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How Many People Have The Police Killed Through Untreated Heat Stroke?

“I asked Google AI ‘How many people have the police killed through untreated heat stroke?’ This was the response:”

Steven Magee – Author of Altitude AIDS

Direct statistics on how many people have died specifically due to untreated heat stroke at the hands of police are difficult to isolate from broader categories of in-custody deaths and heat related illnesses. However, some information highlights concerning trends:

Prison Deaths: In Texas prisons lacking air conditioning, studies suggest that hundreds of prisoners have died due to heat related causes over the last two decades. The Texas Department of criminal justice officially stated there had been no heat-related deaths since 2012, yet autopsies and analyses suggest a different picture, linking heat to numerous deaths classified under other causes like heart attacks.

In-Custody Deaths & Excited Delirium: Investigations have indicated that a significant portion of deaths attributed to "excited delirium" (which can be exacerbated by heat) in police custody involve the use of force by law enforcement.

Heat Stress and Force: Research shows that on extremely warm days (at or above 32°C), deaths associated with the use of Tasers and physical restraints by police are significantly higher. This suggests a need to reevaluate policies regarding the use of these techniques during hot weather.

It's important to note the difficulty in pinpointing specific numbers for deaths solely from untreated heat stroke during police encounters because:

Deaths can be attributed to other causes even when heat is a contributing factor, making accurate classification challenging.

There's ongoing discussion and debate about the classification and reporting of in-custody deaths and heat-related illnesses.

In conclusion, while specific statistics might be elusive, there's evidence suggesting that heat plays a role in deaths occurring in police custody and in settings under police oversight, underscoring the need for careful consideration of heat-related risks and preventative measures in law enforcement and detention settings.

<https://phr.org/our-work/resources/excited-delirium/>

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