Field	Description	Specifications	Tips
name	Name of victim	Enter as: First Middle Last *(Frank Anthony Jones)*	If the name is not yet known/not released, enter as 'Name Withheld' If there were multiple victims of the same encounter, create a record for each victim.
date	Date of incident with police	Enter as: MM/DD/YYYY *(10/07/2021)*	
city	City where fatal encounter took place	Enter the city where the fatal incident occurred NOTE: the location of the fatal encounter may be different from where the incident began (e.g. where a vehicle pursuit started)	Click in the field to type and search from existing list and either: (1) select the city from search results, or; (2) click + at bottom to add new city
state	State where fatal encounter took place	Enter two-letter postal abbreviation for the US state	
age	Age of victim	Enter age of the victim in years	
gender	Gender of victim	Enter the victim's gender as reported by news or official reports. Select one: ● Male ● Female ● Unknown ● Transgender Male ● Transgender Female ● Non-Binary/Gender non-conforming	
race	Race of victim	Enter race as reported by news or official reports, _or_ as inferred from name, physical appearance, or other indicators. Click in the field to select one from list: ● Black ● White ● Native American ● Asian ● Unknown ● Pacific Islander	If the victim's race is not mentioned in news/official reports, try searching the web for an obituary or other alternate source.
race_inferred	'race' entry was inferred	Indicate whether the entry in the 'race' field was coded solely based on the victim's name, physical appearance, or other indicators. ● Check the field ☑ if the entry in the 'race' field was coded solely	Uncheck this box if race had originally been inferred, but was later confirmed/reported on in news articles or official reports.

Field	Description	Specifications	Tips
		based on the victim's name, physical appearance, or other indicators. • Leave unchecked ☐ if race was reported in one or more sources.	
street_address	Address where fatal encounter took place	Enter street-level address, intersection or block information for where the fatal encounter took place NOTE: the location of the fatal encounter may be different than where engagement with the police began (e.g. where a chase started).	Do *not* include details like business names, city/state or, any non-street level descriptors Examples: *(1117 N State Street)* *(State St and N Palm Ave)* *(1000 block of N State St)* *(I-37 at mile marker 20)*
zip	US Zip Code where incident took place	*(Automated field. Not necessary to code.)*	
county	County where incident took place	*(Automated field. Not necessary to code.)*	
cause_of_death	Act(s) of force used by law enforcement that caused / contributed to death	Enter all that apply from list: • Gunshot • Taser • Beaten • Physical Restraint • Vehicle • Beanbag • Pepper Spray • Other	Click ✛ to pull up the options and select the cause from the list. Do this multiple times, if needed.
allegedly_armed	Whether & with what victim was armed with at time of encounter	Enter whether the victim was indicated to have been armed by news or official reports, and if so, with what kind of weapon. Select one: • Allegedly armed • Unclear • Unarmed / did not have actual weapon • Vehicle See 'Armed/Unarmed Status' section for more specifications.	Click ✛ to pull up the options and select the cause from the list. Do this multiple times, if needed.
news_urls	Links to key news articles or official reports about the incident	Copy/paste web links (urls) to news articles, posts or reports that have contributed or confirmed the information in this record.	Separate links with a blank row (+ enter).
agency_responsible	The law enforcement agency responsible for death	Record the agency(ies) that employed the officers known to have contributed to the cause of death (e.g. those who fired their weapons, drove the car, etc.)	Click ✛ in the field to search existing list of agencies, and either: (1) select the Agency from search results, or; (2) click ✛ at bottom to add new agency Do this multiple times if more agencies need to be added

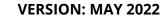| Field	Description	Specifications	Tips
circumstances	Brief summary of the circumstances/ encounter that led to death(s)	In 1-3 sentences, use information from news articles or official reports to summarize the circumstances of the encounter by including: • why were the police there • why did officers first engage with the victim • what happened prior to the killing • what was the fatal action taken *(Example: "Officers arrived at a residence to arrest the victim on an outstanding warrant when they allege he ran from a side entrance while visibly holding a gun. During the following foot chase officers and victim exchanged gunfire, in which victim was shot and killed.")*	Use language that assumes the innocence of victims such as: 'was allegedly armed', 'allegedly drove at officers' Omit any information from news stories that did not directly have to do with the encounter, such as: the victim's criminal past, any speculations about mindset or motives
disposition_ official	Status of investigation against law enforcement officer	Record the official status of any investigation(s) against officers resulting from this incident. Enter all that apply.	NOTE: it may not be known for weeks or months after an incident whether there will be an investigation, or what the outcome of that investigation is. If reports only indicate that an investigation will be/has been started, record this as "Pending Investigation". Click ✚ in the field to search existing list of options, and either: (1) select your option from search results, or; (2) click ✚ at bottom to add a new result Do this multiple times if more dispositions need to be added.
officer_charged	Whether any officer was charged with a crime, and the result of that charge	Record whether one or more officers were charged with a crime as a result of this incident and, if so, what the outcome of that case was.	NOTE: it may be months or years after an incident before it is known whether there will be charges filed , or what the outcome of that case is. If a charge was made against an officer, eventually this entry should be updated to reflect the final outcome of that case as that information is made known. Click ✚ in the field to search existing list of options, and either: (1) select your option from search results, or; (2) click ✚ at bottom to add a new result
officer_names	Name(s) of officer responsible for fatal use of force	Record the names of the officers responsible for the fatal encounter (e.g. the officers that fired their weapons, or drove the car that killed the victim)	Enter names as First Middle Last, with additional names separated by a comma
officer_races	Race of officer responsible for fatal use of force	Record the race of the officer responsible for the fatal encounter	
officer_race_inferred	'officer_race' entry was inferred	Indicate whether the entry in the 'officer_race' field was coded solely	Check ☑ if the entry in the 'race' field was coded solely based

Field	Description	Specifications	Tips
		based on the officer's name, physical appearance, or other indicators.	on the officer's name, physical appearance, or other indicators. Leave unchecked ☐ if race was reported on in one or more sources.
officer_known_past_ shootings	Whether the officer has had a previous fatal encounters, and how many	Enter in the number (#) of known past fatal encounters the officer has had, and the names of those victims.	Enter as 'total #, First Middle Last, First Middle Last' *(e.g. 2, Jed Wright, Keri Paterson)* If there are no known fatal encounters, leave this field blank.
victim_image	Link to a photograph of victim	Copy/paste a web link (urls) to an image of the victim.	Use a non-police photo when possible, including pictures from an obituary or social media.
signs_of_mental_ illness	Whether mental illness or drug/alcohol use played a role	Indicate whether news articles/official reports mention any signs of mental illness, mental health crises or alleged drug/alcohol use. Select one: • Yes • Unknown • No • Drug or Alcohol Use	
encounter_type	The crime, if any, that caused the police to engage the victim	Record the most serious observed/reported crime or behavior that was given as the reason the officers directly engaged the victim. Category Definitions: • Person with a Weapon: a person having been seen with a gun or other weapon, though no violent crimes or crimes against people were reported. • Part I Violent Crime: a crime of deadly violence against others, including: *aggravated assault, assault with a weapon, robbery by threat or force, shooting/shots fired, rape.* • Traffic Stop: stopped for a traffic or vehicle- related offense. • None/Unknown: non-criminal situations such as: *car crashes, acting suspicious.* • Other Non-Violent Offenses: non-violent crimes such as: *drug offenses, trespassing, theft, fraud. This category also includes having a warrant for a non-violent offense, and cases where a person is pulled over for a specific non-traffic related offense or warrant.* • Domestic Disturbance: arguments, verbal abuse or psychological abuse between spouses, significant others or family. • Mental Health/Welfare Check: reports or observations that someone was acting "erratically," "suicidal," "disorderly,"or of a person in need of medical/mental health care or otherwise in need of someone to check on their welfare (with no other specific offenses alleged).	Do not code for crimes occurring after the police encounter began. See 'Encounter Types' section for more specifications

Field	Description	Specifications	Tips
		• <u>Other Crimes Against People</u>: offenses not classified as Part 1 Violent Crimes but that nevertheless cause harm to other people including: *assault (without a weapon), battery, sex offenses not including rape, domestic assault (without a weapon), child abuse, kidnapping and any warrants related to these offenses*	
initial_reason	The reason that police were on-scene	Record the initial reported reason that officers were on-scene when contact was made between the police and victim.	
wapo_armed	The weapon that the victim was believed to have been armed with	Record what the weapon was that the victim is alleged to have been armed with at the time of the fatal encounter. The implement that a police officer believed could have inflicted harm.	
wapo_threat_level	The highest level of threat against officers	Record the highest level of threat reported against officers in this engagement. Select one: • Brandished Weapon • Used weapon • Sudden threatening movement • Undetermined • Other • Attack • None • Unclear	
wapo_flee	Whether the victim was evading contact or capture	Indicate whether the victim was actively fleeing, evading or hiding from police at the time of the incident by documenting the means of evasion. Code as 'Not Fleeing' if evasion is not specifically indicated in the news/official reports. Select one: • Foot • Car • Not fleeing • Other • Car, foot • Foot, car	
wapo_body_camera	Whether there is any known recorded footage of the incident	Document whether reports have indicated that there is recorded footage of the incident and, if known, what kind of recording. Select one: • No	

Field	Description	Specifications	Tips
		- Yes - Surveillance Video - Dash Cam Video - Bystander Video - Taser Video	
off_duty_killing	Whether an officer was not working in their official capacity	Code as 'Off-Duty' if the officer responsible for the death was <u>not</u> working in their city-appointed capacity at the time of the encounter (e.g. off-shift, working security for private employer, etc.)	
comments	Field for <u>internal</u> comments	Use this field to internally highlight any concerns, anomalies, explanations or other notes for the internal record. Use also to share information with the 2nd Tier reviewers.	Some examples of things to include in Comments: - Anything you have coded that you would like a second coder to check on - Any discrepancies in the news/reports that you feel should be monitored for as more news/information is released
possible_suicide	Whether victim may have been trying to be killed	Check the box if news articles or official reports indicate that the incident may have been a 'suicide by cop' scenario, with the victim in mental health crisis or otherwise indicated to be suicidal.	
call_for_service	Whether the incident began as a 911 call or other request for police response	Indicate whether police were called to the scene or otherwise asked to take action by a non-police source Select one: - Yes - No - Unavailable	
Do Not Publish	Prevents this record from being part of the MPV dataset	Use this checkbox to keep this data from being published, usually for not meeting the current definition of Police Violence (see <u>Defining Police Violence</u>, above).	
Car Crash	Whether the fatality was caused by a car crash not caused by police	Use this checkbox to indicate that the victim's death was due to a car crash, but <u>not</u> directly caused by police. NOTE: checking this box prevents the incident from being published as part of MPV as indirect fatalities do not meet the current MPV definition of police violence.	Examples of when to check this box: - Victim dies in a vehicle crash without being directly rammed/hit by police - A civilian is killed by someone being pursued by police
Advocacy Flag	Cases relating to Campaign Zero campaigns which can inform broader		

Coding Specific Variables

Variable	Clarifications/Coding
Armed/Unarmed Status Developed by: Campaign Zero, led by Samuel Sinyangwe	A person is coded as **Unarmed/Did Not Have a Weapon** in the database if they were one or more of the following: → not holding any objects or weapons when killed → holding household/personal items that were not used to attack others (cellphone, video game controller, cane, etc.) → holding a toy weapon (BB gun, pellet gun, air rifle, toy sword) → an innocent bystander or hostage killed by a police shooting or other police use of force → a person or motorist killed after being intentionally hit by a police car or as a result of hitting police stop sticks during a pursuit A person was coded as having a **Vehicle** as a weapon if they were one or more of the following: → a driver who was killed while hitting, dragging or driving towards officers or civilians → a driver who was driving and/or being pursued by police at high speeds, presenting a danger to the public → People who were killed by a civilian driver or crashed without being hit directly by police during a police pursuit are not included in the database. Note that an estimated 300 people are killed in police pursuits each year and only a small portion of these cases are included in the database (most deadly pursuits end after the driver crashes themselves into something or hits a civilian vehicle without being directly rammed/hit by police). A person was coded as **Allegedly Armed** in the database if they: → were alleged to have possessed objects or weapons in circumstances other than those stated above

Variable	Clarifications/Coding
Encounter Types and Initial Reported Reason for Encounter Developed by: Campaign Zero, led by Samuel Sinyangwe We believe it is important to continue the coding of this variable. The coding for these unique variables started in 2017. MPV has expanded the scope of data collection to include information on the initial reported reason(s) for police to be on the scene prior to using deadly force. This information is obtained from a review of existing media reports on each case as well as statements from police, prosecutors, and other officials.	These initial reported reasons are grouped into broader Encounter Types that are standardized within the following taxonomy, ranked in order of severity whereby cases are coded according to the most severe encounter type: **If it is a Part I-related violent crime, then you would indicate beforehand. Part I crimes include the following violent crimes: rape, aggravated assault, robbery, and human trafficking.** → **Part I Violent Crime:** includes cases where officers engaged the person because of reported or suspected murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, assault with a deadly weapon, or shooting/shots fired including reported attempts to commit these offenses and executing warrants related to these offenses. → **Other Crimes Against People:** include offenses not classified as Part 1 Violent Crimes but that nevertheless involve causing harm to other people including assault (without a weapon), battery, sex offenses not including rape, domestic assault (without a weapon), child abuse, kidnapping and any warrants related to these offenses → **Person with a Weapon:** is reported for being seen with a gun or other weapon, though no violent crimes or crimes against people were reported → **Other Non-Violent Offenses:** are not classified as violent crimes or crimes against people (for example, cases involving alleged drug offenses, trespassing, theft, fraud, etc.), including warrants involving non-violent offenses and cases where a person is pulled over by police for a specific non-traffic related offense or warrant. → **Mental Health/Welfare Check:** cases where police initially encounter the person in response to reports or observations that they were acting "erratically," "suicidal," "disorderly," reports of a person in need of medical/mental health care or otherwise in need of someone to check on their welfare with no other specific offenses alleged → **Domestic Disturbance:** cases where officers respond to an alleged domestic disturbance. Cases where officers responded to reports that indicated the person was committing a violent crime (i.e. aggravated assault/assault with a deadly weapon) or crime against a person (domestic assault or battery) in the context of a domestic disturbance are coded as Violent Crimes or Other Crimes Against People, consistent with the most severe alleged offense. → **Traffic Stop:** cases where police initially encounter the person because of a traffic violation or traffic-related offense, regardless of whether any other offenses are reportedly discovered after the person has already been stopped by police. → **None/Unknown:** cases involving non-criminal situations such as car crashes as well as situations where generalized "suspicion" was cited as the reason for officers to engage with someone despite no specific offense being alleged

Variable	Clarifications/Coding

WAPO Fields
 	
Developed by: *The Washington Post*
 	
Extracted from *The Washington Post* Methodology which can be accessed here.
	Alleged Threat Level
	
	MPV researchers **are only responsible for coding incidents where a gun is not the highest level of force applied** in the incident since WaPo data only includes observations with a gun present.
	
	"The threat_level column was used to flag incidents for the story by Amy Brittain in October 2015.
	
	As described in the story, the general criteria for the attack label was that there was the most direct and immediate threat to life. That would include incidents where officers or others were shot at, threatened with a gun, attacked with other weapons or physical force, etc. The attack category is meant to flag the highest level of threat. The other and undetermined categories represent all remaining cases. Other includes many incidents where officers or others faced significant threats."
	
	Fleeing
	Extracted from *The Washington Post* Methodology which can be accessed here.
	
	"News reports have indicated the victim was moving away from officers
	  → On foot
	  → In a car
	  → Not fleeing
	The threat column and the fleeing column are not necessarily related. For example, there is an incident in which the suspect is fleeing and at the same time turns to fire at gun at the officer. Also, attacks represent a status immediately before fatal shots by police while fleeing could begin slightly earlier and involve a chase."