

Yale Scientific Established in 1894

Dear YSM community,

Black Lives Matter.

There is no other way to start this message. The past week has marked a continuation of our country's violent history of anti-Blackness. We stand in solidarity with those protesting the centuries-old systems and ideologies that enabled the murders of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade, among too many others.

For far too long, Black communities have been torn apart by police brutality and mass incarceration. Police violence kills Black men 2.5 times more frequently than White men. The effects of these tragedies ripple through communities: Black Americans collectively suffer over 50 million poor mental health days per year due to the acute stress seeded by unjust police killings. And despite this incomprehensible devastation, only 1% of officers involved in police killings face criminal charges.

As a publication focused on science and numbers, we hope these statistics, among others, help inform your discussions with family and friends. But, in reality, these tragedies are immeasurable by number and inexpressible in language. Each number represents a human life, a family, a community, and a story that cannot be quantified.

Science exists in the context of the society that surrounds it; bias and prejudice have often determined who can participate in and benefit from scientific advances. In a few short paragraphs, we cannot do justice to conveying science's long history of perpetuating and profiting from anti-Blackness, and its failure to credit Black scientists.

Indeed, we at YSM have been complicit, even by omission. In the future, we are committed to highlighting more Black voices in science, and will include articles that dissect the racism that shapes our society. If you are interested in using your words to shine a light on these issues, we would love to have them. Please reach out to marcus.sak+blm@yale.edu if you would like to get involved or if you have any suggestions on how we can improve.

We are also committed to donating \$500 to the organizations below and strongly encourage you to learn about their missions and contribute as well, if you have the means. Donations will be split evenly among the following organizations:

- [Campaign Zero](#)
- [Connecticut Bail Fund](#)
- [Lake Street Council](#)
- [NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund](#)
- [Reclaim the Block](#)

Finally, we encourage you to continue educating yourself, to sign petitions and call lawmakers, to protest safely if you are able, as well as to actively engage in conversation with friends and family. If you are a non-Black member of our community, listen first and foremost to Black activists, leaders, and peers. For more resources, visit: <https://blacklivesmatters.carrd.co/>.

Please make sure to take care of yourself, your loved ones, and your community.

Sincerely,

YSM Masthead