

Fwd: Union

1 message

Anna Martinez <anna.martinez@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 8:30 AM

To: City Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>, Izabella Hovhanisian <izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Monte Gordon' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 8:28 AM

Subject: Union

To: City of Los Angeles <councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, Los Angeles City Council <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org <councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org>, City of Los Angeles <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, City of Los Angeles <councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, City of Los Angeles <councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org>, councilmember.martinez@lacity.org <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org <councilmember.wesson@lacity.org>, cityclerk@lacity.org <cityclerk@lacity.org>, ethics.commission@lacity.org <ethics.commission@lacity.org>, Councilmember Rodriguez <councilmember.rodriguez@lacity.org>, councilmember.price@lacity.org <councilmember.price@lacity.org>, councilmember.lee@lacity.org <councilmember.lee@lacity.org>, gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org <gilbert.cedillo@lacity.org>, david.ryu@lacity.org <david.ryu@lacity.org>

I'm glad to see the police Union call you idiots out. The liberal regressive Democrat cult is destroying America. Bunch of cheating lying criminals. You cover for rapists and pedophiles illegal aliens and Junkies while ignoring needy Americans. You people must be cheating to get elected over and over because there's no other way you could win since you lack any policy that's worth a shit you fucking losers

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

Fwd: An Analysis of the Washington Post Police Shooting Data

1 message

Izabella Hovhanisian <izabella.hovhanisian@lacity.org>

Thu, Dec 17, 2020 at 10:33 AM

To: Richard LLEWELLYN <Richard.llewellyn@lacity.org>, Michel.moore@lapd.online, Los Angeles Police Headquarters <contact.lapdonline@gmail.com>, City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Good morning,

Email below received from:

wmartin46@yahoo.com

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **'Wayne Martin' via Clerk - CityClerk** <cityclerk@lacity.org>

Date: Wed, Dec 16, 2020 at 5:38 PM

Subject: An Analysis of the Washington Post Police Shooting Data

To: CityClerk@lacity.org <CityClerk@lacity.org>

Memo

To: Elected Officials and Police Officials

Fm: Wayne Martin (A Silicon Valley Resident)

Dt: 12/16/20

Re: An Analysis of the *Washington Post* Police Shooting Data

Elected Officials:

Since March of this year, much of our country has been in chaos based on the deaths of a handful of individuals at the hands of the police. Using those incidents as a basis to instigate violence against the police, as well as public and private property, tens of thousands have taken to the streets—not only defying police orders to disband but attacking the police relentlessly.


Activists/demagogues have appeared non-stop on cable and broadcast TV to assert that the US police have been killing Blacks indiscriminately but produced no evidence to back up these claims.

The *Washington Post* has collected and published via its website details of officer-involved shootings that resulted in the deaths of civilians. The attached communication is a review and analysis of this data.

Please take the time to read and consider this analysis, as the *Post's* data provides much in the way of evidence that refutes the specious claims of those condemning the police.

Would someone kindly forward a copy of this email and paper to the City Manager and Police Chief?

Regards,

Wayne Martin
San Jose **wem_wapo_shooting_data_analysis_public.docx**
128K

The *Washington Post* Police Shooting Database

Data Review and Analysis

Wayne E. Martin

Introduction

For some time now, the Police in the US have been under attack from forces that are associated with organized crime, decriminalizing drugs to advocating illegal immigration. Police officers have been assassinated while sitting in their patrol vehicles for no apparent reasons. During the madness of the urban unrest in the Spring of 2020, hundreds of police officers were attacked by mobs. Police vehicles were burned to the glee of those controlling the streets. Videos of attacks on patrol officers in New York City have gone viral on the WEB—possibly inspiring “copycat” attacks on police in other cities.

The availability of digital video recording devices, and the Internet/WEB has brought the nation’s attention to bear on a small number of police/public confrontations which ended in the deaths of one, or more members of the public. Most of these videos typically do not offer a complete view of the interaction between the police and the public—yet these videos have been useful in whipping up mob anger leading to urban violence resulting in more deaths and much public and property damage.

During this madness, activists used the deaths of minorities who had been involved in minor crimes and who had resisted police attempts to take them into custody to paint the nation’s police as systemically “racist”. The behavior of those resisting arrest did not seem to raise much interest in the Media—just the deaths of civilians at the hands of the police.

Investigations of these fatal shooting incidents by the responsible police departments are frequently delayed months as these investigations tediously work their way to conclusion. Police departments are reluctant to release information about on-going investigations, leaving the public seeking information about the incidents from the Media, citizen videos and demagogues. Over time, the public’s memory of these incidents fades—with some left believing that those killed by the police were the victims of police “brutality” and/or random violence toward minorities—rather than regrettable, but justified actions by the police.

Since 1930, the FBI has been collecting crime data from hundreds and now thousands of law enforcement agencies across the land. The FBI’s Uniform Crime Report (UCR) contains data on all major crimes, including the felonious murder of law enforcement officers. However, the UCR does not seem to include any data on officer-involved shootings where civilians are killed.

Starting in 2015, The *Washington Post* has been collecting data on officer-involved shootings that have resulted in the deaths of people who were in contact with the police. This database, designed and maintained exclusively by the *Post*, is supposedly populated from police reports and news reports about the police-civilian interactions ending in the deaths of civilians. This dataset contained just over 5,400 entries in early June, 2020, when this study commenced. Since this database is by no means official, then the data cannot be assumed to be completely accurate.

The *Post* does not seem to have done any deep analysis of this data on its website. This investigation will look at the data in terms of race, gender, age, and weapons used by those engaging the police, crime in the cities where police/public shootings occurred.

Given the numerous claims of indiscriminate killing of Blacks by the police in the US attributed to social activists and the public alike, this investigation will focus on incidents primarily involving Blacks in the US, and California.

Data Format

ASCII, 5,400 entries.

.CSV formatted

The following is an example of one of the entries:

```
id, name, date, manner_of_death, armed, age, gender, race, city, state,
signs_of_mental_illness, threat_level, flee, body_camera
```

```
3, Tim Elliot, 2015-01-02, shot, gun, 53, M, A, Shelton, WA, True, attack,
Not fleeing, false
```

Demographics

The following are the races tracked by the Post:

Race

- White
- Black
- Hispanic
- Asian
- Other
- UK -- Unknown
- N -- Native American

Data Enhanced by Video

While large databases provide some transparency into our nation's police, the data has essentially been scrubbed "flat"--removing all of the personal information that would help third-parties from understanding the actions and reactions of those stopped by the police as well as the police themselves.

The Sources section offers a selection of videos found on Youtube where confrontations between the police and the public can be found. Some of these videos document situations where traffic stops have gone wrong—sometimes ending in fatal shootings of motorist and/or police officer.

Before trying to consume the data in this study, it is suggested that readers spend some time watching these videos to better understand the danger to civilians and police alike resulting in death when police/public interactions turn into confrontations threatening violence against the police during commission of their duties.

(See Sources [3]-[32])

Yearly Estimated Number of Police Interactions in the US

Given that there are perhaps 600,000 sworn police officers in the US, and that each officer has approximately 20 interactions with the public on any given day, then:

Number of Yearly Police Interactions: $600,000 \times 20 \times 208 = 2.5B$.

(Many police rosters have police officers working 4 out of every 7 days. $4/7$ of 365 =208.)

This estimate, however, is quite at odds with the DoJ's last Police/Public Interaction survey--calling into question how the DoJ has defined a police/public interaction, as well as how many Agencies responded to the DoJ's information request accurately. Of course, the suggested number of daily interactions of 20 may well be too large.

The *Washington Post's* data, published out of context, will be analyzed--based on the probably high estimates of 2.5B yearly interactions, but also the DoJ's smaller 50M number—of which about 1,000 of these interactions turn into fatal confrontations with the police.

Views of the *Washington Post* Data In This Study

The *Washington Post* data is not organized in any particular fashion--leaving that task and interpretation of the data up to individual researchers. After review of the data, the following topics became obvious--and are offered to the public in this study:

- Review of *Washington Post* Police-shooting Data, by Race
- Shooting Data ranked Cities with Police Shooting Deaths
- Black Murders Vs. Police-Involved Shootings (2015-2020)
- US Cities Where Blacks Deaths Have Occurred Resulting From Police Encounters
- California Cities Where Black Deaths Occurred From Police Shootings
- Weapons Used By Suspects Killed in Officer-Involved Shootings
- Civilian Deaths Due to Attacks on Officers.

Review of Washington Post Data

Tables.1 and Tables.2 are derived from the *Washington Post's* data of about 5,400 police-involved shootings of civilians, ranked by Race:

Civilian Deaths Due To Police Shootings (2015-2020)									
Year	Deaths	White	% White	Black	% Black	Hispanic	% Hispanic	Asian	% Asian
2015	994	497	50	258	26	172	17	14	1
2016	962	468	49	234	24	160	17	15	2
2017	986	459	47	224	23	179	18	16	2
2018	991	454	46	229	23	165	17	21	2
2019	1003	405	40	249	25	163	16	19	2
2020	464	185	40	97	21	61	13	8	2

Table.1

Civilian Deaths Due To Police Shootings (2015-2020)							
Year	Deaths	Other	% Other	Race Uk	% Race Uk	Race N	% Race N
2015	994	15	2	29	3	9	1
2016	962	11	1	58	6	16	2
2017	986	6	1	80	8	22	2
2018	991	4	0	103	10	15	2
2019	1003	9	1	145	14	13	1
2020	464	3	1	107	23	3	1

Table.1.1

Where:

Race_Uk=Unknown Race

Race_N=Native American

Totals: Deaths: 5,400

Whites: 2,468 Blacks: 1291

Hispanic: 900 Native American: 78

Asian: 93 Other: 48 Unknown: 522

Table.1 and Table.1.1 provide a yearly breakdown by race of the civilians who died during engagement with police around the country. Notice the near invariance of the police-public interactions ending in civilian deaths over the past five and one-half years. This invariance strongly suggests that people confronting the police are not indiscriminately shot, as there would be much more variance in the numbers of deaths. This invariance also implies that the police (around the country) are pushed to their limits before using fatal force to defend themselves against those confronting them.

US Census: Race vs Police Shooting Data

2019 US Census Data vs Shooting Data		
Race	Percent (%)	Police Shooting %
White Alone	76.5	45
White/Not Hispanic or Latino	60.4	45
Black	13.4	23
Hispanic	18.3	17
Asian	5.9	2
Other	3.0	1
Native American	1.3	1

Table.2

Table.2 provides the racial breakdown of the US general population and the racial breakdown of those killed during engagement with police officers.

(Note—Many sources are reporting that people who are probably Hispanic or Latino are now self-identifying as “White”.)

Black Murders vs Police-Involved Shootings

Black Murders Vs. Police-Involved Shootings (2015-2020)						
Year	US Population	Black Population	All Race Murders	Black Murders	Black Police-Involved Shootings	% Police Black Deaths
2015	320,896,618	43,000,147	15,883	7,039	258	3.7
2016	323,405,935	43,336,395	17,413	7,881	234	3
2017	325,719,178	43,646,370	17,294	7,851	224	2.9
2018	327,167,434	43,840,436	16,214	7,404	229	3.1
2019	328,229,523	43,982,756	NYA	NYA	249	NYA
2020	331,002,651	44,354,355	NYA	NYA	97	NYA
Totals:			66,804	30,175	1291	

Table.3

NYA=Not Yet Available

Table.3 perhaps contains the most important information in this study relative to deaths caused by violence to Blacks, and Black deaths attributed to the nation's police.

The population data was obtained from US Census Data, the data on murders comes from the 2018 FBI/UCR, and the police-involved shootings was derived from the *Washington Post* database. Merging these separate elements into Table.3 provides a clear view of how violence within the "Black Community" results in about 7,000 deaths yearly. Most of these deaths are not resolved by the local police--but are believed to be drug-related. Opposed to these 7,000 deaths, the nation's police, however, are involved in only about 250 Black deaths, yearly.

During the Spring and early Summer of 2020, social-justice activists were prominently featured on cable TV channels making all sorts of claims about how Blacks around the country were afraid to walk in their neighborhoods because of fear of killings by police. The hosts of those shows never seem to challenge these claims, much less to investigate their claims with readily available data as presented in Table.3.

A few police chiefs did appear on various channels--rebutting these claims with the UCR data. However, it is not clear how far into the US populace this data and its understanding penetrated at the time. It is still not clear how many Americans, particularly the "political class", have been exposed to and understand this data.

Given that the hysteria of "defunding the police" has reared its ugly head on the American political scene—it would benefit all of us if Table.3 were to be posted in every

school, public place and Legislature in the land so that this information can reach every American.

US Cities Where Officer-Involved Shooting Resulted in Deaths of Civilians

US Cities Where Officer-Involved Shootings Resulted in the Death of a Civilian										
State	City	Total Officer-involved Deaths	Total Mental	Total Guns Used	Yr 2015	Yr 2016	Yr 2017	Yr 2018	Yr 2019	Yr 2020
CA	Los Angeles	85	9	45	15	14	17	12	21	6
AZ	Phoenix	76	10	49	8	15	12	24	12	5
TX	Houston	55	9	34	13	10	7	8	11	6
NV	Las Vegas	45	20	28	11	5	9	11	5	4
TX	San Antonio	43	5	30	6	9	4	9	10	5
IL	Chicago	38	3	27	9	11	7	4	4	3
NM	Albuquerque	35	6	24	5	6	8	9	5	2
OH	Columbus	31	2	21	6	7	4	10	1	3
CO	Denver	30	2	18	4	6	5	6	7	2
MO	St. Louis	30	3	27	4	4	10	3	9	0
OK	Oklahoma City	30	6	18	7	4	6	5	7	1
FL	Miami	29	6	16	9	5	6	3	5	1
FL	Jacksonville	29	6	18	5	2	7	4	5	6
AZ	Tucson	29	6	19	4	8	4	8	3	2
MO	Kansas City	27	2	23	3	4	4	7	4	5
TX	Austin	27	12	18	6	6	4	6	4	1
NY	New York	25	5	14	1	6	4	1	11	2
OK	Tulsa	24	5	13	1	7	5	4	6	1
KY	Louisville	23	1	12	3	2	2	8	4	4
CA	Bakersfield	22	0	9	6	4	5	2	5	0
AZ	Mesa	21	6	12	3	3	3	7	3	2
GA	Atlanta	20	3	9	3	2	4	5	4	2
CA	San Jose	20	8	7	6	2	4	2	5	1
FL	Orlando	19	5	10	2	5	3	5	2	2
MD	Baltimore	19	2	14	2	4	3	2	6	2
OR	Portland	18	6	6	3	1	2	4	6	2
IN	Indianapolis	18	2	12	9	4	1	1	1	2
CA	Long Beach	18	2	7	4	4	3	2	2	3
CA	Fresno	18	8	7	6	2	3	3	4	0
TX	Fort Worth	17	3	13	5	2	1	3	6	0

State	City	Total	Total	Total	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr	Yr
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		Officer-involved Deaths	Mental	Guns Used	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
PA	Philadelphia	17	2	9	1	6	4	3	0	3
CA	San Diego	16	5	6	5	3	2	3	1	2
CO	Pueblo	16	0	10	1	2	1	4	5	3
NC	Charlotte	16	5	12	1	7	3	2	3	0
TX	Dallas	16	2	13	4	3	2	2	5	0
CO	Colorado Springs	16	1	12	2	2	3	3	5	1
TN	Memphis	15	3	10	3	2	0	5	5	0
CA	San Francisco	15	3	7	6	3	4	2	0	0
CO	Aurora	14	0	10	5	1	0	4	2	2
TX	El Paso	14	2	8	4	3	1	1	4	1
WI	Milwaukee	14	3	11	1	3	4	2	2	2
CA	San Bernardino	13	2	5	6	3	0	0	4	0
DC	Washington	13	2	7	4	5	2	1	1	0
HI	Honolulu	13	3	4	1	1	0	5	5	1
UT	Salt Lake City	13	1	7	2	1	3	2	3	2
WA	Seattle	13	2	5	2	2	3	2	2	2
WA	Spokane	13	5	5	1	1	4	2	4	1
CA	Sacramento	12	5	4	2	3	3	2	1	1
AZ	Glendale	11	2	8	2	1	4	2	2	0
CA	Santa Ana	11	1	2	2	4	2	2	0	1
CA	Stockton	11	1	3	4	3	1	0	3	0
FL	Tampa	11	5	4	1	4	0	2	4	0
KS	Wichita	11	2	5	2	1	3	0	5	0
LA	Baton Rouge	11	4	6	2	5	2	0	2	0
NE	Omaha	11	3	5	4	4	0	1	2	0
NM	Las Cruces	11	4	5	1	2	3	3	2	0
TX	Arlington	11	2	5	2	0	4	2	3	0
WA	Tacoma	11	1	7	2	2	2	2	3	0
CA	Anaheim	10	5	3	2	3	0	2	3	0
CA	Modesto	10	1	4	2	2	1	0	4	1
CA	Oakland	10	1	7	6	0	1	2	0	1
LA	Shreveport	10	1	6	3	0	0	3	3	1
NV	Reno	10	2	4	1	5	3	1	0	0
TX	Amarillo	10	2	8	2	1	2	2	2	1

Table.4

Table 4 lists US Cities where ten (10) or more officer-involved shootings occurred resulting in the deaths of civilians.

In the past 5.5 years (beginning in 2015):

- Total of 16,714 US cities/towns had no police shooting deaths.
- Total of 2781 US cities/towns had at least one (1) police shooting death.
- Total of 5,400 individuals shot and killed by nation's police.
- Total of 67 US cities/towns had from 10-85 police shooting deaths.
- Total of 655 US cities/towns had from 2-9 police shootings deaths.
- Total of 2060 US cities/towns had only one (1) police shooting death.
- Civilians killed by police had a gun 57.6% of the time.
- 22.5% of Civilians killed by police demonstrated possible mental illness.

The fact that almost 17,000 US cities/towns had no police shootings during the 5.5 year period in the *Washington Post* police shooting data should make it eminently clear that the police are not killing US citizens without restraint. Table.4 should be fully understood by every Police Officer as well as every elected official in the nation.

US Cities Where Blacks Deaths Have Occurred Resulting From Police Encounters

Given the numerous claims that Blacks are being killed in great number by the nation's police, the following table examines the cities where Blacks have died from officer-involved shootings, ranked by the number of Black deaths:

Ranked Cities Where Black Deaths Resulted From Officer-Involved Shootings (2015-2020)											
State	City	Total Deaths	Black Deaths	Black Male	Black Female	Black Mental Illness	Black Guns Used	Black Knives Used	Black Body Cam	Black Under 21	Black Over 21
IL	Chicago	38	32	31	1	2	24	1	4	7	25
TX	Houston	55	26	26	0	2	18	1	5	7	19
MO	St. Louis	30	24	22	2	0	21	1	0	6	18
OH	Columbus	31	19	19	0	1	15	2	1	7	12
GA	Atlanta	20	18	17	1	2	9	0	1	4	14
MD	Baltimore	19	18	18	0	2	12	3	9	4	14
NY	New York	25	17	17	0	3	10	2	6	0	17
CA	Los Angeles	85	16	15	1	1	9	2	3	6	10
PA	Philadelphia	17	14	14	0	2	9	1	0	1	13
FL	Jacksonville	29	14	14	0	1	9	0	1	3	11
OK	Oklahoma City	30	14	14	0	0	11	2	6	0	14
FL	Miami	29	13	11	2	1	6	1	0	0	13
MO	Kansas City	27	13	13	0	1	10	0	0	1	12
IN	Indianapolis	18	12	12	0	1	8	1	3	2	10
DC	Washington	13	12	11	1	2	6	2	3	0	12
TN	Memphis	15	12	12	0	2	7	2	2	3	9
LA	Baton Rouge	11	11	11	0	4	6	1	3	0	11
AZ	Phoenix	76	10	9	1	0	6	1	1	2	8
WI	Milwaukee	14	10	10	0	2	7	2	6	1	9
KY	Louisville	23	10	9	1	0	5	2	4	0	10

Table.5

During the past 5.5 years—

- There were 18,830 US cities/towns where no Blacks died from Police shootings.
- There are 1291 Black deaths in the *Washington Post* dataset.
- There were 662 US cities where at least one (1) Black died from a police shooting.
- There were 20 US cities where 10-32 Blacks died from police shootings.
- There were 169 US cities where 2-9 Blacks died from Police shootings.
- There were 474 US cities where only one (1) Black died from Police shootings.
- Blacks confronting Police Officers who were shot and killed possessed a gun about 58% of the time.
- During the 2015-2020 timeframe, evidence of body cameras in this dataset seems sparse.

Given the national concerns on Blacks being killed by the US police in large numbers, this dataset is intended to demonstrate that, in fact, with 43M Blacks in the general population, only 1291 were killed as a result of confrontation with the police over the past 5.5 years (.003% of the Black population).

California Cities Where Black Deaths Occurred From Police Shootings

California Cities Where Civilians Died From Police Shootings. (2015-2020)										
State	City	Total Black Deaths	Mental Illness Suspected	Guns Used By Civilians	Yr 2015	Yr 2016	Yr 2017	Yr 2018	Yr 2019	Yr 2020
CA	Los Angeles	85	9	45	15	14	17	12	21	6
CA	Bakersfield	22	0	9	6	4	5	2	5	0
CA	San Jose	20	8	7	6	2	4	2	5	1
CA	Fresno	18	8	7	6	2	3	3	4	0
CA	Long Beach	18	2	7	4	4	3	2	2	3
CA	San Diego	16	5	6	5	3	2	3	1	2
CA	San Francisco	15	3	7	6	3	4	2	0	0
CA	San Bernardino	13	2	5	6	3	0	0	4	0
CA	Sacramento	12	5	4	2	3	3	2	1	1
CA	Santa Ana	11	1	2	2	4	2	2	0	1
CA	Stockton	11	1	3	4	3	1	0	3	0
CA	Anaheim	10	5	3	2	3	0	2	3	0
CA	Modesto	10	1	4	2	2	1	0	4	1
CA	Oakland ⁹	10	1	7	6	0	1	2	0	1

Table.6

(Note--There are 58 counties, approximately 1,354 cities, towns and “named places” in California. Most of the cities and towns have their own police departments, as do the counties. “Census Designated Places” are typically serviced by their county’s sheriff’s departments.)

California City Safety Index

Table.7 lists the “safety index” (based on the Neighborhoodscout.com website’s data) which indicates the impact of crime on the life of that city’s residents. This “safety index” is another of the many variables reflecting crime in California cities and their neighborhoods—reflecting the environment in which that city’s police must operate.

California City Safety Index		
City	Shooting Deaths	Safer Than
Los Angeles	85	12%
Bakersfield	22	5%
San Jose	20	15%
Fresno	18	8%
Long Beach	18	8%
San Diego	16	23%
San Francisco	15	1%
San Bernardino	13	2%
Sacramento	12	8%
Santa Ana	11	22%
Stockton	11	3%
Anaheim	10	17%
Modesto	10	6%
Oakland	10	1%

Table.7

(See Sources [37]-[48])

Weapons Used By Civilians Killed During Officer-Involved Shootings

Weapons Used Against Police During Fatal Police/Civilian Interactions					
Weapon	Times Used	Weapon	Times Used	Weapon	Times Used
gun	3050	baton	5	air conditioner	1
knife	792	BB gun	5	air pistol	1
unarmed	351	blunt object	5	Airsoft pistol	1
Unknown	227	crowbar	5	barstool	1
toy weapon	184	meat cleaver	5	baseball bat and bottle	1
undetermined	164	piece of wood	5	baseball bat and fireplace poker	1
vehicle	139	chair	4	baseball bat and knife	1
unknown weapon	79	metal object	4	bayonet	1
machete	43	pick-axe	4	BB gun and vehicle	1
Taser	26	straight edge razor	4	bean-bag gun	1
ax	24	vehicle and gun	4	bow and arrow	1
sword	22	beer bottle	3	car, knife and mace	1
baseball bat	18	chain	3	carjack	1
gun and knife	17	glass shard	3	chainsaw	1
hammer	16	guns and explosives	3	claimed to be armed	1
metal pipe	13	metal pole	3	contractor's level	1
screwdriver	13	metal stick	3	cordless drill	1
sharp object	13	samurai sword	3	fireworks	1
box cutter	12	brick	2	flagpole	1
gun and car	11	chain saw	2	grenade	1
hatchet	11	flashlight	2	gun and sword	1
gun and vehicle	10	garden tool	2	hand torch	1
crossbow	9	hatchet and gun	2	ice pick	1
scissors	7	incendiary device	2	machete and gun	1
pipe	6	lawn mower blade	2	metal hand tool	1
rock	6	pellet gun	2	metal rake	1
shovel	6	pitchfork	2	motorcycle	1
		pole	2	nail gun	1
		pole and knife	2	oar	1
				pen	1
				pepper spray	1
				spear	1
				stapler	1
				tire iron	1
				vehicle and machete	1
				walking stick	1
				wasp spray	1
				wrench	1
				All Total:	5307

Table.8

Table.8 lists the weapons used by people who died during confrontations with the nation's police. With over 50% of the fatal incidents involving a gun or a knife, it is clear from Table.8 that anything harder than a pillow can, and has been, used as a weapon against the police.

The general premise for the use of fatal force is for the officers involved to protect themselves from those confronting them. Table.12 (below) provides information as to how much danger the officers believed themselves to be at the time their weapons were discharged. Without video, the danger to the officers cannot be reliably ascertained from testimony of observers—even if reliable observers were present at the scene of the fatal shooting incident.

This issue of the unreliability of witness testimony is evidenced by the events in Ferguson, MO when a young Black man was shot and killed by a Ferguson police officer during a scuffle for the officer's gun. Some people quickly emerged claiming that the young man was shot with his hands up. This claim soon turned into the chant: "Hands Up! Don't Shoot"—a chant that soon was heard around the country. After a lengthy investigation, it became clear that the youth did not have his hands in the air when the officer's weapon was discharged, resulting in the youth's death.

During the period the *Post* has been collecting information on police shootings, there has been an increase in the utilization of police incident recordings. It should be a mandate at least at the State level that all police be outfitted with video recording devices and that these devices should be worn and activated every time officers are in the field.

Unarmed Civilians Killed During Engagements With Police

There has been an outcry from anti-police voices that too many unarmed people who were killed during engagements with police were suspected of having mental illnesses and were unarmed at the time of their engagement with the police. However, these voices never seem to provide hard data about the number of people killed by the police actually being subject to mental illness. Table.9 (below) provides a breakdown of those people who were unarmed and suspected of having some sort of mental illness, based on the *Washington Post* data:

Racial Breakdown of Unarmed Persons Killed by Police (2015-2020)			
Race	No Mental Illness Suspecte d	Mental Illness Suspecte d	% Mental Illness Suspecte d
White	113	32	22.1%
Black	100	22	18.0%
Hispanic	54	9	14.3%
Asian	5	2	28.6%
Other	4	1	20.0%
Native American	2	2	50.0%
Unknown	5	0	0.0%
Total:	283	68	19.4%
Grand Total:	351		

Table.9

Table.9 refutes any claims about indiscriminate police shootings of people who were, or who acted as if they were, mentally ill and who were unarmed. It is unfortunate that the *Washington Post* data is unofficial, so that these numbers are subject to scrutiny. However, if even close to the actual numbers of people which the nation's police have encountered during these fatal interactions—the number of deaths of unarmed and mentally ill people is quite small.

It is a real shame that American Media has generally ignored this data.

Racial Breakdown of Police Shootings Involving Possible Signs of Mental Illness

Racial Break Down of Police Shootings Involving Possible Signs of Mental Illness (2015-2020)									
Year	Total Shootings	Possible Mental Illness Shootings	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Native	Unknown
2015	994	257	161	39	37	3	4	2	11
2016	962	251	152	34	38	6	3	5	13
2017	986	237	143	40	35	4	1	1	13
2018	991	216	114	37	28	7	1	2	27
2019	1003	200	112	28	20	4	1	4	31
2020	464	61	30	6	6	0	1	0	18
Totals:	5400	1222	712	184	164	24	11	14	113
Percent of Total:		22.6%	13%	3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Percent of Mental Illness Shootings:			58%	15%	13%	2%	1%	1%	9%

Table.10

The anti-police voices in the country have made much about the police killing people demonstrating signs of mental illness. It is hard to find these voices providing any hard data about the number of police shootings involving people possibly afflicted with mental illness. Table.10 looks at the *Post's* data from the point-of-view of Race and possible mental illness.

As previously mentioned, mental illness is a condition that can only reliably be diagnosed by certain medical resources—if then. While it is possible that the possibility of mental illness can be inferred from media reports of the fatal incident, the reliability of such information must be questioned.

The first data point worthy of note is that, according the data, mental illness is suspected to be involved in 22% of all fatal police shooting incidents—which is generally less than 250 such incidents a year. These 250 yearly incidents are spread across the entire US population of about 330M people—providing no evidence of indiscriminate police violence against the public, or any of the nation's minorities.

Also missing from the *Post's* data is any reference to those killed during interactions with the police being under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Given reports, and videos, of people struggling with the police having previously taken drugs--like Phencyclidine (PCP, or Angel Dust)--it might be difficult to diagnose mental illness without a drug panel workup by the jurisdiction's medical examiner. The *Post* does not seem to provide any information about the source of each of the incidents in its database, such as police reports and/or Medical Examiner reports.

Mental Illness in American Society

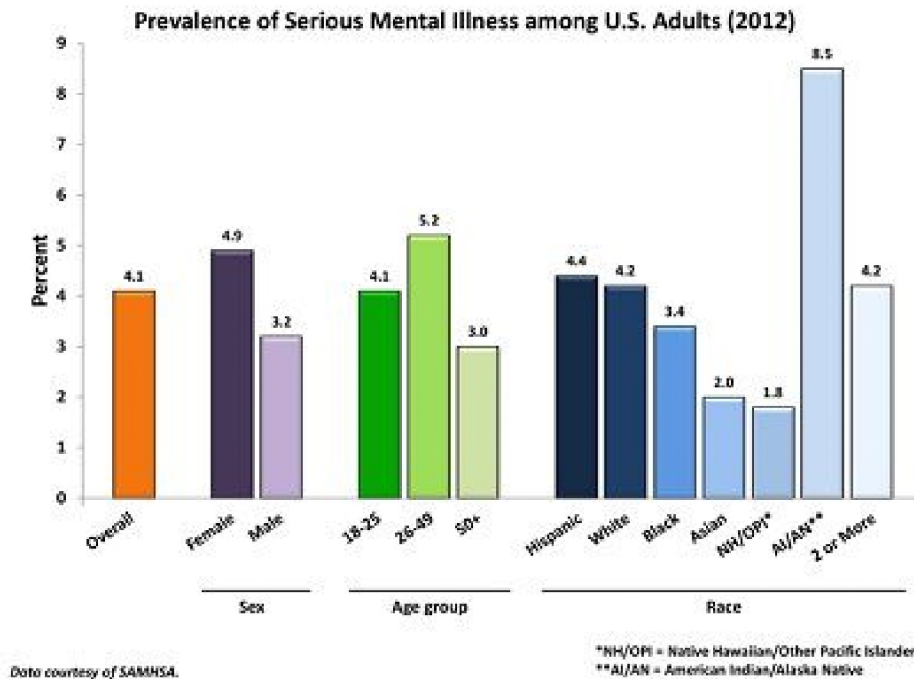


Figure.1

(See Sources[53]-[54])

Mental illness has traditionally been a “taboo” topic in American society. Recently there have been some attempts by advocates for the mentally ill to shift the mindset of the American people to not see mental illness in the future as has been seen in the past. Given that there are no simple tests that a family doctor can use to diagnose mental illness, knowledge of the nature and extent of mental illness has become the domain of specialists. This point has been raised about how the police might not have sufficient training to identify and deal with those exhibiting mental illness.

The *Post’s* data does not provide any context for the inclusion of data on mental illness—simply including the mere fact that mental illness was somehow involved, or not, in each record. Figure.1 (sourced from *Psychology Today*) is included in this study to provide context to the extent of mental illness in the US.

The first point worthy of note is that the article’s author suggests about 4.1% of the total population is subject to some form of mental illness—which means that out of 330M people about 13.5 US adults are afflicted. That number increases to perhaps 50M when younger people are included in the mix.

Figure.1 (itself sourced from the National Institute for Mental Health) does not provide enough information to fully understand the actual numbers in the figure. The bars for

total population, gender and age seem to be percentages of the total population, but the bars reflecting race do not specifically specify if the percentages are of the total population, or the racial percentage of the racial component of the population.

The female/male incidence of mental illness seems to be greater for American females than American males. Yet, the *Post's* data shows that only 237 females were involved in fatal interactions with the police, and only 72 out of the 5,400 killed were suspected of being under the influence of mental illness. Questions arise from this data as how the male/female ratio of deaths reflects the number of male/female interactions that do not result in death? The same questions need to be asked of all races, also.

Based on the *Post's* data, Table.10 documents that fewer than 250 people believed to be mentally ill were killed during police confrontations over a 5.5 year period, out of possibly 50M people and 13.5 million adults involving tens of millions of police/public interactions. While every death should be considered as a tragedy—the *Post's* data speaks volumes about the low incidence of police shootings where mental illness is concerned.

Unarmed Civilians Killed by Police

Unarmed Civilians Killed By Police (2015-2020)			
Year	Unarmed Killed	Total Killed	Unarmed %
2015	94	994	9.5%
2016	51	962	5.3%
2017	70	986	7.1%
2018	58	991	5.9%
2019	55	1001	5.5%
2020	23	464	5.0%
Totals:	351	5398	6.5%

Table.11

The people calling for the defunding, and in some cases the disarming of the police, have not provided the public any meaningful data about the killing of unarmed people disobeying, even threatening, the police. Given that this information is not collected, or released by the FBI in its yearly UCR, then the *Post's* data provides our only glimpse into fatal police shootings.

Table.11 shows that only fewer than 100 out of a yearly average of 1,000 fatal engagements were unarmed—averaging about 7%. What is important to note is that the actual number of shootings resulting in death averages about 70 a year.

This average of seventy (70) killings of unarmed civilians (yearly) needs to be seen in light of the 50M (or possibly more) police-public interactions per year. This very small number refutes soundly any claims of random, or indiscriminate police killing/murder of people in the US.

Attacks on Police Resulting in Deaths of Civilians

Attacks on Police Ending in Death, by Race (2015-2020)										
Year	Deaths	Attacks	% Attacks	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Race_UK	Race_NA
2015	994	653	65.7%	396	183	11	10	9	22	22
2016	962	486	50.5%	258	147	9	5	7	30	30
2017	986	536	54.4%	292	135	10	10	3	43	43
2018	991	602	60.7%	277	158	9	10	4	72	72
2019	1003	702	70.0%	288	181	10	10	5	104	104
2020	464	334	72.0%	125	65	9	6	3	63	63
Totals :	5400	3313	61.4%	1636	869	58	51	31	334	334

Table.12

One of the data elements in each of the records in the *Post's* data set includes the “threat level” against the police officer(s) involved in fatal incidents. Threat levels are assigned the following values: Attack, Other and Unknown. While reconstructing fatal police interactions from the *Post's* data is not possible, the inclusion of the “threat_level” data offers some insight into the danger faced by the officer(s) when his/their weapons were discharged.

Table.12 is a view of the fatal incidents where the suspect was “attacking” the officer(s). The data does not provide any sense of what the distance between the subject and the police was at the time police weapons were discharged. The data also does not provide any sense if the suspect had previously discharged a weapon or harmed anyone prior to the arrival of the police.

Worthy of note in the data is the breakdown by race of these killed while “attacking” the police on the scene. Although it makes sense that the number of Whites is the largest, the number of Blacks seems quite high, by comparison—particularly when compared to the other non-White races. While it might be possible to use this Black/White ratio to impute bias on the part of the police, this high number of Blacks attacking police with some sort of weapon also would imply a state-of-mind that would range from the totally irrational to people who want to commit “suicide-by-cop”.

Table.12 suggests that that perhaps 22% of all fatal incidents involve people with “mental illness”, which possibly helps to explain some of Table.12’s insights.

Problems With the *Washington Post* Shooting Data

The following are obvious problems with the *Washington Post's* data--

- Too few variables in each record to prove "racism".
- Incomplete data in many records.
- No information about non-fatal police shootings.
- Was Bodycam and/or Dashcam video available for public review?
- Problems determining race in many cases.
- Reason for engagement with police?
- Warrant outstanding for suspect killed?
- Did suspect discharge weapon at police?
- What Was Crime Suspect Wanted For?
- Was Suspect killed during engagement, or died later?
- Were Police Officers injured during Incident?
- Was More Than One Suspect Involved?
- Was Suspect Under Influence of Alcohol or Drugs?
- Was High-speed Vehicle Chase Involved?
- Was Suspect Killed by Police or did Suspect Commit Suicide?
- Was Suspect involved in active crime?
- Was Suspect Charging Police with weapon other than gun?
- Number of police officers involved in fatal incident?
- Length of time of confrontation before fatal shooting occurred?
- Time of day of fatal incident?
- Race of Officers involved in fatal shootings?
- Number of Years of Employment For Each Officer Involved in fatal Shootings?
- Officer(s) involved in previous shootings (fatal and/or non-fatal)?
- Suspect Had Previous Convictions?
- Suspect being detained because of outstanding warrant(s)?
- Impossible to know if law enforcement agencies underreport officer-involved shooting deaths.
- Was a car chase involved in this incident?
- Was a traffic stop involved when suspect became violent with officers?
- Gender of Officers Involved in Incident.
- Are the Officers in uniform, or plain clothes?
- No mention if deceased person was guilty of violating parole.
- No mention of the law enforcement agency involved in fatal incident.
- No mention of the number of rounds discharged by police officers.

Media Reports Of Officer-Involved Shootings

The use of body cameras and dash cameras in police cars has increased our understanding of the problems police officers must deal with when encountering people who are engaged in illegal activities, or are being arrested under the authority of a court warrant. On some occasions, such people resist being detained, or arrested—brandishing, or using, a weapon to resist police detention instead.

Media reports of officer-involving shootings have been included as links to websites in some of the California cities where officer-involved shootings resulted in the death of a civilian.

See Sources (33).

Death By Police Taser

Since the introduction of the Taser as ostensibly a non-lethal weapon which police could use before needing to use their firearms to protect themselves from people refusing to comply with directives, or actively resisting orders, there have been reports of people dying sometime after being shot with a Taser. Autopsies of people who have died after being “Tased” have not been conclusive in their findings. A small number of states, cities and counties have outlawed the possession of stun guns. The State of Georgia has declared Tasers to be deadly weapons.

Some media companies have claimed to have researched “deaths by police Tasers”, producing a list of over 1,000 people (2017) who are thought to have died because of being shot by a police Taser. Since there does not seem to be any official consensus on this matter, there does not seem to be any official source keeping track of these deaths. One might be inclined to include these deaths in a database of police shootings if one were looking for a worst case of people dying because of a failure to comply with police directives when required to do so.

(See Sources [55])

Additional Information Needed For Better Understanding of Crime and Law Enforcement

The following information does not appear in this communication. Understanding crime and law enforcement in California (and the nation) would be difficult without the following information:

- Crime Stats for each California City where at least one officer-involved shooting occurred.
- Demographics of each California City where at least one Officer-involved shooting occurred.
- Number of police officers terminated for cause in each California city.
- Size of police department in each California City.
- Number of call-outs for each California jurisdiction.
- Number of property and violent crimes for each California jurisdiction.
- Clearance rates for each California Jurisdiction.
- Conviction rates for people arrested by each California jurisdiction.
- Racial breakdown for those arrested by each California jurisdiction.
- Resolution of all officer-involved shooting incidents in each California jurisdiction.
- Racial Breakdown of traffic stops and street stops in each California jurisdiction.
- Resolution of all complaints against police officers/departments in each California jurisdiction.
- Database of police reports involving fatal incidents which is publicly available.

Clearly, finding, collating and understanding this additional information would be a daunting task—even if this information were readily available to the public, which it is not.

Making Sense Out of All of This Data

The *Washington Post* database provides us with the fact that about 1,000 civilians are killed by the nation's police during an average year. The *Post's* database provides limited details about these killings, or anything else about policing in the US.

The FBI conducts a Police/Public Contact Survey periodically. This survey suggests that there are at least 50M police/public interactions yearly. Given that number is more-or-less true, then the likelihood of a fatal interaction with the police becomes:

$$\text{Likelihood of Fatal Police Interaction (all Races)} = (1/50,000)$$

And ..

$$\text{Likelihood of a Fatal Black Police Interaction} = (1/200,000)$$

If the number of police/public interactions were greater than 50M, then the likelihood of a fatal incident would be even smaller than those shown above.

It is difficult to understand how rational people would buy into the hysteria of the police killing Blacks in vast numbers. This data proves that this is not true.

Yet—too many of our nation's population have bought into the hysteria.

WrapUp

The events of 2020 have brought the nation's police under intense scrutiny because of the actions of a few officers who clearly are guilty of offenses ranging from abuse of power to the wrongful deaths of civilians. Sadly, the media and social networks contributed to the madness engulfing the country by stoking the rage of a large portion of the nation with unsubstantiated claims of systemic police malfeasance and brutality.

Due to the decentralized nature of our Federal form of government, policing is under the control of State/County and local elected officials. The FBI does collect and publish crime related data (Uniform Crime Report), but this report does not contain information about officer-involved shootings or other information about officer misconduct.

Because of this lack of information by the FBI, a lot of misinformation about minorities dying at the hands of the police—particularly Blacks—has managed to take on a life of its own. To fill this gap in the UCR data relative to police-involved shootings, organizations like the *Washington Post* have attempted to collect and publish information relating to officer-involved shootings.

While the *Post* seems to have published this data with an anti-police point-of-view, examination of the data reveals that only about 1,000 individuals die during confrontations with the nation's police on a yearly basis. The data clearly establishes that fewer than 250 Blacks die during these confrontations. DoJ/Department of Justice Statistics produces a Police/Public Interaction Survey that claims that there are at least 50M police interactions year—of which 1,000 of these contacts results in the death of a civilian.

The tables in this investigation use the *Post's* police shooting data to demonstrate that the number of fatal officer-involved shootings are typically small in number other than in the nation's largest urban areas like Chicago, Los Angeles and Houston. Regrettably, the *Post's* data does not provide any context as to what provoked the fatal confrontations—other than the possibility of mental illness on the part of the deceased.

Table.3 merges data from the Census, the FBI's UCR and the *Post's* police shooting data. This table shows that over 7,000 Blacks are killed yearly by other Blacks, but only 250 Blacks are killed by the nation's police. This kind of table needs to become part of all police performance reports.

Like so many large data collections trying to document police activity, the *Washington Post's* collection is flawed—but even flawed, it offers the only publicly available data about police-involved shootings resulting in civilian death. Regardless of the *Post's* politics for publishing this data—it provides insight into the nature of fatal confrontations with the public—particularly from the police point-of-view. This investigation explores that data in ways that the Media probably would not.

There is far too much misinformation about police shootings, so to quote Heather Mac Donald (Manhattan Institute): “The nation is being torn apart by lies”. Hopefully, this investigation will help to dispel some of that misinformation.

Wayne Martin is a longtime resident of the Silicon Valley with over four decades of work experience in the computer industry.

Questions

- Has your police department provided you with this sort of information regularly?
- If your jurisdiction has a charter, does your charter contain clear language as to the role and reporting structure of the police department?
- Do elected officials discuss crime in your jurisdiction in public meetings?
- Do elected officials in your jurisdiction review cases of officer-involved shootings?
- Do elected officials in your jurisdiction review cases of complaints against individual officers?
- How many police officers have been dismissed for cause in your jurisdiction during the past two years?
- How much money has your jurisdiction paid to settle complaints against police officers?
- Do you know how many laws are in your municipal code that the police in your jurisdiction must enforce?
- Have you read the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) established by your local police department?
- Does the police department in your jurisdiction publish a yearly performance report that includes the number of public-police interactions, as well as officer-involved shootings?
- If your local police department offers “ride-a-longs”, have you spent some time with your police in the field?
- Would you consider your local police department as “transparent”?
- Have you reviewed any dashcam videos of your local police department?

[Note: Data from government agencies does not always demonstrate the same values for similar entities, due to different data harvesting techniques and sources, different statistical models used to reduce the data and different software that might not produce the same output for the same input.]

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