Why is EBP Important?

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 their own studies and data that will improve their ability to prevent and reduce crime. By understanding how crime clusters both geographically and temporally, as well as which environmental and situational factors create opportunities for crime, police can become more effective in addressing the specific crime, disorder, and quality-of-life problems their communities face.

The Boston, MA, Police Department (BPD) implemented the Safe Street Teams (SST) hotspots policing program in response to a distressing increase in violent crime in Boston. Using computerized mapping technology and violent index crime data, the BPD identified 13 violent crime hotspots to receive the SST program. The program assigned teams of BPD officers responsible for using problem-oriented policing techniques to address recurring problems in the targeted hotspots. SST officers were required to engage community members and local merchants in defining and responding to identified problems in the areas. The BPD and a team of researchers from Rutgers University and Harvard University then evaluated the SST program.

The evaluation revealed that the SST program generated a statistically significant 17 percent reduction in violent crime at the SST street intersections and street block faces relative to comparable street intersections and street block faces elsewhere in Boston without simply displacing violent crime problems into proximate areas.

For additional information on the BPD SST initiative, please read:
Braga, Anthony A. and Cory Schnell. 2013. "Evaluating Place-Based Policing Strategies: Lessons Learned from the Smart Policing Initiative in Boston." *Police Quarterly*, 16 (3): 338–356.

Who Can I Talk to About EBP to Get Further Information?

Resources for EBP and translating research in practices can be found at

General Resources

Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy at George Mason University
http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/resources-tools

Evidence-Based Institute for Research on Justice Practice and Policy at Rutgers University
http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/ebi

National Institute of Justice CrimeSolutions.gov
http://www.crimesolutions.gov

Articles and Documents

National Institute of Justice
"Being Smart on Crime with Evidence-Based Policing" by Chief Jim Bueermann
http://nij.gov/journals/269/Pages/evidence.aspx

The Police Chief (IACP Magazine)
"Consuming and Applying Research Evidence-Based Policing" by Carl J. Jensen III, PhD
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display_arch&article_id=815&issue_id=22006

"Evidence-Based Policing in Smaller Agencies: Challenges, Prospects, and Opportunities" by Cynthia Lum and Christopher S. Koper, George Mason University
http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/index.cfm?fuseaction=display&article_id=2907&issue_id=42013

Police Foundation
"Evidence-Based Policing" by Lawrence W. Sherman
http://www.policefoundation.org/content/evidence-based-policing

Smart Policing Initiative
"Integrating Evidence-Based Practices into Police Departments" by James "Chip" Coldren, PhD
http://www.smartpolicinginitiative.com/spi-events/integrating-evidence-based-practices-police-departments

Evidence-Based Policing

What is it?
Why is it Important That
Law Enforcement Leaders
Understand and Use it?

What is EBP?

How confident are you that your programs, procedures, and policies are achieving your desired results? Are your decisions based on science? Can you point to the facts and research that support your policing efforts? Are you spending your money and using your personnel in the most effective way? Do you know what works and what does not work? If not, then you should seriously explore the benefits of EBP.

EBP uses the results of scientific research, evaluation, and analysis when making, assessing, and enforcing policing policies, programs, and procedures.

EBP operates under the same principles as evidence-based medicine. The medical profession conducts extensive research to test medications and procedures to ensure that they are effective in treating the patient and do as little harm to patients as possible. The same is true in EBP; the law enforcement profession should use tactics and strategies that have been proven through reliable research to be effective in reducing, preventing, controlling, and detecting crime, while doing as little harm as possible to the citizens they are protecting and serving. Many policing models have already been evaluated through reliable, rigorous analysis. Some tactics and organizational practices work better than others in preventing crime, improving officer safety and health, or improving community satisfaction with police services.

During early 2009, violent crime reports were drawn from the incident database of the Philadelphia, PA, Police Department for 2006 through 2008. Violent crime was defined as homicide, aggravated assault, and robberies not occurring indoors. The police department selected 120 foot patrol areas for an experiment, conducted in conjunction with Temple University's Criminal Justice Department.

Officers generally patrolled in pairs with two pairs assigned to each foot patrol area. All patrol officers were provided with an initial intelligence brief on their foot patrol areas by the criminal justice intelligence unit, as well as whatever information they gleaned from their initial orientations. Some officers engaged in community-oriented work, while others were more crime-oriented, stopping vehicles and conducting field interviews of pedestrians.

The Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment was a randomized control trial using about 250 officers to patrol 60 violent crime locations during the summer of 2009. In summary, after three months and relative to the comparison areas:

- Violent crime in the target areas decreased 23 percent
- Drug-related incident detections increased 15 percent in the target areas
- Pedestrian stops conducted by police increased 64 percent in the target areas
- Vehicle stops increased 7 percent in the target areas
- Arrests increased 13 percent in the target areas

The reduction in violence indicated that foot patrols prevented 53 violent crimes that summer.

For more information, visit http://www.temple.edu/cj/FootPatrolProject.

POLICE FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE
SINCE 1893

Other Program Examples

KIRAT (Internet Risk 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 contact sexual offenses allowing the police to take action to protect children. The purpose of the tool is to assist with risk management, prioritization, and workload management within indecent images of children investigations. From 2009 to 2011, Kent Police partnered with the University of Liverpool to devise a new, innovative, academically-validated risk assessment tool to help frontline detectives assess the risk offenders posed. It has been rolled out to 40 law enforcement agencies across the United Kingdom. KIRAT is estimated to have saved the UK £1,5000,000, which can be reinvested into child protection. It has standardized risk assessment in child abuse material cases across the UK with more than three quarters of law enforcement agencies using the tool and more in training. During the lifetime of the project, Kent Police detectives have safeguarded more than 330 children.

Laser Point was developed and implemented by Riley County, KS, Police Department in partnership with Kansas State University. This geospatial crime reduction project focused on whether or not micro hotspot policing works in rural regions such as Manhattan, KS, and whether or not officer behavior within the treatment area mattered. Results were significant and positive that hot spot policing at micro place, using 15-minute treatments, decreased calls for services and Part I and II crimes when comparing the same geographic areas over a four-year period. Despite the recent growth in Manhattan, KS, the crime rate has steadily declined over the years, in large part due to this initiative. As demonstrated in this study by a university-police team, evidence-based policing such as hotspot strategies may address containment, proactivity, and cost-efficient policing practices, while fostering community connections.

New Research Tool

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 issues, interventions, and organizational issues. Structured article summaries, as well as full article text (when available), will be provided.

Additionally, research surrounding key policing topics will be summarized in a manner that allows police executives to take a quick overview of relevant research. These comprehensive research summaries will include topics such as: body-worn video cameras, near repeat crimes, CCTV, and the use of UAVs in policing.

What Kind of Research is Available and How Can I Access It?

While much emerging research focuses on crime control and prevention, police leaders and their officers should be aware that there is also reliable research on many other aspects of policing, including improving community and citizen relationships, internal management, disparities and discretion, police technology, shift length, and officers' physical and mental well-being.

CENTER FOR EVIDENCE-BASED CRIME POLICY

George Mason University's Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP), housed within the Department of Criminology, Law and Society, researches and provides assistance 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 scientific research, evidence, and analysis to guide justice policy.

The CEBCP's four main components are Evidence-Based Policing Research Program, Crime and Place Working Group (CPWG), The Criminal Justice Policy 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 research synthesis.

THE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING MATRIX

http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/the-matrix/

The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix, compiled by George Mason University's Cynthia Lum, Christopher Koper, and Cody Telep, is a valuable research-to-practice translation tool. It includes more than 100 rigorous law enforcement-related studies organized visually along three dimensions. These realms provide insights into the nature and commonalities of effective police strategies and can be used by police agencies to guide the development of future tactics and strategies or the assessment of their tactical portfolio against the field.

*It is wise to seek additional information on whether or not the research has been peer reviewed.

THE IACP RESEARCH IN BRIEF COLUMN

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), with support from the IACP Research Advisory Committee, publishes a one-page "Research in Brief" column in each month's *Police Chief* magazine. The column features summaries of current research in policing, which focus on research that is innovative, accessible, credible, and effective. Research briefs can summarize a single research study conducted by an academic or law enforcement agency or can summarize research related to a specific topic in law enforcement. Each "Research in Brief" column includes a list of actionable items that allows police departments to apply the research to their operations, promoting the translation of research into practice.

CRIMESOLUTIONS.GOV — ABOUT CRIME SOLUTIONS

The Office of Justice Programs' CrimeSolutions.gov uses rigorous research to determine what works in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services. In addition to capturing ongoing reviews of justice programs, CrimeSolutions.gov also presents reviews of justice practices. A practice is a general category of activities, strategies, or procedures that share similar characteristics with regard to the issues they address and how they address them. While CrimeSolutions.gov program profiles can 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.

CAMPBELL COLLABORATION CRIME AND JUSTICE COORDINATING GROUP

http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/

The mission of the Campbell Crime and Justice Coordinating Group (CCJG) is to coordinate, facilitate, assist, and encourage the production, updating, and accessibility of high-quality systematic reviews. These reviews of research on the effects of criminological and criminal justice interventions are developed to inform criminal justice policies, to reduce crime, and increase justice in society.

The CCJG prepares systematic reviews on the effects of interventions aimed at the prevention, treatment or control of crime or delinquency. The reviews are designed to improve the criminal justice system, including those relevant to forensics, police, courts, prison, and probation within both civil and criminal law.

The CCJG is committed to the following:

- preparing rigorous systematic reviews of high-quality evaluations;
- updating those reviews periodically to take into account new studies, criticism and methodological advances;
- disseminating the reviews electronically to ensure rapid and widespread access;
- using search strategies that ensure that all high-quality studies are taken into account;
- collaborating internationally to ensure worldwide coverage of the literature and the translation of review results into multiple languages;
- establishing a multi-national and multi-interest editorial board so that reviews are relevant and written in an accessible way;
- maintaining open processes to enable users to understand and criticize decisions made at each stage of the process; and
- creating an accessible register of evaluation studies as a resource to reviewers and others.

How Can I Use EBP?

Evidence-based policing (EBP) educates law enforcement in well-researched and 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 always use current information about the most effective tactics when making policy decisions. The research that can support this work must be translated for, and effectively delivered to, the law enforcement community. The evidence-based policing concept strives to achieve these objectives. As you gain access to EBP information, you are then able to more fully understand whether a particular police tactic is truly effective—and whether that tactic might have unintended consequences.

For decades the lack of available and trusted research, coupled with law enforcement's resistance to rely on the solid research that does exist, resulted in police implementing and using patrol and investigative strategies based on experiential learning.

To this day, many of these traditional strategies have never been tested for effectiveness in reducing crime nor for their capacity to improve clearance rates. EBP reverses this trend, allowing police to make informed, research-based decisions on all programs—new and traditional—that they implement.

Will the EBP Model Impact the Rest of the Justice System?

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 thejustice 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 CEBCP website under its EBP Resources page: http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/resources-tools

More videos on this subject are also at the CEBCP's video YouTube page: clsmason.