

Use of the Term of “Excited Delirium” and its Relationship to Racial Equity

BART Citizen Police Review Board Meeting

May 9, 2022



Office of the
**INDEPENDENT
POLICE AUDITOR**

BAY AREA RAPID TRANSIT DISTRICT

Understanding Racially Disparate Outcomes

- 2020 Center for Policing Equity Report
 - Overall, 63% of persons who experienced force were Black (compared to their 8.7% share of the population served by BART).
 - Black persons were 13 times more likely to experience BART PD use of force than their white counterparts were.
- Recommendation 6 was that BPD work in collaboration with OIPA and the BPCRB to implement the recommendations made in the report.

Since then...

- G.A.R.E. Training for the District
- May 2020 George Floyd Protests
- Board of Directors participation in racial equity training
- August 2020 Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau established

BART Affirms Commitment to Progressive Policing and Fighting Racism

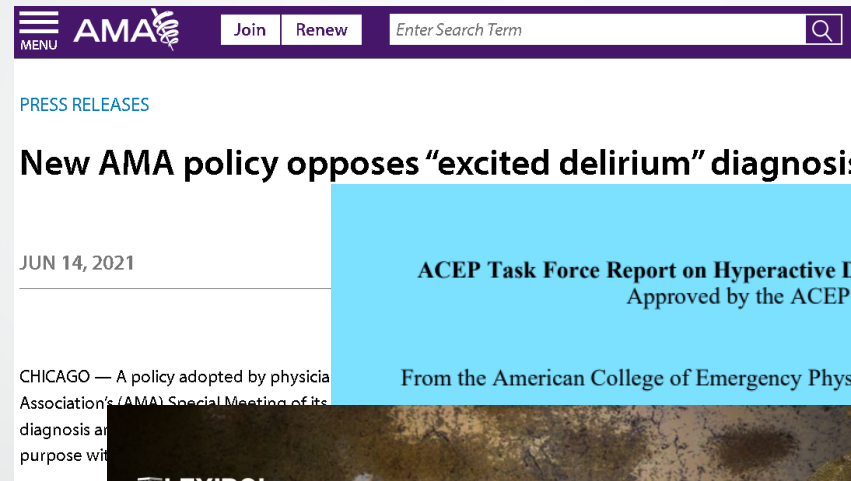
BART leadership is taking steps to build upon more than a decade of reforms and continuous improvements to advance progressive and equitable policing and the commitment to fight racism. Download a 2020 PDF factsheet of [BART's commitment to progressive policing](#) that highlights policy updates, reforms, expanded training, and new initiatives to bolster oversight and increase the number of unarmed civilian employees providing presence in the system. View our section on [Reforms to Date](#).



Unpacking “Excited Delirium”

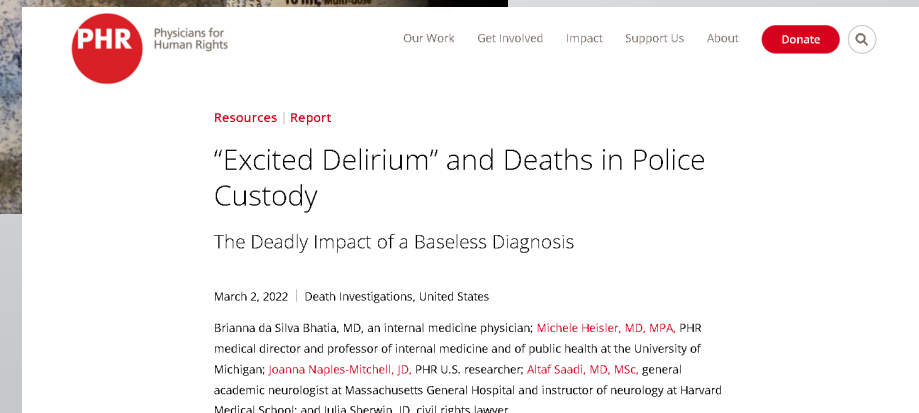
“Excited delirium” is broadly defined as being in a highly agitated and combative state

- American Medical Association (AMA) Press Release
- American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
- Lexipol policy change and training
- Physicians for Human Rights Report (PHR)

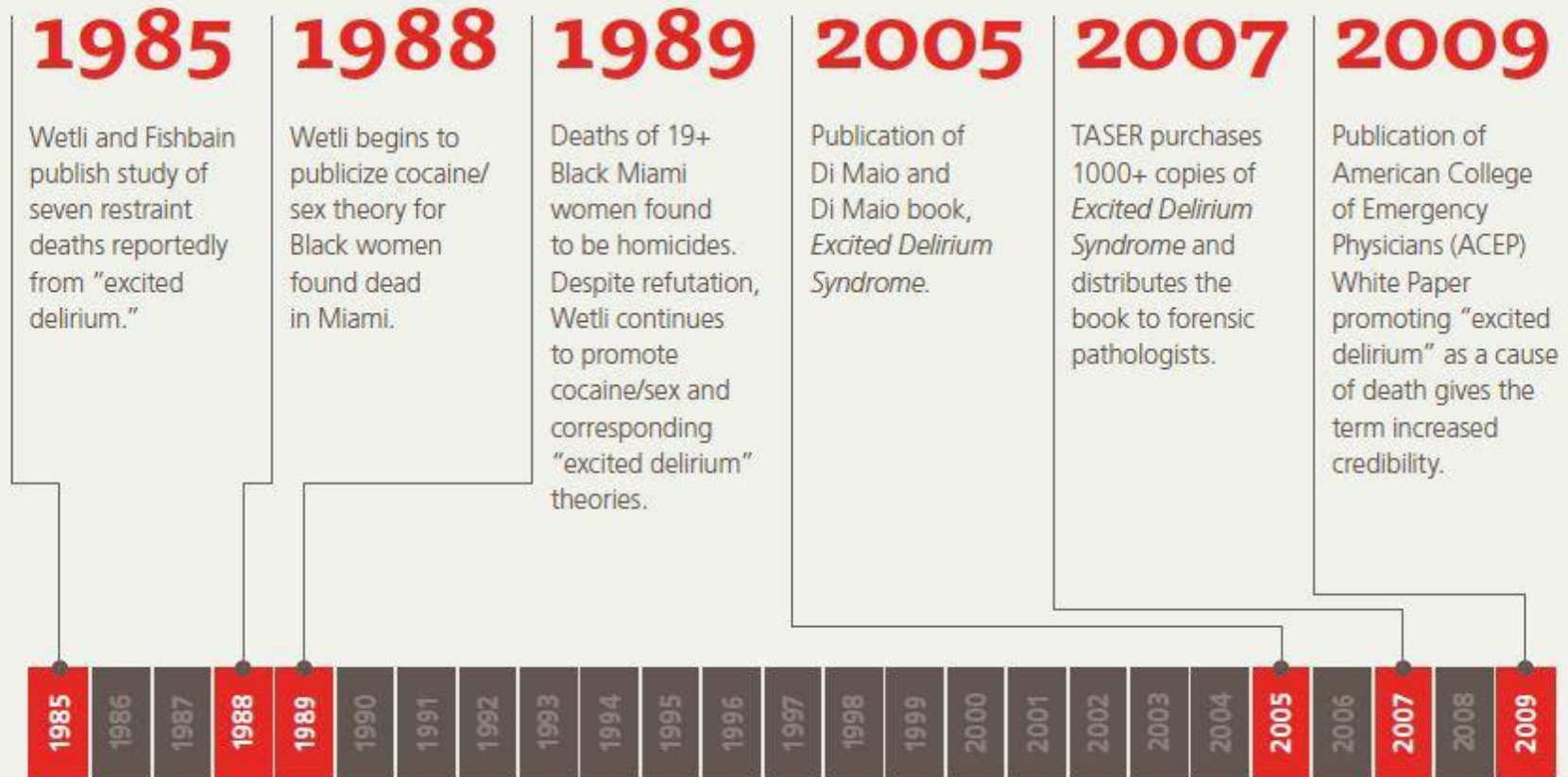


ACEP Task Force Report on Hyperactive Delirium with Severe Agitation in Emergency Settings
Approved by the ACEP Board of Directors, June 23, 2021

From the American College of Emergency Physicians Hyperactive Delirium Task Force:



Origins of "Excited Delirium"



Source: PHR Report pg.28



Since the AMA Press Release

- OIPA identified BPD Policy Manual references
- OIPA met with Deputy Chief, Progressive Policing and Community Engagement Bureau
- OIPA researched 2021 BPD's use of the term in reports
- OIPA met with BPD Subject Matter Experts on Training
- BPD Training Bulletin 22-103 Use of the Recovery Position

The Work of Racial Equity

- Knowing the history
- Using data as a measure
- Receiving authentic community feedback
- Seeking collaboration toward institutional change

BART and BPD not only stand against discrimination but are also fighting racism. As a District we have prioritized advancing systemic racial equity by participating in the Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE) training series. BART's Office of Civil Rights oversees a host of equity programs that cover workforce, contract, and economic opportunity policies.

Fighting Racism

Key Takeaways

- “Excited delirium” is not a medical term or diagnosis.
- The behavior and physical symptoms of a person experiencing hyperactive delirium with severe agitation makes them a danger to themselves and others.
- De-escalation strategies, physical restraint techniques, and chemical sedation options have to be trained and further studied by Crisis Intervention Specialists, Law Enforcement and Medical Personnel when interacting with a person experiencing hyperactive delirium with severe agitation to help avoid racial bias.

Recommendations for Discussion

- Remove the term “excited delirium” from the BPD Policy Manual and related training materials.
- Create a BPD Training Bulletin for Officers and Crisis Intervention Specialists about the changes to the Manual as an effort to prevent in-custody deaths and to promote the use of de-escalation techniques.
- District provide additional funding for more opportunities and future trainings for the police department (e.g., provided by Lexipol on the topic).
- Organize a future “Policy Forum” with OIPA, BPD and BPCRB to further discuss this and similar topics to work together on addressing racially disparate outcomes in policing.