

CRIME ANALYSIS

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) program provides an innovative framework for the US Department of Justice (DOJ) to enhance its support of state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the investigation, prosecution, and deterrence of violent crime, especially crime related to gun violence, gangs, and drug trafficking.

Departments and agencies interested in improving their violent crime reduction capacity participate in BJA-sponsored reviews of departmental functions ([crime analysis](#), [grants landscape](#), [investigative](#), [technology](#), etc.) to develop a baseline understanding of their challenges and areas for growth. **The crime analysis assessment helps agencies evaluate their capabilities and capacity to analyze and use data to make informed decisions, respond effectively, and prevent crime.** The assessment also identifies the various crime analysis training and technical assistance (TTA) opportunities to support agencies in building and enhancing their crime analysis capacities.

Nine medium- to large-sized law enforcement agencies across the South, Midwest, and West have completed crime analysis assessments, allowing an opportunity to identify and share common themes, technical gaps, and recommendations found across law enforcement agencies nationwide. Additional information on the analysis and other common findings and recommendations can be found in our [Crime Analysis Assessment Summary Report](#), and other reports in the assessment summary series, including the [Grant Landscape Review Summary Report](#), [Non-Fatal Shooting and Homicide Assessment Summary Report](#), and [Technology Assessment Summary Report](#).



ADOPT NEW ANALYTICAL TECHNIQUES AND INTELLIGENCE-DRIVEN POLICING STRATEGIES FOR VIOLENCE REDUCTION

• Common findings

- Police leaders and officers benefit from the availability of accurate, timely analysis to identify and target crime patterns. Law enforcement agencies cannot reap these benefits without expanding current analysis, informing strategies with crime data, and remaining accountable to ongoing crime issues and trends.
- Agency leadership needs to have a clear understanding of what crime analyst can provide and have a clear use of the analytical products. Asking the appropriate analytical questions up front is key to getting actionable information.
- Current agency policing approaches are not frequently informed by data or particularly structured or targeted. Rather, these approaches are often reactive to police problems and dependent on officer initiative and available time. Alternatively, agencies often benefit from having a comprehensive set of policies and process for using crime analysis information to [guide and inform violent crime reduction strategies](#).

• Common recommendations

- [Learn from other agencies](#) and [adopt new approaches to using crime analysis and crime data](#), including refocusing Compstat/ accountability meetings and intelligence-driven policing efforts to focus on types and patterns of crime rather than individual cases.
- Focus [crime analysis on approaches](#) that examine people, places, patterns, and problems. Consider expanding the work on specific problems—people, locations, and calls—that are using a lot of resources.
- Develop a variety of products to assist with [tactical](#), [intelligence](#), and problem analysis. Use maps, spreadsheets, charts, and analytical tools (e.g., IBM Analyst Notebook, Gephi, RF Flow) to analyze crime patterns and trends.



INVEST IN ANALYTICAL PERSONNEL

• Common findings

- Law enforcement analysts often lack formal, modern training in the field.
- Law enforcement executives and officers sometimes have limited awareness of global practices and standards associated with crime analysis, as well as the capabilities and value of crime analysts.
- Having separate crime analyst and intelligence analyst units can result in a duplication of effort in reviewing reports, managing data, and calculating statistics.

• Common recommendations

- Provide additional [training to analyst](#) to ensure that capabilities are standardized across analysts and that all crime analysis staff are aware of latest [best practices](#), such as those involved in strategic, [place-based](#), and [offender-based](#) analysis.
- Prioritize basic analysis training for all department members, including [command staff and police leaders](#).
- Inform all members of the department of [the purpose and value of crime analysis and crime analysis capabilities internally available](#), to include patrol officers, detectives, and specialized units.
- Establish and maintain [rapport between crime analysts and officers](#) by having analysts attend line-ups and investigative meetings, go on ride-alongs, and engage in informal interaction on a regular basis. In this regard, analysts can listen to officer needs, share information and successes, and take advantage of the officers that are already crime analysis-knowledgeable to be “champions” for crime analysis. Officers can also spend time with analysts working on a problem or project and learning about the various data, products, and services that can be provided.
- Build relationships between department units and analysts to improve information sharing and reduce duplication of like activities.



USE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS-BASED ANALYSIS

• Common findings

- Law enforcement agency analysts are not fully trained on modern analysis techniques, particularly geographic information systems (GIS) concepts.
- Law enforcement agencies often rely on city GIS units. Outside units may not be as well versed in or responsive to the priorities of law enforcement analysis, due to numerous and competing citywide GIS priorities.

• Common recommendations

- Provide outside training on analysis-related data, tools, techniques, and applied crime theory concepts to crime analysts and GIS personnel. In particular, explore training offered by the [International Association of Crime Analysts \(IACA\)](#) and the [Center for Problem-Oriented Policing \(POP Center\)](#). Outside training is particularly important for crime analysis personnel, as it enables them to remain aware of analytical approaches in other departments and best practices in the field.
- Collaborate with other local agencies to ensure that [GIS practices](#) are well resourced, understood, and supported across the law enforcement analysis infrastructure.

SUBMIT A REQUEST

To request a crime analysis assessment for your agency, contact the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) [National Training and Technical Assistance Center \(NTTAC\)](#) at BJANTTAC@ojp.usdoj.gov.


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