Law Enforcement and Evidence-Based Practices

Presentation to the
Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

March 13-14, 2014

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**Impact of Incarceration on Crime**

Incarceration may impact crime in 3 ways

- Incapacitation
- Specific Deterrence
- General Deterrence

- Incapacitation does prevent some crime from occurring
- Harsher sanctions do not reduce recidivism
- Little evidence of a general deterrent effect

Certainty of punishment is a far greater deterrent than severity of punishment – key role of the police
5 Things Law Enforcement Executives Can Do to Make a Difference

1. Crime is rarely random; patrols shouldn’t be either
2. Quality is more important than speed
3. DNA works for property crimes, too
4. In police work, perceptions matter
5. Make officer safety and wellness a priority

Source: National Institute of Justice, Police Foundation (2013)
Evidence on Policing

• Evidence on the impact of more police officers suggests more police can reduce crime
  – Greater presence, less crime; but key is to increase probability of apprehension

• What the police do matters most (deployment strategies)
  – Proactive, highly-focused deployment strategies are far more effective than reactive strategies
George Mason University Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

Evidence-Based Policing Matrix

- Effective
- Mixed Results
- Non-significant
- Harmful

Source: Lum, Koper and Telep; GMU Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

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Evidence on Policing Strategies

• Little evidence that “broken windows” policing is effective

• Evidence on community policing is inconclusive
  – Does improve relationship with the public
  – Important because lawful behavior is influenced by public perception about the fairness of law enforcement
Evidence on Policing Strategies

• Problem-oriented policing works
  – Focus on problems and underlying causes rather than on incidents
  – SARA model

• Hot spots policing works
  – Focus on high activity crime places
  – Utilizes crime mapping technology
  – Reductions in violent, property, drug and disorder crimes; diffusion of benefits more likely than displacement
  – Koper curve suggests 12–16 minutes of hot spot policing reduces crime for approximately 2 hours afterward
Evidence on Policing Strategies

• Drug markets can be disrupted with problem-oriented approaches and community partnerships
  – Collaborative partnerships that use tailored approaches (including civil remedies) to address criminogenic conditions

• SMART policing (Strategically Managed, Analysis and Research driven, Technology-based)
  – Philadelphia study: offender focus areas successful in reducing violent crime 22% compared to control areas
Examples of SMART Policing Effectiveness

Los Angeles Operation Laser

- Relies on data and intelligence to target chronic offenders and crime locations
- Uses existing personnel
- Measures dosage and results
- Violent crime down 19%, homicides down 56% (2011-12)

Source: Uchida (2013); presentation at NCJA National Forum
Key Themes in Evidence-Based Policing

• Data-driven analysis and assessment
  – Compstat model: Data-driven problem identification, innovative problem-solving, data-driven assessment for internal and external accountability

• Partnership and collaboration
  – With community as well as other criminal justice and government organizations

• Effective policing requires a range of investigative, analytic and intelligence techniques
Reentry and Law Enforcement

Strategies
- Partnerships
- Enhanced supervision
- Information sharing
- Notification sessions
- Community engagement
- Enforcement and support

Benefits
- Public and officer safety
- Decreased offender anonymity
- New or stronger partnerships
- Increased access to information and resources
- Increased trust between the public and police