The Distinct Symptoms of Suicide by Cop
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Results suggest that SbC subjects tend to verbalize their intentions to die by suicide via law enforcement (62%). This is consistent with Vivian Lord’s definition of SbC (2000).

The high percentage of Caucasian males in their thirties is concordant with prior demographic findings (Lord 2000).

Analyses support prior findings of dangerous behavior used to provoke deadly force from law enforcement (Neitzel and Gill 2011). Subjects tend to display overtly threatening behavior toward others involved in the event (97%); 51% provided quotes such as, “I am going to die tonight and I will take you with me.”

33% of subjects provided aggressive statements (e.g. “You better [expletive] shoot me or I am going to stab you”) as opposed to 13% of hope quotes (e.g. “I give up”). This could suggest that SbC subjects cannot carry out self-inflicted suicide—a concept admitted by 32% of subjects. In this context, aggression toward bystanders may be closer to suicidal behavior than homicidal behavior.

Prior research suggests schizophrenia and bipolar disorder tend to be the most common mental disorders among SbC cases (Lord 2000). Our results suggest mood disorders, including depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder, tend to be slightly more common (30%).

Previous research found crime to be a common triggering event (Neitzel and Gill 2011). Our results indicate domestic fights between spouses or relatives tend to be more common (46%).

Limitations in this study include unknown data in reports due to redaction and a high percentage (67%) of cases from Nevada that may not be representative of the population. Future research could include a larger sample size in order to increase generalizability and availability of commonly redacted information.