

**NEW
ERA
OF
PUBLIC
SAFETY**

AN ADVOCACY TOOLKIT FOR FAIR, SAFE,
AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY POLICING



II. POLICING BY THE THE NUMBERS

**Facts are important in
your advocacy. Here are
some useful statistics
that can help inform
your organizing.**

Profiling:

- Officers stop Black drivers at higher rates than White drivers.²
- Officers ticket, search, and arrest Black and Latinx drivers more often than White drivers.³
- When searching Black and Latinx drivers, officers have less evidence than when searching White drivers and are less likely to find contraband.⁴
- Officers are almost three times more likely to search Black and Latinx drivers than White drivers.⁵
- Black people are four times more likely than White people to be arrested for marijuana.⁶
- According to a recent study, half of transgender people report feeling uncomfortable seeking police assistance. Approximately six percent of transgender people reported they experienced bias-based assault by an officer.⁷

Use of Force:

- Officers in the United States killed approximately 998 people in 2018.⁸
- Native Americans have the highest rates of fatal encounters with police, followed by Black people.⁹
- The overwhelming majority of people killed by officers from 2015 to 2018 died by gunshot (95 percent). The remaining deaths occurred as a result of other uses of force (e.g., Tasers, physical force).¹⁰
- Black people are three times more likely to be killed by officers than White people. Between 2010 and 2012, Black men aged 15-19 were 21 times more likely to be killed by officers than their White male counterparts.¹¹
- Unarmed Black people (especially women) are more likely to be killed than unarmed people of other racial or ethnic backgrounds.¹²
- At least one-quarter (24 percent) of incidents of people killed by police from 2015 to 2018 involved people with signs of unmet mental health needs.¹³
- Black people are 2.5 times more likely than White people, and 1.7 times more likely than Latinx people, to experience the threat or use of nonlethal force during an encounter with police officers.¹⁴

Sexual Misconduct:

- A police officer is caught in an act of sexual misconduct about every five days.¹⁵
- Approximately 70 percent of sexual misconduct cases involve people subject to traffic stops, crime victims and witnesses, or minors.¹⁶
- One-quarter of known survivors of police sexual misconduct are minors.¹⁷

Accountability:

- As of 2015, all 50 states and the District of Columbia failed to comply with international standards of lethal force by law enforcement officers.¹⁸
- From 2006 to 2017, at least 1,881 police officers were fired from the nation's 37 largest police departments — 451 of those officers successfully appealed and won their jobs back.¹⁹
- Grand juries rarely return indictments in officer-involved shooting cases. For example, in Dallas, of the 81 officer-involved shootings reviewed by a grand jury between 2008 and 2012, there was only one indictment.²⁰
- A U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) investigation of the Chicago Police Department found that the department sustained fewer than two percent of 30,000 misconduct complaints between 2010 and 2015.²¹
- The Baltimore Police Department sustained only one of 60 complaints of unlawful strip searches from 2012 to 2016.²²
- The Philadelphia Police Department sustained 138 of 8,555 misconduct complaints between 2013 and 2016; however, none of the officers were penalized.²³





IX. ENDNOTES

II. Policing by the Numbers

² See "Findings." The Stanford Open Policing Project. Retrieved from <https://openpolicing.stanford.edu/findings/>.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Langton, Lynn and Durose, Matthew. (2016). Police Behavior during Traffic and Street Stops, 2011. *US Department of Justice*. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/pbtss11.pdf>.

⁶ See "The War on Marijuana in Black and White." ACLU. Retrieved from <https://www.aclu.org/issues/smart-justice/sentencing-reform/war-marijuana-black-and-white>.

⁷ See "Reforming Police and Ending Anti-Transgender Violence; Blueprint for Equality: A Transgender Federal Agenda." National Center for Transgender Equality. Retrieved from <https://www.transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NCTE%20Federal%20Blueprint%20Chapter%206%20Police%20and%20Ending%20Violence.pdf>.

⁸ Sullivan, John et al. (2018). Fatal police shootings of unarmed people have significantly declined, experts say. The Washington Post. Retrieved from https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/fatal-police-shootings-of-unarmed-people-have-significantly-declined-experts-say/2018/05/03/d5eab374-4349-11e8-8569-26fda6b404c7_story.html?utm_term=.3e3c112a5d37.

⁹ Ajilore, Olugbenga. (2017). Native Americans deserve more attention in the police violence conversation. Urban Institute. Retrieved from <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/native-americans-deserve-more-attention-police-violence-conversation>.

¹⁰ See "Police Shooting Database." The Washington Post. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/police-shootings/>.

¹¹ Gabrielson, Ryan et al. (2014). Deadly Force, in Black and White. ProPublica. Retrieved from <https://www.propublica.org/article/deadly-force-in-black-and-white>.

¹² See "Police Shooting Database." The Washington Post. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/national/police-shootings/>; also see Everding, Gerry. (2018). Police kill unarmed blacks more often, especially when they are women, study finds. The Source. Retrieved from <https://source.wustl.edu/2018/02/police-kill-unarmed-blacks-often-especially-women-study-finds/>.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2015). Report: From 2002-11 Blacks Were 2.5 Times More Likely than Whites to Experience Nonfatal Force by Police. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/press/punf0211pr.cfm>.

¹⁵ Spina, Matthew. (2015). When a Protector Becomes a Predator. Abusing the Law. Retrieved from <https://s3.amazonaws.com/bncore/projects/abusing-the-law/index.html>

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

- ¹⁷ Stinson, Philip et al. (2016). Police Integrity Lost: A Study of Law Enforcement Officers Arrested. U.S. Department of Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249850.pdf>.
- ¹⁸ Bienert, Anja et al. (2015). Use of Force. *Amnesty International*. Retrieved from https://www.amnestyusa.org/files/amnesty_international_guidelines_on_use_of_force-2.pdf.
- ¹⁹ Kelly, Kimbriell et al. (2017). Fired/Rehired. Washington Post. Retrieved from https://www.amnestyusa.org/files/amnesty_international_guidelines_on_use_of_force-2.pdf.
- ²⁰ Casselman, Ben. (2014). It's Incredibly Rare for a Grand Jury to Do What Ferguson's Just Did. *FiveThirtyEight*. Retrieved from <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/ferguson-michael-brown-indictment-darren-wilson/>.
- ²¹ See "Investigation of the Chicago Police Department." United States Department of Justice Civil Rights Division and United States Attorney's Office Northern District of Illinois. January 13, 2017. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/opa/file/925846/download>.
- ²² See "Investigation of the Baltimore City Police Department." US Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. August 10, 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/crt/file/883296/download>.
- ²³ Marin, Max and Briggs, Ryan. (2018). Complaints show Philly police escape discipline for violent misconduct. *Philadelphia Weekly*. Retrieved from http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/news/complaints-show-philly-police-escape-discipline-for-violent-misconduct/article_c283b3da-1bc6-11e8-bfbd-47e1758196fe.html.



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