

OFFICER SURVEY ON EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING

Citation for survey: Lum, C. and Telep, C. "Officer Receptivity Survey on Evidence-Based Policing." Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, George Mason University. Fairfax, VA.

SECTION A

1. Have you ever heard of the term "evidence-based policing"?

_____ YES (if yes, answer question 1b below)

_____ NO (if no, skip to question 2 below)

1b. How would you define the term "evidence-based policing"?

2. **In the last six months**, from which of the following journals or magazines have you read an article or feature? (Check all that apply)

_____ a. The Criminologist (magazine for the American Society of Criminology [ASC])

_____ b. Criminology and Public Policy (academic journal of the ASC)

_____ c. Criminology (academic journal of the ASC)

_____ d. The Police Chief (magazine of the International Association of Chiefs of Police)

_____ e. Justice Quarterly (academic journal of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences)

_____ f. Police Quarterly (academic journal of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences)

_____ g. FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin

_____ h. None of the Above

_____ i. Other: _____

3. **In the last six months**, have you read any formal or written information provided by the following organizations **specifically about the effectiveness of particular tactics or strategies**? (Check all that apply)

_____ a. Your own police agency

_____ b. National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

_____ c. Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)

_____ d. Police Executive Research Foundation (PERF)

_____ e. The Police Foundation

_____ f. International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

_____ g. Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

_____ h. Office of Justice Programs (OJP)

_____ i. COPS Office/Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

_____ j. A university (PLEASE NAME: _____)

_____ k. A library database (PLEASE NAME: _____)

_____ l. None of the above

_____ m. Other: _____

4. Below is a list of policing strategies. Indicate next to each strategy whether you think it is very effective, effective, somewhat effective, or not effective **for reducing crime and disorder**. Check the fifth column if you have not heard of the tactic.

	Strategy	Very Effective	Effective	Somewhat Effective	Not Effective	I Have not Heard of this Tactic
a.	Random preventive patrol					
b.	Hot spots policing					
c.	Community-oriented policing					
d.	Problem-oriented policing					
e.	Rapid response to 911 calls					
f.	Follow up visits for domestic violence					
g.	“Pulling levers” interventions for violent offenders					
h.	Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE)					
i.	Use of civil remedies (e.g., nuisance abatement)					
j.	Restorative justice					
k.	Mandatory arrest for misdemeanor domestic violence					
l.	Traffic enforcement to reduce gun crime					
m.	Zero tolerance policing					
n.	Legitimacy policing					

5. **In the last 12 months or so**, have you attended or participated in any professional policing conferences outside of training within your police department? Please specify the conference if YES.

_____ YES: _____
 _____ NO

6. Have you received any formal training about how to identify or evaluate which policing tactics or strategies are effective in reducing crime? Please specify the type of training and from whom if YES.

_____ YES: _____
_____ NO

SECTION B

1. To what extent do you find materials and data produced by crime analysts or researchers working within the department useful?

- _____ a. Very useful
- _____ b. Somewhat useful
- _____ c. Marginally useful
- _____ d. Not at all useful
- _____ e. I do not know if these individuals exist in my agency.

2. How often do you use materials produced by crime analysts in your daily work?

- _____ a. Often
- _____ b. Sometimes
- _____ c. Rarely
- _____ d. Not at all

3. When you decide to respond to a particular crime problem, which **BEST** describes your approach? (Check only **one** answer)

- _____ a. I use tactics that have worked for me in the past.
- _____ b. I let calls for service and other public requests guide my response
- _____ c. I try new tactics that I hear about from my supervisors.
- _____ d. I try new tactics that I have learned about from other sources.
NAME SOURCE: _____
- _____ e. I try new tactics based on materials/data from crime analysis.

4. To what extent do you find information from research (conducted by universities or research organizations) regarding police tactics useful?

- _____ a. Very useful
- _____ b. Somewhat useful
- _____ c. Marginally useful
- _____ d. Not at all useful

5. Some police agencies have hired a full-time criminologist (an academically-trained researcher who is not a sworn officer) to work in their agencies. Does your agency currently employ a full-time criminologist?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. Not Sure

6. Regardless of whether your agency currently employs a criminologist, how helpful do you think a criminologist would be in your agency?

- a. Very helpful
- b. Somewhat helpful
- c. Marginally helpful
- d. Not at all helpful

SECTION C

1. Indicate your level of agreement to the following statements:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I am willing to try new tactics or strategies, even if they are different from what I am currently doing.				
b. Collaboration with researchers is necessary for a police agency to improve its ability to reduce crime.				
c. When a new idea is presented from top commanders, it is usually a fad, and things will eventually return to normal.				

2. How willing would you be to take the following actions to test whether a particular tactic the police are currently using is effective?

	Very Willing	Quite Willing	Somewhat Willing	Not Willing
a. Stop the tactic to see if the problem gets worse				
b. Stop the tactic in one small area and compare what happens in another area where you didn't stop the tactic				
c. Find the top 20 areas where this problem exists and toss a coin to assign 10 areas to have the tactic and 10 areas not to receive the tactic and compare				
d. Use data before the police implemented the tactic and compare it to data from after the tactic was up and running				
e. Approach a researcher from a university or research organization to help you evaluate your tactic.				
f. Seek assistance from within the organization to create an evaluation method that would be acceptable to the organization				
g. Undertake online research to try and find out what others have done				
h. Stop a tactic on the basis that a researcher told you there was research showing it was ineffective				

3. In day to day decision making, what do you think the balance should be between the use of scientific research/knowledge (e.g. from universities and research organizations) and personal experience? (Choose one answer)

- _____ a. Experience should be most important (90%) and scientific knowledge should make little contribution (10%)
- _____ b. Experience should be more important (75%) but scientific knowledge should make some contribution (25%)
- _____ c. Experience (50%) and scientific knowledge (50%) should both make an equal contribution
- _____ d. Scientific knowledge should be more important (75%) but experience should make some contribution (25%)
- _____ e. Scientific knowledge should be most important (90%) and experience should make little contribution (10%)

4. If you had to generally assess the nature of your agency's efforts to reduce crime and disorder, which of the following would best describe those efforts?

- a. My agency uses primarily traditional tactics such as random preventive patrol and case-by-case investigations (by type, e.g., auto theft, robbery, homicide, major crimes)
- b. My agency uses primarily traditional tactics supplemented by community-oriented policing in a separate unit
- c. My agency has adopted a department-wide community-oriented policing approach
- d. My agency uses a mix of traditional tactics and more innovative tactics such as problem-oriented policing or hot spots policing
- e. My agency uses primarily innovative tactics

5. In your view, what is the top factor that inhibits innovation and reform in policing?

SECTION D

1. How important do you think pursuing higher education (i.e. more than a high school diploma) is for police officers in general?

- a. Not important
- b. Somewhat important
- c. Important
- d. Very important
- e. Essential

2. What do you think should be the minimum educational standard for new police recruits in your agency?

- a. No educational standard
- b. High school diploma
- c. Some college
- d. Associate's degree
- e. Bachelor's degree

3. At which rank do you think an understanding of outside research about policing becomes essential for daily work? (Choose the lowest rank where you think such an understanding is essential)

- a. Patrol officer/detective
- b. First line supervisor/sergeant
- c. Lieutenant
- d. Captain
- e. Major
- f. Deputy Chief
- g. Chief
- h. N/A- research evidence not essential for daily work for any rank

SECTION E

1. Today's Date: _____

2. Gender: MALE _____ FEMALE _____

3. Age: _____ years old

4. Are you a sworn law enforcement officer? YES _____ NO _____

5. Total years of experience as a law enforcement officer or civilian employee (in either your current agency or other agencies) _____ years

6. Current Rank/Position:

- a. Patrol officer
- b. Detective
- c. Sergeant
- d. Lieutenant
- e. Captain
- f. Major
- g. Deputy Chief or Chief
- h. Other (Specify: _____)

7. Roughly how long have you been at your current rank? _____ years _____ months

8. Do you supervise individuals?

YES (If so, how many individuals do you DIRECTLY supervise? _____)
 NO

9. Highest level of education achieved

- a. High school diploma
- b. Some college but no degree
- c. Associate's degree or certificate
- d. Bachelor's degree
- e. Master's degree
- f. Professional degree (e.g., law degree, MBA, MPA)
- g. Doctorate degree

10. How would you describe your race?

- a. American Indian or Alaskan Native
- b. Asian or Pacific Islander
- c. Black or African-American
- d. Caucasian or White
- e. Other (Specify: _____)

11. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin? YES NO

12. What special education and training have you received? (Check all that apply)

- a. Professional certificate outside department
- b. Extensive formal training in a specific area within the department
Specify: _____
- c. Crime analysis certification
- d. Computer training/certification
- e. Other (Specify: _____)

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY