

Law Enforcement Use of Predictive Policing Approaches:
A Workshop

Person-Based Predictive Policing

Panelists: John Hollywood, Scott Mortgos, Thomas Abt

Moderator: Sarah Brayne



“...experts foresee the expanded use of streaming data analysis, pre-programmed threshold alerts and improvements in the way in which we visualize the data analysis that the computer performs on its own.”

*“We will move from near real-time analysis to true real-time analysis and then to a ‘**predictive policing**’ posture wherein more accurate and reliable probability modeling will be utilized to forecast potential crime trends over an increasing time span.”*

Source: William J. Bratton and Sean W. Malinowski, “Police Performance Management in Practice: Taking COMPSTAT to the Next Level,” *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 2, no. 3 (2008): 259–65.

Definitions

What is “person-based predictive policing”?

Predictive policing refers to using data to predict *when* and *where* crime is more likely to occur in the future

Person-based predictive policing involves predicting *who* is more likely to be involved in future criminal activity, either as offender or victim

Challenges with definitional clarity: definitions too broad and encompass almost every policing strategy, fuzzy concepts, terminology partially abandoned due to critique, practitioners don't use the term

Police have been forecasting crime for a long time

So, what is new about person-based predictive policing?

1. Codification, quantification, computation
2. Increased role of private vendors (less transparent)

Example applications

Moving beyond hypotheticals

1. Operation LASER in Los Angeles, CA

LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE



DIVISION
Chronic Offender List
Monday, April 13, 2015



Thompson, Stephen James

AKA: LIL GHOUL 26

A12345678 Unit(s) Assigned: GED

1/17/1984 Laser-1

Primary Gang: 12th Street



Smith, John

25

A11234567 Unit(s) Assigned: GED

2/20/1991 Laser-1

Wanted For: Warrant - Arrest Felony

Status: Summary Probation



Matthews, Brian

AKA: BOSS HAWG 22

A11123456 Unit(s) Assigned: GED

10/16/1985 Laser-1

Primary Gang: Hawg Boyz

Wanted For: Warrant - Arrest Felon, Warrant - Misd

Status: Parole



Davis, Carl

21

A11112345 Unit(s) Assigned: SPU

2/22/1950 Laser-1

Primary Gang: 12th Street

Status: Formal Probation



Jones, Douglas

21

A11111234 Unit(s) Assigned: GED

11/19/1994 Laser-1

Status: Summary Probation



Watts, Mark

21

A11111123 Unit(s) Assigned: GED

10/1/1993 Laser-1

Status: Formal Probation





INFORMATION ONLY

Notification



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NAME: Thompson, Stephen James
DOB: 12/10/1984
CI#: A12345678

CDL#: D1234567



123 W. 12TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90009
456 W. 78TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA, 90009

SEX: M
HAIR: BLK **HEIGHT:** 602
EYES: BRN **WEIGHT:** 205

PHYSICAL ODDITIES:
TATTOO ON RIGHT HAND "12"
TATTOO ON LEFT HAND "GJ"
TATTOO ON RIGHT ARM "ONE"
TATTOO ON LEFT ARM "DEUCE"
TATTOO ON RIGHT ARM "LIL GHOUL"

ARREST:
211, ADW, 10851 VC AND BURGLARY, GRAND THEFT
PERSON, NARCOTICS (POSS. CONT. SUBS. FOR SALE),
CRIMINAL THREATS

CALGANGS:
12TH STREET GANGSTER WITH MONIKER OF "LIL GHOUL,
LIL GJ"

PAROLE:
NONE

PROBATION:
NONE

WARRANTS:
NONE

VEHICLES:
1995 HONDA ACCORD 4D WHI CA-1ABC123
DRIVER 01/02/2010
2001 TOYOTA CAMRY 4D BLK CA-2CD456
DRIVER 04/05/2011

RECENT STOP:
OFFICERS: SMITH #12345 / CARSON #67890

DATE: 06/07/2013
LOCATION: 12TH ST/MAIN ST
RD: 1234

NARRATIVE/MO: PED STOP POSSIBLE ROBBERY
SUSPECTS. WANT AND WARRANT CHECK. SELF ADMITTED
12TH STREET GANGSTER WITH MONIKER OF "LIL GHOUL."
QUESTIONED AND RELEASED.

ASSOCIATES: STUART, DAVID (10/20/1987) "LIL MASK"
HOUSEMAN, MICHAEL (11/30/1984)

POLICE CONTACTS IN/NEAR DIVISION:		
DATE	RD	LOCATION/DISPOSITION
04/05/2010	1234	12TH PL/MAIN
		PS/CONSENT Q&R
06/07/2010	5678	T/S FOR EXPIRED REG
08/09/2011	1234	STOPPED FOR PED IN ROADWAY

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Prepared by: <A. BROWN, SERIAL # 12345 > Crime Intelligence Detail (123) 456-7890 Date: 1/02/2012

Example applications

Moving beyond hypotheticals

1. Operation LASER in Los Angeles, CA
2. Strategic Subjects List in Chicago, IL

Example applications

Moving beyond hypotheticals

1. Operation LASER in Los Angeles, CA
2. Strategic Subjects List in Chicago, IL
3. Prolific Offenders in Pasco County, FL

Panelists

Will each present for ~15 minutes

John Hollywood

Senior Operations Researcher at the RAND Corporation

Dr. Scott Mourtgos

Incoming Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice at the University of South Carolina

Thomas Abt

Center for the Study and Practice of Violence Reduction and Associate Research Professor in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland

Appendix

Citations

<https://bja.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh186/files/media/document/losangelesspi.pdf>

https://www.lapdpolicecom.lacity.org/031219/BPC_19-0072.pdf

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3531351/>

<https://projects.tampabay.com/projects/2020/investigations/police-pasco-sheriff-targeted/>

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR233.html

Bratton, William J. and Sean W. Malinowski, “Police Performance Management in Practice: Taking COMPSTAT to the Next Level,” *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice* 2, no. 3 (2008): 259–65.

Brayne, Sarah. 2021. *Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion, and the Future of Policing*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Ferguson, Andrew G. *The Rise of Big Data Policing: Surveillance, Race, and the Future of Law Enforcement*. New York: NYU Press.