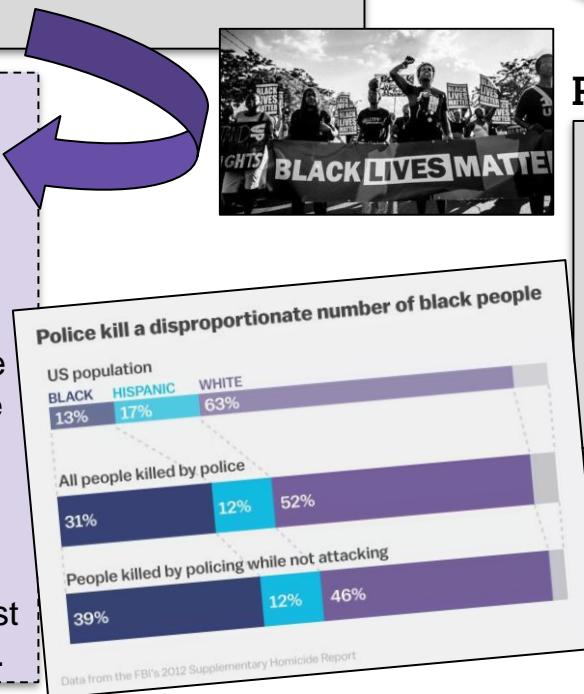


Police Force and Racial Disparities

An analysis of the available FBI data by Dara Lind for Vox found that US police kill black people at disproportionate rates: Black people accounted for 31 percent of police killing victims in 2012, even though they made up just 13 percent of the US population. Although the data is incomplete because it's based on voluntary reports from police agencies around the country, it highlights the vast disparities in how police use force.

One of those potential factors: individual cops' racial bias. Studies show, for example, that officers are quicker to shoot black suspects in video game simulations. For critics, the disparities and high-profile killings have fostered concerns that black lives matter less to police, and that the next victim of a police shooting could be just about any black American.



Black Lives Matter (BLM) is an international activist movement, originating in the African-American community, that campaigns against violence and systemic racism towards black people. BLM regularly holds protests speaking out against police killings of black people, and broader issues such as racial profiling, police brutality, and racial inequality in the United States criminal justice system.

Real-Life Cases

Philando Castile (July 6, 2016, in Falcon Heights, Minn.)

Officer Jeronimo Yanez claimed he pulled over Philando Castile for a broken tail light, though radio calls later showed the officer thought Castile resembled a robbery suspect. Shortly after Castile informed Yanez he had a gun in the car (for which Castile had a permit), Yanez shot Castile twice in the heart. Yanez was acquitted of all charges.



Terence Crutcher (Sept. 16, 2016, in Tulsa)

A white Tulsa police officer, called the unarmed Crutcher a "bad dude" before fatally shooting him with his hands up as he stood near his vehicle in a street. A jury found the police officer not guilty of first-degree manslaughter.

