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Officer-Involved Deaths in Nevada 2013-2019

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OFFICER-INVOLVED DEATHS IN NEVADA, 2013 - 2019

Criminal Justice Fact Sheet No. 2 | June 2020

Prepared by: Madison Frazee-Bench, Yanneli Llamas, Elia Del Carmen Solano-Patricio, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

Between 2013 and 2019, 7,669 people were killed by police officers across the United States. Using data compiled by *Mapping Police Violence*¹, a non-profit research and advocacy project tracking incidents of police violence throughout the U.S., this fact sheet focuses on officer-involved deaths in the State of Nevada between January 2013 and December 2019.

ABOUT THE DATA:

According to *Mapping Police Violence*, a “police killing” is defined as “a case where a person dies as a result of being shot, beaten, restrained, intentionally hit by a police vehicle, pepper sprayed, tasered, or otherwise harmed by police officers, whether on-duty or off-duty.”²

The original data source reports known police killings between January 1, 2013 and December 31, 2019, using data available from the three largest databases in the United States: FatalEncounters.org, the U.S. Police Shootings Database and KilledbyPolice.net. *Mapping Police Violence* also evaluated other sources including crime data from the 2013-18 FBI Uniform Crime Reports, social media posts, obituaries, criminal records databases, and police reports to create a comprehensive dataset of incidents, inclusive of victims’ age and race.

The original report also presents the cause of death (COD) as either “gunshot” (where an officer fired his or her weapon), “physical restraint,” or “asphyxiated.”

KEY FINDINGS:

1. From 2013 to 2019, there were 121 officer-involved deaths in Nevada.³ Of the 121 individuals, 6 were female, and 115 were male.
2. In Nevada, the vast majority of officer-involved deaths (98%) listed “gunshot” as the cause of death (COD). Only two deaths listed a COD other than “gunshot;” one resulted from physical restraint and the other from asphyxiation.
3. Of Nevada’s largest city police departments, the Reno Police Department had both the highest Black-White disparity and the highest Hispanic-White disparity for police killings (as shown in Table 1).

¹ Sinyangwe, S. and McKesson, D. (2020, May 29). *Mapping Police Violence*. Retrieved from mappingpoliceviolence.org

² Sinyangwe, S. and McKesson, D. (2020, May 29). “About the Data.” *Mapping Police Violence*. Retrieved from <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/aboutthedata>

³ The Mapping Police Violence dataset provides full names, photos, and location of death for the more than 7,000+ individuals represented in this data set. We invite you to explore the original data source to learn more about the individuals that comprise the data presented in this fact sheet.

Table 1 shows population and disparity information for Nevada’s four police departments (PDs) that ranked among the 100 largest city police departments in the United States. National averages are included for reference.

The Black-White disparity describes how much more likely it is for a Black individual to be killed by police than a White individual for each police department. The Reno PD had the highest Black-White disparity (17.6), which means that Black individuals were 17.6 times more likely to be killed by the Reno PD than White individuals; Black individuals comprise only 2.7% of the population in the Reno PD jurisdiction. The North Las Vegas PD had the lowest Black-White disparity (1.6) of the listed Nevada police departments. Among Nevada police departments, Las Vegas Metropolitan PD (2.0) and North Las Vegas PD (1.6) fall below the national average (2.7).

The Hispanic-White disparity describes how much more likely it is for a Hispanic individual to be killed by police than a White individual for each police department. The Reno PD had the highest Hispanic-White disparity (3.2), which means that Hispanic individuals were 3.2 times more likely to be killed than White individuals; the Hispanic-White disparity for the Reno PD (3.2) and the Henderson PD (3.1) are more than double the national average (1.5). Among Nevada police departments, the Las Vegas Metropolitan PD had the lowest Hispanic-White disparity (0.8).

Table 1: Police Killings by Race in Nevada’s Largest Police Departments, 2013-2019

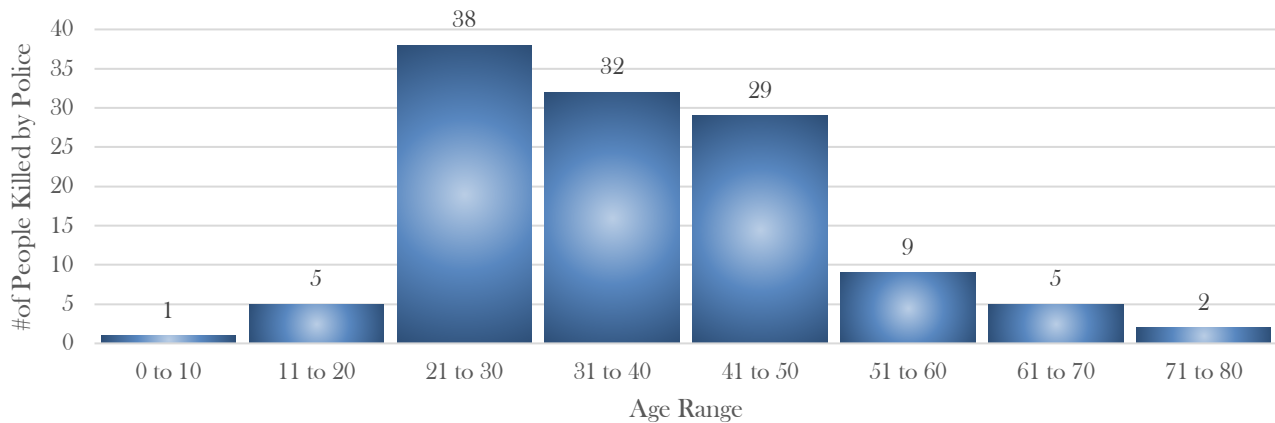
Police Department	Jurisdiction Population**	Black Population	Black-White Disparity	Hispanic Population	Hispanic-White Disparity
Nationwide Average	318,900,000	42,094,800	2.7	50,478,000	1.5
Reno PD	225,221	5,990	17.6	54,640	3.2
Henderson PD	257,729	12,471	4.7	38,377	3.1
Las Vegas Metropolitan PD	2,027,868	62,008	2.0	183,859	0.8
North Las Vegas PD	216,961	41,561	1.6	84,134	1.2

*Adapted from original source: Sinyangwe, S. and McKesson, D. (2020, May 29). *Mapping Police Violence*.

**Calculated using 2010 US Census population data.

Figure 1 shows that the majority of people killed by police in Nevada (81%) were between the ages of 21 and 50.

Figure 1: Nevada Officer-Involved Deaths, by Age (2013-2019)



*Adapted from original source: Sinyangwe, S. and McKesson, D. (2020, May 29). *Mapping Police Violence*.

Table 2 shows the officer-involved deaths in Nevada between 2013 and 2019 by police department or agency, categorized by race. The category labeled “unknown/other” accounts for Asians, Native Americans, and individuals whose race was unknown at the time of their death. As shown, the Las Vegas Metropolitan PD had the highest absolute number of officer-involved deaths (59), followed by the Reno Police Department (13), and the North Las Vegas Police Department, the Sparks Police Department, and the Henderson Police Department, each with 7 officer-involved deaths.

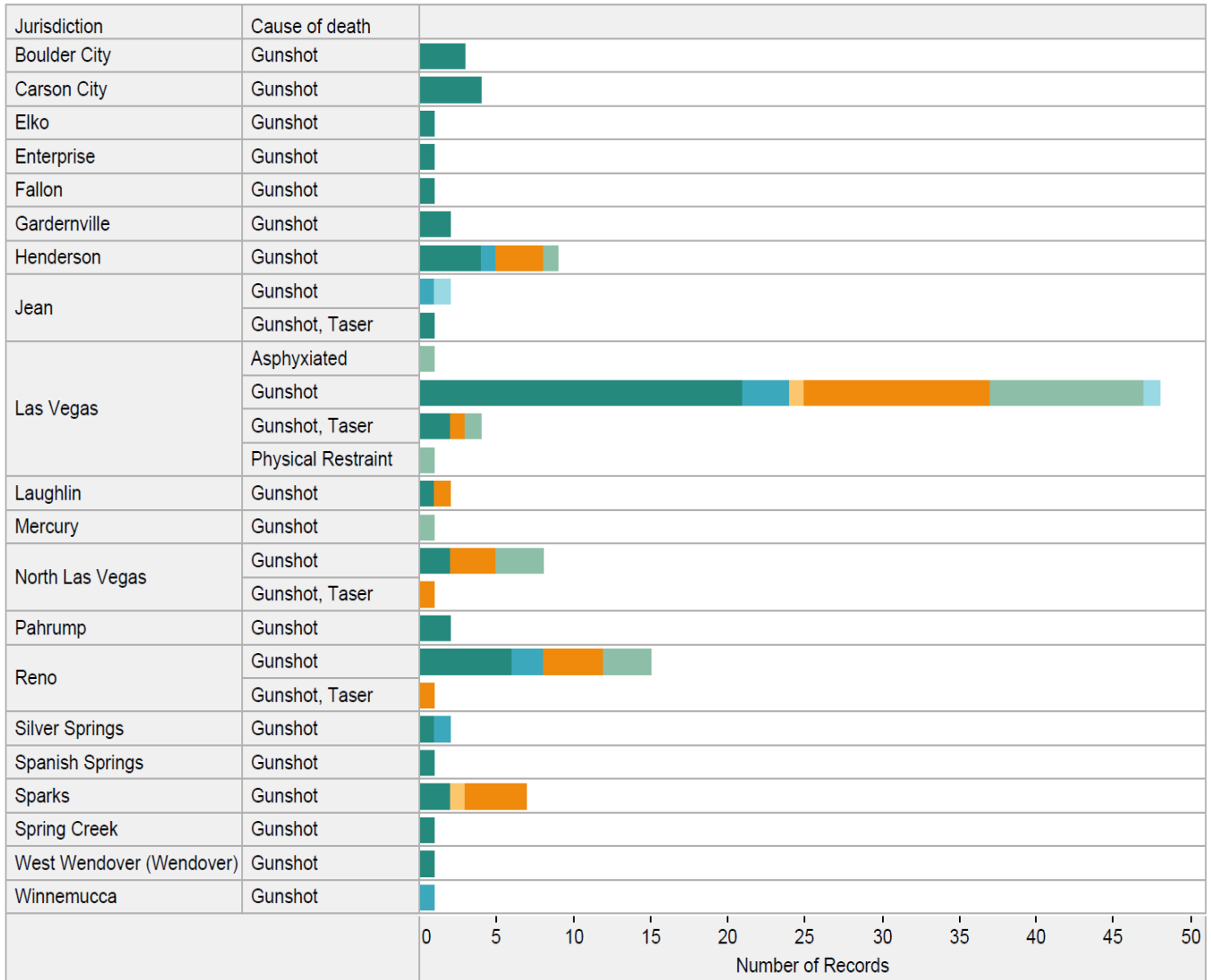
Table 2: Nevada Agencies with Officer-Involved Deaths, by Race, 2013-2019

Agency	Black	Hispanic	White	Unknown/ Other	Total
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	1	0	0	0	1
Boulder City Police Department	0	0	1	0	1
California Highway Patrol	0	0	0	1	1
Carson City Sheriff's Office	0	0	3	0	3
Clark County School District Police Department	0	0	1	0	1
Douglas County Sheriff's Office	0	0	3	0	3
Elko County Sheriff's Office	0	0	1	0	1
Elko Police Department	0	0	1	0	1
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	0	1	0	0	1
Henderson Police Department	1	2	3	1	7
Humboldt County Sheriff's Department	0	0	0	1	1
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department	12	14	27	6	59
Lyon County Sheriff's Office	0	0	1	1	2
Nevada Highway Patrol	1	1	2	0	4
North Las Vegas Police Department	2	3	2	0	7
Nye County Sheriff's Office	1	0	2	0	3
Reno Police Department	3	5	4	1	13
Sparks Police Department	0	4	2	1	7
Washoe County Sheriff's Office	0	0	3	1	4
West Wendover Police Department	0	0	1	0	1

*Adapted from original source: Sinyangwe, S. and McKesson, D. (2020, May 29). *Mapping Police Violence*.

Figure 2 highlights the various causes of death and the race of the individuals killed by police from 2013 to 2019, by Nevada jurisdiction. The most common cause of death was gunshot, followed by taser, physical restraint and asphyxiation. Black victims were the only demographic where physical restraint and asphyxiation were used.

Figure 2: Police Killings and Cause of Death, 2013 - 2019



*Adapted from: Sinyangwe, S. and McKesson, D. (2020, May 29). *Mapping Police Violence*.

