

From: [Jeanette](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Re: A public comment
Date: Friday, June 12, 2020 12:14:46 PM

As you consider police reform proposals, it's worth bearing some facts in mind.

Fourth, to those who argue that police officers have particularly itchy trigger fingers when confronting African Americans, [research suggests](#) that in fact, if anything, officers take longer to shoot black suspects than they do to shoot white or Hispanic suspects. That's not to excuse any officer who unlawfully shoots anyone—which happens rarely, but it does happen.

But [research indicates](#) that white officers have lower “threat perception failures” (perceiving that a suspect is armed when he isn't) than black or Hispanic officers when it comes to confronting black suspects.

The police have a dangerous job to do. Forensic [studies](#) have established that a suspect with a gun in his waistband can draw and fire his weapon in 0.8 of a second, faster than the time it takes for an officer to respond.

First, there isn't really one “criminal justice system” in the United States in the sense of a unified, one-size-fits-all system.

Most crimes are handled at the local and state level, by elected or appointed prosecutors. There are some 3,141 counties in the United States, most of which have their own prosecutors or share a prosecutor with a neighboring county.

Similarly, there isn't one humongous police department in the United States, divided into smaller sub-parts.

Just as there are thousands of counties, there are more than [12,000](#) local police departments in the United States, representing more than [800,000](#) sworn law enforcement officers. They range in size from a handful of officers to the New York City Police Department, which is the [largest](#) in the country with more than 36,000 officers.

So, the over broad, inflammatory statement that the criminal justice system is “racist” is difficult to swallow. It's just not true. It's like saying “all educators are perfect” or “every New Yorker is rude,” or “an apple a day keeps the doctor away.”

Second, [current statistics](#) indicate that 13.3% of police officers in this country are African Americans, a slightly higher percentage than the percentage of African Americans in the general population. Many major police departments are now headed up by African American chiefs of police.

Third, According to FBI statistics, African Americans make up more than half of known homicide and robbery offenders, despite constituting only 13% of the population.

Sadly, those same statistics demonstrate that African Americans are way more likely to be killed by African American assailants than by police officers of any race.

Furthermore, a police officer is 18.5 times more likely to be killed by a black male than an unarmed black male is to be killed by a police officer of any race.

Yes, I got this information from a particular source. It is called the Daily Signal.

Jeanette Burrage