

Ties Between Police Brutality and Military Surplus
Project Proposal

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Abstract

Police Brutality has led to an epic polarization of today's public opinion of police forces across the country. These stressful times have led to what I considered an identity crisis for police officers. Instead of taking a step back and reassessing a department's professional conduct, there seems to be a ramping up of militarization: both in equipment and rhetoric. There are images all across the nation where police officers carry highly customized military rifles and ride around in vehicles at home in news reports of Afghanistan and Iraq's front lines. This report seeks to look at the effects of police forces' physical militarization and how that affects its propensity for increase lethal force. In highlighting potential trends, I hope to shed light on the need for police departments to seek other approaches to keeping their city and themselves safe instead of instigating an issue by seeking militarization rather than better policing.

Key Questions I hope to investigate:

1. Is there a relationship between the overall military surplus value a county/city/state police departments spend and the normalized police brutality rate to their population?
2. Are there specific equipment (weapons vs. officer equipment as an example) that provide better indicators of police-involved deaths?
3. Is there a difference in the rate of death caused by police stations compared to sheriff stations?

Data

To conduct this analysis, I found three sperate data set that are listed below.

1. The US Military 1033 Report Dataset ('1994 – Sep 2020):
 - a. Outlines all the equipment that has been bought by police forces across the united states.
Link: <https://www.dla.mil/DispositionServices/Offers/Reutilization/LawEnforcement/PublicInformation/>
2. Police Brutality Dataset (Jan 2015 – Current):
 - a. Washington Post's Police Brutality Data set that has been continual updated since Jan of 2015.
Link: <https://github.com/washingtonpost/data-police-shootings>
3. Population Data: This data set will outline the population by county from at least 2015 to 2020.

Project Timeline

1. Week of 19OCT: Clean and Merge datasets
2. Week of 26OCT: Conduct EDA and explore potential models
3. Week of 02NOV: Build and validate Model
4. Week of 09NOV: Finalize Report and Presentation