



THE POWER OF EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING RESEARCH

RTI CENTER FOR POLICING RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIVE SCIENCE

The public safety environment is complex and continues to evolve for first responders and other criminal justice professionals. RTI International understands the climate in which criminal justice practitioners operate and the unique problems they face. We partner with federal, state, and local agencies and other stakeholders to understand and improve public safety and the administration of justice through applied research, evaluation, technical assistance, and novel analytic tools.



Independent, Research-Based Perspectives

Implementing evidence-based practices requires independent, research-based perspectives. The RTI Center for Policing Research and Investigative Science (CPRIS) provides scientifically grounded, data-driven information to law enforcement agencies, community organizations, and government policymakers; we provide information about policing, investigations, forensic science, substance abuse, and a variety of other topics.

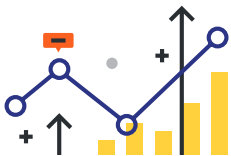
Our Team

CPRIS consists of a multidisciplinary team of researchers—including individuals who have direct experience as criminal justice practitioners.

Our deep capabilities in disciplines adjacent to policing and investigations—such as forensic science, public health, and social policy—can help you develop more effective practices and foster collaborations within and across jurisdictions.

Diverse Capabilities and Data-Driven Services

Understanding a problem is the first step in developing an effective solution and making an informed decision. Through research and data analysis, we can help you understand pressing public health issues. We provide a range of capabilities and services, including the following:



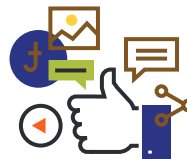
Data collection and analysis



Evaluation of technology



Evaluations of programs, policies, and strategies



Training and technical assistance



Forensic science



Reporting and information systems



Data analytics

Making an Impact

Every day, law enforcement officials make an impact on the communities that they serve. We actively partner with state and local jurisdictions and community organizations to help them make a positive impact by using research and data in innovative ways and gathering new data to inform decisions.

Here are a few ways we're helping to make communities safer for practitioners and community members alike:



Identifying data-driven approaches for policing operations and strategies.

Innovative evaluations help guide public policy in the use and application of policing strategies and technologies.



Recent research includes developing strategies to prevent near-repeat

residential burglary, evaluating the effectiveness of gunshot detection technology, and optimizing the deployment of public surveillance systems. Through this work, we empower agencies to leverage data to help them understand and inform policing operations.



Leveraging public safety data to inform decisions.

To help agencies understand and make informed decisions about operational and strategic needs, we utilize our expertise in 911 call-for-service (CFS) data, incident-based data, and other available information sources. These data sources are being used to analyze responses to dynamic and challenging problems as well as for the allocation of resources

and levels of interagency coordination. CFS data are also being used to address high-volume people and places that require significant levels of first-responder resources. In addition, CPRIS researchers have developed WOMBAT, an open-sourced tool developed to support both data entry and dissemination of prioritized warrant information to officers in the field. WOMBAT provides prioritized warrant lists to patrol officers via a custom software application that complements the NCAWARE system.



Focusing on sexual assault response reform.

To eliminate the sexual assault kit backlog, we provide jurisdictions across the country with technical assistance, training, and research support. Through the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Training and Technical Assistance project, we provide state and local jurisdictions with victim-centered training on sustainable practices for processing forensic evidence and for investigating and prosecuting



sexual assault cases. Our work emphasizes the use of multidisciplinary teams to provide an effective response to sexual assault cases as well as comprehensive support and engagement to victims.



Analyzing and improving policies and practices to support law enforcement workforce.

RTI partners with agencies to address the unique challenges of managing workplace and workforce issues in the law enforcement environment. Our team conducts research to inform how law enforcement

agencies can better recruit, support, and retain their most vital asset—personnel. Our work includes research about supporting a diverse workforce and equipping leadership and supervisors with the tools and resources they need to support their employees' changing needs. RTI also works with agencies to measure barriers and facilitators to organizational effectiveness and to develop, implement, and evaluate practices and programs to improve effectiveness on the individual and agency levels.



Developing evidence for how best to mitigate stress of police officers and medicolegal death investigators.

To better understand how stressful situations affect officers and their decisions, we have worked with police officers from multiple agencies to (1) monitor their emotional and physical stress levels using personal wearable devices and (2) evaluate the effectiveness of health and wellness programs. These devices measure heart rate, skin temperature, and more. RTI is also investigating ways to combat burnout and promote workforce resiliency in the medicolegal death investigation field.



Helping law enforcement address challenges around drugs and mental health.

RTI is actively involved in researching the effectiveness of harm reduction strategies, including the administration of naloxone by officers and other first responders. To provide a clear picture of drug use and trafficking to law enforcement officials across the country, we also work closely with the Drug Enforcement Administration to manage the National Forensic Laboratory Information System. RTI is also assisting state and local efforts to combat opioid and stimulant abuse through the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program.



Addressing crime and the response to crime through incident-based crime reporting.

Working with the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, we are collaborating with state and local agencies to increase the number of departments participating in the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS provides a more detailed picture of crime and how it impacts the United States. As more agencies turn to incident-based reporting, we can identify and address important and emerging issues related to crime and safety on national, state, and local levels.



Collecting national survey data on departmental and officer operations.

RTI has extensive experience in survey data collection. RTI leads the Bureau of Justice Statistics' Law Enforcement Core Statistics program and the Census of Medical Examiner and Coroner Offices. Through these data collections, RTI is surveying the law enforcement and medicolegal death investigation fields, respectively, to develop national estimates about agency dynamics and resource allocation. This information facilitates national and local discussions about optimizing police operations and provides necessary benchmarks for organizations.



Learn how our research can help you achieve your mission of promoting safety and justice.

www.rti.org/policing



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RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world. For more information, visit www.rti.org.

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