Racism in California Law

Racial inequity and discrimination is rooted in the U.S. legal system, clearly visible in police military equipment policies.

Assembly Bill 481 requires law enforcement agencies to obtain approval for the use of military equipment before taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of such equipment. It also requires a regular meeting to be held in accordance with specified open meeting laws. Since AB 481’s passing, CA police departments have been publicly posting their military equipment policies and inventories.

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Passionate about using data and AI to increase equity.
Other interests/research:
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  Women empowerment, mental health, reading and weightlifting

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Being aware of how prevalent systemic racism is, there is the drive to make a change through law and politics.

Project Goals

Many of CA’s police policies were written by Lexipol – designed to specifically protect the police. We aim to increase transparency and visibility into these policies by creating a website that make information accessible to researchers and the public.

Topics Covered

- How do lawsuits correlate with police militarization?
- Demographics / housing / income
- Language discrepancies across police policies (Lexipol & non-Lexipol)

Progress to-date

- OCR script with Law-BERT text correction for California statutes and non-OCR-ed police policies
- Data scraped from ~75 police departments (more than 1 terabyte of information gathered)

Examples of Military Equipment Used

- 95% of CA law enforcement agencies rely on Lexipol’s policy manual
- Only 76% of the police departments studied have publicly posted their military equipment policy and an inventory list