

# Negative Effects of the Use of Militarization Methods by the Police Force



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Committee: Chemical Pollutant Eradication Council  
Chair: Dr. Janis C. Brooks



## Presentation Outline

- ▶ Riot Control Agents
- ▶ Exposure to a riot control agent
- ▶ Health effects of exposure to riot control agents
- ▶ Treatment for riot control agents
- ▶ Protection and exposure to riot control agents
- ▶ Rubber Bullets
- ▶ The Americans With Disabilities Act And Law Enforcement
- ▶ Summary

# Riot Control Agents



Chloroacetophenone (CN)

Chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS)

Other examples include:

- Chloropicrin (PS), used as a fumigant (that is, a substance that uses fumes to disinfect an area);
- Bromobenzylcyanide (CA);
- Dibenzoxazepine (CR); and combinations of various agents.

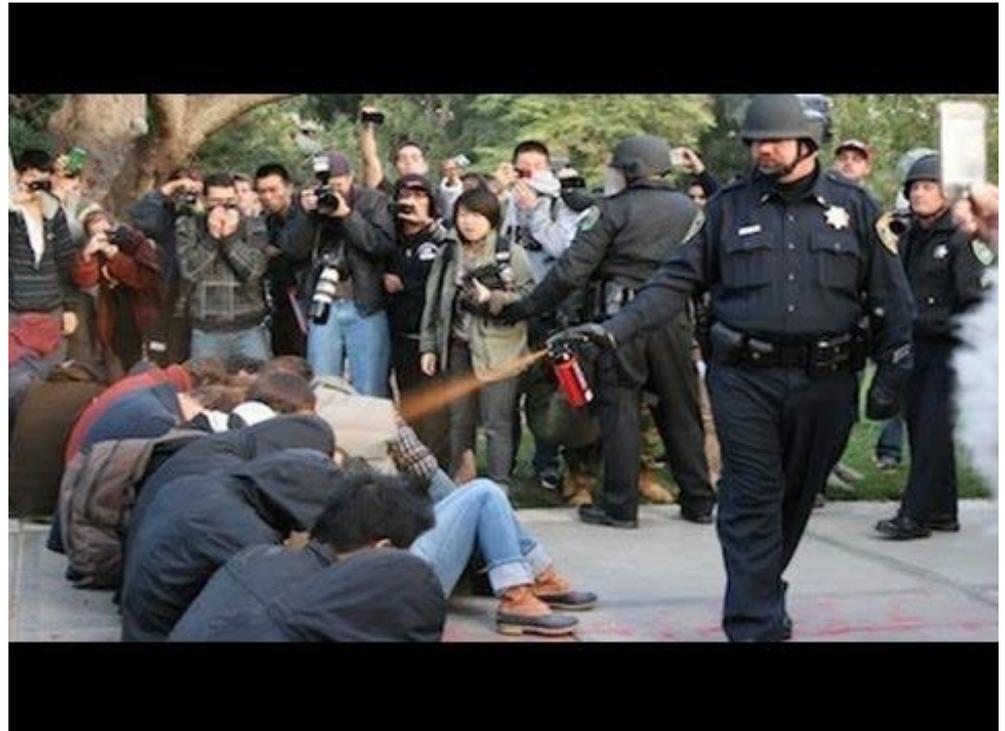
# Exposure to a riot control agent

How you could be exposed to riot control agents.

- ▶ Fine droplets or particles
- ▶ Skin contact, Eye contact, or Breathing.

How riot control agents work.

- ▶ The extent of poisoning
- ▶ Irritation of the area of contact (for example, eyes, skin, nose)
- ▶ The effects of exposure to a riot control agent



# Health effects of exposure to riot control agents



Symptoms immediately after exposure:

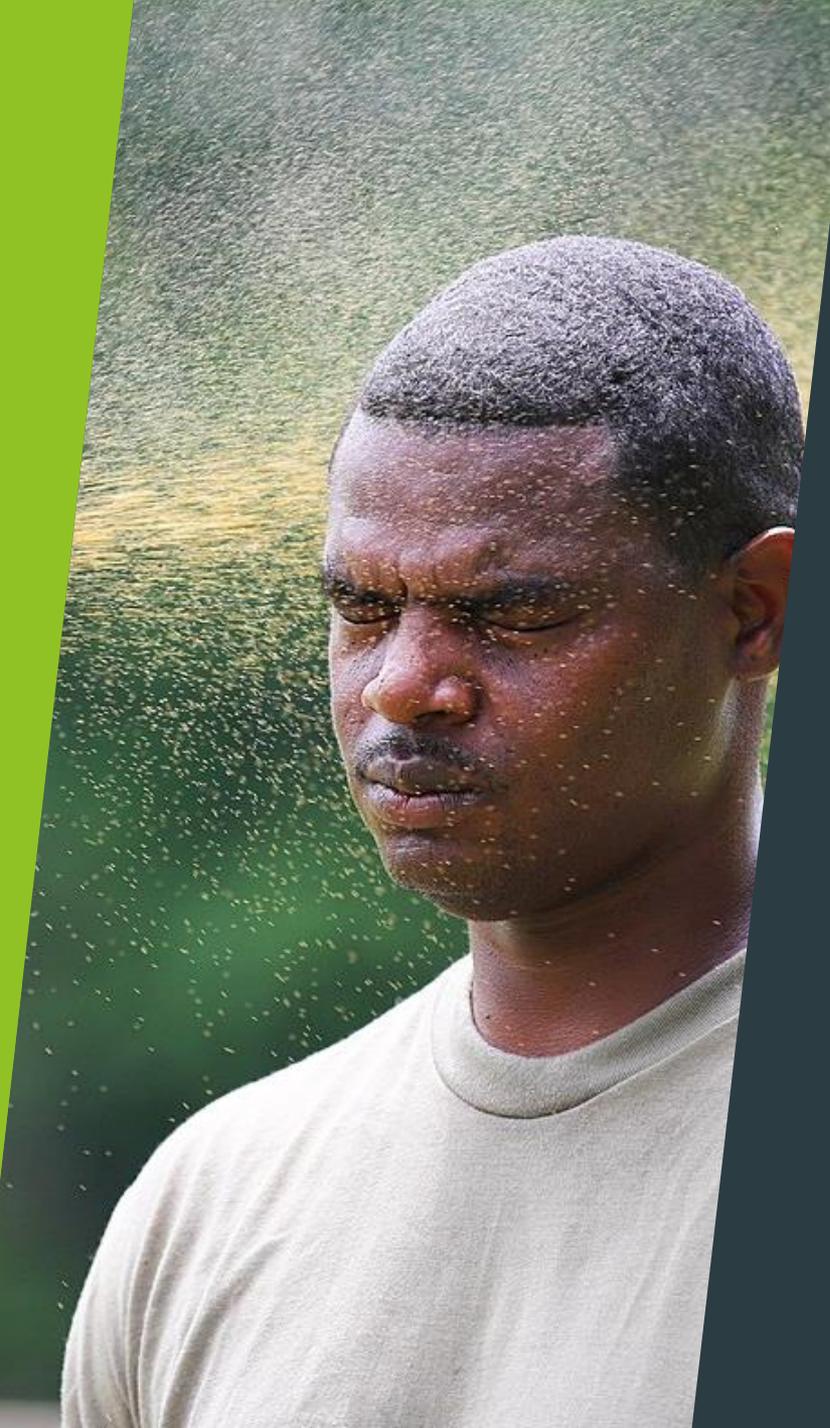
- ▶ Eyes: excessive tearing, burning, blurred vision, redness
- ▶ Nose: runny nose, burning, swelling
- ▶ Mouth: burning, irritation, difficulty swallowing, drooling
- ▶ Lungs: chest tightness, coughing, choking sensation, noisy breathing (wheezing), shortness of breath
- ▶ Skin: burns, rash
- ▶ Other: nausea and vomiting

Long-lasting exposure or exposure in a closed setting, may cause severe effects such as the following:

- ▶ Blindness
- ▶ Glaucoma (a serious eye condition that can lead to blindness)
- ▶ Immediate death due to severe chemical burns to the throat and lungs
- ▶ Respiratory failure possibly resulting in death



People gathered Downtown as protests turned violent

A photograph of a man with a distressed expression, his eyes closed, and his skin appearing irritated by a spray of white particles. The background is a blurred green field. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue and green geometric overlay on the right side.

## Long-term health effects of exposure to riot control agents

Prolonged exposure, especially in an enclosed area, may lead to long-term effects such as eye problems, including scarring, glaucoma, and cataracts, and may cause breathing problems such as asthma.

# Treatments for riot control agents

- ▶ Helping the affected person get more oxygen in his or her blood
- ▶ Stopping agent-caused chemical burns from getting worse
- ▶ Eye exposures are treated by rinsing the eyes with water
- ▶ No antidote exists for poisoning from riot control agents.
- ▶ Burn injuries to the skin are treated with standard burn management techniques



# Protection and what to do if you are exposed to riot control agents.



- ▶ **Removing your clothing**
- ▶ **Washing yourself**
- ▶ **Disposing of your clothes**

For more information about cleaning your body and disposing of your clothes after a chemical release, see [“Chemical Agents: Facts About Personal Cleaning and Disposal of Contaminated Clothing.”](#)
- ▶ **Seek medical attention right away. Dial 911 and explain what has happened.**

# Rubber Bullets

- ▶ Will cause injury, maims or mutilates, or causes death to individuals.
- ▶ Are meant to cause pain but not a serious injury.
- ▶ Expected to produce contusions, abrasions, and hematomas.
- ▶ May cause bone fractures, injuries to internal organs, or death.
- ▶ A review of studies covering 1,984 people injured by "kinetic impact projectiles" found that 53 died and 300 were permanently disabled.<sup>[7]</sup>



# The Americans With Disabilities Act And Law Enforcement



To the average citizen, this may not be applicable as it pertains to law enforcement.



The failure to provide adequate safeguards represents non-compliance and can lead to harmful results and possible death.



U. S. Department of Justice  
Civil Rights Division  
*Disability Rights Section*

# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT



- ▶ 1. What is the ADA?
  - ▶ A Federal civil rights law.
- ▶ 2. How does the ADA affect my law enforcement duties?
  - ▶ Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities.
  - ▶ receiving citizen complaints;
  - ▶ interrogating witnesses;
  - ▶ arresting, booking, and holding suspects;
  - ▶ operating telephone (911) emergency centers;
  - ▶ providing emergency medical services;
  - ▶ enforcing laws;
  - ▶ and other duties.

# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

## ▶ 3. Who does the ADA protect?

▶ The ADA covers a wide range of individuals with disabilities.

- ▶ Major life activities include such things as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, and working.
- ▶ The ADA also protects people who are discriminated against because of their association with a person with a disability.

## ▶ 4. What about someone who uses illegal drugs?

▶ Nothing in the ADA prevents officers and deputies from enforcing criminal laws relating to an individual's current use or possession of illegal drugs.



COMMONLY  
ASKED  
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ABOUT THE  
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► **5. What are some common problems that people with disabilities have with law enforcement?**

Unexpected actions taken by some individuals with disabilities may be misconstrued by officers or deputies as a suspicious or illegal activity or uncooperative behavior.

► **6. What can be done to avoid these situations?**

Training, sensitivity, and awareness will help to ensure equitable treatment of individuals with disabilities as well as effective law enforcement.



# SUMMARY



Need to address the demilitarization of the police department.



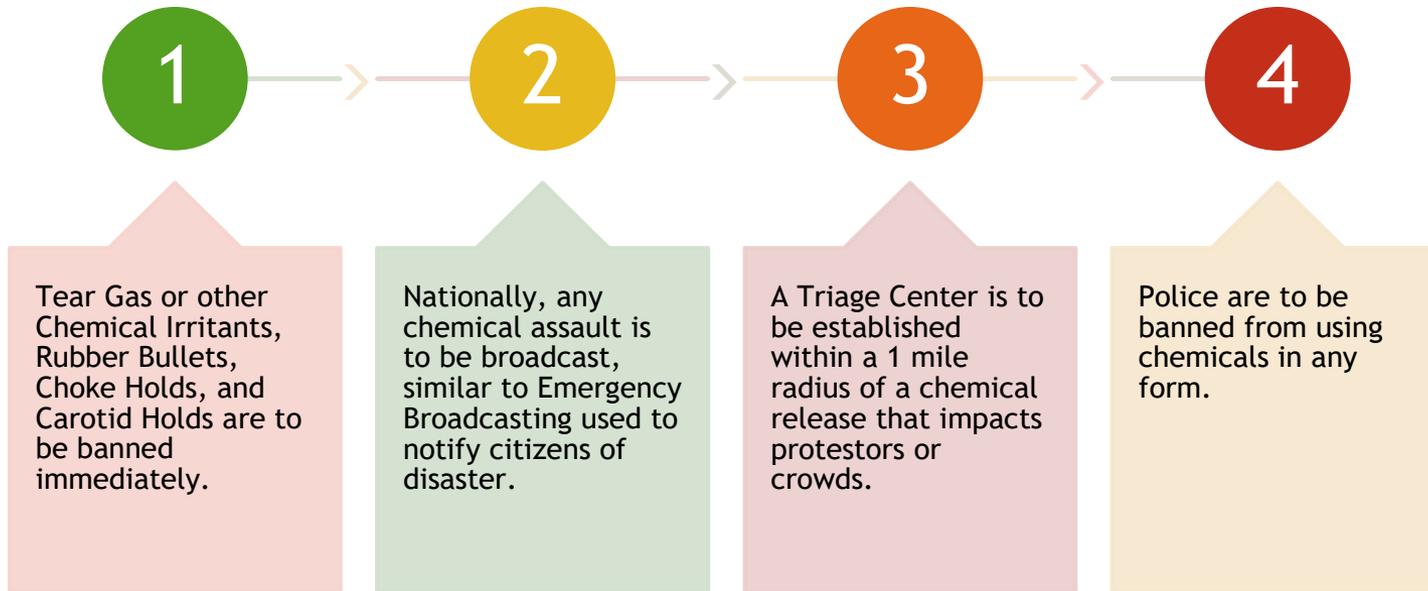
Exposures can cause lasting health ramifications that may have a latency period, and individuals may not know when the onset of the disease originated.

# SUMMARY (continued)

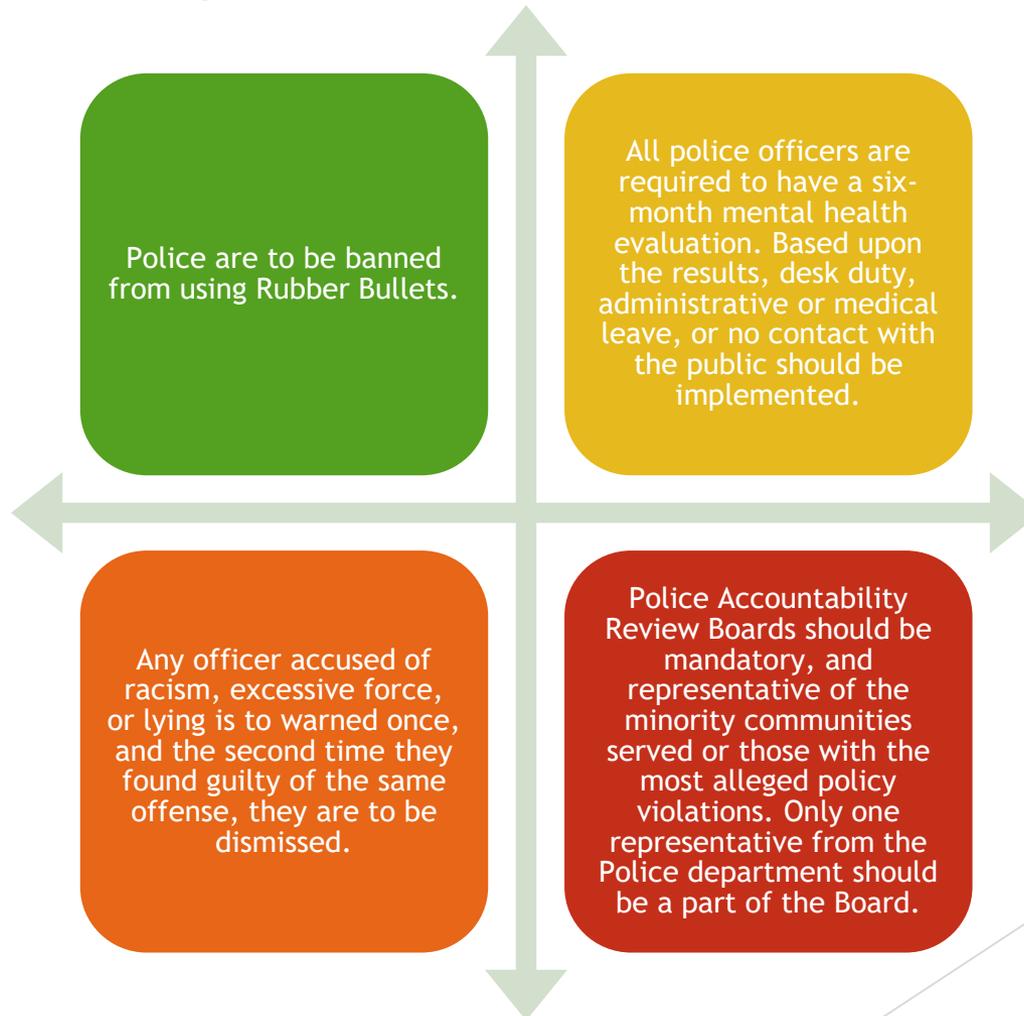


- ▶ The Police wear masks to protect themselves, yet citizens are being gassed with the possibility of being poisoned.
- ▶ Chemicals can enter the body by inhaling, ingesting, or absorbing.

# Policy Recommendations



# Policy Recommendations (continued)



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