



Center For

POLICING EQUITY

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Presentation for the National Academies of Sciences Committee on Reducing Racial Inequality in the Criminal Justice System

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Goals of My Presentation

- Goal 1: Introduce Center for Policing Equity
- Goal 2: Examples of promising work in harm reduction, redesign, and implementation
- Goal 3: The risks of current ecosystem



Goal I: Introduce the Center for Policing Equity

Center for Policing Equity

- Mission to make policing less deadly, racist, and present
- Founded in 2008
- Leverage social science for better outcomes
- No funding for or from policing

Center for Policing Equity

- The largest research/action organization around race and policing
- Hosts the NSF-funded National Justice Database
- Largest collection of police behavioral data

Center for Policing Equity

- - 2020, harm reduction for vulnerable communities (where power to deliver was)
- Intervention model worked with police and communities to produce better outcomes
- 2020 -, direct to communities

A person in a military uniform, seen from behind, looking out over a city. The image is overlaid with a blue tint and white vertical lines. The text "Goal II: Promising Work" is written in white on the left side.

Goal II: Promising Work

Promising Work: Harm Reduction

- Greatest gains in crime reduction through policing: Performance management
- Use Gelman model to replicate for equity
- Goal is to segment out portion LEA cannot control

Promising Work: Harm Reduction

- North of 60 departments in this way (note on confidentiality)
- Majority of partners have no outcome data
- With exogenous shock of COVID...

Promising Work: Harm Reduction

- Average 25% fewer arrests, 26% fewer UoF, 13% fewer officer injuries
- Looking forward to seeing what portion of that is the intervention

Promising Work: Redesign

- Roadmap for Redesigning Public Safety
- The argument in favor of less punishment is gaining momentum, but scary to implement
- Empowers those worried about violence on the way to reducing punitive structures

Promising Work: Redesign

- Thousands of calls for TA from communities, electeds, and law enforcement in June alone
- Many positive results from initial redesign
- Lends itself to a more fulsome redefinition of public safety (not just crime stats)

Promising Work: Implementation

- Berkeley: Eliminated low level traffic enforcement (not just decline to prosecute)
- Nassau County: Redesign 911, remove officers from schools, ending armed response to all non-violent infractions

Promising Work: Implementation

- Ithaca/Tompkins County (NY State plan)
- The abolishment of the police department
- Replaced by the Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety

Promising Work: Implementation

- Civilian led
- Majority unarmed
- No armed response to non-violent incidents
- Public health orientation and resources
- Proactive investment in prevention

Promising Work: Implementation

- There was widespread expectation that the police union would sue to stop the plan
- PBA ended up publicly endorsing the plan

A person in a police uniform, seen from behind, standing in a crowd. The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent filter. A white vertical line is positioned to the left of the text.

Goal III: Risks of Current Ecosystem

Current Risks

- 2017, policing received less than 5% of CJ philanthropic funding
- It's more now
- Underdeveloped community/national infrastructure for change

Current Risks

- Toxic bad faith attacks by bad faith actors
- Ideological entrenchment masquerading as science
- Mummolo and Knox led 600+ scientists to denounce the use of sloppy science

Current Risks

- Some conducted by (otherwise) reputable scientists
- There are good faith, careful non-academics
- The funding and activist landscape is scarred by the rest

Current Risks

- Need for scientific infrastructure to backstop community need
- Guidance on data collection and analysis (e.g., CPE/Policing Project guide for CA RIPA legislation)

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