

Blacks vs police use of lethal force

Some cases that made headlines

Date and place	Victim's name	What happened
17 July 2014 New York City	Eric Garner	Garner (43), who had a police record of 30 arrests for assault and theft, was approached by police officers who suspected him of selling untaxed cigarettes. Garner protested his innocence and knocked away the hand of Officer Daniel Pantaleo, who was trying to handcuff him. Pantaleo then grabbed Garner in a choke hold around his neck and brought him to the ground. Aided by more police officers, he then pushed Garner's face into the pavement in an attempt to subdue him. Garner was reported to say, "I can't breathe" eleven times, and then fell silent. He did not receive any medical help. Later, he was taken to hospital and died there. The autopsy declared his death to be a result of compression to his neck and chest, but also listed that Garner had been suffering from asthma, a heart disease and obesity.
9 August 2014 Ferguson, MO	Michael Brown	CCTV footage showed Brown (18) and a friend robbing a shop and shoving its owner. As the two young men walked away from the shop Police Officer Darren Wilson blocked their way with his patrol car. A short struggle followed with both Brown and Wilson fighting for Wilson's handgun through the window of the police car. Brown then ran away and Wilson gave chase. When Brown stopped and turned towards Wilson, the police officer felt threatened and fired a total of eight bullets into Brown, presumably killing him with the last one. This incident led to widespread rioting in Ferguson. In an investigation by the US department of Justice Wilson was cleared of any civil rights violation.
20 October 2014 Chicago, IL	Laquan McDonald	McDonald (17) was reported to be walking around with a knife and breaking into cars. When a first police patrol confronted him McDonald slashed one tyre of the police car and further damaged the police car with his knife. McDonald, who was high on PCP, then left the car park and wandered around aimlessly in the adjoining street, still holding on to his knife. More police arrived. One of them was Officer Jason van Dyke. Although none of the other eight police officers present perceived McDonald as a threat at that moment, van Dyke opened fire about six seconds after leaving his car. McDonald fell to the ground after the first shot, but van Dyke kept firing and emptied the rest of his magazine into McDonald. He fired a total of 16 shots. On 16 December 2015 van Dyke was indicted for first-degree murder.

22 November 2014 Cleveland, OH	Tamir Rice	In a 9-1-1 call police were alerted to a black male pointing a gun at people in a park. The caller added that probably the gun was not real and that the person in question seemed to be a juvenile. However, these pieces of information were not passed on to the two police officers dealing with the case. Officers Timothy Loehmann and Frank Garmback arrived at the park and saw Rice (12) reaching for what looked like a real gun. Loehmann opened fire while his car was still moving and hit Rice with one shot. The boy died the following day. His gun turned out to be an airsoft replica. Although the police officers were acquitted, the City of Cleveland finally agreed to pay \$6m in compensation to Rice's family.
2 December 2015 San Francisco, CA	Mario Woods	Woods (26), a suspect in a stabbing incident earlier that day, was stopped by several police officers. Woods had his back against a wall and was surrounded by a ring of police officers. When efforts to make him drop his knife failed (including the use of bean bags and pepper spray) and Woods tried to walk away, the police officers opened fire. Witnesses described the scene as "barrage-style" firing. As the autopsy revealed, Woods was hit by 21 shots. He also had drugs in his bloodstream, including THC.

Sources:

- Garner: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Eric_Garner
- Brown: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_of_Michael_Brown
- McDonald: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_of_Laquan_McDonald
- Rice: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shooting_of_Tamir_Rice
- Woods: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/02/11/us/san-francisco-police-shooting-mario-woods-autopsy/>

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