**Final Project Draft**

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# **Introduction**

Data collection for the type, amounts, and impact of crime is essential for any police department. Crime statistics enhance police enforcement of their administration, policy management, and operations. Criminal justice professionals and other researchers use statistics to understand society concerning crime rates and the police's availability to tackle the problem. The police can efficiently use crime statistics to analyze the increased crime risk and thus focus on specific areas. Such focus helps in more effective utilization of police resources and predicting future crimes to reduce their incidences ultimately. The statistics gathered over the past eight years for police funding are useful for budget formation at the local, state, and federal levels. Resource allocation is also enhanced to facilitate equity, and initiatives of the police can be fully understood. This proposal gives an overview of police staff workload, citizen contact with police officers, and funding for the police departments to enhance the effectiveness of policing and reduce crime rates.

# **Theory and Methods**

Criminological theories help society understand the reasons behind an individual's deviation from law and criminal behavior. Preservation of a peaceful community requires a combination of criminology and accurate policing. However, “community-oriented policing” still faces the challenge of acceptance. Descriptive statistics used for this proposal provides statistical information about illegal activity and the police measures to combat them.

## **Criminology Theories**

Sociological criminology theories, including social learning, control, rational choice, and strain theories, explain that people take up criminal actions through social relationships, internal and external behavioral controls, costs and benefits of the activities, and due to stress. Psychological theories such as the cognitive theory, psychodynamic theory, and behavioral theory also explain why people tend to act criminally due to undeveloped ability in moral judgment. There also exist biological theories that link criminal behavior to a person's biological makeup. The police department faces the challenge of increased crime rate and related activities due to the sociological, psychological, and biological causes of criminal activity (Herrington and Colvin, 2016). The department is also understaffed, with every officer getting assigned an average of 6 cases. Citizen contact with officers is significantly high due to associated reasons as disturbance and violence, especially among teenagers. The police department faces underfunding from the state and federal governments, thus the inability to maintain law and order.

## **Strategic Methods**

The most significant strategic methods utilized by leaders in the police department to reduce crime rates and increase police acceptability include community-oriented policing, broken window policing, and procedural justice. The community's active role in crime prevention is promoted by community-based proactive strategies that define the police's interaction with the district. Such procedures are aimed at enhancing proactive policing approaches to reduce crime and improve the community's assessment of police performance, thus their legitimacy. Community engagement and cooperation is vital in securing public safety and order. Problem-solving is enhanced through police and citizen collaboration and consultation between the two parties. The scope and intensity of community-oriented policing increase citizen satisfaction with the police and are evident in the community outcomes (Aarset and Glomseth, 2019).

Secondly, broken window policing is an effective strategy for crime reduction as it takes a community-based approach to make communal changes in policing. It enhances the community’s ability to presume a central role in exercising informal social controls. According to Martin and Mazerolle (2016), the broken windows logic model is associated with two specific outcomes; reduction of the fear of crime and increase citizens’ willingness to intervene and address community problems. The third approach is procedural justice to enhance public trust toward the police and acquire information on how to increase confidence. Police legitimacy is increased as police departments engage in community practices and policies that improve the sustenance of the perceived legitimacy.

## **Best Practices for Communicating with Diverse Audiences**

As police strive to maintain law and order by arresting lawbreakers and preventing crimes, they must embrace proper practices for communicating with diverse audiences. The police should engage the people, and both the department and community should understand policing practices. Better policing strategies are enhanced by communicating to the community the importance of leadership and place communal leaders in high visibility roles. The incorporation of procedural justice requires cultural immersion by developing a community policing philosophy that will be reflected in the police departments. Besides, the department also has to set and measure its expectations and communicate them to the shareholders and community. After developing the policies, to make them operational, they have to reflect the four pillars of procedural justice; fairness, voice, transparency, and impartiality. Communication and training should be clear and consistent, and policies should also be up-to-date. Finally, the department can execute its plan to ensure sustainability by enhancing accountability, compliance with the processes, and incorporating effective tools for measurement and accountability. Accountability measures include supervisory oversight, performance evaluations, micro-community policing plans, inspections and audits, and early intervention systems (Cronin et al., 2017).

# **Literature Review**

## **Data Analysis**

The collected data addresses three distinct areas for the police department; staff workload, citizen contact with officers, and department funding for the past eight years. There were 206 crime incidents in 2009 and 144 in 2016, with the two years having a total officer number of 25 and 22, respectively. The number of assignments per officer in 2009 was approximately 8.2, while in 2016, it was 6.5. The number of subject contacts with officers significantly increased between 2009 and 2013. There was, however, a decrease from 2014 and 2016 recorded the least number. Contact with officers regarding violence had fewer cases compared to disturbance, and the number fluctuates annually. Finally, state funding to the police department for upkeep and hiring additional officers varies annually. Funding was maintained at a flat rate in 2010, 2012, and 2014 while there was a slight increase in 2011 and a significant decrease in 2013 and 2015.

## **Research**

The data for crime incidents, total officer number, and the number of assignments per officer shows inconsistency as the number of incidents increases proportionally with the number of officers despite the reduction in the number of tasks per officer. There is an observed significant increase in crime incidences between 2010 and 2015 and a drastic decrease in 2016. The number of force complaints were fewer but showed a significant increase between the years 2009 and 2016. This data indicates that officer contact is mostly as a result of disturbance and few violence cases. The increased number of crime incidents in 2013 and 2015 is attributed to the drop in state funding for the department's upkeep and hiring of additional officers (White et al., 2017). In 2011, state funding for officer budget and department upkeep was increased, thus a noticeable reduction in the number of crime incidents.

## **Root Causes**

The increased crime incidents are due to a reduction in the number of officers, which in turn increases the available officers' workload. The decrease in the number of officers could be due to officer turnover and, most importantly, decreased state funding. In the years when the department was understaffed, there was an increased number of crime incidents and more assignments per officer. Youth and teenagers engage the most in contact with officers in the forms of disturbance and violence due to psychological reasons of stress and peer pressure (Hagan and Daigle, 2018).

# **R**eferences

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