



# CENTER FOR POLICE RESEARCH AND POLICY

## CONNECTING POLICE RESEARCH TO PRACTICE: TAKING SCIENCE TO THE STREETS.

### The IACP/UC Center FOR POLICE RESEARCH AND POLICY

The Center is a partnership between the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the University of Cincinnati. Led by Dr. Robin S. Engel, UC's vice president for safety and reform, the Center is a team of:

- Nationally renowned policing scholars
- Former police executives
- Dedicated police researchers

all working together to conduct cutting-edge research and share findings with law enforcement leaders around the world.

During the first three years of operation the IACP/UC Center for Police Research and Policy will:

- Create a National Model Policy on conducting police research
- Develop guidelines on how law enforcement and researchers can collaborate
- Initiate research projects targeting urgent policing issues
- Translate existing research on issues that impact law enforcement policy and practice
- Compile examples of police research in practice

### Research through RANDOMIZED CONTROLLED TRIALS (RCT)

RCTs are widely recognized as the gold standard of scientific research. During an RCT, study subjects are randomly assigned to either the treatment or control group. The "treatment group" receives the intervention being studied and the "control group" does not. The control group is often described as just "doing business as usual". This approach allows the researcher to control the delivery of the intervention and assume the only difference between the subjects in each group is whether or not they experienced the intervention. The treatment and control group can then be compared statistically on key outcomes to determine if the treatment caused any changes in the treatment group. Police "treatments" that have been studied with RCT designs include:

- arrest policies for domestic violence calls
- hot spots policing initiatives
- body-worn camera use.

## **How an RCT Works IN A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

The IACP/UC Center for Police Research and Policy will be partner with police agencies conduct randomized controlled trials to study police related topics. We are currently in the process of identifying topics important to law enforcement executives. Please contact the Center at [PoliceResearchCenter@uc.edu](mailto:PoliceResearchCenter@uc.edu) if your agency may be interested in participating in an RCT to study an issue you face.

One example would be studying the effect of police training programs. This study would involve some officers in the department being selected to receive the training initially while the remaining officers will be trained several months later. This can be randomized by:

- Individual officers
- Shifts of officers
- Beats/districts of officers

Information about both groups of officers and their experiences will be collected over the span of the study. Relevant outcomes of interest could include, but are not limited to:

- Police officer or citizen attitudes
- Police officer or citizen behavior
- Crime rates
- Use of force incidents

Treatment and control officer groups who receive the training will be scientifically compared to assess the training's impact on the key outcomes.

### **Mission**

- Provide police agencies with cutting-edge research, translated into actionable recommendations
- Answer urgent policing issues
- Drive sound policy
- Advance criminal justice practice
- Conduct and facilitate police research
- Foster collaborative relationships between researchers and police agencies.

### **Vision**

To produce and disseminate high-quality research and related tools and information to advance policing. The Center will expand access to, and understanding of, effective policing practices developed and identified through action-focused research. Findings will be disseminated through means that promote timely adoption of research-based policy and practice and improve day-to-day police work.

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