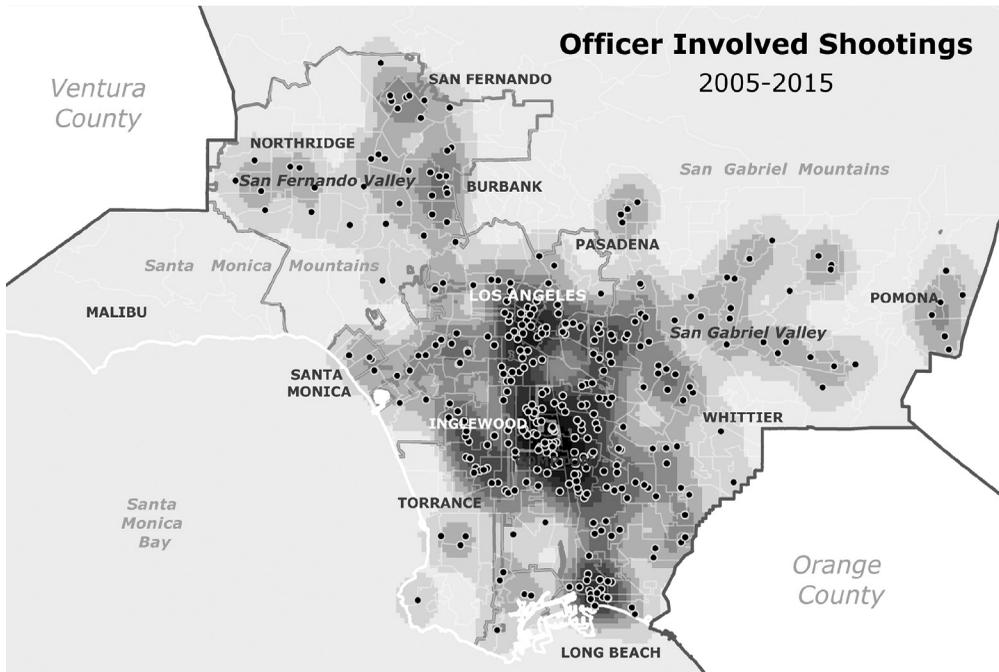


## MAP ROOM

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Hot Spot Map: Officer-Involved Shootings, 2005–2015, Los Angeles County

L. A. County District Attorney's Office, KPCC

The ethnicity of victims in officer-involved shootings (OIS) has generated intense media scrutiny in the last few years. Racial bias is a common charge leveled against law enforcement officers and administrative policies, such as New York City's "Stop and Frisk". Less scrutinized is the spatial pattern of officer-involved shootings, despite a clear need to contextualize the environment in which officers engage the public. Understanding that officers make split-second decisions in specific neighborhood contexts may help illuminate the circumstances under which the decision to discharge (or not discharge) a weapon occurs.

This map, produced using a technique called "kernel density smoothing," shows OIS in Los Angeles County from 2010 to 2015. Dots indicate precise locations of shootings and shaded "hotspots" — which stretch southward from downtown toward into Long Beach — indicate generalized areas where OIS have occurred.

The map is illustrative in its own right, but combined with similar maps, crime rates, and demographic variables, this map can be used to test assumptions about the relationship between neighborhood context and police violence. Preliminary findings strongly suggest that the violent crime rate itself is the most reliable predictor of where OIS will occur. This should come as no surprise. Far more interesting are the exceptions to the trend. Notable among the negative outliers are the low rates of OIS in Los Angeles' Crenshaw and Harbor Districts, both areas with large percentages of African Americans and reasonably high violent crime rates. The relative lack of OIS (holding violent crime rate constant) in many of Los Angeles' African American neighborhoods offers a surprising counterpoint to prevailing media narratives about cops and black neighborhoods. On the other

hand, some LAPD divisions (e.g., North Hollywood) and a few L.A. sheriff districts have higher numbers and rates of OIS than one would expect, given their violent crime rates. Latino neighborhoods figure slightly more prominently among such districts. As a result, it is reasonable to assume that administrative culture at the division level may have a significant effect on the likelihood that officers working in those districts will discharge their weapons. Districts where officers keep weapons holstered despite locally high violent crime rates are likely to be worthy of both praise and additional study, so that their successes resolving situations nonviolently may be replicated elsewhere.