Law Enforcement Indicators:
Community Response
Use of Force
Community Engagement

Presentation to the NC House Select
Committee on Community Relations,
Law Enforcement, and Justice

September 2, 2020

RTI
INTERNATIONAL

RTI APPLIED JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTERS

Community Safety & Crime Prevention

Policing Research & Investigative Science

Forensic Sciences

Courts & Corrections Research

FOCUS AREAS

Justice, safety, and resilience

Race and health equity

Victimization and victim services

Investigative science

Agency workforce and workplace challenges

Evidence-based policing strategies

delivering **the promise of science**
for global good

RTI INTERNATIONAL

NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS AND IMPACT

Research, Training and Technical Assistance work in collaboration with

- Durham Police Department
- Raleigh Police Department
- Greensboro Police Department
- Charlotte/ Mecklenburg School System
- NC Center for Safer Schools
- NC Department for Juvenile Justice
- NC State Bureau of Investigation
- US Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security
- Arnold Ventures

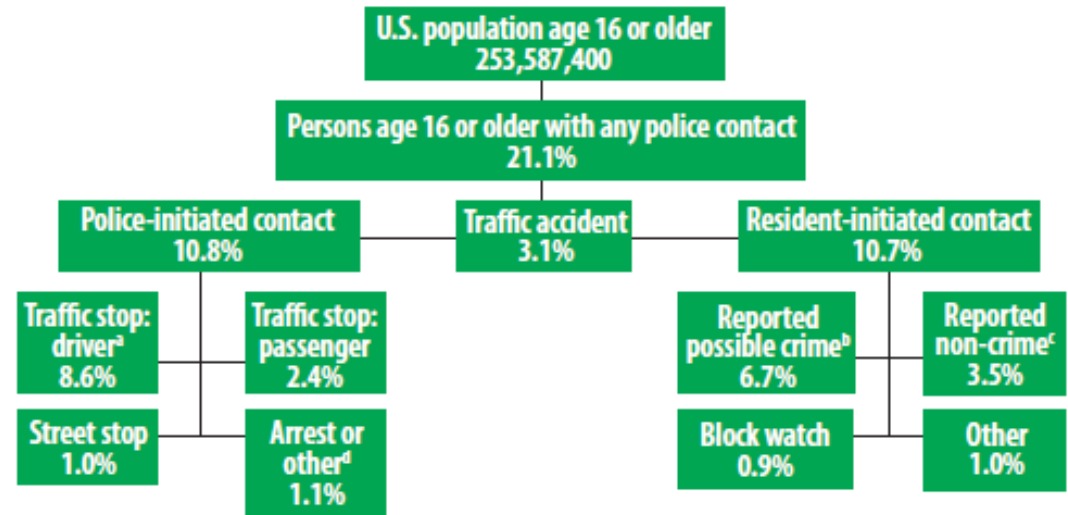# Law Enforcement Indicators to Inform Policy

- Law Enforcement Response
- Levels of Reported Crime and Calls for Service
- Community Socio-Demographics
- **Community Safety, Engagement & Trust**
- Proactive Community Engagement
- Use of Force Incidents
- Law Enforcement Officer Characteristics

Law Enforcement Indicators to Inform Policy

Law Enforcement Response

Community Safety, Engagement & Trust

National Household Survey on Police-Public Contact

In 2015, an estimated 21% of U.S. residents age 16 or older—about 53.5 million persons—had experienced some type of contact with the police.

Black residents were more likely to be pulled over in traffic stops and to experience street stops than white and Hispanic residents.

FIGURE 1

Percent of U.S. population age 16 or older who had any police contact, by type of contact and reason, 2015

- U.S. population age 16 or older
  253,587,400
  - Persons age 16 or older with any police contact
    21.1%
    - Police-initiated contact
      10.8%
      - Traffic stop: driver[a]
        8.6%
      - Traffic stop: passenger
        2.4%
      - Street stop
        1.0%
      - Arrest or other[d]
        1.1%
    - Traffic accident
      3.1%
    - Resident-initiated contact
      10.7%
      - Reported possible crime[b]
        6.7%
      - Reported non-crime[c]
        3.5%
      - Block watch
        0.9%
      - Other
        1.0%

*Source:* Bureau of Justice Statistics, Police Public Contact Survey, 2015

# Traffic Stops & Impact of Potential Bias

Why focus on traffic stops?

- Common activity associated with proactive enforcement; highly visible to community

- Has the potential for serious negative consequences, individually and in aggregate

- Perception that traffic stops may be arbitrarily conducted

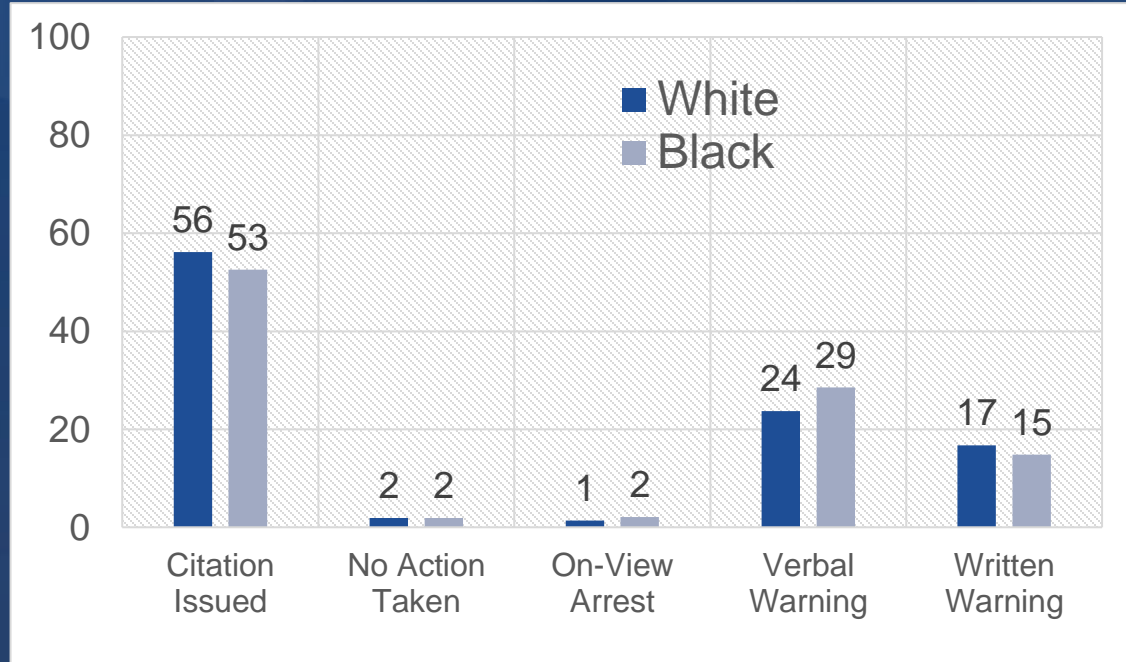# North Carolina Traffic Stop Data By Race, 2009-2019

Number of Stops By Race
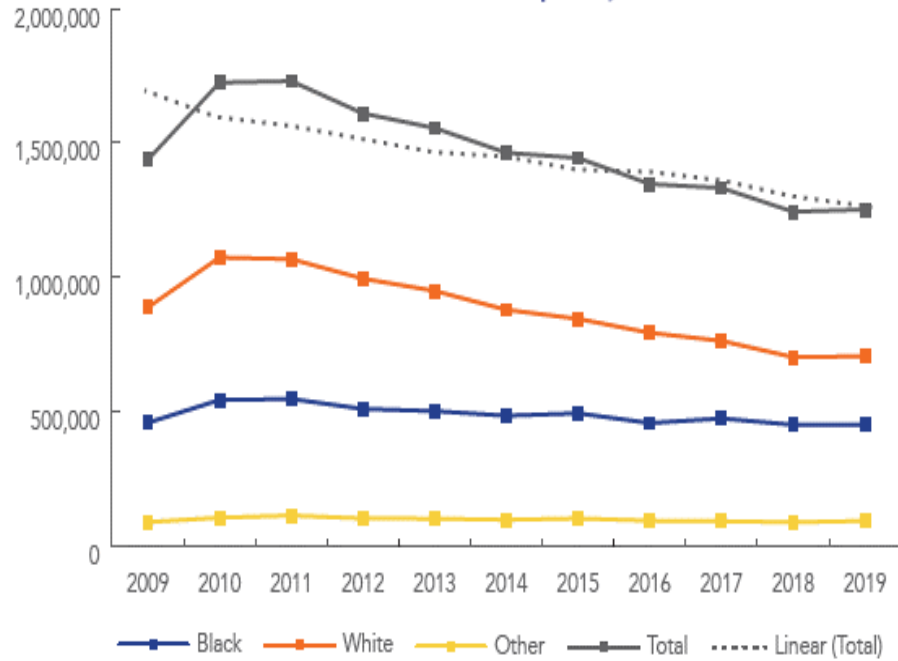
Rate of Traffic Stops By Race (per 100,000 population)

Source: Justice Analysis Review, July 2020, NC DPS, Criminal Justice Analysis Center.
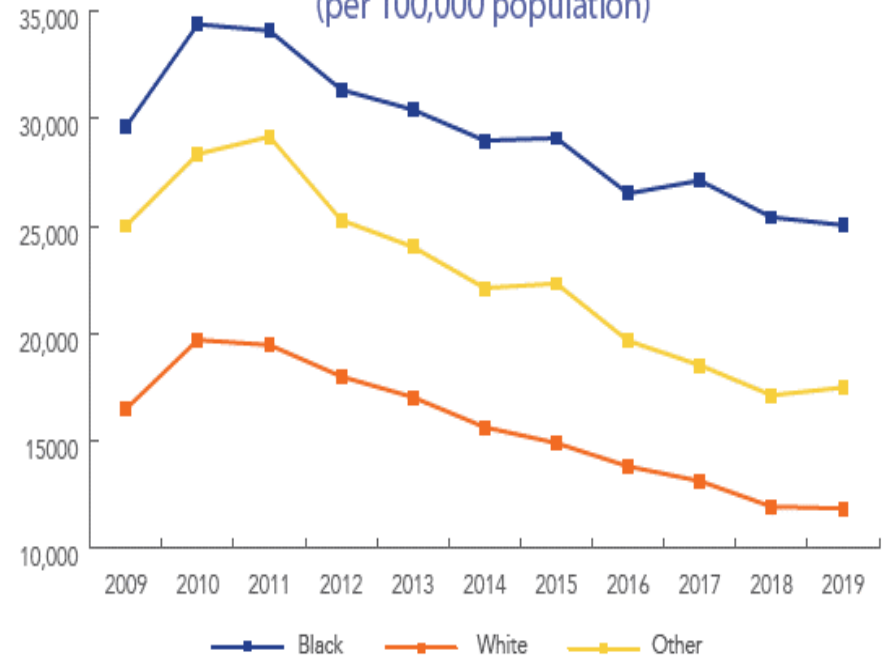
Outcomes of NC Traffic Stops By Race, 2009-2019

- After stop, black drivers and white drivers receive similar law enforcement action.

- Overall, 3.05 drivers were searched after being stopped.

- Black drivers were searched 1.9 times as often as white drivers after being stopped.

Chart legend: White (dark blue), Black (light blue)

Outcome	White	Black
Citation Issued	56	53
No Action Taken	2	2
On-View Arrest	1	2
Verbal Warning	24	29
Written Warning	17	15

Exploring Racial Disproportionality in Traffic Stops Conducted by the Durham Police Department

Data provided by Durham PD in an effort to promote transparency and better understand their operations.

Analysis of data from more than 150,000 traffic stops conducted from 2010 through 2015 found that black male drivers were disproportionately pulled over in traffic stops.

- No evidence of disproportionality among stops conducted by the Traffic Unit.
- Racial disproportionality declined over the study period.

RTI-STAR

Developed in 2016 by RTI International's Policing Research Program and Center for Data Science

Law Enforcement Indicators to Inform Policy

Use of Force Incidents

Community Safety, Engagement & Trust

Use of Force and Arrest-Related Death Indicators

- Resident-initiated contacts
- Police-initiated contacts
- Traffic stops

Arrests

Use of force incidents

Arrest-related deaths

Deadly use of force incidents

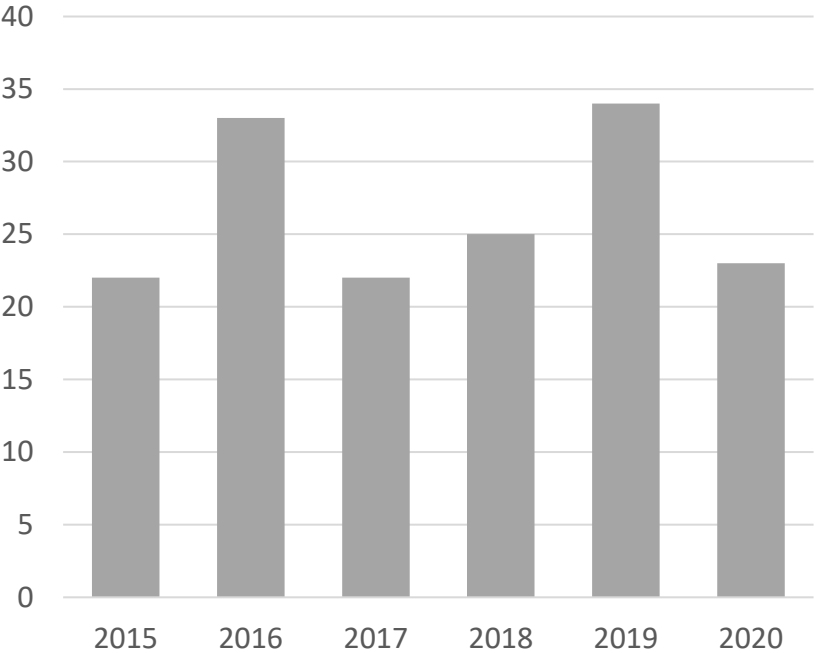~ 2,000 officer-involved shootings

? Other uses of force

~ 2,000 Deaths in police custody due to use of force, suicide accidents & natural causes
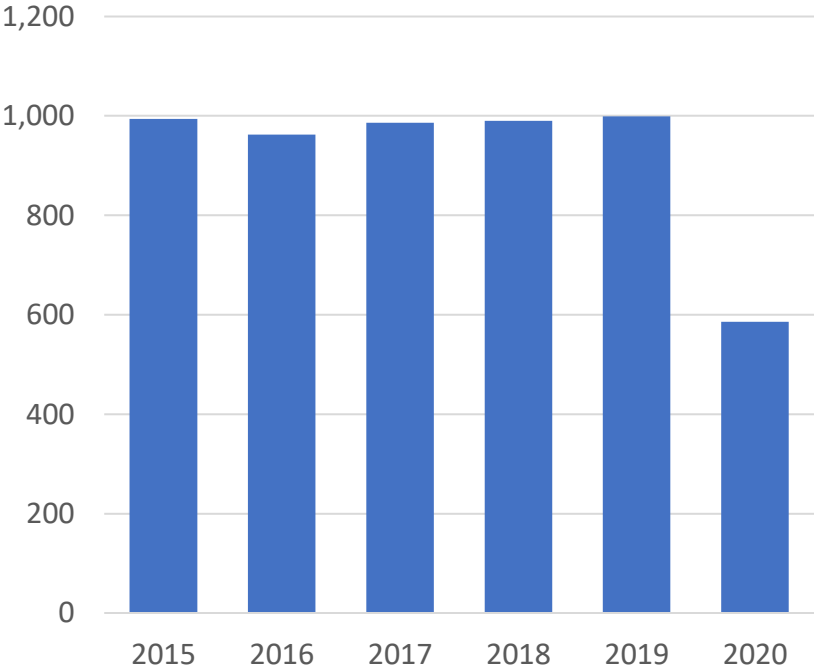
~1,000 Deaths resulting from officer-involved shootings

~300 Officers injured or killed by gunfire

Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings: NC and National Statistics

NC Deadly Officer-involved Shootings as Compiled by the Washington Post, 2015-2020

US Deadly Officer-involved Shootings as Compiled by the Washington Post, 2015-2020

Source: Washington Post

Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings: National Statistics by State

In 2015, there were 0.4 law enforcement shooting deaths per 100,000 US population age 12+

Rate of law enforcement shooting deaths per 100,000 population by state, 2015-2016

Legend:
- 0.50 – 1.02
- 0.35 - 0.49
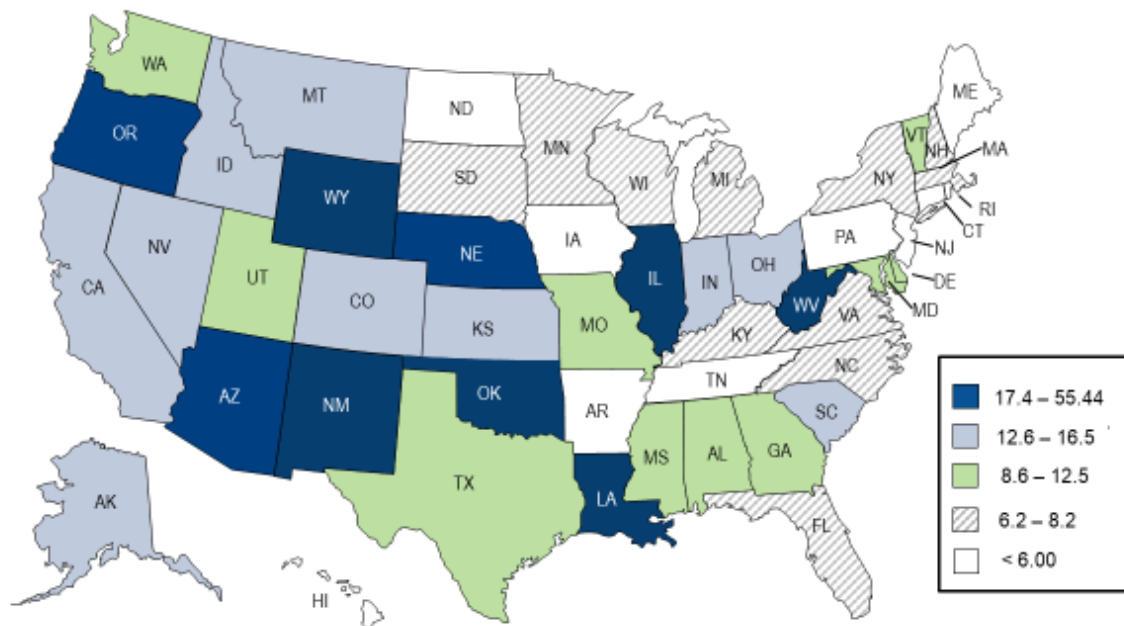- 0.25 – 0.35
- 0.16 – 0.25
- < 0.16
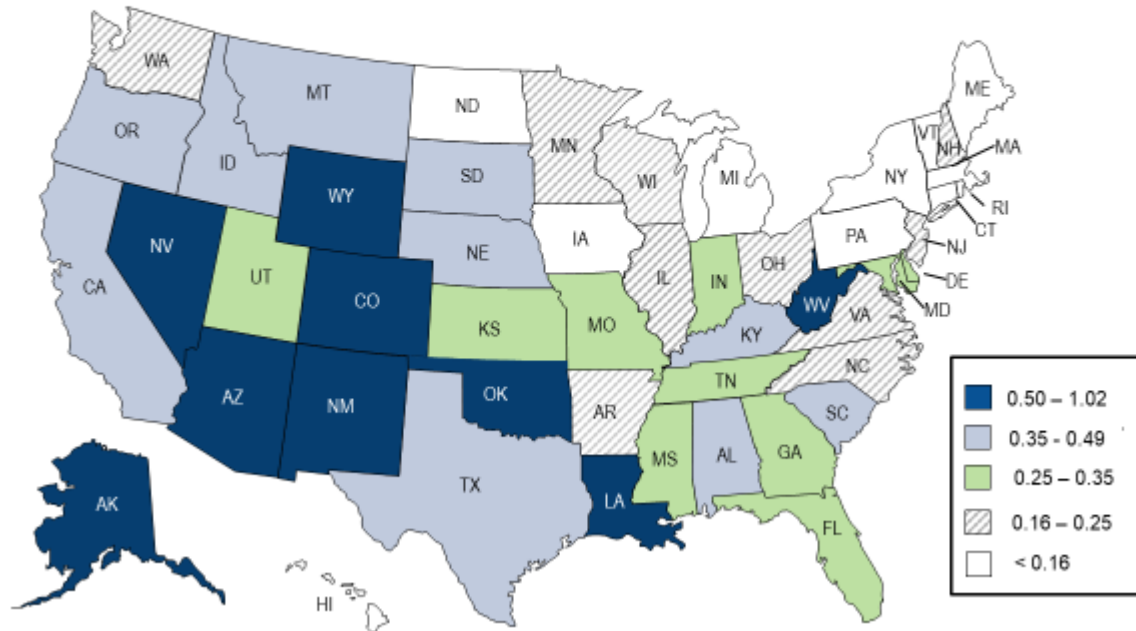
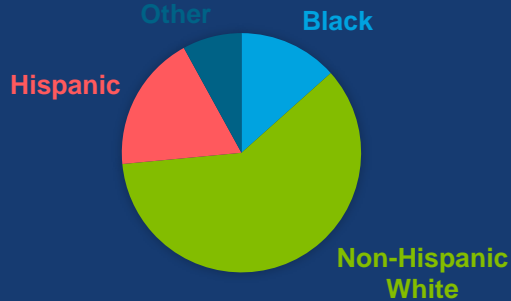# Fatal Officer-Involved Shootings: National Statistics by State

In 2015, there were 9.22 law enforcement shooting deaths per 100,000 arrests in the US

Rate of law enforcement shooting deaths per 100,000 arrests by state, 2015

Legend:
- 17.4 – 55.44
- 12.6 – 16.5
- 8.6 – 12.5
- 6.2 – 8.2
- < 6.00

Source: Washington Post

2019 Fatal Officer Involved Shootings, by Race

Source: Washington Post
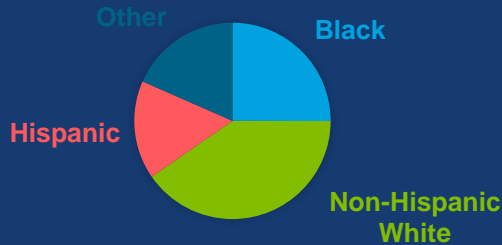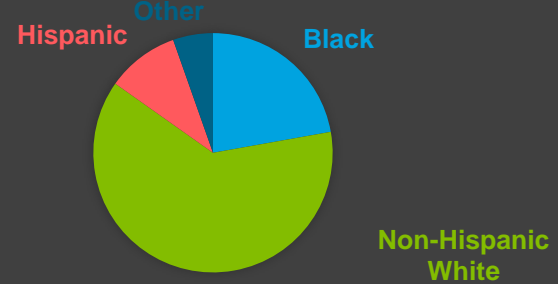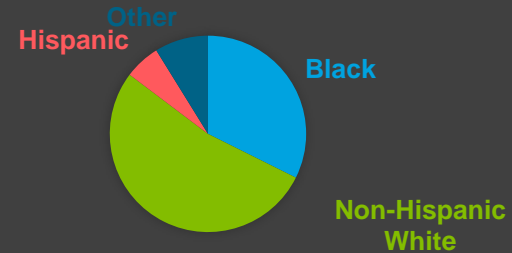
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Officer-Involved Shootings, 2018

https://charlottenc.gov/CMPD/Pages/Resources/OpenData-OISstats.aspx
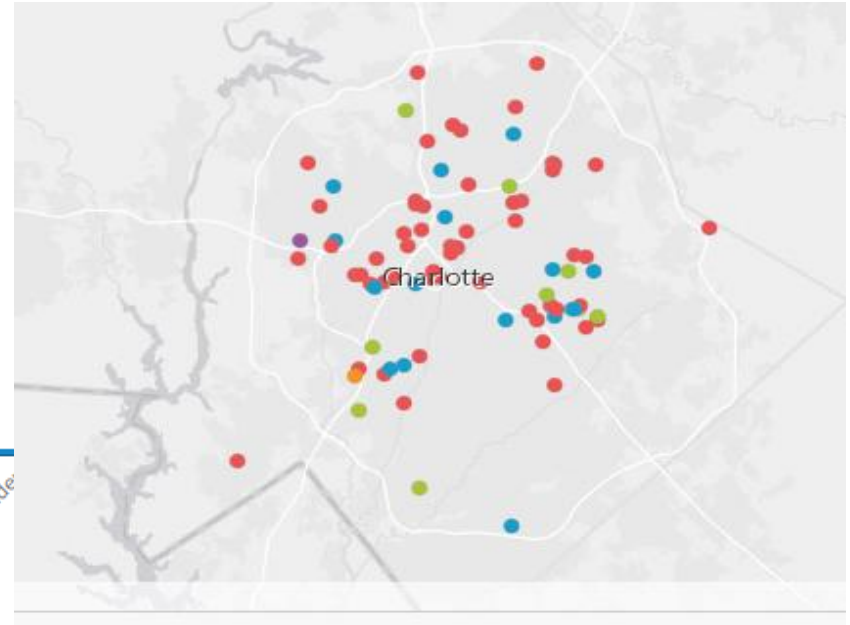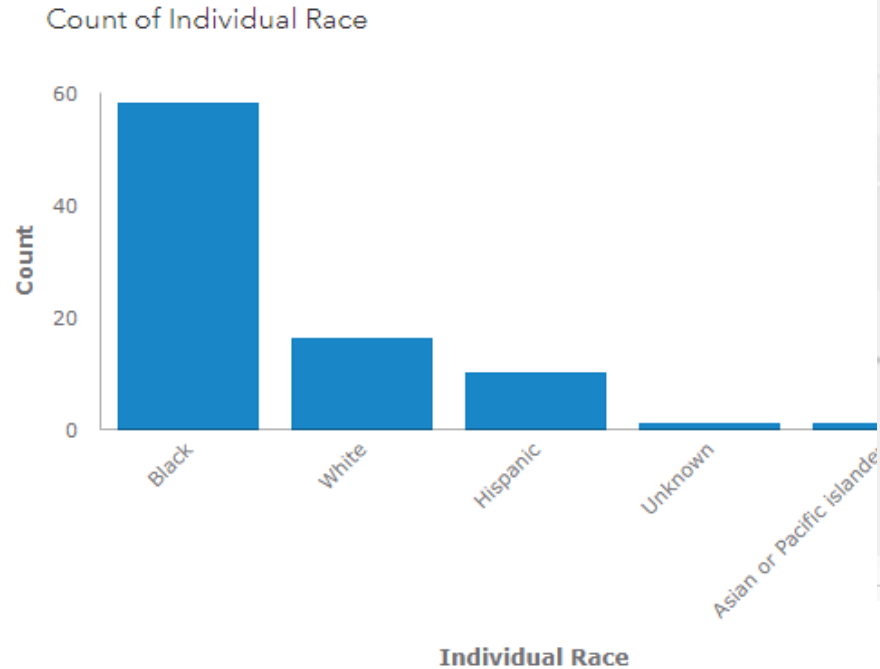
Circumstances surrounding fatal officer-involved shootings in NC, 2015-2020 (N = 159)

- The vast majority of incidents in NC involved an individual who was armed or appeared to be armed.

- Approximately one-fifth of incidents involved someone who displayed signs of mental illness.

- White individuals account for most of the incidents where signs of mental illness were reported.

- Individuals who were reportedly armed account for most of the incidents that involved signs of mental illness in NC, different from national picture.

Source: Washington Post

FBI Use of Force Data Collection, launched in 2019

Measures the characteristics of the

- Incident
- Subject
- Officer

In 2019, 20 out of the 576 agencies in NC participated and provided use-of-force data.

The officers employed by these agencies represent **11%** of the sworn law enforcement officers in the state

Law Enforcement Indicators to Inform Policy

Proactive Community Engagement

Community Safety, Engagement & Trust

Average Percent of Law Enforcement Agencies Reporting

Legend: United States, North Carolina

Categories (top to bottom):
- Conducted a citizen police academy
- Used technology to support the analysis of community problems
- Maintained a written community policing plan
- A mission statement that includes community policing
- School Resource Officers
- Community policing officers

X-axis: 0, 20, 40, 60, 80, 100
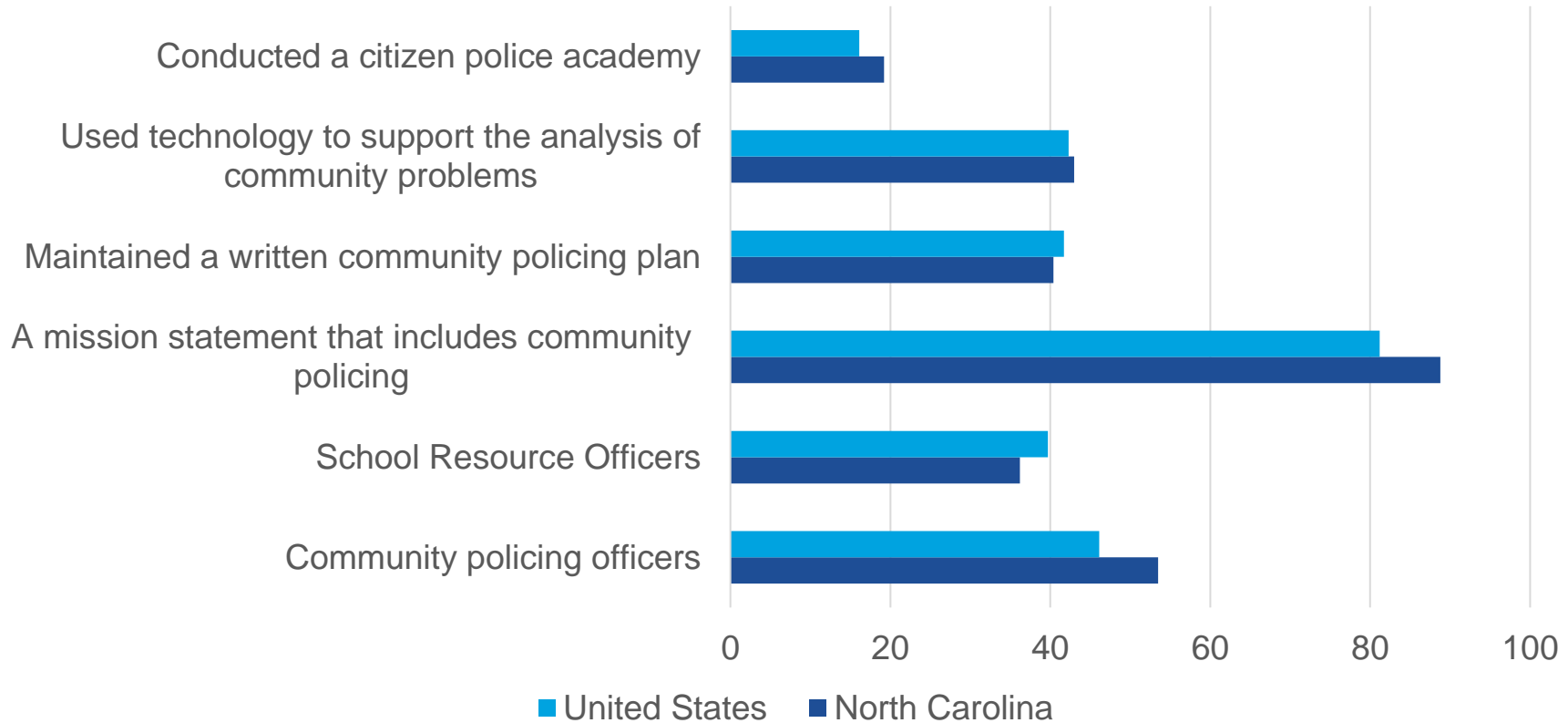
Average percent of agencies with problem solving partnerships or written agreements with community groups

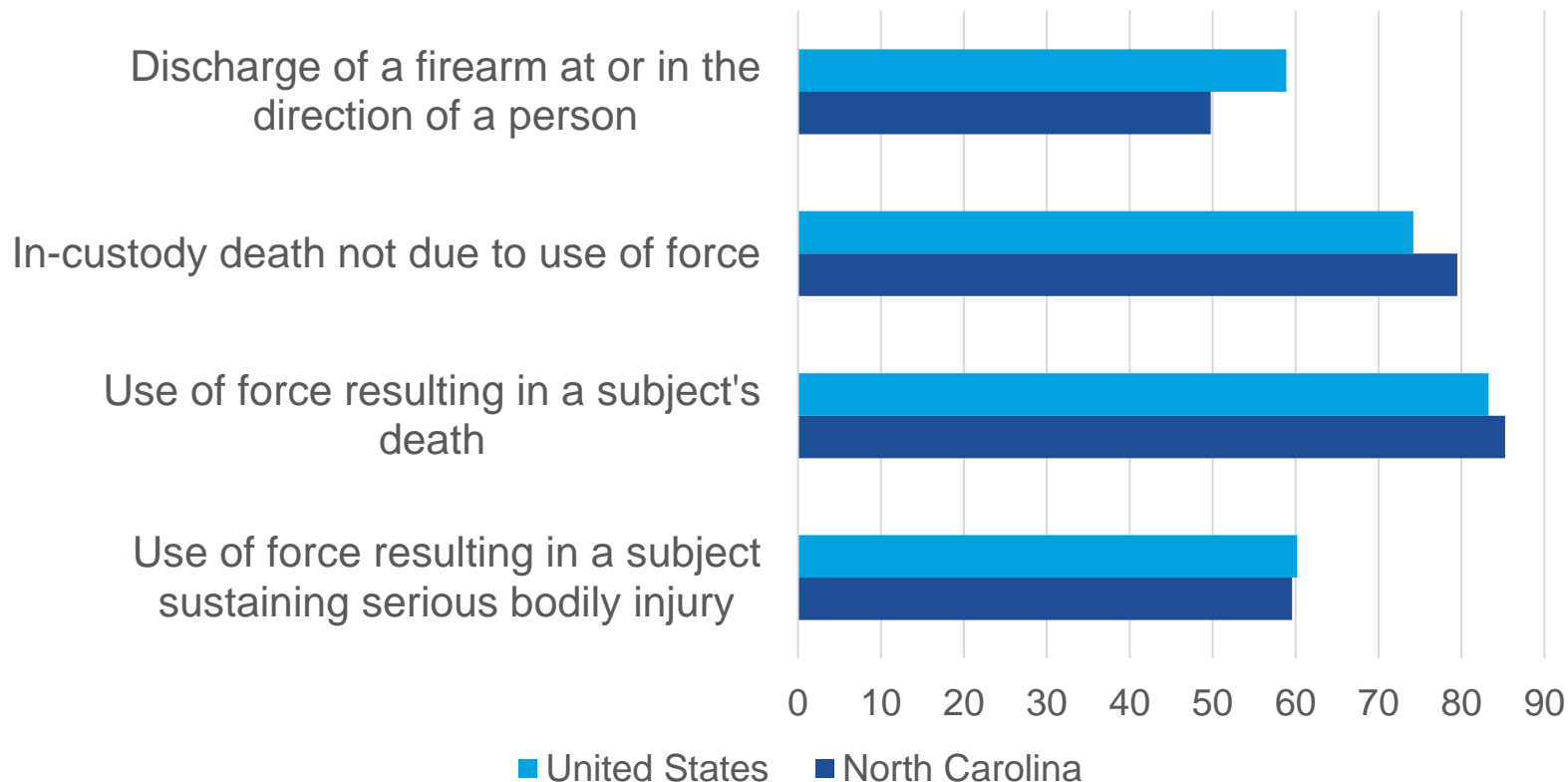*Source:* Bureau of Justice Statistics, Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 2016
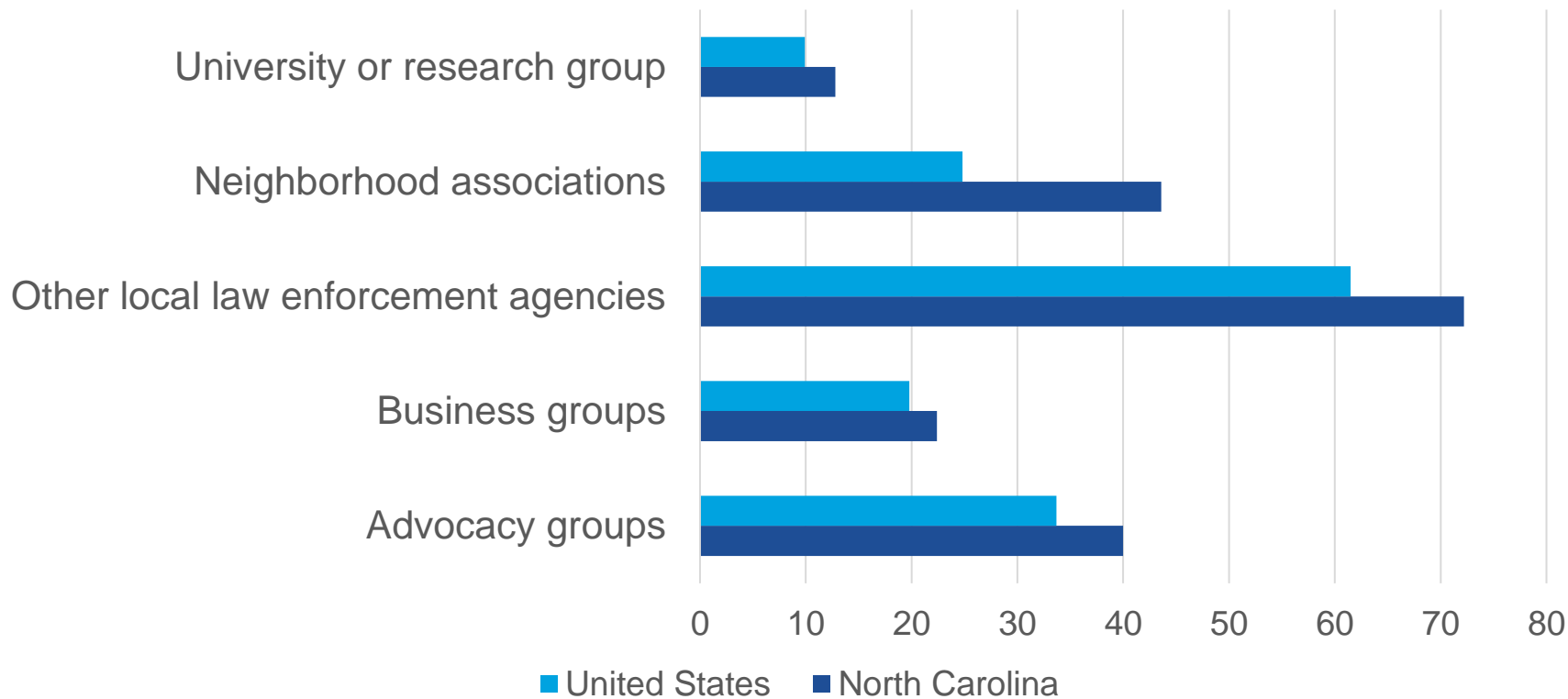
Proportion of agencies that require an external investigation in identified situations

Chart comparing United States and North Carolina:

- **Discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a person**: United States ~59, North Carolina ~49
- **In-custody death not due to use of force**: United States ~74, North Carolina ~79
- **Use of force resulting in a subject's death**: United States ~83, North Carolina ~85
- **Use of force resulting in a subject sustaining serious bodily injury**: United States ~60, North Carolina ~59

■ United States ■ North Carolina

Strategies to engage the community and promote transparency

- Community surveys and other community feedback forums
- Community and/or other partner roles on oversight boards, funding allocations, or to inform training/ policy
- Public reporting of community indicators of safety and wellness
- Transparency in policing priorities, personnel, performance, funding, and accountability
- Community policing programs and co-led approaches to address community safety and wellness
- Characteristics of police public contact incidents
- Calls for service analysis

Policies and practices that can be informed by data and evidence-based strategies

- Training
- Recruit and retention
- Written documentation on Use of Force Policies & Incidents
- Multidisciplinary coordinated first responder teams
- Community surveys and engagement
- Transparency in identifying and reporting key metrics

Thank you

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