

LASD Use of Tasers

April 20, 2023

ACLU presentation to the Civilian Oversight Commission

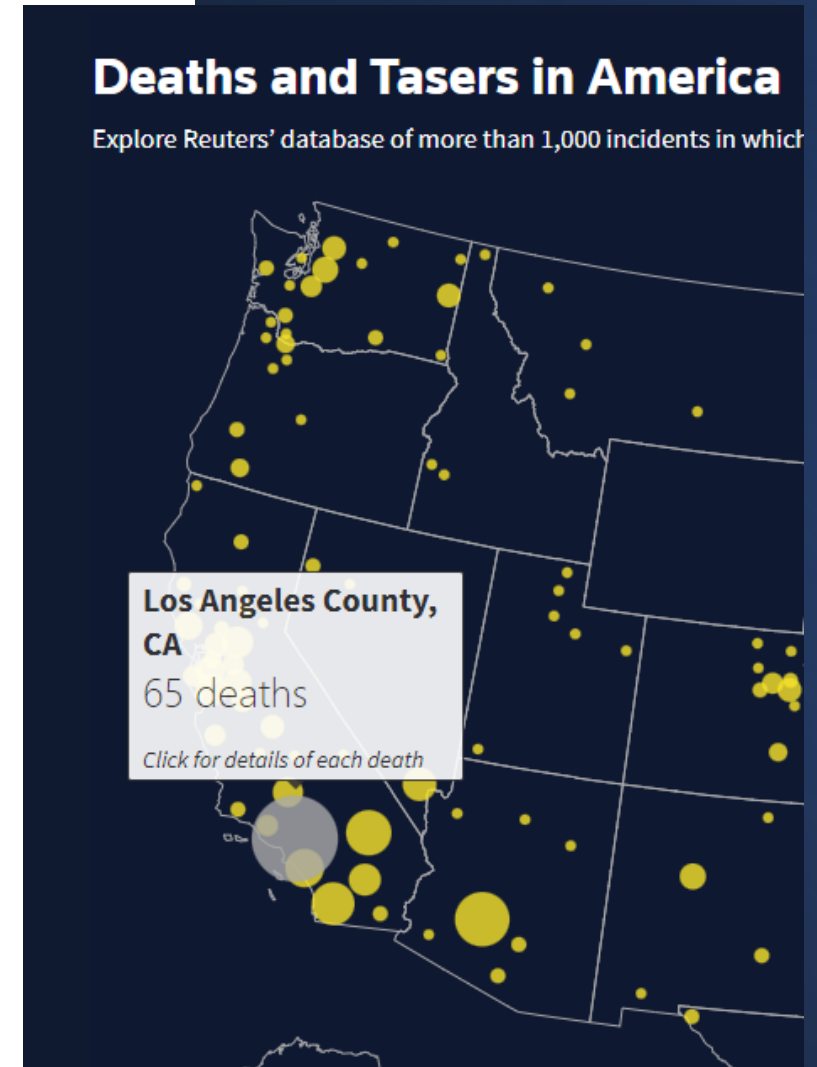
Statistics about Tasers

Reuters report

- Documented 1,081 deaths related to Taser use by law enforcement nationwide
- 9 out of 10 people who died after being shocked with a Taser were unarmed

URSUS data reported to California DOJ

- Statewide, 148 Taser incidents led to death or serious bodily injury in 2020-2021
- LASD reported 11 incidents involving Tasers that led to death or serious bodily injury
 - 8/11 incidents = civilian was unarmed
 - In > 50% incidents, officers reported mental disability or impairment



Taser Warnings

“May cause or contribute to sudden death”

- Use against elderly; those with heart conditions, asthma or other pulmonary conditions; intoxicated people; people who are agitated or exhausted; people who are running or physically struggling
- Shooting in chest
- Repeated use
- Use lasting more than 15 seconds

“Risk of death or serious injury” from falls

- People who are restrained or handcuffed
- People who could fall on/are holding a sharp object
- People located on elevated or unstable platforms
- People who are running
- People who are elderly or pregnant

Community demands

- Restrict the use of tasers. “Less lethal” does not mean non-lethal
- Remove law enforcement from traffic, mental health response
- Accountability for deputies who kill with Tasers, who use Tasers in dangerous and excessive ways
- Do NOT provide more funding to LASD to purchase more Tasers for custody staff



TEACHER, FATHER, FRIEND, HUMAN,

KEENAN ANDERSON

#JUSTICEFORKEENAN



Alternatives to Reliance on Tasers

- Decarceration: Diverting people from jails to ATI-informed community-based services and mental health care
- Increased investment in mental health treatment resources and crisis intervention professionals
- Emphasis on deputy use of de-escalation skills already mandated by state law.
 - *Shocking a person with a Taser is not de-escalation.*
- Effective diversion to appropriate mental health / behavioral health crisis responders from LASD dispatch