

DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF A “KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” CAR STICKER

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Background: Police use of force is not a new phenomenon, and in certain situations may be necessary to protect themselves or the public. However, recent events in the United States have prompted several groups to declare that law enforcement’s use of excessive force is a matter of public health. The most common reason for contact with the police is being a driver in a traffic stop.

Objective: While police reform is the only way to address the root problem, symptomatic treatment that focuses on educating and empowering people to know their rights when being stopped may save their life. This project seeks to outline the creation of a Know Your Rights (KYR) car sticker.

Methods: Similar to an oil-change sticker on the driver’s side windshield of the vehicle, the KYR sticker will be placed in an area easily viewable by the driver. The sticker includes a review of the driver’s legal rights and responsibilities in the event of a traffic stop including but not limited to the right to remain silent, right to refuse search consent, right to a lawyer if arrested, and showing your driver’s license and proof of insurance when requested.

Progress: We have received funding for this project in the amount of \$1500 from the Injury and Violence Prevention Center at the Colorado School of Public Health. We have also received IRB exemption status for the collection of data during focus groups and distribution events. We have partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado, who have agreed to assist us with the design and legal aspects of the sticker. We have also had conversations with the Aurora Police Department to hear their input on this project. We have also launched a website that houses more resources, and have developed a plan for obtaining community feedback.

Conclusion: The development of the KYR car sticker represents a proactive step towards addressing the complex issue of police use of force, particularly during traffic stops. By equipping individuals with knowledge of their legal rights and responsibilities, this intervention seeks to empower and protect communities, ultimately contributing to a safer and more equitable society.