

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

Economic Inequality and Police Killings

Matthew A. Carson

May 21, 2024

1. Welcome to the talk!

Table of Contents

1

Research Question and Design

2

Literature Review

3

Findings: Race and Tract Income

4

Findings: Gentrification

5

Discussion

Matthew A. Carson

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

May 21, 2024

2 / 22

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Research Question and Design

└─ Table of Contents

Table of Contents

1

Research Question and Design

2

Literature Review

3

Findings: Race and Tract Income

4

Findings: Gentrification

5

Discussion

- How does class, economic inequality, and gentrification contribute to the incidence of police killings in the US?

2024-05-19

- The Policing of the “Reserve Army”
 - └ Research Question and Design
 - └ Research Question

- Research Question
- How does class, economic inequality, and gentrification contribute to the incidence of police killings in the US?

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 - There are sharp racial disparities.
 - But what are the economic dimensions?

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─Research Question and Design

└─Research Question

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2024-05-19

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└─ Research Question and Design

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- US Census American Community Survey
 - Median Family Income in tracts
 - Racial composition of tracts

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”
└─ Research Question and Design

└─ Research Design: Data Sources

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2024-05-19

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 - Condensed into three typologies
 - Low-Income or At-Risk
 - Gentrifying
 - Stable

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Table of Contents

1

Research Question and Design

2

Literature Review

3

Findings: Race and Tract Income

4

Findings: Gentrification

5

Discussion

Matthew A. Carson

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

May 21, 2024

7 / 22

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

Literature Review

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

1

Research Question and Design

2

Literature Review

3

Findings: Race and Tract Income

4

Findings: Gentrification

5

Discussion

- Quantitative
 - J. M. Feldman et al. (2019)
 - J. Feldman (2020)

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

- └ Literature Review
 - └ Literature Review

Literature Review

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- Historical
 - C. Johnson (2016; 2019; 2023)

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Literature Review

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Literature Review

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• Historical

- C. Johnson (2016, 2019, 2023)

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

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Table of Contents	
1	Research Question and Design
2	Literature Review
3	Findings: Race and Tract Income
4	Findings: Gentrification
5	Discussion

2024-05-19	The Policing of the “Reserve Army”
	└─ Findings: Race and Tract Income
	└─ Table of Contents

Table of Contents	
1	Research Question and Design
2	Literature Review
3	Findings: Race and Tract Income
4	Findings: Gentrification
5	Discussion

Findings: Rates by Race/Ethnicity

Majority	Lethal Uses of Force	Annualized Per 10 Million Population
Black	756	58.532
Hispanic/Latino	1,113	52.192
White	3,848	29.668

- Majority-black neighborhoods experience a rate nearly twice that of majority-white neighborhoods.
- Majority-Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods experience a rate 1.75 times greater than majority-white neighborhoods.

2024-05-19

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- └ Findings: Race and Tract Income
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Findings: Median Household Income

Income Quintile	Lethal Uses of Force	Annualized Per 10 Million Population
1	2,175	65.803
2	1,640	43.913
3	1,380	35.114
4	1,073	25.728
5	691	15.819

- US census tracts were binned into quintiles based on the distribution of median household income across all US census tracts.
- Median household income has a strong relationship with the rate of police killings.
- Police killings occur at the greatest frequency in the lowest-income tracts.
- The lowest household income quintile tracts experience a rate over four times that of the highest household income tracts.

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”
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└ Findings: Median Household Income

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Findings: Majority One Race

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

Findings: Race and Tract Income

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Findings: Race and Tract Income

└─ Logistic Regression: Income Only

Logistic Regression: Income Only

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Text goes here. . .

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Findings: Race and Tract Income

└─ Logistic Regressions: Race/Ethnicity

Table of Contents			
2024-05-19	The Policing of the “Reserve Army”		
	└─ Findings: Gentrification		
	└─ Table of Contents		
1	Research Question and Design		
2	Literature Review		
3	Findings: Race and Tract Income		
4	Findings: Gentrification		
5	Discussion		
Matthew A. Carson			
The Policing of the “Reserve Army”			
May 21, 2024			
15 / 22			

Table of Contents	
1	Research Question and Design
2	Literature Review
3	Findings: Race and Tract Income
4	Findings: Gentrification
5	Discussion

Text goes here. . .

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Findings: Gentrification

└─ Gentrification and Victims’ Race

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Findings: Gentrification

└─ Gentrification and Majority Race

Gentrification, Majority Race and Victim’s Race

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Findings: Gentrification

└─ Gentrification, Majority Race and Victim's Race

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Text goes here. . .

Table of Contents

1

Research Question and Design

2

Literature Review

3

Findings: Race and Tract Income

4

Findings: Gentrification

5

Discussion

2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└ Discussion

└ Table of Contents

Table of Contents

1

Research Question and Design

2

Literature Review

3

Findings: Race and Tract Income

4

Findings: Gentrification

5

Discussion

Matthew A. Carson

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

May 21, 2024

19 / 22

Findings: Discussion	
Text goes here. . .	

2024-05-19	The Policing of the “Reserve Army”	Findings: Discussion
	Discussion	Text goes here. . .
Findings: Discussion		

Limitations and Future Research

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2024-05-19

The Policing of the “Reserve Army”

└─ Discussion

└─ Limitations and Future Research

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Matthew A. Carson


The Policing of the “Reserve Army”


May 21, 2024


21 / 22


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2024-05-19

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