CAMPAIGN ZERO

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Mapping Police Violence

DATA & METHODOLOGY

mappingpoliceviolence.org

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Overview

This document includes methodological and process-related information to ensure transparency around our protocols for tracking police violence, allows the public to recreate the data we generate from news articles, and holds us accountable for success and maintenance of the Mapping Police Violence ("MPV") data platform.

The following discussions regarding documentation are included below:

- → Police Violence Landscape
- → Mapping Police Violence Definitions & Scope
- → Methodology & Documentation
- → Existing & Future Automations

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Preface

Research & Data products

We believe in exercising humility and course correcting when we make mistakes. Please contact us if you believe anything critically relevant is missing or misrepresented. While we've done our best to be comprehensive, we also have to balance accessibility and length. Furthermore, we want to emphasize that we are research-driven, as opposed to exclusively data-driven. This allows us to center human experiences of people with lived experience in the U.S. Criminal Legal System. We center co-creation over ego in all of our research and data initiatives.

Please email research.requests@campaignzero.org if you find any errors, problems, or have any questions about this documentation or dataset.

Police violence data sources and replication

We posit that the data collected, coded, and made available belongs to the public. It is not and should not be owned by any platform. We encourage communities, organizations, and other individuals to develop their own databases. This only strengthens the integrity and validity of the data by allowing us to study the differences across datasets and improve data collection efforts when there are attempts to harmonize and study the data. For example, a recent study has found that while the three major datasets are similar, they have started to become more dissimilar over recent years (Comer and Ingram, 2022).

Thus, we are always open to partnerships and collaborations to improve the methodology and/or share best practices. We center collaboration and co-creation over ego, which can be a departure from orthodox academic norms and culture.

We want to acknowledge and thank ***Samuel Sinyangwe***, a Campaign Zero co-founder, for leading this work and the development of the initial methodology. We also want to acknowledge and thank ***D. Brian Burghart***, founder of Fatal Encounters, who advised the initial development of the project and how to code incidents; he continues to advise and collaborate on the methodology.

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Police Violence Landscape

Defining police violence

First, it is important to create distinctions between terms that have been synonymously employed to capture similar but different concepts. “Table 1” provides an overview of definitions attempting to differentiate between commonly cited concepts.

Term	Definition	Source(s)
Police Violence	Currently, there is no agreed upon definition of police violence among scholars, the courts, and police officers (Harris 2017). Whereas some scholars define police violence as police use of excessive force during police-civilian encounters (Harris 2009), others argue that police violence may exceed the force required for an incident but may not be classified as excessive force (Alpert, Dunham, and MacDonald 2004). In Graham v. Connor (1989), the U.S. Supreme Court determined that police excessive force claims during investigatory stops, arrests, or seizures must be analyzed using the “objective reasonableness” standard under the Fourth Amendment.	Alpert, Geoffrey P., Roger G. Dunham, and John M. MacDonald. 2004. “Interactive Police-Citizen Encounters That Result in Force.” *Police Quarterly* 7(4):475–88. doi: 10.1177/1098611103260507. Graham v. Connor (U.S. Supreme Court May 15, 1989). Harris, Christopher J. 2009. “Police Use of Improper Force: A Systematic Review of the Evidence.” *Victims & Offenders* 4(1):25–41. doi: 10.1080/15564880701568470. Harris, Christopher. 2017. “Reducing Violence and Aggression in Police Officers.” pp. 1–12 in *The Wiley Handbook of Violence and Aggression*. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.
Police Abuse	Police abuse refers to police actions that limit citizens’ rights, typically receive minimal punishment, and may serve an economic and/or political function (Bonner et al. 2018). Police abuse is generally characterized by civilian perceptions and complaints regardless of whether or not the police action is legally justified. Examples of police abuse include criminal acts as well as forms of disrespect, such as ethnic slurs, abusive language, and verbal threats (Albrecht 2017).	Albrecht, James F. 2017. *Police Brutality, Misconduct, and Corruption: Criminological Explanations and Policy Implications*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer. Bonner, Michelle D., Mary Rose Kubal, Guillermina Seri, and Michael Kempa, eds. 2018. *Police Abuse in Contemporary Democracies*. New York, NY: Springer.
Police Misconduct	Police misconduct refers to police officers’ failure to comply with department regulations, policies, and procedures. Examples of police misconduct include, but are not limited to the following: criminal infractions, verbal abuse, excessive force, unwarranted stops, corruption, “chronic tardiness, disheveled appearance,	Albrecht, James F. 2017. *Police Brutality, Misconduct, and Corruption: Criminological Explanations and Policy Implications*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer. Weitzer, Ronald, and Steven A. Tuch. 2004. “Race and

	routine unplanned absences, or excessive sick leave" (Weitzer and Tuch 2004; Albrecht 2017: 32). Researchers find that race is a significant predictor of perceptions of police misconduct in the United States, with African-Americans and Hispanics more likely to report experiences with police misconduct than their white counterparts (Weitzer and Tuch 2004).	Perceptions of Police Misconduct." *Social Problems* 51(3):305–25. doi: 10.1525/sp.2004.51.3.305.
Criminal Police Misconduct	Criminal police misconduct refers to police officers' engagement in illicit activity that violates citizens' Constitutional rights and/or obstructs justice. This may include criminal acts, such as excessive force, sexual misconduct, theft, false arrest, intentional neglect of serious medical needs of person in custody, preventing witnesses from reporting a crime, lying to federal, state, or local officials during an investigation, writing false reports, or concealing evidence (U.S. Department of Justice 2020).	U.S. Department of Justice. 2020. "Law Enforcement Misconduct." Retrieved (https://www.justice.gov/crt/law-enforcement-misconduct).
Police Deviance	Police deviance includes an array of concepts that entail police involvement in criminal and/or noncriminal forms of misconduct. Police deviance may include police violence, police abuse of authority, police misconduct, criminal police misconduct, and police corruption (Albrecht 2017).	Albrecht, James F. 2017. *Police Brutality, Misconduct, and Corruption: Criminological Explanations and Policy Implications*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Research on Police Violence

When examining data around police violence and outcomes of police killings, MPV shows that Black residents in the US are approximately *three times more likely to be killed* compared to their white counterparts (**Mapping Police Violence, 2022**). However, it is important to note that the data we collect represents policing outcomes, thus, underlying interaction data is absent from this dataset. To better understand or make inferences about the true nature, likelihood, or probability of police killings by demographics, interaction level data must be considered. Research highlights how administrative data masks bias and therefore studies employing post-treatment data likely underestimate the severity of the bias (**Knox, Lowe, and Mummolo, 2020**). The lack of interaction-level data affects outcome measures and assessment; the likelihood and probability of police violence could be severely underestimated.

Recent studies utilizing MPV data have found that the threshold for police killings of white people are much higher than those of Black people (**DeAngelis, 2021**). Similarly, other research using Fatal Encounters data finds that Black people are two times more likely to be killed by police "...even when there are no other obvious circumstances during the encounter that would make the use of deadly force reasonable" (**Fagan and Campbell, 2020**).

We encourage continued scholarship using the MPV, Fatal Encounters, and the Washington Post Police Shooting databases. For independent research, we encourage a combination of data sources to allow for validation and welcome any feedback, criticism, or issues that you come across with the data. Feel free to email info@campaignzero.org with any questions.

MPV Definition of Police Violence

Any incident where a law enforcement officer (off-duty or on-duty) applies, on a civilian, lethal force resulting in the civilian being killed whether it is considered "justified" or "unjustified" by the U.S. Criminal Legal System.

A few disclaimers:

- → **Vehicular Force.** Cases when vehicles are used as a form of lethal force or cases when the vehicle is deliberately driven in a manner that is directed at civilian(s) and/or the vehicle the civilian(s) are in (e.g. PIT maneuvers) are included. However, civilians who were **killed by a civilian driver** or **crashed without being hit directly by police** during a police pursuit are **not coded** as incidents of police violence. We have started to internally track Vehicular Chase incidents and will continue to collect and analyze that data**.**
- → **Suicide by Cop.** Cases where a civilian is killed by a law enforcement officer when they're labeled as having a mental health crisis or in a state where they're characterized as "Suicidal" (sometimes referred to as "Suicide by Cop") **are** included as incidents of police violence.
    - **Possible Suicide.** We have started to collect incidents where a reported death is characterized as a "suicide" and provide it to another team to separately review the specifics.
- → **Off-Duty.** Cases where a law enforcement officer kills a civilian while they're "off-duty" is considered an incident of police violence. Additionally, it is worth noting that 97% of the incidents in MPV occurred while a police officer was acting in a law enforcement capacity. Thus, while MPV does include data on off-duty officers, it does not include killings by vigilantes or security guards who are not off-duty police officers. This is a gap in the field that should be further investigated, especially at the intersection of "Stand Your Ground Laws."

Mapping Police Violence Database

In 2019, the FBI launched the data collection efforts for the National Use of Force database. However, participation is voluntary and granular-level agency data will only be released after passing a 80% threshold. Thus, to date, there is still no U.S. Government data source which captures all killings by US law enforcement with relevant contextual and demographic information of the victims.[1]

The only governmental data source which could be used to identify police killings of civilians is the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) maintained and monitored by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). However, the dataset, consisting of birth and death certificate data, suffers from severe undercounting and underreporting concerns. Specifically, the authors of one study, using several data sources, including MPV, find that NVSS undercounts police killings by 55%.

With the exception of a few recent state-led initiatives to improve data collection efforts (e.g., California) around police violence, law enforcement agencies across the U.S. have failed to produce transparent, reliable data tracking lives taken by police. This critical gap has been filled by three different non-governmental data sources. The most comprehensive and longest-running platform is Fatal Encounters ("FE"). While FE fills a critical void, a core tenet in social science research is to be able to reproduce data to allow for further validation and rigor (Firebaugh, 2017). Thus, the need to continue this work and continue separate data collection efforts to allow for more vigilance, validity, and accessibility is critical given that there is no way to understand the true scale of police violence in the U.S.

MPV was launched in 2015 to continue data collection efforts on police violence.

There are three notable crowd-sourced datasets including MPV that are routinely employed[2]:

→ **Fatal Encounters.** Fatal Encounters is the longest-running and most comprehensive dataset which includes incidents of police killing civilians and any incident where an officer is present when a civilian is killed, such as suicides where an officer is present. The MPV methodology does not depart significantly from the original Fatal Encounters Methodology (found here).

→ **Mapping Police Violence.** As noted earlier, MPV generally includes all incidents where a civilian is killed at the hands of law enforcement. Scope and definition can be found here.

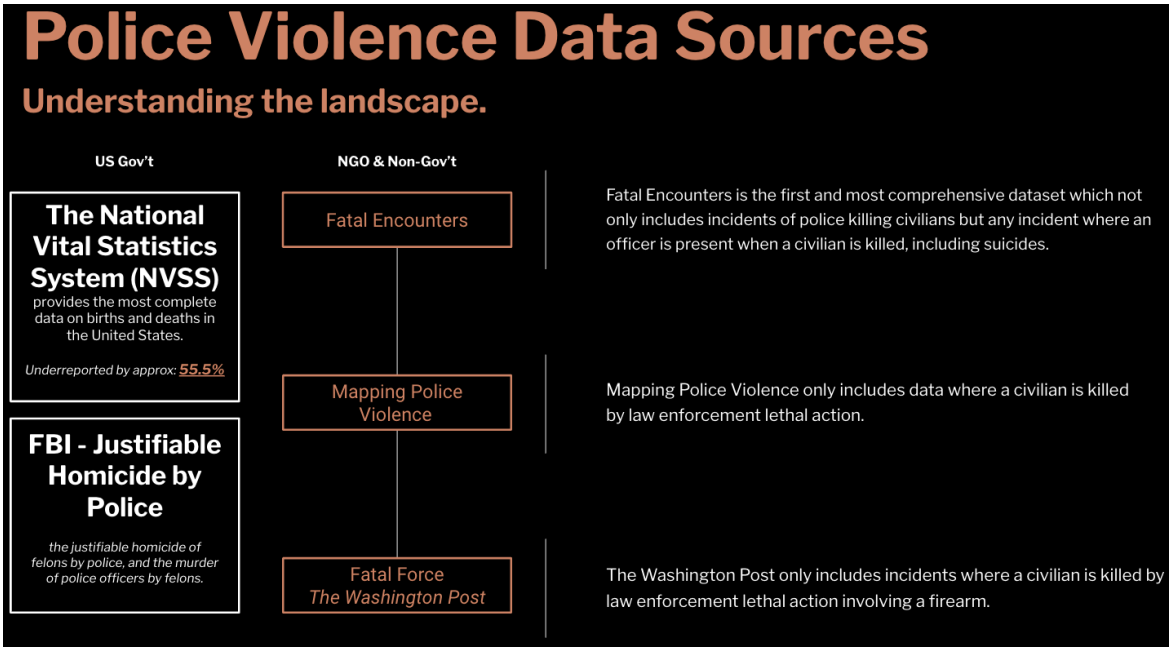
[1] In 2019, the U.S. The Department of Justice (DoJ) launched the National Use-Of-Force Data Collection. However, one investigation found that the FBI was falling short in data collection efforts. More recently, a recent announcement from the DoJ indicated that the program may be shut down given the lack of participation from law enforcement agencies, requiring a 60% participation threshold to release data.

[2] The Guardian created a comprehensive database called "The Counted" but only examines a single year of data.

→ **The Washington Post.** *The Washington Post* only includes incidents where there is a police killing of a civilian by firearm.

Figure 1

Visual of police violence data sources.



Unique Facets of MPV

→ MPV narrows the terms and framework for what we define as "police violence";
→ MPV deploys a set of automation scripts to both prevent leakage on the front-end (i.e. Meltwater and Google News Alerts API's) and reduce time spent coding on variables that could be easily automated (i.e. Congressional Districts, Geography Types, etc.);
→ MPV integrates data across all three datasets (MPV, Washington Post, and FE); and
→ MPV includes an additional unique set of variables. The discussion and methodology for MPV will be discussed in greater length below.

Overview of Process

We have a dedicated team of researchers who are assigned incidents to review on a daily basis through an automated process:

1. We have automated the ingestion of Google and Meltwater alerts into our AirTable backend.
2. Reviewers are assigned automatically every day and they indicate after an incident is reviewed.
3. Second reviewers indicate after they have completed review which will automatically trigger the incident to be published onto the database.

Cadence of Updates to the Live Tracker

It is important to note that incidents are reviewed at different times. This can be for several reasons, including delays between an incident occurring and being mentioned in the news, or because second reviewers flagged an incident for further review due to possible reliability concerns. Thus, the date presented on the live tracker does not reflect the most recent internally reviewed incident. Our research and product team do their best to maintain a **2-week lag** between when incidents occur in real-time and when they are published on the site in order to keep the live tracker both comprehensive *and* up-to-date as possible.

We believe data quality and accuracy should supersede speed of publishing given the sensitivity of the data.

Second Reviewer Incidents

Given that initial accounts of incidents often come from police sources and significant differences in narrative and details have yet to be released, we believe we have a responsibility to allow for a sufficient time to pass prior to publishing incidents that may misrepresent the true details of the incident. This is both critical for data integrity and to honor the families and loved ones of victims to not present inaccurate, distorted, or false accounting of details.

General Disclaimers

The same data limitations noted by FE also apply to MPV given the similarities of how the data is sourced and generated. As noted by Fatal Encounters,

> “The vast majority of these records come from media sources and police records. That means only one version of the story—the police story—is generally told in the descriptions. Rarely do news media seek out family members and friends to balance or contradict police narratives. While we verify our data against media reports, sometimes the information presented is so wildly inaccurate that we instead include accurate but conflicting information. Also, be aware that this document is "living." We

repair any errors or eliminate any duplicates as we discover them. Errors can be reported through the fatalencounters.org website."

Additional disclaimers and clarifications are noted below:

→ **Date of incident versus date of death.** We use the date of police lethal action for the incident record even if the victim passes at a later date due to the injuries.

→ **Fatal Outcome After Law Enforcement Encounter.** If a victim dies as a result of actions taken by law enforcement, regardless of whether the death occurs during the encounter or subsequently—such as en route to the hospital or even weeks later—the incident is classified as an instance of police violence and included in the database. This includes situations where the lethal action led to a delayed death (e.g., Eric Garner).

→ **Agency: Unknown Jurisdiction or Beyond Jurisdiction.** In cases where the law enforcement officer agency is different from the incident of the police killing, the agency of the officer is used despite it being beyond the officer's jurisdiction.

→ **Data on officers and case outcomes**. MPV captures information on all involved officers in each case, including the name and race of each officer, any prior deadly force incidents involving that officer that have been reported by the media, and whether the case resulted in any administrative discipline, civil suits and/or misconduct settlements. Additionally, MPV tracks cases where officers have been charged with a crime related to an incident of fatal police violence. This data is collected during ongoing monitoring of media reports related to each case in our database.

→ **Cross-referencing data between sources to update, validate, and detect errors.**

↳ ***The Washington Post*.** *The Washington Post* includes unique variables such as "threat level" that will be merged into MPV.

→ **Weekly review and cleaning**

↳ "Name Withheld"
↳ Latitude/longitude coordinates
↳ "Unknown" or null race

Incident Coding & Codebook

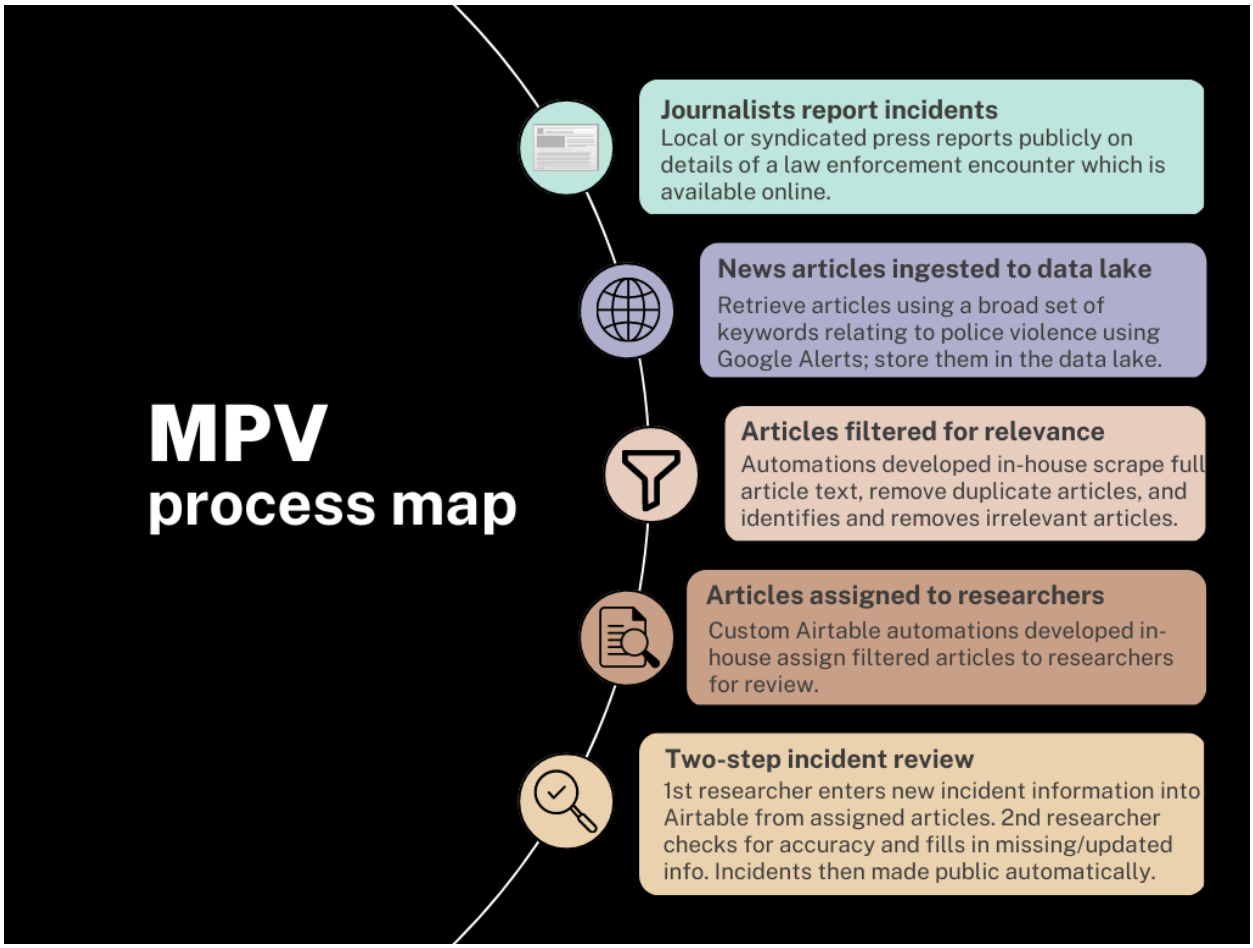
Incident coding and unique variable coding are broken down into the following:

→ Process Map & Coding Instructions
→ Data Dictionary
→ Researcher Codebook
→ Unique Variable Discussion

Process Map & Coding Instructions

Figure 2

Visual of MPV coding process and protocol.



	Description/Instructions	Variable(s)
Step 1. Incident Identification	– Meltwater & Google News Alerts are filtered into an Alerts Sheet which gets updated automatically every morning and automatically assigns alerts for every researcher to review. – When reviewing a news alert, researchers will first confirm whether or not it is related to police violence and, if so, will check to see if it describes an incident that already has a record in the database or if it describes a new incident. – **If it already exists,** the researcher will check to see if there is any updated information, make any amendments/additions, and proceed to reviewing the next alert. – **If it is not related,** they will mark that they reviewed the alert and proceed to reviewing the next alert.	– Link to news article – Incident Description – Article Publish Date
Step 2. Incident coding	– **If a news alert is about a new incident,** the researcher will create a new record and start coding the incident details – Researchers will employ the researcher codebook for qualitative coding of incident variables appropriately. –	– Victim Demographics – Geographic-level information – Law Enforcement Agency & Officer Info – Armed/Unarmed – Encounter Type – WaPo Variables – FE Variables
Step 3. Second Reviews	– Second Reviewer will search Google News using a victim name or other key identifiers and read the latest news articles about each incident – Following the researcher codebook, the reviewer will add any missing information and/or correct any existing information in the incident record – If there are any serious concerns, reviewer will discuss these and reach consensus with other researchers before completing their review	– Second Reviewer – Updated Link
Step 4. Auto Publish	– Once completed, the reviewer will mark the record as Second Reviewed which will trigger the automated logic to publish the incident to MPV platform.	– Second Reviewer – Updated Link

Data Dictionary and Field Definitions [Variable View]

The public version of the dataset can be found here and is updated regularly on a daily basis.

	Field	Description	Manual/ Automated Entry	Field Notes
1	name	Name of victim killed by law enforcement	Manual	
2	age	Age of victim at time of death	Manual	
3	gender	Indicated gender by news/official reports	Manual	• Male • Female • Unknown • Transgender Male • Transgender Female • Non-Binary/Gender non-conforming
4	race	Race of victim according to news/official reports	Manual	• Black • White • Native American • Asian • Unknown • Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
5	victim_image	URL to an image of victim	Manual	
6	date	Date of lethal action on victim	Manual	
7	street_address	Address of where incident took place	Manual	
8	city	City of where incident took place	Manual	
9	state	State where incident took place	Manual	

	Field	**Description**	**Manual/ Automated Entry**	**Field Notes**
10	zip	Zip code of where incident took place	Automated	
11	county	County where incident took place	Manual	*Required if no city is available (for non-urban areas), and no street address is available (for multi-county cities)
12	agency_responsible	Agency of law enforcement officer who took lethal action and responsible for killing	Manual	
13	ori	Law enforcement unique identifier assigned by US Department of Justice (DoJ)	Automated	
14	cause_of_death	Highest level of force used by law enforcement officer	Manual	• Gun • Taser • Taser, Gunshot • Unknown • Vehicle • Vehicle, Gunshot • Other Physical Force
15	circumstances	Description of situation/News extract surrounding situation	Manual	
16	disposition_official	Case status against law enforcement officer	Manual	
17	officer_charged	Outcome of case against law enforcement officer	Manual	
18	news_urls	Url link(s) to news reports or official reports of incident	Manual	Append any new urls that inform any change to data in any field. Separate URLs by newlines.
19	signs_of_mental_illness	Indicates whether official/news reports mentioned any signs of mental illness or	Manual	• Yes • No

	Field	**Description**	**Manual/ Automated Entry**	**Field Notes**
		mental health crises		• Unknown • Drug or Alcohol Use
20	allegedly_armed	Indicates whether victim was armed according to news/official sources	Manual	• Allegedly Armed • Unarmed • Unclear • Vehicle
21	wapo_armed	*The Washington Post* created variable indicating that the victim was armed with some sort of implement that a police officer believed could inflict harm	Manual	• Gun
22	wapo_threat_level	*The Washington Post* created a variable indicating incidents when officers or others were shot at, threatened with a gun, attacked with other weapons or by physical force, etc. The attack category is meant to flag the highest level of threat. The "other" and "undetermined" field options should be used for all remaining cases.	Manual	• Brandished Weapon • Used weapon • Sudden threatening movement • Undetermined • Other • Attack • None • Clear
23	wapo_flee	*The Washington Post* created variable indicating that the victim was moving away from officers	Manual	• Foot • Car • Not fleeing • Other • Car, foot • Foot, car
24	wapo_body_camera	*The Washington Post* created a variable indicating an officer was wearing a body camera and it may have recorded some	Manual	• No • Yes • Surveillance Video

	Field	**Description**	**Manual/ Automated Entry**	**Field Notes**
		portion of the incident.		• Dash Cam Video • Bystander Video • Taser Video
25	wapo_id	A unique identifier for each victim assigned by *The Washington Post* DB.	Automated	
26	off_duty_killing	Indicates whether officer was working in an official capacity at the time lethal action was taken	Manual	• Off-Duty
27	geography		Automated	This measure permits a more detailed and granular analysis of the geographic landscape of police violence, including differences between urban/suburban/rural zip codes within cities, counties or broader metropolitan areas that would more broadly be coded as urban areas using other methods.
28	mpv_id	Unique ID assigned to each MPV observation and matched with WaPo and FE incidents.	Automated	
29	fe_id	Unique ID assigned to each FE observation.	Automated	
30	encounter_type	The crime, if any, that caused the police to directly engage the victim.	Manual	• Violent Crime • Other Crimes Against People • Person with a Weapon • Other Non-Violent Offenses • Mental Health/Welfare Check • Domestic Disturbance • Traffic Stop • None/Unknown
31	initial_reason	Initial reported reason(s) for police to be on the scene prior to using deadly force	Manual	

	Field	Description	Manual/ Automated Entry	Field Notes
32	officer_names	Name of officer(s) responsible for highest level of force	Manual	If more than one officer was involved, separate the officer names with a comma
33	officer_races	Race of officer responsible for highest level of force	Manual	If more than one officer was involved, enter the officers' race information in the order that their names were entered in the above field, separated by a comma.
34	officer_known_past_shootings	Indicates if officer has had a previous incident of police violence in the database	Manual	
35	call_for_service	Indicates whether the incident was the result of a 911 call or an officer-initiated action	Manual	• Yes • No • Unknown
36	tract	Indicates the U.S. Census Bureau unique identifier for the census tract	Automated	
37	urban_rural_uspsai	Urbanization Perceptions Small Area Index (UPSAI) measure developed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Assigns urban/suburban/rural geographies to census tracts based on how residents classify their own neighborhoods in the American Housing Survey, a survey of 76,000 households in 2017.	Automated	• Urban • Suburban • Rural • Undetermined
38	urban_rural_nchs	Urban-Rural Classification Scheme developed by the National Center for Health Statistics. Broadest in geography - assigning urban/suburban/rural geographies based on 2013 estimates of each county's population and proximity to the Metropolitan Statistical Area's principal city.	Automated	• Large Central Metro • Medium Metro • Small Metro • Micropolitan • Large Fringe Metro • Non-Core • Undetermined

	Field	Description	Manual/ Automated Entry	Field Notes
39	hhincome_median_census_tract	Median household income	Automated	
40	latitude	The latitude of the incident	Automated	
41	longitude	The longitude of the incident	Automated	
42	pop_total_census_tract	Total population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
43	pop_hispanic_census_tract	Hispanic population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
44	pop_white_census_tract	White population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
45	pop_black_census_tract	Black population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
46	pop_native_american_census_tract	Native American population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
47	pop_asian_census_tract	Asian population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
48	pop_pacific_islander_census_tract	Pacific Islander population of the census tract of incident	Automated	
49	pop_other_multiple_census_tra	Other/Multiple population of the census tract of incident	Automated	

	Field	**Description**	**Manual/ Automated Entry**	**Field Notes**
	ct			
50	congressional_ district_113	Congressional district where incident took place	Automated	

Qualitative Codebook

Field definitions and coding instructions (★ indicates high input priority)

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
name ★	Name of victim	Enter as: First Middle Last *(e.g. Frank Anthony Jones) or as* 'Name Withheld'	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 the incident with police	Enter as: MM/DD/YYYY *(e.g. 10/07/2021)*	This should be the date that lethal action was taken by police that resulted in the victim's death. The date of a person's death can be noted in Circumstances, if different.
city ★	City where fatal encounter took place	Enter the city where the fatal incident occurred	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 NOTE: the location of the fatal encounter may be different from where the incident began (e.g. where a vehicle pursuit started)
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	

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
		• 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 based on the victim's name, physical appearance, or other indicators. • Leave unchecked ☐ if race was reported in one or more sources.	Uncheck this box if race had originally been inferred, but was later confirmed/reported on in news articles or official reports.
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-address descriptors Examples: *(1117 N State Street)* *(State St & N Palm Ave)* *(1000 block of N State St)*

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
			(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	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).

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
	incident		
agency_ responsible ★	The law enforcement agency responsible for death	Record the agency(ies) that employed the officers known to have acted with fatal force during the incident (e.g. fired their weapons, used Taser/chemical weapons, restrained the victim, 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
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 leading up to the fatal action • what was the fatal action *(Example: "Officers went to a residence to arrest the victim on an outstanding warrant. The victim allegedly fled while visibly holding a gun. During the resulting foot chase officers and the victim allegedly exchanged gunfire, where the 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;

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
			(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 who acted with fatal force during the incident (e.g. fired their weapons, used Taser/chemical weapons, restrained the victim, etc.)	Enter names as First Middle Last, with additional names separated by a comma. Omit any titles or other non-name descriptors (e.g. Deputy, Trooper, Sergeant)
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 based on the officer's name, physical appearance, or other indicators.	Check ☑ if the entry in the 'race' field was coded solely based on the officer's name, physical appearance, or other indicators. Leave unchecked ☐ if race was reported on in one or more sources.
officer_known_	Whether the officer has had a previous fatal	Enter in the number (#) of known past fatal encounters the officer has had, and the names of	Enter as 'total #, First Middle Last, First Middle Last' *(e.g. 2, Jed Wright, Keri Paterson)*

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
past_ shootings	encounters, and how many	those victims.	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	Do not code for crimes occurring after the police encounter began. See 'Encounter Types' section for more specifications

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
		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). • Other Crimes Against People: 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.	**Leave this field blank** if there was no weapon being held/arming the victim.
wapo_thre	The highest level of	Record the highest level of threat reported against	

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
at_level	threat against officers	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. 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 • Yes • Surveillance Video • Dash Cam Video • Bystander Video • Taser Video	

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
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 not 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 internal 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 prior to the fatal encounter Select one: • Yes • No • Unavailable	
Do Not Publish	Prevents this record from being published/made a part of the MPV dataset	Use this checkbox to keep this data from being published, usually due to the incident not meeting the current definition of MPV Police Violence (see Defining Police Violence, above).	
Car Crash	Whether the fatality was caused by a car crash that was not directly caused by	Use this checkbox to indicate that the victim's death was due to a car crash, but not directly caused by police.	Examples of when to check this box: • Victim dies in a vehicle crash without being directly rammed/hit by police

Field	Description	Specifications	Coding Tips
	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.	• A civilian is killed by someone being pursued by police
Advocacy Flag	Cases relating to Campaign Zero campaigns which can inform broader advocacy.		

Unique Variable Discussion

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: → **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, human trafficking, 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

Variable	Clarifications/Coding
	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 ***The label Part I Violent crime supersedes all other coding options for this variable. If the incident involves a Part I Crime and a Traffic Stop, for example, code the incident as "Part I Violent Crime."**

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 these fields when 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."

Helpful Coding Tips From Our Researchers

Last Updated: Mar 1, 2022

→ Use the internal comments field liberally to record notes and other details that would be helpful for other MPV researchers. If you have any questions or concerns, type them in there right away so you remember to bring it up with the group.

→ Active reading tips: make sure to read the whole article.
- ↘ Make sure death was actually caused by law enforcement (sometimes headlines are vague and refer to homicide with police responding after)
- ↘ Some articles don't immediately make it clear if a police violence victim died, ex. Last paragraph mentions "taken to hospital in critical condition" (later on MPV may incorporate non-lethal police violence)
- ↘ Sometimes city where article was published differs from the city where incident takes place
- ↘ Sometimes the address where incidence began differs from address where police killing ultimately took place
- ↘ Don't assume city/state unless you can confirm - ex Columbus GA
- ↘ I think we decided to put the date of police violence, even if the victim died later (ex. taken to hospital and died several days later)
- ↘ Sometimes will google a case if article from alerts is especially vague

→ Make sure to always check if there is an existing entry. This will be especially important for first-time coding / coming back from a break, as there will be many cases new to you, but not new to the database.
- ↘ Even if there is an existing entry, double check to see if newest article has missing data that can be filled in
- ↘ Append second URL with a newline if new info is found (often there isn't one "most recent" article that contains all prior info)
- ↘ Filter by date is probably most reliable to find if case is already in database
- ↘ Sometimes I will also try to filter by city or state, if the date is a bit messy (ex. Incident occurred around midnight)
- ↘ In my experience: "name withheld" info can come a couple days later, "name of officers involved" info can come weeks later, "officer charged" can be months/years later

→ Edge cases - ongoing questions on if we count these?
- ↘ PIT (pursuit intervention technique) maneuver (**do** count)
- ↘ Collateral victim from PIT maneuver (**do** count)
- ↘ Speeding/crashed during police chase (do **not** count)
- ↘ Bystander hit by police car during police chase (**do** count)
- ↘ Jumping from height in a foot chase? (do **not** count)

↘ Overdose / swallowing drugs at a traffic stop? (do **not** count)

Second Review System

We believe having a two-tiered review system is critical to both detecting human errors in addition to machine errors such as news alert concerns. This will provide further validity and improve data integrity. Nevertheless, if you find any errors or want to flag any concerns, please reach out to Campaign Zero. Your feedback and concerns are important and co-create a better platform.

Instructions for second-reviewers

1. Second Reviewer will search Google News using a victim name or other key identifiers and read the latest news articles about each incident
2. Following the researcher codebook, the reviewer will add any missing information and/or correct any existing information in the incident record
3. If there are any serious concerns, reviewer will discuss these and reach consensus with other researchers before completing their review

Who qualifies as a second-reviewer

Second reviewer qualifications:

→ Researchers who have spent 3+ months reviewing incidents
→ At least 200+ incidents reviewed and published successfully
→ Less than 3 flags in a 3 month period by another second-reviewer
→ Provided contribution to methodology and documentation

Replicating News Media Ingestion

We would like to again cite D. Brian Burghart for his expertise and collaboration.

So that others may replicate this research, here is a brief overview of the process to set up Google Alerts with the keywords we employed to collect and identify incidents of police violence.

There are two ways to begin collecting the same news results we receive: (1) conduct keyword searches independently, or (2) use the same Google alert RSS feeds we have set up. Both the keywords and RSS feeds are listed below.

Key Words

authorities shot killed; chase drowned; custody OR handcuffed died; deputy, chase, killed; deputy, shot, killed; died taser OR "stun gun" OR "stungun"; law enforcement pursuit kill; law enforcement shot killed; officer involved shootings; officer police intersection chase killed; officer-involved; officer, police, crash, killed; officers justified OR cleared; police standard administrative leave; police-involved; police,

chase, killed; standoff dead; standoff self-inflicted; trooper-involved; trooper, chase, killed; trooper, shot, killed

Replicating News Feed

→ Each Google alert needs to be made separately (N=21)

→ Even though a digest email is sent as email every day, it is critical to still the google alert page (there is more "noise", but it shows more than just top 3 results for each category)

↘ Google alerts update throughout day, to make sure you don't miss any, only code articles collected on the previous day (so on 3/8, only look at Google alerts from 3/7)

↘ Every so often will need to use https://12ft.io/ to get around newspaper paywalls - we recommend to use the original article hyperlink if you would like to store the article rather than the modified one from 12ft.io, as it will be easier to trace back later

The 21 alerts are as follows:

1. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/7526401424772565040
2. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/3986613816392777988
3. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/12387128514723811524
4. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/60429350560655448 25
5. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/2495735278215740846
6. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/7457298848418186377
7. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/14298085485813281829
8. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/7457298848418189098
9. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/15552000386701586242
10. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/15552000386701583880
11. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/16180856559082508744
12. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/1618085655908251 1399
13. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/17499577270006445413
14. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/2179455100157334934
15. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/2179455100157337042
16. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/2179455100157334247
17. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/8145116068315731327
18. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/6108069055156697586
19. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/9230368609021506778
20. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/8494202513583889355
21. https://www.google.com/alerts/feeds/09528353354863773528/470642475239085179

Methodology Revamp and Product Development

We believe that the data should not be owned by any entity or individuals. Moreover, we believe that this project needs to live beyond us and is critical that it can continue without the reliance on any single individual or group of individuals. This required the start of

developing a system, processes, and applications that would allow this project to not only scale but become reproducible and sustainable.

We're working with data organizations to co-develop a methodology that represents different intersections of identities in order to ensure that we're properly capturing experiences and honoring victims. This includes university partnerships, and most notably, our most recent partnership with Fatal Encounters, the first dataset on police killings in the US that dates back to 2020. We started working with FE's founder to continue to refine our methodology and in September 2022, we formalized a partnership where Fatal Encounters would merge the data efforts under the Mapping Police Violence arm to allow for more rigor, transparency, and sustainability.

Limitations of Previous Methodology

→ **No public methodology.** Previously, the only public methodology around MPV was on the website and was not thorough, transparent, or accessible to allow other researchers to replicate the process. This document is the first of its kind.

→ **Manual review of news alerts without tracking alerts.** Previously, reviews of incidents were done manually without tracking each individual alert that was released by Google. Tracking all alerts is only possible through automating the ingestion of new alerts through the Google News Alerts which we started in 2022. This could also result in missed incidents.

→ **Static and manual data updates.** Updates to the front-end visualizations and the data itself would have to be manually pushed and updated.

→ **Researchers and training.** Previously, there was no system or documentation released to explain how researchers were coding incidents and what training/monitoring was administered to ensure data quality. Given the nature of some variables coded, the lack of a public codebook or methodology makes it easy to have differences in coding across different coders unless there is a small group or single individual.

→ **Two-tier review process.** Previously, there was no public system explaining or documenting that each incident went through a two-tier review process by two different coders.

→ **Google Sheets to collect and code data.** While Google Sheets offers advantages, it makes it difficult to deploy a systematic approach to allow for second-review the way AirTable permits.

Fatal Encounters & Mapping Police Violence Partnership

In 2021, Fatal Encounters and the CZ Research & Data team operating MPV came together to build out a plan to build out a platform that is not only public, replicable, and rigorous, but

something that would be sustainable to support the movement to help inform solutions that bring us to a world beyond policing and ending police violence.

During the transition of Mapping Police Violence platform, we worked closely and in partnership with Fatal Encounters, led by D. Brian Burghart. Not only was Fatal Encounters the first database of its kind, it was the foundation and origins of Mapping Police Violence. While initially the partnership was focused on improving methodology, accessibility, and transparency of the data generation process, we have been grateful to take our partnership to the next step. While revamping the methodology, we realized that the previous iteration was heavily reliant on single researchers or small groups of researchers. This introduced concerns around scalability and sustainability, as well as concerns around data norming and integrity.

We believe this work is larger than any one individual or organization, it is about building a sustainable, rigorous, and scalable product that will live beyond all of us.

Database Developments (2022)

- → **Implementation of Airtable -** A platform for the database with tools for automations, public reporting, and improved reliability with large datasets
    - **Automations & Experimentation**
        - Aggregation and tagging of Google News alerts
        - Article deduplication
        - Multi-stage coding workflow
        - Records changelog
        - Automatic article assignment to research coders
        - Removing non-US news sources from Google alerts
        - Regular backups of MPV main database
        - Archiving full source article text
        - Trialing different News Alert APIs to determine effectiveness of capturing incidents (i.e. Google News, Meltwater)
    - **Visual dashboards for data and product management**
        - Pending reviews / Alerts backlog
        - Coding activity
        - Incidents pending publishing review
        - Effectiveness of Google Alerts (% matching MPV criteria)
- → **Methodology updates/implementations**
    - Expansion of public documentation
    - Multi-stage coding workflow
    - Coder training and documentation
    - Coder quality control process

Future Projects and Ongoing Initiatives

→ University partnerships to expand police violence universe and explore non-fatal incidents of police violence through different data sources
→ Human-in-the-loop natural language processing application to automate parts of the researcher coding process
→ Coder graphical user interface/program with built-in tools
→ Ongoing alert accuracy improvements using machine learning
→ Capture of pre-2013 Incidents
→ Integration of state databases

Changelog

Feb 28, 2022

Overview | In February 2022, Campaign Zero launched a revamped Mapping Police Violence intended to allow for more accessible use of the data. Prior to the launch and since the revamp, CZ has worked tirelessly on developing the best ways to improve data collection, coding, and dissemination of incidents of police violence. While there have been changes to the cadence of updates and a delay in the publishing of incidents to allow for experimentation of different methods, this brief provides an overview of how the innovative new system allows for more transparency, rigor, and scalability. This was for several reasons, including staff transitions which revealed that the methodology being used beforehand had an overreliance on a small number of researchers and involved several manual processes that created serious concerns around data credibility, sustainability, and scalability over the long-term.

Summary of Changes | Data moved from Google Sheets to Airtable. Column names have been shortened, made lowercase, and don't include spaces. Where appropriate, information contained in previously existing column names moved to column descriptions. Data types for some columns have been changed for data integrity and validation purposes.

For all columns that were changed to the single-select data type, single-select options were cleaned so that:

- duplicates due to capitalization, spaces, and/or dashes were merged, and
- "(Empty)" options were deleted

	Field	**Type**	**Change**
1	name	Single Line Text	**field name change** | Victim's name → name **added description** | → Victim's name

	Field	Type	Change
2	age	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | Victim's age → age **added description** | → Victim's age
3	gender	Single Select	**add option** | Transgender Female **add option** | Transgender Male **add option** | Non-Binary **field name change** | Victim's gender → gender **added description** | → Victim's gender
4	race	Single Select	**field name change** | Victim's race → race **added description** | → Victim's race
5	victim_image	Single Line Text	**field name change** | URL of image of victim → victim_image **added description** | → URL of image of victim
6	date	Date - Local (2/16/2022)	**field name change** | Date of Incident (month/day/year) → date **added description** | → Date of Incident (local)
7	street_address	Long Text	**field name change** | Street Address of Incident → street_address **added description** | → First line of address where incident occurred (eg, 123 Main Street)
8	city	Single Select	**field name change** | City → city **added description** | → City/town/village where incident occurred (eg, Brooklyn)
9	state	Single Select	**modify option** | NB -> NE **field name change** | State → state **added description** | → State (or DC) where incident occurred
10	zip	Single Line Text	**field name change** | Zipcode → zip **added description** | → 5-digit Zip Code where incident occurred
11	county	Single Select	**field name change** | County → county **added description** | → County where

	Field	Type	Change
			incident occurred (e.g. Kings)
12	agency_responsible	Multiple Select	**field name change** | Agency responsible for death → agency_responsible **added description** | → Agency responsible for death
13	ori	Multiple Select	**field name change** | ORI Agency Identifier (if available) → ori **added description** | → ORI Agency Identifier (if available)
14	cause_of_death	Multiple Select	**field name change** | Cause of death → cause_of_death **added description** | → Cause of death **modify option |** separate all options by comma **modify option** | Beaten/Bludgeoned with instrument -> Beaten **modify option** | Chemical Agent/Pepper Spray -> Chemical Agent
15	circumstances	Long Text	**field name change** | A brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death → circumstances **added description** | → A brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death
16	disposition_official	Single Select	**field name change** | Official disposition of death (justified or other) → disposition_official **added description** | → Official disposition of death (eg pending investigation, justified, charged, etc)
17	officer_charged	Single Select	**field name change** | Criminal Charges? → officer_charged **added description** | → Was/were the officer(s) charged with a crime?
18	news_urls	Long Text	**field name change** | Link to news article → news_urls **added description** | → Links to related news articles

	Field	Type	Change
19	signs_of_mental_illness	Single Select	**field name change** | Symptoms of mental illness? → signs_of_mental_illness **added description** | → Symptoms of mental illness? (yes, no, drug or alcohol use, unknown)
20	allegedly_armed	Single Select	**field name change** | Armed/Unarmed Status → allegedly_armed **added description** | → Was the victim alleged to have been armed? (allegedly, unarmed, vehicle, unclear)
21	wapo_armed	Single Select	**field name change** | Alleged Weapon (Source: WaPo and Review of Cases Not Included in WaPo Database) → wapo_armed **added description** | → Alleged Weapon (Source: WaPo and Review of Cases Not Included in WaPo Database)
22	wapo_threat_level	Single Select	**field name change** | Alleged Threat Level (Source: WaPo) → wapo_threat_level **added description** | → Alleged Threat Level (Source: WaPo)
23	wapo_flee	Single Select	**field name change** | Fleeing (Source: WaPo) → wapo_flee **added description** | → Was the victim fleeing? (Source: WaPo)
24	wapo_body_camera	Single Select	**field name change** | Body Camera (Source: WaPo) → wapo_body_camera **added description** | → Body Camera (Source: WaPo)
25	wapo_id	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | WaPo ID (If included in WaPo database) → wapo_id **added description** | → WaPo ID (if it exists in https://github.com/washingtonpost/data-police-shootings)
26	off_duty_killing	Single Select	**field name change** | Off-Duty Killing? → off_duty_killing

	Field	Type	Change
			added description | → Off-Duty Killing?
27	geography	Single Select	**field name change** | Geography (via Trulia methodology based on zipcode population density: http://jedkolko.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/full-ZCTA-urban-suburban-rural-classification.xlsx) → geography **added description** | → Geography: rural/suburban/urban (via Trulia methodology based on zipcode population density: http://jedkolko.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/full-ZCTA-urban-suburban-rural-classification.xlsx)
28	mpv_id	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | MPV ID → mpv_id **added description** | Unique identifier for each incident in this dataset (Mapping Police Violence)
29	fe_id	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | Fatal Encounters ID → fe_id **added description** | → Fatal Encounters ID (if it exists)
30	encounter_type	Single Select	**field name change** | Encounter Type (DRAFT) → encounter_type **added description** | → Encounter Type
31	initial_reason	Single Select	**field name change** | Initial Reported Reason for Encounter (DRAFT) → initial_reason **added description** | → Initial Reported Reason for Encounter
32	officer_names	Single Line Text	**field name change** | Names of Officers Involved (DRAFT) → officer_names **added description** | → Names of Officers Involved **add text** | Catalin Panov
33	officer_races	Single Select	**field name change** | Race of Officers Involved (DRAFT) → officer_races **added description** | → Race of Officers Involved

	Field	Type	Change
			delete text | Catalin Panov
34	officer_known_past_shoo tings	Single Line Text	**field name change** | Known Past Shootings of Officer(s) (DRAFT) → officer_known_past_shootings **added description** | → Known Past Shootings of Officer(s)
35	call_for_service	Single Select	**field name change** | Call for Service? (DRAFT) → call_for_service **added description** | → Call for Service? (yes/no/unavailable)
36	tract	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | Census Tract Code → tract **added description** | → Census tract code (“TRACT”)
37	urban_rural_uspsai	Single Select	**field name change** | HUD UPSAI Geography → urban_rural_uspsai **added description** | → HUD UPSAI Geography (urban/suburban/rural/undetermined)
38	urban_rural_nchs	Single Select	**field name change** | NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme Codes (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm) → urban_rural_nchs **added description** | → NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme Codes (https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm)
39	hhincome_median_censu s_tract	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | Median household income ACS Census Tract → hhincome_median_census_tract **added description** | → Median household income ACS Census Tract (B19013_001)
40	latitude	Number (decimal)	**field name change** | Latitude → latitude **added description** | → Latitude
41	longitude	Number (decimal)	**field name change** | Longitude →

	Field	Type	Change
			longitude **added description** | → Longitude
42	pop_total_census_tract	Number (integer 2)	**field name change** | Total Population of Census Tract 2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates → pop_total_census_tract **added description** | → Total population of census tract 2019 ACS 5-year estimates (DP05_0070)
43	pop_hispanic_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | Hispanic Percent of the Population ACS → pop_hispanic_census_tract **added description** | → Hispanic (any race) percent of the population from ACS (DP05_0071)
44	pop_white_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | White Non-Hispanic Percent of the Population ACS → pop_white_census_tract **added description** | → White alone Non-Hispanic percent of the population from ACS (DP05_0077)
45	pop_black_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | Black Non-Hispanic Percent of the Population ACS → pop_black_census_tract **added description** | → Black or African American alone Non-Hispanic percent of the population from ACS (DP05_0078)
46	pop_native_american_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | Native American Percent of the Population ACS → pop_native_american_census_tract **added description** | → American Indian and Alaska Native alone Non-Hispanic percent of the population from ACS (DP05_0079)
47	pop_asian_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | Asian Percent of the Population ACS → pop_asian_census_tract **added description** | → Asian alone Non-Hispanic percent of the population from ACS (DP05_0080)

	Field	**Type**	**Change**
48	pop_pacific_islander_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | Pacific Islander Percent of the Population ACS → pop_pacific_islander_census_tract **added description** | → Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone Non-Hispanic percent of the population from ACS (DP05_0081)
49	pop_other_multiple_census_tract	Percent (non-negative)	**field name change** | Other/Two or More Race Percent of the Population ACS → pop_other_multiple_census_tract **added description** | → Other and multiple races percent of the population from ACS
50	congressional_district_113	Single Select	**field name change** | Congressional District → congressional_district_113 **added description** | → Congressional District (State abbreviation + "CD113FP" FIPS code, eg AL1. This version represents the 113th congress boundaries from the 2012-2022 redistricting cycle)

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Appendix: Previous Data Methodology

As of 12/31/2021

Law enforcement agencies across the country have failed to provide us with even basic information about the lives they have taken. And while the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act mandates this data be reported, it's unclear whether police departments will actually comply with this mandate and, even if they do decide to report this information, it could be several years before the data is fully collected, compiled and made public.

We cannot wait to know the true scale of police violence against our communities. In a country where at least three people are killed by police every day, we cannot wait for police departments to provide us with these answers. The maps and charts on this site aim to provide us with some insights into patterns of police violence across the country. They include information on over 9,000 killings by police nationwide since 2013. 97 percent of the killings in our database occurred while a police officer was acting in a law enforcement capacity. Importantly, these data do not include killings by vigilantes or security guards who are not off-duty police officers.

This information has been meticulously sourced from official police use of force data collection programs in states like California, Texas and Virginia, combined with nationwide data from the Fatal Encounters database, an impartial crowdsourced database on police killings. We've also done extensive original research to further improve the quality and completeness of the data; searching social media, obituaries, criminal records databases, police reports and other sources to identify the race of 90 percent of all victims in the database.

We believe the data represented on this site is the most comprehensive accounting of people killed by police since 2013. Note that the Mapping Police Violence database is more comprehensive than the Washington Post police shootings database: while WaPo only tracks cases where people are fatally shot by on-duty police officers, our database includes additional incidents such as cases where police kill someone through use of a chokehold, baton, taser or other means as well as cases such as killings by off-duty police. A recent report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated approximately **1,200 people were killed by police** between June, 2015 and May, 2016. Our database identified **1,104 people** killed by police over this time period. While there are undoubtedly police killings that are not included in our database (namely, those that go unreported by the media), these estimates suggest that our database captures 92% of the total number of police killings that have occurred since 2013. We hope these data will be used to provide greater transparency and accountability for police departments as part of the ongoing work to end police violence in America.

Updating the Database

The Mapping Police Violence database is updated with new cases every weekend. Since it takes roughly a week to find and code cases, the data and analysis on this site usually includes all killings by police that occurred up to the end of the prior week. Additionally, we conduct quarterly reviews of cases from prior years to ensure our database remains complete and up-to-date.

Definitions

Police Killing: A case where a person dies as a result of being shot, beaten, restrained, intentionally hit by a police vehicle, pepper sprayed, tasered, or otherwise harmed by police officers, whether on-duty or off-duty.

A person was 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 proportion 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

Urban/Suburban/Rural Geography Measures:

In order to assess changes in the geography of killings by police over time, the Mapping Police Violence database includes three different geographic measures that each have their own strengths and limitations:

- First, we utilize a **zip code-based measure** developed by the real-estate company Trulia that assigns urban/suburban/rural categories based on the population density of each incident's Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA), according to 2010 Census population estimates. This measure permits a more ***detailed and granular analysis*** of the geographic landscape of police violence, including differences between urban/suburban/rural zip codes within cities, counties or broader metropolitan areas that would more broadly be coded as urban areas using other methods. Using this method, zip codes with more than 2,213 households per square mile are coded as urban, zip codes with between 102-2213 households per square mile are coded as suburban and zip codes with fewer than 102 households per square mile are coded as rural. However, since this method relies on 2010 Census data to determine the number of households in each zip code, this method is more vulnerable to shifts in the urbanicity/rurality of particular places over the past decade.

- The second geographic measure included in our database is the **Urbanization Perceptions Small Area Index (UPSAI)** measure developed by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. This measure assigns urban/suburban/rural geographies to census tracts based on how residents classify their own neighborhoods in the American Housing Survey, a survey of 76,000 households in 2017. While this measure also provides more detailed data than county-level analyses and more up-to-date data than the zip code-based method, fewer cases are able to be coded using this methodology due to missing UPSAI geographic classifications for some census tracts.

- The third geographic measure is the **Urban-Rural Classification Scheme** developed by the National Center for Health Statistics. This measure is the broadest in geography - assigning urban/suburban/rural geographies based on 2013 estimates of each county's population and proximity to the Metropolitan Statistical Area's principal city. Using this method, Large Central Metro (1) and Medium Metro (3) counties are classified as urban areas in our database, Large Fringe Metro (2) and Small Metro (4) counties are classified as suburban, and Micropolitan (5) and Non-Core (6) areas are classified as rural. However, since this method classifies entire counties, it does not permit the more granular within-city or within-county level analyses permitted by the other two methods.

Encounter Types and Initial Reported Reason for Encounter:

Since 2017, Mapping Police Violence 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:

- **Violent Crime:** this 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:** includes 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:** a person reported for being seen with a gun or other weapon, though no violent crimes or crimes against people were reported

- **Other Non-Violent Offenses:** cases involving alleged offenses that 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 offense alleged.

- **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

Data on Officers and Case Outcomes:

The Mapping Police Violence database includes information on the officers involved in each case (both the officers who killed the person and any other officers on the scene during the use of deadly force), including the names and race of the officers, any prior deadly force incidents involving that officer that have been reported by the media, and whether the case resulted in any administrative discipline, civil suits and/or misconduct settlements. This information is among the most difficult to obtain, especially in states that **restrict or prohibit information** about police misconduct or discipline from being made public. As such, we expect this information to provide important, albeit incomplete, insights into the officers who engage in fatal police violence. We will continue to add more data on these topics over time as more info is reported by officials and the media.

Additionally, Mapping Police Violence tracks cases where officers have been charged with a crime related to an incident of fatal police violence. These data are collected initially from ongoing monitoring of media reports related to each case in our database. We also worked with Professor Phil Stinson at the Henry A. Wallace Police Crime Database, the most complete database of officers who've been charged with crimes nationwide, to ensure that all known cases where officers were charged with a crime related to the use of deadly force since 2013 in their database are also included in the Mapping Police Violence database. Data on case outcomes and other details about each case are collected and updated on an ongoing basis, with the date of latest update noted in the *Official disposition of death column* of our database. This data includes what charges officers faced, whether any officers were convicted of a crime, and the sentence imposed, where such information are available.