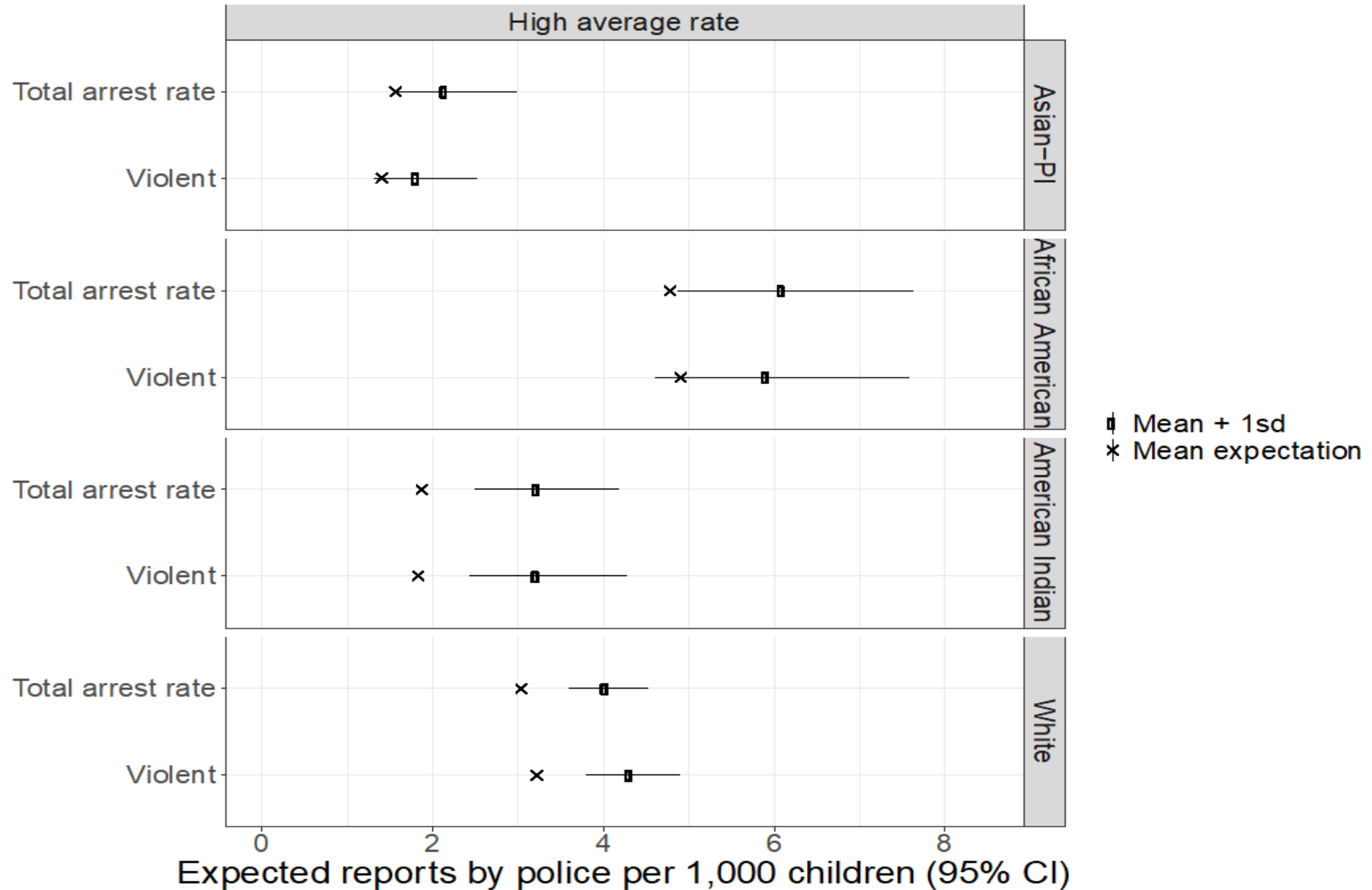
SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL VARIATION IN ARRESTS, REPORTING



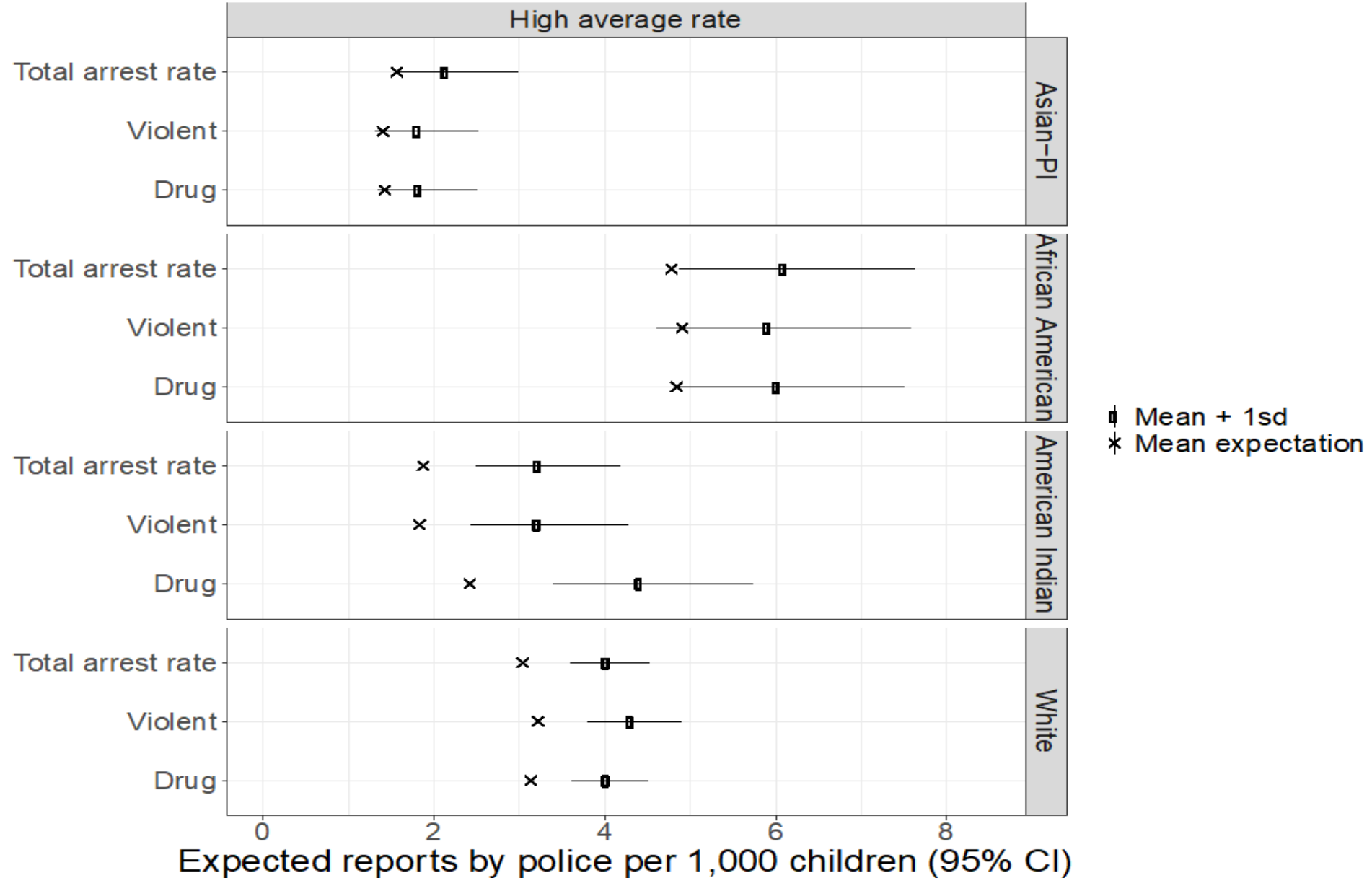
MALTREATMENT REPORTING AND POLICE ACTIVITIES



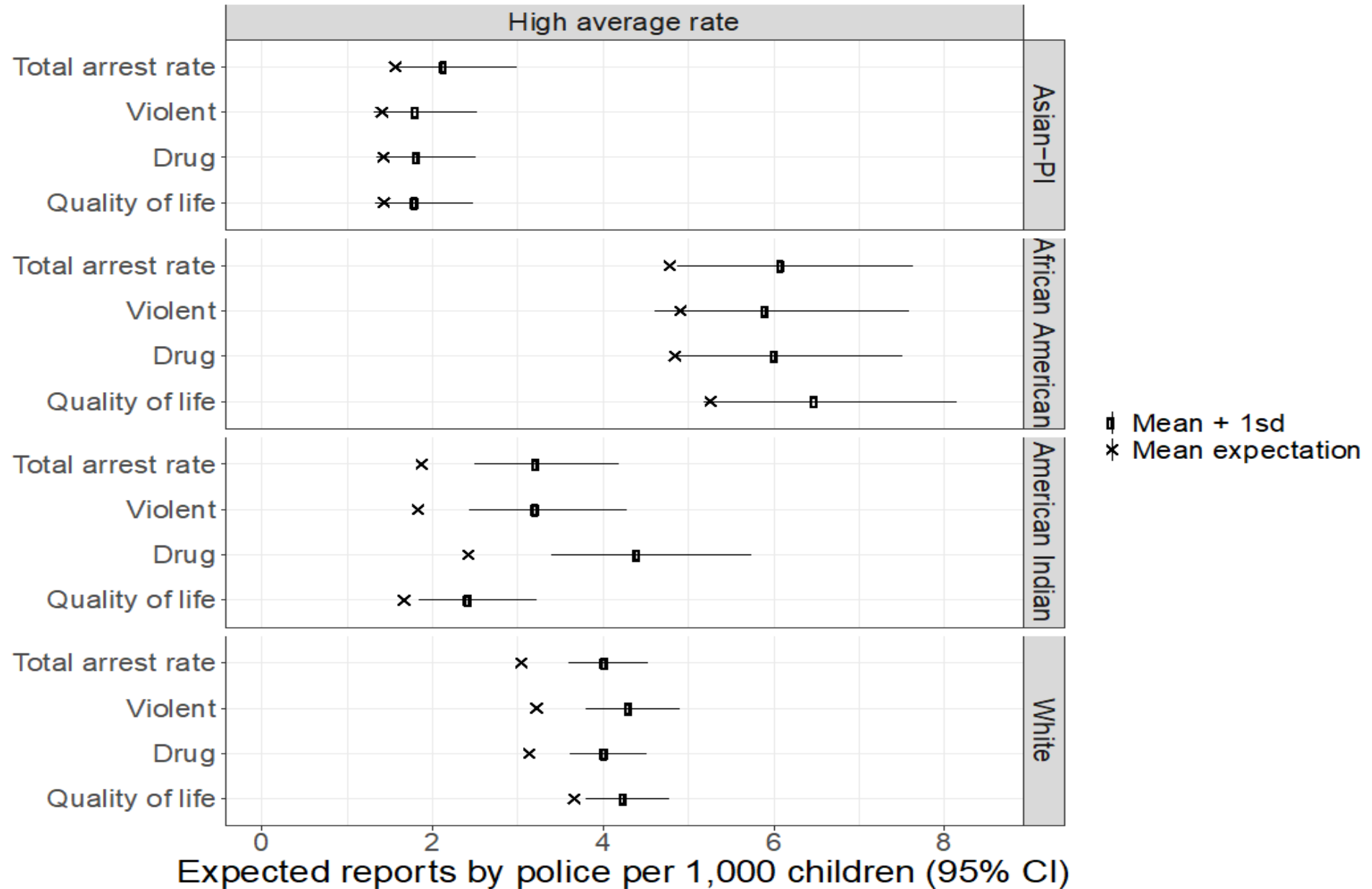
MALTREATMENT REPORTING AND POLICE ACTIVITIES



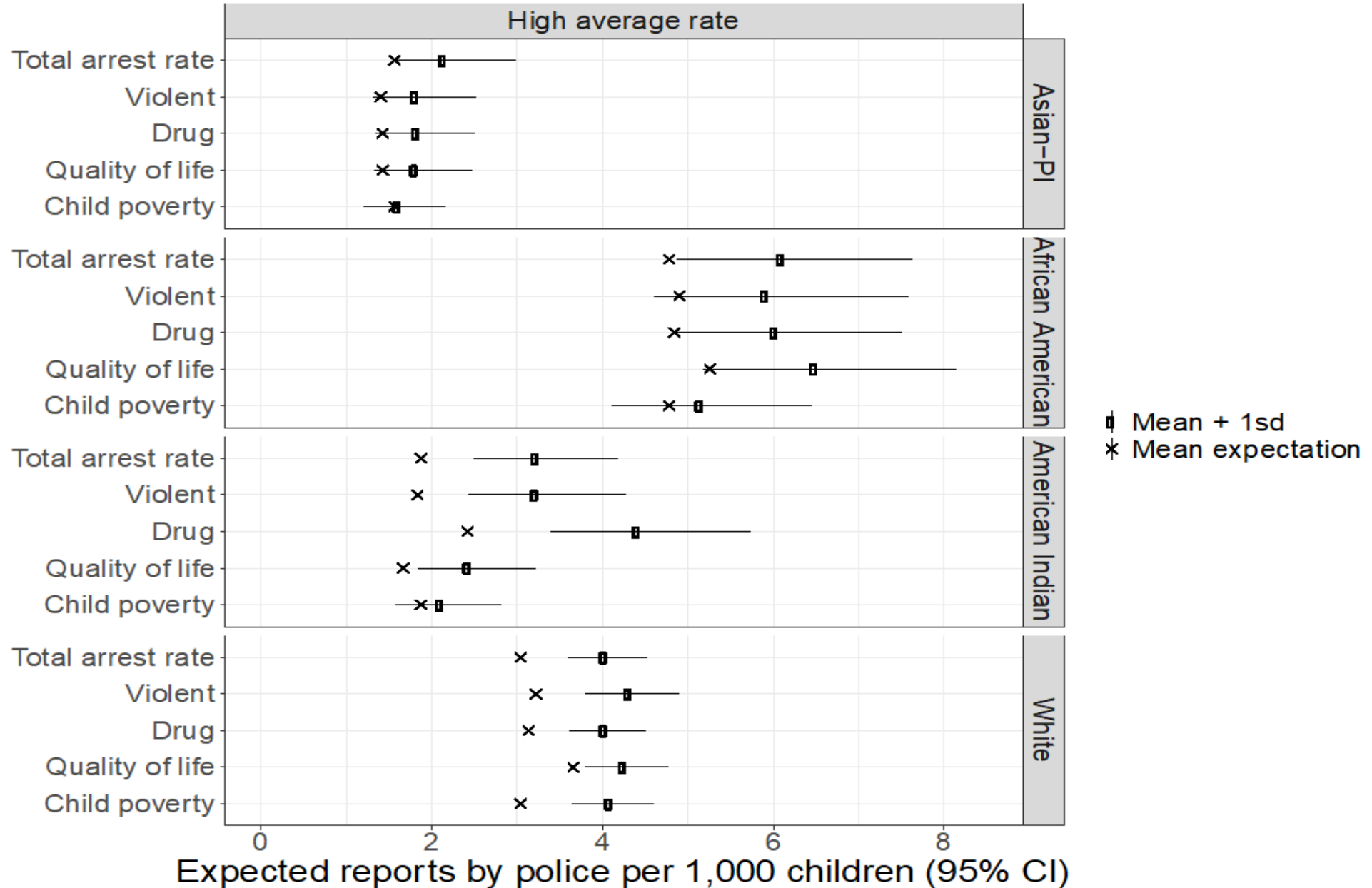
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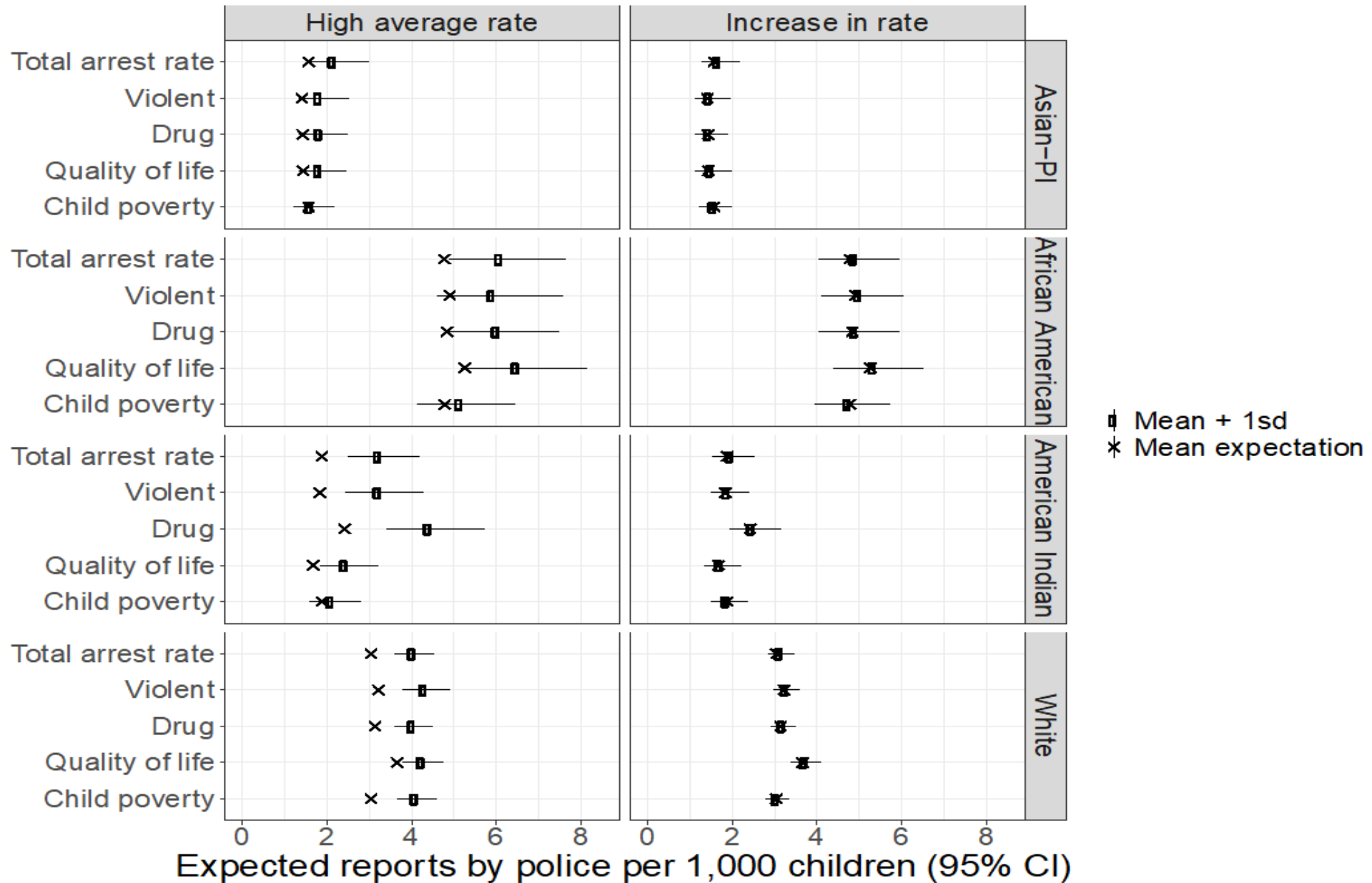
MALTREATMENT REPORTING AND POLICE ACTIVITIES



MALTREATMENT REPORTING AND POLICE ACTIVITIES



MALTREATMENT REPORTING AND POLICE ACTIVITIES



IMPLICATIONS: POLICE AND FAMILY SURVEILLANCE

FAMILY SURVEILLANCE IS MULTI- INSTITUTIONAL

- Police are central to child protection processes
- Family surveillance systems are locally contingent
- Low-level criminal justice contacts open possibility of family separation

POLICING FAMILIES, RACE, AND PLACE

- Police, CPS part of 'carceral lifeworlds' (Lerman and Weaver 2014)
- Police are not objective instruments: intensity and character of policing depends on race, place, gender

IMPLICATIONS: POLICING AND THE STRATIFICATION OF FAMILY LIFE

Policing may cause child welfare inequalities through:

- Detection
- Stigma
- Creating crises of care
- Straining kin resources

POLICY IMPLICATIONS: POLICE INVOLVEMENT IN CHILD PROTECTION

- Drug abuse, drug arrests, family destabilization
- Function creep, welfare retrenchment, and policing
- Cynicism, avoidance

FAMILY SURVEILLANCE: FURTHER QUESTIONS

- Causal relationships?
- Sensitivity of results to UCR: Replication with other admin data?
- Education, social services, healthcare?
- Sensitivity of surveillance instruments: false positives, false negatives?

QUESTIONS?

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