

Policing Models

Criminal Justice covers every aspect of our legal system; from the police, through the courts on to correctional facilities, even covering probation and parole. Being the operational arm of the Judicial System, a police department may use one of the following methodologies or a combination of all, to perform their specialist role in enforcing Law and Order.

Reactive (Traditional) Policing - police respond when a call comes in stating that a crime has occurred. Upon arrival the patrol service take a report then pass the investigation over to the detectives' branch. At this point, the patrol service officer(s) would return to their patrol vehicle or station, awaiting their next callout.

Patrol Officers have little interaction with the citizens within their greater AOR and respond to crimes at various points in the city, rather than a fixed area. Officers' barely know anyone in the areas where they are responding nor do the citizens know the officers. Also under this type of policing, there is nothing in place to try to prevent crime from occurring. It's a response based "supply and demand" policing system, similar to the Fire Service.

Predictive Policing refers to the usage of predictive and analytical techniques in law enforcement to identify potential offenders.

Problem-Orientated Policing (POP) - has an emphasis on trying and prevent crime from happening. This policing model has detectives watching for patterns in crimes to help understand when and how crimes are being committed. Once they have a pattern they will search for ways in which to help prevent crimes from continuing to happen in those areas.

This model has more of a proactive stance than the traditional policing models do.

Community-Orientated Policing - focuses on police building ties and working closely with members of the communities within their AOR. The officers will make their presence known and also rely on community members to report any suspicious behaviour or tips on criminals in the area. This method creates a relationship and engenders an element of trust.

Reassurance Policing aims to identify "signals", and involve the community in solving community-related problems (similar to the community policing). Signal crimes are those that shape a community's perception of risk [from particular types of crime during a given period].

Scanning, Analysis, Response and Assessment (SARA) - refers to four key steps in the problem solving and decision making processes.

Scanning involves looking for patterns of problem activities, including victims, locations and types of crimes. It requires an evaluation of the problem, the perception of the problem by both law enforcement and external partners, and an analysis of the severity of the problem.

Analysis, which includes looking for the root causes of any problems or issues identified. Information is gathered from a variety of sources, including crime reports and community members who are directly affected by the issue. Causes of problems can include many factors, including neighborhood and community perceptions of law enforcement themselves.

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Once the cause is identified, law enforcement officials will work with the community to come up with and execute an appropriate, long-term response. After the **response** is implemented, an ongoing **assessment** is required to evaluate the effectiveness of the solution and make adjustments as appropriate.

***Intelligence-led Policing (ILP)** – built around risk assessment and management, ILP is defined as “a strategic, future-oriented, targeted approach to crime control, focusing upon the identification, analysis & management of persisting and developing problems or risks.”*

Although a policing framework that builds on earlier methodologies, including community policing, problem-oriented policing, and partnership models of policing, it originated as a rejection of the reactive policing with calls for police to spend more time employing surveillance to combat repeat offenders.

Viewed as a management tool rather than crime reduction strategy, benefits are seen as:

1. Supportive and informed command structure
2. Intelligence-led policing is the heart of an organization-wide approach
3. Integrated crime and criminal analysis
4. Focus on prolific and serious offenders
5. Analytical and executive training available
6. Both strategic and tactical tasking meetings take place
7. Much routine investigation is screened out
8. Data are sufficiently complete, reliable and available to support quality products that influence decision-making
9. Management structures exist to action intelligence products
10. Appropriate use of prevention, disruption and enforcement