

Integrating crime analysis into patrol work: A COPS Office Grant

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Bruce Taylor, Ph.D., Director of Research
Bruce Kubu, MA, Senior Associate
Police Executive Research Forum

Background

- Although research has been done on what types of products are provided by crime analysis, little is known about the use of crime analysis by patrol officers.
- Also, little is known about how data are produced by or for patrol officers for analysis purposes.



Background (cont'd)



- Prior research has found difficulties in:
 - Proactive implementation of crime analysis within LEA
 - Getting patrol officers to conduct crime analysis or
 - Getting patrol officers to use the results of crime analysis (O'Shea & Nicholls, 2003; Cordner and Biebel, 2005; Cope, 2004).



Focus of this Study



- Examining issues from the patrol officers' perspective:
 - Data/analysis needs of CP patrol officers
 - Types of analyses officers believe would be useful (especially for facilitating CP) and best practices for officer data collection
 - We do not limit our work to "crime analysts," because we think this limits the scope of how analysis is required and produced in a police agency.
 - However, we will also collect data from crime analysts and police managers.



Focus of this Study (cont'd)



- Seek out examples of best practices for how analysis capabilities are disseminated to patrol (roll call, IT).
- Examine whether the CAD/RMS data are collected in a way that best suits analysis and patrol needs



Research Design: Multi-methods



- Quantitative methods
 - National survey - Extent to which agencies in the U.S. have been able to integrate crime analysis into regular patrol work within a CP framework, including assessing their needs and promising practices
- Qualitative methods
 - Focus groups
 - Working groups
 - Case studies
- All of this work would be tied together in a final report and guidebook



Focus Groups



- Verify qualitatively the needs of patrol officers and how LEAs have been able to do integration work
- Based on the project survey, we will identify 6-10 LEAs that have integrated crime analysis into patrol work to be in focus groups
- Focus groups will be held with:
 - Experienced crime analysts
 - Patrol officers
 - First line supervisors
 - Police executives



Focus Groups (cont'd)



- Best practices would be identified that other agencies could learn from, as well as identify gaps in the integration process that need further development.
- The focus groups will be convened to:
 - Define information requirements for patrol
 - Assess the capabilities of crime analysis generally to produce the outputs needed
 - Define the executive responses required to fill the gaps in capability and strategy



Working Groups



- Based on the project survey/focus groups, we will identify working group experts representing
 - Patrol function
 - The crime analysis function
 - Executive leadership function

- Purpose:
 - Assess and guide the future of crime analysis in LEAs
 - Assessing the analysis needs of patrol officers and data needs for that analysis
 - Identifying key gaps not being addressed
 - Developing recommendations for practice



Case Studies



- Case studies with two LEAs, identified by working groups, that have been successful at data collection and crime analysis integration into patrol work
- Go beyond isolated examples of successful crime analysis
- Examine organizationally how integration of crime analysis was achieved.
- Ground work in realities of everyday patrol work
- Increase our knowledge of the implementation process for successful integration work



National Survey



- 2008 sample of ~ 1,000 local LEAs (sheriffs/PDs)
- Stratified/random sample of LEAs across U.S.
 - Population divided into strata based upon agency size, agency type, and geography
- Builds on an earlier PERF survey with crime analysts, and national surveys (e.g., NIJ crime maps survey & LEMAS)
- Survey included items on the extent to which LEAs have integrated crime analysis with patrol work (within a CP framework), including: promising practices, barriers to overcome, and issues that still need to be resolved
- Two versions of the survey
 - Analyst survey
 - Patrol survey



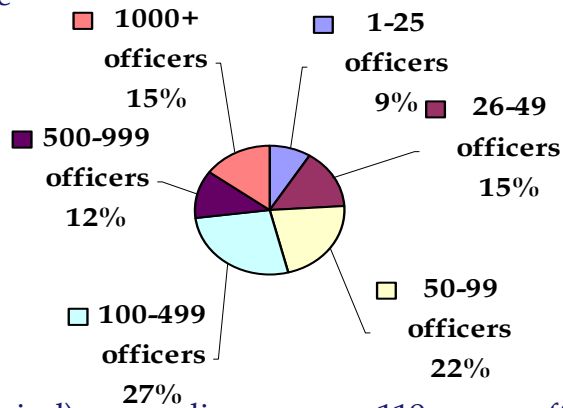
National Survey (cont'd)



- Using a proven survey distribution plan - multiple waves of surveys, reminder letters, faxed survey/phone reminders
 - To date, three waves of surveys and two reminder letters have been disseminated
- Data presentation based on first 390 completed surveys (we now have 562 completed surveys from both analysts and patrol commanders)

Descriptive Data on Agencies

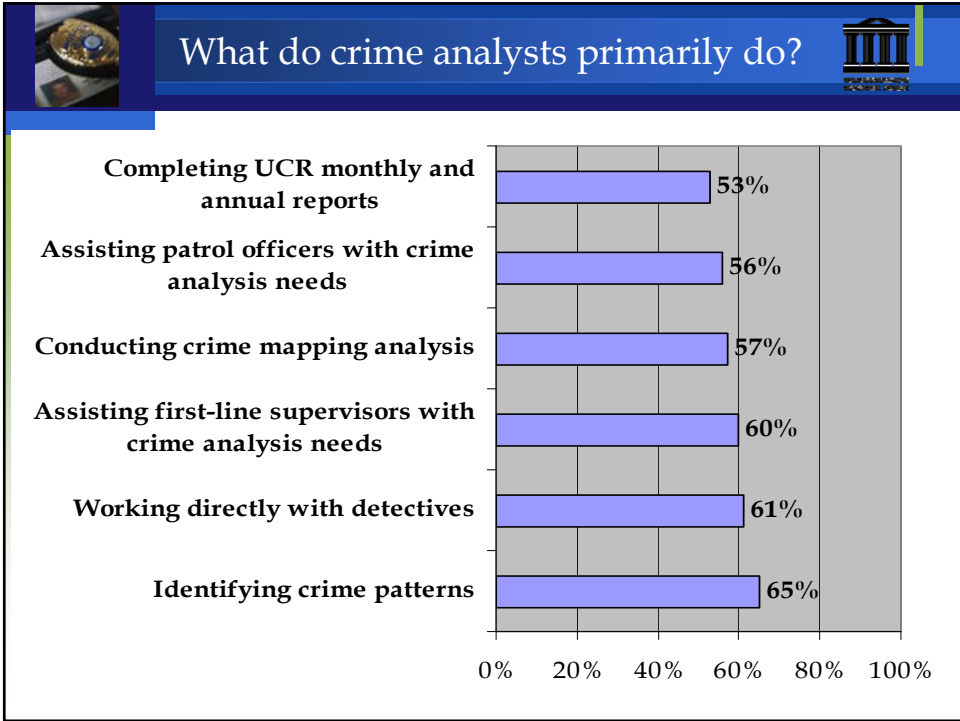
➤ Agency size



- Median (typical) responding agency: 119 sworn officers, 47 civilian personnel, 60,000 dispatched calls for service, 25,186 officer initiated citizen contacts

What % of LEAs have crime analysts?

- 57% of LEAs in our sample have crime analysts
 - These agencies have on average 5 analysts (range 1-76)
- 55% of LEAs have people other than dedicated crime analysts conducting crime analysis
 - Most of these staff are:
 - Management personnel (48%)
 - Supervisory patrol personnel (29%)
 - Patrol officers (24%)
 - Planning and research staff (24%)
- 11% of the agencies have no crime analysis staff



- ### Who determines what crime analysis is done in the LEA?
- The types of crime analyses that are produced are usually determined by:
- Commanders (48%)
 - Crime analysts (17%)
 - Crime analyst supervisors (10%)



Who uses the results of crime analysis in an LEA?



The following agency personnel make the greatest use of crime analysis:

- Chiefs/ deputy chiefs (35%)
- District/ area commanders (22%)



How does crime analysis fit with the LEAs goals/objectives?



- 38% of the LEAs say it is “critical”
- 40% say it is “fairly well aligned”
- 19% say it is “neutral” to achieving goals/objectives
- 3% say it is “poorly aligned”



For citizens engaged in a partnership with the LEA, were the following provided to citizens?



- 86% of agencies provided *General Part I UCR statistics* to citizens
- ...86% calls for service data
- ...82% short-term crime patterns
- ...77% long-term crime trends
- ...76% stats by police service area
- ...70% stats divided by neighborhood



Operational problem solving



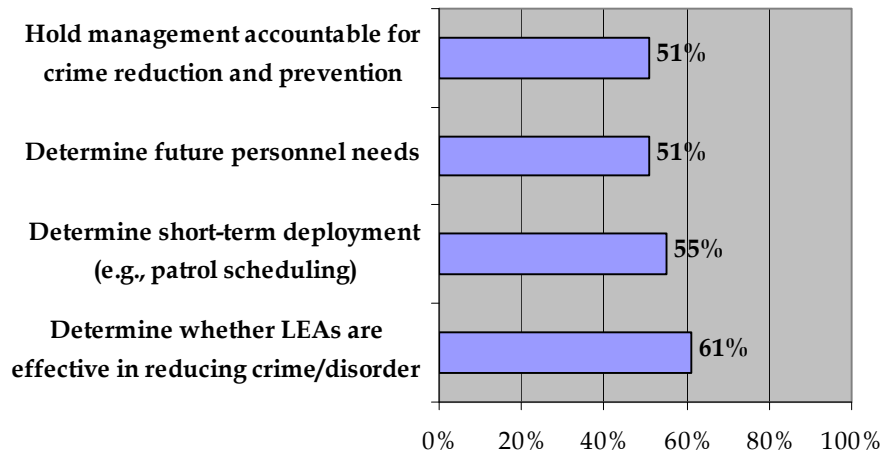
- 87% of respondents indicated that crime analysis is used for at least one *short-term* crime issue (crime activity occurring for no more than 4-6 mnths)
- 83% use it for at least one *mid-term* crime issue (more than six months)
- 72% use if for at least one *long-term* crime issue (several years or more)



Organizational issues



Crime analysis is most frequently used to:



Suitability of RMS for Crime Analysis



➤ Most LEAs indicated that their agency's RMS systems include information on:

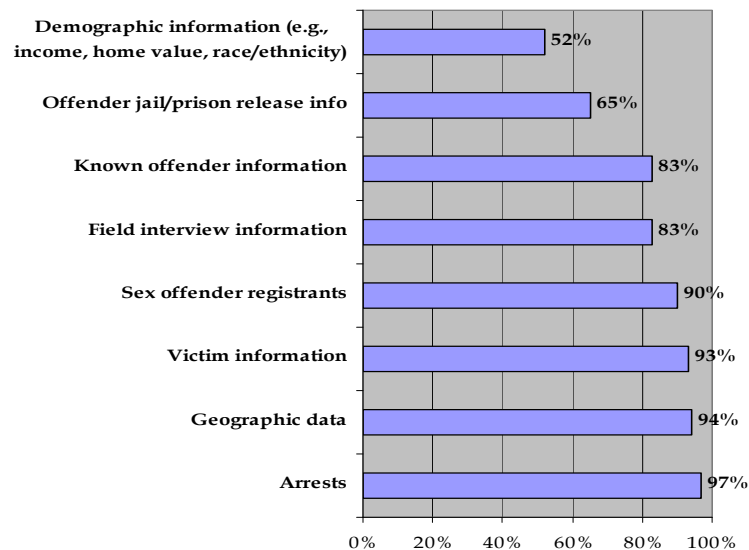
- Location type (98%)
- Disposition of the crime (94%)
- Weapon type (92%)
- Method of entry (83%)
- Point of entry (82%)

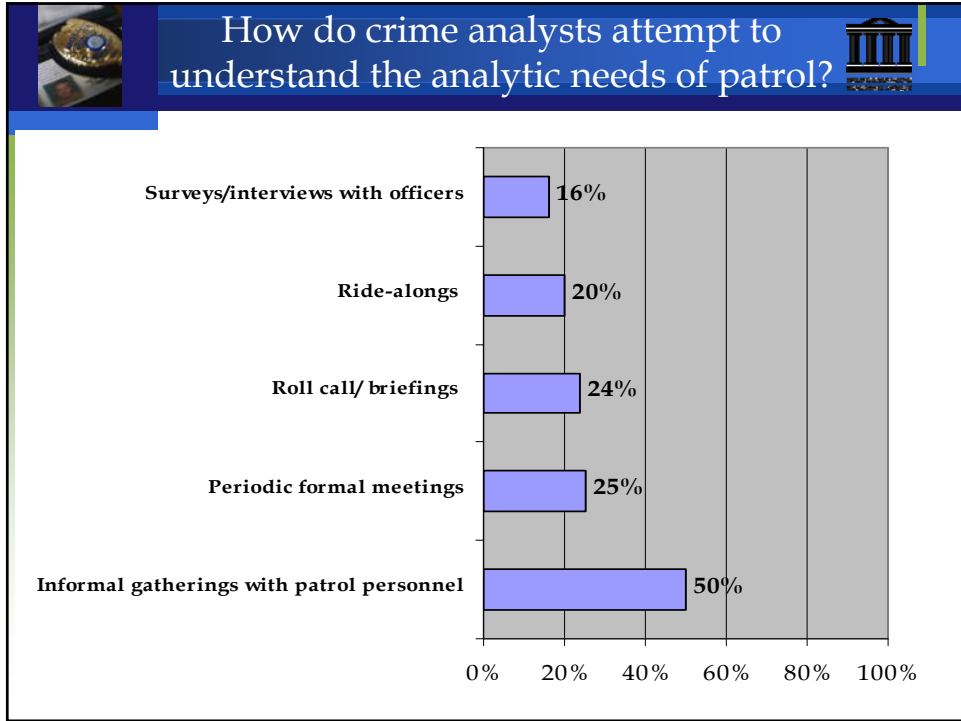
Suitability of CAD for Crime Analysis

➤ Most LEAs indicated that their agency's CAD systems include information on:

- Disposition of the call (90%)
- Priority of the call (83%)
- Location type (80%)
- Distinction between officer- and citizen-generated calls (73%)

Data sources commonly available to crime analysts





- ### Other communication issues/problems for conducting crime analysis
- Most agencies (51%) have no feedback mechanism that informs those who conduct crime analysis of the impact of their efforts
 - While 41.4% of respondents indicated that officers have direct contact with crime analysis personnel, 25.8% indicated that there is little to no communication between the two
 - Only 16% of respondents indicated that patrol makes the greatest use of crime analysis. Most LEAs (59%) indicated that there were not enough personnel to complete the necessary crime analysis work
 - Many LEAs (42%) indicated that there was insufficient funding to adequately support crime analysis



Contact Information



Bruce Taylor
Police Executive Research Forum
Director of Research
1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Suite 930
Washington, D.C., 20036-3923

(Office) 202-466-7820
(Direct line) 202-454-8318
(Fax) 202-466-7826
btaylor@policeforum.org
WWW.POLICEFORUM.ORG