EBP encourages police to use proven strategies and methods to improve crime control, community relations, and internal management. Agencies also gain the knowledge and analytical skills, specifically advanced crime analytics, to generate control, community relations, and internal management. Agencies also gain the knowledge and analytical skills, specifically advanced crime analytics, to generate control, community relations, and internal management.

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While much emerging research focuses on crime control and prevention, police leaders and their officers should be aware that there is also relevant research in many other areas related to crime generation, such as the ‘new’ field of crime epidemiology. This research area is focusing on what works in crime control, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. In addition to capturing ongoing reviews of justice programs, CrimeSolutions.gov also presents research on evidence of crime prevention. A practice is a general category of activity, strategies, or procedures that share similar characteristics with regard to the issues they address and how they address those issues. Program evaluation provides empirical evidence to answer questions like “Did the ABC Mentoring Program in Anytown, USA achieve its goals?” a practice profile might be used to answer “Does mentoring usually achieve its goals?” On CrimeSolutions.gov you will find the following:

- research on the effectiveness of programs and practices as reviewed and rated by expert reviewers;
- easily understandable ratings based on the evidence that indicates whether a program or practice achieves its goals; and
- profiles of programs and practices with research findings.

Other Program Examples

KIRAT (Kent Internet Research Assessment Tool) Kent, United Kingdom, Police
- is a risk assessment tool that strives to identify, from available intelligence, those individuals most at risk of committing crimes, to protect citizens and their families, to reduce the fear of criminal incidents, to reduce the fear of crime. KIRAT has standardized risk assessment in child abuse material cases across the UK with more than 300 law enforcement agencies across the United Kingdom. KIRAT is estimated to have saved the UK £1,500,000, which can be reinvested into child protection. It was developed and implemented by Riley County, KS, Police Department in partnership with Kansas State University. This technology is currently available to the field of policing. The app will provide full access to the research available to the field of policing. The app will provide evidence-based information about child abuse material cases, as well as full-text articles (when available).

The Police Foundation app is an iOS (iPhone & iPad) app designed to facilitate the translation of research into practice. It will serve as a portal to the most rigorous research available to the field of policing. The app will provide comprehensive information structured around topics that are relevant to policing practitioners: crime and justice interventions, and organizational and leadership topics. These topics and their subcategories may contain 100 or more articles, which may address content area, proactivity, and cost-efficient policing practices, while fostering community connections.

The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix
http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/

The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix was created by George Mason University’s Cynthia Lin, Christopher Koper, and Godley Teles, is a valuable resource for practice-to-research translation. It includes more than 120 rigorous law enforcement-related studies organized usually along three dimensions. These dimensions may be the topic of interest (e.g., child abuse material cases) or the type of evidence (e.g., field testing, systematic reviews). The matrix is designed to improve the justice system’s performance, including those related to forensics, police, courts, prisons, probation, and corrections under both criminal and civil law.

The CEBCP’s four main components are Evidence-Based Policing Program, Crime and Place Working Group, (CPWG), the Community Justice and Police Program, and Systematic Reviews Research Program. CEBCP’s systematic reviews research program works closely with the Campbell Collaboration Crime and Justice Group, an international network of scholars dedicated to producing and disseminating systematic reviews, to produce high-quality reviews and improve methods of review synthesis.

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Centre for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) housed within the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, researches and provides evidence to criminal justice policy-makers, practitioners, and community members on a wide variety of criminal justice topics. The program promotes tools and outcomes of rigorous research and analytical methods to inform criminal justice policy making.

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Evidence-based policing (EBP) educates law enforcement in well-researched, verified strategies. Agencies that use EBP are able to make rational, evidence-based decisions while patrolling, carrying out investigations, and creating policies. Just like medicine, law enforcement must strive to use current information about the most effective tactics when making policy decisions. The research also ensures that this support can be translated into practice, and effectively delivered, to the law enforcement. The research provides a firm foundation upon which law enforcement professionals can build their own innovative strategies to address these objectives. As your access to EBP improves, you are then able to more fully implement and utilize these new, positive decisions, which are both effective—and which tactic might have unintended consequences.

For decades the lack of available and trusted research, coupled with law enforcement’s mistrust to rely on the valid research, has limited, resulted in police implementing and using patrol and investigative strategies based on anecdotal belief. Using the best evidence to shape the best practices to obtain the best results should not be limited to any one part of the justice system. Lessons learned at the front end (law enforcement) can and will assuredly support improvement throughout the entire justice system. Professionals across the justice system are continually held accountable for their work and its success. As the EBP model demonstrates success in law enforcement, all other justice system components—courts, corrections, and all related activities—can adopt the model as well.

Resources about EBP and translating research into practice can be obtained at the Collaboration Crime and Justice Group (CCJG) website. For more information on CrimeSolutions.gov, available from the CEBCP’s video YouTube page: clsmason.