

# Interagency Coordination and Response: Case Study of July 2005 London Terrorist Attacks



RTI International has conducted research on crime, violence, justice systems, and behavioral health for over 30 years. Using rigorous multidisciplinary approaches, RTI research advances knowledge and informs policy, practice, and programs nationally and internationally.

## Overview

The emergence of terrorism as a viable threat has required U.S. agencies at national, state, and local levels to work together to prepare for and respond to terrorist events. Law enforcement and other first responders share common responsibilities, both in preventing a terrorist attack and for coordinating their responses to an attack. Effective response requires that these agencies develop effective practices for communicating and coordinating their efforts, including methods for developing mutually acceptable strategies and roles.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) funded RTI to conduct the Interagency Coordination and Response: Case Study of July 2005 London Terrorist Attacks project, which builds on RTI's previous work identifying a general model of coordinated response in crisis events. This is the second multiagency coordination project conducted by RTI for NIJ. The first examined coordination across a wide range of emergency response and counterterrorism issues in the United States, Canada, Ireland, and the United Kingdom.

RTI applied its coordinated response model to events surrounding the July 2005 terrorist attacks in London to identify specific practices and solution mechanisms in the London response. The goals of the study were to

- Identify effective approaches and solutions to the interagency coordination problem implemented in response to the July 2005 London terrorist attacks

- Assess and validate specific elements of the coordinated response model developed in the previous NIJ study that were used in the London preparation and response activities.

The Interagency Coordination and Response study was conducted in two primary phases:

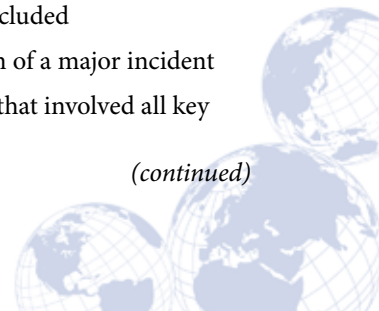
- A document review of reports and literature relevant to the London attacks
- Stakeholder interviews with law enforcement and other emergency personnel involved in the response to the July 2005 London terrorist bombings.

Interviews were conducted in the spring of 2006 with stakeholders from the London Metropolitan Police, City of London Police, British Transport Police, London Fire Brigade, London Ambulance Service, and National Health Service.

Results demonstrated that London's approach to coordination—characterized by a high level of preplanning, joint exercises, and regular improvement through constant use—helped to minimize the effects of common coordination barriers during the response. Successful elements of the London response included

- Rapid recognition and declaration of a major incident
- A command-and-control system that involved all key agencies

*(continued)*



- Limited disagreement across agencies on roles and responsibilities
- Delivery of a single, unified media message.

### **RTI's Crime, Violence, and Justice Research**

In 2000, RTI established a dedicated Crime, Violence, and Justice Research Program, which has a research staff with professional backgrounds in criminology, economics, law, psychology, public health, and sociology. Crime, Violence, and Justice staff are located in RTI's main office in Research Triangle Park, NC, and in offices throughout the United States. RTI also maintains an office in Washington, DC.

In addition to experienced crime and justice personnel, RTI has a highly qualified and varied research staff available for complex, cross-disciplinary projects. We draw on diverse professional expertise in substance use and abuse, physical and mental health, employment and training, housing, survey research, education, and research computing to build knowledge and inform policy and practice. Our fundamental investigative and program capabilities include

#### **Our substantive work includes the following areas of concentration:**

- Criminal and delinquent behavior
- Corrections
- Substance use
- Juvenile justice
- Violence
- Terrorism
- Prevention.

- Basic and applied research
- Program development and implementation
- Program evaluation
- Data collection
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis and reporting.

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#### **More Information**

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