

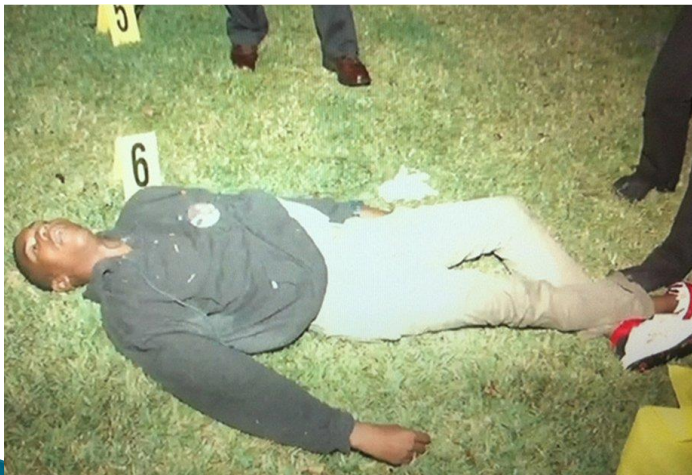
Applying Social Psychology

‘Should Black Lives Matter or All Lives matter? The Psychology of Police Violence Against Black Males’

Dr. Paul Hutchings

The BLM Movement

- ▶ Founded in 2013 after acquittal of George Zimmerman for shooting Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida
 - Use of Twitter as start of a political movement
 - #BlackLivesMatter



Ferguson, Missouri: August 2014



Marc Catron

Thu · Kansas City, MO ·

I'm sure young Michael Brown is innocent and just misunderstood. I'm sure he is a pillar of the Ferguson community.





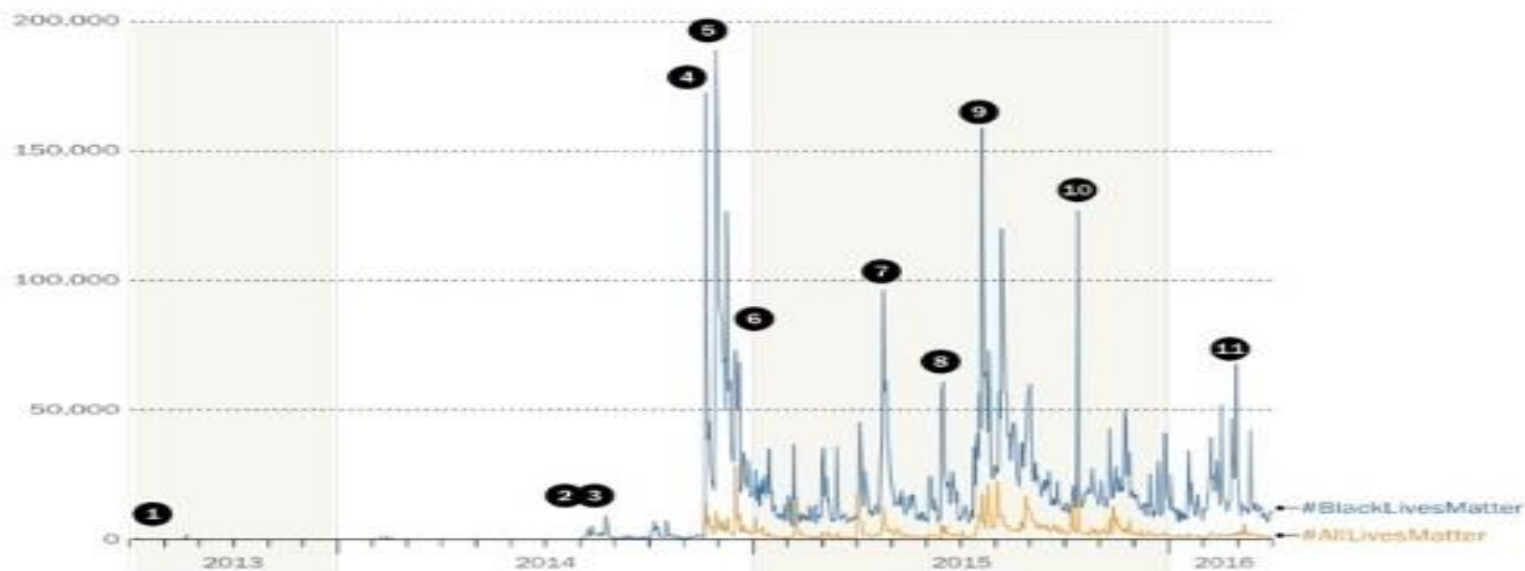


Liked 21 times



Pew Research Center @pewresearch · Aug 15

Between July 2013 & March 2016, **#BlackLivesMatter** was used 8x as often as **#AllLivesMatter** pewrsr.ch/2b8TX8V

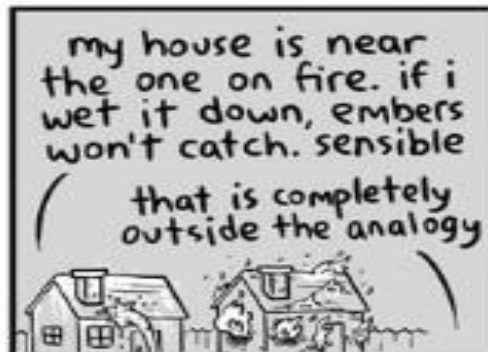
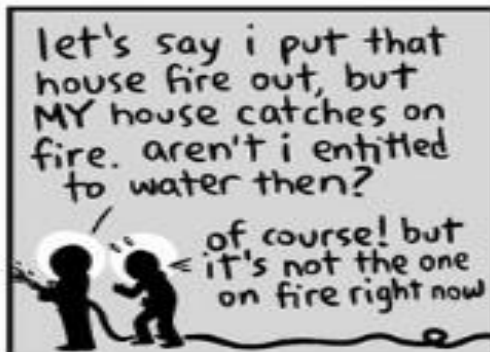


18



21





BLM Exists to put a Real Face on Hate of White People & Further divide NOT Unite! **#AllLivesMatter!!**

BLACK LIVES MATTER

**The entire country is sick of your shit.
Sick of the lawlessness, sick of the riots,
sick of the threats and demands.**

**The only thing you've managed to
accomplish in all of this is to live up
to the ghetto stereotypes.**

Congratulations.



269



296



Dallas, Texas: July 2016

- ▶ Five police officers killed by Micah Johnson during BLM protest
 - Johnson allegedly upset over shootings but not directly linked to BLM



Reasons for #BlackLivesMatter

- ▶ Violent crime in USA decreased since 1990
 - ▶ Deaths due to legal intervention (shooting, suffocation, etc.) at all-time high post-Civil Rights
 - Gilbert & Ray, 2015
 - ▶ In US Black males 21x more likely to be killed by police than White males (Gabrielson et al., 2015).
 - High-income Black males as likely to be killed as Low-income Black males (Krieger et al., 2015)
- 

▶ ‘Shooter bias’

- the tendency to shoot armed targets (correct response) faster for Black than White targets
- The tendency to not shoot unarmed targets (correct response) faster for White than Black targets
 - Higher error rates (false positives) for opposites
- Findings not linked to race of shooter in several studies (e.g., Correll et al., 2002)
- Similar findings found for shooter bias of targets in Muslim attire (Unkelbach et al., 2008)

BLM in the UK



Issues in the UK

- ▶ Macpherson Report (1999) into the police handling of the killing of Stephen Lawrence
 - Found the Metropolitan Police Force was 'institutionally racist'
 - Had completely ignored recommendations of Scarman Report after 1981 Brixton Race Riots
 - Led to widespread distrust of the police, particularly in inner-city areas

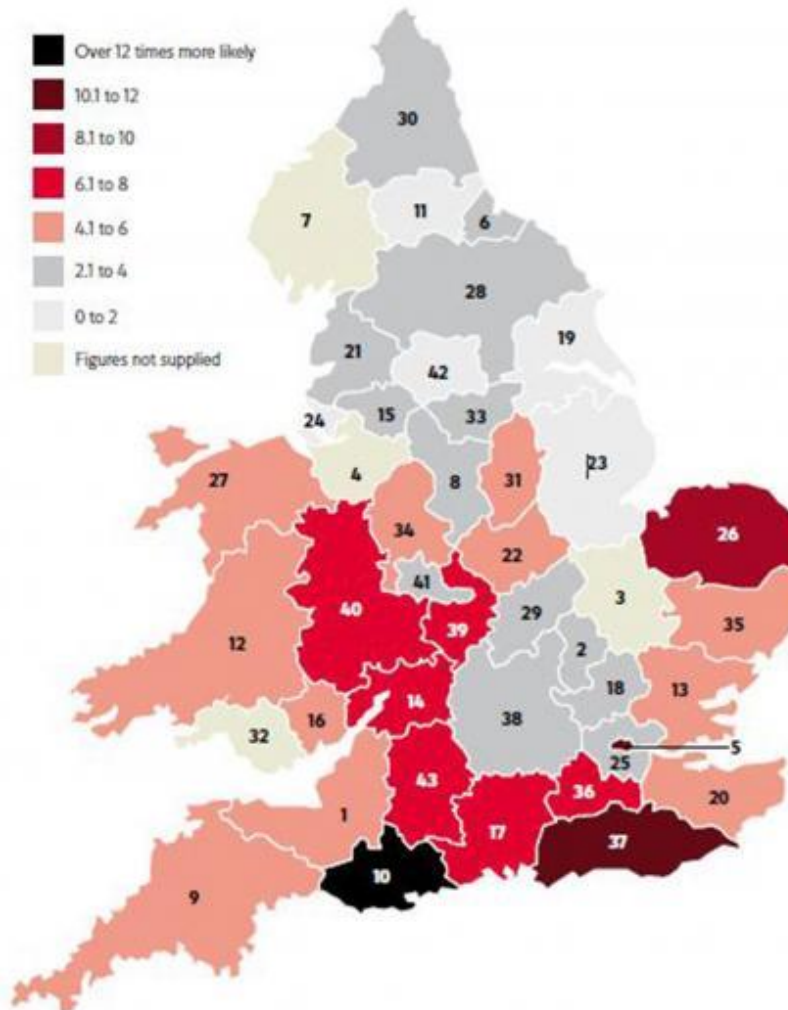
Stop and Search in England and Wales (FOI Independent Newspaper, 2015)

RACE AND THE POLICE STOP AND SEARCH IN ENGLAND AND WALES

The likelihood of a black person being stopped and searched compared with a white person

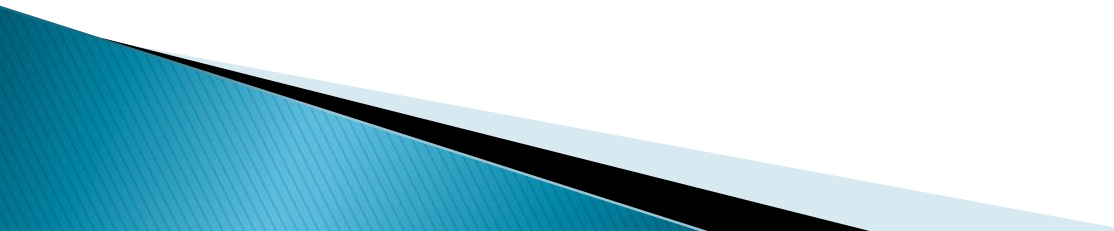
Police force	Times more likely
1 Avon and Somerset	4.5
2 Bedfordshire	2.2
3 Cambridgeshire	*
4 Cheshire	*
5 City of London	11.5
6 Cleveland	3.0
7 Cumbria	*
8 Derbyshire	2.9
9 Devon and Cornwall	5.9
10 Dorset	17.5
11 Durham	1.9
12 Dyfed-Powys	5.3
13 Essex	5.6
14 Gloucestershire	6.7
15 Greater Manchester	2.6
16 Gwent	4.5
17 Hampshire	6.9
18 Hertfordshire	3.2
19 Humberside	0.4
20 Kent	5.9
21 Lancashire	2.4
22 Leicestershire	4.5
23 Lincolnshire	0.8
24 Merseyside	0.8
25 Metropolitan	3.2
26 Norfolk	8.4
27 North Wales	5.0
28 North Yorkshire	3.5
29 Northamptonshire	2.5
30 Northumbria	2.8
31 Nottinghamshire	4.4
32 South Wales	*
33 South Yorkshire	2.1
34 Staffordshire	4.1
35 Suffolk	6.0
36 Surrey	7.3
37 Sussex	10.4
38 Thames Valley	3.1
39 Warwickshire	7.6
40 West Mercia	6.9
41 West Midlands	3.0
42 West Yorkshire	1.5
43 Wiltshire	6.6

*Figures not supplied



- ▶ Black adults make up 13.1% of UK prison population, 2.9% of overall population (2011 census)
- ▶ Muslim adults make up 13.4% prison population, 4.2% of overall population
 - Both groups receive higher sentence tariffs; spend more days than average in segregation; more likely than average to be subjected to use of force (Roberts, 2015)
- ▶ Young Offender Institutes – 41% of inmates BME (HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, 2014)

Conclusions

- ▶ Issues of racial and cultural prejudice and discrimination exist in the US and UK
 - Some differences but often similar root causes
 - ▶ #BLM has attempted to address the issue
 - Not always very well
 - ▶ The backlash, particularly through #AllLivesMatter and negative commentary, risks creating even greater divides for some
- 

Debate Questions

1. Should #BlackLivesMatter or #AllLivesMatter?
 2. Is #AllLivesMatter racist?
 3. Is #BlackLivesmatter racist?
 4. Are the psychological underpinnings (e.g., shooter bias, institutional racism) valid and, if so, what can be done about them?
- 