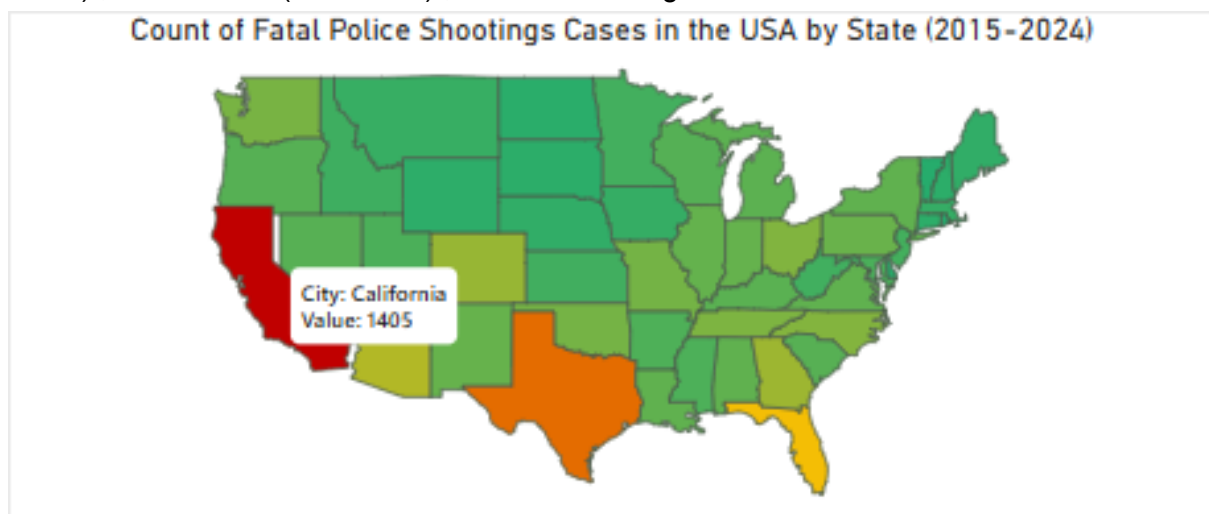


Insights of Fatal Police Shootings in the USA (2015-2024)

In this essay report, I attempt to describe the data obtained from "Fatal Police Shooting" reports in the United States from 2015 to 2024, based on data collected by the Washington Post reporting team¹. I also combined this report with other types of reporting so that readers can understand the correlation between other factors and the phenomena described in this report.

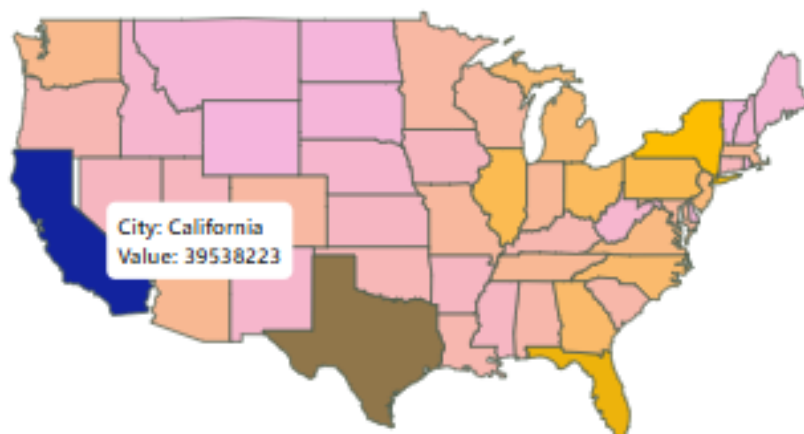
I. Demographics

Based on the data I obtained from the reporting team, I found that there were 10,430 fatal police shootings between 2015 and 2024¹. Demographically, the highest numbers during the 10-years period occurred in the following states: "California (1,405 cases)", "Texas (1,010 cases)", and "Florida (672 cases)", with the most significant numbers.

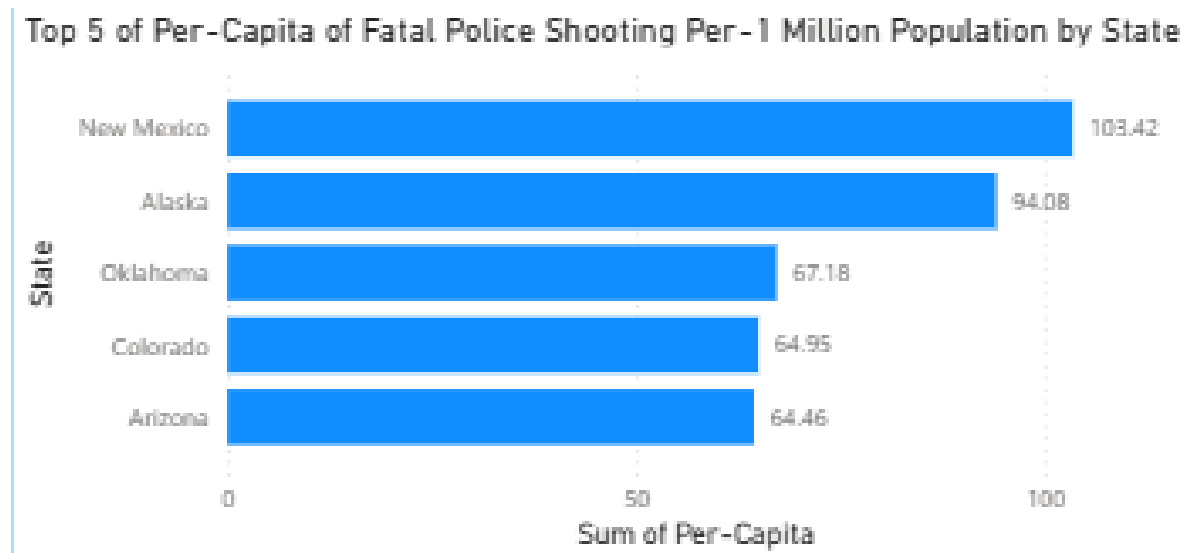


These top 3 states got the highest cases, are could be correlated to a larger population sizes of states, in which "the more population in the area meaning the more possibility of interactions with the police forces in that area." According to 2020 census by: "United States Census Bureau²," these are the top 3 states with the highest population that are: "California (39,538,223 people)", "Texas (29,145,505 people)", and "Florida (21,538,187 people)".

Count of Official Population Census in the USA by State (2020)



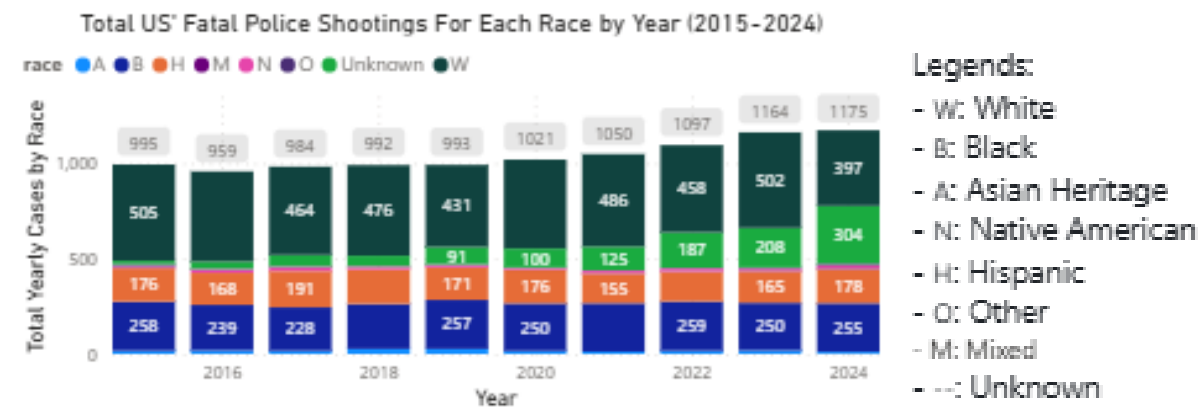
But, it will be more fair to compare it per-capita between total cases and population per-states by making a divide calculation between these two subject. Where in the graphs that i made, i'm using for the population per-1,000,000 people, where it got the top 3 result of: "New Mexico (103.42 Cases per-1 Million Pop.)", "Alaska (94.08 Cases per-1 Million Pop.)", "Oklahoma (67.18 Cases per-1 Million Pop.)". Then these top 3 states are getting the total population and total cases of: "New Mexico (2,117,522 people & 219 Cases)", "Alaska (733,391 people & 69 Cases)", and "Oklahoma (3,959,353 people & 266 Cases)".



Meanwhile, the top 3 states with the highest cases of Police Shootings Fatality & Population. When it turn to be calculated in the per-capita per-1 million population format, there're sitting in the middle position, such as: "California (35.54 Cases per-1 Million Pop.)", Texas (34.65 Cases per-1 Million Pop.), Florida (31.20 Cases per-1 Million Pop.). So, it means that a higher population in that states doesn't mean the perpetrator there will be highly getting killed by the police forces shooting. It's just a higher chance (higher frequency) that these cases could happen.

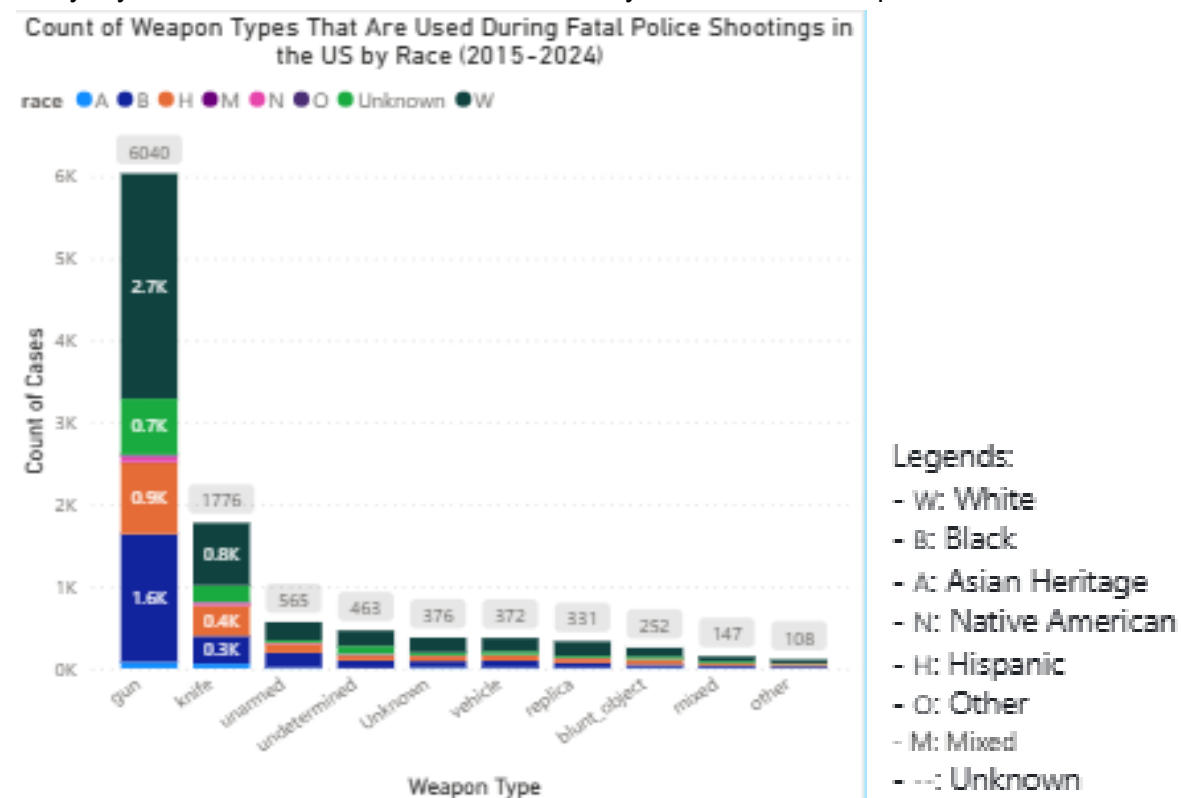


Meanwhile, for the graphic when dividing the number of fatal police shootings by race, the number remained stable each year between 2015 and 2024¹. Where the races of: “Whites (W) where in the 400s (always the highest number for each year)”, “Blacks (B) in the 200s (always in the 2nd highest number for each year, except in the 2024 where it surpass with the “unknown” category)”, and then the “Hispanics (H) in the 160s and 170s (always in the 3nd highest number for each year until 2022, where in the 2023 & 2024 it become the 4th highest number, after it been surpassed with the “unknown” category)”.



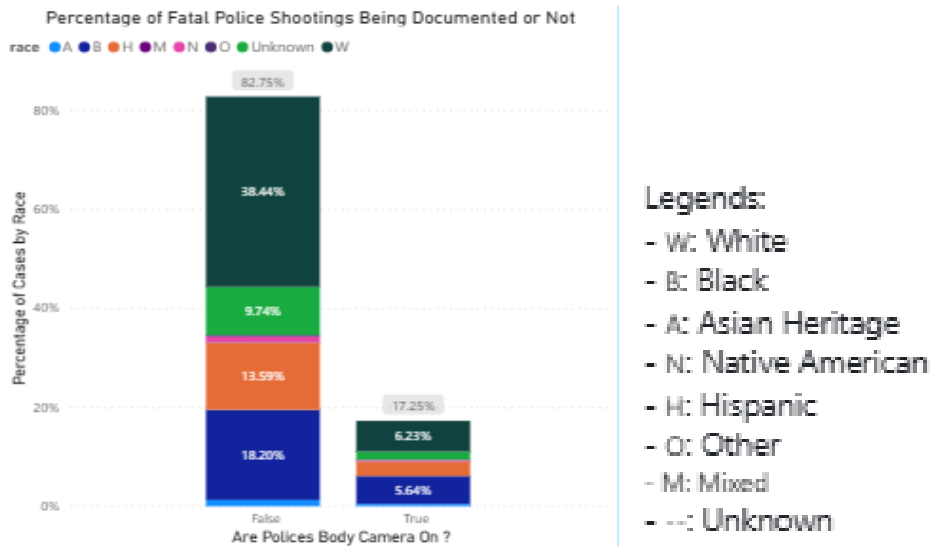
II. Perpetrator Treats

And then, the data from the Washington Post also revealed that the most common weapon used in fatal police shootings was a firearm¹, accounting for 6,040 (57,91%) cases. This is not surprising considering that in 2017, according to the Small Army Survey², the United States ranked first in the world for gun ownership per capita per 100 people, with a rate of 120.5 per 100. The remainder used knives, which are readily available and used as everyday household items. This was followed by other assault weapons.

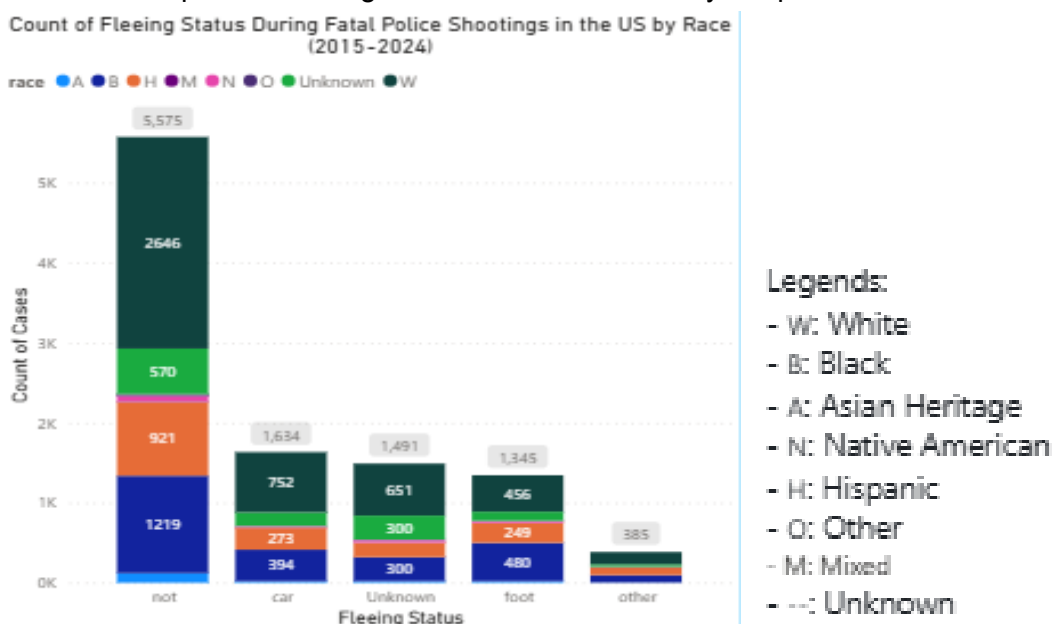


III. Police Transparency & Justification

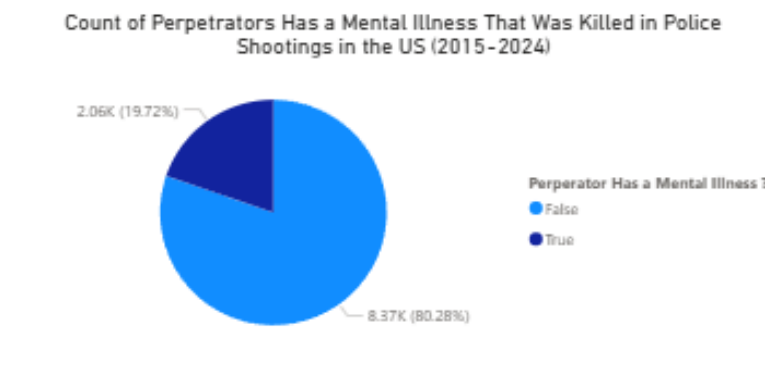
On the other hand, police transparency is also questionable, with only 82.75% of all cases (8,631) documented, compared to 17.25% of all cases (1,799) undocumented¹. Therefore, given the large number of undocumented fatal police shootings, it becomes somewhat difficult to determine whether these fatal police shootings were purely an act of self-defense, were driven by anti-group sentiment, simply to resolve the case quickly, or were there other contributing factors?



Furthermore, given the number of reported fatal police shootings¹, 53.45% (5,575) of these cases were not fleeing, maybe because they're dared enough in fighting the police forces with the weapons they had, especially "guns". And, only 15.67% (1,634) of these fatal police shootings occurred when the perpetrators fled using a car, 12.9% (1,345) of these cases occurred when the perpetrators fled on foot, and a small number are using other types of fleeing. However, the number of acts of fleeing or not is also quite large, as many as 14.31% (1,491) cases were not recorded, which is likely due to one of the factors because many cases of fatal police shootings were not documented by the police.

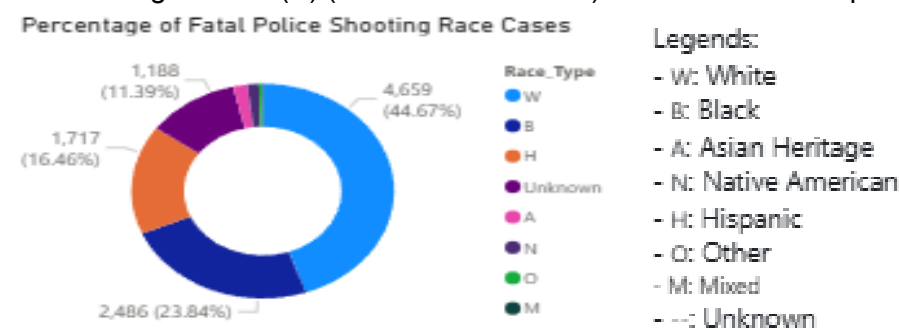


However, there are other factors that can justify these fatal police shootings. With the data from 2015 to 2024¹ shows that in 8,373 (80.28%) cases, the perpetrators were shot consciously without mental illness, which could potentially endanger the police with their awareness that they can harm the police with the weapons they had. Compared to the 2,057 (19.72%) cases of perpetrators shot with mental illness, this is certainly a significant number. However, when a perpetrator with mental illness is shot dead by police, it is important to consider the supporting factors, such as whether the perpetrator was uncontrollable and posed a danger to the police.

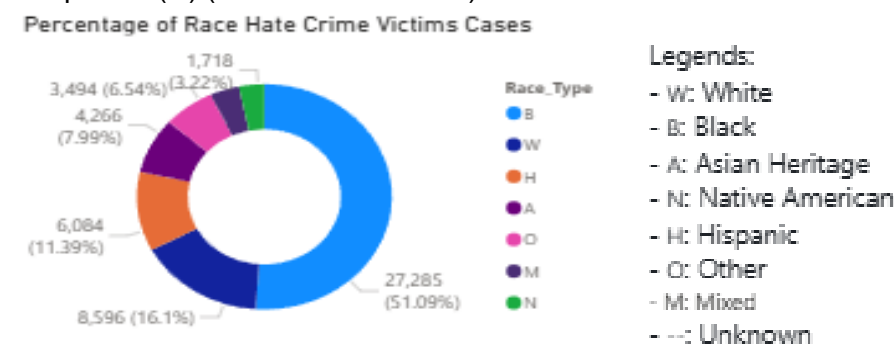


IV. Fatal Police Shootings vs Total Hate Crimes vs Total Races Population

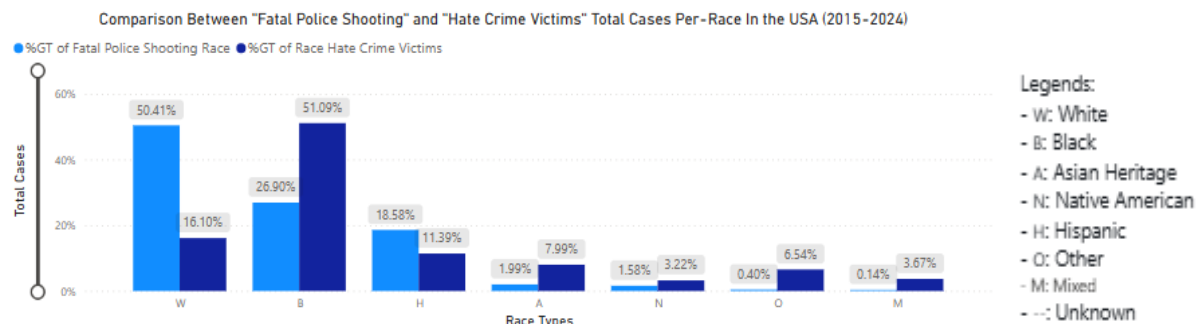
Another interesting aspect is that comparing the "Total Fatality of Police Shootings¹" with the "Total Hate Crimes" data by race in the United States yields slightly contradictory results. The total fatality rate of police shootings among: "Whites (W) (44.67% of all cases)" is higher than among "Blacks (B) (23.84% of all cases)". And 3rd with "Hispanics (W) (16.46% cases)"



Meanwhile, for "Total Hate Crimes" based on race in the United States³, the largest number is against "Blacks (B) (51.09% of all cases)", compared to Hate Crimes against other races whose percentages are much more distributed, such as: "Whites (W) (16.1% of all cases)", "Hispanics (H) (11.39% of all cases)" and other minorities.



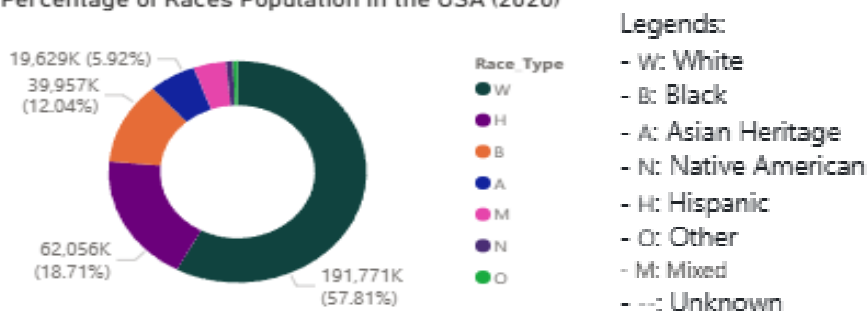
So it is not true, that the public sentiment of "Blacks who dominate as victims of hate crimes (51.09% of all cases), will be likely become the largest race victims of fatal police shootings (23.84% of all cases)"⁹, although it cannot be denied that statistically it is also quite large for blacks who are victims of fatal police shootings to consist of half the number of whites (44.67% of all cases).



This sentiment: "Black People will like getting killed by the police forces" rose after the "George Floyd Incident" that occur in May-25th-2020 at Minneapolis City in Minnesota, USA. Where the man called "George Floyd" passed away after been strangled to his dead by a police force (Derek Chauvin). Then, the footage of George Floyd death was widely shared and caused widespread public outrage and "Black Lives Matter" movement in the USA and also some parts of the world for about a year⁸.

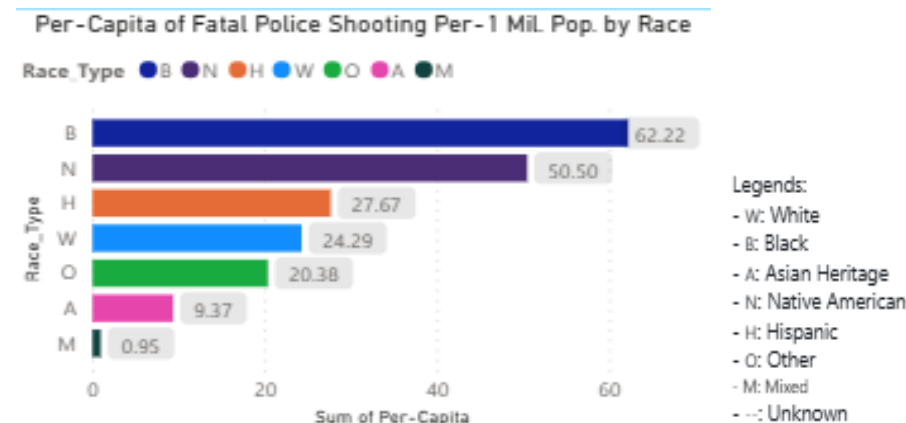
And back to the data, i also added the "race distribution (in the USA)"^{4,5} indicator. Where from the data i got, in terms of race distribution, the "White (W)" race occupies the top position in the USA with 191,771,296 people (57.81% of population), so it seems reasonable that this race topping in all the previous factors (the number of perpetrators who were fatally shot by the police forces, all types of weapons that been used and all fleeing status of the perpetrators of who are fatally police shootings, perpetrators who were recorded by police forces' body cameras when fatally shot by them), because as i explained in "I. Demographics" section, "The higher the population in an area, the greater possibility of an interaction with the polices", within diverse populations and behaviors.

Percentage of Races Population in the USA (2020)



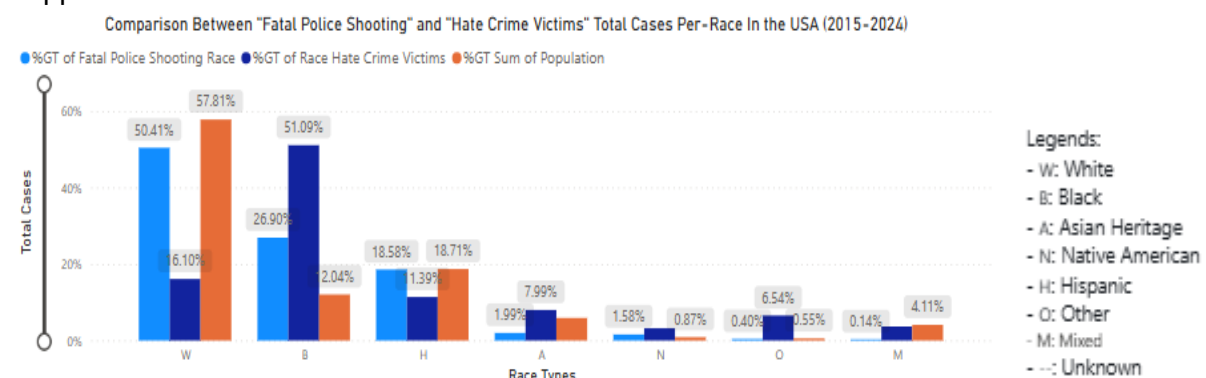
Next is "Hispanic (H)", with the second-largest racial population in the USA, with 62,055,837 people (18.71% of population). However interestingly, they are more often positioned below the black people, in the factors that i outlined above (number of perpetrators fatally shot by police forces, all types of weapons that been used and fleeing status of the perpetrators in fatal police shootings, perpetrators recorded by police body cameras when fatally shot by them). While, the "Black (B)" people themselves rank third in terms of racial distribution in the USA, with 19,629,058 people (12.04% of population).

On the other hand, the "Race Distribution" information, when combined with the "Fatal Police Distribution" information, appears inconsistent when measured on a per-capita basis, resulting in: "Blacks (B) (62.22 Cases per-1 Million Pop)" as the highest races of per-capita rate of getting killed in police shootings, align with the highest rate of races that got hate crimes report (51.09% of all cases). And next surprisingly, "Native Americans (N) (50.5 Cases per-1 Million Pop)" ranked the second highest races of per-capita rate of getting killed in police shootings, a surprise considering they are always in a very low position in other charts in this essay report. So, it seems that there are no other factors (hate crime reports) in this report that can explain this phenomenon, so it is an interesting phenomenon to be explored for further research.



Moreover, the difference in rates between "Native Americans (N)" and the next ranked race is almost double. Where in the third place are "Hispanics (H) (27.67 Cases per-1 Million Pop)". Meanwhile, for "Whites (W) (44.67% of all cases)", which previously ranked at the top in total cases of fatal police shootings, ranked fourth highest races of per-capita rate of getting killed in police shootings (24.29 Cases per-1 Million Pop), which of course further confirms that the total number of cases does not necessarily have the highest potential for a research phenomenon.

So, after i attempted to merge the "races distribution" data with the existing "fatal police shootings" and "hate crime reports" data, to obtain a clearer comparison using percentage values. The results itself support the previous explanation, where the "White (W)" population, which dominates more than half of the USA population (57.81%), making fatal police shootings more difficult to avoid by the perpetrators. However, on the positive side, "White (W)" individuals are more protected from racial hate crimes due to their larger number to support each other.



Furthermore, the number of fatal police shootings by races in the second place “(Blacks (B))” and third place “(Hispanics (H))” appears to contradict the distribution of racial populations and the number of hate crimes experienced by each racial group. Where the “Blacks (B)” population experience the highest racist hate crime (51.09% of all cases), but only having the third largest population distribution (12.04%). And, then the “Hispanics (H)” population experience also the third highest rate of racist hate crime (11.39% of all cases), but having a larger of population distribution (18.71%) at the second largest population in the USA. These contradictory factors are interesting to explore in further research.

V. Data Gathering & Data Visualizing Information

In this essay report, I intended to describe more detailed data on the phenomenon of "Fatal Police Shootings" in the USA, comparing it with various other factors to find the correlations of each other factors with the "Fatal Police Shootings" phenomenon in the USA.

In this essay, I using the data from:

- USA Fatal Police Shootings Report, Period 2015-2024¹ (by: The Washington Post)
- USA Official Population Census of 2020² (by: US Census Bureau)
- USA Hate Crime Reports, Period 2015-2024³ [Using Racial Indicator] (by: FBI Crime Data Explorer)
- USA Race Distribution Population of 2020⁴ (by: US Census Bureau)
- USA Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race of 2020⁵ (by: US Census Bureau)

As a reminder, all of these graphs that are presented in this report, are using the indicators:

- Region: 50 States of the USA + District of Columbia [Specifically, the Map Graph uses the 50 States of the USA indicator] (Exc.: Puerto Rico and US Overseas Territories)
- Race: White (W), Black (B), Asian Heritage (A) [Combined Asian and Middle-East], Native American [Native Indian and Alaska Native combined with Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander], Hispanic (H), Other (O) [Other minority races], Mixed (M) [Mixed races of 2 or more] {The "Unknown" race is hidden to allow for a consistent viewing of the graph}

Next, one of the important indicators in this report of "Races Distribution" in the USA that are based on the official census by the "US Census Bureau" in 2020, is using a combined information from "Races Census⁴" and "Hispanic or Latino Origin By Race⁵" Because the original "Races Census" report blending the "Hispanic (H)" races with the other races in the USA. So, i need to find another dataset to obtain the number of "Hispanic (H)" race itself and the "Other races" each number after being subtracted with the "Hispanic (H)" results (based on each racial indicator related to "Hispanic (H)" race), in which giving the final number for "Hispanic (H)" race of "62,055,837 people." The results are also supported by the scientific article of: "A brief statistical portrait of U.S. Hispanics⁶ (by: Pew Research Center)," which also shows that the “Hispanic (H)” race has a population around 62 million in the USA.

On the other hand, there are also some information in this essay report, but i'm not include the indicators to my graphical report list to avoid overshadowing the main topic of this report (USA Fatal Police Shots), and also due to the sources data may only be used solely to support an argument that are being questioned. And those are:

- The USA is the country with the highest per-capita gun ownership indicator in the world per 100 people => Based on the report "Gun Ownership by Country in 2017 (by: Small Arms Survey)"
- Public sentiment regarding the higher potential for death by police forces among Black people compared to most other groups in the USA => Based on the scientific article "The Emotional and Mental Health Impact of the Murder of George Floyd on the US Population⁸" (by: Johannes C. Eichstaedt, Garrick T. Sherman, Salvatore Giorgi, and Sharath Chandra Guntuku)" with data from "Mapping Police Violence⁹" (by: Campaign Zero [Independent Organization])"

There are also several survey results with a low level of granularity to facilitate an easier way to visualize the data in a graphical form, which are the reports of:

- The "USA Official Population Census of 2020," "USA Race Distribution Population of 2020," and "USA Hispanic or Latino Origin By Race" actually provide information on race distribution by state, but I only used data for the entire USA (excluding Puerto Rico) by calculating the values for all states.

VI. In Conclusion

In this essay report on "Fatal Police Shootings" in the USA in the 2015-2024 period, gaining the results of the top 3 states with the most significant numbers "fatal police shootings" with: "California (1,405 cases)", "Texas (1,010 cases)", and "Florida (672 cases)". Which is in line with the top 3 states with the highest population that are: "California (39,538,223 people)", "Texas (29,145,505 people)", and "Florida (21,538,187 people)", because the more population means more possibility of police forces. However, when averaging the cases per-1 million people per-capita, it yields inconsistent results, with the top 3 positions occupied by: New Mexico (103.42 cases per million people), Alaska (94.08 cases per million people), and Oklahoma (67.18 cases per million people).

Next, "guns" are the most common weapon used by perpetrators killed in police shootings, accounting for 6,040 (57.91%) cases. This is not surprising considering that in 2017, according to the "Small Arms Survey", the United States ranked first in the world for gun ownership per capita per 100 people, with a rate of 120.5 per 100. The remaining types of weapons are having a smaller number and more evenly distributed.

Then, when combined with the "racial hate crimes" report, it also answer the false public sentiment of: "Blacks who dominate as victims of hate crimes (51.09% of all cases), will likely become the largest race victims of fatal police shootings (23.84% of all cases)", although it can't be denied that statistically it's also quite large for blacks who are victims of fatal police shootings to consist of half the number of whites (44.67% of all cases).

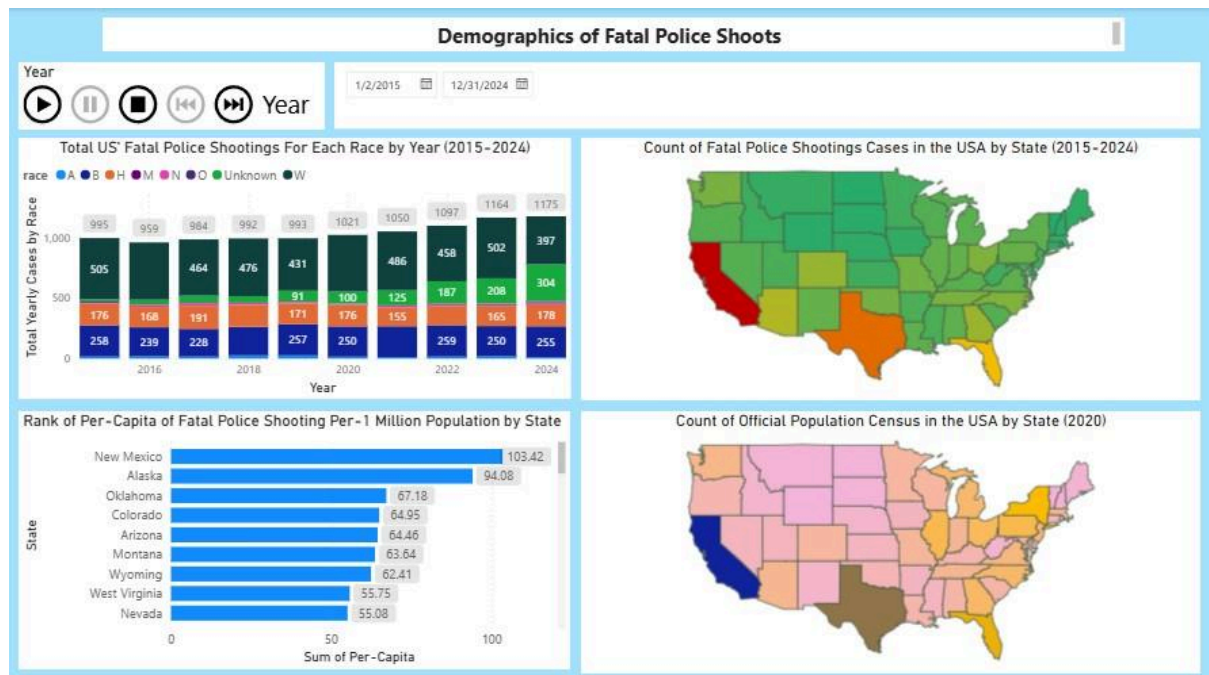
And using "race distribution" when compared with the "fatal police shootings" data, the results are obtained for the "White (W)" population, which dominates more than half of the overall USA population (57.81%), making the fatal police shootings more difficult to avoid by the White (W)" perpetrators. But, the second place "(Blacks (B))" and third place "(Hispanics (H))" appear to contradict the distribution of racial populations and the number of hate crimes experienced by each racial group. These contradictory factors are interesting to explore in further research. Then another surprise result comes out, when averaging total cases with total races population per-1 million people per-capita, with the top 3 races position by: "Blacks (B) (62.22 Cases per-1 Million Pop)", "Native Americans (N) (50.5 Cases per-1 Million Pop)", "Hispanics (H) (27.67 Cases per-1 Million Pop)". Meanwhile for "Whites (W)", which previously ranked at the top in total cases of fatal police shootings (44.67% of all cases), now ranked fourth (24.29 Cases per-1 Million Pop).

Finally, a suggestion for further research is to: "Explore the data on "Fatal Police Shootings" with "Average Household Income per Capita" for each state in the USA". The dataset that i could find is based solely on the overall figure for the entire USA (not by per-US States). Therefore, it is somewhat difficult to determine a correlation to answer the question "Does Average Household Income Influence the Occurrence of Fatal Police Shootings in the Top 3 States with the Most Cases?" Furthermore, further research could also examine the relationship between "Fatal Police Shootings" and other factors in other countries/regions in some parts of the world.

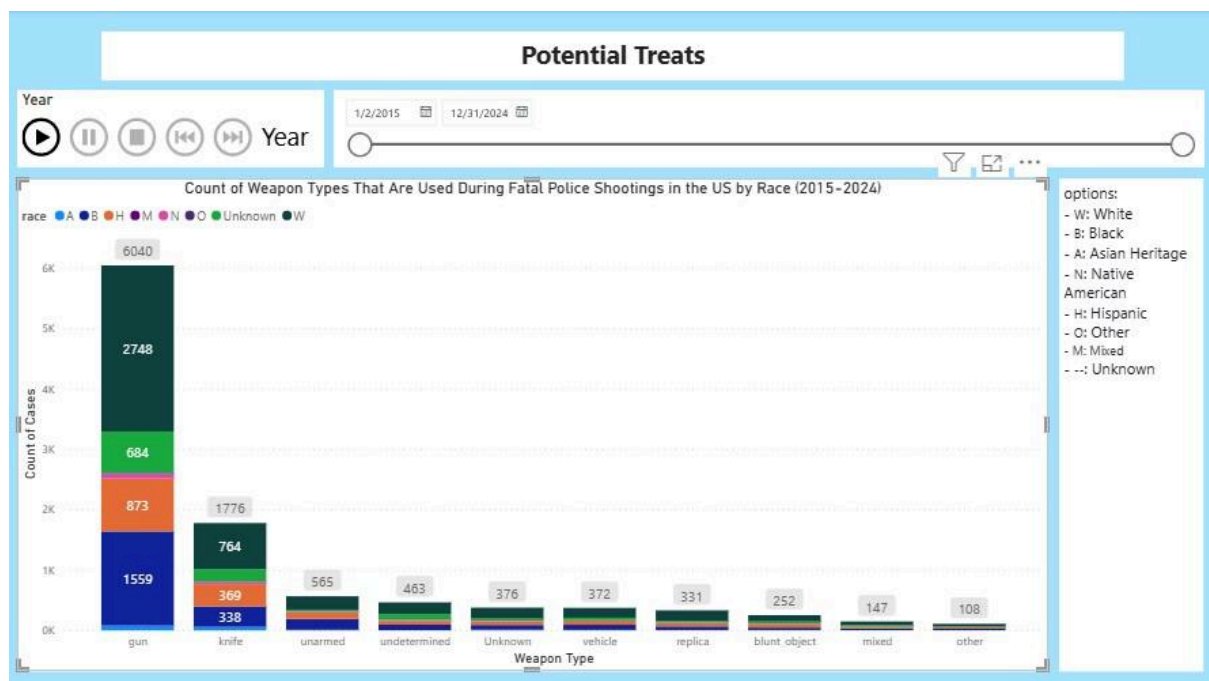
VII. References

- ¹ Jenkins, J., Mathur, M., Nakhlawi, R., Rich, S., & Tran, A. B. (2025). Fatal Force Database (Version v2) [Dataset; GitHub]. The Washington Post.
<https://github.com/washingtonpost/data-police-shootings/tree/master/v2>
- ² United States Census Bureau. (2021). Resident Population for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico: 2020 Census [Dataset; Website FTP].
<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/apportionment/apportionment-2020-table02.xlsx>
- ³ FBI Crime Data Explorer. Hate Crime in the United States by Bias Types [Dataset; Website FTP]. FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program.
<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/explorer/crime/hate-crime> (Accessed 20 July 2025)
- ⁴ United States Census Bureau. (n.d.). 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC) (P3 - Race) [Dataset; Website FTP].
<https://data.census.gov/table?q=P3&d=DEC+Demographic+and+Housing+Characteristics> (Accessed 26 August 2025)
- ⁵ United States Census Bureau. (n.d.-b). 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC) (P5 - Hispanic or Latino Origin by Race) [Dataset; Website FTP].
<https://data.census.gov/table?q=P5&d=DEC+Demographic+and+Housing+Characteristics> (Accessed 26 August 2025)
- ⁶ Funk, C., & Lopez, M. H. (2022). A brief statistical portrait of U.S. Hispanics. In Pew Research Center. Pew Research Center.
<https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2022/06/14/a-brief-statistical-portrait-of-u-s-hispanics/>
- ⁷ Small Arms Survey. (n.d.). Gun Ownership by Country 2017. In World Population Review. World Population Review.
<https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gun-ownership-by-country> (Accessed 26 August 2025)
- ⁸ Eichstaedt, J. C., Sherman, G. T., Giorgi, S., Roberts, S. O., Reynolds, M. E., Ungar, L. H., & Guntuku, S. C. (2021). The emotional and mental health impact of the murder of George Floyd on the US population. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(39).
<https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2109139118>
- ⁹ S. Sinyangwe, D. McKesson, J. Elzie, Mapping police violence.
<https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/> (Accessed 20 May 2021)

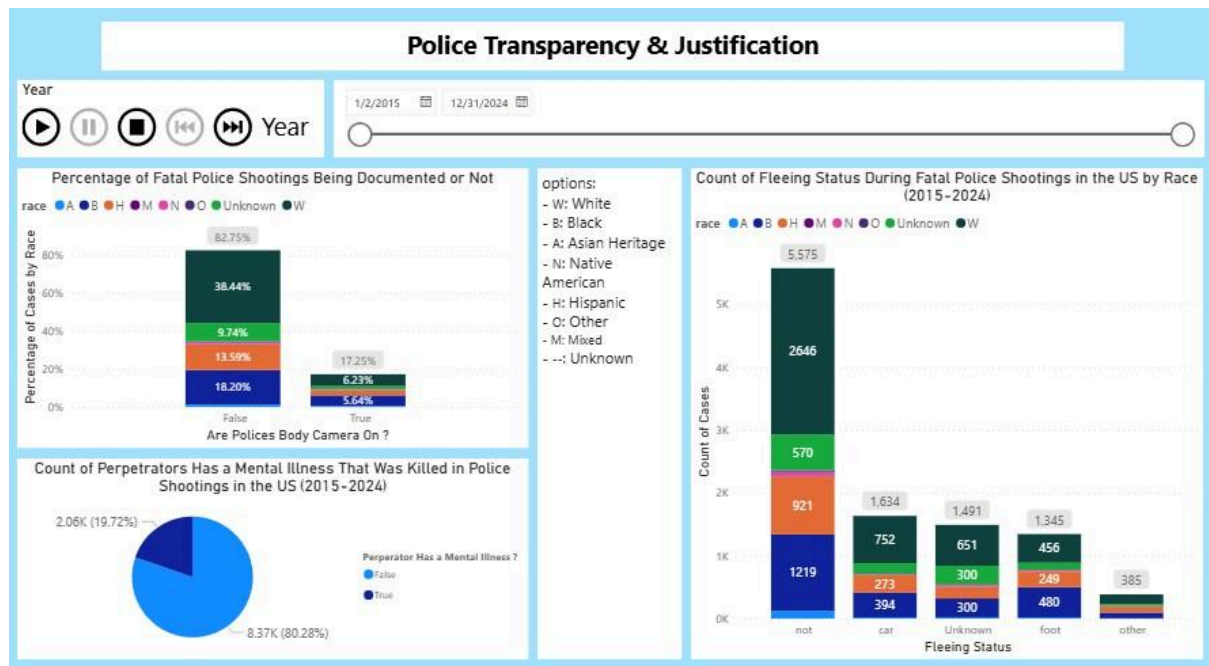
VIII. Power BI Report Screenshoots



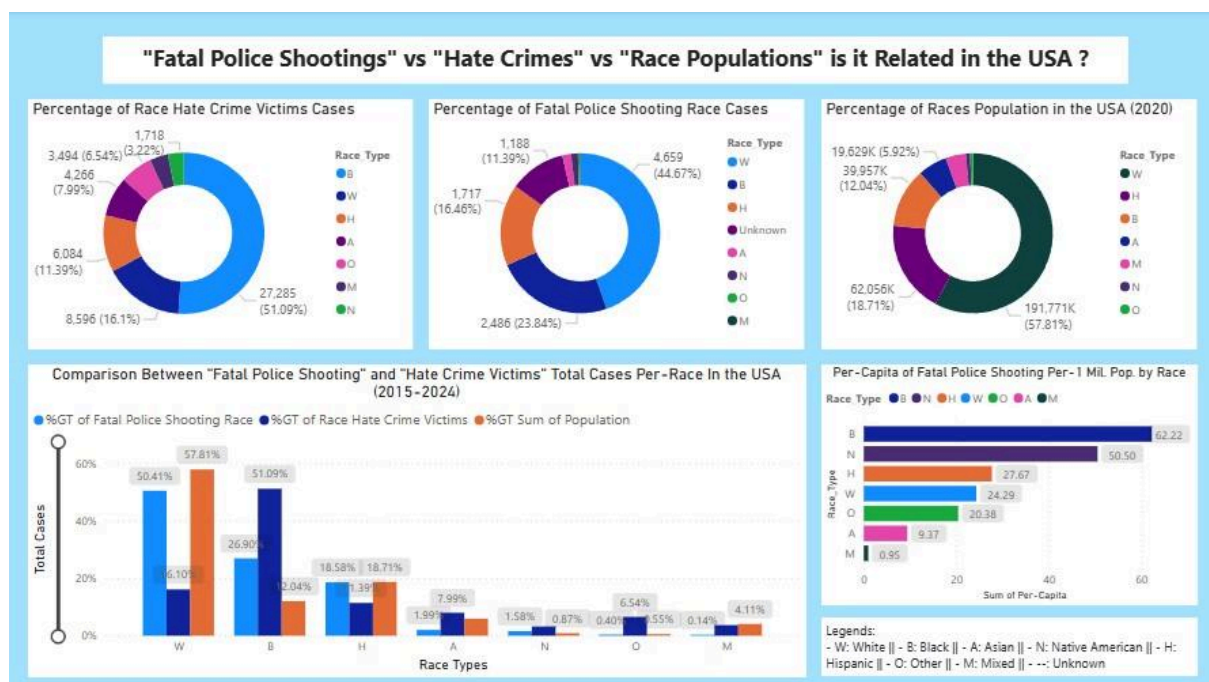
The **Above** Graphic depicts "Demographics of Fatal Police Shootings" graphs, by: "States" and "Races".



The **Below** Graphic depicts "Potential Treats" of a weapon that are being used by the perpetrators when they are fatally shot by the police forces graph, by: "Weapon Types" and "Races".



The **Above** Graphic depicts "Statistical Data of Mental Condition, Police Documentation and Perpetrators Status When the Fatal Police Shootings Occurred to Them" graphs, by: "Races".



The **Below** Graphic depicts "Fatal Police Shootings" data being compared with the other factors of: "Racial Hate Crimes Report" and "Races Population Distribution Across USA", by: "Races".

IX. Further Graphics References

For further graphics detail interaction could be seen in this link below:

<https://github.com/SgtGlasVot18/Insights-of-Fatal-Police-Shootings-in-the-USA-2015-2024-v1/tree/main/>