**Police Shooting Incident Report** **Analysis of Incidents in the United States**

**Executive Summary**

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of police shooting incidents in the United States, based on a dataset comprising 654 cases. Key findings highlight demographic patterns, weapon involvement, incident characteristics, and the presence of mental health indicators and body camera usage. The data reveals critical areas for further investigation and policy consideration, particularly concerning mental health, de-escalation, and accountability through body camera implementation.

**Introduction**

The objective of this report is to present a data-driven overview of police shooting incidents during the first seven months of 2015. By dissecting various aspects of these events, including victim demographics, circumstances surrounding the incidents, and specific contributing factors, this analysis aims to inform discussions and potential strategies related to law enforcement practices and public safety.

**3. Key Findings & Metrics**

**3.1. Demographic Breakdown**

* **Gender Distribution (N=654):**
  + Male: 93.4% (611 cases)
  + Female: 6.6% (43 cases)
* **Race/Ethnicity (N=654):**
  + White: 51.2% (335 cases)
  + Black: 27.8% (182 cases)
  + Hispanic: 16.5% (108 cases)
  + Asian: 2.3% (15 cases)
  + Native American: 1.4% (9 cases)
  + Other: 1.8% (12 cases)

**3.2. Age Statistics (N=654)**

* **Average Age:** 35.6 years
* **Age Distribution:**
  + Under 18: 2.9% (19 cases)
  + 18-25: 19.3% (126 cases)
  + 26-40: 42.5% (278 cases)
  + 41-60: 29.7% (194 cases)
  + Over 60: 5.6% (37 cases)

**3.3. Weapon Involvement (N=654)**

* **Armed Status:**
  + Gun: 66.8% (437 cases)
  + Knife/Sharp object: 16.5% (108 cases)
  + Unarmed: 8.6% (56 cases)
  + Toy weapon: 3.5% (23 cases)
  + Blunt instrument: 2.3% (15 cases)
  + Unknown: 2.3% (15 cases)

**3.4. Incident Characteristics (N=654)**

* **Manner of Death:**
  + Shot: 87.6% (573 cases)
  + Shot and Tasered: 10.4% (68 cases)
  + Other: 2.0% (13 cases)
* **Threat Level:**
  + Attack: 78.3% (512 cases)
  + Other: 16.5% (108 cases)
  + Undetermined: 3.8% (25 cases)
* **Fleeing Status:**
  + Not fleeing: 68.2% (446 cases)
  + Foot: 15.3% (100 cases)
  + Car: 13.5% (88 cases)
  + Other: 3.1% (20 cases)

**3.5. Mental Health & Body Camera Indicators (N=654)**

* **Signs of Mental Illness:** 17.4% (114 cases)
* **Body Camera Present:** 9.9% (65 cases)

**Monthly Trends (January - July 2015)**

The number of police shooting incidents fluctuated monthly during the reported period:

* January: 98 cases
* February: 96 cases
* March: 126 cases
* April: 108 cases
* May: 112 cases
* June: 92 cases
* July (partial): 22 cases

**Notable Observations**

Several critical observations emerge from the dataset:

* **Gender Disparity:** A significant majority (93%) of individuals involved in police shootings were male.
* **Weapon Prevalence:** Guns were involved in two-thirds of all incidents, indicating a high frequency of armed encounters.
* **Mental Health Concerns:** Nearly one in five victims exhibited signs of mental illness, underscoring the need for specialized intervention.
* **Body Camera Adoption:** Body cameras were present in only about 10% of incidents, suggesting limited widespread adoption during this period.
* **Racial Demographics:** White individuals accounted for just over half of all cases (51.2%), followed by Black individuals at 27.8%.

**Recommendations**

Based on this analysis, the following recommendations are proposed for further action and investigation:

* **Mental Health Intervention:** Conduct further investigation into the high percentage of cases involving individuals with signs of mental illness to develop targeted training and response protocols for law enforcement.
* **Geographic Pattern Analysis:** Supplement this dataset with geographic information to analyse regional patterns and identify potential hotspots or systemic issues.
* **Body Camera Impact Study:** Initiate a study to examine the correlation between body camera implementation and incident outcomes, assessing their effectiveness in de-escalation and accountability.
* **De-escalation Training Review:** Evaluate the effectiveness of current de-escalation training programs, particularly in light of the high percentage of cases where individuals were "not fleeing," to reduce fatal outcomes in non-fleeing situations.