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Crowd Control Devices used in Civil Protests: Morbidity and Mortality

Crowd control devices are tools used by law enforcement to control and disperse people involved in demonstrations, protests or riots. Common devices include tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets. Despite being referred to as “non-lethal,” or “less lethal,” such methods have great potential for morbidity and mortality when used in a civilian setting, and in some cases, have even been banned from use in warfare.

- **Ocular Injuries and Blindness Caused by Crowd Control Measures in Civil Protests.** Lum C, Schallhorn J, Lum F, Ramanathan S, Oatts J, de Alba Campomanes AG, Seitzman G.

- **Less-Lethal Weapons Resulting in Ophthalmic Injuries: A Review and Recent Example of Eye Trauma.** Ifantides C, Deitz GA, Christopher KL, Slingsby TJ, Subramanian PS.

- **Fatal Penetrating Head Injuries Caused by Projectile Tear Gas Canisters.** Hoz SS, Aljuboori ZS, Dolachee AA, Al-Sharshahi ZF, Alrawi MA, Al-Smaysim AM.

- **Death, injury and disability from kinetic impact projectiles in crowd-control settings: a systematic review.** Haar RJ, Iacopino V, Ranadive N, Dandu M, Weiser SD.

- **Health impacts of chemical irritants used for crowd control: a systematic review of the injuries and deaths caused by tear gas and pepper spray.** Haar RJ, Iacopino V, Ranadive N, Weiser SD, Dandu M.

By Rachel Becker, MLIS