Kinetic Impact Projectiles (KIPs) are commonly known as rubber and plastic bullets, and are used for crowd-control purposes by law enforcement worldwide in multiple forms and are shot from myriad types of guns and launchers. The findings of a systematic review of medical literature carried out by Physicians for Human Rights indicate that KIPs cause serious injury, disability, and death. KIPs are inherently inaccurate when fired from afar and therefore can cause unintended injuries to bystanders and strike vulnerable body parts; at closer range, they are likely to be lethal. Therefore, KIPs are not an appropriate weapon to be used for crowd management and specifically for dispersal purposes.

### Policy Recommendations

- **KIPs in general are not an appropriate weapon for crowd communications and, specifically, for dispersal purposes. Most cannot be used effectively and safely against crowds. At close ranges, levels of lethality and patterns of injury from some KIPs become similar to those of live ammunition. At longer ranges, KIPs are inaccurate and indiscriminate. Some KIPs are lethal in close range and ineffective at longer distances which make safe use difficult.**

- **Rubber-coated metal bullets are not safe and should be prohibited.**

- **Some types of KIPs are able to provide less lethal and accurate application. Deployment of those KIPs should be restricted to circumstances where a threat to life or a threat of serious injury exists, and where all other means to protect lives are inapplicable.**

### How They Work

KIPs work by transferring kinetic energy from a weapon barrel to an ammunition cartridge and expanding upon release to impact the target. KIPs are typically designed for short, inaccurate, and individual-patient striking in a local area. They transfer and deliver this energy to the skin or tissue, causing localized injury. KIPs are not an appropriate weapon for use at longer ranges and therefore can be used only for localized body parts or unintended targets.

### Health Effects

**KIPs can cause blunt or penetrating trauma.** Penetrating injuries are those that cause internal damage without breaking the skin barrier. Blunt injuries are those that cause internal damage with breaking the skin.

- **Direct trauma to the eye from KIPs nearly always causes corneal damage due to rupture of the globe (eyeball) as well as ocular structures.** KIPs can also penetrate the eye socket and enter the brain, causing brain injury.

- **Blunt injuries can cause crushing in the skull and soft tissue, as well as superficial and deep impacts. KIPs can cause bleeding, perforations, and internal injuries.**

### Deployment Mechanism

- **At short ranges, KIPs are highly accurate and effective at close ranges.** KIPs can cause severe injuries and death. Sufficiently close to the target, KIPs are known to penetrate the skull or enter the brain tissue, leading to brain injury or death.

- **However, due to their irregular shape and slower speed compared to other impact bullet families, KIPs can be made with a lower lethality and inertness.** They do not have the same effects as other impact bullet families and are not as effective as other impact bullet families.

### How They Work

KIPs are solid, spherical, or cylindrical projectiles of variable sizes fired as single or in groups of multiples that can be made of rubber, plastic, or metal.