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# Officer-Involved Shootings in Texas: 2016-2019

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*The Texas Justice Initiative (TJI) is a nonprofit organization that collects, analyzes, publishes and provides oversight for criminal justice data throughout Texas. This "Officer-Involved Shootings in Texas" report analyzes data from reports filed for shootings over a four-year period. The goal of this report is to identify patterns and make comparisons of officer and civilian injuries and deaths during officer-involved (OIS) shooting incidents across a variety of variables.*

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## I. Executive Summary

Texas law requires the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to collect reports on all officer-involved shootings throughout Texas and then provide the summary of the individual reports in "The Peace Officer Involved Shooting Annual Reports." The OAG digitally publishes these annual reports, which are extremely high-level summaries, with no findings or analysis of trends or intersectionality.

Texas Justice Initiative (TJI) reviewed the officer-involved shooting incidents data from law enforcement agencies in Texas between 2016 and 2019. This TJI publication improves upon the OAG's annual reports by providing in-depth analyses with more granular information. **This report consists of two parts:**

- ☑ The **Data Summary** section provides an overview of the incidents as intersectional information such as the total number of civilian severities per county and per race demographics.
- ☑ The **Data Insight** section provides TJI's independent analysis of the officer-involved shootings, including notable patterns in the data.

Our main findings, which are detailed further in the Data Insight section include:

- ☑ OAG's annual reports do not capture all data fields included in the officer-involved shooting reports, and therefore, do not provide the full scope of incidents that can lead to thoughtful analysis.
- ☑ Only minor (4.2% on average across all years) discrepancies exist between the data TJI collected and what is reported in the OAG reports (**Fig. 1**).
- ☑ More than half of all officer-involved shootings occurred in the most populous Texas counties: Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis (**Fig. 2**).
- ☑ Both the total number of civilians shot during officer-involved shootings, and the number of civilians killed in those shootings have been increasing over the years (**Figs. 1 and 15**).
- ☑ Survival rates of civilians who have been shot are decreasing. More than half of the civilians shot by officers died (**Fig. 15**).

- In contrast, survival rates of officers during the officer-involved shooting incidents were almost twice the survival rate of civilians shot by officers (**Fig. 16**).
- Black civilians were overrepresented in the five most populous counties when compared with census data (**Fig. 18**).
- Black civilians ages 15-24 were overrepresented in fatal shootings in the five most populous counties when compared with census and mortality data (**Figs. 20 and 21**).
- A substantial proportion of incidents (about 25%) are recorded with unidentified causes, which lessens accountability for these incidents and thus makes further analysis of the causes of death more difficult (**Fig. 7**).
- Most agencies filed the officer-involved shooting reports with the state within 30 days, as the law requires. However, in several extreme cases, the reporting lag was longer than a year (**Figs. 25 and 26**).

TJI's independent analysis on four years' worth of officer-involved shooting reports slices the data across many variables: demographics, location, year, and incident cause. We also utilized data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Texas Department of State Health Services to compare the representation of demographics between general populations and the civilians in the officer-involved shooting incidents.

We hope this report helps understand the nature of these incidents in a broader context and thus provides researchers with starting points for causal analyses. Finally, we hope this report improves transparency and accountability of the reporting process, and encourages data-driven decision-making of policymakers.

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## II. Data Summary

The OAG annual reports, and this TJI four-year analysis report, summarize officer-involved shooting reports submitted to the OAG by local law enforcement agencies. The reports reflect shootings of and by law enforcement officers that took place in Texas from 2016 to 2019.

Every record in the officer-involved shooting data represents either a civilian or an officer who was shot. This means every person in the dataset was shot and harmed. Currently the data represents the severity of the shooting as binary information: **injury** or **death**.

For the majority of the analyses, we focus on two populations: **officers** and **civilians**. We refer to the individuals who were injured or killed in shootings as "**civilians shot**" or "**officers shot**." Those who were killed in shootings are referred to in our report as "**civilian deaths**" or "**officer deaths**."

The details of data acquisition and data preprocessing can be found on our [website](#) and our [public GitHub repository](#).

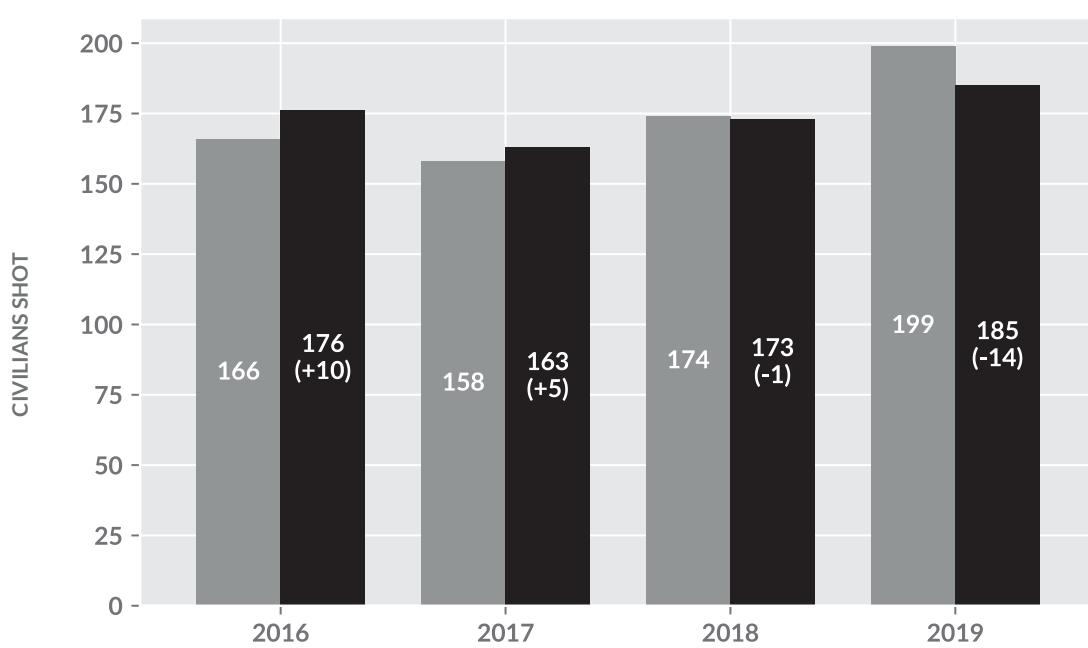
## 1. Comparison between the OAG annual reports and TJI multi-year datasets

After examining the officer-involved shooting report datasets and the OAG reports, we found the following (**Fig 1**):

- Ⓐ The OAG reports summarize data only at the state level, and omit any discussion about age demographics, report dates or the number of officers involved, for example.
- Ⓐ The OAG reports are missing intersectional analyses that would combine data characteristics, like demographics and severity of shootings.
- Ⓐ The OAG reports are also static, so any amendments to reports, or reports that are filed post-due.
- Ⓐ The OAG reports do not provide details on how the data are processed, cleaned and accumulated for the reports. The lack of this information reduces the usability and transparency of the data.

The total number of civilians shot by officers in Texas from 2016 to 2019 is identical in the OAG reports and TJI datasets (697 incidents). However, the totals from individual years are slightly different (**Fig. 1**).

**FIGURE 1. COMPARING THE OAG AND TJI DATA SETS**



ⓘ The number of civilians shot in officer-involved shootings from 2016 to 2019 in the OAG reports and TJI datasets. The numbers in the parentheses indicate the difference between the two reports.

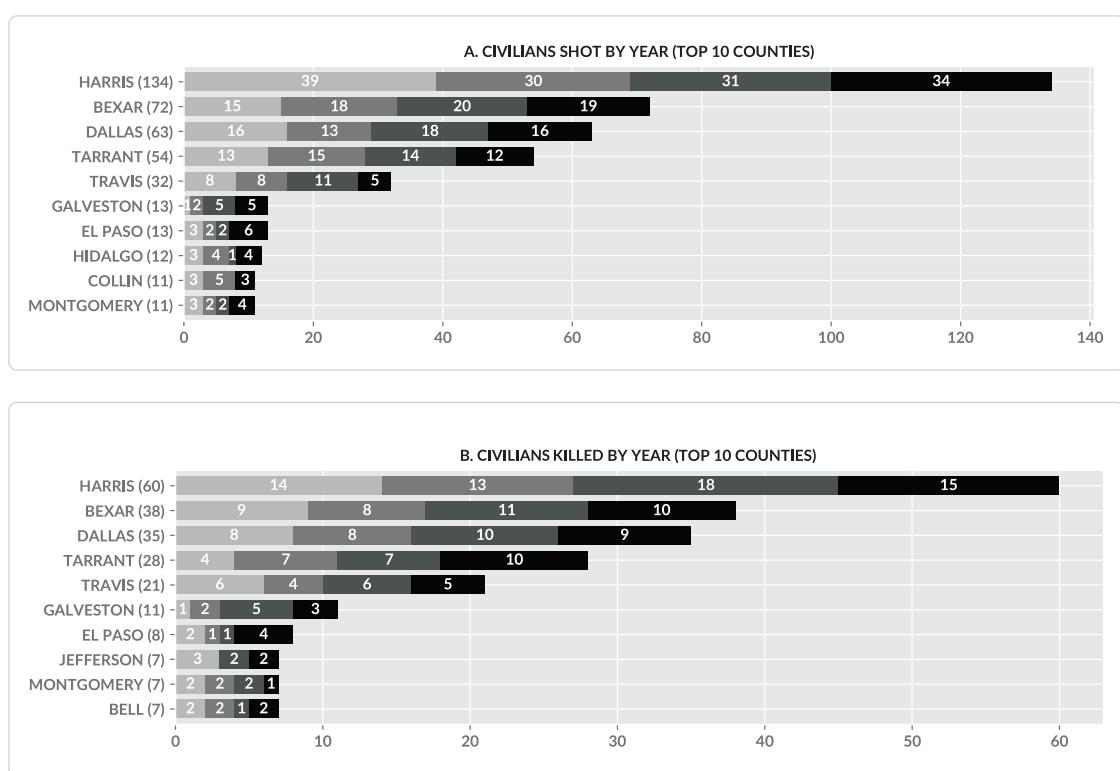
The discrepancy within each year is smaller in the number of officers who were shot. In both 2018 and 2019, TJI's data shows one more shooting of an officer each year as compared to the OAG reports. The discrepancy should not be ignored but since the mismatch is marginal, we did not illustrate it with a chart.

## 2. Data on civilians shot by officers

### 2.1 By County

Officer-involved shootings occurred in 121 counties (47.6%) of Texas' 254 counties from 2016 to 2019. The top 10 counties with the highest number of total civilians **shot** (Fig. 2A) and highest number of civilians **killed** (Fig. 2B) are visualized below. These graphs show that most officer-involved shootings occurred in the five most populous counties (Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis).

**FIGURE 2. CIVILIANS SHOT BY COUNTY AND YEAR**

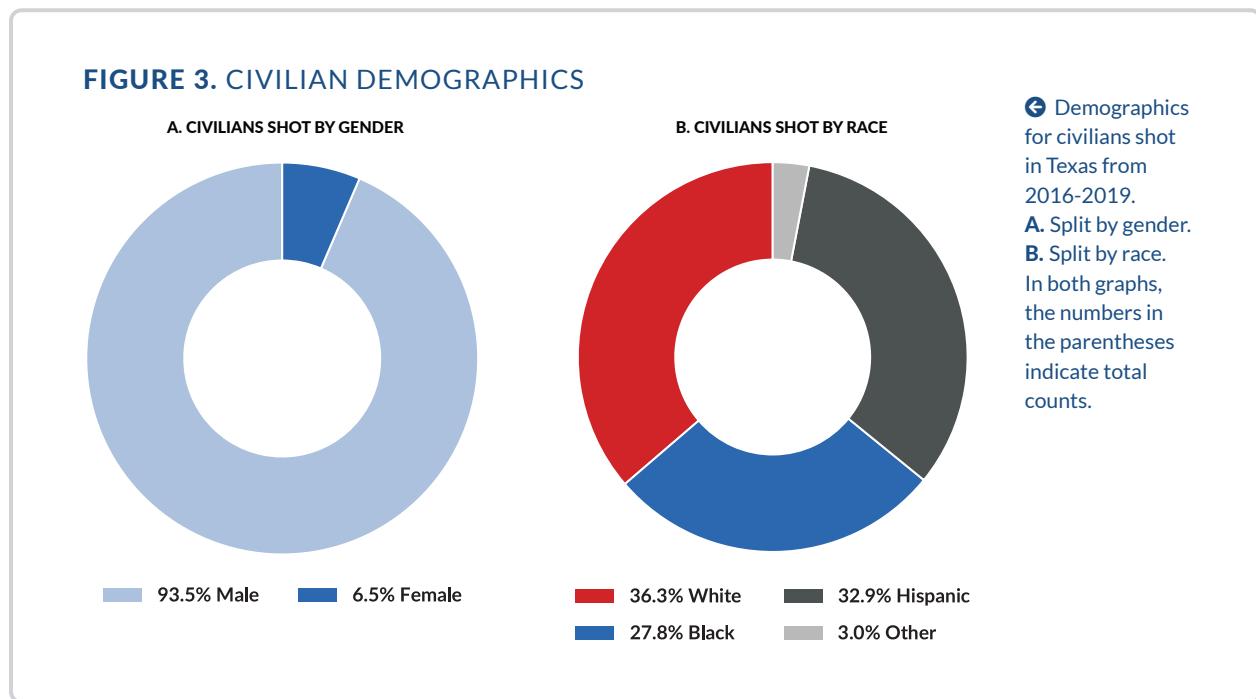


⬆ County-level overview of the civilian data from 2016 to 2019.

**A.** The total number of civilians shot from 2016 to 2019. **B.** The total number of civilian deaths from the shooting incidents. In both graphs, the numbers in parentheses show the total across all 4 years.

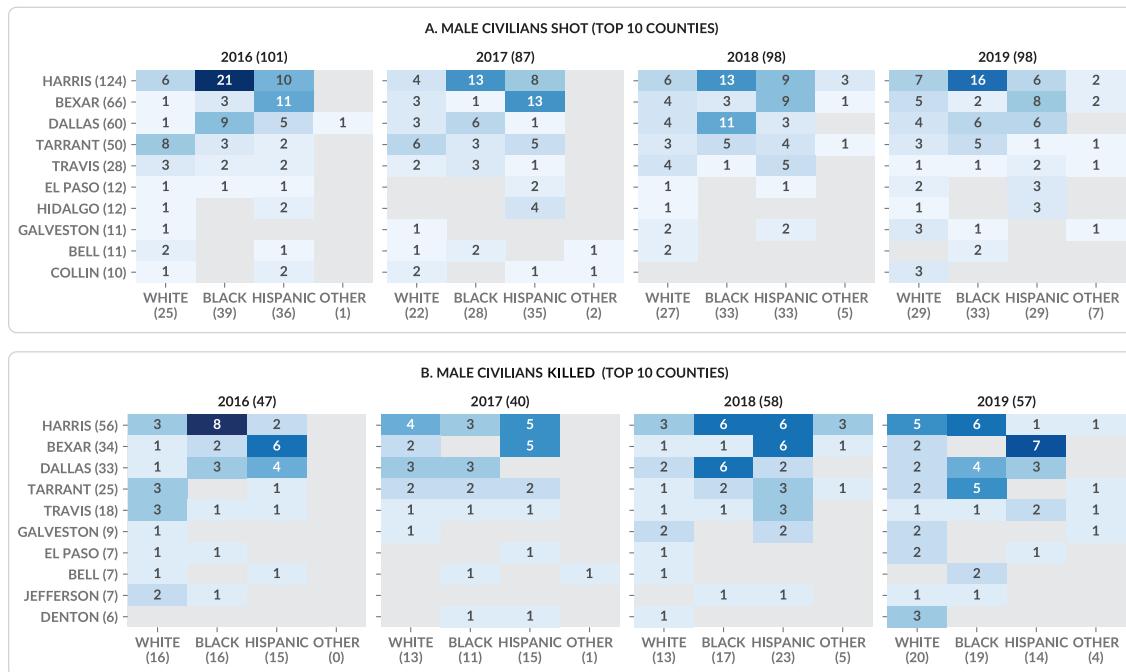
## 2.2. By Demographics (gender, race and age)

The demographics of the civilians shot by officers are shown in **Fig. 3**. The majority of the civilians in the dataset are males. The race data shows the majority of the civilians are identified by law enforcement as being either white, Black or Hispanic. Note that the race categorization is very simple, and that law enforcement have been known to mischaracterize the race of individuals.



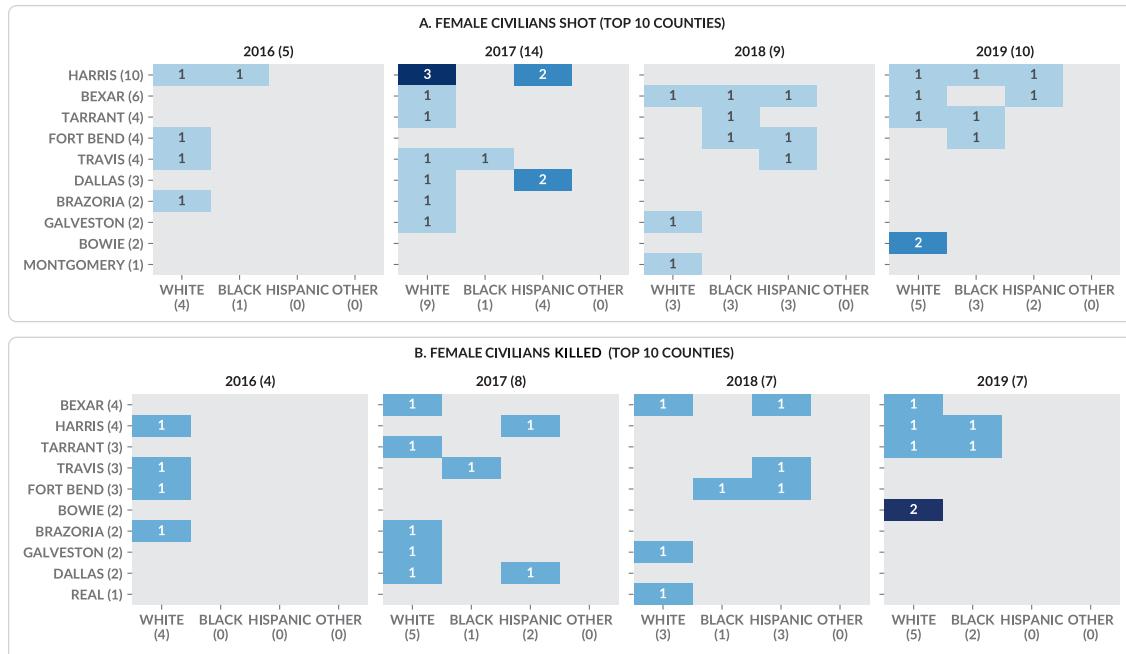
The intersectional data of civilians based on year, county, demographics (gender and race), and severity (injury and death, and death only) is shown in **Fig. 4** (male) and **Fig. 5** (female). The genders are visualized separately because the number of male civilians is much larger than female civilians.

**FIGURE 4. MALE CIVILIANS SHOT BY YEAR, RACE AND COUNTY**



➊ County-level overview of male civilians data by race and year. The top 10 counties are chosen based on the total sum from all four years (shown in the parentheses). **A.** Male civilians who were shot (both injured and killed). **B.** Male civilians who were fatally shot. Darker blue cells indicate larger numbers. Gray cells indicate zeros.

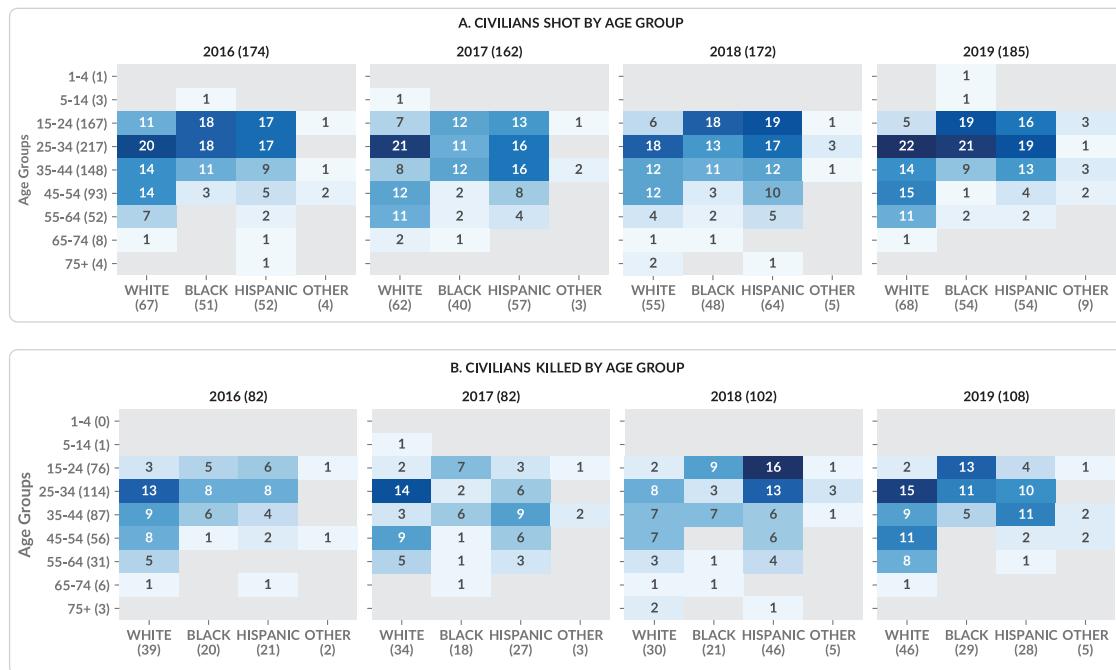
**FIGURE 5. FEMALE CIVILIANS SHOT BY YEAR, RACE AND COUNTY**



➊ County-level overview of female civilians data by race and year. The top 10 counties are chosen based on the total sum from all four years (shown in the parentheses). **A.** Female civilians who were shot (both injured and killed). **B.** Female civilians who were fatally shot. Darker blue cells indicate larger numbers. Gray cells indicate zeros.

Unlike the OAG reports, which do not utilize age demographics data, TJI's analysis visualizes age distributions of civilians by year and race (**Fig. 6**). Four individuals' ages were not listed. The dataset includes the shootings of extremely young civilians – a Black child between the ages of 1 and 4, and three children (two Black, one white) between the ages of 5 and 14 years old. It also shows that non-whites who were shot by law enforcement were younger than white civilians who were shot by law enforcement.

**FIGURE 6. CIVILIANS SHOT BY YEAR, RACE AND AGE**

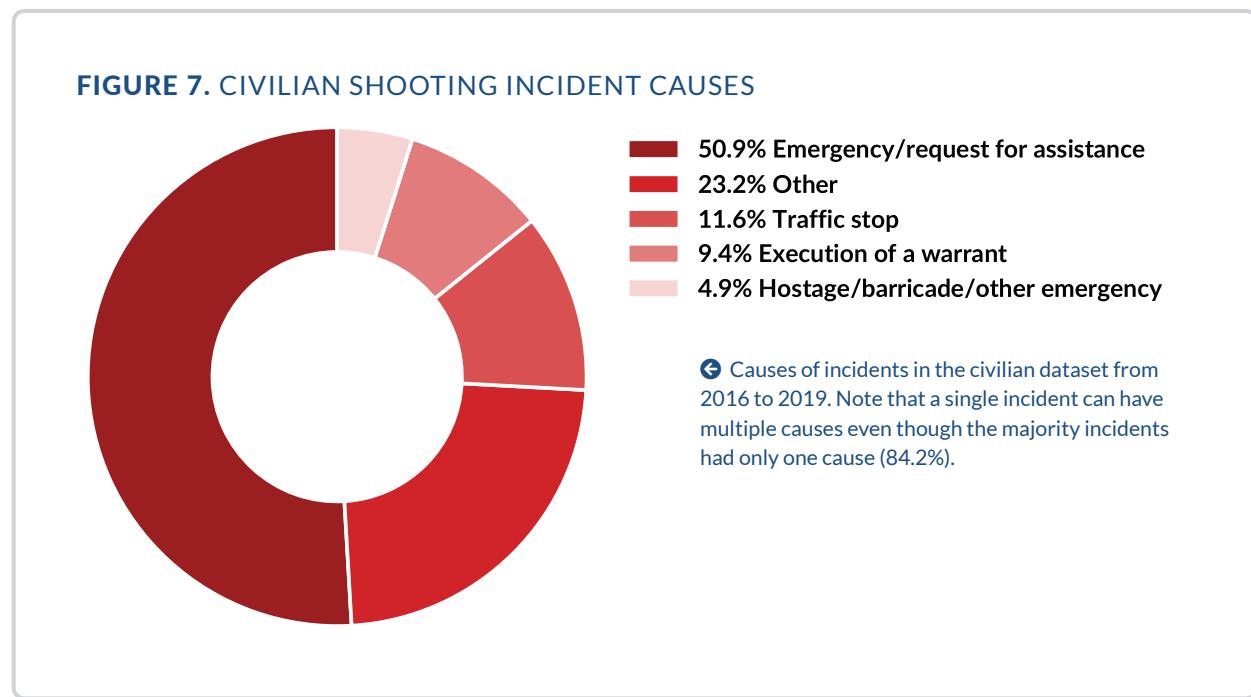


Ⓐ A. Civilians who were shot (injured or killed) and B. civilians shot and killed by age-group and year.

As shown in **Fig. 6**, most incidents (97.1%) were shootings of civilians between the ages of 15 and 64.

## 2.3. By initial cause of incident

Officer-involved shooting reports provide five “incident cause” categories: 1) Traffic Stop, 2) Emergency/Request for Assistance, 3) Execution of a Warrant, 4) Hostage/Barricade/Other Emergency, or 5) Other. The majority of the reports (84.2%, 638 reports) have a single cause. In 57 reports, though, more than one cause is listed, and two reports listed three different causes. The distribution of the categories of causes from all counties is shown in **Fig. 7**. This shows more than half of the incidents (50.9%) list “Emergency/Request for Assistance” as the cause.

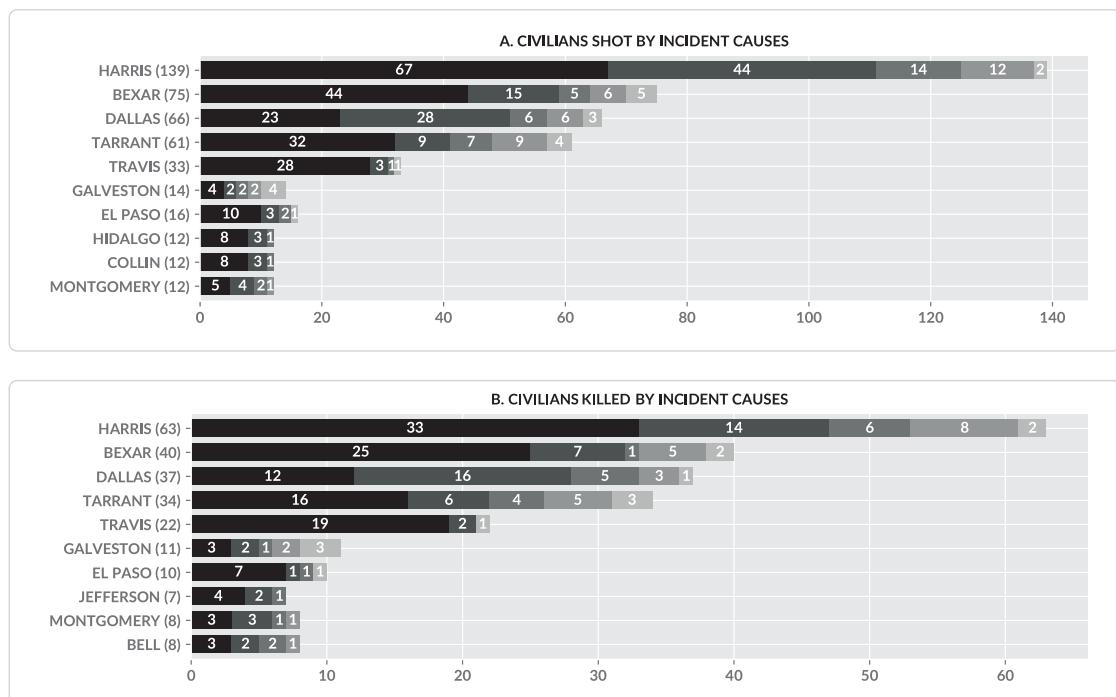


County-level overview of incident causes is shown next in **Fig. 8**. Consistent with overall data, the majority of incidents in the top 10 counties list Emergency/Request for Assistance as their cause.

**Fig. 9** on the following page shows the intersectional data of the civilians between age groups, race and incident causes in terms of the total number of civilians who were shot (**Fig. 9A**) and total number of civilians killed (**Fig. 9B**).

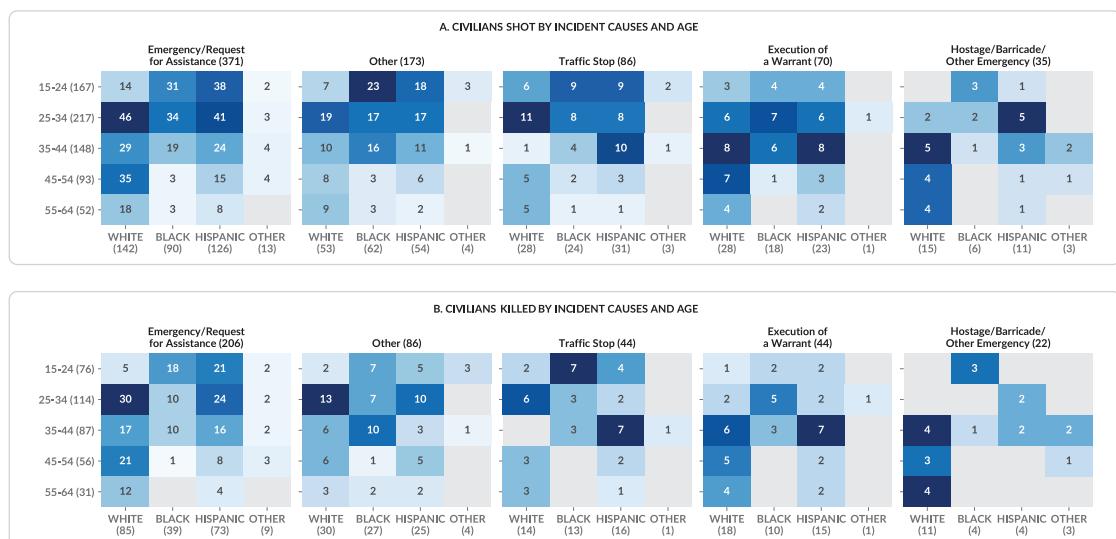
█ Emergency/Request for Assistance  
█ Other  
█ Traffic Stop  
█ Execution of a Warrant  
█ Hostage/Barricade/Other Emergency

## FIGURE 8. CIVILIAN INCIDENT CAUSES BY COUNTY



- ➊ County-level overview of the civilian data from 2016 to 2019 by incident causes. **A.** The total number of civilians shot. **B.** The total number of civilian deaths. Note that a single incident can have multiple causes even though the majority of the incidents had only one cause (84.2%).

## FIGURE 9. CIVILIAN INCIDENT CAUSES BY RACE AND AGE



- ➋ Incident causes from the civilian dataset by age groups and race. **A.** Civilians shot (both injured and killed). **B.** Civilians fatally shot. Note that the color scaling is applied at every heatmap due to the large difference in numbers between the incident cause categories.

### 3. Data on officers shot in Texas

**FIGURE 10A. OFFICERS SHOT IN TEXAS**

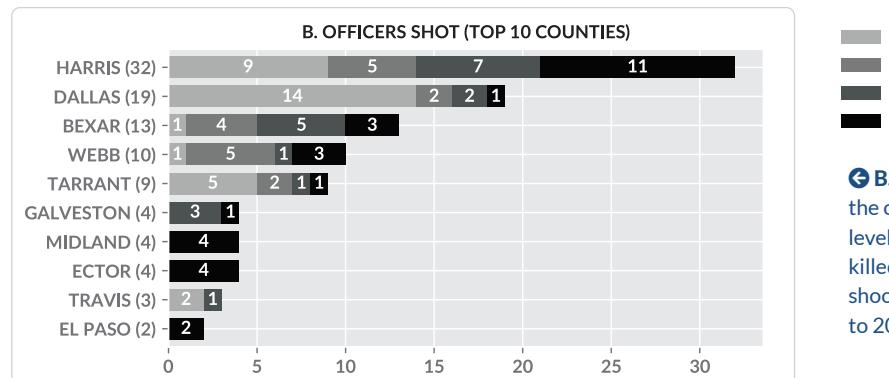


↑ Total number of officers shot across Texas.

#### 3.1 By County

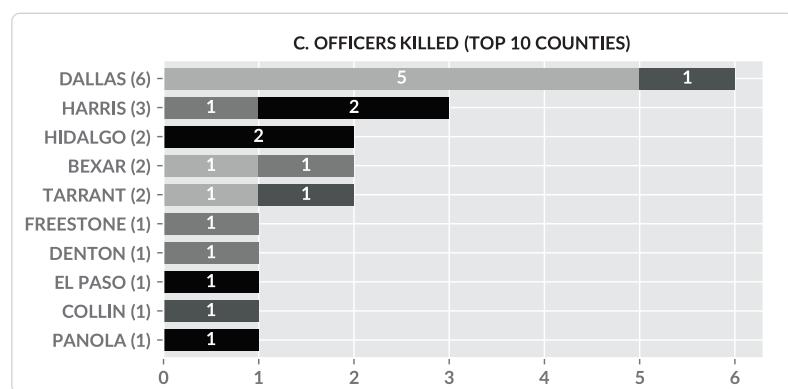
Data on law enforcement officers shot in Texas are shown in **Fig. 10**, including breakdowns of shootings by year and by county. The number of officers shot in 2019 surpassed numbers during each of the previous three years. Although Harris, Dallas, Bexar and Tarrant experienced the most officer shootings and deaths, Webb County on the U.S.-Mexico border made the Top 5.

**FIGURE 10B. & C. OFFICERS SHOT AND DEATHS BY COUNTY**



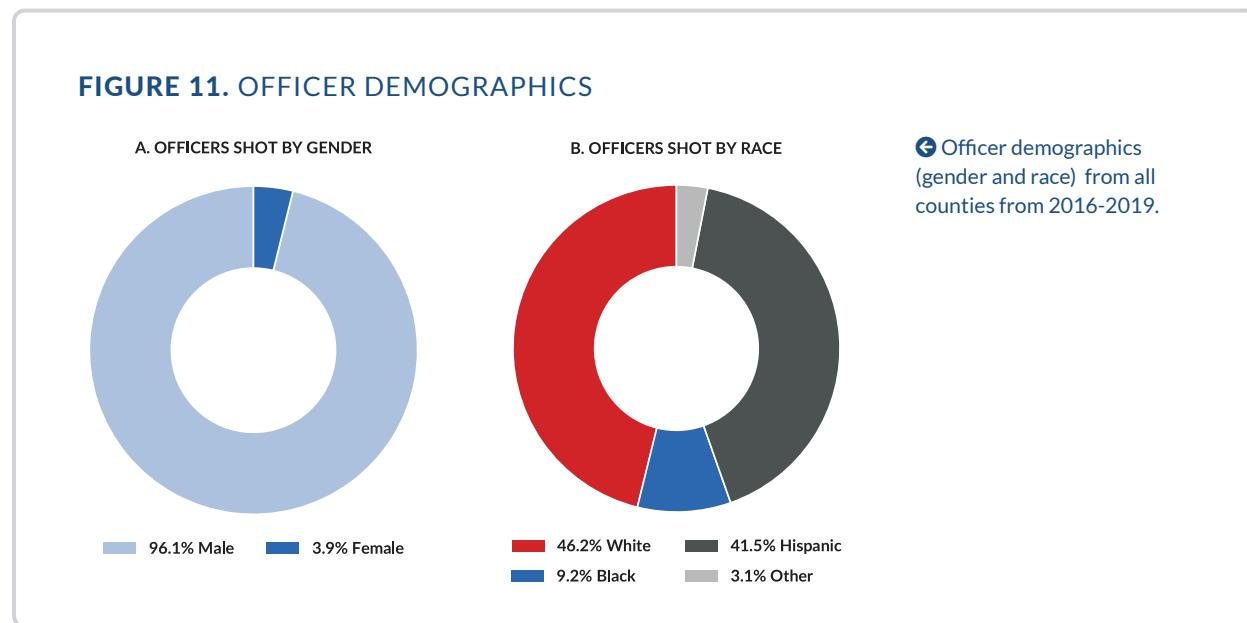
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019

← B. County-level overview of the officers shot. C. County-level overview of the officers killed in officer-involved shooting incidents from 2016 to 2019.

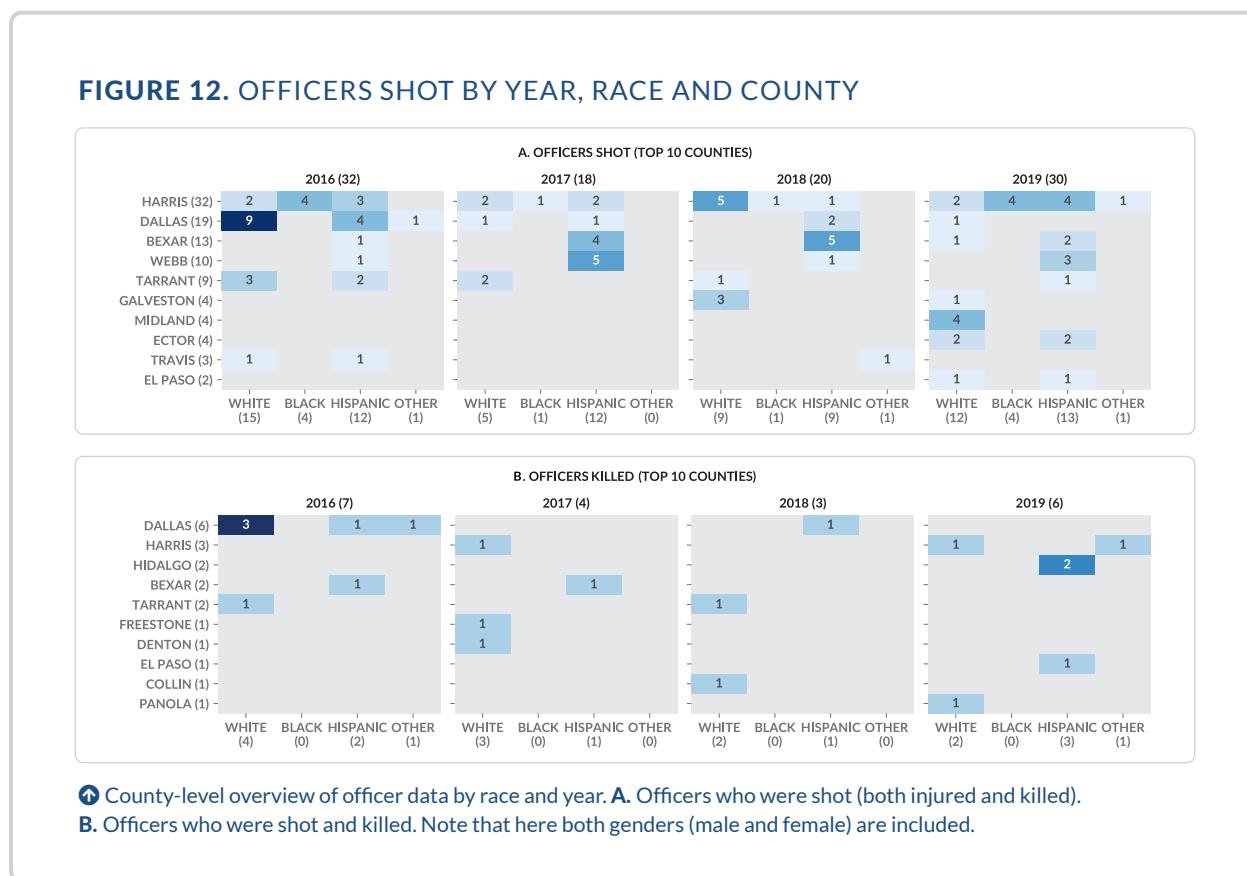


### 3.2. By Demographics (gender, race, and age)

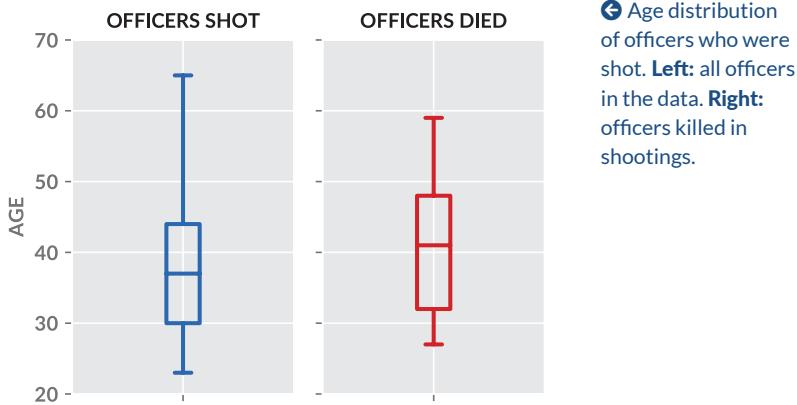
Demographics of officers shot are shown in **Fig. 11**. The majority of the officers who were shot from 2016 to 2019 were either white or Hispanic men.



The intersectionality of officers shot based on race, location and year is shown in **Fig. 12**. The sparsity and small numbers in the figure suggest that it is very rare for officers to be shot at all, whether they are injured or killed.



**FIGURE 13. AGE OF OFFICERS SHOT**



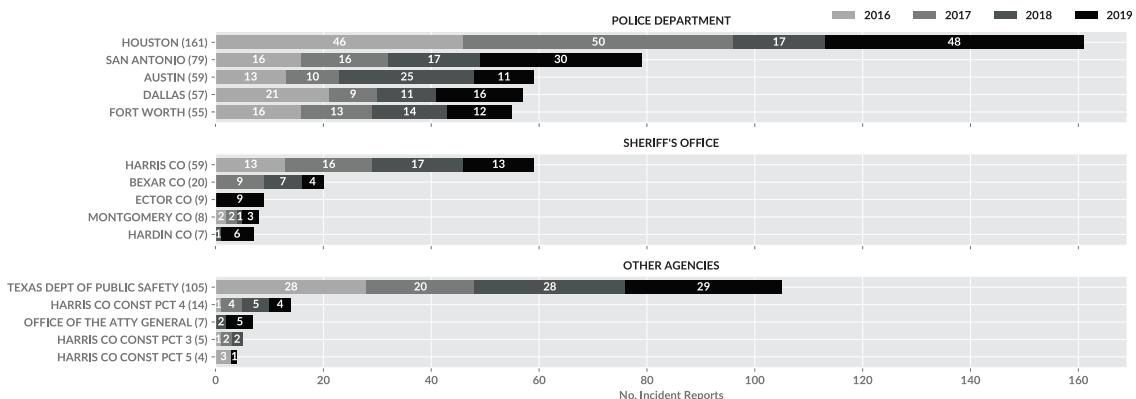
The median age of the officers shot in the dataset is 37 and the median age of the officers who died was 41. The age distribution is shown as a box plot in Fig. 13.

#### 4. By Law Enforcement Agency

Looking at all reports from 2016 to 2019, the majority of the law enforcement agencies who filed incident reports, were either police departments or sheriff's offices: 149 police departments (city), 70 sheriff's offices (county) and 18 other agencies. The agency-level breakdown by each category is shown in Fig. 14. In most cases, the agencies located in the five most populous counties filed more incident reports with Houston/Harris at the top of the list.

Note that in the “other agencies” category, the majority of the reports were filed by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), which patrol highways in rural Texas and protects the Texas Capitol. Only the Houston Police Department reported more shootings than the DPS.

**FIGURE 14. NUMBER OF OIS REPORTS FILED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT**



Number of shooting reports (of both civilians and officers) filed by law enforcement agencies (top 5 for each category: police department, sheriff's office and other agencies) from 2016 to 2019.

### III. Data Insights

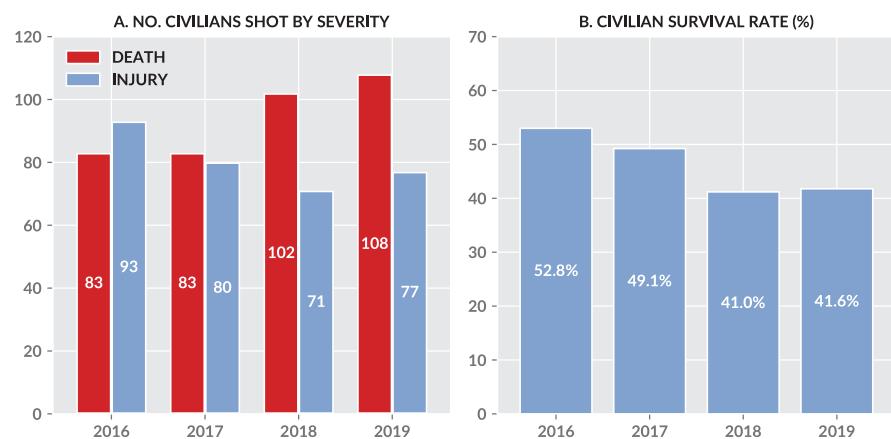
#### 1. The total number of civilians shot during officer-involved shooting incidents has been increasing over the years, while survival rate has been decreasing.

As previously shown in **Fig. 1**, the number of civilians injured or killed in officer-involved shootings has been increasing for the past four years: the total number of civilians shot in 2019 increased by 25.9% compared to 2017, and 14.4% compared to 2018. When analyzed by severity type (injury or death), the data shows that every year, more civilians were killed in shootings (**Fig. 15A**).

The total number of civilian deaths increased by 30.1% in 2019 (108 deaths) compared to 2016 and 2017 (83 deaths), and by 5.88% compared to 2018 (102 deaths). However, the total number of civilians who were injured decreased by 17.2% in 2019 (77 injured) compared to 2016 (93 injured).

This naturally leads to a decreased survival rate, a rate that represents the ratio of civilians who were fatally shot to the total number of all civilians shot (**Fig. 15B**). By 2019, the survival rate of civilians was less than 50%.

**FIGURE 15. CIVILIANS SHOT BY SEVERITY AND SURVIVAL RATES**

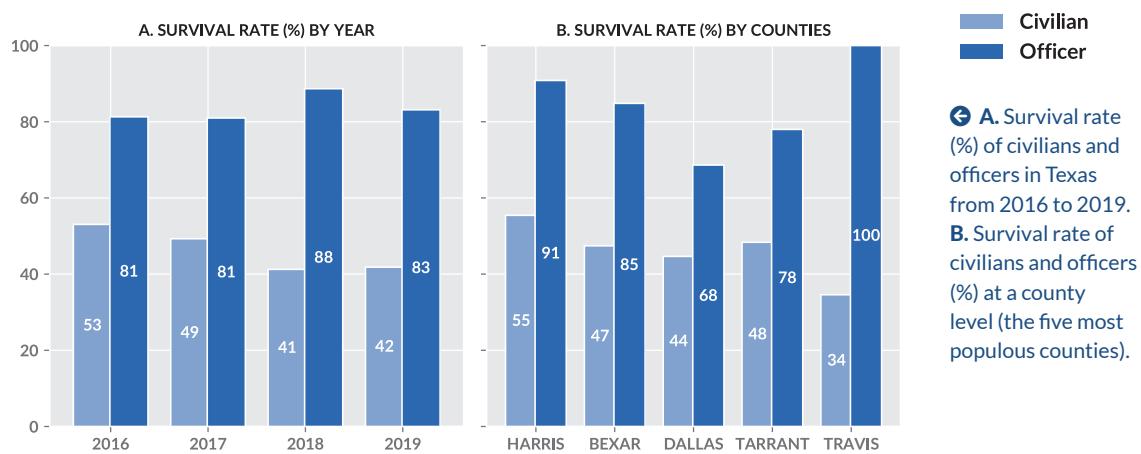


- A.** Number of civilians shot by severity types (injury or death) by year.
- B.** Survival rate of civilians by year (percentage of civilians injured but not killed in shootings).

## 2. Survival rate of officers is almost twice as high as that of civilians.

Across all four years, the survival rate of civilians is 46.1% but that of officers is 83.1%. In other words, the officers' survival rate is almost twice (1.80 times) as high as that of civilians' survival rate. This trend was consistent throughout the years (**Fig. 16A**) and in Texas' five most populous counties, Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis (**Fig. 16B**). In **Fig. 16A**, the relatively stable officer survival rate is contrasted with the decreasing civilian survival rate.

**FIGURE 16. CIVILIAN AND OFFICER SURVIVAL RATES**

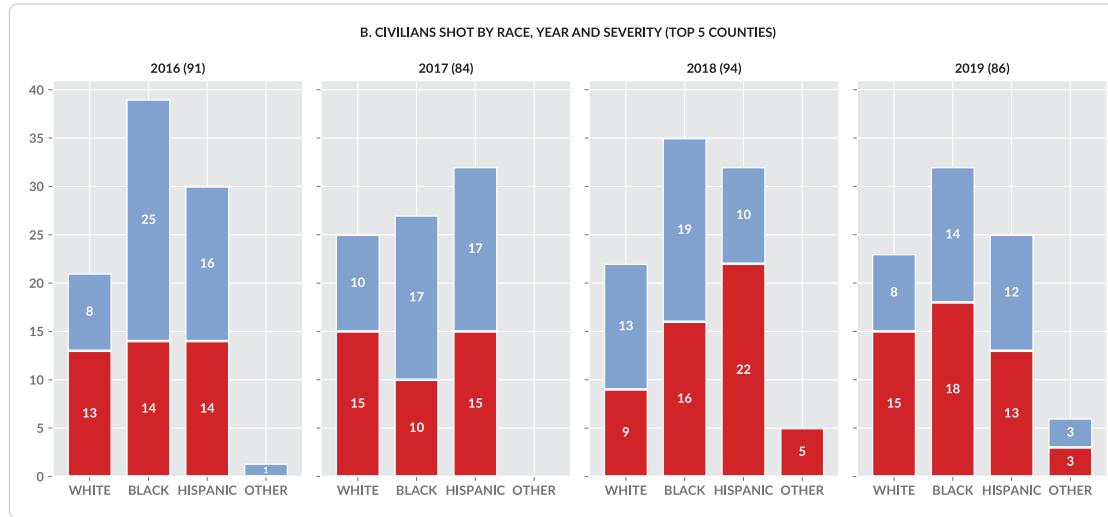
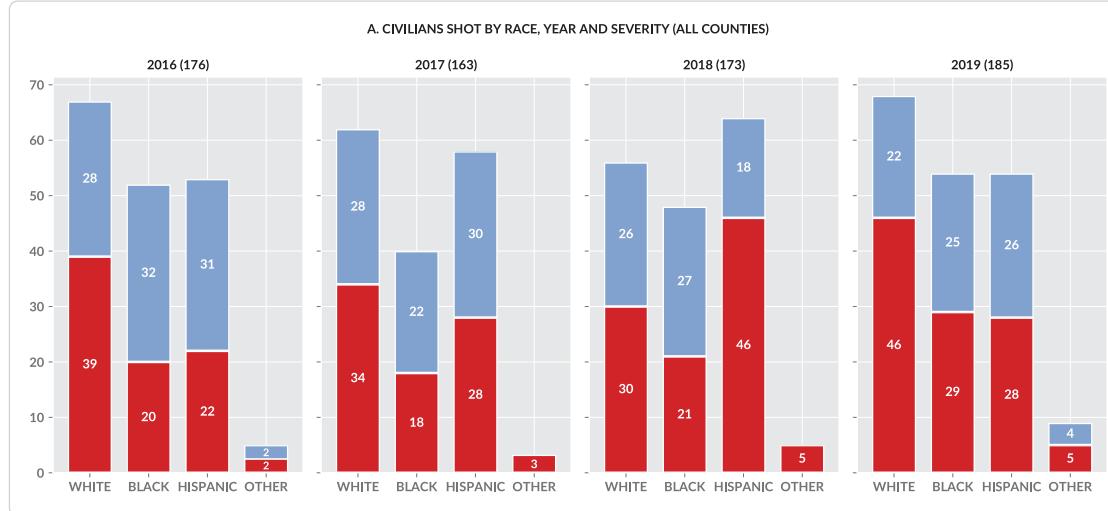


**3. In the five most populous counties, among civilians shot during officer-involved shooting incidents, Black civilians were overrepresented.**

At the state level, most of the civilians shot by law enforcement were white (**Fig. 17A**). However, if we focus on Texas' five most populous counties, we see that non-white civilians were shot more often than white civilians every year (**Fig. 17B**). This reverse trend is also found within the death counts. Almost every year, the number of white civilians fatally shot by law enforcement in these populous counties was less than the number of Black or Hispanic civilians fatally shot by law enforcement.

**FIGURE 17. CIVILIANS SHOT BY RACE, YEAR AND SEVERITY**

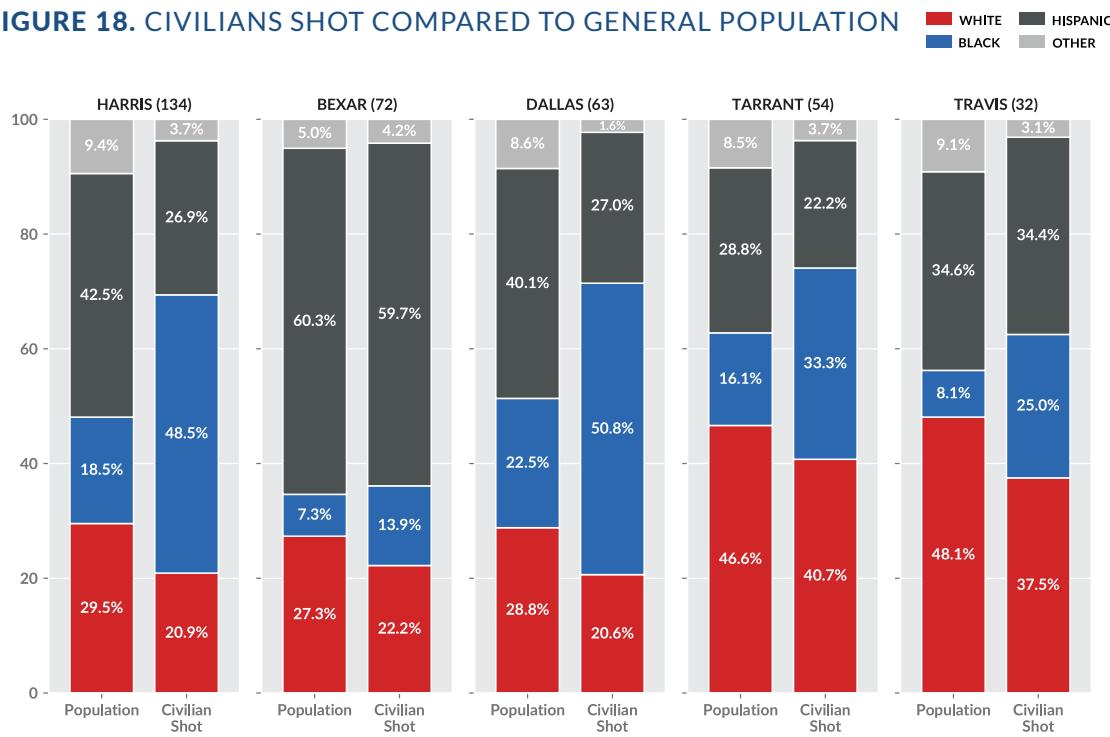
■ KILLED  
■ INJURED



↑ Number of civilians shot by race, year and severity for A. all counties and B. the five most populous counties (Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis).

It is possible that this disparity reflects the concentrations of non-whites in the five most populous counties. However, when we compared the race demographics of the general population of the five most populous counties ([2018 Estimated Population of Texas, Texas Demographic Center](#)) to that of the civilians shot by law enforcement officers, we still found overrepresentation of Black civilians in all five counties (**Fig. 18**). For example, Black people account for just about 18.5% of Harris County's population. But almost half (48.5%) of all civilians shot during officer-involved shootings in Harris County from 2016 to 2019 were Black individuals, meaning Black people were overrepresented at a rate of 2.62.

**FIGURE 18. CIVILIANS SHOT COMPARED TO GENERAL POPULATION**



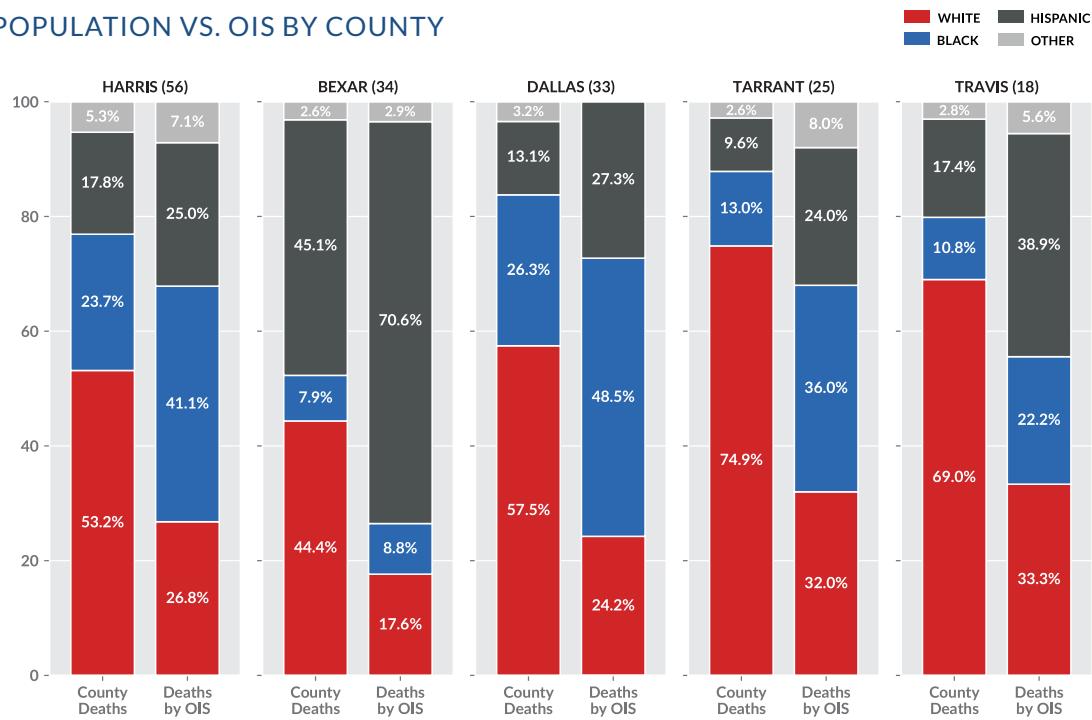
↑ Comparison of race demographics between the general population (2018 Estimated Population of Texas) and the civilians in officer-involved shooting incidents for the five most populous counties. Note that among the civilians shot during officer-involved shooting incidents, Black people are overrepresented compared to the county population.

#### 4. In the five most populous counties, among male civilians fatally shot by law enforcement, non-white civilians were overrepresented.

We found overrepresentation of non-white civilians (**Fig. 19**) when we compared the officer-involved shooting data to the mortality data ([2013 Texas Department of State Health Services Crude Death Rates by County of Residence and Race/Ethnicity](#)). In this comparison, we only focused on *male* civilian deaths because female civilian deaths only account for 7% of all officer-involved shootings of civilians.

According to the mortality data, in Harris County, about 23.7% of all individuals who die in a given year are Black people. However, Black civilians account for 41.1% (overrepresented at a rate of 1.73) of all civilians killed in officer-involved shootings (**Fig. 19**). In Bexar County, Hispanic people account for 45.1% of deaths in the general population, but 70.6% of civilians killed in officer-involved shootings (overrepresented at a rate of 1.57).

**FIGURE 19. MORTALITY BY RACE IN GENERAL POPULATION VS. OIS BY COUNTY**

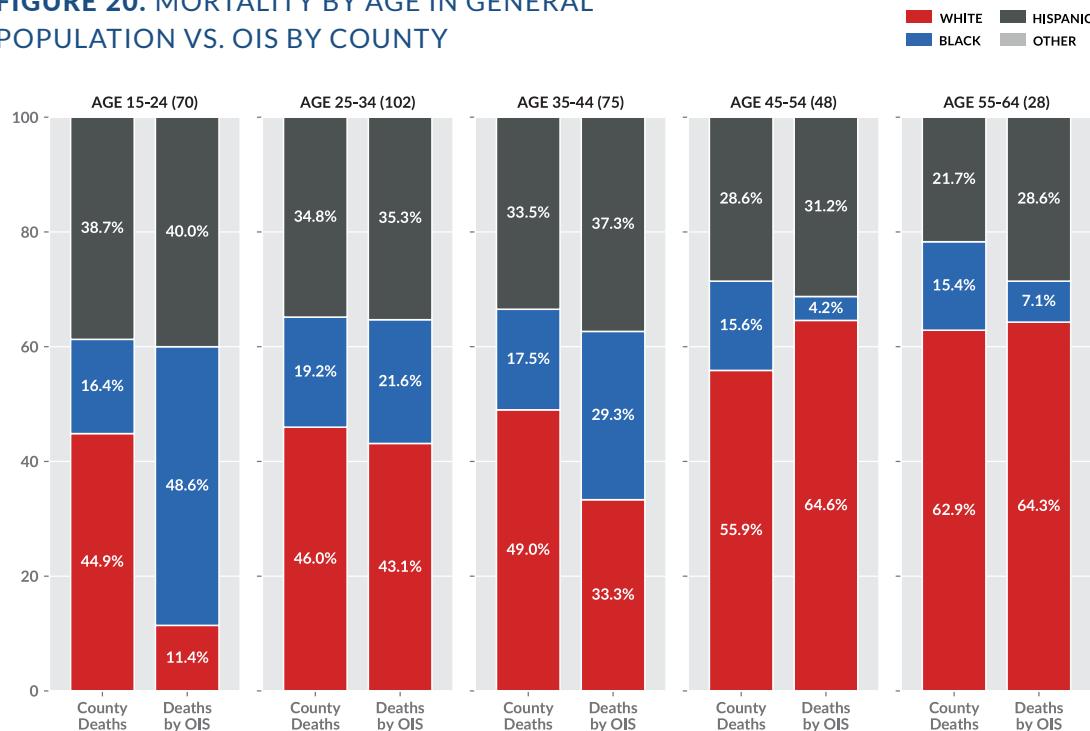


↑ Comparison of race demographics between county mortality data (Texas Department of State Health Services, 2013) and fatal officer-involved shootings (OIS) for the five most populous counties. Note that non-white people are overrepresented in civilian deaths in officer-involved shooting incidents.

## 5. The racial makeup of individuals fatally shot by law enforcement in Texas varies based on the age of the civilians. A disproportionate amount of young Black civilians were fatally shot by law enforcement.

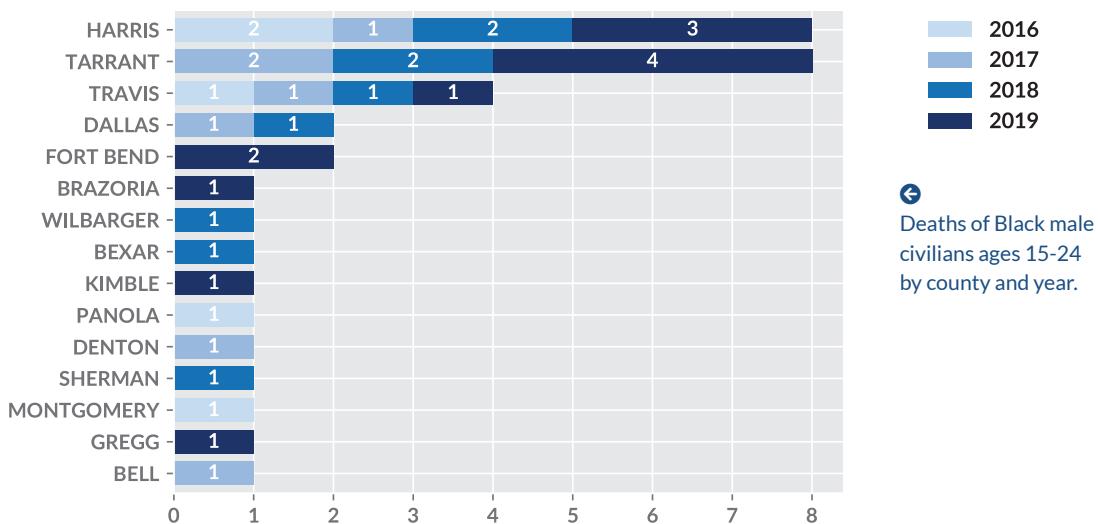
When comparing the demographics of individuals who were fatally shot by law enforcement to demographic information in the state's mortality data ([2013 Texas Department of State Health Services Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Race Ethnicity and Gender](#)), we discovered that deaths of Black men ages 15-24 were overrepresented in fatal officer-involved shootings (overrepresented at a rate of 2.96, **Fig. 20**). This disparity disappears in the older categories (e.g., ages 45-54 and 55-64). Most of the deaths of young Black men occurred in Tarrant, Harris, and Travis counties (**Fig. 21**).

**FIGURE 20. MORTALITY BY AGE IN GENERAL POPULATION VS. OIS BY COUNTY**



↑ Comparison of race and age demographics between the mortality data (Texas Department of State Health Services, 2013) and demographics of civilians killed in officer-involved shootings in Texas. Note that Black people are overrepresented in younger demographics.

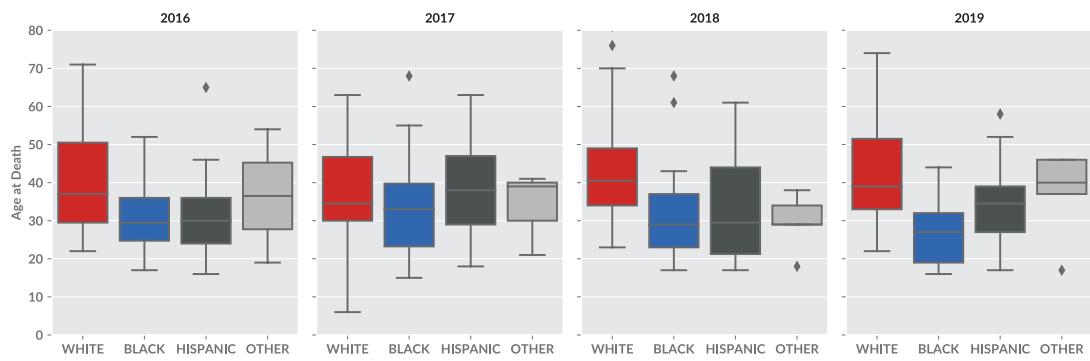
**FIGURE 21. DEATHS OF BLACK MALE CIVILIANS AGES 15-24 BY COUNTY**



Deaths of Black male civilians ages 15-24 by county and year.

This disparity also shows up when we compared the age at the time of death. The median age at the time of death was lower for Black (age 29) and Hispanic (age 34) people than white people (age 38). This pattern was consistent over time (**Fig. 22**).

**FIGURE 22. AGE OF DEATH ACROSS RACE**

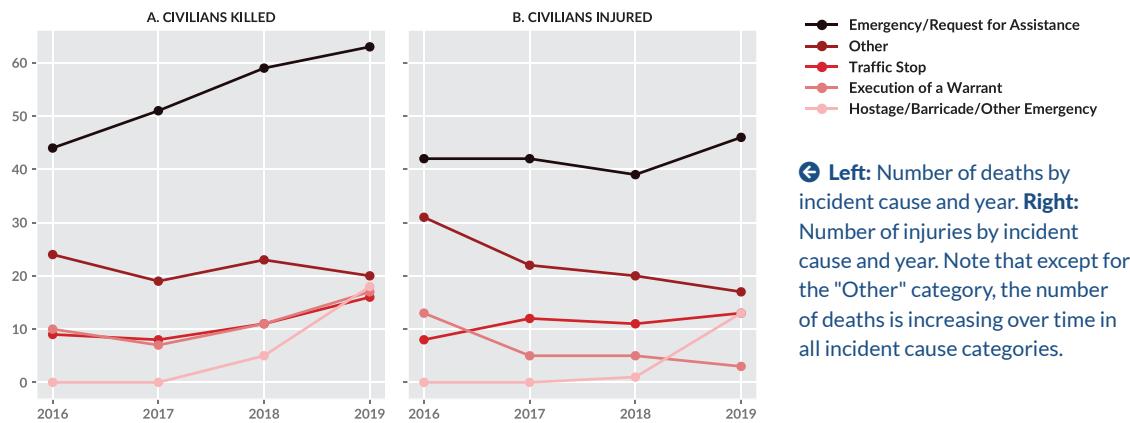


↑ Comparison of the distribution of age at the time of death by race demographics from 2016 to 2019. The horizontal line in each box plot represents the median age at the time of death per each race group. Note that generally, the median age at the time of death is lower for Black and Hispanic than white.

## 6. Causes of incidents that precede shootings

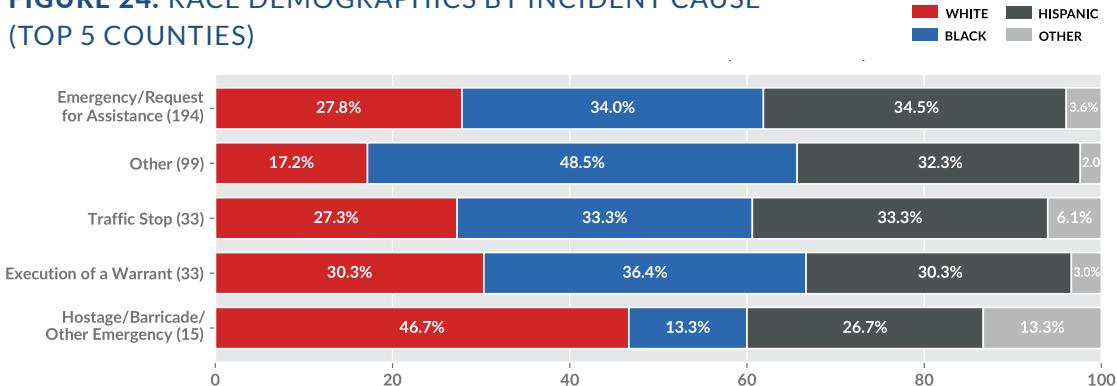
Currently, the OAG reports categorize the initial causes of the incidents into five groups: 1) Traffic Stop, 2) Emergency/Request for Assistance, 3) Execution of a Warrant, 4) Hostage/Barricade/Other Emergency, and 5) Other. Every year, the number of deaths in four of the five incident categories generally increased from 2016 to 2019. The "other" category, though, seemed to fluctuate because this category is used inconsistently and incorrectly (**Fig. 23**).

**FIGURE 23. SEVERITY OF CIVILIAN SHOOTINGS BY INCIDENT CAUSE**



About one in four reports (23.2%, 176 reports) list "Other" as the incident cause. Agencies are then prompted to explain further, and offer a variety of levels of detail in text fields that are difficult to meaningfully analyze. This implies that for many civilians who were shot by law enforcement officers, the cause of the incidents were not well-documented. We found that the "Other" category includes an overrepresentation of Black people (**Fig. 24**), compared to the rest of the incident cause categories in the five most populous counties (Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis).

**FIGURE 24. RACE DEMOGRAPHICS BY INCIDENT CAUSE (TOP 5 COUNTIES)**



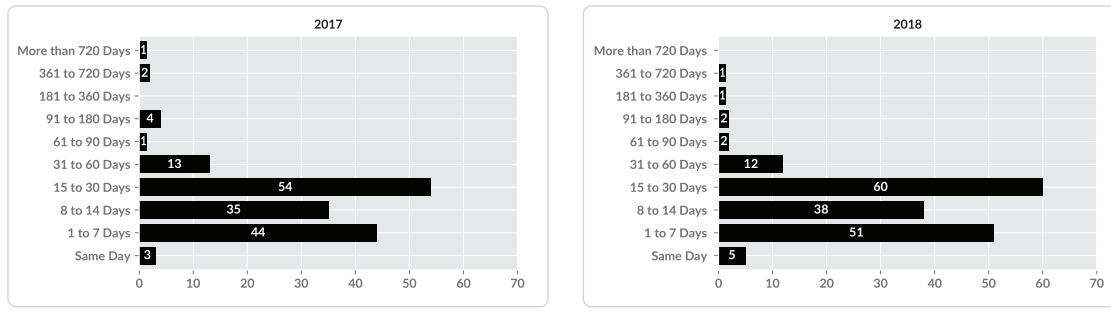
↑ Proportion of race demographics by incident cause in the five most populous counties with the highest number of officer-involved shooting incidents (Harris, Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, and Travis).

## 7. Report lag

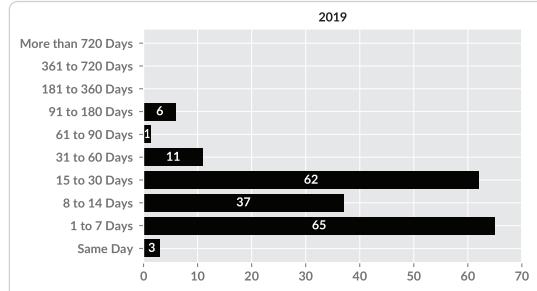
Law enforcement agencies are required to file an incident report to the OAG within 30 days of a shooting. In 2017, the data set started to include the date that reports were submitted to the OAG. From 2017-2019, most of the officer-involved shooting reports submitted were filed within 30 days of a shooting – only 10% of the reports were submitted late. While the majority of the reports were filed within the 30-day window, about 10% of the reports (2017-2019) were not. Some reports were filed as late as two years after the shooting occurred (**Fig. 25**).

The county with the highest number of reports filed more than 30 days after a shooting in the three-year period (14 reports) is Harris, although its median report lag was only 15 days (**Fig. 26**). Reports on the shootings of officers (median report time 21 days) were generally filed later than reports on the shootings of civilians (median report time 14 days).

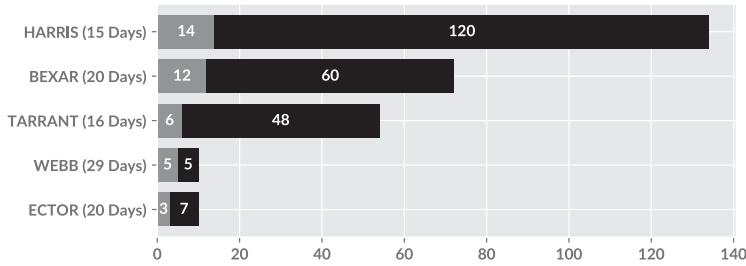
**FIGURE 25. INCIDENTS BY LENGTH OF REPORT LAG**



⌚ ↗ Number of incidents by the length of report lag.  
Note that law enforcement agencies are obligated to file an incident report to the OAG within the 30-day period from the date of incident.



**FIGURE 26. INCIDENTS BY LENGTH OF REPORT LAG (TOP 5 COUNTIES)**



⌚ ↗ More than 30 days  
⌚ ↗ Less than 30 days

⌚ ↗ Number of incidents from the top five counties with the highest number of late (more than 30-day lag) reports and their median report lag in days (values in the parentheses).

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## IV. Conclusions

Texas Justice Initiative's analyses of officer-involved shootings in Texas over four years (2016-2019) reveals several notable patterns. Among our main findings:

1. Shootings of civilians and their subsequent deaths caused by officers have been increasing over the four years (**Figs. 1 and 15**);
2. Officers were twice as likely to survive shootings than civilians who are shot by officers (**Fig. 16**);
3. As one might expect, the majority of officer-involved shootings in Texas occurred in the state's five most populous counties. DPS shooting reports also comprise a large portion of those filed every year (**Fig. 14**);
4. Black individuals were overrepresented in the five most populous counties compared to the general population (**Fig. 18**); and
5. Among those shot and killed by Texas law enforcement, young Black men ages 15-24 were overrepresented at a rate of almost three times when compared to the general population (**Fig. 20**).

TJI's analyses are made possible because of the data that the State of Texas, and particularly the Office of the Attorney General, collects. Even so, future analysis would benefit greatly if the data were collected in more detail. For example, details on the type of incident that led to the shooting and the weapons used by civilians who are labeled as "armed," would be helpful in determining why civilians are being confronted by law enforcement in the first place and why law enforcement officers choose to discharge their weapons over other options including de-escalation tactics. The data – and our all-volunteer team's capacity – is our biggest limitation to research. TJI has identified several areas where future research and investigation could be useful:

- Ⓐ **Better data will enable us to conduct more accurate and comprehensive analyses.** We plan to utilize unique identifiers in each report to then join various datasets together, which will allow us to conduct even more robust analyses. We also plan to conduct in-depth investigations to understand missing data and to resolve inconsistencies among the reports.
- Ⓐ **Combining our data with other available auxiliary data sets allows us to conduct comparative analyses with new perspectives.** For instance, TJI's data can be compared to data on officer-involved shootings in other states that also collect this information. Connecting our data with location-based socioeconomic data would also provide deeper insights to the data and characteristics of officer-involved shootings.
- Ⓐ **Examining officer-involved shootings on a local level may illuminate characteristics of localities that prove to be risky.** By using a risk-terrain modeling research framework, we might be able to identify geographic elements that make certain places more risky for officers and civilians.
- Ⓐ **Dissecting the weapons that civilians are reported to be armed with at the time of a shooting may reveal insights about what prompts an officer to use deadly force.** By digging into auxiliary records, researchers could flesh out what types of weapons are actually used by civilians, or in some cases, which items officers perceive to be capable of causing deadly harm.
- Ⓐ **Showing our work can shed light on the messiness of state data and the need for formal reporting processes.** Data acquisition and curation is a semi-automatic, time-consuming

process. Documenting and formalizing this process, and making this information transparent and accessible would help other non-profit organizations with similar challenges. Better processes would also reveal to lawmakers the real possibilities for criminal justice reform.

TJI aims to review custodial data and processes to reveal when reports on officer-involved shootings are erroneous or missing entirely. Because of this intimate interaction with the data, we often are the ones to alert agencies of problems with reports. Thanks to an amendment to the law that then-Rep. Eric Johnson (*D-Dallas*) passed in 2017, the state must now take action upon being notified that a report is missing. That process seems to be working. Agencies should make filing timely, accurate, detailed and – when necessary – amended reports on officer-involved shootings a priority, and meanwhile, TJI will continue to monitor their adherence to the law.

We applaud lawmakers who have supported legislation that enables TJI to gather data on criminal justice in Texas and make it available to the public in useful ways. As the 2021 legislative session approaches, we hope that policy makers rely on TJI and other organizations to conduct meaningful analyses that could result in evidence-based criminal justice reform.

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## V. Acknowledgments

TJI would like to thank Eric Johnson, current mayor of Dallas and former state representative, who wrote legislation that made this data collection and analyses possible; and Judy Brown and the Texas Office of the Attorney General, for answering our questions and requests. Special thanks to Howard Henderson of Texas Southern University's Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs and Center for Justice Research; Kevin Buckler of University of Houston-Downtown's Department of Criminal Justice; TJI volunteer data scientist, Athula Pudhiyidath; and TJI communications manager, Bergan Casey, for reviewing this report. Your feedback was invaluable. Report designed by [Alyson Design](#).

### Author Bios



**Hongsup Shin** joined TJI as a volunteer data scientist in late 2019. He has interests in data journalism, and in transparency, accountability, and governance in machine learning. Shin works as a data scientist and machine learning researcher, and has a PhD in Neuroscience and an MSc in Biology. He authored this report and its data preprocessing, analysis, and visualization.



**Eva Ruth Moravec** is TJI's founding executive director. She started a database of officer-involved shootings in Texas In 2015, and hasn't stopped collecting data since. Moravec is also a freelance reporter with 15 years of experience covering criminal justice in Texas. Moravec has a Master's in Journalism, for which she wrote a thesis on accessing public records.