Vehicle Rammings as a Violent Factor of National Protests

Author/Faculty: Edward Maguire Ph.D.
Research Assistants: Brenda Melchor, Emily Bingham, Lex Weber
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Background

- George Floyd & civil unrest summer 2020
- Less than 1% violence within protests
- Emergence of vehicular violence
  - Well-known international terrorist tactic (Europe/Middle East)
- Public health implications

Source: B.Melchor, BLM Plaza, Washington DC
Methodology

• Open source materials
  • Google, videos, news articles, Twitter, etc.,
• Built database of vehicle ramming incidents
• After George Floyd’s death
• Examined injuries, deaths, driver characteristics
Examining the Incidents

*Out of 134 incidents in six months

- Struck: 251
- Injured: 159
- Dead: 3

Injuries

- Struck (No Injury): 35.5%
- Dead: 1.2%
- Injured: 63.3%
# Race/Ethnicity of Drivers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>84.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>66</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 134 cases identified
- 66 cases had race/ethnicity of driver available
- Overwhelming majority of drivers (with available race) were white
For 62 intentional incidents, we broke victims and drivers into five groups:

- Police officer
- Left-leaning protester (e.g., Black Lives Matter)
- Right-leaning protester (e.g., Donald Trump supporter)
- Suspected looter
- Unknown
Conclusion of Findings

- Residual mental health problems among victims we spoke to
- Pedestrian safety is a major public health concern
- Prevention and empowerment of communities

Source: Idsnews.com
Source: latimes.com