

How the LAPD Can Effectively Discern Racially Motivated Misconduct from Justified Action



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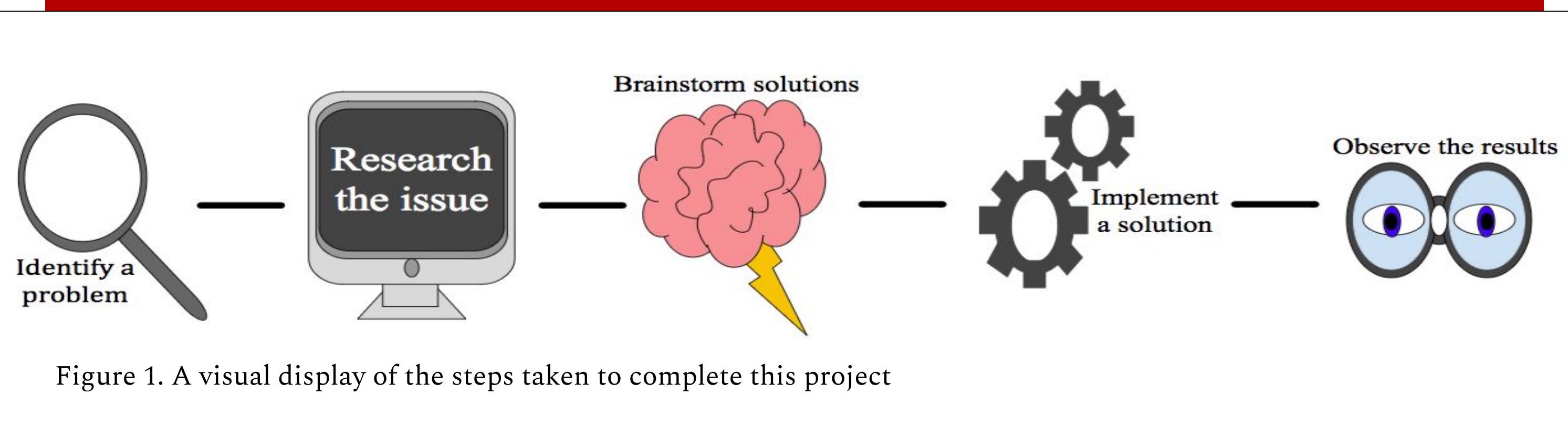


RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES

The data used for this study is from existing databases and text sources.

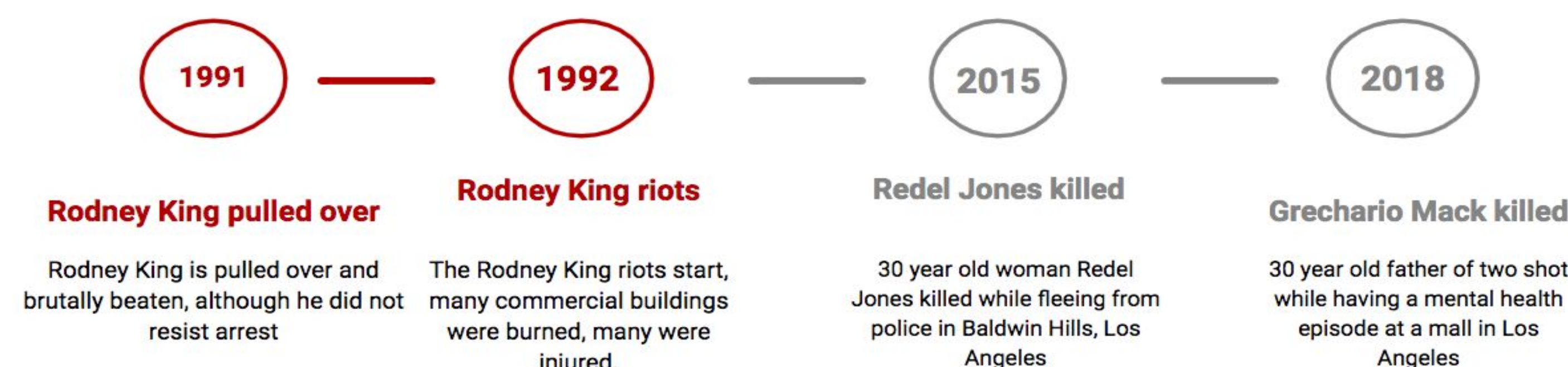
This research study focuses on black and latinx individuals in Los Angeles. The study's analysis of these sources consisted of taking down the number of incidents involving black or latinx individuals, as well as any situational evidence in the incident report, so both quantitative and qualitative data have been used.

Using the data that has been collected, the study will reach a conclusion based on summarizing the data. This summary will include a statistical evaluation of the collected numerical data, as well as the anecdotal incident report evidence. This project will be action research based, and it will result in a proposal submitted to the LAPD. The proposal will have a partial solution and will include recommendations for eliminating some of the racial bias and how to better discern a justifiable action from racially motivated misconduct.



HISTORY OF THE ISSUE

Los Angeles has a long history of racism in its police department. On March 3, 1991, an African American taxi driver named Rodney King was pulled over for speeding. King got out of the car and was then brutally beaten by two police officers (Federal Bureau of Investigation. "Rodney King Video." 3 March, 1991). In the coming year, there were five days of rioting in the streets of LA, people were disgusted with what had happened. Since then, there have been many other acts of violence toward people of color in Los Angeles.



INTRODUCTION

There is a problem in LA with police misconduct and the power dynamic that exists. This issue within the LAPD negatively affects people of color living in LA, specifically African Americans and Latinos (Human Rights Watch).

IMPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

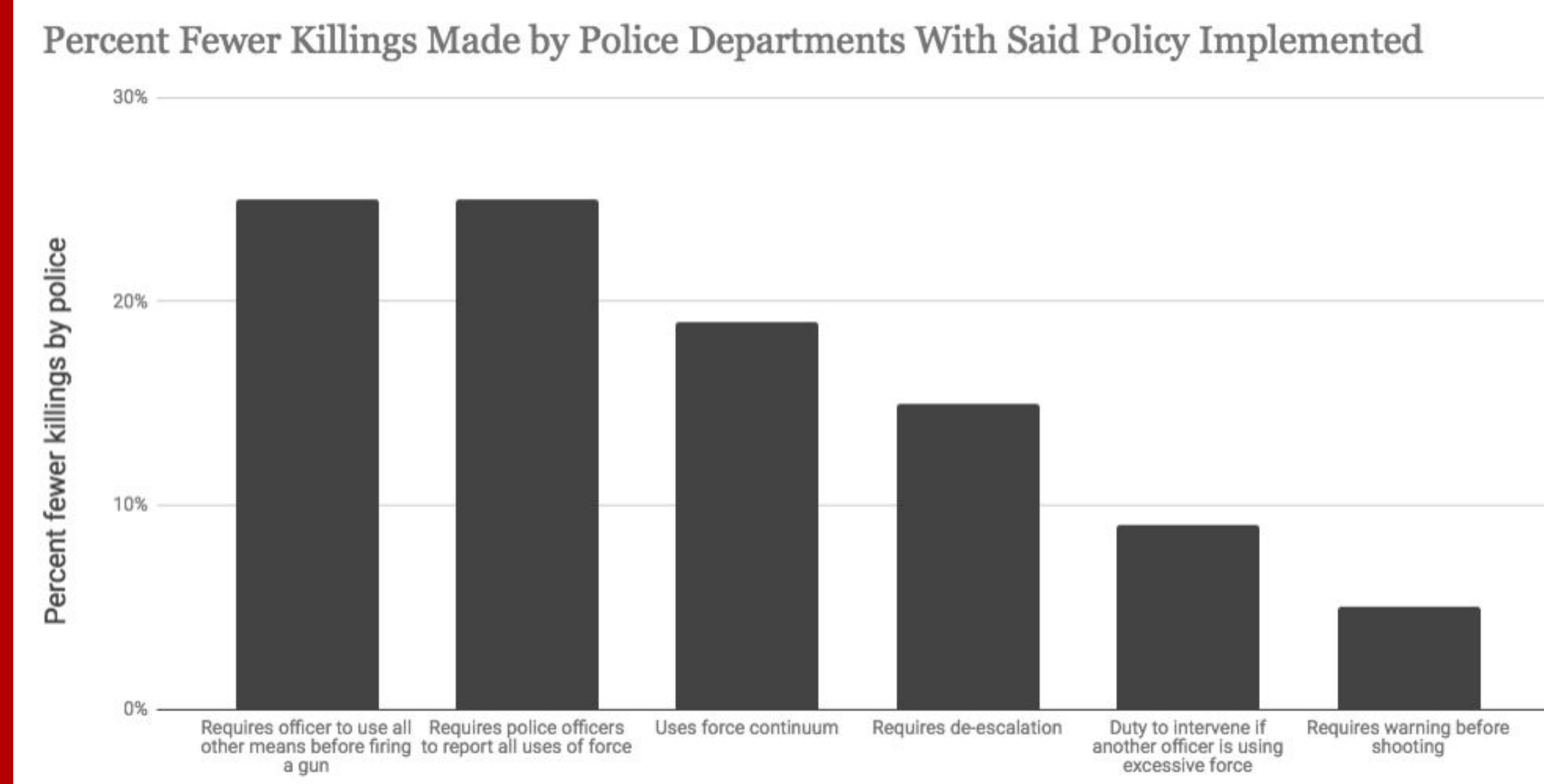


Figure 3. A graph showing how different policies implemented in police departments reduce numbers of police killings

Because this data is from within the past three years, this indicates that the problem is recent and relevant to the current day. This means a solution must be found, because this issue is affecting many lives today; it has caused uproar in the past (Rodney King Riots) and is continuing to cause public outcry (Black Lives Matter marches). For the future, police should implement educational seminars into their training. These seminars should include stories of those affected by police gun violence and racial profiling, in order to cement the idea that people are truly affected by racism in policing. In addition to seminars, police officers officers should be required by law to wear body cameras, which will hold them more accountable for their actions

CONCLUSIONS AND ANALYSIS

This study's findings indicate a clear difference in amount of latinx and black individuals involved in police shootings compared to white individuals. By reviewing Los Angeles Police Department incident reports, it was found that 80.4 percent of people involved in a police shooting--both fatal and non fatal--were either black or latinx (Los Angeles Police Department, 2017). This number is incredibly disproportionate and indicates that there is a problem. This study shows that the problem of racially motivated police misconduct is still very existent. The first step in creating a solution is recognizing this fact, which is the responsibility of the LAPD.

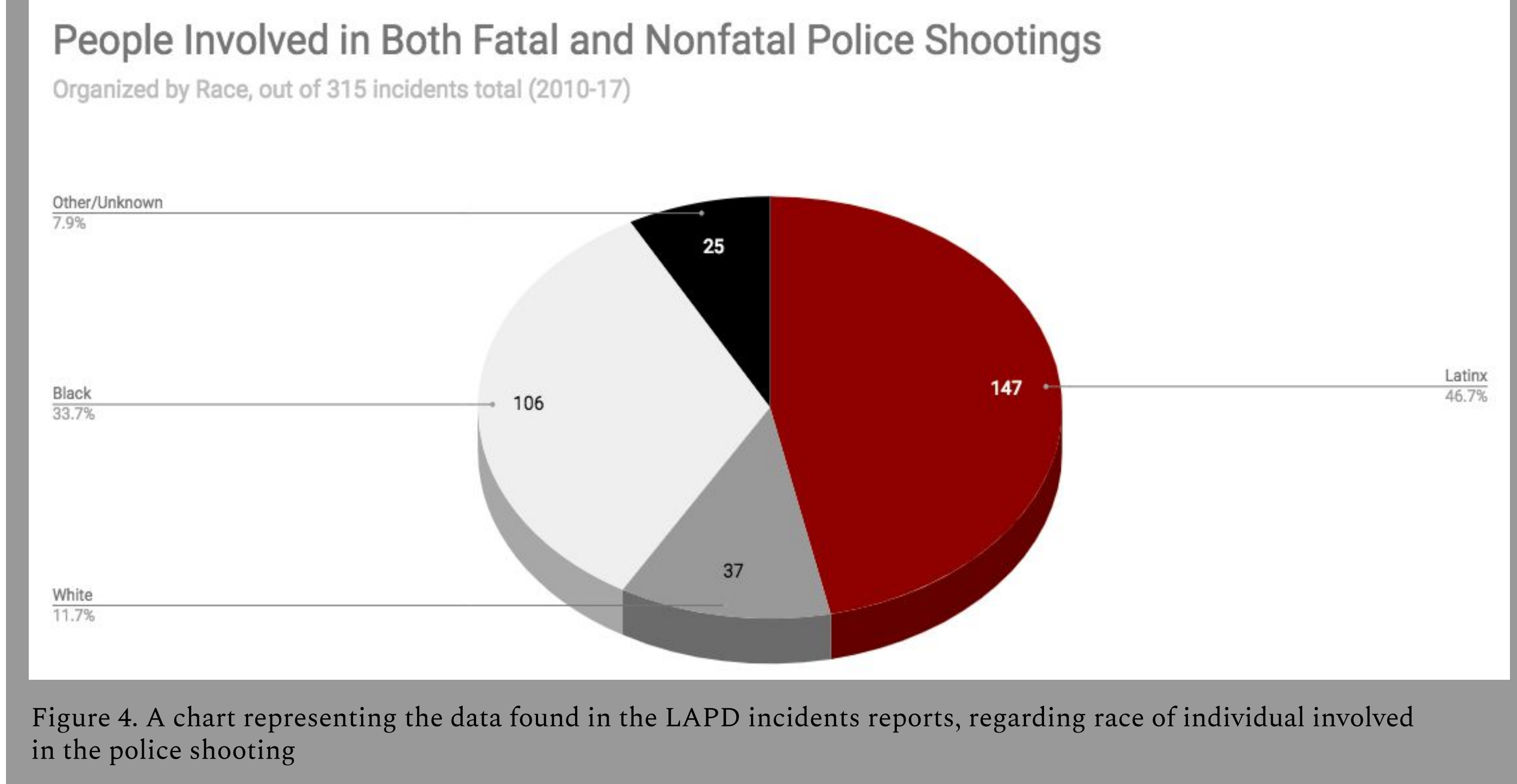


Figure 4. A chart representing the data found in the LAPD incidents reports, regarding race of individual involved in the police shooting

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