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ON-DUTY POLICE SHOOTINGS: OFFICERS CHARGED WITH MURDER OR MANSLAUGHTER 2005-2018

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ABSTRACT
There were 97 nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers with the general powers of police, and related variables. Officers and their victims, weapons possessed by victims who were shot and killed by police, and related variables.

METHOD
The data for this project were collected as part of a larger research study on police crime in the United States. It is a quantitative content analysis of data compiled from available news sources and court documents. Cases were identified using the Google News™ search engine and Google Alerts™ email update service. The sample for this project consists of nonfederal sworn law enforcement officers charged in years 2005-2018 with murder or manslaughter resulting from an on-duty shooting.

RESULTS
• 26 of the officers charged with murder or manslaughter resulting from an on-duty shooting had under 5 years of service as a sworn officer at time of arrest, and 18 officers had over 10 years of service (x̄ = 7.34 years of service).
• Officers ranged from 23 to 73 years old at the time of arrest (x̄ = 34.71 years old).
• The mode years for the number of officers charged were 2015 and 2016.
• 49 white officers shot and killed black victims (Table 4).
• 35 officers were convicted, 42 were not convicted, and the criminal cases for 20 of the officers are currently pending.

DISCUSSION
• As to the cases with video evidence, 14 officers were convicted, 13 were not convicted, and the criminal cases for 6 of the officers are currently pending (Table 5).
• As to officers whose criminal cases ended in a nonconviction, 22 were acquitted at a jury trial, 9 were acquitted at a bench trial, 4 cases were dismissed by a prosecutor, and in 1 case no true bill was returned by the grand jury (Table 1).

All data current as of March 21, 2019

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