

Changes to Less-Lethal Use of Force Policy Following the 2020 George Floyd Protests: An Analysis

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Abstract

This project looks at changes to policy regarding less-lethal use of force by the police following the 2020 George Floyd protests. It has a particular emphasis on the changes made following eye injuries that resulted from less-lethal weapon use in efforts to subdue crowds. It examines historical use of force policy and highlights challenges in the fluid definitions that exist regarding appropriateness of weaponry for an indicated level of response. Data from changes regarding policy, training, and outcomes is reviewed at the city (Denver), state (Colorado), and national levels.