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Rural Awakening's response to new policing policies

1 message

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Wed, Dec 9, 2020 at 1:33 PM

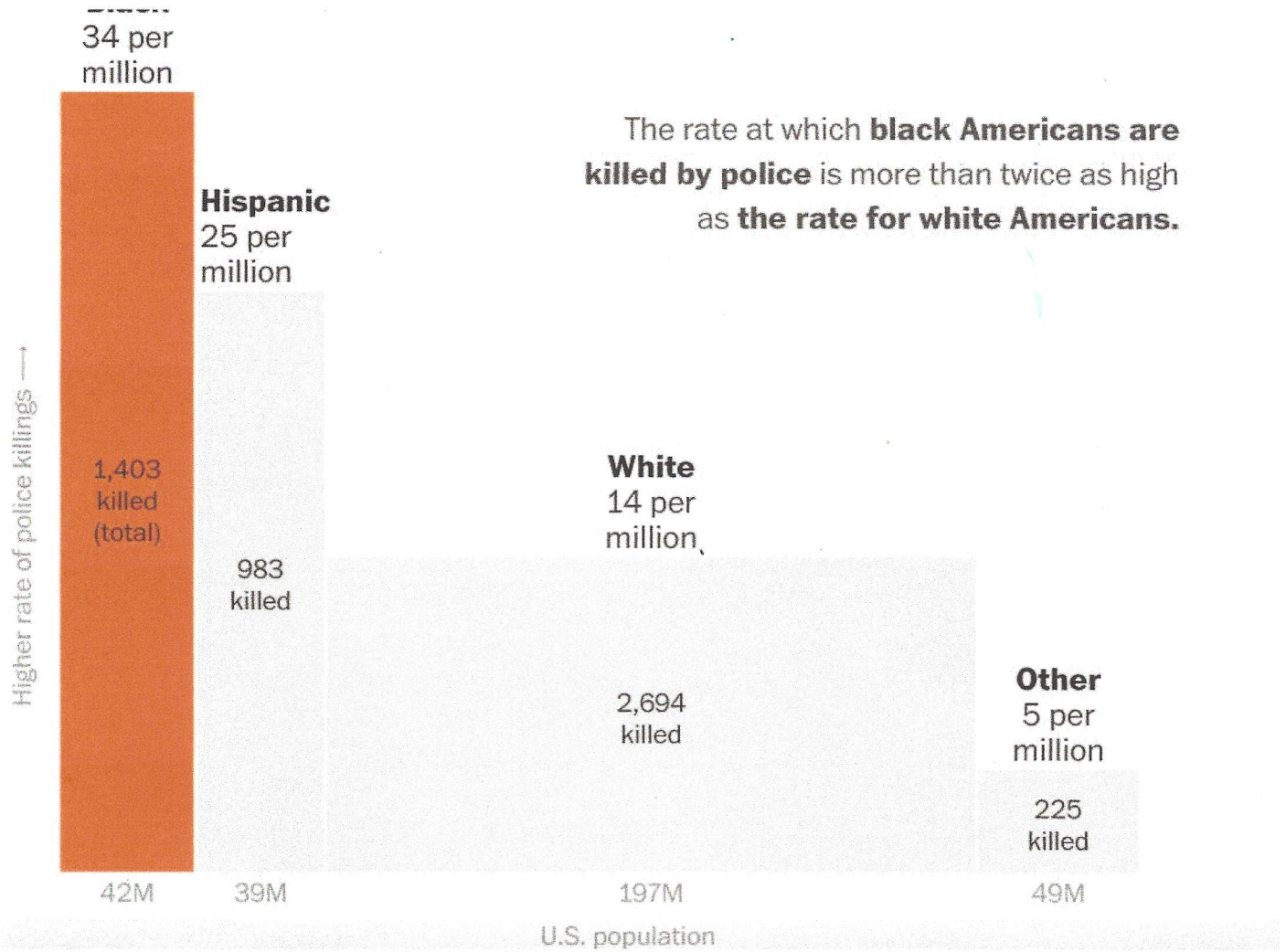
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Attached in a separate email are Rural Awakening's comments and recommendations on the new Use of Force policies proposed by both the county and village police. At the last county meeting the Sheriff's department gave an extensive presentation on the new policies with ample time to explain and advocate for the particular policies, especially those more controversial ones.

Because of the rising COVID-19 case numbers, some members of the public are reluctant to attend the BOS Policing Review meetings. This has the unfortunate effect of muting our concerns and recommendations. Therefore, I am going to restate our position on the use of "reasonable objectiveness."

While the concept is currently supported by case law, it is *not* protecting the members of the public, especially male, black members of the public who are killed at a rate 2.8 times higher than whites. These statistics have been pretty consistently noted by several sources including academic research papers and the Washington Post. The graph below is from the Washington Post. The first column on the left is the rate of Black deaths by police per million.

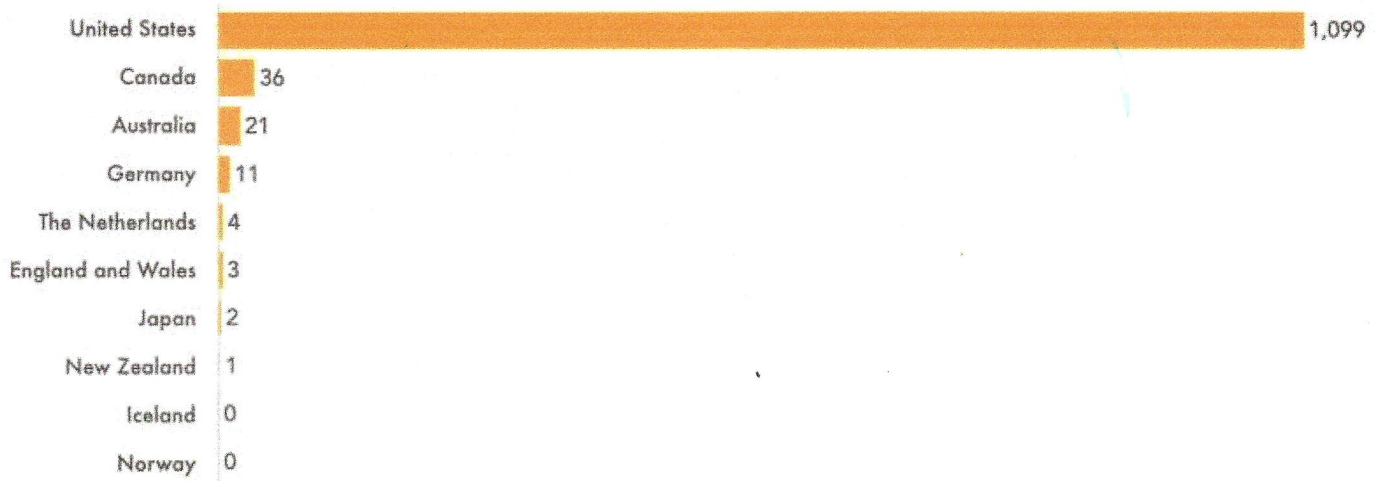


Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

Another eye-opening chart is the number of police killings among wealthy countries of the world

U.S. POLICE KILL FAR MORE CIVILIANS ANNUALLY THAN ANY OTHER WEALTHY COUNTRY

Total number of people killed by law enforcement in the most recent year with available data



PRISON
POLICY INITIATIVE

Sources: Data compiled by the Prison Policy Initiative from news sources, government reports, and advocacy groups. Data from the U.S., the Netherlands, England and Wales, and Iceland are from 2019. Data from Australia, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, and Norway are from 2018, and data from Canada are from 2017. For details, see: www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/06/05/policekillings/

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“Objective reasonableness” protects bad police. It is very difficult to successfully charge and convict police of crimes resulting from excessive use of force, including murders. Of the fairly steady annual number of about 1,000 civilian deaths by the hands of police officers, only about 1% result in charges and less in convictions. That 1% figure reflects an increase in the last few years, probably the result of public attention and demonstrations. While we hope all police killings are justified, we all know some are not and should have resulted in charges and convictions of the involved police.

Police accountability

99% of killings by police from 2013-2019 have not resulted in officers being charged with a crime



Source: Mapping Police Violence



<https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/01/george-floyd-death-police-violence-in-the-us-in-4-charts.html>

Until there is a standard that protects civilians, as well as police, we will continue to see unjustified and heartbreaking killings.

Sent from Outlook

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