Policing Practices

Projects under this topic will seek to identify how police department policies and operational procedures influence public safety and effectiveness. Proposal outcomes may target such areas as improved public safety, transparency, accountability, better police-community relations, crime reduction, and optimized use of policing resources.

Guiding Principles

Examining existing data to determine policy proposals bears with it the responsibility to consider as many as parameters and approaches as possible to ensure objective and effective outcomes. In addition to evaluating results from available data, the project should also consider what data is missing that would change policy proposals. Whenever possible, project teams should justify their assumptions and methods by referencing reputable sources.

Expectations for all Topic 3 Projects:

a) Choose a police department policy or practice and create one or more clearly stated research questions regarding how this policy or practice impacts society in its influence on crime reduction and/or public safety. Generally, research questions are not “yes-no”, but rather hope to explore the impact of one or more factors on the problem at hand.

b) Examine and organize data from sources related to the selected police practice and evaluate how well analyzing this data will contribute to understanding the effect of this practice on society.

c) Propose one or more methods of investigation and conduct this data analysis, keeping a directed goal of having your analysis address your research questions.

d) Employ data visualization methods to share your findings with interested experts and non-experts.
e) Identify **potentially interested community members and other stakeholders**, beyond the law enforcement community, who may be interested in or impacted by the proposed study.

e) **Identify potential policy outcomes of the proposed study**, and the impact of these outcomes within the city, state or country.

Larger and/or more advanced project teams may also choose to implement multiple or more advanced data analysis techniques, and may also choose to explore/implement some of the following:

a) **Seek additional data sources** and employ **interpolation methods** to solve information gaps discovered in initial data evaluation.

b) Incorporate **advanced statistical techniques in the analysis** of the police practice outcomes. The potential appropriateness of these techniques should be **clearly justified**.

c) Provide an **estimated budget**, along with a discussion of the **human, financial and technological costs** needed to satisfy the policy implementation resulting from the analysis.

d) Develop a **communication or dissemination plan** to share the outcomes of the study with the identified stakeholders and communities of interest.

e) **Conduct comparative studies** across police departments with different procedure and practices, being sure to **normalize for effects of variations** within the served population.

f) **Analyze both positive and negative potential impacts of the study** on the stakeholders and community members identified above.

**Example Areas of Study**

*(Note: Participants are encouraged to propose and explore any interesting issues - these are only examples!)*

1) Analysis of how the use-of-force policy effects arrest practices.
2) Transparency and public feedback opportunities in disciplinary actions.
3) Analysis of officer-involved shootings and demographics of the people involved.
4) Design and evaluation of patrol routes, shift allocations and other personnel decisions on police practices.
5) Influence of physical locations of police stations and satellite offices on response times.
6) Use of body cameras in policing.
## Data to Policy Project: Public Data for the Public Good
### Rubric for Patterns in Crime and Policing Practices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Exceeds Expectations: 2</th>
<th>Meets Expectations: 1</th>
<th>Below Expectations: 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Identification of Problem and Research Question(s)</strong></td>
<td>Identifies a narrow problem of need related to law enforcement in Denver and states (a) clear, approachable research question(s), identifying affected parties</td>
<td>Identifies a broad problem related to law enforcement in Denver and states at least one research question</td>
<td>Problem(s) and/or research question(s) absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Relevancy of Data</strong></td>
<td>Available data is directly relevant to the problem(s) or research question(s) identified, or employs multiple indirectly related data sets</td>
<td>Available data is indirectly relevant to the problem(s) or research question(s) identified</td>
<td>Data is not relevant to the problem(s) or research question(s) identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Methods</strong></td>
<td>Appropriate methods of research/analysis are stated, including data sources, software, or analytical techniques, etc.</td>
<td>Methods of research/analysis are stated</td>
<td>Methods of research/analysis are not stated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Analysis</strong></td>
<td>Data analysis clearly uses methods to reach justifiable conclusions, building on what is established within the disciplinary literature, to address the problem(s) or research question(s) and utilizes an innovative technique or approach</td>
<td>Data analysis conducted is appropriate, as established within the disciplinary literature, to address the problem(s) or research question(s)</td>
<td>Data analysis conducted is not appropriate to address the problem(s) or research question(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy Impacts</strong></td>
<td>Project clearly proposes a policy or practice that directly addresses the identified problem, identifies</td>
<td>Project proposes a policy or practice that directly addresses the identified problem</td>
<td>Project does not address the identified problem or gives an unrelated policy suggestion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Data Visualization</strong></td>
<td>Visualization technique(s) for information are appropriate to the data and successfully communicate the findings of the project</td>
<td>Visualization of information is adequate to convey findings of the project</td>
<td>Visualization of information is non-existent or inappropriate to data being addressed</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communication: Poster</strong></td>
<td>Poster effectively communicates ideas using clear language, layout, images and/or design</td>
<td>Poster effectively communicates ideas using clear language and layout</td>
<td>Poster language, and/or images are unclear or confusing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Communication: Presentation</strong></td>
<td>Project presentation effectively communicates the ideas presented in the poster to a lay audience, and can answers questions</td>
<td>Project presentation effectively communicates the ideas presented in the poster</td>
<td>Team is unable to effectively communicate the ideas presented in the poster</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>