Institutionalizing research into practice: The Matrix Demonstration Project

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Evidence-Based Policing

1. Policies and practices reflect crime prevention principles derived from rigorous research on policing.

2. Some decisions include and incorporate scientific outputs, analyses, and processes.

3. Research is “a part of the conversation” about police deployment and strategies.

*Lum et al., 2012*
Evidence-Based Policing

Supply = Demand

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The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix

Developed by: Cynthia Lum, Christopher Koper, and Cody Telep
George Mason University, Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy
Freely available at: http://policingmatrix.org
What the evidence tells us

1. Officers are more effective when they are PROACTIVE not reactive.

2. Officers are more effective when they TAILOR their actions to problems.

3. Police can be very effective when they focus on PLACES, not just people and individual cases.

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Using evidence to assess current practices

Tactic “A”
Sergeant “B”
Patrol Portfolio

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Assessing a patrol/promotion portfolio

Derbyshire, England (Veigas, 2011; Veigas and Lum, forthcoming in POLICING)

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Symptoms

Research is rarely a “part of the everyday conversation” in policing.

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Reasons for a non-EB approach

1. Procedures-based policing is standardized and institutionalized through functions and roles.

2. Training and promotions often not focused on evidence-base or analytic problem-solving, but more on procedures.

3. Supervision and leadership reflect reactive approach.

4. Experiential knowledge and discretion are over-valued and trumps scientific knowledge.

5. Mythology, false beliefs, and assertions of “politics” influence priorities.

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THE MATRIX DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Institutionalizing knowledge into existing law enforcement practices and systems

(www.cebpco.org)
Adjustments within existing systems:

- Academy and in-service training
- Field training activities
- Patrol deployment
- Investigative targets
- Promotions, rewards and assessment
- Management meetings with research videos
- Standard Operating Procedures and Orders
The Science of Translation

▪ Identifying translation tools or translators.
▪ Determining which tools/translation systems work best?
▪ What organizational factors facilitate translation?
▪ What structural features are necessary for translation?
The Science of Translation

- Receptivity of research in policing
  Dr. Cody Telep

- Aspects of research-practice partnerships
  Ms. Julie Grieco and Ms. Heather Vovak

- Calibrating patrol to be more evidence-based
  Prof. Christopher Koper

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