

20 things the media won't tell you about George Floyd

(full disclosure: [all information is pulled and sourced from this article](#))

1. George Floyd was experiencing cardiovascular stress *minutes before* he was placed on the ground. He was saying he couldn't breathe before a knee was placed on his neck. According to the government complaint, "Mr. Floyd stiffened up, fell to the ground, and told the officers he was claustrophobic [...] Mr. Floyd did not voluntarily get in the car and struggled with the officers by intentionally falling down, saying he was not going in the car, and refusing to stand still [...] While standing outside the car, Mr. Floyd began saying and repeating that he could not breathe."
2. The police were not called just because of a counterfeit bill, but because the caller was concerned that somebody clearly on drugs and out of control was about to drive a vehicle. According to the 911 call, "Um someone comes our store and give us fake bills and we realize it before he left the store, and we ran back outside, they was sitting on their car [...], and he's sitting on his car cause he is awfully drunk and he's not in control of himself [...] He is not acting right [...] and [he's] not acting right so and [he] started to go, drive the car."
3. The police were authorized to use neck restraint against George Floyd, because he actively resisted arrest on two occasions. It is considered non-lethal by the Minneapolis Police Department. Why is it considered non-lethal? Because...
4. ... a study done on double-knee neck restraint showed that it only exerts 106 lbs of force on average. Split between two knees, this is 53 lbs of force on the back and 53 lbs of force on the neck. However, the actual -knee weight was exactly 23.3 kg plus 24% of a specific LEO's body weight. Chauvin is approximately 156 lbs.,. This means Officer Chauvin was exerting 90 lbs in the double-knee position, for 45 lbs exerted spread across the back and the neck (implying balanced force). 45 lbs is definitively insufficient to restrict breathing or blood-flow in the neck. [Here's a police sergeant in the Czech Republic demonstrating neck restraint on himself.](#)
5. The study concluded that "our data do not support the hypothesis of restraint asphyxia." "Subsequent rigorous scientific studies, however, using sophisticated measurements have debunked the positional or restraint asphyxia hypothesis because the prone position does not produce respiratory compromise." "To date, none of the published human clinical studies, or epidemiological studies, support the hypothesis that the pronerestraint position causes or contributes to ventilatory compromise." This is important, because the study essentially concluded that restraining a suspect in prone position does not cause cardiopulmonary distress. This study was published last year, from the University of Minnesota, and it used Minneapolis Police Department personnel as participants. In fact, there's a 5% chance Chauvin was one of these participants. If he talked to 9 officers about use of force, the odds are *one of them* was a participant. He likely knew about this study.

6. George Floyd was able to lift up his head and neck momentarily on video. This would have been impossible if Chauvin was choking him or causing damage. This occurs at 2:12 in the raw footage.
7. The first autopsy found no damage to the neck. The study notes that cause of death was a heart attack, not asphyxiation. The second autopsy that was paid for by Floyd's family concluded "compression of the neck" as cause of death *only by looking at the video*, not by examining the physical features of the neck.
8. The guy who performed the bought and paid for autopsy was Michael Baden. Baden is the same medical examiner who was hired for Eric Garner, and declared death by "compression of the neck". Baden is also the same medical examiner who was hired by the Brown family to examine Michael Brown, and Baden found that Brown died while surrendering, an assertion totally disproven by a DoJ investigation spearheaded by AG Eric Holder under Obama. In other words, Baden has been proven in court to have produced false autopsy reports.
9. Baden was also hired by the family of Donald Lewis, a man who died in 2005 in a similar position. Donald Lewis was a White man who was experiencing "excited delirium". A Black police officer used neck restraint on him, and he died. The Supreme Court ruled that the officers were not responsible for his death. Why? Because...
10. "Excited delirium" occurs when suspects on drugs, usually with a history of stimulant use, experience a mental breakdown and fight against arrest. They fight so hard against *any kind of restraint* that they give themselves cardiac arrest. There are a number of cases of excited delirium where the suspect is sitting upright or in recovery position. These deaths are not due to restraint, but due to excited delirium.
11. The police are recorded on their bodycams stating that Floyd was suffering from excited delirium. That's why they held him down. According to the Minneapolis Police Department, the police should hold down the suspect until the EMT arrives (usually with ketamine). The officers were doing this. Likely if the EMT arrived earlier, Floyd would have been dead from ketamine + fentanyl overdose. If the officers didn't restrain him and he fled and they had to use a taser, he would likely be dead from taser-induced cardiac arrest.
12. The Minneapolis PD has this to say about excited delirium: "Given the irrational and potentially violent, dangerous, and lethal behavior of an ExDS subject, any LEO interaction with a person in this situation risks significant injury or death to either the LEO or the ExDS subject who has a potentially lethal medical syndrome. This already challenging situation has the potential for intense public scrutiny coupled with the expectation of a perfect outcome. Anything less creates a situation of potential public outrage. Unfortunately, this dangerous medical situation makes perfect outcomes difficult in many circumstances."
13. It is [recommended EMS practice](#) to restrain an excited delirium suspect until EMS arrive (with ketamine).
14. George Floyd had a potentially lethal amount of fentanyl in his blood. He also had some meth in his system, plus other drugs. He had 11 ng/mL of fentanyl and 19 ng/mL of meth. Autopsies are not always reliable in measuring the amount of a drug responsible for an overdose, but one study found the average amount of fentanyl in overdose deaths to be 9.96 ng/mL.

15. George Floyd had two heart conditions: arteriosclerotic heart disease and hypertensive heart disease.
16. George Floyd has a long arrest record and a long history of drug abuse. In one of his arrests, he committed armed robbery against a pregnant black woman. This was in 2007.
17. George Floyd refused to stay within the back of the police car and struggled with the officers immediately preceding the officers restraining him on the ground. Minneapolis is withholding the police bodycam footage for this very reason.
18. 2 of the officers charged were white, 1 was Asian, and 1 was Black. MN is 59.3% white, 19.3% Black, and maybe ~10% Asian. This means Asians and Blacks were disproportionately involved in George Floyd's death, not Whites. There was no "racism" to this incident.
19. The number of complaints made against Derek Chauvin is not more than the average number of complaints against a given Minneapolis PD officer. Only one was found to have merit, when he asked a speeding driver to get out of her vehicle. Meanwhile, he had earned two medals of valor.
20. Chauvin is married to a refugee from Laos.
21. There were only 12 incidents of unarmed Black men being killed by the police in all of 2019, and in most of these cases, they were fighting with the police or reaching for the officer's gun.

146 comments