**Where Police Have Killed Americans**

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1. **Introduction**

Police brutality has long been a topic of conversation, but due to the death of George Floyd it has reached a new level of exposure and wide-spread involvement over the past year. This project looks at police killing data from 2015 gathered through media coverage, reader submissions, and open-source reporting efforts to identify patterns and trends in the demographic and economic factors of areas where people are killed by the police.

1. **Related Work**

The original report this project is based on created a searchable table containing the name, race, city, and state of each reported killing along with the percentage of white population and household income in the area. To confirm those results, this project regenerated the data. The first 20 rows of the table, sorted by the victim’s last name, are shown below in Figure 1.

Table

Description automatically generated

Figure 1

In this project it was found that 186 out of 453 killings (41%) were in areas where the majority of the population was not white. $25600 is the 20th percentile of average household income in the United States in 2019. 49 out of 453 killings (11%) were in areas where the average household income was below that threshold. As stated in the original report, unequal killings in low-income areas may be the results of overall racial inequities on top of policing errs.

Additionally as mentioned in the original report, there are certainly outlier pieces of data that do not fit into the pattern of concentrated killings in lower income and more predominately black areas. One example comes straight from Michigan. A white victim D. Guilford killed in Roxand Township, an area with a 96% white population and an average household income of $68,000. A second example shown in Figure 1 above, is a white victim J. Acree killed in Nashville, TN, an area that is 97% white with an average household income of $136,000.

1. **Methods**

The major drawback from the original report is that they neglected to use a majority of the reported attributes in their analyses of the data. Two key factors that this report will now investigate are the gender of the victim, and whether or not they were armed at the time of their death. Are there more instances of men being killed than women? Were most victims carrying a weapon when they were killed?

1. **Results**

In Figure 2 below, the disparity between whether or not victims were armed and what type of weapon they were carrying if so is shown. The highest concentration is seen in those carrying firearms, followed by those carrying no weapon at all.

Chart, bar chart

Description automatically generated

Figure

In terms of gender, 432 out of 453 victims killed (95%) were men. Of those 432 men, 122 were Black. Both of these results are extreme and add evidence to the widely acknowledged argument that Black men are at the greatest risk of police brutality.

1. **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this project supports and builds upon the results found in the original report conducted by FiveThirtyEight. Police killings tend to happen in areas with a higher population of Black individuals, and lower economic status. Additionally, the victim is male rather than female 9.5 times out of 10. The number of armed individuals is high, but it should be noted that a large number were not carrying or it could not be determined. Upon conducting research to find current numbers, according to the Washington Post 999 people were shot and killed by the police in 2019. This more than doubled number does not come as a surprise. There has been great social unrest in the United States in the past 5 years, but also better media coverage and better technologies such as body cameras to gather evidence of such killings.

1. **References**
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