

# FINAL REPORT



# 20

LA RAZA DATABASE  
RESEARCH PROJECT

# 23

PREPARED BY IVETTE XOCHIYOTL BOYZO

# Table Of Contents

Executive Summary .....	004	Median Age .....	033
En Memoria (In Memoriam) .....	006	Gender .....	035
<b>Introduction:</b>		Mental Illness .....	036
“All Life is Sacred”, By Roberto ‘Dr. Cintli’		Reported Threat/Danger to self or others .....	037
Rodriguez .....	009	Form of Fleeing .....	038
Overview and Background .....	016	Armed/Unarmed .....	039
Limitations .....	017	Reported Causes of Death: Deadly Force .....	040
Methodology .....	018	Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police .....	041
<b>General Findings</b>		<b>Conclusion</b> .....	043
I. Demographic Data .....	019	Recommendations .....	044
II. Racial Data .....	021	About LEAD .....	046
III. Geography: California/Texas - Greater Southwest “killing fields” .....	022	References .....	047
IV. Impunity - Lack of accountability .....	026	Preliminary Report/ About Unidos .....	048
V. Justified/Unjustified Killings .....	026	Appendix I .....	049
VI. Whose responsibility is it? .....	026	Definitions .....	053
VII. The “unknowns” and the unidentified? .....	027	Acknowledgments .....	056
“Unknown” Deaths unAdjusted count, Figure 4 .....	028	La Raza Database Research Project Team .....	057
Increment of Deaths .....	030	Research Volunteers .....	059
Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement Increment (2000–2022) .....	031	Artistic Musical Compilation. ....	059
		Addendums: Essay Authors .....	060

<b>ADDENDUMS</b> .....	062		
“On Race and Killings by Law Enforcement”		“2,500 Deaths on the Border”	
By Alan Stevenson .....	063	By Enrique Morones .....	089
“The Fatal Police Shooting of Trayford Pellerin”		“No One Should be Killed Trying to Migrate”	
By Thibeaux.....	065	By María E. Aparicio .....	091
“Police violence and the killing of American		“The Silence of what We Know”	
Indians” By Michael Yellow Bird .....	068	By Ivette “Xochiyotl” Boyzo .....	094
“Police Brutality amongst Alaskan Natives”		“The Pandemic of Murdered and Missing	
by Sovereign, Earth-Feather C .....	071	Indigenous Women”	
“Centro CSO Fighting Against Chicano Police		By <i>Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women</i>	
Brutality” By Marisol Marquez .....	073	<i>Washington: Means, Morning-Star D. &amp;</i>	
“LAPD Encounter”		Sovereign, Earth-Feather C .....	097
By Sammy Carrera .....	075	“Houseless, mental health, and substance use: a	
“Fresno Stolen Lives”		cop’s murder justification” By Jorge Boyzo ...	099
By Gloria Hernandez .....	076	“SILENT HOLOCAUST: How the	
Excerpt of an article from “the Nation”,		Educational System and the Media Criminalize	
Author: Roberto Lovato, By Maria Gomez		and Dehumanize Brown People Leading to a	
Murphy.....	078	“School to Prison Pipeline” Recidivism and	
“Wake up Mario” By Martin Espada .....	080	Death” By Nicolas Romero .....	103
“The government’s non-tracking of violence		“Spirit, Spirits, and Spirituality: Our Dimension	
against human beings”		of Loss and Resistance”	
By Kenneth Sebastian Leon.....	083	By Dr. Manuel X. Zamarripa & Jessica	
“Towards Accountability of Violence Against		Tlazoltiani Zamarripa .....	106
Raza in El Paso, Texas and Beyond”		“The Crying Woman is Wailing”	
By Miguel Juárez .....	085	By Maestro Jerry Tello .....	107
“Vigilante Violence in Kansas”			
By Fernanda Preciado .....	087		

## Executive Summary

Unjustified violence in the United States, whether carried out by law enforcement, the military, immigration agents or by vigilantes, especially against people of color, has been endemic and can be traced to even before the nation's founding, to the arrival of Columbus to this hemisphere. In the US, racial conflict has largely played out in black and white. Americans tend to not know the extensive history of Mexicans, Chicanos, *Raza* in the United States and our struggle for civil rights.

The national focus on Brown issues is too limited. It often revolves solely around immigration, particularly undocumented immigrants. The Indigenous Based peoples are viewed and treated as less than human. This racialized violence in its current forms includes torture, false imprisonment, mass incarceration, shootings, vicious beatings, harassment, kidnappings and rape.

Historically, this violence has generally been carried out for purposes of social control, especially within the past generation in which tens of thousands of people have been killed or have died at the hands of these State Sponsored criminals. This also includes the rising vigilante violence against Asians and violence against Native, African American and migrant women.

La Raza Database Research Project, founded and Directed by the late Roberto "Dr. Cintli" Rodriguez (†), is a volunteer based collaborative project with the Latino Education and Advocacy Days Organization (LEAD) at Cal State San Bernardino to investigate the undercount and inaccuracies reported of the deaths of people of color, with a focus on *Raza* deaths by law enforcement in the United States.

Although Congress instructed the Attorney General in 1994 to compile and publish annual statistics on police use of excessive force, this was never carried out, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation does not collect these data either. Simply, there is no good official data.

There is neither any law enforcement accountability nor is there any justice for the people and their families who have experienced these horrifying injustices. This is further compounded by the fact that *Raza* deaths are rarely mentioned when discussing human and civil rights violations by law enforcement.

The nonexistence of a comprehensive standardized and centralized Federal Database leads to an inaccurate reporting of these deaths which results in an over 98% rate of impunity.

The number of Brown and Black people killed in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement is much higher than reported by the media and national lists - perhaps by more than double.

La Raza Database team has looked into the undercounting of deaths by collecting information from publicly available open-sources.

One salient feature about all databases examined is that Brown peoples are often shoved into either the "unknown" or the "White" racial categories, and often also, unidentified altogether, resulting in huge undercounts and thus, invisibilization. That has been one of the most challenging items, determining the race/ethnic origin of *Raza* individuals that were either in the white, unknown or unspecified categories.

Our Preliminary Report introduced by UnidosUS in May of 2021 (*Special Advance Fact Sheet: Deaths of People of Color By Law Enforcement Are Severely Under-Counted*), determined that deaths of Brown - Indigenous based peoples at the hands of police are undercounted by approximately 30 percent. For our Final Report, the challenge to identify or reassign *Raza* /"Latino", Asian, Native American or Black was achieved by comparing the US Census Bureau 160 thousand surname list file of race/ethnicity with the surnames of all individuals in La Raza Database. Focusing on the over 9,000 unknown/unspecified individuals from the original database, over 99 percent were reassigned. The vast majority were reclassified as "Latino" or Asian-Pacific Islander. Even the adjusted count likely understates the disparity, since significant numbers of Brown people have "European" surnames not captured by the surname match and would not be identified by this analysis.

Because of the lack of attention to *Raza*, even though our rates are generally in the same vicinity as the Native and Black communities, we are pushing for Congressional hearings, Legislation, one of which also includes the standardized and centralized gathering of data. One of our recommendations just as equally important is to present the findings to the OAS and the UN's International Criminal Court.

It is safe to conclude that aside from the racial, ethnic and cultural background, the communality people of color share from all this violence and dehumanization is a near one hundred percent impunity rate.

*Ya Basta!*

We stand in solidarity with all communities experiencing the effects of violence and in advocating and building a common, anti-racist future, we must forever bear in mind that racism and violence are not completely unavoidable but are animated by the countless actions, expectations, and decisions we take in our everyday lives.

# En Memoria de Roberto “Dr Cintli” Rodríguez

Sunrise: June 7th, 1954

Sunset: July 31st, 2023

*“Brown peoples, within the United States and especially within the context of law enforcement violence, are in effect, Indigenous peoples; they are not Europeans. Also, neither are the tribal American Indians, though most are de-Indigenized, but Indigenous nonetheless. What this means is that they too are viewed and treated as “enemy others,” as less than human, in the way, and of course, as aliens.”*

**-Roberto “Dr Cintli” Rodriguez (†)**

On July 31st, 2023 the Indigenous & Chicano communities were paralyzed by the heartbreaking news of Dr. Cintli’s unexpected transition due to heart failure. He was in *“nuestra Tierra Sagrada”* our Sacred Teotihuacan.

La Raza Database Research Project is an initiative led and directed by Roberto “Dr. Cintli” Rodriguez, Emeritus Professor at University of Arizona, awarded Journalist and Columnist, Activist, Poet, Author and Writer; but more than that: It is the culmination of a vision, a statement of resistance and survival. Around 2020-2021, he gathered around 50 people from all over the Country to make that vision come to fruition. People with all kinds of expertise, *testimonios*, backgrounds, and one thing in common, that is a fervent dedication to *La Lucha*.

While most people might familiar with his remarkable academic and scholarly achievements, his revolutionary ancestral work and his loyalty to pursuing truth and justice, I want to speak to the character of a beloved elder, respected *Temachtiani*, the passionate, humble caring man.

His story is one of resilience and determination, an example of what pain looks like when turned into power.

Born in Aguascalientes, Mexico, Dr. Cintli’s journey began as a young “chocolate brown” boy who crossed an invisible border, confronting the challenges of a foreign language and the prejudices of this country. Growing up in “East Los” he found himself at the heart of inspiring political organizing and resistance. Roberto was witness to historical accounts like the Student walkouts in 1968 which was happening simultaneously to the student massacre in Tlatelolco, Mexico City. These are some of the events that impacted him profoundly, shaping his knowledge seeking psyche.

It would be just a couple years after that on August 29 of 1970, during the National Chicano Moratorium against the Vietnam War March and Rally, a couple blocks away from his home, when the East LA community would bear witness to the assassinations of Lyn Ward, Angel Diaz and journalist Ruben Salazar from whom he sought inspiration and the reason why he pursued journalism.

Dr. Cintli described that historic time of East Los as “being under siege by an occupation force (Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department) until Jan 31, 1971 when Gustav Montag was killed”. It was in that same neighborhood, same “Whittier Boulevard” that as a young Journalist, he would be marked by a racist vicious attack on March 23rd-24th of 1979, when he was senselessly brutally assaulted by the same Sheriff’s department (LASD) who killed Ruben Salazar. The nearly deadly attack left Roberto with a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) that impacted his memory, caused severe painful migraines and cost him the ability to dream for many years. The dreaming would come back to him while he was in a corn field in Morelos, Mexico, thanks to a sacred medicinal plant.

Despite the challenges and trauma, he went on to become a Professor and pursue a Phd. in Mass Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2005.

Dr. Cintli was a visionary, a pioneer, who in his waking hours worked tirelessly and dedicated his life to creating the changes needed for a better treatment and to reclaim our humanness, not only of our *gente de Maiz*, but also for all peoples who deserve to live and be treated with dignity, simply for existing. Following his retirement, he settled in Teotihuacan, Mexico, where he initially intended to focus on his passion for writing. Instead, he co-founded “Aztlanahuac Cultural Embassy” with the support of Los Angeles Indigenous Peoples Alliance (LAIPA). His vision was to ensure there is a place for our *Raza* to reconnect with our ancestral roots, for the next generations to have access to our cultural heritage, especially for *Xicanos* to embrace our Indigenous based identity, a birth given right full of power by reclaiming our narratives. He was a firm believer that every person should visit Teotihuacan at least once in their lifetime. His cultural accomplishments and contributions have left an indelible mark and blueprint on our collective consciousness.

Roberto was very clear on one thing: he didn't want violence to be his legacy.

Through his initiatives, leadership, writings, books, and this Database, he ensured us a legacy of love, compassion, an exemplary embodiment of what it means to be humane.

He understood change is a constant action, which to be achieved takes multiple generations.

Committed to making that change possible, we spent the last few years working on this research project alongside his childhood friend, Jesus Garcia, the brilliant mind behind the demographic and statistical work required for such work. Dr Cintli understood too well our findings will not be perfect, and that not everyone will agree with us, yet, despite the challenges he she was adamant this project can and will serve as a record, a reference point for the future, providing a more truthful and accurate account of the dehumanizing violences we face as people of color in our own ancestral lands.

This Database serves as a connection of the historical forms of violence inflicted upon us, our land and our peoples. It marks the lifelong observations of a Brown Indigenous Xicano, a Yolqui who came back from the death to go into a depth search of the truth, where he found his roots, our roots as Maiz based civilizations, and the roots that birthed this Country, thus tracing back this shapeshifter violence to 1492.

This Final Report marks the culmination of a Yolqui's life dedicated to justice and truth.

We revere this report as one of the many fingerprints he has left for humanity. We honor his memory, his legacy, his unwavering dedication, his bravery in the face of fascism and erasure, his unyielding pursuit of truth and justice.

May his life and legacy inspire us to continue the work he began, to honor our heritage, and to strive for a world where dignity and equality prevail.

Dr. Cintli vive!

Hasta siempre querido profe.

-Ivette Xochiyotl Boyzo

La Raza Database Research Project Manager.



## Introduction

# “All Life is Sacred”

By Roberto “Dr. Cintli” Rodriguez (†)

That the over 35,000 thousand killings or deaths at the hands of US law enforcement agencies found within this report are accompanied by almost 100% impunity, pretty much tells us all we need to know. It also tells us what needs to happen; one way or another, this rampant brutality and out-of-control killings have to be stopped.

Because this is not a new development, and especially because of that impunity, the time may be right to go to the the UN’s International Criminal Court of Justice, not to affirm what we already know, that due to normalized racial profiling, it is communities of color that are most severely affected by this violence. Instead, taking these cases before that court should happen because that is precisely why it was created; to prosecute cases when the judicial system does not function in home countries.

There is no naïveté here; winning is probably not possible in the short term, but it should be done regardless because it will serve notice to the world that this violence indeed is primarily racial in nature, and anything but blind or random.

One of the most salient aspects of this report is that it is incontrovertible that the work here

should not only be the government’s responsibility, to both account for every one of these human rights violations, but also, to ensure that every one of them is impartially investigated, and prosecuted, and imprisoned or exonerated, whichever is called for.

It should also be the government’s responsibility to make the process transparent and make this information available to the public. But expecting the government to do this, indeed, is naive.

Further, its task should also be to account and hold accountable officers and law enforcement departments for the rampant and widespread brutality that often results in those brutalized ending up being hospitalized and charged with assaulting officers, with many also ending up in the carceral system, becoming part of the 2 million-plus peoples in US prisons, in the largest prison system in the world.

That is the next big challenge; to tally up - and create data - regarding the totality of this brutality, a violence that in effect, remains invisibilized by this society. At the moment, we know of no entity that tallies up all the law enforcement violence taking place in this country.

Why the government has never taken up this task tells us the government’s priority per the lives of the citizens and residents of this country.

To date, the government still collects data in regards to deaths at the hands of law enforcement, from law enforcement agencies on a voluntary basis, which at best results in extreme minimization of this reality.

Since the death of Michael Brown in 2014, it is media companies and volunteer researchers that have gathered data on these killings/deaths and as such, the data necessarily is incomplete and what is certain is that this results in both a large undercount and a lack of accountability.

Since 2000, the number of those killed or who have died as of September 0f 2023 at the hands of, or in the presence of law enforcement, amounts to over 35,000 people (the numbers have since increased). Of those, more than 60% are people of color. But while this percentage is abominable and criminal, it is actually the total number that is most abhorrent. No democracy in the world sees such war-like casualties. These deaths/killings are beyond crisis levels, constituting a pandemic, with no apparent antidote. Which of these killings and or brutality are justifiable or unjustifiable is not knowable, precisely because independent and impartial investigations are generally unheard of and thus the impunity.

With the killing of Michael Brown, in Ferguson, Missouri, the nation has again focused on this issue, akin to what happened in Los Angeles after the vicious beating, caught on videotape of Rodney King in 1993. The killing of Brown not simply triggered nationwide uprisings, but also, a national conversation on race and the rampant racialized violence.

What these national conversations did was force the country as a whole to focus on how this country has treated and continues to treat its Black citizens, literally, since 1619.

The one thing this report does is acknowledge that this and similar kinds of violence actually began on this continent in 1492, with the dehumanization of Indigenous and African peoples.

Law enforcement violence in the United States today is similarly based on dehumanization and generally has affected and continues to mostly affect people of color and also peoples and communities considered “throwaways” or “disposables.”

Despite this, the national conversation on race in this country has generally been held within a Black-White framework. Thus this report broadens the conversation, primarily via data that shows that the killings of the Indigenous-Black-Brown communities of this nation are all at crisis levels and in fact, all are also part of that same pandemic that annually kills peoples of all races, colors and cultures at exorbitant rates, though even any instance of unjustifiable police violence is unacceptable.

In that sense, this is what is different about this report; with certainty and without hesitation, we can reiterate that in a nation of some 330 million, the number of killings since 2000 constitute war-time numbers, and it is not something that began in 2000.

Perhaps this same project will one day be able to cite data from the immediate post-WWII-era because the killings from that point forward appear to have similar characteristics, whereas previous to that era, the violence was somewhat different, which included genocide, ethnic cleansing - much of it tied to land theft - rampant discrimination and segregation, vigilante violence, lynchings and forced mass removals and deportations.

For this report, we concentrated on 2000 to the present.

The year 2000 corresponds to one of the databases (Fatal Encounters) that has done what the government has failed to do. In fact, all the databases are doing the work that the government has never done. What we have also added here is the mapping of this violence.

The reason we did this study is because we suspected a fairly large undercounting of peoples killed, especially in the Brown category, the category known to demographers and statisticians as Hispanics or Latinos/as, or as of late, Latinx. This suspicion led us to believe that the way the data is collected is faulty; not intentionally, but rather because of the lack of centralization or standardization in the gathering of data.

This is true especially as it relates to the Brown or Raza category, which is inconsistent at best.

As such, peoples killed with names such as Garcia, Perez and Dominguez end up in the “White” and “unknown” categories, and also in the category of those missed or not identified at all.

Also to be remembered is that many people of Mexican, Central, Caribbean or South American

descent, do not have Spanish-language last names, thus ensuring an even greater undercount of the Brown category.

The Black category also. Through a perusal of databases, we found several years ago that the inconsistent way of categorizing and counting people, produces a fairly large undercount and miscount of Brown peoples, thus the need for a more professional approach and study.

One thing to note regarding the profiling of Brown peoples is that akin to immigration officers, profiling is not just based on color, but on last names and language also, all three of which are racialized in this country.

Equally important, we did not look at this official violence or extralegal violence in isolation. The statistics indeed are of killings/deaths, though what is missing are the Rodney King-type beatings which are commonplace in communities of color.

Historically, such violence has functioned as a system of control, especially in relation to the patrolling of Indigenous-Black-Brown bodies and communities. But beyond physical violence by police are other kinds of violences from, including from immigration agents along the border and violence that takes place in detention centers, almost all of it with 100% impunity.

None of this ends up in most of these databases. To be remembered is that most of the information on such violence is provided voluntarily and haphazardly by law enforcement departments or agencies.

In the same spaces, there is also unchecked vigilante violence, often with the acquiescence of law enforcement and approving right wing politicians.

Often, the mainstream media minimizes the racial aspect of this vigilante violence, especially when it comes to Brown peoples.

A perfect example was the mass killings, the massacre of nearly 2 dozen people by Trump-inspired White Supremacists, who killed 23 people in El Paso, Texas in 2019.

Despite the clear evidence that there is a racial component to this violence, we still hear people from different walks of life, insisting that the violence is color-blind. It is incontrovertible that this law enforcement violence is usually directed at teen-aged boys and young men of color; unfortunately, the killing of young children and elders is not unheard of either.

Historically, the killing of those from these two categories creates a most powerful impact that transcends the communities they come from; these are the ones that do get national attention, such as the killing of Adam Toledo, 13, in Chicago in 2021 or Tamir Rice, 12, of Cleveland in 2014.

In terms of the killing of elders, some cases continue to reverberate, such as that of 73-year-old Francisco Serna of Bakersfield Calif., who was killed with a crucifix in his hand.

Similarly, police violence against women is much less common than against men, but not unheard of, and as can be expected, much of it is against women of color. However, this violence increases when it comes to immigration officers. And on the topic of violence against women, the issue of murdered and missing Indigenous women is also something that affects African American and migrant women also.

The common denominator is impunity. Specifically, the impunity comes in the form of dehumanization, that is, the deaths/disappearances of women are not investigated, just as the deaths at the hands of law enforcement of boys/teenagers and young men are also not investigated independently, which amount to no prosecutions, no trials and no convictions, thus impunity.

One other form of violence that we write about here, but is not included in the statistics are all the thousands of deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border, particularly in the harsh Sonoran desert, including the mountains and rivers, also along the border. An argument can be made that these deaths should be included because these deaths result from intentional U.S. policies.

What about chases involving immigration agents that regularly result in crashes with plenty of migrant deaths?

Those cannot be counted as accidental, not when it is part of a pattern and approved policy.

These “accidents” are not in the same category as sometimes happens when police officers give chase in their jurisdictions. While being careless is not the same as an outright assassination, when certain practices are part of a pattern and result in continued death and serious injuries, then that too has to be called into question and officers should be held accountable.

There is also the issue of spiritual or psychological violence, which is violence against the collective psyche and spirit of communities.

One example is the literal issue of belonging; this society has always had the attitude that Euro-Americans belong in this country, and basically, all others, especially people of color, do not.

Also, imposing artificial or colonial identities on peoples is another example of that. That is absolutely the case of the peoples we have concentrated on.

This includes a war against Raza, Indigenous, Black, Asian American and Ethnic and Critical Race Studies. This can be classified as spiritual violence as they are attempts to ban not simply knowledge, but also history and ways of viewing the world. In these attacks, the primary target groups indeed are people of color.

On this related topic, the killings we have concentrated on are killings against Indigenous-Black-Brown peoples.

The nation's body politic is more familiar with killings against Black peoples, though most Black peoples who are killed, die in anonymity and certainly the majority are not household names. Indigenous peoples are invisibilized even though they were the first to be subjected to genocide, land theft and slavery. And it is not something that ended during the colonial era. To this day, percentage-wise, they are the ones most apt to be brutalized and killed by law enforcement than any other racial/ethnic group in the country.

And yet, it is the Brown populations that are an enigma in all this.

Of those racially profiled and subjected to violence, at least the ones we have concentrated on the most - because that's where the vast majority take place - in the Greater US Southwest - are Brown.

And Brown generally translates to an Indigenous racial profile. How they are categorized by the government, corporations and the mainstream media, generally does not reflect this profile.

Everyone has the right to self-identify, but governments and corporations do not have the right to impose artificial identities on peoples, especially when they serve to obfuscate. Most of these imposed identities are either nonsensical, part of marketing devices and especially function as re-colonizing identities. Brown peoples, within the United States and especially within the context of law enforcement violence, are in effect, Indigenous peoples; they are not Europeans.

Also, neither are they tribal American Indians, though most are de-Indigenized, but Indigenous nonetheless. What this means is that they too are viewed and treated as "enemy others," as less than human, in the way, and of course, as aliens.

Not everyone will agree with this, but what else explains this treatment? Regardless, this is part of not simply the right of peoples to self-identify, but also, an example of spiritual violence in which peoples' cultures, are in effect, destroyed, along with their identities.

One challenge to our research involves the violence against AfroLatinos whom there was much news about in the 1960s-1990s, usually within the context of Puerto Ricans/Dominicans, though virtually invisible during the period of our study. This probably has more to do with media invisibilization, than a reduction of that violence of AfroLatinos and/or Puerto Ricans/Dominicans/Cubans East of the Mississippi, especially on the East Coast corridor.

The lack of centralized and standardized data prevents us from being more precise. What we do know is that these groups are often categorized as Black or Latino and even as white.

Minimally, what we have done is not try and double count.

Also, while the Asian American-Pacific Islander population has not been subjected to the same violences as the other three groups since World War II, in the past 4-5 years, they have once again become one of the nation's favorite scapegoats, in large part due to the former occupant (2017-2021) of the White House.

The vigilante violence and hate crimes against them continues to skyrocket. Their history of course, going back at least to the 19th century, is also one of violence, including along the border. And yet, in this study, we have actually also found a higher number of Asian peoples killed than we would have expected.

Other peoples that have been scapegoated and subjected to discriminatory laws and violence are Arab-Americans and Muslims, this especially after September 11, 2001. Jews too periodically suffer, not from official violence, but what one could characterize as vigilante and mob violence and hate crimes.

It is true that most identifiable groups in this country have at one point or another been subjected to hate and violence, though if we examine the history of Indigenous-Black-Brown peoples in this country,

these are the same three peoples that continue to always be at the top or bottom of the nation's leading indices, whether it is access to health care - in a time of Covid - employment, housing, schooling, dropout/push out rates, mass incarceration, law enforcement and vigilante violence.

Thus, this is the context; not random violence, but rather, a historic environment of dehumanization that continues to this day, especially one that involves impunity for those that commit this systemic violence, permitted by an unfair judicial system, one that is permitted to function by cowardly or complicit politicians and government officials.

This study acknowledges the systemic nature of these violences, but more than that, it also points to a generational media failure to see the true nature and extent of these killings.

For people of color, many of these jurisdictions resemble killing fields, especially in California and Texas. While people of all races and cultures do get killed, the reason for the emphasis on people of color is because our Red-Brown-Black bodies and our communities indeed are patrolled.

That is different from random killings or simply killings/deaths due to bad training, inexperience or bad (apples) officers. If that were the case, the judicial system would function as a check and balance on these errant officers, but such is not the case.

We think that the preliminary results have already made an impact in which the mainstream media now has acknowledged that the violence is much more pervasive than the media's Black and White, random or bad apples narratives.

In part, it was also due to the killing of 13-year-old Adam Toledo of Chicago, at the end of the Derek Chapin trial, the killer of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn

In releasing this report, everyone should be aware that the tragedy here is not simply the scope or the outrageous miscounts and undercounts, etc.

The real tragedy is that each death/each killing has a powerful impact on all those close to those killed and this has a cumulative effect. The one thing we are certain of is that these killings are akin to hate crimes, though it can be posited that in many cases, they indeed are hate crimes.

The reason the category of hate crimes exists is because such violence terrorizes entire communities. That absolutely happens when someone dies or is killed while under law enforcement custody (or brutally beaten, as was the case with Rodney King).

This study is dedicated to the tens of thousands of those killed, of those closest to them, the survivors and to all those that needlessly suffer and are re-traumatized because the path to justice is very long and most of the time, does not result in true justice. All this because all levels of government fail to do their job and all this because of that dehumanization that has long been the norm. We hope this study is a step in the right direction.

**-Roberto "Dr Cintli" Rodriguez (†)**

Associate Professor Mexican American Studies  
University of Arizona.

*La Raza Database Research Project Founder and  
Director.*

## Overview and Background

La Raza Database Research Project was founded and directed by the late Roberto “Dr. Cintli” Rodríguez, who survived a brutal attack by the LASD in 1979, to further look into the inaccurate count of the deaths of people of color by law enforcement agencies in the United States. This national coalition is composed of survivors of law enforcement brutality, community leaders, social justice advocates, researchers, academics, data analysts and demographers, and multiple national-level collaborative partners - all committed to build power against systemic violence in all its forms.

Dr. Cintli’s quest started by comparing well-known Spanish surnames with the names of individuals reported in the “White,” “Other,” and “Unknown” categories of national databases of police killings that were created following the shooting of Michael Brown in 2014.

The reason we did this study is because we suspected a fairly large undercounting of peoples killed, especially in the Brown or Raza category, the category known to demographers and statisticians as Hispanics or Latinos/as, or as of late, Latinx. This suspicion led us to believe that the way the data is collected is faulty; not intentionally, but rather because of the lack of centralization or standardization in the gathering of data. Most of the information on such violence is provided voluntarily and haphazardly by law enforcement departments or agencies.

The Project’s Preliminary Report introduced by UnidosUS in May of 2021 (*Special Advance Fact Sheet: Deaths of People of Color By Law Enforcement Are Severely Under-Counted*), (more info. pg 48), concluded that deaths of Brown - Indigenous based peoples at the hands of police were hugely under-counted in widely reported national databases by a quarter to one-third.

Currently there exist various non-governmental organizations and agencies who do the work of collecting this data, however the numbers only show how many total killings per year are recorded in the lists, not the actual number of people killed by law enforcement. Although the existing listings document the occurrence of a death, they make no implications regarding wrongdoing or justification on the part of the person killed or officer involved.

The data is extremely flawed with respect to age, race–ethnicity and sex.

*Note:* For the purposes of this report, the term “RAZA/LA RAZA” alludes as a way to identify the peoples that others, especially government entities and databases identify as “Latinos/Latinx, Hispanics” (See pg. 55 for the full definition).



# Limitations

- There is no national data collection available to the public: The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) appears to be the lead Federal Government agency assigned with collecting information on deaths of individuals at the hands of police, extracted from a variety of non-standardized sources, including law enforcement, coroner/medical examiners. NVDRS covers many types of violent deaths—including homicides, suicides, and data elements such as mental health, weapons used, relationship problems, demographic characteristics of victims and geographic locations. Unfortunately, NVDRS is limited in who can access and distribute information. Due to confidentiality, names and specific death locations are not available.
- Without access to NVDRS, La Raza Database utilized data from four leading open-source databases:
  - Mapping Police Violence
  - Killed by Police
  - Fatal Encounters
  - Washington Post Police Shootings Database.
- The kinds of incidents covered vary; some are limited only to police shootings, while others cover all deaths while in the custody of law enforcement.
- Due to the lack of a standardized and centralized method to identify race/ethnicity, many people of color are categorized as “white”, “Other” per the officer’s discretion.
  - Discerning race/ethnicity often requires additional research, including reviewing news media, social media, or direct reports by victims’ families.
- Some databases only cover specific years.
- There is no standardized method to count Brown people “Hispanic/Latino”, Indigenous, and Asian and Pacific Islander.
- None of the databases attempts to distinguish between justifiable vs. unjustifiable deaths, which is supposed to be the function of the judicial system; although with very few exceptions, most deaths in police custody never become the subject of judicial proceedings.
- The racial/ethnic identity of some unknown number of people dying in police custody, as well as the circumstances of these deaths, falls into the category of “information withheld by police,” often for lengthy and indeterminate periods.

To address some of these limitations and produce a more accurate count of *Raza* killed by or who died in police custody, Project researchers conducted several analyses.

# Methodology

For the final report, La Raza Database Research Project:

- Aggregated all names reported in open and available national databases of all deaths by or in the custody of police/sheriff from the year 2000 through 2022
- Eliminated duplicate names based on standard social science practices.
- Compared the US Census Bureau 160 thousand surname list file of race/ethnicity with the surnames of all individuals in La Raza Database.
- Focused on the over 9,000 unknown/unspecified individuals from the original database.

The aggregated analysis reveals several key findings:

- The number of Raza killed by or who died in police custody increased by over 30 percent from 4,483 to nearly 6,460
- The number of Asian and Pacific Islanders increased 75 percent from 497 to 2,010.
- The number of Blacks increased 7.1 percent or nearly 600.
- The Native American count grew by 11 percent from 332 to 373.
- The remaining 4,749 were assigned white, increasing from 11317 to a total of 16,066 or nearly 30 percent.
- These numbers are still flawed and likely undercounted given that a significant amount of people have non-ethnic surnames for various reasons, like intermarriage.
- There is not enough awareness or transparency about the amount of people killed by or while in custody of police

The team also aggregated and analyzed the causes of death reported in national databases.

While shootings are by far the most common cause of death for all people in police custody, the data also show large numbers of people who died due to pepper spray, physical restraint (as a jury found killed George Floyd), taser, in or by a vehicle, and a suspiciously high number of people who purportedly experienced a “medical emergency” while in custody.

Lastly, most of the statistics presented in this report reflect the adjusted count after recategorizing most of the “unknowns” (See table 4, pg27)

# General Findings of La Raza Database Project 2000-2023

## I. Demographic data:

Law enforcement violence in the United States by far generally affects teenagers and young men of color more than any other group. In general, people of color are some 40% of the US population though they make up at least 60% of those killed by law enforcement.

The primary targets appear to be Indigenous, Black-Brown peoples and reflect a historic devaluation of their lives since time immemorial.

As a group, American Indians have historically accounted for the highest proportion of those killed in this country. Black-Brown peoples also have sky-high rates, especially when compared to Whites in this country, including also in comparison with countries in Europe (See Appendix I, Tables 1-1a below).

**TABLE 1: 2020 US Census Population Distribution**

US POPULATION 2020 CENSUS Total:331449281		
Ethnicity	Total Population	Percentage
Hispanic or Latino	62080044	18.7%
Black or African American	39940338	12.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2251699	0.7%
Asian Pac Isld	20240737	6.1%
White	191697647	57.8%
Other	15238816	4.6%

**TABLE 1a: Total Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police (2020 US Census)**

Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police by 2020 Census Population Distribution		
Ethnicity	Total	Percentage
Latino	6460	19.5%
NL Black	8021	24.2%
NL Native American	373	1.1%
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	6.1%
NL White	16066	48.6%
Unknown	158	0.5%

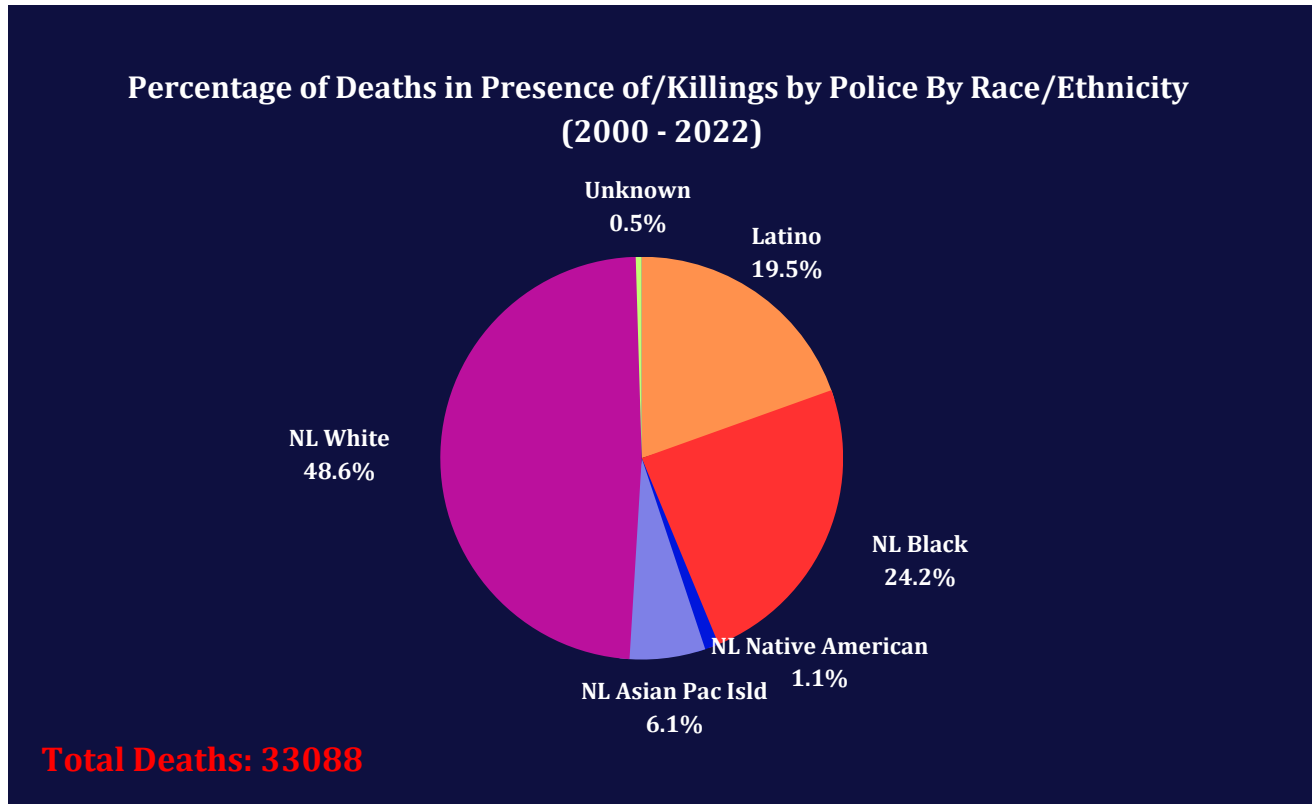
\* NL= Non-Latino

Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police mirror the 2020 Census population distribution: “Latino”, Native American, Asian/Pacific Islander.

However, Black individuals get killed at a 24.2 Percent which is 100 percent higher than the rate of US Black population of 12.1 percent.

Similarly deaths to whites were underrepresented by over 9 percent of the US population in 2020.

**Figure 1**



Between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2022 there were an estimated 33,088 deaths Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police.

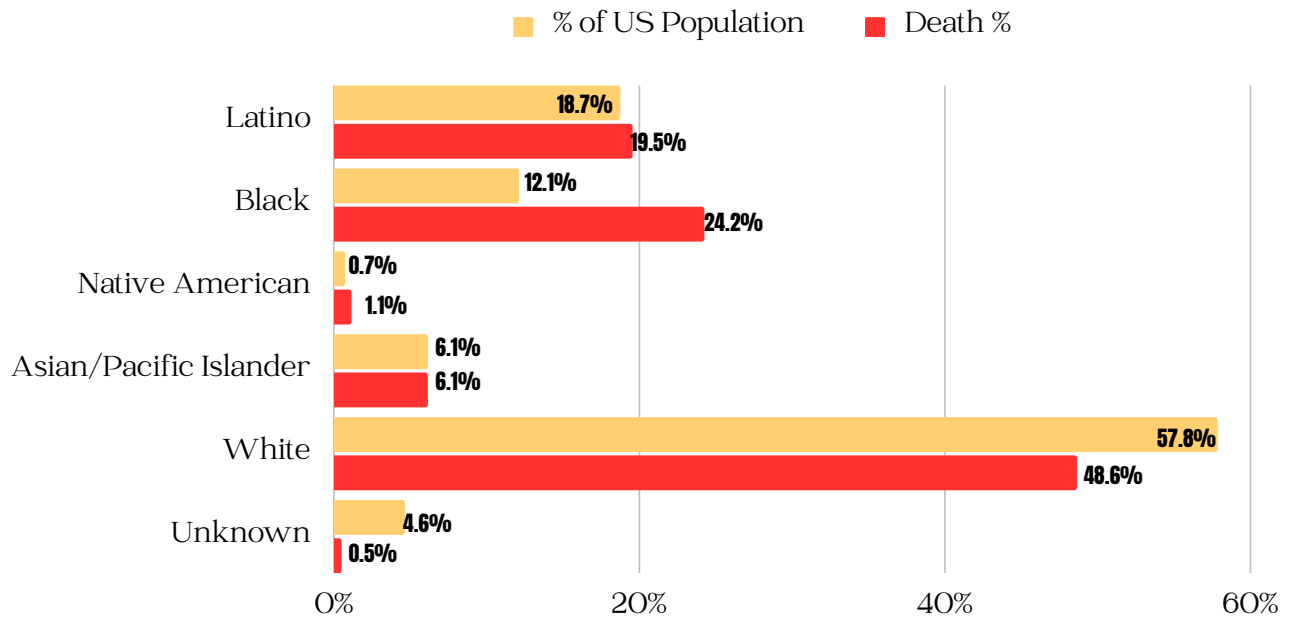
## II. Racial data:

The study found that between the years 2000 and 2022 in a nation of 330 million people:

- African Americans, who constitute 12.1% amount of the population, constitute 24.2% (8,021) of the killings/deaths at the hands of law enforcement, nearly one-quarter of all reported deaths
- “Latinos” Raza peoples, who constitute 18.7% of the population, constitute 19.5% (6,460) of the killings/deaths.
- Native peoples, who constitute .7% amount of the population, constitute 1.1% (373) of the killings/deaths
- Asian-Pacific Islander peoples, who constitute 6.1% amount of the population, constitute 6.1% (2010) of the killings/deaths.
- White peoples, who constitute 57.8% of the population, constitute 48% (16,066) of the killings/deaths, 10% lower than the rate of that population.
- There is no data for Arab Americans or Middle Easterners who often are listed as White or other.

**Figure 2**

Percentage of Killings vs Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity



### III. Geography: California/Texas - Greater Southwest, “killing fields”

In the past several years, most of the law enforcement violence and killings that make the national news generally take place East of the Mississippi River. Counterintuitively, the two states with the most killings nationwide are California and Texas, with Raza or Brown peoples accounting for many of those killed there, though virtually invisibilized by the national media and the national conversation on race. These numbers are also actually relatively high throughout the greater U.S Southwest.

(Table 2, Figure 2 below. For the full list See Appendix I).

**TABLE 2: Total Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police, Top 10 States  
(2000 - 2022)**

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE US 2000-2022 =33088			
State	Total Deaths from 2000-2022	Latino	NL Asian Pac Isld
California	5169	2232	448
Texas	2976	1102	163
Florida	1989	372	97
Arizona	990	340	56
New Mexico	483	264	37
Colorado	749	238	58
Illinois	1156	159	53
New York	759	150	34
Georgia	1289	117	82
Nevada	449	111	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>16009</b>	<b>6460</b>	<b>2010</b>

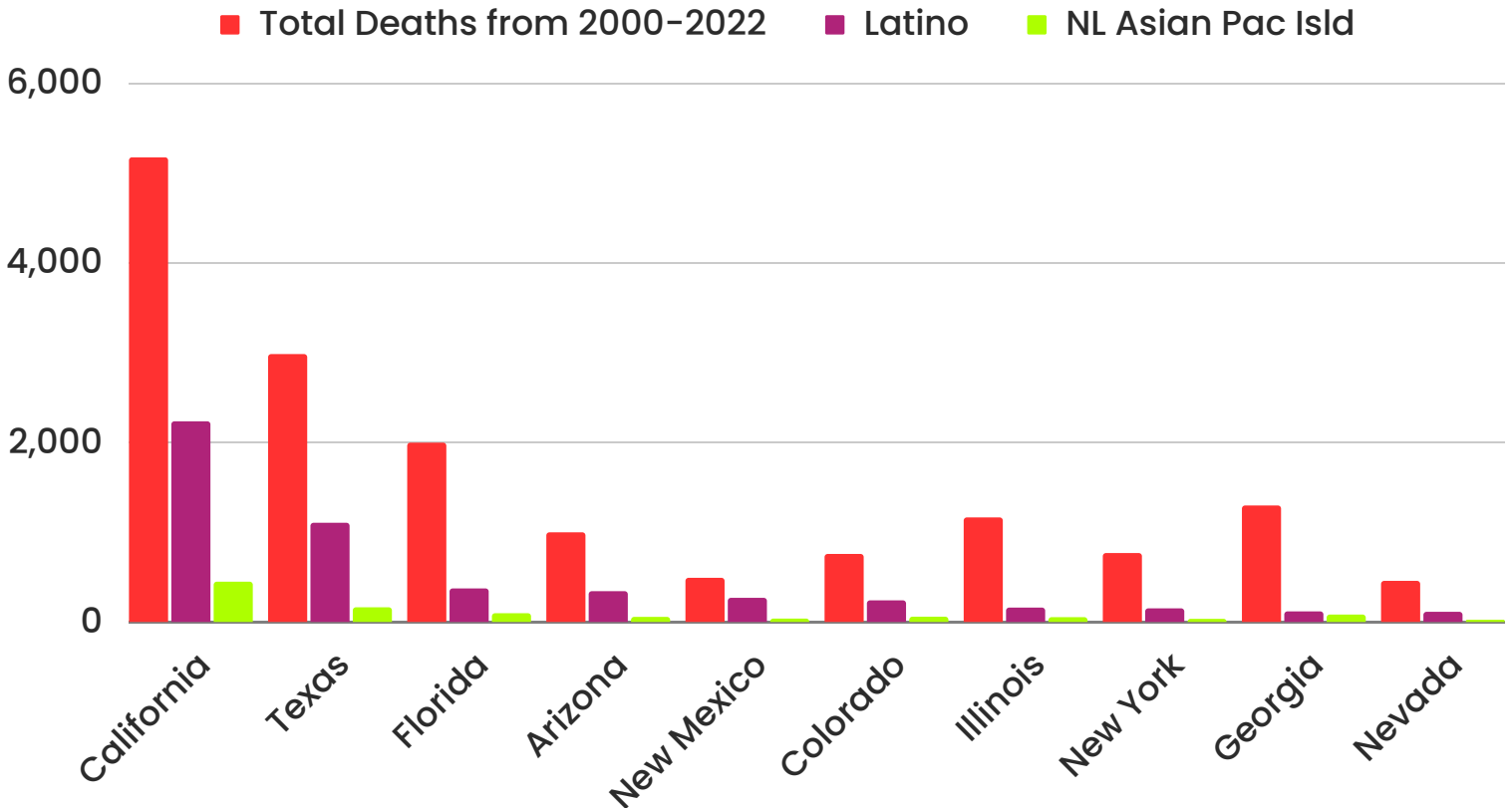
States with highest rates of killings of *Raza* include West and Southwestern states, comprising over 30 percent of killings in these states

States with over 200 killings of “Latinos” include West and Southwest states and Florida.

Together Latinos comprise nearly 37 percent of all deaths.

**FIGURE 2**

**PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS IN PRESENCE OF/KILLINGS BY POLICE, TOP 10 STATES  
(2000 - 2022)**



Black and Brown people’s deaths are geographically specific.

States with highest rates of killings of “Latinos” include West and Southwestern states.

The top ten states, from California to Nevada accounted for 5,085 or nearly 79 percent of all deaths of *Raza*, with California and Texas accounting for over one-half (53.7 percent) of deaths nationwide.

In 2020 Black/African Americans were 12.1 of the total US population, the estimated 8,021 killed by police represent double percent of this population with a 24.2 percent or nearly one-quarter of all reported deaths between 2000-2020 nationwide (See Table 3 below).

**TABLE. 3**  
 Deaths of NL Black People in Presence of/Killings by Police  
 (2000-2022)

State	Total Deaths per State	
	2000-2022	NL Black
California	5169	816
Texas	2976	662
Florida	1989	611
Georgia	1289	488
Illinois	1156	471
Ohio	1066	355
Louisiana	684	315
Pennsylvania	1022	293
Missouri	985	285
New York	759	255
Maryland	568	251
Michigan	927	247
North Carolina	722	239
Alabama	735	231
Virginia	691	225
South Carolina	648	223
New Jersey	559	213
Tennessee	733	195
Mississippi	463	164
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>8021</b>

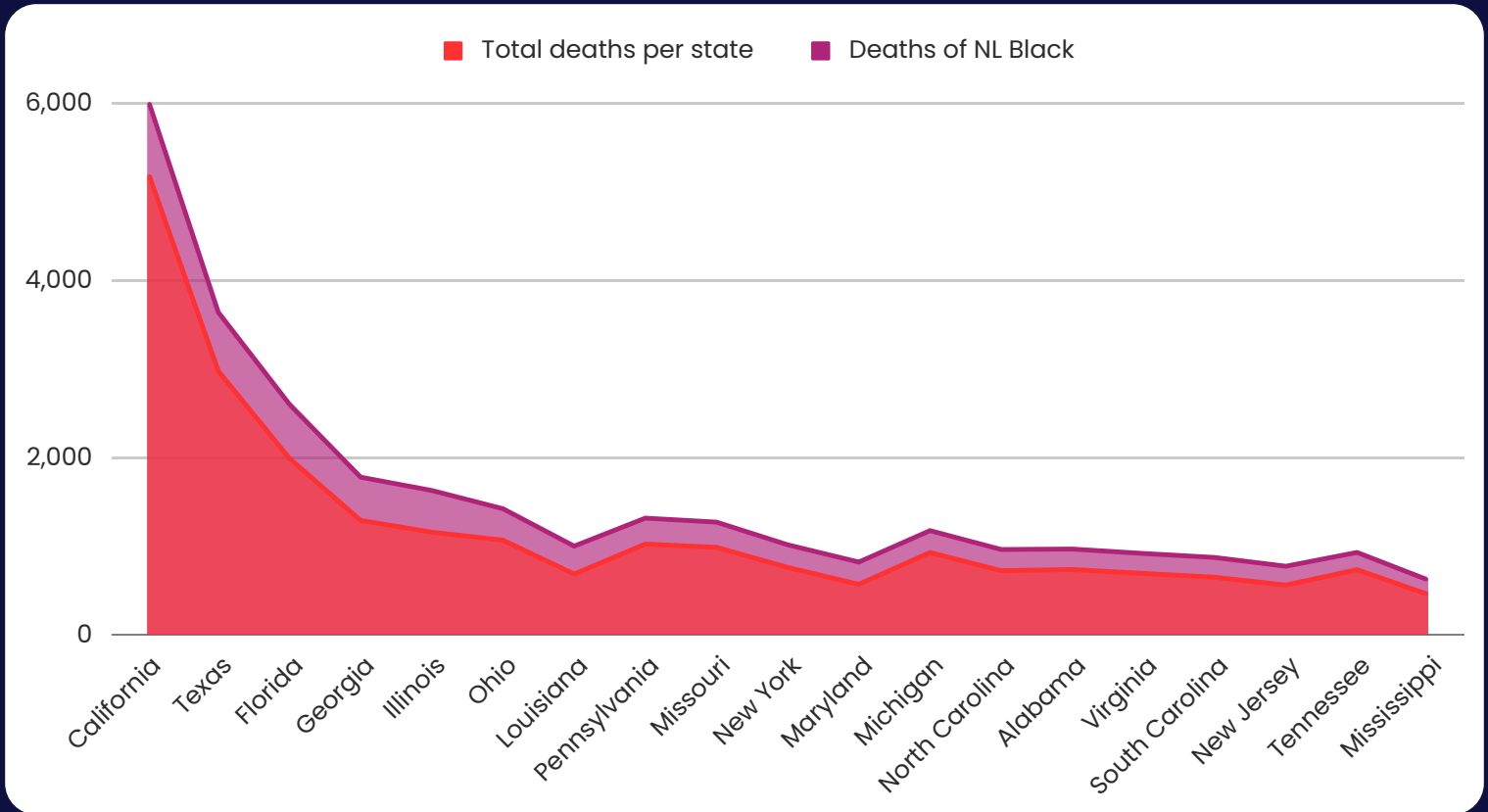
\* NL= Non-Latino

Black people get killed at a 100 percent higher rate, representing 24.2 Percent of all deaths in Presence of/Killed by Police despite only being 12.1 percent of the US population.



**FIGURE 3**

**DEATHS OF BLACK PEOPLE IN PRESENCE OF/KILLINGS BY POLICE (2000 - 2022)**



**BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE’S DEATHS ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY SPECIFIC.**

**DEATHS OF BLACK INDIVIDUALS ARE MORE WIDESPREAD, WITH CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS, FOLLOWED BY FLORIDA AS HAVING THE HIGHEST COUNTS, BUT WITH A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER COMING FROM SOUTHERN STATES INCLUDING GEORGIA, LOUISIANA, NORTH CAROLINA, ALABAMA, VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, MISSISSIPPI, AND OTHERS.**

#### **IV. Impunity - Lack of accountability:**

Law enforcement violence and judicial impunity go hand in hand. Prosecutions are extremely rare and convictions and hard time in prison, even rarer. All of this because independent investigations are also extremely rare.

The same is true of immigration officers whose impunity is 100% over the past dozen years.

Unless there are convictions with hard times, chances of decreasing such violence, regardless of reforms, is virtually nil. Due to a lack of pushback against both law enforcement and the judicial system, US politicians are also complicit in this impunity.

#### **V. Justified/Unjustified Killings:**

The idea of justifiable or unjustifiable killings is usually determined by the idea of proportionality.

A suspect killed while carrying and using a weapon is usually determined to have been killed justifiably.

However, in the many cases examined, many of the cases involved “suspects” carrying cell phones, crucifixes, garden hoses, garden shears and even rocks.

Officers are generally cleared by claiming that they were in genuine fear for their lives. With everyone carrying a cell phone nowadays, and without independent investigations, this does not bode well for the future. Also, in states where people are entitled by laws to carry weapons, it is not uncommon to see law enforcement treat its armed White Citizens with deference in police stops, while not similarly when it comes to people of color.

#### **VI. Whose responsibility is it?**

The task of tallying the amount of violence by law enforcement officers at the moment is not required by anyone nor any entity in the country.

The federal government does not require law enforcement agencies to document use of force incidents, including killings. The FBI does gather information on killings on a voluntary basis, which results generally in incomplete, meaningless or irrelevant data.

At the moment it is media companies and independent researchers who have done this invaluable work, much of it is incomplete for the obvious reasons of the lack of accurate information and the lack of resources from law enforcement agencies, state and federal agencies.

**VII. The “unknowns” and the unidentified?**

When we initially tallied the unknowns in the racial category, we found some 6,000 victims who were considered racially unknown or unidentified (by law enforcement).

As a result of a more thorough analysis, the number of those unknown or unidentified went down considerably. Of those categories, the majority were people of color.

Several thousand of those were Brown or *Raza* (See Results Table 4 below)

The lack of 100% certainty is because of the lack of precise data, generally by law enforcement agencies.

**TABLE 4:** “Unknown” Deaths, Unadjusted & Adjusted Counts  
(2000 - 2022 )

Total:	Adjusted Count	Unadjusted Count	Difference	Percent Difference
Latino	6460	4483	1977	30.6%
NL Native American	373	332	41	11.0%
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	497	1513	75.3%
NL Black	8021	7451	570	7.1%
NL White	16066	11317	4749	29.6%
Unknown	158	9008	-8850	-5601.3%

\* NL= Non-Latino

Without a standardized methodology for data collection and reporting the characteristics and circumstances of an individual killed while interacting with police, La Raza Database compiled information from existing publicly available open-sources (Page 47).

Particularly, one of the most challenging items was determining the race/ethnic origin of individuals of *Raza* or “Latino” origin that were either white or in most cases as “unknown” or “unspecified”.

The effort to identify or reassign Latino, Asian and lesser degree Native American or Black was achieved by comparing to the US Census 160 thousand surname list file of race/ethnicity with the surnames of all individuals in La Raza Database.

Focusing on the over 9,000 unknown/unspecified individuals from the original database, over 99 percent were reassigned with the vast majority reclassified as Latino or Asian-Pacific Islander.

FIGURE 4

“UNKNOWN” DEATHS UNADJUSTED COUNT

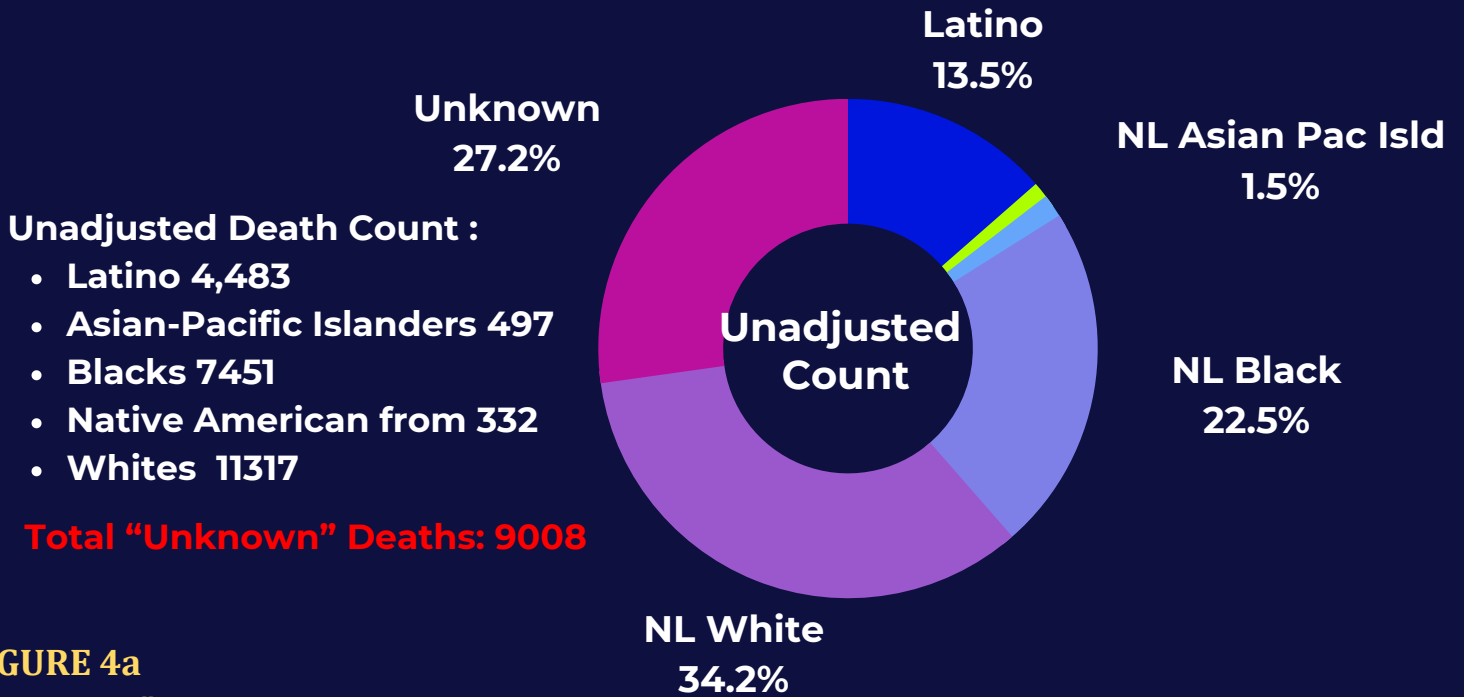
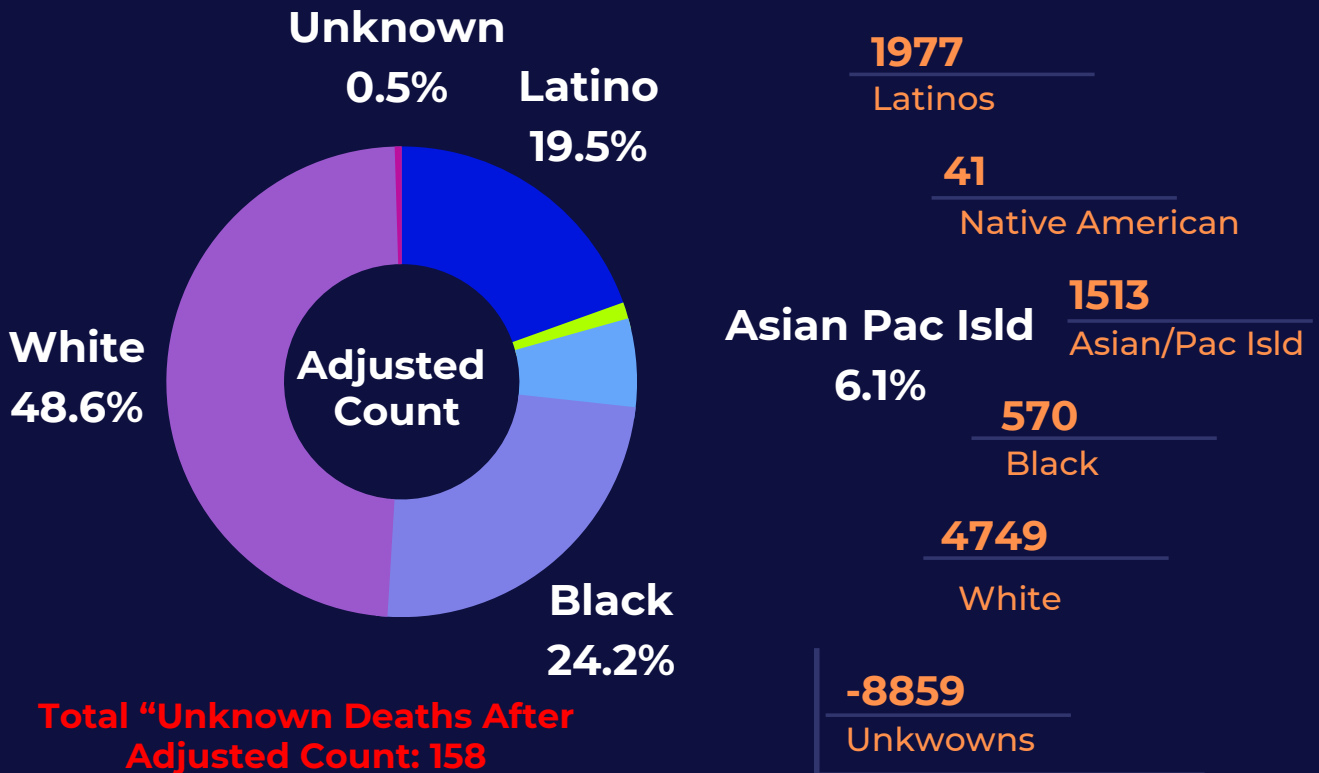


FIGURE 4a

“UNKOWN” DEATHS ADJUSTED COUNT

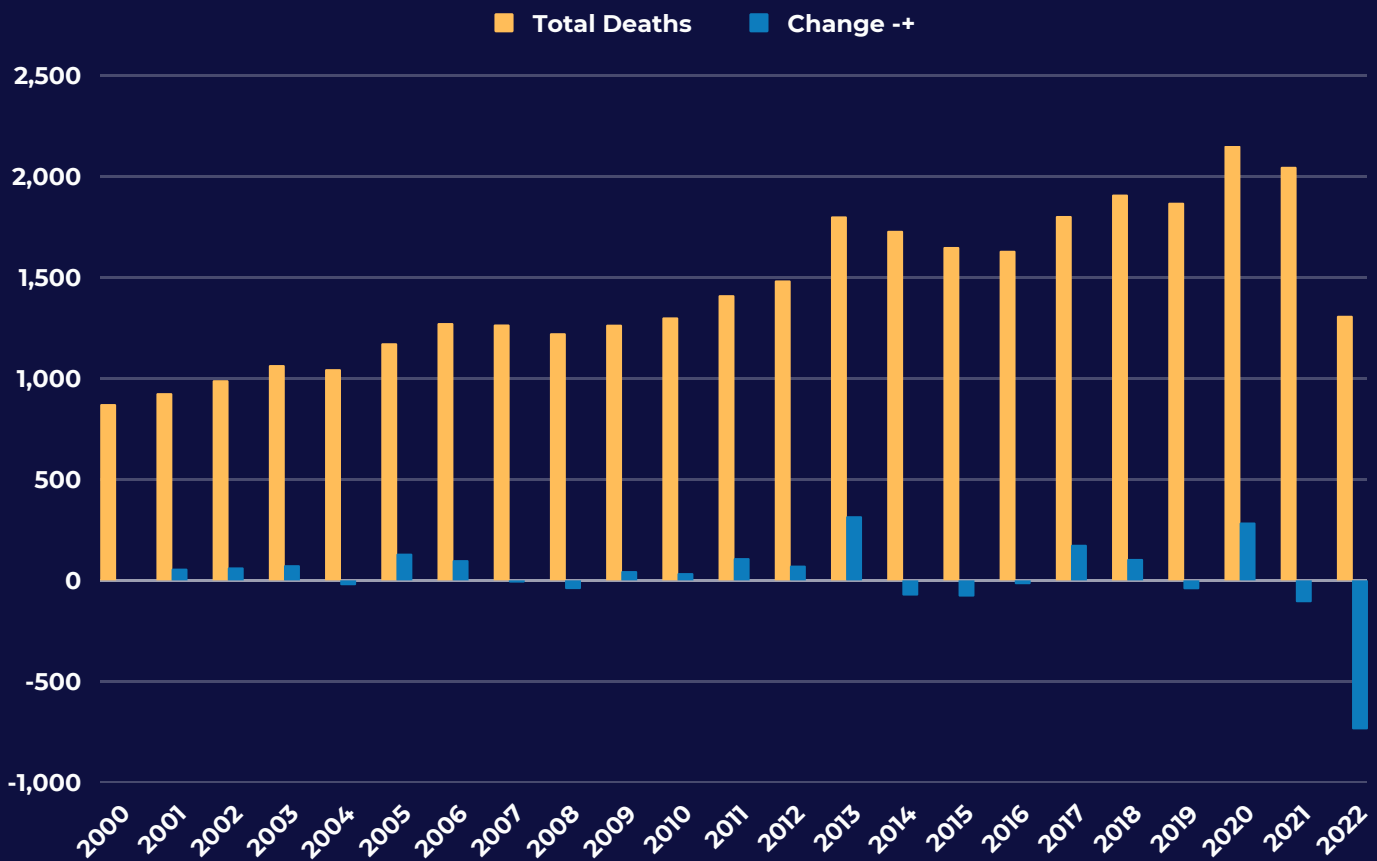


**INCREASE % AFTER ADJUSTED COUNT**



- The Count of Deaths to Latinos increased from 4,483 to 6,460.
- The Count of Deaths to to Asian Pacific Islanders from 497 to 2,010.
- The Count of Deaths to Blacks increased from 7451
- The Count of Deaths to Native American from 332 to 373.
- The Count of Deaths to Whites increased from 11317 to 16,066

**FIGURE 4C**  
**INCREASEMENT OF DEATHS IN PRESENCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT BY YEAR 2000–2022**



## Increment of Deaths

The Counts and rates of Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement have steadily increased since the year 2000, particularly noticeable during the years of 2013 and 2020.

The year 2022 shows a decline in Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement, however this might be due to a change in methodology. Fatal encounters appears to have stopped publishing.

**TABLE 5:** Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement Increment per Year (2000–2022)

Year	Total	Change	Percentage
2000	865	N/A	N/A
2001	923	58	6.7%
2002	987	64	6.9%
2003	1062	75	7.6%
2004	1038	-24	-2.3%
2005	1170	132	12.7%
2006	1270	100	8.5%
2007	1259	-11	-0.9%
2008	1216	-43	-3.4%
2009	1262	46	3.8%
2010	1298	36	2.9%
2011	1408	110	8.5%
2012	1481	73	5.2%
2013	1798	317	21.4%
2014	1723	-75	-4.2%
2015	1643	-80	-4.6%
2016	1624	-19	-1.2%
2017	1800	176	10.8%
2018	1906	106	5.9%
2019	1862	-44	-2.3%
2020	2148	286	15.4%
2021	2040	-108	-5.0%
2022	1305	-735	-36.0%

\*NL= Non-Latino

By year, the killings of *Raza*/Latinos as a percent of total has varied from 15.5 percent in the year 2000 to a high of 21.7 percent in 2014.

Overall the deadly rate has remained the same at about an average of 19.5 percent total.

**TABLE 5a: Death in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement Increment By Race/Ethnicity (2000–2022)**

Year Of Death	Race/Ethnicity						Unknown
	Total deaths per year	Latino	NL-Asian Pac Isld	NL Native American	NL-Black	NL-White	
2000	865	134	48	20	192	464	7
2001	923	156	49	12	161	535	10
2002	987	183	55	7	187	549	6
2003	1062	182	54	15	259	539	13
2004	1038	223	53	8	223	525	6
2005	1170	232	59	15	281	571	12
2006	1270	263	54	13	310	621	9
2007	1259	247	48	14	304	635	11
2008	1216	246	52	8	303	602	5
2009	1262	248	70	11	298	624	11
2010	1298	245	54	14	331	644	10
2011	1408	268	44	11	377	705	3
2012	1481	293	60	18	414	689	7
2013	1798	373	69	11	487	855	3
2014	1723	374	59	16	441	830	3
2015	1643	299	64	22	408	845	5
2016	1624	287	71	24	413	828	1
2017	1800	377	111	31	439	840	2
2018	1906	400	141	29	429	903	4
2019	1862	348	140	23	485	854	12
2020	2148	430	236	20	503	948	11
2021	2040	380	258	15	471	909	7
2022	1305	272	161	16	305	551	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>6460</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>8021</b>	<b>16066</b>	<b>158</b>

\* NL= Non-Latino

**TABLE 5b: Death in Presence of/Killings by Law Enforcement Increment percentage  
(2000–2022)**

Year Of Death	Race/Ethnicity					
	Latino	NL-Asian Pac Isl	NL Native American	NL-Black	NL-White	Unknown
2000	15.5	5.5	2.3	22.2	53.6	.8
2001	16.9	5.3	1.3	17.4	58.0	1.1
2002	18.5	5.6	.7	18.9	55.6	.6
2003	17.1	5.1	1.4	24.4	50.8	1.2
2004	21.5	5.1	.8	21.5	50.6	.6
2005	19.8	5.0	1.3	24.0	48.8	1.0
2006	20.7	4.3	1.0	24.4	48.9	.7
2007	19.6	3.8	1.1	24.1	50.4	.9
2008	20.2	4.3	.7	24.9	49.5	.4
2009	19.7	5.5	.9	23.6	49.4	.9
2010	18.9	4.2	1.1	25.5	49.6	.8
2011	19.0	3.1	.8	26.8	50.1	.2
2012	19.8	4.1	1.2	28.0	46.5	.5
2013	20.7	3.8	.6	27.1	47.6	.2
2014	21.7	3.4	.9	25.6	48.2	.2
2015	18.2	3.9	1.3	24.8	51.4	.3
2016	17.7	4.4	1.5	25.4	51.0	.1
2017	20.9	6.2	1.7	24.4	46.7	.1
2018	21.0	7.4	1.5	22.5	47.4	.2
2019	18.7	7.5	1.2	26.0	45.9	.6
2020	20.0	11.0	.9	23.4	44.1	.5
2021	18.6	12.6	.7	23.1	44.6	.3
2022	20.8	12.3	1.2	23.4	42.2	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19.5</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>.5</b>

\* NL= Non-Latino



## Median Age

The median age of *Raza*/Latinos and Blacks is similar at about 30 years of age.

While the median age of Whites killed by police is on average 6 years older at 36, in a number of states primarily in the East and South, the median age of *Raza* killed by police is even lower, at a brutal low of 21.5 years in Maine.

In comparison a number of states, beginning with Florida and Delaware with rates of 40 years, and others spread out the use had rates higher than national average of 37,38 and 39 years of age.

**TABLE 6 :** Median age of people who died in Presence of/Killings by Police By State

State	Total	Median Age	Latino	NL-ASIAN/ PAC ISLD	NL Native American	NL-Black	NL White	Unknown
Total	31480	33.0	30.0	33.0	30.0	31.0	36.0	33.0
Florida	1905	34.0	34.0	36.0	28.0	52.0	40.0	32.0
Delaware	65	35.0	37.0	38.5	29.5	.0	40.0	.0
West Virginia	198	38.0	45.0	42.0	34.5	31.5	40.0	10.0
Arizona	927	34.0	29.5	34.5	32.0	27.0	39.0	53.0
Connecticut.	143	32.0	33.0	23.5	24.0	.0	39.0	.0
Vermont.	44	37.0	35.0	.0	36.0	.0	39.0	.0
Wyoming	71	38.0	39.0	.0	31.0	36.0	39.0	.0
North Carolina	686	34.0	27.0	41.0	29.0	50.0	38.0	.0
Oregon	380	36.0	30.0	29.0	29.0	25.5	38.0	.0.0
Nevada.	431	35.0	32.0	36.0	28.0	35.5	38.0	40.5
Kentucky.	437	36.0	34.0	23.0	29.0	45.0	38.0	36.5
Hawaii.	117	36.0	37.0	36.0	33.0	66.0	38.0	.0
Mississippi.	413	34.0	27.0	35.0	31.0	33.0	37.0	38.0
Arkansas.	401	35.0	28.5	37.5	32.0	42.5	37.0	47.0
Massachusetts	216	33.0	29.0	30.0	28.5	.0	37.0	36.0
Pennsylvania	985	33.0	29.0	36.0	29.0	40.0	37.0	32.5
Tennessee	710	35.0	29.0	25.5	31.0	39.0	37.0	32.0
California	4880	32.0	30.0	35.0	30.0	35.0	37.0	33.0
Texas	2768	33.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.5	37.0	57.0
New Jersey	540	33.0	32.0	28.5	31.0	45.0	37.0	31.5
New Mexico	444	34.0	32.5	35.0	34.0	28.5	37.0	58.0
South Carolina	630	34.0	33.5	34.0	30.0	43.0	37.0	43.5

New Hampshire	68	35.0	28.0	37.5	44.5	.0	36.5	.0
Louisiana	659	33.0	34.0	32.0	31.0	64.0	36.5	37.0
Alabama	694	35.0	27.0	33.5	33.0	33.0	36.0	56.0
Montana	121	34.0	27.0	35.0	41.0	29.0	36.0	17.0
Virginia	669	33.0	27.0	37.0	30.0	33.0	36.0	26.5
Georgia	1210	32.5	28.5	33.0	29.0	45.0	36.0	21.5
Michigan	861	34.0	29.0	36.0	30.0	30.0	36.0	36.0
Minnesota	371	33.0	30.0	36.0	29.0	24.0	36.0	13.0
New York	743	33.0	30.0	33.0	32.0	27.5	36.0	18.0
Ohio	1035	33.0	30.0	38.5	27.0	43.5	36.0	34.0
Oklahoma	713	34.0	31.0	29.5	31.0	30.0	36.0	29.0
Washington	700	35.0	31.0	31.0	33.0	33.0	36.0	24.0
Idaho	166	36.0	35.0	38.0	44.0	35.0	36.0	.0
Maine	112	34.0	21.5	22.0	25.0	31.0	35.5	54.0
Colorado	686	33.0	31.0	29.0	29.0	34.5	35.5	44.0
Iowa	293	33.0	23.0	24.0	29.0	25.0	35.0	41.0
Indiana	605	32.0	27.0	32.0	28.0	43.0	35.0	32.0
Nebraska	219	33.0	27.0	33.0	31.0	32.0	35.0	.0
Rhode Island	32	34.0	27.0	.0	28.5	.0	35.0	.0
South Dakota	65	30.0	30.0	27.5	29.0	27.0	35.0	.0
Maryland	546	32.0	32.5	30.0	30.0	.0	35.0	36.0
Alaska	129	34.0	33.0	26.0	31.0	28.0	35.0	34.0
Illinois	1126	30.0	27.0	37.0	27.0	39.0	34.5	32.5
Utah	271	33.0	30.5	35.0	39.5	33.5	34.0	22.0
North Dakota	48	33.5	44.0	23.0	35.0	31.0	33.5	.0
Missouri	949	32.0	27.0	35.5	29.0	40.0	33.0	41.5
Wisconsin	480	31.0	27.5	31.5	28.0	26.0	33.0	25.0
Kansas	423	32.0	29.0	34.0	30.0	36.0	32.0	36.0
District of Columbia	95	31.0	30.5	35.0	30.5	.0	31.0	.0

\*NL= Non Latino

## Gender

By a factor of over 10 to 1, men are overwhelmingly liked by police over women.

TABLE 7: Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police By Gender

GENDER					
Race/ Ethnicity	Total	FEMALE	MALE	TRANSGENDER	UNKNOWN
LATINO	6460	568	5874	5	13
NL AIAN	373	31	342	0	0
NLAPI	2010	167	1726	1	116
NL BLACK	8021	662	7345	8	6
NL WHITE	16066	1643	14413	7	3
UNKNOWN	158	27	131	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>3098</b>	<b>29831</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>138</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

TABLE 7a: Percentage of Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police By Gender

DEATHS BY GENDER PERCENTAGE				
Race/ Ethnicity	FEMALE	MALE	TRANSGENDER	UNKNOWN
LATINO	8.8	90.9	.1	.2
NL AIAN	8.3	91.7	.0	.0
NLAPI	8.3	85.9	.0	5.8
NLBLACK	8.3	91.6	.1	.1
NLWHITE	10.2	89.7	.0	.0
UNKNOWN	17.1	82.9	.0	.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>.1</b>	<b>.4</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

## Mental Illness

TABLE 8 : Reported Cases of Mental Illness

Race/ Ethnicity	Total	DRUG/ALCOHOL	NO MENTAL	UNSPECIFIED	YES MENTAL
Latino	6460	322	4262	1171	705
NL Native American	373	32	245	48	48
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	43	1229	456	282
NL Black	8021	307	5856	1076	782
NL White	16066	840	10326	2199	2701
Unknown	158	3	113	27	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>1547</b>	<b>22031</b>	<b>4977</b>	<b>4533</b>

NL= Non Latino

TABLE 8a : Percentage of Reported Cases of Mental Illness

RACE/ ETHNICITY	DRUG/ALCOHOL	NO/MENTAL	UNSPECIFIED	YES/MENTAL
Latino	5.0	66.0	18.1	10.9
NL Native American	8.6	65.7	12.9	12.9
NL Asian Pac Isld	2.1	61.1	22.7	14.0
NL Black	3.8	73.0	13.4	9.7
NL White	5.2	64.3	13.7	16.8
Unknown	1.9	71.5	17.1	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>13.7</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

Mental illness was reported in less than 14 percent of people killed by police.

White individuals reported the highest rates at 16.8 percent vs low of 9.7 percent for Blacks.

Drugs and Alcohol were a factor in 4.7 percent of deaths with a high of 8.6 percent Native Americans to low of 2.1 percent Asian-Pacific Islanders.

### Threat/Danger

Data indicates that nearly 3 quarters of people killed by police did not appear to be a direct threat to police. Weapons being the highest threat at under 14 percent.

Ranges by race/ethnicity include a high rate of 18.8 percent native american to low of 6.6 percent Asian Pacific Islander.

Latino, Black and Whites killed by police had similar rates of about 14 percent each

TABLE 9. Reported Threat/Danger to self or others

Race/ Ethnicity	Total	Self Inflicted	Struggled	Threatening move	Unspecified	Vehicular	Weapon
Latino	6460	224	193	373	4673	81	916
NL Native American	373	13	9	24	255	2	70
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	279	24	56	1511	7	133
NL Black	8021	308	307	359	5815	117	1115
NL White	16066	1065	380	680	11540	159	2242
Unknown	158	7	1	0	133	2	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>1896</b>	<b>914</b>	<b>1492</b>	<b>23927</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>4491</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

TABLE 9a: Percentage Reported Threat/Danger to self or others

Race/ Ethnicity	Percentage	Self Inflicted	Struggled	Threatening move	Unspecified	Vehicular	Weapon
Latino	100.0	3.5	3.0	5.8	72.3	1.3	14.2
NL Native American	100.0	3.5	2.4	6.4	68.4	.5	18.8
NL Asian Pac Isld	100.0	13.9	1.2	2.8	75.2	.3	6.6
NL Black	100.0	3.8	3.8	4.5	72.5	1.5	13.9
NL White	100.0	6.6	2.4	4.2	71.8	1.0	14.0
Unknown	100.0	4.4	.6	.0	84.2	1.3	9.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>72.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

## Form of fleeing

According to data available the vast majority of individuals killed by police were either:

- 35.8 percent not fleeing from police
- 44 percent unknown fleeing.

Other modes of fleeing unidentified included Car at 12.5 percent or foot.

Notable among people fleeing by foot and car, Black individuals had the highest rates of being killed by police at just over 10 percent by foot and 14.1 percent by car.

Table 10: Form of Fleeing

Race/ Ethnicity	Total	Bicycle	Car	Foot	Motorcycle	Not Fleeing	Unknown Fleeing
Latino	6460	5	857	505	41	2310	2742
NL Native American	373	0	52	26	0	132	163
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	0	231	97	16	689	977
NL Black	8021	6	1134	814	56	2676	3335
NL White	16066	5	1857	784	182	5997	7241
Unknown	158	0	18	2	2	28	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>4149</b>	<b>2228</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>11832</b>	<b>14566</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

Table 10a: Percentage Form of Fleeing

Race/ Ethnicity	Percentage	Bicycle	Car	Foot	Motorcycle	Not Fleeing
Latino	.1	13.3	7.8	.6	35.8	42.4
NL Native American	.0	13.9	7.0	.0	35.4	43.7
NL Asian Pac Isld	.0	11.5	4.8	.8	34.3	48.6
NL Black	.1	14.1	10.1	.7	33.4	41.6
NL White	.0	11.6	4.9	1.1	37.3	45.1
Unknown	.0	11.4	1.3	1.3	17.7	68.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>.0</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>.9</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>44.0</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

## Armed/unarmed

Firearms have been identified as the single largest measurable cause of death amongst race/ethnic groups. Rates vary slightly from Latinos at the lowest rates of 26.5 percent to high of 31.3 percent for A-PI. Reported cause of death for over 60 percent is unavailable at this time.

**TABLE 11::** Reported Causes of Death in National Databases By Race/Ethnicity, 2000–2022

Race/ Ethnicity		BLUNT OBJECT	EDGED WEAPON	FIREARM	UNCERTAIN	UNKNOWN/ OTHER	VEHICLE
Latino	6460	88	594	1714	1248	2661	155
NL Native American	373	2	49	106	52	158	6
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	17	136	630	268	926	33
NL Black	8021	62	474	2315	1767	3235	168
NL White	16066	121	1073	5017	2530	7044	281
Unknown	158	0	3	26	21	106	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>2329</b>	<b>9808</b>	<b>5886</b>	<b>14130</b>	<b>645</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

**TABLE 11a :** Percentage of Reported Causes of Death

Race/ Ethnicity	TOTAL %	BLUNT OBJECT	EDGED WEAPON	FIRE ARM	UNCERTAIN	UNKNOWN/ OTHER	VEHICLE
Latino	100.0	1.4	9.2	26.5	19.3	41.2	2.4
NL Native American	100.0	.5	13.1	28.4	13.9	42.4	1.6
NL Asian Pac Isld	100.0	.8	6.8	31.3	13.3	46.1	1.6
NL Black	100.0	.8	5.9	28.9	22.0	40.3	2.1
NL White	100.0	.8	6.7	31.2	15.7	43.8	1.7
Unknown	100.0	.0	1.9	16.5	13.3	67.1	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>29.6</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

## Deadly force

The overwhelming cause of death of people was either Gunshot or “some other” Lethal Force. Other identifiable causes of death include 12.6 percent vehicle pursuit, nearly 10 percent suicide with notable Asian/Pacific Islanders account for over 22 percent of death by suicide

**TABLE 12:** Causes of Death Reported in National Databases By Race/Ethnicity

CAUSE OF DEATH PERCENTAGE								
Race/ Ethnicity	Total	DEADLY FORCE	GUNSHOT	LESS THAN LETHAL	OTHER	PURSUIT	SUICIDE	VEHICLE PURSUIT
Latino	6460	1997	1981	267	675	562	341	637
NL Native American	373	112	130	14	29	22	28	38
NL Asian Pac Isld	2010	356	333	31	435	200	451	204
NL Black	8021	2473	2207	460	878	579	489	935
NL White	16066	4535	4349	569	1535	897	1872	2309
Unknown	158	54	16	8	11	13	11	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>33088</b>	<b>9527</b>	<b>9016</b>	<b>1349</b>	<b>3563</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>3192</b>	<b>4168</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

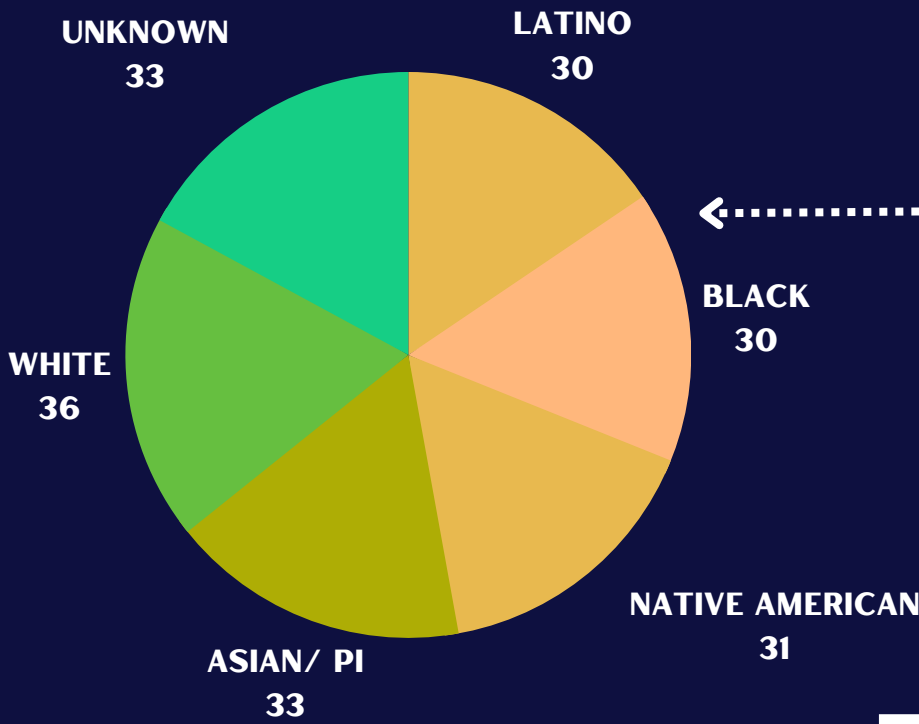
**TABLE 12a:** Percentage of Causes of Death Reported in National Databases By Race/Ethnicity

CAUSE OF DEATH PERCENTAGE							
Race/ Ethnicity	DEADLY FORCE	GUNSHOT	LESS-THAN LETHAL	OTHER	PURSUIT	SUICIDE	VEHICLE PURSUIT
Latino	30.9	30.7	4.1	10.4	8.7	5.3	9.9
NL Native American	30.0	34.9	3.8	7.8	5.9	7.5	10.2
NL Asian Pac Isld	17.7	16.6	1.5	21.6	10.0	22.4	10.1
NL Black	30.8	27.5	5.7	10.9	7.2	6.1	11.7
NL White	28.2	27.1	3.5	9.6	5.6	11.7	14.4
Unknown	34.2	10.1	5.1	7.0	8.2	7.0 9.6	28.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>		<b>12.6</b>

\*NL= Non Latino

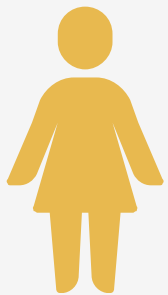


### Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police



**MEDIAN AGE OF  
PEOPLE KILLED BY  
POLICE IN THE US BY  
RACE/ETHNICITY**

**75%**  
PEOPLE KILLED BY THE  
POLICE WERE  
**NOT A THREAT**



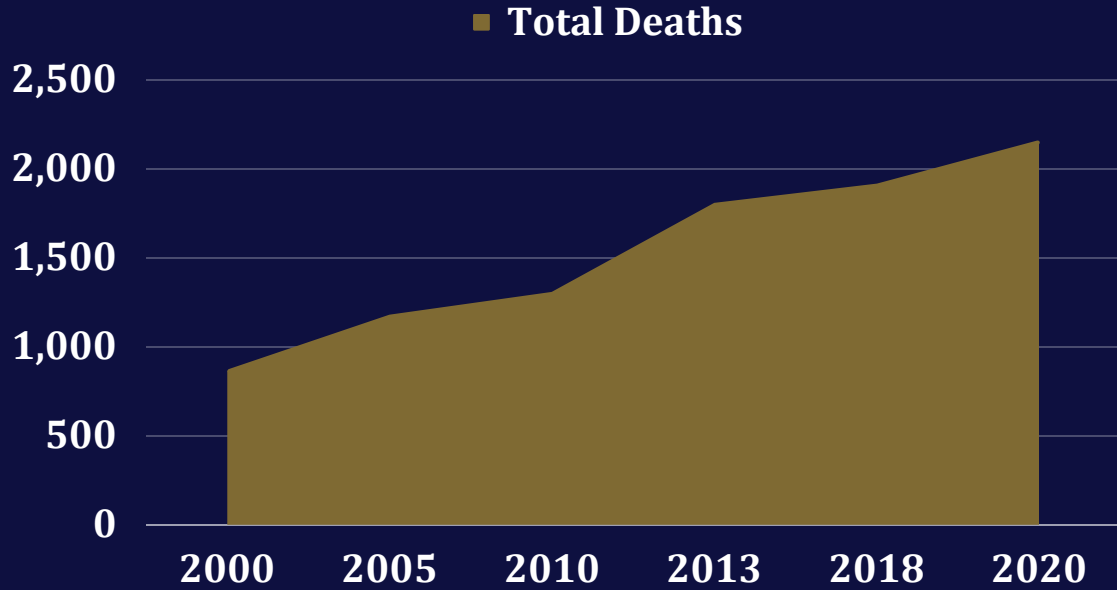
**DEATHS IN PRESENCE OF/KILLINGS  
BY POLICE 2000-2022  
BY GENDER**

**1 FEMALE | 10 MALES**



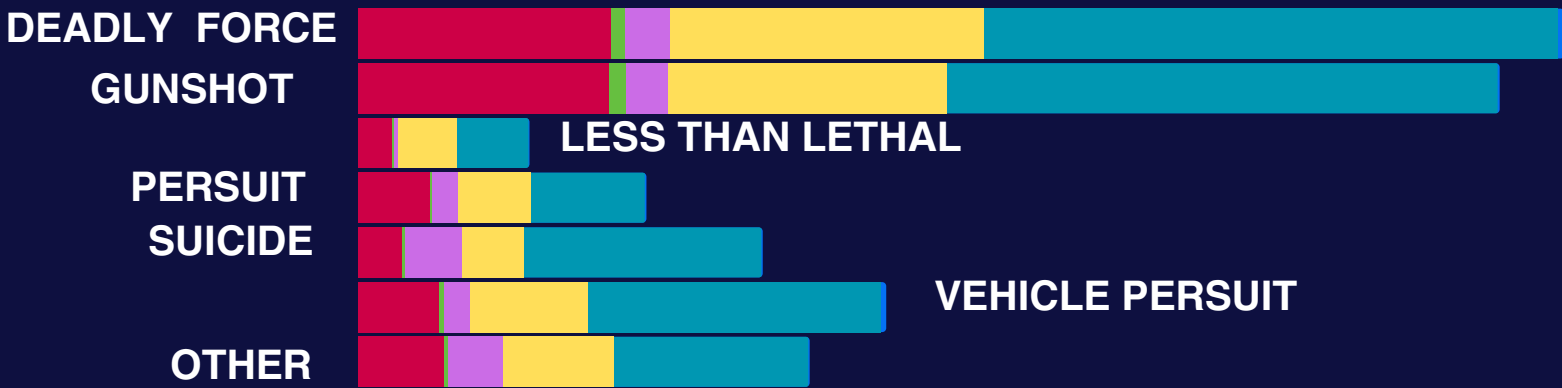
### Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police

**INCREASEMENT OF DEATHS IN PRESENCE OF/KILLINGS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT SINCE THE YEAR 2000**



### REPORTED CAUSE OF DEATH

■ LATINO   
 ■ NATIVE AMERICAN   
 ■ ASIAN/PI  
■ BLACK   
 ■ WHITE   
 ■ UNKNOWN



## Conclusion:

- People of Color, who together constitute less than 40% of the U.S. population, comprise more than 60% of all people killed by or who died in the custody of the police.
- Whites, who constitute less than 58% of the population, comprise 48% of all deaths over the 2000-2022 period.
- Even the adjusted numbers likely understate the disparity, since significant numbers of “Latinos”, and likely many Asians-Pacific Islanders as well, who have “European” surnames are not captured by the surname match. Both communities experience relatively high rates of intermarriage, the majority of which, especially between Asians and Whites, involve women of color. Their children may be identifiably Asian, Latino, or Indigenous, but those who have European surnames would not be identified by this analysis.
- In the absence of an official government database, additional research is required to produce a more accurate identification of *Raza* and “others” not identified by existing datasets.
- There has been a significant decrease from the previous year 2021 in the count of reported deaths. In 2022 the total death toll was of 1,305, compared to the 2,040 toll in 2021. La Raza Database team believes this is probably due to the retirement of “Fatal Encounters”, one of the primary public sources of data collection of people killed during interactions with police.

Finally, something that we note is that none of the databases we examined report the kind of violence inflicted upon Rodney King or George Floyd. In many US cities, this law enforcement violence has been historically pervasive.

Statistically, we can not say with certainty the extent of this problem as the data does not exist. To eliminate the issue of law enforcement violence/killings, this must be the new challenge; pushing for human rights organizations and government agencies to begin this data collection of all use-of-force incidents.

Without such data, the true scope of such violence can not be known, except basically through word of mouth. Historically, we know that police brutality has always been an ever-present issue in our communities.

# Recommendations

## **Law Enforcement Data Collection and Accountability**

Account and hold accountable officers and law enforcement departments for the rampant and widespread brutality that often results in those brutalized ending up being hospitalized and charged with assaulting officers with many also ending up in the carceral system.

Tally up - and create data - regarding the totality of this brutality, a violence that in effect, remains invisibilized by this society. At the moment, we know of no entity that tallies up all the law enforcement violence taking place in this country.

## **Congressional hearings**

**Reopening cases** - no statute of limitations on murder/killings: Reopening old cases is a stepping stone toward finding justice for the victims and their families, and it is an important step to ensure impunity for law enforcement is not tolerated. By reopening old cases and taking a stance against long held impunity, society is sending a powerful message that there will be consequences when the law is broken, regardless of who is involved.

## **Legislation:**

Federal legislation to address police abuse needs to include provisions for more accurate data, to address the full scope of the problem.

Through federal legislation, the rules governing police conduct will become more transparent, create clear guidelines to protect citizens, and ensure that those who break the law and abuse their authority will be held accountable. This proposed legislation is a way to make sure the rights of all citizens are respected and that abuse of power is not tolerated.

## **International Criminal Court, UN & OAS.**

The United Nations (UN) and the Organization of American States (OAS)

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has been set in place to prosecute cases when the judicial system has failed its people and does not function in home countries.

Law enforcement heavily relied on racial profiling and that they operated without accountability, with a virtual 100% impunity.

**Electronic wall honoring all victims of law enforcement killings.**

Create an electronic wall to bring awareness to the immensity of deaths by law enforcement and its toll on the people. By joining together and contributing our thoughts and memories, we can build an inspiring tribute to the victims of unnecessary and extrajudicial law enforcement killings through a lasting virtual platform. [This] electronic wall will be a source of remembrance, healing, and connection, bringing people of all backgrounds together to create a space in which we can honor those taken away from us too soon. Through this space, we can unite and voice our dissent for this tragic injustice which amounts to war like numbers. This momentous effort to keep the memory of victims alive serves a vital purpose: we are reminded of those we have lost, we come to better understand the magnitude of these unwarranted tragedies, and we are motivated to take action against systemic racism and police brutality.

**-National summit/forum:**

Gathering of thought leaders, advocates and practitioners provides a unique venue for creating meaningful change in our communities. Through facilitated panels, expert keynotes, workshops and other interactive sessions, the world can gain a better understanding of the complexities of police brutality and abuse, encouraging people to work together to find solutions.

**Accurate statistics and media coverage**

-Studies of local media reports, social media, testimonials from affected families, and other sources to address the misclassification of Latino deaths; carrying out similar analyses of people killed by or in the custody of U.S. Border Patrol or Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and deeper investigation of the reported causes of deaths by or in police custody.

## About LEAD



The LEAD organization, based at the California State University, San Bernardino, serves as the leading National-level project collaborator for this meta-analytical research on Police Shootings/Killings.

The LEAD network counts with more than 1500 chapters across 37 countries, and under the LEAD banner, he has initiated or facilitated numerous programs and projects like the IE Regional Collaborative, Cash for College FAFSA Workshops, the Student Parent Academic Resource Campaign, Feria Educativa College and Career Fair, the LEAD Virtual Classroom and Webinar Series, Portraits of Hope Novela Educativa Video Series, LEAD Social Media Ambassadors, the Binational Parent Leadership Institute; and finally, the LEAD Summit which counts with nearly 9 million conference participants.

To address several critical issues within the Brown/Latino Community and to ensure a strong Educated future, LEAD houses several national and international projects that provide a means to maximize the promotion, outreach and relations, within the areas of primary purpose.

Their commitment to strengthening Latino Students, who have become the largest minority in the US, towards better and positive educational outcomes for the next generations is commendable.

For more information on LEAD, visit:

[www.csusb.edu/lead](http://www.csusb.edu/lead)

## REFERENCES:

### Databases:

- Mapping Police Violence
  - <https://mappingpoliceviolence.us/>
- Killed by Police
  - <https://robarguns.com/kbp2019/>
- Fatal Encounters
  - <https://fatalencounters.org/>
- Washington Post Police Shootings Database
  - <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

### Additional References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/index.html>

<https://unidosus.org/press-releases/052721-unidosus-raza-database-project-new-report/>

[https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/unidosus\\_specialadvancefactsheet.pdf](https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/unidosus_specialadvancefactsheet.pdf)

<https://www.csusb.edu/lead/raza-database-project>

<https://www.csusb.edu/lead>

## La Raza Database Research Project Preliminary Report 2021

---

In May 2021, UNIDOS US presented the "DEATHS OF PEOPLE OF COLOR BY LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE SEVERELY UNDER-COUNTED" Fact Sheet. This fact sheet was a collaborative effort by Senior Director of the Racial Equity Initiative Viviana López Green, Civil Rights Policy Analyst Claudia Ruiz, and Senior Cabinet Advisor Charles Kamasaki.

The organization sought to address the issue of lack of transparency and accuracy in reporting statistics of police brutality and media coverage. UnidosUS partnered with La Raza Database Research Project to advocate for better policies in addressing this issue.

UnidosUS, formerly known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the largest advocacy organization for Hispanic civil rights in the United States. Through its unique combination of research, advocacy, programs, and an Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS strives to challenge the social, economic, and political barriers affecting Latinos at both the national and local levels. For over 50 years, UnidosUS has been uniting communities and groups to collaborate and build a stronger country.

For more information on UnidosUS, kindly visit [www.unidosus.org](http://www.unidosus.org).

---

## La Raza Database Research Project Final Report 2023

*The report acknowledges the La Raza Database Research Project Team, which includes:*

*Roberto Dr. Cintli Rodriguez (†) as the Founder and Director, responsible for the Introduction and General Findings;*

*Jesus Garcia, serving as the Demographer and Statistician, responsible for the Statistics and Summary Tables;*

*Ivette Xochiyotl Boyzo, serving as the Project Manager, responsible for the coordination, analysis, editing, and compilation of the final report.*



• **Appendix I**

States with highest rates of killings of Latinos include West and Southwestern states Latinos comprise over 30 percent of killings in these states

States with over 200 killings of Latinos include west and southwest states and Florida Together Latinos comprise nearly 37 percent of all deaths.

**TABLE 2: Total Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police By Geography 2000 - 2022**

STATE	TOTAL DEATHS FROM 2000-2022	RACE/ETHNICITY					
		LATINO	NL ASIAN PAC ISLD	NL NATIVE AMERICAN	NL BLACK	NL WHITE	UNKNOWN
California	5169	2232	448	29	816	1624	20
Texas	2976	1102	163	7	662	1040	2
Florida	1989	372	97	2	611	896	11
Arizona	990	340	56	36	95	460	3
New Mexico	483	264	37	23	19	139	1
Colorado	749	238	58	6	66	378	3
Illinois	1156	159	53	2	471	457	14
New York	759	150	34	2	255	313	5
Georgia	1289	117	82	4	488	591	7
Nevada	449	111	24	4	84	224	2
Washington	730	93	61	22	98	454	2
New Jersey	559	89	32	1	213	220	4
Oklahoma	758	77	36	38	155	450	2
Pennsylvania	1022	77	69	5	293	570	8
Kansas	445	71	26	2	57	287	2
North Carolina	722	68	23	7	239	385	0
Michigan	927	61	118	8	247	485	8
Ohio	1066	55	39	4	355	608	5
Utah	286	53	21	7	21	181	3
Massachusetts	222	52	7	0	40	122	1
Missouri	985	48	46	3	285	599	4

Oregon	392	45	16	6	30	295	0
Virginia	691	45	33	2	225	376	10
Indiana	627	44	32	1	159	388	3
Tennessee	733	44	18	4	195	469	3
Louisiana	684	42	26	2	315	294	5
Maryland	568	41	24	0	251	247	5
Wisconsin	501	40	49	9	101	299	3
Minnesota	378	36	25	18	75	223	1
Connecticut	139	34	4	0	37	64	0
South Carolina	648	33	21	1	223	368	2
Alabama	735	31	28	7	231	436	2
Idaho	175	29	9	6	6	125	0
Nebraska	221	26	8	5	37	145	0
Kentucky	468	19	25	3	83	336	2
Hawaii	118	17	55	1	10	35	0
Iowa	303	17	13	3	43	226	1
Arkansas	417	17	16	4	100	277	3
Mississippi	463	16	25	6	164	246	6
Wyoming	77	8	6	6	7	50	0
Rhode Island	34	7	2	0	6	19	0
Alaska	135	7	7	28	9	82	2
North Dakota	48	5	1	9	1	32	0
Montana	123	5	4	16	5	92	1
New Hampshire	70	4	4	0	2	60	0
Vermont	44	3	0	0	2	39	0
Delaware	66	3	2	0	27	34	0
South Dakota	73	3	11	20	1	38	0
Maine	115	3	3	2	6	100	1
District of Columbia	97	2	4	0	68	23	0
West Virginia	208	2	9	2	30	164	1

\*NL= Non-Latino

**TABLE 2a:** Percent of Deaths in Presence of/Killings by Police By Geography 2000 - 2022

State	Race/Ethnicity					
	Latino	NL Asian Pac Isld	NL Native American	NL Black	NL White	Unknown
California	43.2	8.7	.6	15.8	31.4	.4
Texas	37.0	5.5	.2	22.2	34.9	.1
Florida	18.7	4.9	.1	30.7	45.0	.6
Arizona	34.3	5.7	3.6	9.6	46.5	.3
New Mexico	54.7	7.7	4.8	3.9	28.8	.2
Colorado	31.8	7.7	.8	8.8	50.5	.4
Illinois	13.8	4.6	.2	40.7	39.5	1.2
New York	19.8	4.5	.3	33.6	41.2	.7
Georgia	9.1	6.4	.3	37.9	45.8	.5
Nevada	24.7	5.3	.9	18.7	49.9	.4
Washington	12.7	8.4	3.0	13.4	62.2	.3
New Jersey	15.9	5.7	.2	38.1	39.4	.7
Oklahoma	10.2	4.7	5.0	20.4	59.4	.3
Pennsylvania	7.5	6.8	.5	28.7	55.8	.8
Kansas	16.0	5.8	.4	12.8	64.5	.4
North Carolina	9.4	3.2	1.0	33.1	53.3	.0
Michigan	6.6	12.7	.9	26.6	52.3	.9
Ohio	5.2	3.7	.4	33.3	57.0	.5
Utah	18.5	7.3	2.4	7.3	63.3	1.0
Massachusetts	23.4	3.2	.0	18.0	55.0	.5
Missouri	4.9	4.7	.3	28.9	60.8	.4
Oregon	11.5	4.1	1.5	7.7	75.3	.0
Virginia	6.5	4.8	.3	32.6	54.4	1.4
Indiana	7.0	5.1	.2	25.4	61.9	.5
Tennessee	6.0	2.5	.5	26.6	64.0	.4

Louisiana	6.1	3.8	.3	46.1	43.0	.7
Maryland	7.2	4.2	.0	44.2	43.5	.9
Wisconsin	8.0	9.8	1.8	20.2	59.7	.6
Minnesota	9.5	6.6	4.8	19.8	59.0	.3
Connecticut	24.5	2.9	.0	26.6	46.0	.0
South Carolina	5.1	3.2	.2	34.4	56.8	.3
Alabama	4.2	3.8	1.0	31.4	59.3	.3
Idaho	16.6	5.1	3.4	3.4	71.4	.0
Nebraska	11.8	3.6	2.3	16.7	65.6	.0
Kentucky	4.1	5.3	.6	17.7	71.8	.4
Hawaii	14.4	46.6	.8	8.5	29.7	.0
Iowa	5.6	4.3	1.0	14.2	74.6	.3
Arkansas	4.1	3.8	1.0	24.0	66.4	.7
Mississippi	3.5	5.4	1.3	35.4	53.1	1.3
Wyoming	10.4	7.8	7.8	9.1	64.9	.0
Rhode Island	20.6	5.9	.0	17.6	55.9	.0
Alaska	5.2	5.2	20.7	6.7	60.7	1.5
North Dakota	10.4	2.1	18.8	2.1	66.7	.0
Montana	4.1	3.3	13.0	4.1	74.8	.8
New Hampshire	5.7	5.7	.0 .0	2.9	85.7	.0
Vermont	6.8	.0	.0	4.5	88.6	.0
Delaware	4.5	3.0	27.4	40.9	51.5	.0
South Dakota	4.1	15.1	1.7	1.4	52.1	.0
Maine	2.6	2.6		5.2	87.0	.9
District of Columbia	2.1	4.1	.0	70.1	23.7	.0
West Virginia	1.0	4.3	1.0	14.4	78.8	.5

\*NL= Non Latino

# La Raza Database Research Project

# Definitions



# Definitions

## RACIAL/ETHNIC/ DEFINITIONS.

While racial/ethnic terms are important, and the distinctions equally so, the initial impetus for this study was to examine the violence against Brown peoples, and their statistical invisibility, and on the brutality and the violence and killings against all peoples, especially against people of color. It was not, nor is it a debate, over what we call ourselves or others. While there is no agreement regarding these terms, we generally concentrate on the categories that the databases that we've examined generally use, though we add those that are pertinent for our study: White, Black, Hispanic/Latino, Other, Asian, Unknown, plus Raza, Brown and American Indian.

## RAZA/LA RAZA:

Most of us that have taken part in this project use the term Raza or La Raza to identify the peoples that others, especially government entities and databases identify as Latinos/Hispanics, etc. Some, for the purposes of gender inclusivity, nowadays use the term Latinx. For us, La Raza alludes to our Indigeneity, though it also acknowledges our Indigenous roots and our African, Asian and European branches. We often interchangeably use the term Brown because those that are racially profiled from this category, usually are Brown, at least in the Greater Southwest. For this category, language and last names often are racialized and also factor into this racial profile. Also, from a writing standpoint, it is easy to write and generally, it is gender and culturally inclusive.

## INDIGENOUS:

Indigenous is a broad term that in the study's context, alludes to the Brown peoples of this continent; namely, including tribal peoples, peoples from native communities regardless of borders, including Indigenous-based mestizos (mixed peoples). Incidentally, most peoples referred to as mestizos in Mexico and Central America primarily, are generally Indigenous based.

## AMERICAN INDIAN:

For this study, American Indians generally refers to native peoples that are tribally enrolled into one of the 500+ tribal nations of the United States. Increasingly, many people of Mexican/Central American heritage, have begun to choose this census category, though without claiming one of the 500+ federally recognized tribes, while asserting an Indigenous nation from Mexico, Central America and the Andean region, etc.

## WHITE:

The Census Bureau uses the term White, generally for those of dominant EuroAmerican ancestry. In the past, peoples who we consider Brown, primarily Mexican or Central American - or Latinos/Hispanics, often were generally redirected into the White category. In the databases we examined, many Brown peoples continue to be placed into this category.

**BLACK:**

Most databases use the terms Black or African American interchangeably. This is generally and relatively non-controversial, except for statistical purposes. Many peoples who are Afro-Latinos often are placed into this category. At the same time, often, they may also wind up in the Hispanic/Latino category. While these again are not scientific categories, our objective was not to reassign categories, but to attempt to not double count these numbers.

**ASIAN/SOUTH ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER:**

Like the other categories, this category is very broad and generally refers to peoples from countries in Asia, including the South Asian countries such as India/Pakistan, etc. and peoples from the Pacific Islands. Some peoples in this category of course can come from Latin American countries, but for this study, such numbers would have been very small.

**OTHER:**

Generally, databases such as the Washington Post use this category to lump peoples that are not Black/White/Hispanic into this category. This usually includes peoples from the Asian categories, American Indian peoples, and peoples from Arab/Muslim countries. In the Post, this category usually does not include Raza, etc.

**UNKNOWN:**

While none of the categories are scientific, many law enforcement agencies often do not initially know how to categorize peoples and thus often, they don't and simply write "Unknown" for the racial category. In this study, many of these turn out to be Brown, Raza or "Hispanic/Latino." In 2021 and 2022, this category has grown exponentially, becoming the largest racial category in the Washington Post's data.

**UNIDENTIFIED:**

The study was also plagued by the law enforcement practice of simply not identifying peoples racially, thus, databases also follow suit. Often, peoples are not identified until a few weeks or months later, often skewing data collection. Through our study, many of these turned out to be people of color, especially Raza. While we did identify several thousand found in the unknown racial category, a couple thousand still remain unidentified. Many, we suspect, are people of color.



La Raza Database Team would like to express our deepest gratitude to every contributor and member of this Research Project.

Your passion, collaboration, dedication and commitment have allowed us to honor the memory of our Founder and Director by completing this Visionary Project he started.

Thank you for being an integral our Team.

We are grateful for your all selfless contributions and very honored to have had the privilege of working with you.

*La Lucha Sigue!*

# La Raza Database Research Project Acknowledgments





**Roberto "Dr. Cintli" Rodriguez (†)**

*La Raza Database Research Project Founder and Director*

Emeritus Associate Professor - University of Arizona,  
Journalist, Columnist, Poet, Author, Activist,  
Survivor and Winner of 2 Police Brutality Trials.



**Jesus M. Garcia**

*La Raza Database Research Project Statistician and Demographer*

Former US Census Bureau Demographer and Statistician.  
CEO of La Cresta Demographics



**Ivette "Xochiyotl" Boyzo**

*La Raza Database Research Project Manager*

Mental Health/Patient, Civil/Human/Indigenous Rights  
Advocate.  
Community Grassroots Organizer



**Dr. Enrique Murillo Jr.**  
*LEAD Summit Coordinator,  
La Raza Database Representative.*

"Dr. Ohtli", Professor of Education Cal State San Bernardino, Executive Director and Founder of Latino Education & Advocacy Days (LEAD) Organization President's Advisory Commission on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Hispanics,



**Yaotl Mazahua**

*Lead of the "Artistic Musical Compilation: Music, Poetry, Spoken Word & Testimonials" for La Raza Database.*

MSW, LA County DCFS, Tutuinc Advisory Council, Fernandefio Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, and lead singer of Aztlan Underground.

*"This compilation was initiated by Dr Cintli Several years ago when he approached me, Yaotl Mazahua, for help with putting together a compilation that he envisioned would correlate with the data acquisition he was working on with regards to police brutality.*

*Dr Cintli expressed, that he really felt it important to include the arts in this unveiling of this significant data.*

*The performers on the compilation are primarily survivors and/or people affected by police brutality. It was Dr Cintli's wish to approach it in this way, beginning with him.*

*With the tremendous help of Victor e of El Vuh and Huehuetlatolli, who facilitated the inclusion of producer and engineer D.J. Quad aka Jesse of Fifth Battalion, the compilation was powerfully realized.*

*Beginning with a piece by Dr Cintli and then ending with a meditation that helps us process the heaviness of the material on this compilation, it serves as a testimonial of brutality and death that reflects the data the late Dr Cintli compiled before his untimely passing.*

*We hope this serves as a memorial of truth and strength for all the survivors of lethal police violence.*

*May justice prevail. "*

## Research Volunteers

- Roberto “Dr. Cintli “ Rodriguez (†)
- Ivette Boyzo
- Alfred Porras
- Guillermo “Tlacayaotzin” Suárez
- Dr. Paul Ruiz

## Artistic Music Compilation

The Artistic Musical Compilation is a creative amalgamation of various art forms, including music, poetry, spoken word, and testimonials. This Artistic aspect of La Raza Database Project was directed by Yaotl Mazahua, lead singer of Aztlán Underground, Victor E from “El Vuh” and Huehuetlatolli, who facilitated the inclusion of producer and engineer DJ Quad aka Jesse of Fifth Battalion.

Roberto Dr. Cintli Rodriguez

“We were all mistaken”

Matt Sedillo

“Kingdom of cages”

Tania Pacheco

“Safe Haven”

Lisa Vargas

Anthony Vargas’ mother testimonial

Sara Haskie Mendoza

“Cihuateteo”

Huehuetlatolli

“Hands up”

“Fuerzas obsoletas”

Aztlán Underground

“Black lives matter”

Lukas Tekolotl

“Unjustifiable homicide“

Martín Espada

“Wake up Mario”

Luis J. Rodriguez

“The best of us”

Dr. Patty Cihuacoatl Ramirez

“My father”

Miroslava Alejandra Hernandez, Guitar by

Victor Cruz

Prophecy

“War crimes”

“La Llorona”

# Addendums

## Essay Authors

- Alan Stevenson,  
*Department of History and Political Science, Senior Thesis in History; UCLA Class of 2016,*
  - “On Race and Killings by Law Enforcement”
  
- Thibeaux
  - The Fatal Police Shooting of Trayford Pellerin
  
- Michael Yellow Bird, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribal Member. Author.  
*MSW, PhD, Dean and Professor of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Manitoba  
Director of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples Studies at North Dakota State University.*
  - Police violence and the killing of American Indians: “Indian-hating still exists, and, no doubt, will continue to exist, so long as Indians do.”-Herman Melville, *The Confidence-Man*, 1857.
  
- Sovereign, Earth-Feather C  
*Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Washington*
  - “Police Brutality amongst Alaskan Natives”
  
- Marisol Marquez, *Centro CSO*
  - “Centro CSO Fighting Against Chicano Police Brutality”
  
- Sammy Carrera, *Testimonio*
  - “LAPD ENCOUNTER”
  
- Gloria Hernandez  
*Mental Health & Legal Advocate*
  - FRESNO STOLEN LIVES”
  
- Maria Gomez Murphy  
*Social Researcher, Analyst, Strategist*
  - Excerpt of an article from “the Nation”. Author: Roberto Lovato.
  
- Martin Espada  
*Professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst; Decorated Award Winning Poet, Author.*
  - Poem “Wake up Mario”
  
- Kenneth Sebastian Leon,  
*Assistant Professor of Latino, Caribbean Studies and Criminal Justice at Rutgers University - New Brunswick.*  
More information about his research can be found [www.ksebastianleon.com](http://www.ksebastianleon.com)
  - The government’s non-tracking of violence against human beings.

# Essay Authors

- Miguel Juárez, PhD, *University of Texas at El Paso, Department of History.*
  - “Towards Accountability of Violence Against Raza in El Paso, Texas and Beyond”
- Fernanda Preciado, *Topeka Tonantzin Society.*
  - “Vigilante Violence in Kansas”
- Enrique Morones, *Mexico Human Rights National Awardee 2009; Founder Border Angels & House of Mexico, Executive Director, Gente Unida, San Diego.*
  - “12,500 Deaths on the Border”
- María E. Aparicio
  - “No One Should be Killed Trying to Migrate”
- Ivette “Xochiyotl” Boyzo; *Mental Health/Patient, Civil, Human & Indigenous Rights Advocate; Grassroots Community Organizer, Social Justice Activist*
  - “THE SILENCE OF WHAT WE KNOW”
- *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Washington, Means, Morning-Star D. & Sovereign, Earth-Feather C*
  - “The Pandemic of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women”
- Jorge Boyzo, ACSW
  - “Houseless, mental health, and substance use: a cop’s murder justification.”
- Nicolas Romero
  - SILENT HOLOCAUST: How the Educational System and the Media Criminalize and Dehumanize Brown People Leading to a “School to Prison Pipeline” Recidivism and Death.
- Dr. Manuel X. Zamarripa (*LPC-S*) & Jessica Tlazoltiani Zamarripa, *Institute of Chicana/o Psychology.*
  - “Spirit, Spirits, and Spirituality: Our Dimension of Loss and Resistance”
- Maestro Jerry Tello Author, International expert in transformational healing, men and boys of color, racial justice, and community peace and mobilization.  
*National Compadres Network Co Founder  
Director of Training and Capacity Building.*
  - “The Crying Woman is Wailing”

# LA RAZA DATABASE RESEARCH PROJECT ADDENDUMS

*Recognizing that the issue of violence is not limited to police brutality and law enforcement, La Raza Database Research Project has included these Addendum Essays to bring light to the many forms violence manifests and its impact on people of color. These accounts serve as a way to explain the interconnectedness of these forms of violence which in this Continent, can be traced back to dehumanizing policies that Indigenous Peoples have been experiencing since 1492.*

---



# “On Race and Killings by Law Enforcement”

## By Alan Stevenson.

Police kill far too many people in the United States. Politicians and law enforcement use the excuse of high murder rates to justify over-policing of communities of color and brutality. As a White male living among over-policed societies, I recognize abusive policing as a chief expression of racism. Second only to poverty, Black and Brown Americans are twice as likely to be impoverished than White Americans, policing enforces racism. The rate of death by police skews to the detriment of Black and Brown people 60/40 despite their population being the inverse (60% White, 40% non-white).

White deaths at the hands of police, though, are in the scope of police work and while many are unjustifiable, few are based on race. Police do not patrol wealthy White neighborhoods identifying residents as potential suspects. Outside of legitimate threats to public safety even the deaths of White males in poor and violence plagued communities are still the result of an institutional violence evolved from the historic merging of criminal and racial enforcement policies of the standing militias, night watches, slave patrols, frontiersmen, sheriffs and police.

People killed in poor communities are too often hunted if they mistakenly flee or resist because they are deemed dangerous. These suspects are assumed dangerous because of potential involvement in drugs, gang or other violent criminal activities. Police officers informed by fear and racism proactively defend themselves using deadly force. Deadly encounters are more likely if suspects are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, of large size. Or Black or Brown.

Police lack empathy due to the same fear of and frustration with crime and violence that the community they police endures. But with a right to the use of force they instinctively use physical violence and deadly force based on how they individually feel about the community instead of based on the individual suspect and circumstances at hand. Every encounter between community members and police in the policed community are informed by local police-community relations and crime rate and bad encounters are no different. As a society we should be asking law enforcement to make every effort to protect the sanctity of life and detain suspects alive. They should have a chance to prove their innocence or be incarcerated for their mistakes until deemed safe to reenter society, but they should be alive. No suspect should be treated with prejudice by police based on the past bad experiences of officers that occur in the scope of their job, but that is happening in the US every day.

Police must increase their empathy for Black and Brown suspects to reduce the killing of innocent individuals and suspected criminals.

We want an end to the general brutality and harassment that defines the community-police relationship and is exposed periodically in heinous cases that cause outrage and social upheaval. If the policing used in Black and Brown communities that evolved from violent White Supremacy, vis a vis conquest and enslavement, is not abolished or reformed it is likely that all people will be eventually subjected to that harsh treatment once reserved for convicted criminals and the victims of conquest and enslavement. Occasionally there are videos of White people being killed by police or of white men and women being violently thrown to the ground for not following directions, talking back and resisting detainment. While it may be tempting for some to say that this may be proof of equal treatment by police it is perhaps a signal of something worse, an irreversible trend towards a more violent, dominating police state with increasing access to our personal information and control over our bodies and property.

**Alan Stevenson**

Educational Background

-UCLA Class of 2016

Department of History and Political Science

-Senior Thesis in History

Faculty Mentor: Juan Gomez-Quinones

Topic: History of Los Angeles Police Department.



# “The Fatal Police Shooting of Trayford Pellerin” By Thibeaux.

Trayford Pellerin, a 31-year-old black man, was fatally shot on the evening of Friday, August 21, 2020, by police officers of the Lafayette Police Department in southern Louisiana 1,5.

This is the story of Mr. Pellerin that led to the excessive use of deadly force being employed because non-lethal tactics were ineffective or unable to be deployed.

At about 7:30 p.m., surveillance video footage taken from the initial gas station and convenience store 2, Circle K at 1912 Northeast Evangeline Thruway, showed Mr. Pellerin in the store<sup>1</sup>. This store is located approximately a half mile south of the convenience store where Mr. Pellerin was fatally shot 1.

He spent approximately 20-minutes in the store, where he stood by the entrance door as customers entered and exited. During his visit, the clerk of the store began to interact with him, such as asking where he was from, if he was okay, and tried to convince him to leave. As indicated by video footage, Mr. Pellerin engaged in questionable behavior, such as pacing back and forth, interacting with masked customers while he was unmasked, and looking out the window 2.

In one instance, he leaves the store, re-enters, and grabs a drink, then resumes standing near the entrance to the store. He was also observed on video footage calling the name of a woman, who was later identified as his sister, who was an employee at the Circle K<sup>2</sup>. Unfortunately, and perhaps unbeknownst to him, she was not working that evening. Eventually, the clerk persuaded him to leave, but he was unresponsive and became agitated<sup>1</sup>. As a result of his agitation, he engaged in a minor dispute concerning the location of a woman, then left the store where he was observed throwing a fountain drink in the parking lot and carrying a paring knife in his hand, about three to four inches in length 1,2.

Shortly, after 8 p.m. and following the incident at Circle K<sup>3</sup>, Lafayette police were called and dispatched to a disturbance involving a man armed with a knife. It was reported that Mr. Pellerin was terrifying customers by hollering and throwing things. Then, he engaged in another altercation with the store clerk while they were on the phone with the police dispatcher. The police officers intercepted and tried to apprehend Mr. Pellerin, who left the store and began heading north on the thruway, where the officers continued their pursuit. The body camera footage displayed Mr. Pellerin walking in the middle of the thruway and an officer warns him that he may get ran over by an oncoming vehicle.

Also, a pursuing officer attempted to subdue him with non-lethal force by utilizing a taser, but it did not work, and the commands given were ignored 2,4.

It is theorized that the taser prongs did not make bodily contact with Mr. Pellerin, but with the satchel he was carrying around his chest. However, there were other instances in which tasers were utilized, but they were unsuccessful. Allegedly, Mr. Pellerin turned to face and threatened to stab the pursuing officer that was trailing behind him by a few steps, but the officer did not discharge their firearm 1,2.

Ultimately, he led the officers to the Shell gas station at 2103 Northwest Evangeline Thruway, where additional officers either tried to intercept him or were awaiting his arrival 5. In a short time, several police officers were on the scene and observed Mr. Pellerin, who acknowledged their presence, but continued walking away while being trailed by multiple police officers<sup>4</sup>. Reports claim he was holding a knife in his left hand while walking away and ignoring the commands ordered by the officers, such as dropping the knife or getting on the ground 1,2. In addition, a K-9 unit was present on the thruway and at the Shell station but based on the close proximity to innocent bystanders and other officers, the handler feared the K-9 would attack the wrong individual, so the K-9 unit was not deployed 1,2.

As he proceeded to walk away from the officers and approach the entrance to the store, the officers began to surround him<sup>4</sup>. But, as Mr. Pellerin proceeded to open the door to the store, shots rang out and when the shots ceased, Mr. Pellerin collapsed to the ground and became limp. Later, he was pronounced dead, after he was taken to a local hospital 4.

As previously mentioned, prior to the shooting, Mr. Pellerin faced and threatened to stab the pursuing officer on the thruway 1,2. This threat was one of seven instances in which the officers were authorized and justified for the use of deadly force. In addition, six instances transpired in which the police officers were authorized and would have been justified to utilize deadly force were when Mr. Pellerin:

- (1) armed himself outside of the store and in close proximity to innocent bystanders;
- (2) concealed his knife and pulled it out when an officer confronted him;
- (3) swinging his knife and disrespecting the K-9 handler;
- (4) attempting to open the door of a pickup truck, which was perceived as potential car-jacking;
- (5) approaches an innocent bystander at a gas pump, until the K-9 handler intervened;
- (6) when he reached for the door to the store with his right hand<sup>1</sup>.

A toxicology report found that Mr. Pellerin had poly-substances in his system, including methamphetamine, THC, and nicotine, the night he was shot<sup>2</sup>. Furthermore, the report identified a blood concentration of 2800 ng/mL of methamphetamines in his system which is related to such symptoms as—confusion, restlessness, hallucinations, and behaviors of violence and irrationality 1. Although, in an independent autopsy of Mr. Pellerin, it was identified that multiple officers fired upon him for a total of 17 shots, with 11 of the 17 hitting him at close range from an investigation conducted by the Louisiana State Police (LSP), with a follow-up investigation by the office of the District Attorney in Lafayette 1,2,4.

However, based on the decision of the grand jury and the un-identification of a true bill for the second-degree murder charges of the officers, none of the officers were indicted and their identities will remain concealed<sup>1</sup>.

Following the death of Mr. Pellerin, a chain of protests erupted citywide—blocking traffic of major intersections, protests at city hall, demonstrations at the federal courthouse and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL)—for the transparency of the investigation and the termination of service for the involved officers<sup>5</sup>. Also, it was identified that Mr. Pellerin made verbal threats towards officers leading up to the shooting, but at no time did he: (a) pursue officers, instead continuously retreated, (b) make aggressive movements that were perceived as a preemptive or a surprise attack, and (c) commit any crimes against others<sup>1</sup>. Arguably, the lawyer representing the Pellerin family, Ron Haley, expresses his distaste for the continuous use of failure to comply, as a justification for the killings of black people across the nation and suggested that a failure to comply is a misdemeanor, not a death sentence<sup>1</sup>.

### References:

1. Gagliano, K. and Myers, B. (2021, May 11). No indictment against Lafayette police officers in the shooting death of Trayford Pellerin. *The Acadiana Advocate*. Retrieved on July 25, 2021 from No indictment against Lafayette Police officers in shooting death of Trayford Pellerin | Courts | theadvocate.com
2. KATC News (2021, May 11). Lafayette grand jury: No indictments in Trayford Pellerin. KATC 3 Acadiana's Newschannel. Retrieved on July 25, 2021 from Lafayette Grand Jury: No indictments in Trayford Pellerin case
3. Thornton, C. and Andone, D. (2020, August 24). Louisiana officials are investigating the police shooting of a 31-year-old black man. *CNN*. Retrieved on July 26, 2021 from <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.cnn.com/cnn/2020/08/22/us/trayford-pellerin-louisiana-police-shooting/index.html>
4. White, A. (2020, September 17). Lafayette police shooting: Timeline of events in the death of Trayford Pellerin. *Daily Advertiser*. Retrieved on July 25, 2021 from <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theadvertiser.com/amp/3476151001>
5. White, A. (2020, September 1). Trayford Pellerin shooting: What we know about his death and the aftermath. *Daily Advertiser*. Retrieved on July 25, 2021 from <https://www.google.com/amp/s/amp.theadvertiser.com/amp/3456028001>

**Police violence and the killing of American Indians:  
“Indian-hating still exists, and, no doubt, will continue to  
exist, so long as Indians do.”  
-Herman Melville, *The Confidence-Man*, 1857  
By Michael Yellow Bird**

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Center on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, American Indians are killed in police encounters more than any other group in the United States. In 2019, U.S. Census data showed that native people were 2.2 times more likely to be killed by the police than white people and 1.2 times more likely than Black people.

A report by Professor Matthew Harvey (2020, p. 2) found that in the Ninth Federal Reserve District in the United States, there are significant numbers of fatal encounters between American Indians and the police: “Native American males have 14 times as many fatal encounters as white males; Native American females have 38 times as many fatal encounters as white females.”

The disproportionate killing by today’s law enforcement should come as no surprise. Since the founding of the United States, the use of deadly force against American Indians has been legislated, encouraged, celebrated, and rewarded. The US military, state militias, private citizens, vigilantes, paramilitary forces, farmers, ranchers, religious groups, railroad and mining companies, and others were enlisted to police, brutalize, and kill Indians. The disproportionate killing of American Indians by law enforcement is merely a continuation of that history.

In the past, “Policymakers offered bounties for Native American heads or scalps in at least twenty-three states of their colonial, territorial, or Mexican antecedents” (Madley, 2015, p. 114). Massacres of Indians were widespread. Between 1539 to 1890, there were fifty-five reported massacres that involved the killing of between twenty-six and one thousand Indians in what are now 31 different US states (Madley, 2015).

The killing, controlling, and policing American Indians was justified by a fearful, racist American public who regarded them as the epitome of savagery. In the early U.S. colonies, religious groups feared and killed Indians believing they were an incarnation of the devil (Takaki, 1993). In the U.S. Declaration of Independence, the founding fathers premeditatedly incited hate and fear of American Indians by referring to them as “merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.” George Washington, who regarded Indians as apex predators that needed to be eradicated, wrote “...Indians were wolves and beasts who deserved nothing from the whites but ‘total ruin’” (Stannard, p. 241). Andrew Jackson inflamed the murder of Indians by agitating US troops to root them from their ‘dens’ and kill Indian women and their ‘whelps” (Stannard, p. 240).

U.S. General William Sheridan believed that Indians had no redeeming qualities and coined the phrase: “The only good Indian is a dead Indian.” Theodore Roosevelt stated, “I don’t go so far as to think that the only good Indians are the dead Indians, but I believe nine out of every 10 are.” Captain Richard Pratt, the founder of the Carlisle Indian school, believed in order to successfully educate Indian children, educators must “Kill the Indian, and save the man.” During the Vietnam war, American soldiers often fantasized they were killing Indians when they killed Vietnamese and referred to enemy territory as “Indian Country” (Espy, 1994). In 1991, during the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Brigadier General Richard Neal referred to the hostile territory as “Indian Country” (Yellow Bird, 2004 p. 44).

For many years, the killing and abuse of American Indians was common in Hollywood films, western novels, and on television and the radio. Racist stereotypes of American Indians such as being dirty, drunken, ignorant, and lazy, have been well-tolerated by the American public. Racist Indian hate talk is embedded by the most liberal and privileged Americans. In a 2016 interview, when Democratic candidate Hilary Clinton was running for President against Donald Trump, she was asked about the aggression he had shown towards her during the campaign. She immediately repeated the “off the reservation” racist slur that was used to refer to American Indians when they challenged white authority: “I have a lot of experience dealing with men who sometimes get off the reservation in the way they behave and how they speak. I’m not going to deal with their temper tantrums or their bullying or their efforts to try and provoke me.”

Being brutalized and killed by law enforcement is only one of many challenges American Indians confront in their everyday lives. For many, poverty, poor health, historical trauma, invisibility, racism, marginalization, gas and oil pipelines that threaten their lands, waters, and lives, and Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), add to their daily burden of distress. Crystal EchoHawk (2021) believes that one of the largest barriers facing Indigenous Peoples is “invisibility in the minds of the public, media, the education system, and popular culture” which creates “false narratives and toxic stereotypes” and “are the average American’s only exposure to Native realities.” Perhaps, one way to reduce the killing of American Indians by law enforcement is to launch a national truth and reconciliation effort to provide them with a truthful accounting of the racist stereotypes, language, and the laws that have dominated the American narrative of Native peoples.

## References:

- EchoHawk, C. (2021). Stolen land, stolen bodies, and stolen stories. Stanford Social Innovation Review. Informing and inspiring leaders of social change:  
[https://ssir.org/articles/entry/stolen\\_land\\_stolen\\_bodies\\_and\\_stolen\\_stories](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/stolen_land_stolen_bodies_and_stolen_stories)
- Espy, D. (1994). "America and Vietnam: The Indian Subtext," in David Landrey and Blige Mutluay (Eds.). *The Journal of American Culture and Literature Uprising: The Protests and the Arts*, pp. 128 – 136.
- Harvey, M. (2020). Fatal Encounters Between Native Americans and the Police. CSWEP Summer 2019 Economics Fellow.
- Madley, B. (2015). Reexamining the American Genocide Debate: Meaning, Historiography, and New Methods. *The American Historical Review*, Volume 120, Issue 1, February 2015, Pages 98–139,  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/120.1.98>
- Stannard, D. (1992). *American Holocaust: The Conquest of the New World*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press
- Takaki, R. (1994). *Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America*. New York, NY: Back Bay Books.
- Yellow Bird, M. (2004). Cowboys and Indians: Toys of Genocide, Icons of Colonialism. *Wicazo sa review. Journal of Native American Studies*. Special Issue on Colonization/Decolonization, Vol 19, 2.

# “Police Brutality amongst Alaskan Natives” By Sovereign, Earth-Feather C.

American Indians and Police Brutality amongst Alaskan Natives, also known as Native Americans, is at an all time high. Homicide is the third leading cause of death for Native Americans 10 to 24 yrs. old. Native Americans ages 20-24, 25-34, and 35-44 are three of five groups most likely to be killed by police. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data from 1999 to 2014. Native Americans are 3.1 times more likely than white Americans to be killed by Police. At first glance of the numbers, the amount may appear low, but compared to the low population of American Indians and Alaskan Natives, the numbers are high.

Looking further back in reports Native Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives racial or ethnic categories were often left out of the data or under-reported. Also, in looking back through some of the reports of Native Americans have been misidentified as a different race or categorized as “Other” or “Unknown”. Mixed race individuals were also not considered Native American, or American Indian, and Alaskan Natives.

The term Native Americans is used to describe Tribal People throughout the United States. Native American may be used interchangeably with Indigenous People or Aborigines. Native Americans are the first human beings in North and South America. Chicanos, Mexicans (Olmec; Toltec; Teotihuacan' Zapotec; Mixtec; Aztec, Nahua, and Mayan), Canadian First Nations, Native Hawaiians, Samoans, Pacific Islanders, Arctic Inuit, Métis, to name a few. Due to Colonization, genocide, the Doctrine of Discovery, and the military strategy of conquer and divide. Most Indigenous People have forgotten their traditions, culture, ceremonies, and connection with each other. They have forgotten they are relatives.

Police Brutality is an unjustified, unauthorized, extreme force of misconduct, and a violation of one's civil rights. As well as a violation of Indigenous Rights. Police Brutality often stems from Racism and Prejudice ideology, also known as systematic racism. In the United States, Native Americans, American Indians, and Alaskan Natives make up the highest percentage of male and female prisoners. In a Washington State Patrol report analysis project in 2003 reported, police had a high rate of arrests of Tribal Members near Reservations. Often referred to as racial profiling.

There are 574 Federally Recognized Tribes in the United States. 326 American Indian Reservation Lands. Native Americans make up 1.3% of the U.S. Population. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports 78% live off Reservation. 70% live in Urban areas.

American Indian and Alaskan natives who live off-Reservation are also referred to as “Urban Indians”. Police Brutality on Reservations are often not reported. The majority of Police brutality happens in Urban areas.

There are 574 Federally Recognized Tribes in the United States. 326 American Indian Reservation Lands. Native Americans make up 1.3% of the U.S. Population. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reports 78% live off Reservation. 70% live in Urban areas. American Indian and Alaskan natives who live off-Reservation are also referred to as “Urban Indians”.

Police Brutality on Reservations are often not reported.

The majority of Police brutality happens in Urban areas.

### References:

1. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Leading Causes of Death Non-Hispanic American Indian and Alaskan Native 2016.
2. “Americans Indians and Crime” (PDF). The Bureau of Justice of Statistics.
3. The Center for Disease Control. Male Analysis 1999-2014.
4. Gafney, Michael J. “(PDF) WSP Traffic Stop Data Analysis Project.” ResearchGate, WSP, 2003, [www.researchgate.net/publication/240945344\\_WSP\\_Traffic\\_Stop\\_Data\\_Analysis\\_Project](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/240945344_WSP_Traffic_Stop_Data_Analysis_Project).
5. U.S. Department of Interior. Indian Affairs. April 2021.
6. U.S. Census Bureau. Quick Facts July 2019.
7. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Office of Minority Health.



# “Centro CSO Fighting Against Chicano Police Brutality”

By Marisol Marquez

Centro Community Service Organization or Centro CSO was founded in 1947 by Fred Ross, Antonio Rios, and Edward Roybal. CSO functioned as a vessel to help elect the first-ever Chicano Roybal into LA’s City Council. In 1951, CSO was forced to act against the wild LAPD officers involved in Bloody Christmas –where seven inmates (most of them Chicano) were severely beaten. CSO shined a light on the case and demanded accountability. The result was eight LAPD thugs being prosecuted, 54 transferred, and 39 suspended. To this day, such a major hammer of police accountability has yet to be matched or surpassed.

In 2016, CSO was again forced to take up the campaign against police brutality after LAPD Hollenbeck shootings resulted in the deaths of eight Chicanos in under a year –these included 16-year-old Jose Mendez, and 14-year-old Jesse Romero.

April 27, 2020, LAPD two-time-killer cop Frank Hernandez severely beat homeless Chicano Richard Castillo. A witness caught the senseless and vicious beating on videotape, and public outrage ensued. Various messages to the CSO hotline urged pressuring LAPD Hollenbeck to fire LAPD cop Hernandez. A protest and the delivery of hundreds of petition signatures from mostly Boyle Heights residents (many of them victims of LAPD Hollenbeck beatings and harassment), caused waves. So much so that LAPD Chief of Police Michael Moore personally met with CSO members to receive the petition signatures. On June 9, 2020 then-District Attorney Jackie Lacey announced the filing of charges against LAPD cop Hernandez. Two years after the incident, Hernandez finally went to trial and pleaded no contest. He faced no jail time and received two years probation.

Despite COVID-19, CSO continued organizing and on June 1, 2020, participated in the national day of action against police killings called on by the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR). The event followed the killing of Minnesotan George Floyd on May 25, 2020. Floyd was mercilessly killed by a police officer’s knee to his neck. Over a thousand people participated in the Boyle Heights action and CSO stressed the importance of Chicano and Black unity against police violence.

On December 3, 2018, Alex Villanueva became the new sheriff of Los Angeles. And December 20, 2020, Jackie Lacey lost her re-election as District Attorney of Los Angeles. Both occurrences were fought for by organizations like Black Lives Matter-LA, and Centro CSO. Since then, the new DA George Gascón has become a target for vowing to reopen LAPD cases Lacey had dismissed or swept under the rug.

Sheriff Villanueva and many others have come to bat against this decision. Supported by politicians like Hilda Solis who is the Chair of the LA County Board of Supervisors, has vowed to hold Villanueva accountable for various incidents including harboring notorious sheriff gangs like Los Banditos (based in East LA). Villanueva publicly insulted Solis by calling her a “Malinche.” Additionally, Villanueva stated, “The board of supervisors need to be taken to the shed and beaten until they do their job.”

Today, CSO continues fighting back for Raza in East LA and Boyle Heights. September 18, 2021, CSO helped organize a march and rally near the East LA Sheriff’s station to demand justice for David Ordaz Jr. Ordaz was killed by East LA Sheriffs on March 14, 2021, after suffering from a mental health crisis, and after officers shot and killed him in his home. Plans for CSO continue fighting to jail and prosecute killer cops, demanding and organizing around community control of the police, and booting the LA Sheriff Alex Villanueva

Robert Luna is now the new Sheriff of Los Angeles and CSO continues to end the killings and to end the impunity.

CSO meets every third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm via Zoom (online), during the Pandemic. All of those interested in participating should contact CSO at any of the following:  
(323) 943-2030  
CentroCSO@gmail.com,  
Or @CentroCSO on Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Facebook.

# “LAPD ENCOUNTER”

By Sammy Carrera

My encounter was with 4 LAPD Hollenbeck gang unit officers. I had just clocked out of work from Homeboy Industries Bakery. It was evening time and dark.

I rushed out to attend a Dia De Los Muertos event at Self Help Graphics. It was going to be the first DDLM event for them at their new location in Boyle Heights. I was excited, as most people anticipated this event to be memorable. My primary form of transportation was my bicycle. I pedaled from the Barrio DogTown area, and made it one block away from Self Help.

I stopped at 1st and Clarence because my cell phone rang. I got off the bike to answer.

As I was speaking on the phone, 2 gang unit vehicles entered that street. They saw me, “bald headed male hispanic wearing oversized clothing.” They jumped out of the vehicles and within a few seconds, I had 4 pistols pointed in my direction. They began yelling and giving me commands. I complied with every single command, but they resented the fact that I dare question them. “What’s going on, why am I being detained” I asked, “shut the fuck up motherfucker, we’re the LAPD if we give you a command you listen” they replied.

Comments like that are made to initiate a cover up. They tried to portray me as non compliant with those types of statements. They approached me with my hands fully in the air, they cuffed me and I continued asking them for information on what was going on. They got tired of it so they slammed me to the floor while handcuffed. As I went down, my face made contact with the concrete pavement at full force causing my right eye to have major swelling. Almost the size of a baseball. As I was on the floor they kicked me on my body while yelling at me to “shut the fuck up.” They took me to a hospital, thankfully my eye was only badly bruised.

They charged me with 4 counts of resisting arrest, one for each officer present. My public defender did a great job representing me and was able to have the judge immediately dismiss all counts. When we began the trial, my public defender gave me a copy of the police report. In Boyle Heights, like many communities, there has always been an underlying feeling of corruption towards Hollenbeck officers and with the police report in hand the suspicions were confirmed. There were wild fabricated events written by the police to justify their use of force. I can’t exactly remember who, but someone within my circle of friends put me in contact with Antonio Rodriguez, the attorney who took the 4 officers to federal court on my behalf. Roughly 5 years later, Antonio won a cash settlement for me. It certainly was not the amount of money we hoped for but it was definitely a huge symbolic win against law enforcement.

# “FRESNO STOLEN LIVES”

## By Gloria Hernandez

I was raised to believe that the dead should be remembered. So, in 1997 I began to collect the names of those lives stolen by the Fresno Police Department and later, I found it compelling to know the names of the officers who killed them and began to request their names in 1995.

The information was hard to obtain, I kept getting it denied because of “officer safety”. In 2010, the ACLU sued to get the names of the officers who brutalized a white homeless man. I provided them with my written denials, and for that I was deposed by the city attorney. They wanted to know who paid me? NO ONE! Why did I want the information? BECAUSE THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO KNOW!

I finally obtained the info and created the Fresno Stolen Lives list which became a model for other cities.

We learned by tracking the information that FPD has many repeat shooters within its ranks.

As time went on, we gathered more families and supporters and we pushed back conducting “Know Your Rights” and COPWATCH community classes. We did vigils, protests, court watching and made demands at the table to change policies and procedures. We read the names of the Stolen Lives victims into the City Council record. We gathered signatures to get the Chief of Police fired.

We networked with other communities, local, state and nationally. We spent three years meeting throughout California with other Chicanos (People’s Justice Network} to study issues and come up with recommendations. Some of those recommendations are now laws. We kept filing Requests and shared the responses, so that others could learn to document incidents and shootings.

We have seen zero settlements grow to million dollars settlements. It’s been a learning process for the families, judges, juries, the attorneys, and the media. But we persist and will continue to do so.

Since 1998 every October 22 at 5:30 rain or shine, we gather at Eaton Park, to update the families on the ongoing legislation, local court cases and to provide them a time to grieve and share their stories of their loved one.

We, Brown people are always last but, on the Fresno, Stolen Lives’ list we are always the first of many.

In November 2019 we filed a letter demanding that the US Dept of Justice investigate the department for the pattern and practice of shooting unarmed individuals, after we saw the video of a young Chicano being shot in the back of the head and heard one officer yell out “good shot”.

A couple of years ago, we rallied around the City of Fresno Police Reform Commission and pushed support for their 78 recommendations. We also participated in the People's Commission on Policing and pushed for items left out of the Police Commission Report.

The previous year we also learned of a houseless man who died by a hit and run. No publicity around it. Our allies investigated and learned that it was a FPD officer, we called for a vigil and demanded transparency and accountability at a vigil.

Our pushing the case into the public's eye led to the Detective being charged with manslaughter for texting and driving.

Also, the previous year we learned of a cop who was a member of the Proud Boys and gathered signatures and succeeded in getting him fired.

We continue to push back and to help the families of Fresno Stolen Lives, by getting the new families to meet with the old families so that they can share information and strategies.

## Excerpt of an article from “the Nation”.

Author: Roberto Lovato

Edited by Maria Gomez Murphy.

On the night of March 23, 1979, Roberto Cintli Rodriguez lost his ability to dream. Rodriguez, a journalist, was in East Los Angeles reporting for an article in Lowrider magazine about police violence when four baton-wielding LA County sheriffs beat the living dreams out of him—a story the city’s main news outlet, the Los Angeles Times, ignored.

“For years, I literally couldn’t remember my dreams or my nightmares,” Rodriguez tells me during our conversation last week. “Those parts of me were erased.”

In May, 2021, Rodriguez, an associate professor emeritus in the Mexican American Studies Department at the University of Arizona, released the latest iteration of the Raza Database Project (RDP), a project that documents the violent effects of Latinx people’s erasure. He and a team of volunteer researchers, journalists, and family members of Latinos killed by police produced a definitive report documenting an undercount of over 2,600 Latinos who have died at the hands of local police officers since 2014, a number that’s twice as large as what was previously reported (by the mainstream media).

“One day,” he says, “I was looking at the ‘Unknowns’ in official statistics —people not identified in any racial or ethnic category—and saw all these names I recognized: Lopez, Martinez, Gonzalez, Ramirez. I asked myself, ‘Why are they ‘unknown’?’ Because the federal government doesn’t keep a comprehensive, standardized count of who’s killed.”

His project and story bring to mind the forgotten names and images encountered during recent drives to numerous California cities and towns: Sean Monterrosa, an unarmed man shot and killed in Vallejo on June 2, 2020; James De La Rosa, a 22-year-old oil field worker shot dead by police officers in Bakersfield (where police officers have killed more people per capita than anywhere else in the United States); Andrés Guardado, an 18-year-old Salvadoran man shot in the back and killed by the same Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department that assaulted Roberto. While locals know their names, these and thousands of others remain faceless and story-less in the annals of US police violence.

Roberto’s journey into the heart of darkness of police killings points to an even larger issue: how the systematic deletion of Latinx people by government databases, the media, philanthropy, Hollywood, and other institutions enables not just police violence but a whole host of other ills. From devastating immigration policies and employment discrimination, to reduced government funding these and other afflictions all have an element of removing Latinx people from their own stories.

Columbia University scholar Frances Negrón-Muntaner says, “Power always has archives,” Any institution that exercises power generates an archive of its operations. One of the ways Latinos are erased is that the data generated by these institutions are not collected into their archives. The other form of erasure is that the materials may be there, but the narratives are not there and are not incorporated into the larger narratives of the country.”

He and Muntaner see these responses as forms of selective memory of physical, psychic, and other violence. Lacking any memory of the history of killing that has shaped different Latinx identities Latinx groups lack any serious explanations for either the current violence or the discrimination and racism we experience. Roberto wakes up every morning to the sight of the big T-shaped scar left by the Sheriff’s beating but remains undaunted in the pursuit of ending the erasure of Latinx people. For him the “T” on his forehead stands for “Truth.”

“For a time, they made me lose my ability to dream,” he says. “But I never lost the ability to remember.”  
[Robvato@gmail.com](mailto:Robvato@gmail.com)

## “Wake Up, Mario”

By Martin Espada

### For Mario González Arenales (1995-2021)

He’s not doing anything wrong. He’s just scaring my wife.

—call to the Alameda Police Department, April 19, 2021

They watched him from the window of the house, a man at the fence  
in a crooked wool cap, chipping at their tree with a comb, liquor bottles  
in a shopping basket by his feet.

They heard him speak to the wife’s  
grandmother in the yard, tongue thick in his mouth, heavy with lamentation.  
He could be the Aztec god of pestilence, no mask, breathing the plague  
on them through walls and doors.

The Mexican nanny might be able  
to read the hieroglyphics tumbling from his mouth, but she was wheeling  
a stroller through the streets of Alameda, the trees bowing deeply.

On the news, the body-cam clip wobbles like the video at a barbecue.

The cops are cheerful as they encircle him in the park across the street.

He says his name is Mario.

One cop scolds this refugee from Oakland about drinking in our parks, wants ID so they can be on our  
merry way.

Mario says: Merry-go-round?

He steps up on a tree stump as if to ride it.

The cops climb off the spinning horses of Mario’s imagination, tugging at his arms as he peeks  
at them under the cap.

Now they are cowboys at the rodeo, but Mario is not  
a steer, crashing to the applause of hands that would carve him into steaks.

The cops shove him to the ground, facedown.

Mario squirms and bucks;

he is the prize at the county fair, a beast who tries to calm his captors,  
so he spits all the words he knows to make them stop: oh God, please,  
thank you, and sorry, I’m sorry, I’m so sorry.



I forgive you, says one cop,  
as the other cop digs his knee into Mario's back, where it stays even after  
they cuff him, even after the first cop says: Think we can roll him on his side?  
He asks Mario for his birthday, as if there will be a barbecue in the backyard  
at the cop's house, and Mario, facedown in the wood chips and the dirt,  
with the other cop's knee pressing into his back, wheezes the word: Libra.

There were cries, then silence.

There were no last words. In medieval days,  
the prisoner at the block would forgive the headsman and drop a coin into  
his hand for a clean strike of the blade.

In Salem's Puritan days, a man accused of witchcraft, after two days of stones stacked on him, sneered:  
More weight.

There were no last words from Mario when they rolled him over at last.  
The last words were in the headlines that same day, jury deliberations  
two thousand miles away in Minneapolis, the case of a cop kneeling  
on the neck of a Black man, facedown and handcuffed, for nine minutes.

In Alameda, the cops began CPR and their incantation over the asphyxiated body:  
Wake up, Mario, wake up, as if he would be late for school on class picture day,  
as if he would miss his shift at the pizzeria where the paychecks dwindled away,  
as if he had an autistic brother waiting at home for Mario to help him step from  
the shower, button his shirt, comb his hair.  
His autistic brother still waits for Mario.

The man who called the cops, his wife's hand gripping his shoulder,  
says: We greatly regret what happened and never intended, says.  
Terrible things are being said about us, says Our autistic child is able to read  
and is terribly sensitive. The sign in front of the dark house says: For Sale.

The merry-go-round in Mario's imagination grinds on, creaking  
day after day: the caller who presses the button to make the horses go,  
the cops charging like cavalry after the renegades, the dead man galloping  
ahead, escape impossible, his horse impaled on a pole, kicking the air.

The Mexican nanny called Crucita blames herself for rolling the stroller back too late. She visits the altar for Mario across the street from the tree missing a sliver of bark from his comb. The roses wreathing his face shrivel to plastic, balloons gone flat, votive candles cold. There is an autopsy after the autopsy. The coroner keeps the city's secrets, a priest hiding in the confessional.

In her sleep, Crucita sees Mario, sometimes a body splayed across the street, breath squeezed from his lungs like the last note from the pipes of a calliope, sometimes breaking free, the painted horse lunging away, as he rides along the coast to the deserts of Baja California, down mountain trails off the maps of Yanqui generals and their armies, deep into the songs about bandidos too clever to be caught, revolutionaries the bullets cannot kill.

# The government's non-tracking of violence against human beings.

By Kenneth Sebastian Leon.

The Department of Defense (DOD), together with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), tracks over 21,000 human-made objects flying around in space.

“There are half a million pieces of debris the size of a marble or larger (up to 0.4 inches, or 1 centimeter) or larger, and approximately 100 million pieces of debris about .04 inches (or one millimeter) and larger. There is even smaller micrometer-sized (0.000039 of an inch in diameter) debris.” (NASA, [web](#)).

This is done primarily to mitigate threats to large capital investments and to protect the few humans that launch into space. A marble-like piece of space junk can easily damage or destroy whatever it hits when it's traveling at thousands of miles per hour.

While undisclosed sums of money are spent to track space junk, one can appreciate the technical prowess, expertise, and multidisciplinary teams required to accomplish this feat. If the DOD and NASA can use public funds to track 21,000 pieces of orbital garbage, why is it so difficult to track how many people are injured and killed at the hands of police?

Back here on earth, there is a longstanding series of measurement issues and data integrity for various facets of the U.S. criminal justice (CJ) system. Given the fractured nature of police, courts, and correctional systems, there is significant variety in how basic concepts are operationalized, including but not limited to racialized categories of personhood. Terms like Hispanic and Latino are inconsistently operationalized, treated as a racial category in some CJ contexts and like an ethnicity in others. While the contingency (and political instrumentalism) of racial categories is beyond the scope of this essay, there is no systematic or comprehensive method for tracking all deaths at the hands of police in the U.S. (There are important and ongoing efforts to address this, including but not limited to the Fatal Encounters project.)

Coming back to the topic of space junk: science and research are not value-neutral industries. They are subject to the configurations of power that exist at a given time.

Tax dollars are funneled towards protecting heavily subsidized space industries while earthlings are supposed to accept that our institutions of formal social control are just too complicated to track salient events in any systematic fashion. But another obstacle looms large:

Expecting police (or other state entities) to accurately report their own violence is like asking the military to voluntarily and accurately track civilian casualties.

To this day, for example, we still don't know how many Mexican and Karankawa people were killed at the hands of the Texas Rangers. But what official governmental report would prioritize the accurate counting of each life that was taken? Do we imagine a society where a fraction of the budget used for DOD and NASA's space junk efforts go towards understanding the full scale and racialized dimensions of state violence? While grassroots efforts are an important step forward, shouldn't public health agencies be funding this kind of intellectual and civic labor with the explicit goal of preventing death and dismemberment?

While our efforts to empirically document historical and ongoing forms of racialized state violence and extrajudicial killings continue, we ask whether the very legitimacy of the state is further undermined when it allocates trillions to war-mongering and capital accumulation, and leaves the tracking of its own homicidal machinations to volunteers, journalists, and activists.

## “Towards Accountability of Violence Against Raza in El Paso, Texas and Beyond”

By Miguel Juárez, PhD, University of Texas  
at El Paso, Department of History.

It wasn't the first time HATE had come to El Paso.

On August 3, 2019 a white extremist from Ft. Worth drove 11 hours to El Paso, Texas looking to kill Raza and he found them at the Walmart at 7101 Gateway West on Saturday morning. It was a regular Saturday morning like all the others. It was reported that he first canvassed the store and saw that there was no security present. He then returned to his vehicle and walked in with his weapon. All along the way, including people waiting in the parking lot, as he made his way inside the store.

It was just like any other Saturday; people were there shopping; a girls' soccer group was raising money in front of the store; a Mexican woman from Chihuahua had stopped to buy some groceries before picking up her daughter at the El Paso airport; seniors were there with their wives; families were there with their nephews and babies. That day, many of the shoppers never made it to where they were going or if they did, it was many hours later after Patrick Wood Crusius had killed 23 people and shot and wounded another 23 more people inside and outside the store. El Paso's innocence was forever shattered when the violent vigilante opened fire on the largely Mexicano/Latino shoppers.

To this day, Crusius, who was from Allen, Texas has not been tried in court \*. A nationalist and anti-immigrant manifesto was found online, reminiscent of the ongoing threats and violence against BIPOC and of the hate crimes and violence against Latinos that have largely gone under reported. There are many incidents and cases surrounding crimes against Latinos and right now there is no one place to locate this data.

A similar vigilante story is a case in Topeka, Kansas. Akela Lacy in a July 22, 2021 article in The Intercept wrote: “two men — then-39-year-old Army veteran and Walmart employee Robert Sinner and his then-34-year-old brother, Justin — had confronted a car full of five teenagers they thought took a Donald Trump sign from a used auto lot near their house.” This resulted in teenagers being shot. If it had been Latinos shooting white teenagers, it would have been a different outcome.

### The Border Convoy

It wasn't the first-time white supremacists had come to El Paso. Five years earlier, in 2014, the Border Convoy had stopped in El Paso on their way from Murrieta, California en route to McAllen, Texas. From August 1-9th, the group traveled along the U.S./Mexico border. Their Twitter banner stated they made the trip for the purpose of “securing the border, stopping the invasion, and standing for America.

After they left El Paso, the Border Convoy tweeted that they had been confronted by “La Raza” in El Paso, Texas. Unbeknownst to them, the La Raza Unida in 1972, had been a peaceful gathering of leaders in the hope of creating a third political party in the United States as an alternative to the Democratic and Republican parties of that period.

As they drove through the Southwest, the Border Convoy broadcasted their disdain for Mexican Americans they met along on their stops. In El Paso, the Convoy was stopped on Interstate 10 in East El Paso by the El Paso Police Department (EPPD). The EPPD let them go even though members had firearms in plain view inside their vehicles. After they left El Paso they stopped in Austin, then San Antonio and finally reached McAllen. All along the way, the caravan was met with protestors and in McAllen Chicano motorcyclists supported the largely young Mexican American protestors.

#### Police Accountability in El Paso, Texas

There have been some efforts to provide Raza accountability. In El Paso, the Movement for Police Accountability was created in 2020 by the Border Network for Human Rights (BNHR) following the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many other Black and Brown people at the hands of law enforcement. The El Paso Police Department Accountability Task Force members include many organizations, which is composed of diverse El Paso organizations and advocates who are united to end police brutality and impunity in the border region. The group is currently hosting a survey inviting the community to share experiences and attitudes on the El Paso Police Department: Again, the community rallied around the families to provide support and amplify their voices through advocacy. And again, elected officials have ignored their voices continuing the trend of racism and oppression. Robert Sinner’s trial was set for June 2023. Justin Sinner was initially not charged with anything.

Equity and justice are not negotiable.

Silence of our elected officials proves the desire to secure privilege has no boundaries. All these incidents and actions point to the fact that we need to develop a mechanism to document how the Raza has been affected by extremist actions and police brutality.

- In 2023, Cassius plead guilty to a 90-count indictment. In exchange for not receiving the death penalty, he agreed to serve 90 consecutive life sentences.

# “Vigilante Violence in Kansas”

## By Fernanda Preciado

### Tonantzin Society, Topeka, Kansas.

Topeka was founded by many who believed in a life of equity and enrichment. We have long been the home of vigilanties, though back then they were known as abolitionists. John Ritchie fought to provide freedom and opportunity for Black people who were fleeing from their captors by the underground railroad.

Recently, however, we have turned the page to give way to white supremacists and have found ourselves in a pivotal moment in history. A time where we must face ugly truths of racism and oppression.

We must address the systemic problems that have led to people of color dying too soon - living in conditions that suffocate them with fear and struggle. That was the way the systems were built.

It is no longer a question of does it need to change, because it does. The question is whether we have the grit to acknowledge the fallacy of current policy and procedure and do something about it.

Growth demands change. To believe that our systems are perfect is naive, and dangerous.

It was brought to the city’s attention during a time when the country was crying for change that we must work toward the betterment of the department by adopting certain police practices into law, training, and procedural changes. As support grew for these steps, the opposition grew louder with a message that was divisive, filled with false claims, and a rhetoric that incited violence and fear. An intentional, and ultimately effective tactic.

Community members from across the city rallied for a unified message of procedural justice based on research and data. In turn, the counter group that identified themselves as “Back the Blue” led by an ex-police officer, personally attacked community members, attempted to discredit community groups and organizations, and developed a platform for people to incite violent rhetoric through propaganda messages and fear mongering. It became dangerous, eventually breeding insurrectionists. The hate went unchecked by those in power.

On Halloween night, 2020, two armed vigilantes attempted to murder 5 children whom they suspected of stealing a Trump sign from a neighboring car lot. They planned to hunt them that night. Robert and Justin Sinner approached the children with guns and then blocked the children in a dead-end alley.

As the children attempted to flee, they unloaded 35 shots into the vehicle. Four children were hit, another injured, and all were scared for their lives. District Attorney Mike Kagay was days away from his election and couldn't risk angering his base so the Sinners remained free for weeks while one child lay in the hospital with a bullet in his head, another child with a bullet in his back, and all the children and their families traumatized.

Again, the community rallied around the families to provide support and amplify their voices through advocacy. And again, elected officials have ignored their voices continuing the trend of racism and oppression. Robert Sinner's trial was set for June 2023. Justin Sinner was initially not charged with anything.

Equity and justice are not negotiable.

Silence of our elected officials proves the desire to secure privilege has no boundaries.



# “12,500 Deaths on the Border”

## By Enrique Morones.

Why do we all know George Floyd and not know the name of even one of the 12,500 that have tragically died because of “The Wall” the US put up in 1994. ( Operation GateKeeper )

It’s good we all know the name of George Floyd. His death was tragic. But so were the deaths of 12,500 border crossers.

Let me tell you about some of those people, 5 year old Marco Antonio Villaseñor. Before he died after crossing through Texas, he asked his dad to give some water.. His dad did not. He then asked another man, then we another man, 18 men in total did not give the 5 year old water. And why not, they were all dead. Then Marco Antonio also died.

They died in Victoria, Texas in 2003. I went to the site, to mourn with family members as i have done many times

Lucrecia Dominguez,, like so many she wanted to cross, she did not have the legal documents, but did have her two small children. Jesus 15 and Nora 8.

She approached a smuggler that was going to cross a group the next morning. He agreed to cross her, but not the children. She asked why not and he said they would slow the group down. She showed up the next day and convinced the man to take them, by paying him more.

Then the group crossed and the children did slow them.down, the smuggler left the children and Lucrecia behind. She died, literally in Jesus arms, her 15 year old son.

Then there were the three Hernandez men, I brought their cases to Los Tigres Del Norte for a yet to be released ballad.

Esiquiel Hernandez, killed by a US marine, he was tending his flock. I later paid homage at his gravesite, in his parents yard.

Sergio Hernández, a 15 year old boy who was accused of throwing stones into the US. Then the border patrol trespassed into Mexico, and shot him in the head. No criminal charges !

Anastacio Hernandez, murdered by CBP agents as he was handcuffed and deported back to Mexico, all caught on film. I received my first call from the family, asking for justice. He died 3 days later, in the San Diego hospital.

Blanca, burned to death in border mountains as she crossed into foggy San Diego. The only way she was recognized, her white fingernail polish. She always painted her nails white

The 53 that died in San Antonio as they were packed into a semi truck with no way to get out.

Can you name one ?

13 in Holtville, California that died as a truck crashed into it shortly after migrants SUV came across a border wall that had been cut open.

We came right after to pay homage and came out on the front page of the New York Times.

40 migrants that were burned to death in Ciudad Juarez. AMLO has blood on his hands again.

72 migrants killed by Zetas in Northern Mexico, Pena Nieto blocks investigation

Marcelino, who tragically was found dead in the desert, and when I notified his mom, his mom wrote back in what was later part of a song by MANA, Pobre Juan.

More recently we know Texas Governor Greg Abbott forces children back into Rio Bravo, children continue to die.

Got your attention, "if you're not outraged, you are not paying attention" Heather Heyer before she was murdered by White supremacist. ( she was protesting a hate filled rally in Virginia )

Join us on November 2, Dia de los Muertos, as we pay homage to the hundreds of unidentified migrants buried at the cemetery of " los no olvidados " in Holtville, California.

### **Enrique Morones**

Mexico Human Rights National Awardee 2009

Founder Border Angels & House of Mexico

Executive Director, Gente Unida, San Diego.

# “No One Should be Killed Trying to Migrate”

## By María E. Aparicio.

Ingrid sat there and cried quietly into her hands. She was suffering from debilitating pain in her joints, and only her prescription medication could provide her with the pain relief she so desperately needed. Just four days earlier she had been driving from her home to her work when she slowly rolled through a stop sign and was ticketed by a police officer. The officer asked her for her driver’s license, and she presented him with a driver’s license from El Salvador. The officer then asked her a whole slew of questions about her legal status, determined she was most likely undocumented, took her into custody and called the Border Patrol. Ingrid was terrified, in emotional pain, and in physical pain. She had never been arrested before. Five years before the time of her arrest she had been diagnosed with lupus, an autoimmune condition, which causes severe joint pain. Ingrid asserted herself and told the arresting officer that she had lupus and needed medication. She explained the severity of her condition and offered to have a neighbor drop off her medication at the Border Patrol station. She was rebuffed at every point and told to take Tylenol every six hours.

Now Ingrid found herself in an immigration detention center in the town of Eloy, Arizona, about halfway between Phoenix and Tucson. The detention center was frigidly cold and had a strange, strong chemical smell. A deportation officer had interviewed Ingrid and offered to facilitate a quick deportation back to El Salvador. Ingrid was very tempted to take the offer. Life in El Salvador wouldn’t be easy. Gangs had taken over her old neighborhood, and as a woman in her mid-40s she would struggle to find employment. Nonetheless, Ingrid’s brother had offered to pick her up from the airport and take her to a medical clinic immediately upon her arrival. He even offered to purchase her medication and let her sleep on his sofa for a few weeks.

Ingrid’s situation is far from unique. Every day around the United States dozens of undocumented immigrants are taken into custody following routine traffic stops. Local law enforcement transfers these individuals to the hands of either Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Border Patrol. Some individuals are then deported within a matter of hours, while others go to detention centers where they will have the option to fight a legal case to remain in the country. Unfortunately, Ingrid’s situation is commonplace in another way.

Immigrants in detention centers are routinely denied necessities and essential medical care. This denial is often fatal.

Jakelin Caal was a seven-year-old Maya girl from the department of Alta Verapaz, located in northern Guatemala. In December 2018 she and her father crossed into the United States through New Mexico. They were encountered by Border Patrol at 9:00pm in the evening and finally placed on a Border Patrol bus at 4:00am. She and her father were denied water for several hours. Jakelin began to vomit and convulse. At 9:00am Jakelin was transferred to a hospital in El Paso, Texas. By midnight of that same day, she was pronounced dead. According to an autopsy Jakelin died of a severe bacterial infection caused by strep throat. The New York Times reported that several physicians reviewed Jakelin's autopsy report and concluded that Jakelin, "would have been visibly sick for many hours." Further, Jakelin was never given a medical exam when she was taken into custody.

Jakelin's death was one of several deaths of Guatemalan minors beginning in September 2018 when a child died of heart complications. These children were Maya from Indigenous communities in rural Guatemala. They spoke Maya languages, and it remains unclear if they and their parents were given much needed interpretation services to effectively communicate in their native languages. In December 2018 sixteen-year-old Carlos Hernandez was struggling with influenza when he collapsed on the floor of a Border Patrol holding cell. His cellmate called for help, but it was too late as Carlos was already dead. Numbers of in-custody migrant deaths are not carefully recorded by the federal government.

Two thousand eighteen was a devastating year for many Guatemalan immigrants. Twenty-year-old Claudia Patricia Gomez, a speaker of the Mam language, was shot to death by a Border Patrol agent in Texas. Moments after her death a Border Patrol agent was overheard telling two migrants who had been traveling with Claudia, "This is what happens. You see?" The Border Patrol agent who killed Claudia was never arrested.

Deaths of migrants, at the hands of Border Patrol, but outside of detention settings occur at alarming rates. Since 2010 at least 130 persons have died as the result of an encounter with a Customs and Border Protection agent. (Customs and Border Protection is the umbrella agency which encompasses the Border Patrol.) Immigrant advocates believe that the 130-person figure is an under count. In June 2021 Border Patrol agents encountered a group of migrants on a rocky hill southeast of Arivaca, Arizona. The agents began to pursue the migrants. A woman from Mexico attempted to flee but plunged to her death. The majority of migrant deaths do not occur as the direct result of an arrest, but rather because of deadly border policy. In 1994, Canada, the United States, and Mexico signed the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA"). The explicit purpose of NAFTA was to boost trade between the three countries by eliminating tariffs between the three nations. It was intended to diminish the need of low-income Mexicans to migrate north. An unintended consequence was the elimination of many small farms in rural Mexico.

Many Mexican farmers found themselves unable to compete with the agricultural conglomerates of the United States. This in turn pushed many, previously economically self-sufficient Mexicans to migrate north, often as undocumented immigrants.

Following the passage of NAFTA, in 1994 the Border Patrol released the following document, “Border Patrol Strategic Plan 1994 and Beyond.” The strategic plan is a nineteen-page document which is still in effect today. Among the actions set forth in the document are increased patrolling of areas in which migrants most often cross into the United States and adding more agents. The strategy was one of ‘prevention through deterrence.’ (page 6). The document states, “The prediction is that with traditional entry and smuggling routes disrupted, illegal traffic will be deterred, or forced over more hostile terrain...” (page 7, emphasis added). The plan implements “maximum utilization of lighting, fencing, and other barriers.” (page 8). There are currently over six hundred miles of man-made barriers along the southern border.

The Border Patrol’s plan has failed to deter undocumented border crossings. From 1986 to 2008 the undocumented population grew from approximately three million to twelve million persons. Approximately sixty percent of those individuals entered the United States without a visa or other entry permit, while approximately 40% overstayed the terms of an entry document.

The Border Patrol’s plan has had tragic and foreseeable results. Many migrants have been pushed into the areas referred to by the Border Patrol as the Tucson and Yuma sectors, or the scorching desert area of southern Arizona. The remains of over 3,000 migrants have been found in southern Arizona since 2001. In fiscal year 2020 the remains of 227 individuals were found, the highest number in recent years. As of July 2021, the remains of 146 individuals had been recovered for fiscal year 2021. The desert is a harsh place with torrential rains, winds, and scorching sun. The true number of migrants who have lost their lives in the desert will never be known. These men, women, gender non-conforming individuals, and children have perished from causes of death such as hypothermia, hyperthermia, strangulation, and dehydration. Policy solutions for migrant deaths abound. They range from fully opening the borders, to immigration reform, to ending private detention centers, and to close congressional monitoring of federal law enforcement.

On a positive note, in 2021 the Border Patrol announced it will now be outfitting agents with body cams. Body cams can be quite valuable in deterring aggressive and deadly actions of law enforcement, but many important questions remain to be answered. Will agents be required to keep cameras on during their entire shift? Who will have access to camera footage? And what criminal and employment consequences will violent agents face?

# “THE SILENCE OF WHAT WE KNOW”

By: Ivette “Xochiyotl” Boyzo.

Being a woman of color in the United States often feels like being trapped in a toxic relationship with an abusive partner who promises change. We hold onto hope, believing that things will improve because this partner is supposed to love, protect, and care for us. However, the reality is that this hope only results in continued abuse, violation, and harm.

Our relationship with the American system reflects this dynamic.

The American system, which should guarantee our safety, freedoms, and protection, fails to do so. Instead, it creates policies and laws that either justify abusive actions or further strip us of our autonomy and, in some cases, our lives. Despite the constant stream of “new” statistics and reports with sensational headlines, these updates merely reiterate the same issues we have known about for ages.

- 1895: Connecticut becomes the first state to pass eugenics laws, prohibiting certain marriages to prevent reproduction of the “unfit.”
- 1907: Indiana enacts the world’s first compulsory sterilization law, followed by 29 other states.
- 1927: The US Supreme Court case *Buck vs Bell* sets a legal precedent for state sterilizations, claiming imbecility and feeble-mindedness are hereditary.
- 1907 to 1937: 32 States passed sterilization laws.
- 1935 to 1944: peak of operations. Spanish-surnamed patients were 3.5 times more likely to be sterilized in California.
- 1960s: 65% of sterilizations in North Carolina are performed on black women.
- 1960 to 1970: The Indian Health Service sterilizes 25% of indigenous women.
- 1973: *Roe v. Wade* guarantees reproductive rights for American women but violates the rights of Indigenous women.
- 1978: Brown women file a civil rights class action against Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center for forced sterilizations.
- 1997 to 2013: around 1,400 women are sterilized in California prisons, sometimes as a method of birth control and in some cases as exchange for a sentence reduction.
- 2017: a judge in Tennessee offers reduced jail sentences for those who “volunteer” for sterilization.
- 2018: California’s LA County Board of Supervisors apologizes for sterilizations under the state’s eugenics laws.

- 2020: a whistleblower nurse exposed the forced hysterectomies inside the Irwin ICE detention center in Georgia by Dr. Mahendra Amin
- 2021: California approves reparations for women who were sterilized against their will, including those in state prisons from 1997 to 2013.

Nazi Germany's 1933 "Law for the Prevention of Offspring with Hereditary Diseases" was inspired by California which became the leading state of these genocidal practices. In total from 1909 and 1979 there were 20,000 performed sterilizations, equivalent to one third of the 60,000 - 70,000 (approx) reported procedures in the Country.

The systematic response to these issues is all too familiar. There never seems to be enough resources to prevent, treat, and help, let alone rehabilitate. There always seems to be enough money to vindictively prosecute, penalize, and pay off legal settlements as long as they exonerate the system, rather than take tangible steps to protect BIPOC women.

Despite all the apologies and the passage of reparations for some victims, the system remains largely unaccountable while ignoring the ongoing genocidal violent practices of today.

Recent investigations have shed light on the ongoing sexual abuse of migrant women inside ICE jails. Journalists Maria Hinojosa and Zeba Warsi published a report titled "Immensely Invisible" in July 2023, exposing this abuse. This follows Hinojosa's previous report in 2011 titled "Lost in Detention." Despite these reports and the efforts of social justice groups and advocates, we are met with inaction and more violence. The system responds by launching punitive methods to silence activists and survivors, aiming to intimidate and terrorize.

Meanwhile, the Chicago, the Police Department has caught some attention after news broke out of deputies engaging in inappropriate sexual acts with migrants. This became known only after a teenager got pregnant.

This predictable response takes a dark turn into a societal vow of secrecy. People of color are groomed to "hold onto hope" that justice will prevail, perpetuating an abusive relationship with the United States. We remain silent, traumatized, and dehumanized while hoping for change that seems elusive. The problem lies not in the lack of media coverage or awareness, nor in the revelation of new groundbreaking issues.

The issue is the surrounding silence of what we know—the pervasive issues of misogyny, xenophobia, abortion bans, transphobia, homophobia, hypersexualization, objectification of our bodies, violence against migrant women, forced sterilizations, sexual abuse in prisons and ICE jails, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), a mere reflection of the violence inflicted upon our Mother Earth itself. This silence breeds trauma, dehumanization, and the perpetuation of an abusive relationship with the United States since its inception as a Country.

The evidence of ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity can be seen in the historical pattern of abuse, predatory laws, and policies that continue to target marginalized communities with dehumanizing violence allowing these crimes to run rampant with total and complete impunity as there is virtually no accountability.

### References:

1. Belly of the Beast: California's dark history of forced sterilizations  
<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jun/30/california-prisons-forced-sterilizations-belly-beast>
2. Medical mistreatment of women in ICE detention - committee on homeland ... (n.d.).  
<https://www.hsgac.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/imo/media/doc/2022-11-15%20PSI%20Staff%20Report%20-%20Medical%20Mistreatment%20of%20Women%20in%20ICE%20Detention.pdf>
3. Immensely Invisible - Futuro Investigates Futuro Investigates  
<https://futuroinvestigates.org/investigative-stories/immensely-invisible/>
4. Lost in Detention | FRONTLINE  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/lost-in-detention/>
5. Chicago police are investigating if cops had improper sexual contact with immigrants, including allegedly impregnated teen  
<https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2023/7/6/23786642/chicago-police-probing-whether-cops-had-sexual-relations-with-immigrants-including-an-underage-girl>



# “The Pandemic of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women”

## By Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Washington, Means, Morning-Star D. & Sovereign, Earth-Feather C.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (M.M.I.W.) is a movement that began in Canada with their Indigenous “First Nations” People. The First Nations community noticed several of their People had vanished and their remains were sometimes found. Local law enforcement did little to nothing to investigate their cases. Their families demanded an inquiry throughout Canada from September 2016 to June 2019. The report found that there was an immediate crisis and continuous genocide of First Nations/Indigenous Peoples of Canada.

In the investigations of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (M.M.I.W.), agencies found interchangeable situations relating to Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (M.M.I.P.), such as colonialism, land grabs, homicide, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, extraction of natural resources, exploitation, sex and human trafficking, suicide, gang violence, neglect, police brutality, and hate crimes. When someone is reported as missing, they are often missing three times, in life, in data, and in the media.

In reports conducted throughout the United States, it was discovered that the numbers are like Canada. Statistically Indigenous People have highest rates of sexual assault, domestic violence, infant mortality, and police brutality. As well as high numbers of homicide, suicide, and sex and human trafficking. It is also discovered that most of the perpetrators are non-Indigenous People.

Native American Women are murdered at rates of 10x’s the National average! 4 in 5 Native American Women have experienced domestic violence. 90% of Native American Women have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner who is non-Native.

1 in 2 Native American Women have been stalked in their Lifetime. 89% of Native American Women have been stalked by non-Native Perpetrators.

1 in 2 Native American Women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. 96% of Native American Women have experienced sexual violence by a non-Native.

Native American Women make up 40% of sex trafficked victims in the United States. Between 2005-2009 67% U.S. Attorneys declined to prosecute perpetrators.

Other Countries are noticing similar atrocities with their Indigenous People. The beginning of the M.M.I.W. Movement began as what was described as an “Epidemic”, is now being referred to as a “Pandemic” of countries that inhabit Indigenous People.

The Indigenous People have concluded that Missing and Murdered Indigenous People began with the Papal Bull “Inter Caetera”, by Pope Alexander VI, later referred to as the Doctrine of Discovery of 1493. This gave Christians the authority to discover land inhabited by non-Christians. The Doctrine also gave the Christians the right to subdue and subjugate non-Christian inhabitants. The doctrine created a domino effect of race hate crimes of Indigenous people throughout history, which continues to this day.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Movement focus is on Women, because most Indigenous Nations originated as Matriarchal and/or Matrilineal Societies. Activists believe there is an “Undeclared War Against Our Women”, because women are the life givers and caretakers of their children. Activists also believe that the Imperial Governments are still after Indigenous Land, and the annihilation of their women, is the annihilation of their Indigenous People, their Traditions and Culture, as well as their connection with Mother-earth.

Without the original inhabitants of lands, will leave the Governments to continue to take land, and extract her natural resources.

### References:

1. “Reclaiming Power and Place. A Supplementary Report” (PDF). National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls. June 2019.
2. VAWA Brief” (PDF). National Council American Indians. February 2018.
3. “Trafficking Brief” (PDF). National Congress of American Indians. Spring 2016.
4. Ending Violence Against Native Women” (Article). Indian Law Resource Center. April 2021.
5. The University of Arizona. (2021). Doctrine of discovery. Doctrine of Discovery | Indigenous Governance Database. Retrieved September 10, 2021, from <https://nnigovernance.arizona.edu/keywords/doctrine-discovery>.

# “Police killings related to individuals who suffer from Homelessness, Mental Health, and Substance Use”

## By Jorge Boyzo

“Use-of-force incidents against homeless people are up, LAPD reports” (LA Times, 2020)

“Police Fatally Shoot Homeless Man Near Downtown Riverside” (NBC Los Angeles, 2021)

“Fatal shooting raises questions of police response to homeless” (The San Diego Union Tribune, 2021)

“Lawsuit Claims Portland Police Shot Unarmed Homeless Man, Then Ate Pizza While His Body Lay on the Ground” (Reason, 2023)

“Video Shows LAPD Officer Shoot and Kill Unarmed Homeless” (Inside Edition, 2023)

Should I go on?

Why are the homeless, mentally ill, substance abuse individuals (HMSI) who are struggling finding themselves criminalized and with death sentences at the hands of those who are supposed “to protect and serve?” When people are at their most vulnerable state, when the pain can be so immense and heavy that all you want is for it to end, who do you call, where do you go, who can help? More specifically, the criminalization of HMSI has turned into a death sentence for communities of color in the United States.

For many of these families of color, their nightmare really begins the day someone picks up the phone and calls 911 asking for help, leading to the death of another colored individual. A quick search through research articles and data across the web comes back with a multitude of articles leading to the suggestions, correlations and evidence between police killings and increased criminalization of those struggling from HMSI. In Los Angeles People experiencing homelessness (PEH) were reported to be “more likely to result in use of force” (Coutin, 2021). Although, the report stated 29% of the police contacts did not involve “serious injury,” it does state that use of force involving a PEH does increase the probability of a person being killed by police during police contact (Coutin, 2021).

Further, PEH who are also suffering from Mental illnesses are reported to be “16 times more likely to be killed by law enforcement” (Coutin, 2021). Instead of providing resources, de-escalation, crisis intervention, these officers often show up with the only tools they are provided: handcuffs, a taser, a gun, 2 hour California POST training every two years (post.ca.gov, 2023), and qualified immunity.

Suddenly, these situations are turned into death sentences where due process is virtually nonexistent, and the District Attorneys often clear the officers of any wrongdoing only to have them go back to work with no further training, individual counseling/therapy, or rehabilitation from having just taken a person's life. Whether it is the war on drugs, police brutality, mental illnesses, drug use, or individuals struggles co-occurring multifaceted environmental impacts, they all appear to have a common denominator when it comes to police contact – death at the hands of officers, with another breaking news article. Which begs the question, what makes law enforcement officers qualified to respond to these crisis calls where people are struggling with HMSI?

Suddenly, these situations are turned into death sentences where due process is virtually nonexistent, and the District Attorneys often clear the officers of any wrongdoing only to have them go back to work with no further training, individual counseling/therapy, or rehabilitation from having just taken a person's life. Whether it is the war on drugs, police brutality, mental illnesses, drug use, or individuals struggles co-occurring multifaceted environmental impacts, they all appear to have a common denominator when it comes to police contact – death at the hands of officers, with another breaking news article. Which begs the question, what makes law enforcement officers qualified to respond to these crisis calls where people are struggling with HMSI?

Well, the data on the topic is very scarce, however the existing data does provide us some insight. Reports show that about 40% percent of law enforcement families are dealing with domestic violence (DV) at home. Furthermore, a research study done in 2013: "Some of the officers had multiple criminal cases and/or multiple victims. There were 70 OIDV [officer-involved domestic violence] cases during 2005, 116 cases in 2006, and 138 cases in 2007. The percentage of total police crimes that were OIDV cases remained relatively stable from 2005 (17.2%) to 2007 (16%)," the study reports (Stinson, and Liederbach, 2013). Additionally, reports indicate that police officers tend to suffer with their own mental health and addiction at a higher rate than the general population. Substance abuse, PTSD, domestic violence, and suicide are a crisis of their own within law enforcement agencies. Another article with Psychology Today reported that 1 out of 4 police officers has an alcohol or drug problem (Cidambi, 2018). This issue ranges between 20% and 30% compared to under 10% in the general population. PTSD symptoms are displayed in 7%-19% of officers in comparison to 3.5% in the general population. When looking at suicide, police are 2.3 times more likely to die by suicide than homicide (Cidambi, 2018). Often, the exposure to disturbing traumatic situations without proper training and post trauma experiences such as killing a HMSI can result in coping via substances abuse.

So, let me go out on a limb and ask, why are police who suffer from SUD, Mental Illnesses, Trauma, and who lack proper skills and training “protecting and serving” our most vulnerable population, HMSI? Further, is there a correlation between Raza killings and the perpetuated cycle of brown and black communities growing up to be homeless, having substance use issues, or mental health struggles? What we know is that that teenagers and young adults who are black and brown are killed at a much higher rate than their Caucasian counter parts who are killed at much later age in life. Since the year 2000, over 33,000 people have lost their lives at the hands of law enforcement, disproportionately affecting communities of color. It goes without saying, that when there is a Raza killing it not only impacts the immediate family, but it also impacts the whole family system causing a ripple effect for generations to come, and so the cycle continues. Children and family from those Raza killings grow up with unresolved trauma well known to have severe life long-lasting effects, those with trauma often lack coping skills leading to substance use, compounded with a lack of support and resources. So, is there a connection?

In conclusion, we cannot have mentally and emotionally unstable ill prepared officers patrolling and policing our communities, let alone responding to crisis calls in desperate need of help. The trauma inflicted upon communities of color after the loss of a loved one is irreversible and has consequences that will last for many generations to come. Police are simply undertrained, ill equipped, and are posed with minimal if any judicial accountability for taking human life. Let alone, lack personal coping skills and mechanisms following work related trauma experiences (theaip.org, 2023). To make effective change, we must reevaluate and reconsider the direction we have as society on approaching, supporting, and treating HMSI. We cannot continue to fund trigger happy officers, without repercussion, and without judicial accountability. To talk about justice means that we must do everything necessary to prevent such tragedies from happening and prevent the perpetual cycle of trauma within entire family systems and our communities. It means having resources where people can seek help without being judged, stigmatized, or criminalized. It means families can be at peace knowing there is adequate help that safeguards their wellbeing of that of their loved ones.

### References:

- Camp, Emma. “Lawsuit Claims Portland Police Shot Unarmed Homeless Man, Then Ate Pizza While His Body Lied on the Ground.” *Reason.Com*, 17 Apr. 2023, [reason.com/2023/04/12/lawsuit-claims-portland-police-shot-unarmed-homeless-man-then-ate-pizza-while-his-body-lied-on-the-ground/](https://reason.com/2023/04/12/lawsuit-claims-portland-police-shot-unarmed-homeless-man-then-ate-pizza-while-his-body-lied-on-the-ground/).
- Cidambi, Indra. “Police and Addiction.” *Psychology Today*, Sussex Publishers, 30 Mar. 2018, [www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sure-recovery/201803/police-and-addiction?amp](https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/sure-recovery/201803/police-and-addiction?amp).

- Coutin, J. (2021, October). Policing Homelessness: A review of the literature on policing policies that target homelessness and best practices for improving outcomes. <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Policing-Homelessness-Final.pdf>
- Edition, Inside. "LAPD Releases Video of Deputy Shooting and Killing Unarmed Homeless Man." *Inside Edition*, Inside Edition, 20 Apr. 2023, [www.insideedition.com/media/videos/lapd-releases-video-of-deputy-shooting-and-killing-unarmed-homeless-man-81041](http://www.insideedition.com/media/videos/lapd-releases-video-of-deputy-shooting-and-killing-unarmed-homeless-man-81041).
- MILLER, L. (2020, January 22). *Use-of-force incidents against homeless people are up, LAPD reports*. Los Angeles Times. <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-01-21/use-of-force-incidents-against-homeless-people-are-up-lapd-reports>
- "Preventing Problematic Alcohol Use among Police." *Theiacp.Org*, [www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/Alcohol%20Use%20Agency\\_Final.pdf](http://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/Alcohol%20Use%20Agency_Final.pdf). Accessed 23 Sept. 2023.
- Service, City News. "Police Fatally Shoot Homeless Man near Downtown Riverside." *NBC Los Angeles*, NBC Southern California, 8 May 2021, [www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/police-fatally-shoot-homeless-man-near-downtown-riverside/2591303/?amp=1](http://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/police-fatally-shoot-homeless-man-near-downtown-riverside/2591303/?amp=1).
- State of California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training. "Resources." *Commission on POST > Home*, [post.ca.gov/mental-health-training-in-law-enforcement](http://post.ca.gov/mental-health-training-in-law-enforcement). Accessed 22 Sept. 2023.
- Stinson, Philip, and John Liederbach. *Fox in the Henhouse: A Study of Police Officers Arrested for Crimes ...*, 2013, [scholarworks.bgsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=crim\\_just\\_pub](http://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1005&context=crim_just_pub).
- Warth, Gary. "Fatal Shooting Raises Questions of Police Response to Homeless." *Tribune*, San Diego Union-Tribune, 23 Apr. 2021, [www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/homelessness/story/2021-04-22/fatal-shooting-raises-questions-of-police-response-to-homeless](http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/homelessness/story/2021-04-22/fatal-shooting-raises-questions-of-police-response-to-homeless).

# “SILENT HOLOCAUST: How the Educational System and the Media Criminalize and Dehumanize Brown People Leading to a “School to Prison Pipeline” Recidivism and Death”

## By Nicolas Romero.

*The promise of free and compulsory public education in the United States is a promise of equal opportunity and access to the —American Dream. This ideal is billed as the great democratic leveler of the proverbial playing field, and proclaims educational attainment as a source of upward social mobility, expanded occupational horizons, and an engaged, highly literate citizenry. This promise has proven to be an illusionary one, marred by a history of segregation de jure and de facto, by class and race disparities, and by gulfs in both funding and quality. Despite some fleeting hope in the early years of the post-Civil Rights eras, the promise remains elusive for many. Indeed, shifts in educational policy in the past 15 years have exacerbated the inherent inequities in public education. Rather than creating an atmosphere of learning, engagement and opportunity, current educational practices have increasingly blurred the distinction between school and jail. The school to prison pipeline refers to this growing pattern of tracking students out of educational institutions, primarily via —zero tolerance policies, and tracking them directly and/or indirectly into the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems.*

-Nancy A. Heitzeg “Education Or Incarceration: Zero Tolerance Policies And The School To Prison Pipeline” 2009

In keeping with the theme of the dehumanization and negation of Brown people in the United States of America, we come to, what is perhaps, the root cause of Brown people ending up dead by police hands or ending up in prison through the legal system: The School to Prison Pipeline. The school to prison pipeline is the practice in which politicians, the educational system and the legal system adopt a “Zero Tolerance” policy in school, which serves to criminalize and dehumanize students. Given the racist treatment of people of color in this country, this policy disproportionately affects Brown and Black people.

Brown and Black students are more likely to be punished for wearing the wrong clothes, more likely to be suspended for actions their White counterparts are not, and more likely to get expelled from school. As these students are tracked and seen as nothing more than criminals, they are much more easily taken out of schools and placed into youth detention centers, jails, and ultimately prisons.

This criminalization of Brown people is further promoted by the media through their representation of Brown people as one-dimensional characters in films, depicting us as mostly gang members and, the updated, 2.0 version of the gang member, the much more dangerous and feared criminals – given that xenophobia is alive and well in this country – the invaders known as the Cartels. Hollywood does not humanize Brown people, contributing to a white supremacist view of Brown people, which perpetuates our criminalization. Whereas, Spike Lee was able to call out Jewish Hollywood executives for not taking a side during President Trump’s creation of a nazi America – this along with the Black Lives Matter uprising forced the media to humanize Blacks in movies, TV shows and advertising campaigns – disenfranchised Brown people have not been able to hold Hollywood accountable for dehumanizing, and criminalizing Brown people in this country.

According to a 2019 study out of USC during the pandemic, only 4.5% of speaking roles in blockbuster movies go to Brown people. (Stacy L. Smith and the USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, in partnership with National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP) and Wise Entertainment 2019) It is my assertion, that what few roles we do have present us as the cholo, cartel member, gardeners, and maids; furthermore, the media’s refusal to humanize Brown people is why Brown people are more easily criminalized and used as the perfect scapegoat when things go wrong in this country politically and economically. It is the media which makes it possible for Trump to announce his candidacy for the president calling Mexicans “rapists, murderers, and drug-dealers... who are bringing crime” and then get elected right into the White House. These stereotypes combined with the school to prison pipeline is why Brown people are being killed by police at higher rates than Blacks in this country, the only difference is there is no media coverage of our silent holocaust.

If Brown people are not killed by police before being taken into jails and prison, they are then ushered in like cattle into cells to a place where they are abused, tortured, and reduced to survive as animals in confinement. While the punishment for a crime should be the deprivation of freedom, what happens inside the prison walls is horrendous and traumatic for even the “hardest” of inmates. Yet no one takes the time to figure out the underlying reasons as to why 44% of the prison population in California, for example, is made up of Brown people. (Project Males, 2022 University of Texas).

We know that the pipeline and the media are partially to blame for the criminalization of Brown people, but, once institutionalized, there is further injustice, as there is no rehabilitation for inmates coming out of jail and/or prison. This makes inmates more likely to return to prison, jail, or end up getting killed by police in the interim.



Such was the case for Daniel Elena-Lopez. Daniel suffered from severe mental health issues and was released from prison without any link to medical care, therapy, or any sort of rehabilitation services, or resources prior to being shot and killed by police in 2022.

On June 15, 2022, Daniel Elena-Lopez entered a Burlington Coat Factory store with a bicycle lock in his hand. He was in the midst of a mental health crisis, exacerbated by the use of Methamphetamine and Marijuana. People in the store called police and erroneously reported that Daniel had a gun and shots had been fired. When the police entered the store, Daniel had just hit a woman in the face with the bicycle lock and the police shot and killed Daniel. Along with Daniel, a stray bullet fired by the police, hit and killed Valentina Orellana-Peralta, a 14 year-old girl who was trying on a dress in the dressing rooms behind where Daniel was shot. (Kevin Rector, LA Times, “Suspect in Burlington attack in which LAPD killed young bystander was on meth, autopsy shows,” June 15, 2022)

According to accounts from eyewitnesses and the Police Civilian Oversight Committee, the police was unjustified in shooting Daniel Elena-Lopez, as he did not have a gun, the police did not try to determine if he had a gun, and the police did not try to de-escalate the situation whatsoever. In fact, the officer who shot Daniel and Valentina, had used erroneous tactics before in other incidents, (Sean Beckner-Carmitchel, KNOCK LA, “Records Show the Killer of Daniel Elena Lopez and Valentina Orellana Peralta Previously Used Bad Tactics” January 18, 2023).

Instead of receiving the psychiatric and drug dependency treatment that Daniel Elena-Lopez so desperately needed, the police, the legal system, and the prison system criminalized yet another Brown male whose life ended at the hands of the police. The shooting, as ruled by the Civilian Oversight Committee, was unjustified and it never should have happened. Had police followed protocol, both Daniel Elena-Lopez and Valentina Orellana-Peralta would be alive today; however, due to police misconduct, the way Brown people are criminalized in this country by forces such as the School to Prison Pipeline, the media, and the lack of resources for Brown people, these two young Brown people, with their whole lives ahead of them, are now dead.

These are the effects of criminalizing Brown people and it is happening more often than the media chooses to report it. The effects are real. They are tangible and there are Brown families grieving the loss of their children at the hands of police in numbers far superior to that of Black, Asian, and White families. The only difference is that no one is talking about it, and the media continues to ignore it.

## “Spirit, Spirits, and Spirituality: Our Dimension of Loss and Resistance”

By Dr. Manuel X. Zamarripa & Jessica Tlazoltiani Zamarripa  
– Institute of Chicana/o Psychology.

This database is forcing us to look not only at those who’ve been taken from us violently, but also at the spirit of all those left in the wake.

We are not only talking about the families and communities of those murdered, counted here in this report, but all those who’ve been left behind since the very first invasion over 500 years ago. These killings are a profound collective, cultural and spiritual wound. A deep *susto* at a community level. When one of us is harmed, yet again, it rings out in all of our hearts.

We know that spirituality and faith have a long and powerful role in our community. It has often been a source of our resistance and resilience. In fact, we view it as one of the three pillars of our wellness (the other two: Cultural Identity & Familismo).

What are the spiritual ramifications of a heartbroken community? This collective cultural wound is felt in barrios across the country.

Maybe the spirit of La Llorona wandering the streets of our cities is wailing for our losses. They are her losses as well. La Llorona likely carried her own complex pain since before the story we all know. It’s not hard to imagine that as a girl she saw her own brother, or father or sister murdered. The spiritual ramifications of these complex traumas ripple out for generations. We hear her along with the cries of mothers, fathers, siblings when we lose another to the hands of the *cucuys* that come in cars with red and blue lights flashing. We need a sacred energy to carry the spirit of pain carried throughout the community created by these killings. A “*Mictlantecuhtli de la Calle*.” Through these experiences of grief and loss, our people have turned again to our spirituality for strength and solace.

The spirit of *esperanza*, a psychological strength of our people, helps to counter the despair we face.

It allows us not only to *aguantar* but to come together as a community to fight for change, walking with our ancestors. We need our spirituality interwoven with our response, our fighting back, our resistance.

Spirit is in the food we make and share together, the medicine of planting & growing our seeds, our children, the time we spend together, the connections to our families, communities and all that IS.

Therefore, our spirituality is also in the ways we fight back, the “Energy of Insistence” that we be treated equally as human beings innately worthy of dignity. Our voices of protest and our actions for justice must also incorporate our spiritual foundations. This can be in prayers, rituals, ceremonies that are interwoven with our actions toward justice. Where our voices are raised, there will also be our spiritual presence and power. Ours is a multifaceted resistance and a multifaceted resilience.

This is how our communities have always faced tragedies and how we’ve also always thrived.

## “The Crying Woman is Wailing.” By Maestro Jerry Tello.

In Mesoamerican culture the elders speak of a story of a mother crying uncontrollably screaming “where are my children, what did you do to my children”, she is called La Llorona, the weeping woman.

These cries have been heard for many generations but recently at an increasing rate in communities throughout the US as family members are crying at the increase in deaths of Latinos killed by police.

But what has brought the mothers, grandmothers and others to their knees and screaming are the killings of their children and grandchildren to a state of devastation that is referred to in Spanish as *Susto*, shock or the breaking of one’s spirit. This devastating trauma is truly a severe blow to one’s psyche as well that has a major impact on the health and wellbeing of siblings, family members here and in their home country as well.

This is the result of police killing children such as Adam Toledo, 13, Andy Lopez, 13, Santos Rodriguez, 12, Dallas, 1973 (Russian Roulette), Tamir Rice in 2014 and so many more that have impacted families and communities at a deep guttural level; a wound that never goes away.

One mother states, “this is so painful because this is not supposed to happen, he was a little innocent boy and this pain will never go away. Now look at my other children. They are sick and the others are so angry and will never be the same.” The impact that these mothers speak of is what mental health practitioners call post traumatic stress where the body, mind and spirit connected with an experience carry the residue of the shock sometimes for the rest of their lives.

This produces a hyper alert state of being that tightens the body and causes it to inflame compromising its immune system. It’s not coincidental that during this pandemic that Black and Brown people have suffered disproportionately from Covid illness and death due to their impacted state of health from years of living in fear and trauma. But all one has to do is attend the funeral of one of these tragic killings and you will hear the sound of the wailing mothers, grandmothers, children and extended kinship weeping and screaming for a child lost too soon. That wail penetrates the spirit of all that are present from a mother that is attempting to get someone to hear her cry above the systems justification that “it was justifiable homicide”.

What she is trying to convey is that when a society gets to the point where they are justifying killing children that not only is it a sign of a wounded system where those that are supposed to protect and serve need to recognize their trauma and deal with it. But it’s also a sign that society better get ready because the cry has transformed into community protests, mistrust of police and passionate advocates that will not stop until all children, families and people of color are treated with compassion, equity and justice.



# LA RAZA DATABASE RESEARCH PROJECT



[www.csusb.edu/lead/raza-database-project](http://www.csusb.edu/lead/raza-database-project)



[Larazadatabase@gmail.com](mailto:Larazadatabase@gmail.com)



@Larazadatabse

[Linktr.ee/Larazakillingsbase-project](https://linktr.ee/Larazakillingsbase-project)