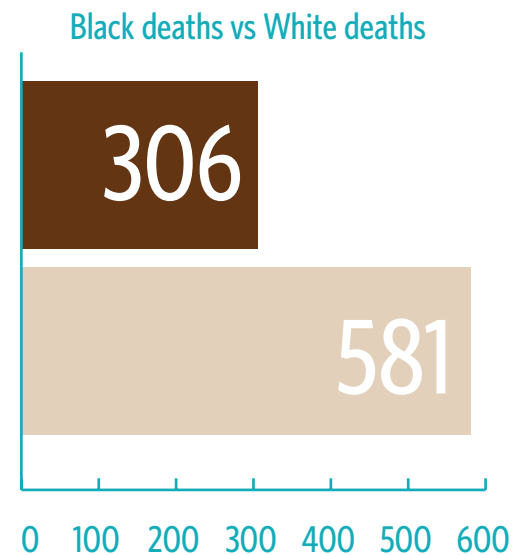


Police, Death, AND Statistics

IN 2015, 1,146 PEOPLE WERE KILLED by the police or while in police custody. With each new black American killed on video, the need for reform is reiterated. Out of this the Black Lives Matter movement has grown, raising awareness that there is inherent bias in the way blacks are treated by the police.

Many white Americans are looking at the raw numbers and arguing that more white Americans are killed by the police than black Americans, but no one is coming to their defense... No rallies, no protests... Why aren't we chanting "All Lives Matter"?

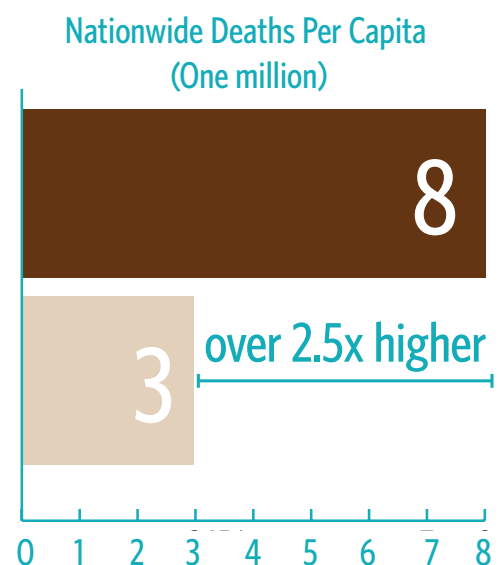
If you're only looking at the raw data, then that statement is true. But this doesn't give us a full understanding of the issues the data brings up.



*If you're looking at **JUST** the numbers, more white Americans are killed by police officers than black Americans.*

The problem with this argument is that it doesn't take into consideration your odds of being killed by a police officer based on your race (per capita). If we're going to compare race related data, the large population difference between white and black Americans has to be considered. It's true that almost twice as many white Americans are killed by police than black Americans, but the country has almost six times more white Americans than black Americans. The graph to the right, based on nationwide data, shows deaths per capita.

Black Americans are killed at a higher percentage than their population, and some cities are much higher than the national average. In Baltimore for example, **100%** of the people killed by the police in 2015 were black, but they make up **63%** of the population.



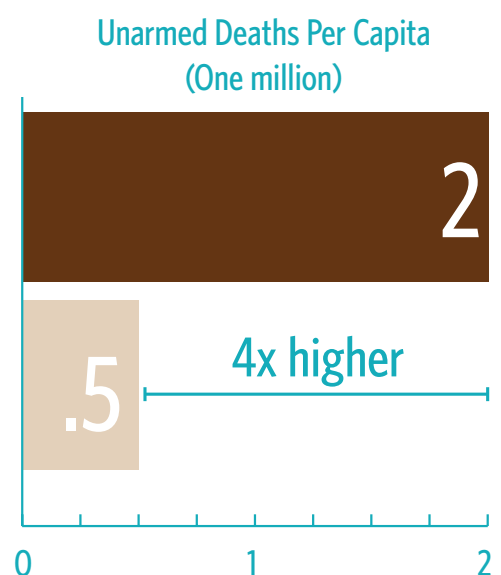
Your odds of being killed by a police officer if you're white are **1 IN 384,000**. If you're black it's **1 IN 127,000**; over 2.5x higher.*

**National Average Per Capita*

It's hard to know for sure what the altercations were like for each of these victims at the time of their death. Police have one of the most difficult jobs in the country and lethal force is required at times. But rarely is killing an unarmed person justified, so narrowing the data down to just the unarmed victims may be the most useful. An unarmed person poses much less of a threat that an officer will face bodily harm. With proper job training, lethal force in these instances should be next to none. However with last years' number of total unarmed deaths at **229**, unarmed deaths made up **20%** of the total police killings for 2015.

The race gap only increases with unarmed killings.

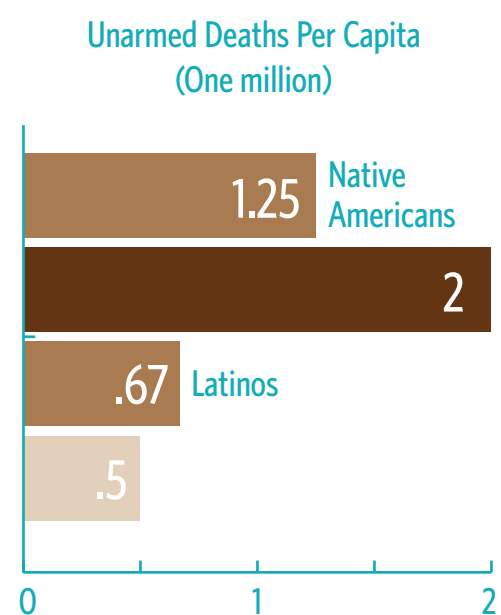
Police killed **79** unarmed black Americans in 2015. Five of them were women.



*An unarmed black person is **4X MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED BY THE POLICE** than an unarmed white person.*

What else is in the data?

- After black Americans, Native Americans have the next highest per capita rate of death by police. Latino Americans are next after Native Americans.
- **33%** of those killed by police last year, **OVER 300** people of all races, had some form of mental illness.
- Being an officer isn't easy. In 2015, the odds of being killed in the line of duty were about **1 IN 7,000**.



***33%** of those killed by police had some form of mental illness.*

229 UNARMED AMERICANS WERE KILLED BY POLICE IN 2015, and each one of these people matters. But we can see from the data that we need to place a higher priority on mending police relations with black Americans. No unarmed person deserves to die at the hands of the police, but they especially shouldn't have to fear dying at a rate that's **FOUR TIMES HIGHER** than their fellow citizens because of the color of their skin. In Baltimore, with 100% of the police killings being black residents, this pretty much means you don't have to be worried about being killed by an officer if you're a white resident of Baltimore City. Being an officer is a dangerous, stressful job, but it is optional. They can stop being officers if they're worried about their safety. Black Americans can't stop being black if they're worried about theirs.

Rather than divide ourselves along the lines of black white and blue, we should work together toward a better future where we all acknowledge the struggles of black America and help to mend wrong doings. We should work toward a better future where the police become a part of all of our communities, and where black Americans can finally start to see officers as protectors rather than threats.

*Only when **BLACK LIVES MATTER** will all lives matter.*

How to debunk the 'All Lives Matter' argument in 10 seconds:

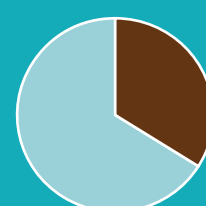
America is 13% black.



Yet 27% of the people killed by police are black.



And 34% of the unarmed people killed by police are black.



In order to argue that blacks aren't more targeted by police than whites, these percentages would have to be the same.