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De-Escalation Training

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De-Escalation Training

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Abstract

De-escalation training has been widely implemented by U.S. police agencies in the wake of adverse public reaction to recent controversial police use of force incidents. Despite the promotion from politicians, academics, expert panels, and the public, we are struggling to see the effects of de-escalation training on officers and police-citizen interactions. Police Brutality is classified as a situation where officers exercise undue or excessive force against a person (Amnesty International 2018). No national standard of training for police means that there is also no national standard on how police officers can be prosecuted for using lethal force improperly. This paper offers facts and findings from officials and experts on the the impact of de-escalation training.

Key Points

- There are millions of negative encounters between police and civilians every year, and that is where a change in training can make an enormous difference.
- If police were required to learn about different cultures in their community and how to de-escalate confrontations without that racial bias, there would be a better bond between the public and the police.
- Teaching the national law enforcement body to de-escalate conflict and embrace a guardian mindset would require buy-in from agency leadership on a department-by-department basis.
- In the U.S., there are roughly 18,000 separate police agencies and no national standards for the use-of-force and de-escalation training.

Comparison of PERF and IADLEST Surveys



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Conclusion & Discussions

There are millions of negative encounters between police and civilians every year, and that is where a change in training can make an enormous difference. Officials want cops to be educated. “I don’t want them to be mirroring the Dirty Harrys of the world, I want gender scholars and race scholars and criminal justice scholars to be teaching future cops”. (Preston, 2020). Police academies across America have moved from a “warrior” approach to a more “guardian” approach. A better educated officer, who has passed extensive pre-employment standards with enhanced training, will perform better and be less likely to use force inappropriately.

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