

Justice For Jalin Seabron

Problematic Policing in Colorado

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As of the latest available data, Colorado ranked fifth in the United States for fatal police encounters per capita. This statistic underscores ongoing concerns about the use of lethal force by law enforcement in the state.

These incidents and statistics highlight the challenges Colorado faces in addressing police misconduct and the use of excessive force. While some measures have been taken to hold officers accountable, the recurrence of such events indicates a need for continued reforms and oversight to restore public trust in law enforcement.

*Here are just a few cases that lay bare the persistent and egregious patterns of harm inflicted upon our communities. **We recognize that these are only a fraction of the countless incidents where lives have been devastated by police violence. We take this moment to honor and acknowledge every individual who has suffered at the hands of law enforcement, standing in solidarity with you in your pain.** May we all continue to stand firm in our commitment to using our voices, our resources, and our collective power to demand the justice and transformation our communities deserve. If we can FEEL, we can FIGHT!*

Say Their Names

Marvin Booker Case (2010)

- **Incident:** Marvin Booker, a homeless man, died after a struggle with Denver sheriff's deputies who used a headlock, handcuffs, and tasers. The incident was investigated, and in 2014, a civil court trial awarded Booker's family \$4.65 million after finding the deputies liable for his death.
- **Source:** [Denver Post - Marvin Booker's Death](#)

Elijah McClain Case (2019)

- **Incident:** Elijah McClain, a 23-year-old Black man, was stopped by Aurora (suburban Denver) police officers, who restrained him despite no evidence of criminal activity. After being

administered a ketamine injection, McClain suffered cardiac arrest and later died. His death was ruled a homicide, and in 2023, Officer Jeremy Cooper and paramedic Peter Chicuniec were convicted of negligent homicide. Cooper was sentenced to 14 months in jail with work-release; however, due to an appeal pending, he has not reported to jail to serve his sentence. Chicuniec was sentenced to a 5-year prison sentence, and after serving 120 days, the same judge overturned the sentence, and he is now serving out 4-years of probation.

- **Source:** [Colorado Public Radio - Elijah McClain Case](#)

George Floyd Protests (2020)

- **Incident:** The killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis prompted protests in Denver. Demonstrators called for justice and reforms in policing. During these protests, Denver police were criticized for their tactics, which included the use of tear gas, rubber bullets, and other crowd-control measures. In 2024, the city paid \$28.1 million in settlements to individuals who were injured or mistreated by police during these protests.

- **Source:** [Axios - Denver Pays Latest George Floyd Settlements](#)

Ruby Johnson SWAT Raid (2022)

- **Incident:** In January 2022, a Denver SWAT team wrongfully raided the home of 78-year-old Ruby Johnson based on a faulty search warrant linked to a stolen vehicle case. The raid caused significant trauma to Ms. Johnson, who had no connection to the crime. In March 2024, a jury awarded her \$3.76 million in damages after determining that the officers violated her constitutional rights by conducting the search without probable cause.

- **Source:** [aclu-co.org](#)

Elijah Smith Incident (2023)

- **Incident:** During the Denver Nuggets championship celebration in June 2023, off-duty Denver Police Officer Adam Glasby body-slammed Elijah Smith, who was attempting to assist a friend involved in a fight. Smith suffered a traumatic brain injury as a result. Glasby pleaded guilty to third-degree assault in April 2024, received two years of probation, and lost his peace officer certification. Subsequently, a civil rights lawsuit was filed against the Denver Police Department and Glasby in June 2024.

- **Source:** [CBS News](#)

Kilyn Lewis Shooting (2023)

- **Incident:** In October 2023, Aurora Police Officer Michael Dieck fatally shot 29-year-old Black man Kilyn Lewis, mistaking his cell phone for a firearm during an arrest attempt. Despite other officers not perceiving an immediate threat, Dieck fired the fatal shot. In October 2024, the district attorney announced that Officer Dieck would not face prosecution, citing his belief that Lewis was armed and posed a threat.
 - **Source:** [apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)
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Ongoing Complaints Against Police

- **Data:** Complaints against Denver law enforcement decreased by 16% for police officers and 37% for sheriff's deputies in the first half of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. However, this drop does not necessarily reflect improvements in police conduct but rather may be indicative of a decrease in the public's trust and willingness to report issues.
- **Source:** [Axios - Public Law Enforcement Complaints Drop](#)

Racial Disparities and Police Violence

- **Data:** According to the **Colorado Department of Public Safety**, Black individuals are disproportionately affected by police violence in Denver and across Colorado. While Black people represent about 9% of the population, they account for a disproportionately high number of police encounters and instances where force is used.
- **Source:** [Colorado Department of Public Safety - Racial Disparities in Policing](#)

Accountability Issues

- **Delayed Justice:** After incidents such as Elijah McClain's death, public calls for police accountability have grown louder. However, justice often comes too slowly. McClain's case, for example, took nearly four years before criminal charges were filed against the involved officers in 2023.
- **Source:** [Colorado Public Radio - McClain Case Timeline](#)

SWAT Raids and Wrongful Incidents

- **Incident:** In June 2023, a Denver SWAT team mistakenly raided the wrong apartment, causing trauma to the family inside. This wrongful raid was one of several instances in which law enforcement's use of force and operations has raised significant concerns about accountability and the safety of citizens.

- **Source:** [AP News - Denver SWAT Raid](#)

Militarization of Police

- **Concerns:** Denver, like many cities, has received military-grade equipment through the federal government, increasing the militarization of local police forces. This has been linked to more aggressive tactics and the use of SWAT teams for minor offenses, which can escalate situations unnecessarily.

- **Source:** [Denver Post - Militarization of Police](#)

Public Perception and Trust in Law Enforcement

- **Survey Results:** Public trust in the Denver Police Department remains low, particularly among communities of color. A 2021 survey revealed that only 58% of Black respondents felt confident in the police, compared to 75% of white respondents.

- **Source:** [Denver Post - Trust in Police](#)