

Do Police Learn from Lawsuit Data?

40 Rutgers L. Rec. 30 (2012) | [WestLaw](#) | [LexisNexis](#) | [PDF](#)

?A compelling new theory argues that lawsuit data collection has a deterrent effect on police misconduct. If this theory is correct, why has the number of police misconduct cases still increased over time? Does the trend continue if police departments consistently gather lawsuit data? A § 1983 dataset, which is introduced in this paper, provides an answer. This dataset shows that lawsuit data collection does not correlate with better deterrence of § 1983 cases. The dataset therefore indicates that police departments may not learn from lawsuit data.?

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