Law Enforcement Use of Predictive Policing Approaches: A Workshop

Person-Based Predictive Policing

Scott M. Mourtgos

June 24th, 2024, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF **South Carolina**

POLICE UTAH EST. 1851 SALT LAKE CITY SERVING WITH INTEGRITY

What is Person-Based Predictive Policing, as Used by Police Agencies?

- Minority Report?
- Third-party Software?
- Risk Assessments?

How is person-based predictive policing being used by police agencies?

Focused Deterrence Approach

Prolific Offender Lists

Actual Prediction?
- Past Criminal Activity
- Social Network
- Other Correlates

Threat Scores[2]

[2]Carleton, B., Cunningham, B., & Thorkildsen, Z. (2020). *The Use of Predictive Analytics in Policing*. Arlington, VA: CNA.

Are the most well-known examples representative?

Are the most well-known examples representative?

Less than 10 Officers	• 40%
Less than 25 Officers	• 69%
Less than 50 Officers	• 85%
Greater then or Equal to 1,000 Officers[1]	• .005%

[1]Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2022, October). *Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 2018 – Statistical Tables* (NCJ 302187). U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.

Informal?

Some Additional Considerations

Internal Person-Based Predictive Policing[3]

Public Opinion[4]

Hypothesis	Evidence	Heterogeneous Effects
H1: *Citizens will be more supportive of AI use by local sheriffs than by the FBI.*	We find a preference for **bureaucratic proximity**—citizens are more supportive of, trusting of, and willing to pay for local, rather than national, law enforcement use of new AI tools.	Except for strong Democrats, individuals across the partisanship spectrum prefer sheriff AI use over FBI use, with the magnitude of the effect increasing with Republican identification.
H2: *Citizens will be more supportive of AI use when applied internally to detect police misconduct as opposed to externally to drive predictive policing of the public.*	We find a lack of responsiveness to **algorithmic targets**—there is no overall difference in public attitudes toward predictive policing of the public versus automated internal review of officers.	Republicans prefer predictive policing over automated internal review, but Democrats have higher support for both. Black and non-Black individuals have largely similar preferences.
H3: *Citizens will be more supportive of AI use when capacity is not a concern.*	We find a lack of responsiveness to **agency capacity**—stated concerns about existing agency capacity have little impact on public attitudes toward AI in policing.	Agency capacity is not a bigger concern for local sheriffs compared to the FBI, or for predictive policing compared to automated internal review.

[3]James, S., James, L., & Dotson, L. (2021). Evaluating the effectiveness of a police department's early intervention system. *Journal of Experimental Criminology, 17,* 457-471.
[4]Kaylyn Schiff, Daniel Schiff, Ian Adams, Josh McCrain, & Scott M. Mourtgos. (2023). Institutional Factors Driving Citizen Perceptions of AI in Government: Evidence from a Survey Experiment on Policing. *Public Administration Review.*