Smart Policing and Technology Applications

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BJA Smart Policing Initiative

- **Purpose:** to encourage innovation in policing practices through applications of evidence based best practices, partnerships with local universities, and incorporation of analytics and technology into operations

- 16 cities funded to implement projects using smart policing approaches

- CNA selected as technical assistance and training provider
A new Paradigm and Problem Solving Approach

- **Smart Policing Paradigm** - provides a conceptual framework to re-think how to organize and prioritize policing activities in more cost effective ways. Incorporates community policing, intelligent -led policing concepts

- **Smart Policing as Problem Solving Approach** - Data driven, supported by analysis, enabled by technologies, with a focus on measuring performance and adjusting accordingly
Smart Policing: Why now?

- Constrained budgets and expenditures encroaching on other interests
- Accountability for effective use of resources
- More coordination with justice and non-justice elements
- Building trust with growing diverse citizenry
- Pressure to show impact from performance
- Need for a new policing paradigm
Smart Policing: Why is this important to you?

- Byrne Funding is now linked to implementation of evidence-based strategies
- State and local budget constraints require more cost effective approaches
- Careful thoughtful planning that focuses on SMART and evidence-based approaches may actually get you better results
Current Policing Environment

Adult corrections populations

Serious violent crime trends

Direct expenditure by level of government, 1982-2006

Percent change 1982-2006

Local 422%

State 548%

Federal 749%

Four measures of serious violent crime

Offenses in millions

Total violent crime

Victimizations reported to police

Crimes recorded by police

Arrests for violent crime

Adult correctional populations, 1980-2008

Probation

Prison

Parole

Jail
Factors influencing outcomes

- Increasing percentage of offenders incarcerated
  - Incapacitation Effect
- Increased police presence and improved tactics
- Demographics
  - A less crime prone aging population
- Changing drug use trends impacting arrests and prison admissions
Challenges

- Federal, state and local budget deficits and recession-driven revenue shortfalls
  - Current public safety investments can’t be sustained under existing fiscal realities
- A growing sophistication of criminal enterprises
- Increasing numbers of offenders released from prisons and jails
- Proliferation of regional gangs networks
- Unexpected spikes in serious crime
Smart Policing: A new paradigm

“Effective policing requires a tightly focused approach that is measurable, based on sound, detailed analysis, and includes policies and procedures for accountability.”

- System-wide and strategic view of policing and impact on other justice components and community at large.
- Science driven (data, analysis, and research) to make informed decisions.
- Using analytics and technologies to improve police operations in a cost effective manner.
- Crime prevention Focus
System-wide and strategic view

- Comprehensive planning including setting enforcement priorities, establishing performance benchmarks, alignment of resources to reflect planning and community partnerships.
  - Community-wide public safety planning
  - CompStat (to establish numerical performance benchmarks)
- Designing and implementing initiatives that focus on preventing crimes from occurring.
  - Crime prevention through environmental design
  - Enhanced surveillance
- Coordination and information-sharing with other justice/non-justice components.
  - Notification of high risk prisoners released
  - Police/Probation monitoring
Science-driven data, analysis and research

- Incorporating evidence-based practices (those experimentally assessed via robust social science research methods) into police operations
  - Collaborations with non-policing agencies
  - Placed-based Strategies
- Collecting and using an array of data to assess levels of crime, crime trends, suspect information as source for analysis.
  - Command Centers/Fusion Centers
  - Data Centers
- Analysis to help drive resource allocations including hot spot identification and other strategic targeting.
  - Crime analysis
Placed-based approaches

- Stems from initial “hot spots” research by Larry Sherman
- Determine spatial and temporal crime patterns
- Consider underlying reasons
  - Why location attracts crime
  - Other activities that may be driving crime
- Develop a strategic response including saturation enforcement
Collaborative Approaches

- Derived in part from evaluations of DOJ Weed and Seed and Project Safe Neighborhood programs
- Joint community safety planning including law enforcement and impacted community stakeholders (not limited to prevention)
- Delineation of roles and responsibilities for those participating in planning process
- Benchmarks and Accountability
Performance Measurement

- Traditional measures focus on police activity e.g. meetings attended, patrol hours, responds to call for service, arrests

- Outcome measures e.g. clearance rates, community surveys assessing impact, crime rates

- Project measures - focus on tracking implementation of project against stated benchmarks- e.g. number of organizations identified as major dealers, assets seized etc.
Using analytics and software to improve operations

- Advanced software that facilitates link analysis to support investigations and offender targeting
  - COPlink
  - LINX
- Advanced use of DNA and other identifiers to support investigations and solve “cold cases”
  - CODIS
  - DNA field evidence collection
- Real time analytics and surveillance technologies that map crimes, locate law enforcement personnel, and deploy assets in “real time.”
  - GPS
  - Advanced video surveillance
Crime Prevention Focus

- An enhanced deterrent via improved clearance rates and a greater certainty of punishment
- Enhanced surveillance of crime hot spots and supporting monitoring of high risk offenders including probationers/parolees
- Improved targeting of crime prevention resources to high risk groups
Smart Policing as a Problem Solving Approach

- Bound the problem using analysis to determine nature and extent
- Determine realistic expectations as to what can be achieved
- Use a collaborative approach and develop an implementation strategy
- Identify internal resources and external partners / collaborative for implementation
Smart Policing Problem Solving Approach (Continued)

- Review relevant best practices
- Determine how data, analytics and new technologies can contribute to implementation
- Specifically engage local universities to assist in data collection and program evaluation
- Settle on your project performance metrics
- Affirm leadership roles and accountability
- Adjust implementation strategy as required
Peele principles for modern policing

- Basic mission is to prevent crime and disorder
- Ability of police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions
- The degree of cooperation from the public diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force
- The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it