**Whites are just as likely to be shot by police as black people when they are pulled over, study finds**

* **New research finds minorities are more likely to be stopped than whites**
* **But race has no impact on whether they will get shot during the interaction**
* **Study comes in the wake of high profile police shootings of black men**
* **Fatal shootings of Delrawn Small, 37, in New York and Philando Castile in Minnesota sparked national protests**
* **Lead on study Ted Miller said he wanted to it 'better inform the discussion'**
* **It suggests that higher fatality rates in black community from police may be due to higher stop and arrest rate**
* **Another study found 13 per cent of black drivers were stopped in 2011, compared to 10 per cent of whites**

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White people are just as likely to be shot during a police stop as black drivers, a new study has found.

New research reveals that while minorities are statistically far more likely to be stopped by cops, race has no impact on whether they will get shot or killed during the interaction.

The findings come at a time of high tensions between police and black citizens in the wake of several high profile shootings.

Earlier this month, NYPD cop Wayne Isaacs shot dead Delrawn Small, 37, after a near-miss crash in Brooklyn. Video showed the black father-of-three approaching Isaacs' window after the close call, before staggering back after a gunshot.

Just two days later, on July 6, African American Philando Castile was fatally shot in front of his girlfriend and young daughter, by Minnesota police officer Jeronimo Yanez. Castile's girlfriend live streamed the incident which happened after he was pulled over in Falcon Heights.

The incidents sparked mass protests across the country and inspired fatal retaliation attacks on the police, including the murder of five Dallas cops and three police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Ted Miller of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Maryland, who led the [**study**](http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/early/2016/06/16/injuryprev-2016-042023.full), said he wanted to carry out the research to 'better inform the discussion.'

Research found that police killed or injured an estimated 55,400 people in 2012 across the United States. On average, three people die and 150 people are hospitalized after interactions with the police.

Black people, Native Americans and Hispanics all had higher stop and arrest rates than white people and Asians.

African Americans account for 28 per cent of all arrests in the United States - while they only make up 13 per cent of the population.

They are also 'much more likely than whites to die at the hands of police,' the study found. 'Those with the highest arrest rates per 10,000 population were ages 15-29 years, black or Native American.'

But once they were stopped by police, 'they are no more likely than whites to be injured or die during that incident.'

The study suggests that the numbers of Black people killed by police may be high simply because they are more likely to be stopped in the first place.

'Consistent with our findings, simulation studies find police are no more likely to fire on unarmed blacks than unarmed whites, and high rates of black speeding citations per capita result from high violation rates,' the team wrote.

'Excess per capita death rates among blacks and youth at police hands are reflections of excess exposure. Blacks are arrested more often than whites, and youth more often than the elderly.

'A systematic review identified 10 studies that found suspect race/ethnicity did not predict use of force or its escalation.'

Another investigation of traffic stops and arrest in Greensboro, North Carolina showed black drivers were twice as likely to be pulled over than whites. Black people make up 39 per cent of the city’s driving population – but they accounted for 54 per cent of drivers pulled over by police.

While a study of Connecticut traffic stops in 2014 and 2015 found that 14 percent of traffic stops targeted black drivers, despite them making up only 9 percent of the state’s population.

A survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that in 2011, around 13 per cent of black drivers were stopped at least once by police that year compared to only 10 per cent of whites. But African Americans only make up 12.2 per cent of the population while whites make up 63.7.

Miller said that more needs to be done to ascertain whether the higher stop and arrest rate for minorities was a reflection of racist bias or reflected a higher offense rate, [**NBC News**](http://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/black-people-more-likely-be-stopped-cops-study-finds-n616546) reports.

'We know that low-income neighborhoods have more crime,' Miller said. And minorities are more likely to have low incomes. 'Some disparities could be due to income rather than race,' he said.

Miller's study suggested special training for police and at-risk groups to avoid further deaths at the hands of police.

'Given a national history of racism, the excess per capita death rate of blacks from US police action rightly concerns policy analysts, advocates and the press,' he wrote.

'Ratios aside, even one person unnecessarily killed or injured by the police is one too many, and every racial/ethnic group has mourned losses from undue force. As the US struggles to reduce citizen injuries during police contacts, it would seem prudent to train at-risk groups about appropriate behaviour during police stops.'

He added that some parents of Black and Hispanic young men - statistically the most likely to get stopped - were already teaching their sons tips to avoid a violent encounter with cops such as where to put their hands and how to respond to police aggressiveness.

But Miller added that it still came down to police to de-escalate a situation to avoid violence during a stop.

'You and I might get stopped once in our lives,' he said. 'The police stop people every day. They need to be the ones trained to de-escalate,' he said.

'The question is how to make the system forgiving enough so that when somebody makes a mistake, everybody lives,' he said.

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3708889/Whites-just-likely-shot-police-black-people-pulled-study-finds.html#ixzz4NQVKCkT7>   
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