

Enhancing Police Utilization of Research through Smart Policing

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Smart Policing Initiative

- ❖ **Competitive grant program -Bureau of Justice Assistance**
- ❖ **Funding for law enforcement agencies, who engage with a research partner**
- ❖ **32 agencies funded since 2009**
- ❖ **Small: York (ME); Pullman (WA); Evans County (GA)**
- ❖ **Medium: Glendale (AZ); Reno (NV); Lowell (MA)**
- ❖ **Large: Boston (MA); Los Angeles (CA); Philadelphia (PA)**

Smart Policing Vision

❖ Vision = police organizations as ‘complete’ organizations

- Strategic planning
- Science, research, planning, analysis, and evaluation
- Utilization of technology
- Utilization of a variety of information resources
- Better development and utilization of intelligence
- Collaborate comprehensively
- The “learning organization” = transparency, feedback, dynamic

Smart Policing Initiative Goals

Goals

- Identify police agencies to pilot and test innovative ideas regarding place-based, offender-based, and intelligence-led policing
- Support SPI sites through a comprehensive array of training and technical assistance resources

The Current Study

- **The Agency-Research Partner relationship is a central, unique feature of the SPI.**

Objective

- **Conduct an assessment of SPI agencies and research partners**
 - Assess the nature of that relationship
 - Assess Research Partner's role in the Site's SPI
 - Assess whether Research Partner has enhanced the agency's research capacity

The Current Study

- **Two versions of the assessment: agency and research partner**
- **Links (web-based and electronic) sent to SPI Project Manager and the Research Partner at the 32 SPI sites.**
- **Initial email and two reminders (30-day window)**
 - Law enforcement agency responses (n=12)
 - Research Partner responses (n=14)
 - “Complete” sites (n=8)

Results

Research Partner Involvement in the SPI Process

(0=none; 10=complete)

	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Researcher Response</u>
Problem Identification	5.75	6.23
Problem Analysis	6.92	6.14
Response Development	5.33	6.31
Assessment	7.42	8.64
Feedback/Reporting	8.75	9.00
Other SPI activities	8.17	7.77

Results

Research Partner Impact on Crime Analysis and Operations (none, minimal, substantial)

	<u>Agency Response</u>	<u>Researcher Response</u>
Research & Crime analysis	42% substantial	43% substantial
<u>Department operations</u>	<u>33% substantial</u>	<u>15% substantial</u>

Impact on Research Capacity (0=none; 10=substantial)

- Agency: 4.8
- Researcher: 5.7

Results

Should research and analysis capacity be enhanced?

- Agency: yes (100%)
- Researcher: yes (86%)

How should it be enhanced? (PD/Researcher)

- More civilians (83%; 62%)
- Bigger budget (75%; 54%)
- More technology (75%; 38%)
- More training (67%; 62%)

Results

Optimal Role of the Research Partner:

- “A Catalyst. An agent of change. Positive changes are good when based on proven strategies. Our experience with this project has provided the department a “new way” of looking at old problems and finding sustainable ways of solving them. Research partners can challenge the department to “do better” with limited resources, use cutting edge technology, work with community partners who can be a part of the solution, and bring people to work together as a team.”

Why the Researcher/Police Partnership is Valuable:

- “If given the opportunity, it will be a wonderful privilege to learn new things, find new ways to solve problems, meet experts and get fresh ideas, learn what other people are doing, and share lessons learned with others. I would welcome this opportunity.”
- “Having a Research Partner is an invaluable asset to all law enforcement agencies because it allows for greater objectivity in analyzing problem areas and developing a more focused solution. Most importantly, it provides greater accountability for the agency and transparency to the communities we serve.”

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Final Thoughts

- **Research partners are not just involved in evaluation. They are part of the entire process.**
- **Research partners have impacted the crime and analysis capacity of their agencies.**
- **Widespread recognition that research, crime and analysis needs to be enhanced.**
- **Researcher/Agency partnership is valued.**

Thanks!

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