

# Open Public Safety Data

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# President's Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing

- Following high-profile killings by police last summer, President Obama established task force to improve police-community relations
- Many of the final report's recommendations concern improving public access to data –
  - To collect and publish data about **stops, summonses, arrests, reported crime,** and other law enforcement data aggregated by **demographics.**
  - To collect and publish data about **use of force**
  - To collect and publish **officer-involved shooting** and **death-in-custody** data.

# **In other words...**

## **public safety data is open data**

If we want -

- better transparency and accountability
- the public to help to highlight problems, help us work towards solutions

Then –

- Public safety data must be collected and openly published

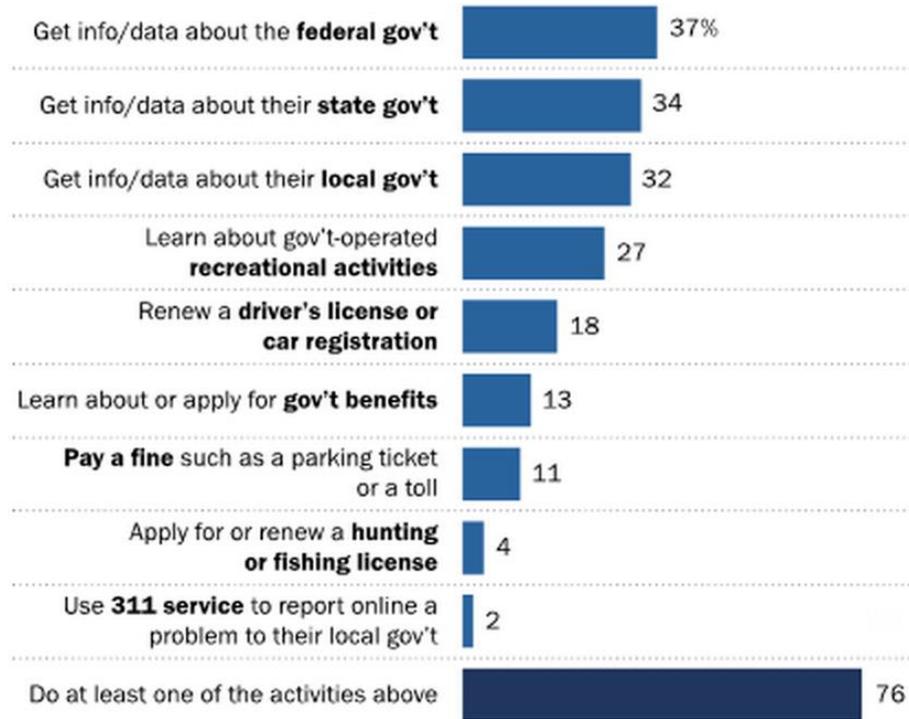
# Open Data =

*the right to information online*

<i>Administratively</i>	<i>Technically</i>
Proactively Online	Open formats
Cost-free	Machine-readable
License-free	Bulk downloads

## Internet Use to Find Data or Information Pertaining to the Government

% of adults who used the internet or an app to ...



Source: Online survey of 3,212 adults in Pew Research's American Trends Panel, Nov. 17-Dec. 15, 2014.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Why Open Data?

To provide the public information people want.

2015 Pew Study:

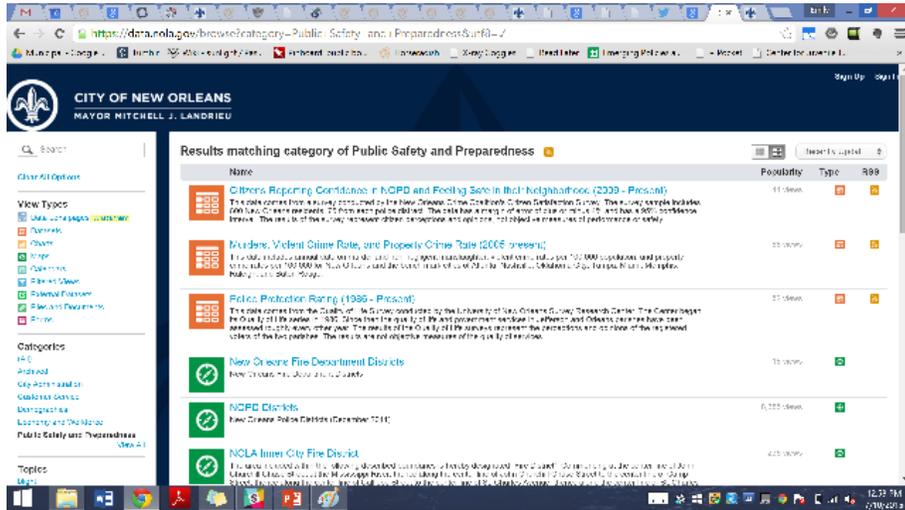
- 76% of people go online to interact with government
- The majority of those people are seeking information

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/04/21/open-government-data/>

# Why open data (for public safety)?

- Creating Transparency
- Empowering Accountability
- Improving Public Service
- Creating New Opportunities for Public Participation

# Transparency – Crime Data



- Policies to collect and publish police practice leads to more public analysis and reporting
- New Orleans' Open Data portal provides a real-time feed of police calls for service data

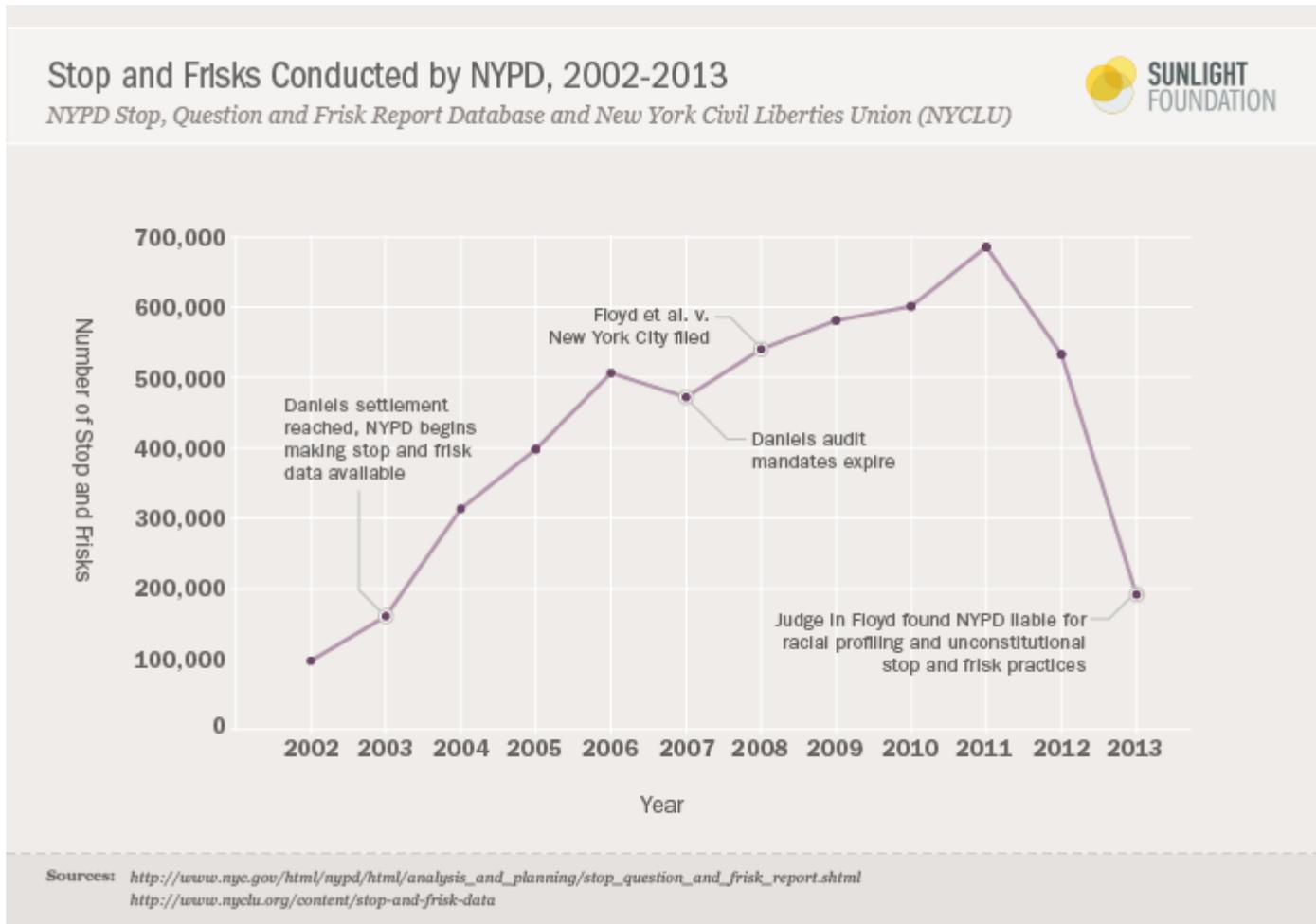
## The Fatal Shooting Percentage: Explaining Why Murder is Rising in NOLA

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Welcome to *The Advocate's Behind the Numbers* blog! Here, former city crime analyst Jeff Asher, now an independent consultant, will use data to analyze issues of interest to Advocate readers. The goal is to look deeply

Year	Fatal Incidents	Total Incidents	Fatal Shooting Percentage
2011	177	459	38.6%
2012	169	443	38.1%
2013	131	362	36.2%
2014	138	432	31.9%
2015	79	197	40.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>1893</b>	<b>36.66%</b>

# Accountability – Stop and Frisk Data



- Published data empowers oversight, public pressure and litigation
- New York change in stop and frisk policy represented power of data plus active advocacy

# Improving Public Services – OIS Data

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**Texas Lawmaker Calls New Police Shooting Law 'Envy of the Country'**

BY TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE | JUNE 19, 2015

By *Tristan Hallman*

Texas police agencies will soon have to notify the attorney general every time an officer shoots someone or gets shot.

Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday signed into law the bill by Rep. Eric Johnson, D-Dallas, that will make the attorney general a clearinghouse for police shooting data. The House and Senate each passed the measure unanimously.

The bill is based partly on an effort by the Dallas Police Department, which began posting 12 years of data online last year just as outcries about lack of information

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- Making data available makes problems more salient and public
- Dallas PD's publication of officer-involved shooting data increased state interest in addressing officer-involved shootings

# Creating New Opportunities for Public Participation

- That's us!
- So how to get started?



# Where can you find open public safety data?

- [Government data portals](#)
- [Agency sites](#)
- [Collaboratives](#) between [government and public partners](#)
- Open data inventories – just getting started:
  - Sunlight's [Criminal Justice data inventory](#)
  - Police Foundation's [Public Safety Data Portal](#)
  - Code for America's [Police Open Data Census](#)