

**12/1/23** In 2019 Aaron Dean, a rookie Fort Worth police officer, responded to a call about a home's open front door. Observing through a window that an armed Black woman had appeared inside, Dean, who is White, fired a shot through the glass, killing her. She turned out to be the homeowner, Atatiana Jefferson. Dean was later convicted of manslaughter. His victim's eight-year old nephew, who was present, testified at his trial. Fort Worth just agreed to pay Zion Carr \$3.5 million in compensation. (See 1/30/20 and 12/16/22 updates)

**5/26/23** An eleven-year old boy who was asked by his mother to call police because of the presence of an intruder was shot and seriously wounded by an Indianola, Mississippi police sergeant who opened fire when the boy stepped into the home's living room. And in Mantua, New Jersey, a police officer has been indicted on manslaughter charges for a 2021 shooting in which he opened fire on the 9-1-1 caller "less than five seconds" after arriving on scene.

**2/17/23** A 23-year old Shreveport, La. police officer faces negligent homicide charges after killing an unarmed 43-year old man whose wife called 9-1-1 to report that he was under the influence and had threatened her and her daughter. Alonzo Bagley initially let the officers into the apartment, but he then jumped to the ground and ran off. Officer Alexander Tyler promptly drew his gun and inexplicably shot Mr. Bagley less than a minute into the chase.

**12/16/22** In 2019 rookie Fort Worth police officer Aaron Dean shot and killed a homeowner when she allegedly pointed a gun at him through a window. At the time Dean and his partner were in the backyard after responding to a call that the home's front door was open. Dean was fired and charged with murder and manslaughter. On December 15 a jury convicted him of the lesser charge (see 1/30/20 and 12/1/23 updates).

**11/14/22** Originally charged with manslaughter, Former Sharon Hill (Phila. area) police officers Sean Dolan, Devon Smith and Brian Devaney pled guilty to ten counts of reckless endangerment for unleashing a barrage at a suspicious car after two quarreling teens exchanged fire at the end of a high school football game. The officers' bullets killed eight-year old Fanta Bility and wounded three other spectators. Originally charged with murder because of the child's death, the teens escaped punishment (see 1/19/22 update).

**10/7/22** Rushing in response to the sighting of a stolen vehicle, an NYPD patrol car careened out of control, smashing into other cars and mounting a sidewalk crowded with pedestrians. Ten citizens, including two children, were hospitalized; two are

reportedly in critical condition. According to a police official, “...officers were trying to do the right thing. They were trying to prevent a crime in progress, they were trying to apprehend someone who was ready to victimize a good person in the Bronx.”

**9/27/22** Jurors rejected murder charges against a White former Philadelphia cop who shot and killed an unarmed Black motorist after a high-speed December 2017 pursuit that ended in a crash. But they convicted Eric Ruch, Jr., a ten-year veteran, of felony manslaughter for needlessly opening fire on Dennis Plowden Jr., 25, moments after the pursuit came to an end. Mr. Ruch testified that he thought Mr. Plowden, who was sitting on the sidewalk, was hiding a gun in his right hand. But it turned out to be heroin. Mr. Ruch was taken into custody and faces a 20-year maximum term.

**7/3/22** Akron police released graphic footage depicting the pursuit and shooting death of Black motorist Jayland Walker during the early morning hours of June 27. Walker, who refused to pull over for a traffic violation, fled on foot after a long car chase. Officers fired Tasers, then opened up with their handguns when Walker reportedly turned on them. Walker allegedly fired a shot from his car, and a loaded pistol and an empty cartridge casing were found in the vehicle. But he was unarmed when killed. [Edited video](#)

**6/27/22** A *Washington Post* examination of its national database of police shootings reveals 178 instances during 2019-2021 in which officers shot and killed persons in distress whom they had been called to assist. In a 2020 episode, San Antonio (Tx) deputies visited a combat veteran three times in two days. Their last encounter ended tragically when the disturbed man, who was wearing a holstered gun, engaged the deputies in a fight.

**5/28/22** “It was the wrong decision, period.” That’s how Texas DPS Director Steven C. McCraw feels about what turned out to be an hour-long delay before officers stormed the gunman who massacred nineteen students and two teachers at an Uvalde elementary school. His sentiments were seconded by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, who was “absolutely livid” after hearing accounts of children who called 9-1-1 begging for police to respond. Yet two of the first officers on scene had been grazed by the shooter’s bullets, which pierced a door and struck them in the hallway.

**5/27/22** Uvalde (TX) police are being criticized for failing to persistently confront Salvador Ramos after he began his rampage at Robb Elementary school. Ramos, who was carrying a rifle and a bag of ammunition, fired at two bystanders as he walked to the school. He climbed a fence, fired more rounds, and entered the building through an unlocked door. Less than five minutes later several police officers arrived and went inside. Ramos opened fire and they backed off. Officers then focused on evacuating

students. A half-hour later tactical teams went in and exchanged fire with Ramos, killing him.

**4/16/22** A *Los Angeles Times* review of fifty LAPD shootings since 2020 reveals that in eight encounters officers fired less-than-lethal projectiles while their colleagues “simultaneously” fired real bullets. In each episode the citizens weren’t armed with firearms but with bladed weapons. In one instance, a man flaunting a sword “was simultaneously shot in the street with a projectile and a rifle round from 77 feet away.” Efforts are being made to get officers to “slow down” and give less-lethal options an opportunity to work.

**2/22/22** Police gunfire that places innocents at risk is “under the gun” in Southern California. [LAPD chief Michel Moore recently concurred](#) with a finding by the Police Commission that an off-duty lieutenant violated policy by firing at a fleeing vehicle. Although one of its passengers had just shot a pedestrian, the officer was not considered in danger, and his bullets could have imperiled others. [In another incident](#), a carjacking suspect pulled a gun as Sheriff’s deputies closed in to make an arrest. They fired as the man ran into a backyard, striking him multiple times. While he survived, deputies later discovered the body of a 67-year old man in the yard. He had apparently been shot dead, but by whom is as yet unknown. [Per recent California law](#), State agents will investigate to determine if fault exists.

**2/3/22** Ex-Chicago cop Jason Van Dyke, who was convicted of second-degree murder in 2018 for the shooting death of Laquan McDonald four years earlier, was released from prison today after serving half his six-year term. Activists plan protests, and civil rights leaders are demanding that the Feds prosecute Van Dyke for civil rights violations. Van Dyke had arrived on scene while other officers were tracking the knife-wielding youth. He fired a volley nearly instantly, and his partner stopped him from reloading.

**1/19/22** In the evening of August 27, 2021 gunfire broke out as spectators left a high school football game in a Philadelphia suburb. Two bullets reportedly came near three officers standing nearby. They unleashed a 25-round barrage at a car they thought was the source. Their rounds went into the crowd, killing eight-year old Fanta Bility and wounding three others. Sharon Hill police officers Devon Smith, Sean Dolan and Brian Devaney have been charged with manslaughter and reckless endangerment. Two teens also face charges for the original exchange. ([Original Washington Post story](#)).(See 11/14/22 update)

**12/28/21** LAPD released [a video compilation](#) of the December 23 shooting in a Burlington clothing store where a man with a chain and bolt attacked shoppers and left a woman bleeding in an aisle. A group of officers entered the store. One, armed with an [AR-15 style rifle](#), made his way to the front and encountered the assailant from a

distance. The officer repeatedly fired, killing the suspect, Daniel Elena-Lopez, 24. Tragically, one of the bullets from the powerful weapon pierced an interior wall and killed a 14-year old girl, Valentina Orellana-Peralta, who was trying on dresses in a nearby changing room.

**12/24/21** A Los Angeles police officer opened fire on a man who assaulted a woman inside a clothing store. LAPD officers have reportedly shot and killed seventeen persons so far this year, compared to seven in all of 2020 and twelve in 2019.

**9/16/21** Prompted by the 2019 death of Elijah Mc Clain, a State investigation of Aurora (CO) police concluded that its officers “engaged in a pattern of racially biased policing and excessive force.” One key finding was that while Black persons constitute fifteen percent of the city’s population, during a recent three-year period Blacks were subject to nearly half of all uses of force. Aurora PD has been invited to voluntarily participate in State monitoring; if it does not, a Court order will be sought.

**4/28/21** Amber Guyger, the ex-Dallas cop who, tired after a shift, walked into the wrong apartment and mistakenly shot and killed its tenant, thinking him an intruder, is appealing her murder conviction and ten-year sentence. Ms. Guyger claims that at most she committed negligent homicide. But prosecutors insist that “intentionally killing a man in his own apartment is murder.”

**2/23/21** On August 24, 2019 Aurora (CO) police forcefully detained Elijah McClain, a 21-year old Black pedestrian whom a 9-1-1 caller reported was behaving oddly. During the struggle officers applied a carotid hold. On arrival paramedics diagnosed excited delirium syndrome (exDS) and injected a sedative (ketamine). McClain soon went into cardiac arrest and died days later at a hospital. On February 22, 2021 [an official city report](#) concluded that police did not have adequate cause to forcefully detain or restrain Mr. McClain and that officers and paramedics badly mishandled the situation.

**12/16/20** Finding that they acted to protect their lives and those of innocent citizens, prosecutors declined to charge the LAPD officers who accidentally killed a Trader Joe’s employee in July 2018 while exchanging gunfire with a suspect they chased into the store. [Their actions had been ruled “in policy”](#) by Police commissioners and Chief Michel Moore, who likened the incident to “every officer’s worst nightmare.”

**9/23/20** Protests erupted in Louisville after a Grand Jury did not indict the two detectives whose bullets killed Breonna Taylor during the execution of a narcotics search warrant by four officers at her apartment in March. Officers opened fire when Kenneth Walker, Ms. Taylor’s boyfriend, pulled a gun and shot a detective in the leg as he burst in. Jurors indicted only one officer, Brett Hankinson, for carelessly unleashing a fusillade that endangered other tenants.

**1/30/20** Aaron Dean, the former Fort Worth officer who shot through a home's window and killed its lawful resident was indicted for murder. Summoned by a neighbor who reported an open front door, Dean and another officer arrived during the early morning hours. A woman in the home heard the commotion, grabbed a handgun and came to the window. Dean yelled for her to show her hands, then fired a single shot, which proved fatal (see 12/16/22 and 12/1/23 updates).

**11/2/19** Ex-Georgia cop Robert Olsen was sentenced to twelve years imprisonment on charges of aggravated assault and perjury for shooting and killing a mentally disturbed black vet who had stripped naked and was lying on the ground. Jurors found that Olsen, who is white, lied when he said that the victim ran at him and refused to stop. But they acquitted him of murder. (See 5/29/25 update)

**10/3/19** Jurors convicted former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger (see above) of the most serious charge, murder. Returning home after a shift, officer Guyger mistakenly entered the wrong apartment, then shot and killed its occupant thinking that he posed a threat. Officer Guyger faced a prison term of five to ninety-nine years. She elected to be sentenced by the jury. After a hearing in which witnesses were called, jurors sentenced her to ten years.

**9/30/19** NYPD officer Brian Mulkeen was accidentally shot and killed by other officers after he fired at an armed felon whom he encountered at a crime-ridden housing project in the Bronx. Although overall crime in New York City is down, the area, patrolled by the 47th. Precinct, had ten shootings to date in 2018 [but fifteen so far this year](#).

**2/15/19** On February 12, seven NYPD officers unleashed a barrage of gunfire – forty-two rounds in eleven seconds – at an armed robber. Two veteran officers were caught in crossfire: one, Brian Simonsen, 42, died; the other, Matthew Gorman, 34, was wounded. The 27-year old suspect, a chronic offender, was also wounded. His gun turned out to be a hyper-realistic toy.

**2/5/19** The Alabama attorney general ruled that given the circumstances he faced, the officer who shot and killed Emantic Bradford (see 12/1/18 update) acted reasonably, in accordance with his training and national standards, and will not be charged. (See 4/18/25 and 12/1/18 updates)

**1/17/19** A Chicago judge acquitted three officers of conspiring to obstruct justice by giving false accounts that justified officer Jason Van Dyke's shooting of Laquan McDonald. Two, Van Dyke's partner and an officer who investigated the incident, have resigned.

**1/3/19** While chasing a man who had fired at him, a NYPD officer discharged twenty-seven rounds, wounding the suspect and two passers-by, one severely. A superior said

the officer's actions were "legally justified" but could not comment on whether they followed agency rules.

**12/8/18** Ventura deputy Sgt. Ron Helus, one of the twelve persons killed during a December 7 mass shooting at an L.A.-area bar, sustained a lethal wound from a rifle round fired by a CHP officer as they exchanged fire with the gunman. Ventura Sheriff Bill Ayub said the tragedy may not have been preventable: "In my view, it was unavoidable. It was just a horrific scene that the two men encountered inside the bar."

**12/1/18** On November 30 Dallas officer Amber Guyger was indicted for murder, which carries a potential life sentence. Her original charge, manslaughter, brought on criticism of the D.A.

**12/1/18** A police officer responding to a November 22 shooting in a crowded Alabama mall shot and killed Emantic Bradford Jr., a 21-year old black man with a gun in hand. It turned out that Bradford was not the gunman, that he was licensed to carry, and that he was trying to help others. The suspect who shot and wounded two was later arrested. [Alabama is an "open-carry" state.](#)

**11/15/18** On 11/11 a cop responded to a bar shooting in a Chicago suburb. On arrival the officer encountered an armed man in the parking lot, holding another man at gunpoint. Reports conflict, but the officer claimed that the armed man, Jemel Roberson, 26, wasn't wearing a uniform and didn't obey commands to put down the gun. The officer, who is white, then shot him dead. Roberson, a black man, was a security guard and supposedly wearing an identifying cap. The man he held had reportedly opened fire in the bar and wounded several patrons. [Illinois state police summary](#)

**10/5/18** Chicago jurors convicted officer Jason Van Dyke of second-degree murder and sixteen counts of aggravated battery with a firearm. He faces a minimum of six years imprisonment. His lawyer bemoaned the conviction and said it would make cops fearful of doing their jobs. But a sign-waving crowd awaiting the verdict outside City Hall rejoiced.

**9/25/18** On 9/24/18 an L.A. County sheriff's deputy was shot and wounded while trying to disarm a middle-aged man during a traffic stop. His partner shot and killed the assailant.

**9/24/18** Dallas police fired officer Amber Guyger for "adverse conduct" in the shooting death of Botham Jean. She has also been charged with manslaughter.