



Law Enforcement Data Collection Advisory Group

January 14, 2022 Virtual Meeting

Notes

Members Present: Donald Almer, Chris Breault, Joseph King (*attended a portion of meeting*) Chief Darrell Lowe, Martina Morris, Charles Porche, Marie Pryor, Douglas Wagoner (*attended a portion of meeting*), James Wilburn

Members Absent: none

1. Welcome and Introductions

By unanimous consent, the Advisory Group adopted the agenda for the January 14, 2022 meeting. The Advisory Group approved the notes from the December 10, 2021 meeting.

2. Survey Review

The Advisory Group discussed surveying law enforcement agencies to learn about how they currently gather information internally about use of force incidents. Members recommended sending the survey to agency heads, who can then delegate it to the appropriate staff, such as a Professional Standards Sergeant. The Advisory Group also discussed the difference between a records management system (RMS) and a use of force reporting system. The survey draft under review needs a question about agencies' use of force reporting systems. As discussed previously, the law enforcement members of the Advisory Group use the IAPro/Blue Team system. One member is in beta testing with the company to add drop-down menus for the state-required data fields to the use of force report. Otherwise, the system is generally "locked", so agencies cannot easily export their records. The Advisory Group discussed the downside to individual agencies working with their vendors to customize existing systems and raised the possibility of the program operator designing a standardized approach.

3. New Jersey Use of Force Data Displays

The Advisory Group had the opportunity to learn about New Jersey's statewide use of force data system, which is the most comprehensive in the county. New Jersey has approximately 38,000 officers in 550 departments across 21 counties. These entities use a variety of different records management and internal affairs systems. New Jersey worked with one of the common vendors in an effort to extract data from the existing system, but ultimately, it was not workable.

Draft pending approval by Advisory Group.

Prior to the development of the statewide system, there was not a uniform way of collecting use of force information. The Attorney General's Office, which in New Jersey can enforce directives to law enforcement agencies, developed a standard data collection form, worked with the vendor Benchmark Analytics to develop the Use of Force Portal, and engaged with SAS Data Analytics for the public-facing dashboard. The portal launched in March 2020 and all agencies statewide began using it in October 2020. Officers are required to report via the portal within 24 hours of using force. Each user has a profile in the system, so information like demographics automatically populates. Each agency has a dedicated administrative user who can request the report be deleted or edited. The dashboard is updated monthly and all data is downloadable in multiple formats. The guest speakers shared recommendations and lessons learned about their experiences, including:

- Anticipate in the design of the system that it will be expanded with additional data points in the future.
- Provide training support for officers.
- Vet vendors carefully and ensure they have sufficient hosting capacity.
- Get the data in a format that easy to utilize for the public and law enforcement agencies.

4. Portland Use of Force Data Analysis and Displays

The Advisory Group had the opportunity to learn about the Portland Police Bureau's collection and display of use of force data. Portland uses a fillable PDF form and the data are reentered on the backend. Officers must complete the form by the end of their shift. Reports are reviewed by sergeants and command staff. Portland uses Tableau for its displays and the data are refreshed quarterly. Officer-involved shootings are not displayed on the same dashboard as other uses of force, but on a separate dashboard. The guest speakers shared lessons learned about their experiences, including:

- Coding narrative descriptions of incidents is challenging with minimal value. It requires three full-time staff for one agency.
- Auditing is extremely important to gathering good data.

5. Data Analysis and Data Displays

Advisor Martina Morris made a presentation on data display analytics. The presentation demonstrated that with 30 data elements there are numerous possibilities for univariate, bi-variate and multivariate analyses. Dr. Morris suggested the data program focus on getting full participation from agencies. A manageable data collection that has full participation is more useful to the public and law enforcement. Dr. Morris recommended on ongoing, iterative process to obtain feedback from users on the design and functionality of the dashboard.