

# **A new federal report discusses an unexpected theory for why murders are rising in U.S. cities**

June 29, 2016

## ***The Washington Post:***

More people were murdered in large U.S. cities last year than in 2014 — the first substantial increase in homicides in a quarter-century, after years of improving safety on American streets — and criminologists still are not sure why. There has been a fierce debate about the causes of the violence, but one possible explanation has not received enough public attention so far, according to the the author of a report published Wednesday by the Justice Department.

The theory — one of several that criminologist Richard Rosenfeld presents in the paper — suggests that, after a number of widely discussed law-enforcement killings of young black men during the past couple of years, residents of predominately black and disadvantaged urban neighborhoods further lost confidence in the police.

...

Still, “a subtle shift in the perception of law enforcement, if the city is large enough, can lead to what looks like a significant increase in the body count,” said Phillip Atiba Goff, a psychologist at UCLA. “It happens very quickly.”

Read the whole story: [\*The Washington Post\*](#)