

Draft pending approval by the Advisory Group.



Law Enforcement Data Collection Advisory Group

November 19, 2021 Virtual Meeting

Notes

Members Present: Donald Almer, Chris Breault, Chief Darrell Lowe, Joseph King, Martina Morris, Charles Porche, Marie Pryor, Douglas Wagoner, James Wilburn

Members Absent: none

1. Welcome and Introductions

Advisory Group members introduced themselves and shared insights they have gleaned from the group's work to date. By unanimous consent, the Advisory Group adopted the agenda for November 19, 2021. The Advisory Group approved the notes from the October 15, 2021 and November 5, 2021 meetings.

2. Presentation on Body Worn Camera Footage & Police Use of Force—David Makin, Ph.D. Director and Megan Parks, M.A., Lab Manager of the Complex Social Interactions Lab, Washington State University

The presenters shared that analyzing body-worn camera footage can enhance our understanding of police use of force by capturing data elements that are not captured by other means. The goal of the Complex Social Interactions Lab is to operationalize body-worn camera footage in an accessible way. Ultimately, the lab aims to explore whether we can use machine learning to figure out, for example, three things to do that reduce the likelihood of force, five things not to do, etc. Currently, the lab deconstructs police interactions focusing on objective events, e.g., did a particular use of force occur or not? At what time did the officer contact the subject? At what time did force occur? What was the duration of the force? The lab focuses on time, duration, and type of force, not perceptions. The lab can also analyze procedural justice data, such as whether or not the officers introduced themselves, stated the reason for the stop, asked for the individual's name, used slurs, directed profanity at the individual, etc.

Agencies that provide footage to the lab own their data. The lab does not release footage. Agencies can use the analysis to make comparisons across their departments, or by shift, race, gender, etc. In addition, every agency and every officer has a unique, anonymized ID, which can then connect to other data points in the database. If an officer transfer to another agency, the ID follows them. In contrast, non-law enforcement subjects in the video are not tracked because the lab does not use facial recognition software.

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At this point, there is no universal definition of de-escalation, so the lab cannot code for it. A valid and reliable instrument is needed to identify de-escalation and code it consistently. Dr. Makin estimated that we are perhaps three to five years from a valid and reliable instrument to measure de-escalation.

3. Calls for Service: What Data Are Readily Available? Chris Breault and Charles Porche

Advisory Group Members Chris Breault and Charles Porche discussed the calls for service data collected by their respective agencies. The city owns calls for service data; however, the system housing the data is proprietary, meaning that it can be difficult to extract data in a useful way. Charles's agency, though, is able to create forward-facing quarterly reports that are publicly posted on its website, covering the number of incidents by type of crime, number of calls for service, and number of arrests. In the 3rd quarter of 2021, the agency logged 12,786 calls for service and there were 28 uses of force (0.02% of calls involved force).

The Advisory Group discussed some unknowns and potential challenges associated with collecting calls for service data, such as whether the data can be exported to an Excel spreadsheet and whether some information would be exempt from public disclosure. Chief Lowe questioned the purpose of collecting extensive information about calls for service at the state level, beyond the number of calls, which can be used to calculate the portion of calls that involved force. Staff explained that the statewide data program cannot compel agencies to provide extensive data related to calls for service at this stage anyway beyond elements of these data that directly connect to and enhance understanding of uses of force (like the number of calls for service). Agencies can opt to provide additional data. The Advisory Group can also make recommendations for additional required data collection.