

Information on the Seattle Police  
Edited by Michael Caplow

Seattle police participation at the January 6 DC riot:

<https://www.businessinsider.com/seattle-police-department-had-most-officers-identified-dc-jan-6-2021-2>

Seattle police union opposes reform:

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/as-negotiations-with-city-loom-seattles-police-union-has-had-an-outsized-influence-on-police-accountability-measures/>

14,000 complaints about the police response to George Floyd protest:

<https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/seattle/seattle-police-george-floyd-protests-complaints/281-61729aa7-59bc-47b7-aba9-7e9028b2daac>

Mike Solan- Police Union Head

<https://publicola.com/tag/mike-solan/>

Information from the Police Officers Guild

<https://seattlepoliceofficers.com/>

Response of the Black community to Mike Solan:

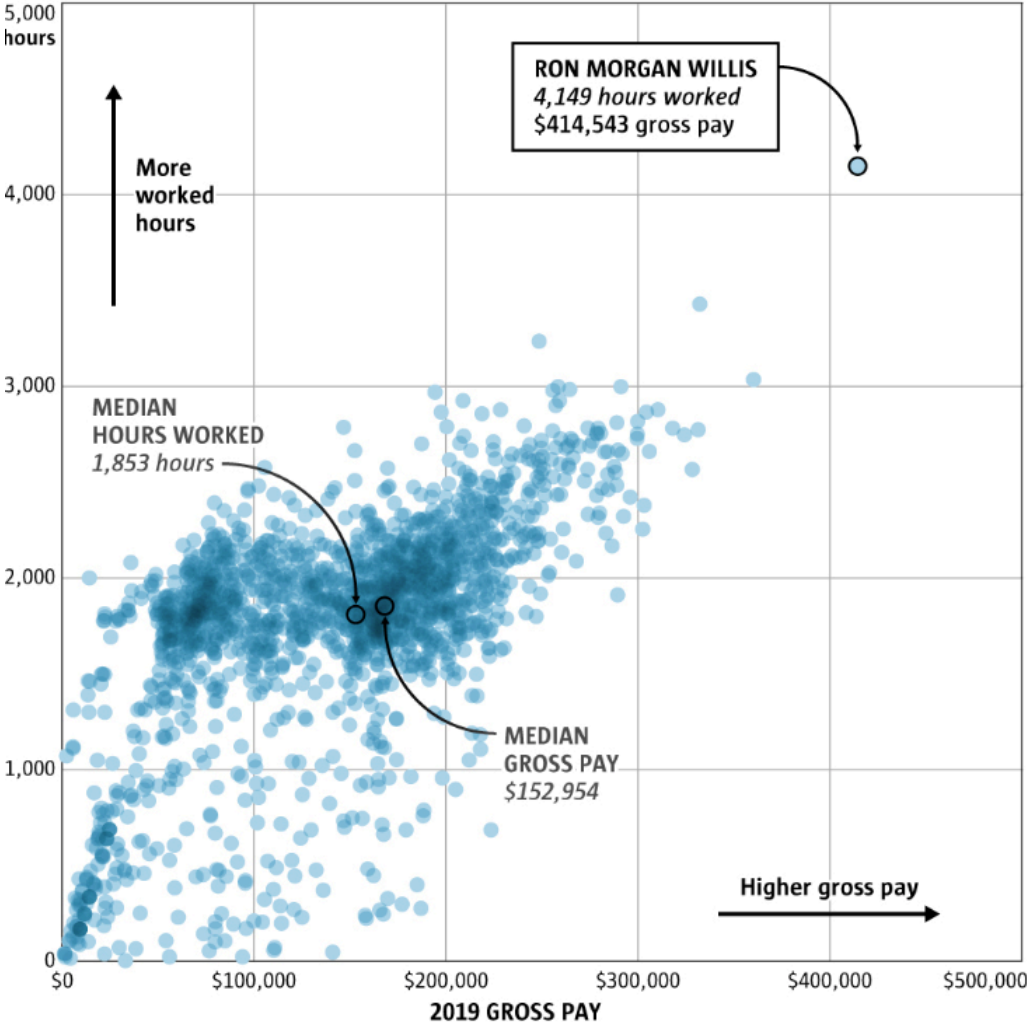
<https://www.capitolhillseattle.com/2021/02/in-meeting-with-african-american-police-advisory-council-union-head-gets-taste-of-community-anger-over-criticism-of-black-lives-matter/>

Off-duty Seattle police earn \$1000/day for directing traffic:  
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/times-watchdog/as-off-duty-police-reforms-languish-a-for-profit-force-rises/>

## Seattle police salaries:

### An extreme case of overtime

Seattle police Officer Ron Willis became the highest-paid city employee in 2019 because he was compensated for an extraordinary number of hours, equivalent to roughly two years of full-time work. He collected \$214,544 in overtime. Below, hours and gross pay for Seattle Police Department employees in 2019.



*Note: Gross pay includes paid time off, which is not included in hours worked.  
The data includes employees who worked less than the full year.*

*Source: Seattle Department of Human Resources*

EMILY M. ENG / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Tacoma WA police salaries, not including overtime, which may account for the discrepancy with Seattle: \$82223

<https://www.indeed.com/career/police-officer/salaries/Tacoma--WA>

Seattle police abandonment of police station:

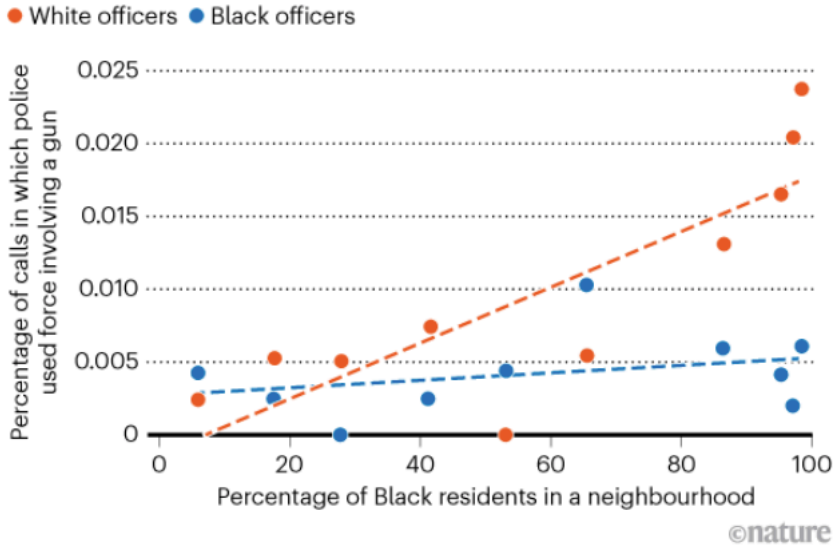
[https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/abandonment-of-spds-east-precinct-did-not-violate-law-or-policy-seattle-police-watchdog-agency-says/?utm\\_source=marketingcloud&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=BNA\\_100421200109+Abandonment+of+SPD%e2%80%99s+East+Precinct+did+not+violate+law%2c+Seattle+police+watchdog+age\\_10\\_4\\_2021&utm\\_term=](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/abandonment-of-spds-east-precinct-did-not-violate-law-or-policy-seattle-police-watchdog-agency-says/?utm_source=marketingcloud&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=BNA_100421200109+Abandonment+of+SPD%e2%80%99s+East+Precinct+did+not+violate+law%2c+Seattle+police+watchdog+age_10_4_2021&utm_term=)

Police brutality and racial bias:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01846-z>

## ANSWERING THE CALL

Researchers looked at responses to 1.2 million 911 emergency calls in a US city and plotted the use of force involving a gun across neighbourhoods, according to their racial composition. White officers were more likely to use a gun than were Black officers and more likely to do so in predominantly Black neighbourhoods.



## Police Shooting Rate

<https://policescorecard.org/us/police-department>

## 8,768 KILLINGS BY POLICE

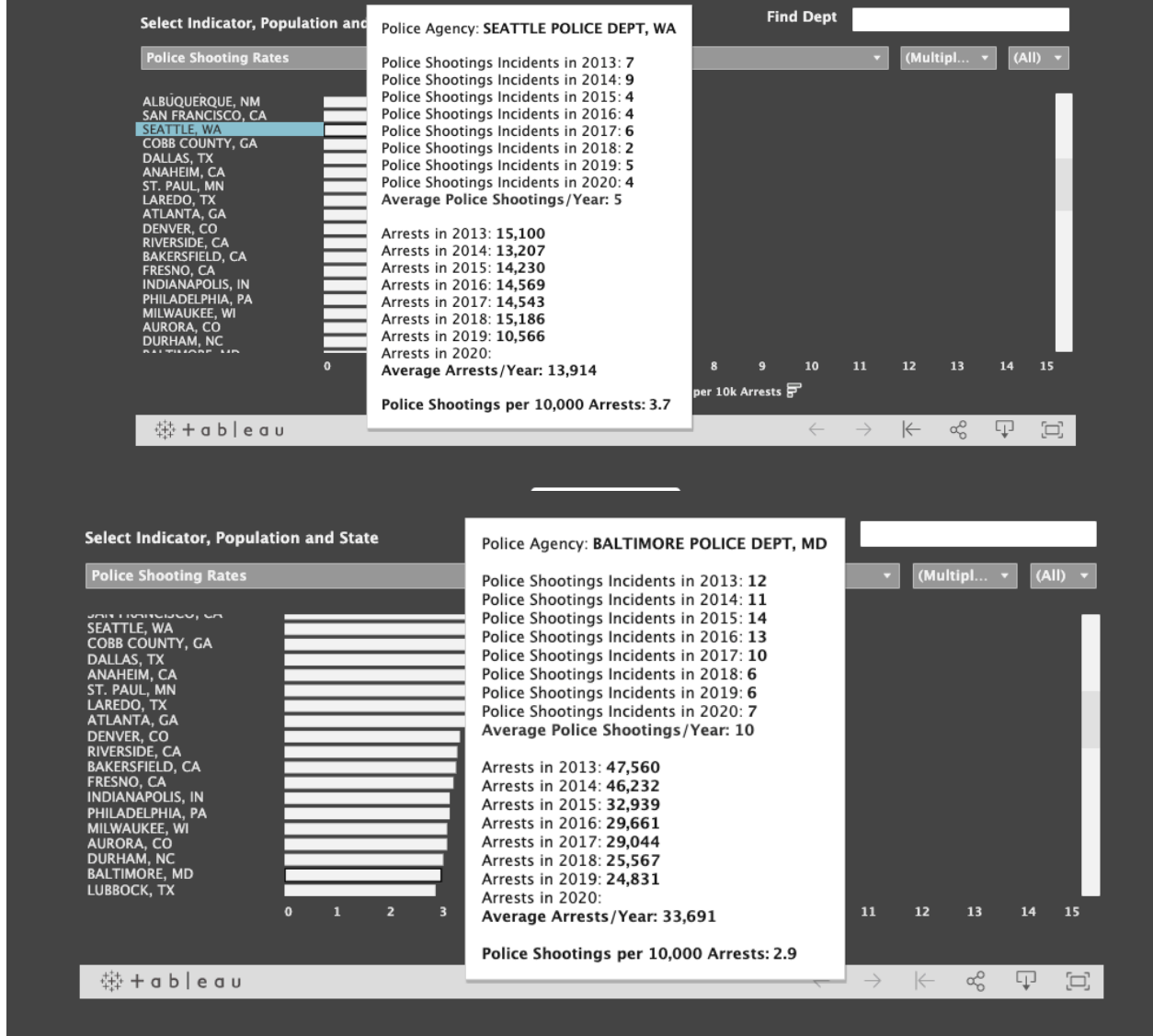
Based on population, a Black person was **2.9x** as likely and a Latinx person was **1.4x** as likely to be killed by police as a White person in America from 2013-20

## 171,847 CIVILIAN COMPLAINTS OF POLICE MISCONDUCT

Only **1 in every 9** complaints were ruled in favor of civilians from 2016-20.

## 63,146,302 ARRESTS MADE

Police in America made **12x** as many arrests for low level offenses as for violent crimes from 2013-2019.



Seattle Payments for police officer misconduct:

In 2015, the City of Seattle paid nearly \$2 million to Nathaniel Caylor, who was shot in the face by police. It was the largest excessive force settlement in the city's history.

Source

Victoria Cavaliere, *Seattle settles \$2 million lawsuit for excessive force by police*, Reuters (June 18, 2015), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-washington-settlement/seattle-settles-2-million-lawsuit-for-excessive-force-by-police-idUSKBN00Y2Q720150618>.

**2020 Update: The City of Seattle settled a lawsuit by the family of Che Taylor for \$1.5 million. The case arose from a fatal shooting by two police officers in 2016.**

Taylor was killed by plainclothes police officers when they fired upon him outside his home. The officers, Michael Spaulding and Scott Miller, claimed they believed their lives to be in danger when they encountered Taylor, who they tried to arrest for unlawful possession of a handgun. Evidence in the case raised doubt about the officers' claims that Taylor was armed.

Source

Mike Carter, *Seattle Times*, *SPD settles Che Taylor wrongful-death suit for \$1.5 million; new evidence cast doubt on officers' claim Taylor was armed*, (12/7/20), <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/spd-settles-che-taylor-wrongful-death-lawsuit-for-1-5-million-new-evidence-questioned-officers-claim-he-was-armed/>.

## Police Refuse Their Duties:

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A crowd of 100 people wreaked havoc in downtown Portland, Oregon, this week – smashing storefront windows, lighting dumpsters on fire and causing at least \$500,000 in damage – but police officers didn't stop them.

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/lawless-city-worry-after-portland-police-dont-stop-crowd-from-breaking-windows-setting-fires/>

## Washington Movement for Police Accountability

<https://washingtoncoalitionforpoliceaccountability.com/2021/03/08/say-their-names/>

**SAY THEIR NAMES:** Current law is failing families across Washington. Since the enactment of I-940 over 110 people have been killed by law enforcement in Washington. Nationally, police kill an average of three people a day. WCPA priorities make foundational changes to the policing system in this state.

- Giovonn Joseph McDade was killed in Kent after a traffic stop in June 2017. He was not committing a crime and was unarmed when he was killed. He complied with the stop and later fled, The vehicular pursuit was unnecessary the officers escalated the situation. He was a 20 yr old student, an officer standing on the side of Giovonn's car shot twice into a moving vehicle killing Giovonn.
- Matthew Folden was killed in Wenatchee in a grocery store parking lot in July 2017 Matt was agitated and is alleged to have threatened people with a pocket knife. He was killed within 13 seconds of the police arriving on the scene. Matt was 31 years old, had a history of drug use and co-occurring mental health issues, was a local musician and tattoo artist, and was a father and part of a loving family.
- Daniel Covarrubias was killed in Lakewood in April 2015, police was called for help, He was in a mental health crisis. He was killed within seconds of officers arriving on the scene. He was holding a cell phone when he was killed and the officers took no effort to use de-escalation tactics. The shooting was deemed justified by the department.
- Shaun Fuhr was holding his child and running away from police when he was killed in Seattle in April 2020. It appears that deadly force was not necessary and it was used in a reckless and indifferent manner. There were other alternatives that day that would have kept Shaun alive.
- Jackie Salyers was killed by Tacoma Police Department, the officers shooting at the vehicle she was allegedly driving towards them, claiming their lives were in danger. This death and cover-up in early 2016 illustrates the failures of police investigating police and the disregard for Native Americans. Native Americans have the highest rate of fatal encounters with police.
- Iosia Faletofo was shot by Seattle Police officers the afternoon of December 31, He was pulled over for a traffic stop and fled the scene on foot. Six officers chased him, tackled him, and held him down. He had a gun on his person and

complied with commands to drop it and not reach for it. One officer shot him point-blank in the head, although the officers heard losia say “not reaching.”

- Billy Langfitt was 28 years old when he was killed by a Pierce County Sheriff Deputy near Graham Washington, in 2018. Billy was experiencing a mental health crisis and his girlfriend call police for help was unarmed when he was shot. The deputy made no effort to de-escalate or use less lethal force.

- Charleena Lyles weighed 100 pounds. She was 14 weeks pregnant with three of her 4 children at home. She called police for help when she was killed by Seattle police. Police allege she was holding a paring knife. They had recently been to her apartment and were aware she struggled with behavioral health issues.

- Carlos Hunter was shot and killed in March 2019 while seat belted in his car he was tased several time the shoot several times, dragged to the ground, handcuffed. He was left to bleed to death. The police use WCPA Priorities: HB 1054, HB 1202, HB 1267, HB 1310, and SB 5051. The traffic stop to serve a warrant, and the police found no evidence of a crime in their search of his home or car. Carlos was the third Vancouver, Washington resident killed in a three-week stretch.

- Leonard Thomas was unarmed, holding his son when a SWAT sniper shot him in Fife Washington on the porch of his home in 2013. It was a well-person check, three of the officers involved in killing Leonard were found civilly liable in federal court and a jury found that their egregious actions were directly responsible for Leonard’s unnecessary death. All three of these officers have been promoted and still have their badges and jobs.

- Jesse Sarey was killed in Auburn on May 31, 2019, by Officer Jeff Nelson, who had multiple complaints of excessive force. Jesse was the third person he killed. The King County prosecutor has filed 2nd-degree murder and 1st degree assault charges and the officer was arrested. Jesse was only 25 years old.



- Stonechild Chiefstick was killed in a crowd gathered for a fireworks celebration on July 3, 2019, in Poulsbo Washington. The officer who killed him made no effort at all to de-escalate and instead rushed him and killed him. He was alleged to have had a screwdriver. Stonechild Chiefstick's death was unnecessary.
- Renee Davis was killed in her own bed in October of 2016 by two King County deputies. Those deputies were called for a well-person check and were there to make sure she was safe during a mental health crisis, yet they killed her in the presence of her children and she was pregnant. The officers had their guns out before approaching her door, did not de-escalate, take time, or secure the safety of anyone involved before they kicked her bedroom door open and killed her. The officers' actions were found reasonable.
- Che Taylor was given conflicting demands by Seattle Police, and he had his hands up when they shot him and left him to bleed to death. He was unarmed. Che was killed in February 2016, and his brother and sister founded Not This Time to advocate for other families facing the difficulties of navigating the system after a police-involved shooting.
- Kevin Peterson Jr. was shot in the back in October 2020, while running away from Clark County Deputies. Kevin was 21 years old. He did not fire a single shot, yet police claimed he fired first, and immediately posted this misinformation on their website. Officers included these lies in their report. Kevin's life mattered, and the truth matters.
- Joel Nelson's death in 2016 should not have occurred. Joel was unarmed and police de-escalation should have been used in his incident. The Thurston County Sheriff needs to learn from Joel's case and implement a transparent process for investigations. Five years later conflicts of interest proving family relationships involved in the Sheriff's office are still a major role in investigations.

- Bennie Branch was checking on his mother who was living in her vehicle at the time when Bennie was shot and killed by Tacoma Police Department. This shooting in September 2019 has so many facts in dispute, it needs an independent investigation, and a jury to weigh these facts. Bennie was unarmed and running away from police.