Stopping to bar in the second second



By Stephen L. Bakke 🏓 December 9, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

I read several broadly accusatory claims of the pervasiveness of "bad white racist cops" and "the epidemic of white cops killing black men at an alarming and disproportionate rate." The key word in the accusations is "disproportionate." I saw no researched statistics supporting the charge. When dealing with any important issue, particularly one that deals with life and death decisions and accusations, before any solution can have any hope of success there must be an accurate set of facts to support a strategy! What we have here isn't even close! It's just an uninformed and misguided reaction to the very real and unfortunate state of race relations in our country!

Here's my response:

Bad ~White~ Cops! That's the Charge! That's Always the Charge!

Many reports insinuate a cycle of white cop violence that "leaves so many young black men dead." We also hear about how white cops aren't held accountable.

This litany about a crime wave of white cops killing black men isn't supported by facts! Michael Tremoglie authored "Busting the Myth of 'Racist Killer Cops,'" reflecting information published in 2001 by the U.S. Department of Justice about homicides (killings, whether justified or not) committed by police:

- White officers were 87% of the Nation's police and accounted for 82% of justifiable homicides by police (as in Ferguson). The numbers for black officers was 11% and 17%.
- White officers killed black felons at the rate of 14 per 100,000 white officers. The numbers for black officers were 32 per 100,000 black officers.
- White officers killed white felons at a rate of 28 per 100,000 white officers. The numbers for black officers killing white felons were 11 per 100,000 black officers.

We shouldn't forget that police officers are losing their lives at a great rate! Consider (from the NLEOMF):

- During the last month of Ferguson protests, 12 cops have been killed across our country by thugs or accidents.
- 1,501 officers died in the line of duty during the past 10 years.
- 100 law enforcement officers were killed in 2013.
- On average, over the last decade, there have been over 58,000 assaults against police each year.

Besides letting emotion motivate us, we must also be cognizant of the facts! Everything in context!