

Police Brutality in Racial Discrimination

By Madeline R.

SOC 100 – 1902

Borough of Manhattan Community College, BMCC

Prof. Remi Alapo

Spring 2020



What is Police Brutality and Racial Discrimination?

Police brutality is when a police officer causes a civil rights violation and acts with excessive force in opposition to a civilian

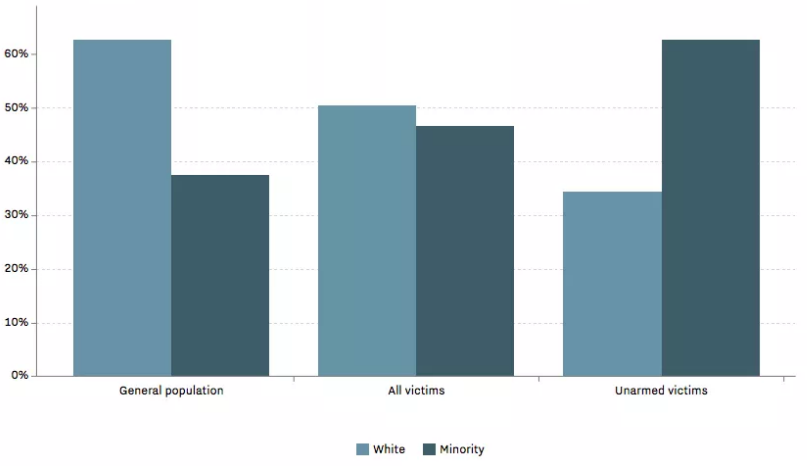


Racial Discrimination is discriminating against an individual based on the color of their skin



Unarmed victims of police killings are more likely to be minorities

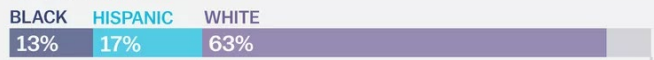
Racial demographics in percent of general population in 2014 and people killed by police from January to May 2015



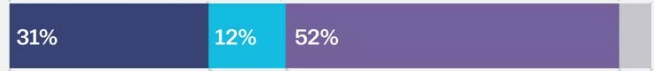
Vox

Police kill a disproportionate number of black people

US population



All people killed by police



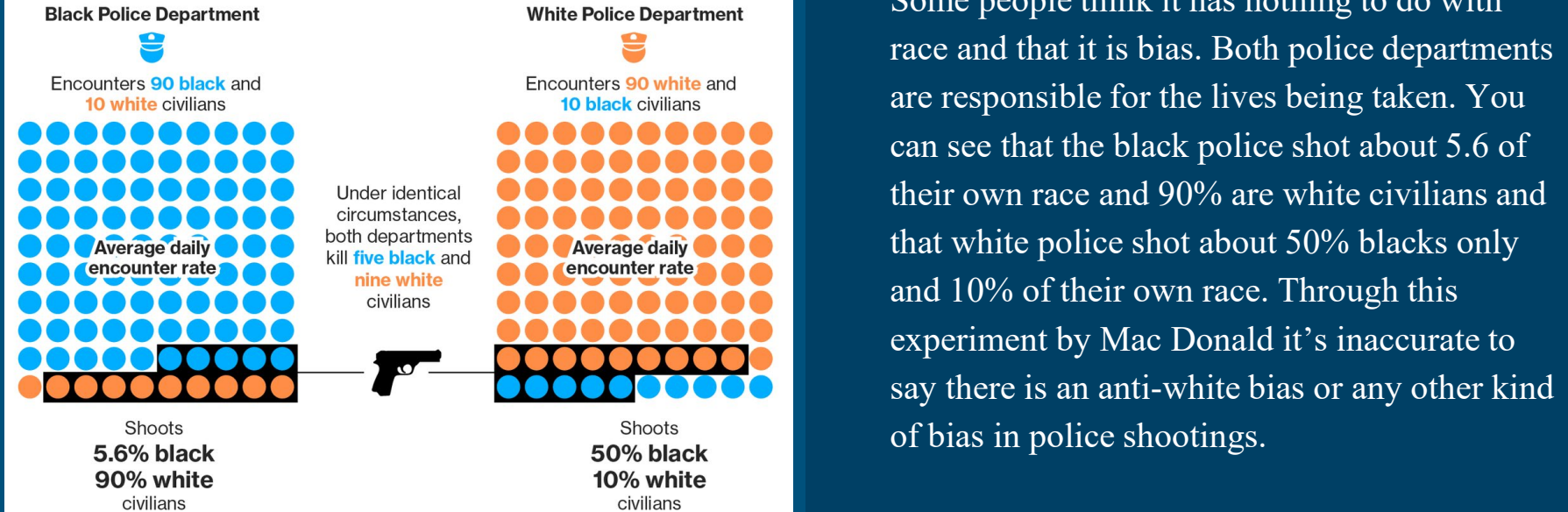
People killed by policing while not attacking



In these graphs shown, you can see that minorities were innocently targeted. In fact, black people are also much more likely to be arrested for drugs, even though they're not more likely to use or sell them.

Ignoring Encounter Rates Masks Potential Racial Bias

Similar shootings—but with different encounter rates



Source: CityLab research

Some people think it has nothing to do with race and that it is bias. Both police departments are responsible for the lives being taken. You can see that the black police shot about 5.6 of their own race and 90% are white civilians and that white police shot about 50% blacks only and 10% of their own race. Through this experiment by Mac Donald it's inaccurate to say there is an anti-white bias or any other kind of bias in police shootings.

In 2012 an incident occurred in which Trayvon Martin was shot in a gated community by a security officer. The security officer shot and killed the 17 year old because he felt threatened, but there was no evidence that the 17 year old was doing anything illegal. In later reports the security officer claimed that he feared Trayvon Martin had a gun, but was found with only a can of Arizona and a bag of Skittles in his possession. This is an example of racial discrimination.



In this image we can see how protestors, majority of them being caucasians are able to to stand and protest with assault weapons. In many cases minorities who are sometimes even unarmed are shot and killed by police officers simply because they feel threatened.



Reports on Racial Disparities

- African-American adults are 5.9 times as likely to be incarcerated than whites and Hispanics are 3.1 times as likely
- African Americans are more likely than white Americans to be arrested; once arrested, they are more likely to be convicted; and once convicted, and they are more likely to experience lengthy prison sentences.
- As of 2001, one of every three black boys born in that year could expect to go to prison in his lifetime
- African Americans were incarcerated in local jails at a rate 3.5 times that of non-Hispanic whites in 2016

October is Youth Justice Awareness Month
TAKE ACTION

African-American youth are

9 TIMES



and Latino youth are

4 TIMES



more likely than white youth to
receive an adult prison sentence
for the **SAME CRIME.**



PUBLIC OPINION



3 OUT OF **4**

Americans support requiring the juvenile justice system to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the system.

CAMPAIGN FOR

YOUTH JUSTICE

www.campaignforyouthjustice.org

“In early 1999, nearly 2,000 citizens were asked to express their opinions about the courts in a survey conducted by the National Center For State Courts.¹ The survey revealed that only 23% of the people surveyed have a “great deal” of trust in the courts of their communities and an additional 52% have only “some” trust. Further, the survey revealed dissatisfaction with our judicial system—in access to justice, timeliness, independence, accountability, equality, and fairness. The level of African American dissatisfaction was higher in every category. Sixty-eight percent of African Americans felt they were treated worse than white people and almost 45% of the white people surveyed agreed with this perception. In short, the majority of African Americans surveyed, and nearly half of the white people surveyed by the National Center for State Courts believed the justice system is racially skewed.”

This survey not only shows how minorities feel that they are mistreated and not properly represented in the court system, but that even the majorities in this case caucasians can also see the injustice.

Cases fighting against police brutality, excessive force and abuse

A case of Andrew Sledd, who was a African American student, was shot down in his own apartment overnight by the Chicago Police Department. Officers broke into his house without a consent or reporting attending. Sledd, with his fiancé in the apartment as well thought someone was breaking in therefore he grabbed a rifle to defend himself but instead was shot by the cops. The cops left him wound and permanently injured.

Robert Thomas and Thomas Cunningham, were two African American men, who were repeatedly tased with a taser gun for no reason by the Riverdale Police Officers, and then to find out that it was an falsely arrested and despitefully prosecuted in an effort to hide the officers' wrongdoing and brutality

In Conclusion...

Racial discrimination has consisted to be a prominent issue in society. There are reports in which the audience can see how minorities such as African Americans are often treated unfairly not only by the police officials but even in the court system. The issue continues to be dealt with even in modern times such as minorities being punished for crimes that may or in many cases have not committed. There have been cases in which minorities will even lose their lives because police feel that they are unsafe or “threatened”, but in other cases a caucasian can perform the same act and not be punished as severely. But together we unite and fight through this with the proof of internet and coming together because we all can fight for social and racial equality.

Works Cited

- Mock, Brentin, and CityLab. “The Problem With Research on Racial Bias and Police Shootings.” *CityLab*, 7 Feb. 2020, www.citylab.com/equity/2020/02/police-violence-racial-bias-shootings-by-race-research-data/605866/.
- Lopez, German. “There Are Huge Racial Disparities in How US Police Use Force.” *Vox*, Vox, 13 Aug. 2016, www.vox.com/identities/2016/8/13/17938186/police-shootings-killings-racism-racial-disparities.
- Balko, Radley. “Opinion | 21 More Studies Showing Racial Disparities in the Criminal Justice System.” *The Washington Post*, WP Company, 9 Apr. 2019, www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2019/04/09/more-studies-showing-racial-disparities-criminal-justice-system/.
- Porter, Nicole D. “Report to the United Nations on Racial Disparities in the U.S. Criminal Justice System.” *The Sentencing Project*, 19 Apr. 2018, www.sentencingproject.org/publications/un-report-on-racial-disparities/.
- “Police Brutality and Violence Cases.” *People's Law Office*, peopleslawoffice.com/issues-and-cases/police-brutality/.