

Peer Exchange Guide: Enhancing CompStat Strategy

This resource serves as a guide for agencies considering a peer learning opportunity focused on enhancing CompStat processes, including suggested agenda topics, example objectives, potential outcomes, and additional resources.

Over the past 20 years, law enforcement agencies across the country have embraced the New York City Police Department's (NYPD) innovative CompStat model, which has transformed the way police analyze crime problems. Today, CompStat is used as a performance management and accountability system to foster accountability, analyze crime patterns, shape deployment strategies, encourage information sharing, and guide effective policing strategies.

CompStat provides agencies with a method of managing police resources and tactics and has been called "perhaps the single most important organizational innovation in policing during the latter half of the 20th century."

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—George L. Kelling and W. H. Sousa, 2001, *Do Police Matter? An Analysis of the Impact of New York City's Police Reforms*, Civic Report No. 22, New York, NY, Manhattan Institute.

Agencies interested in improving or implementing CompStat processes can

benefit from peer learning opportunities to explore successful strategies and practices implemented in other jurisdictions. PSP sites have observed CompStat processes at NYPD; the Boston Police Department; the Dallas Police Department; the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department; and the Los Angeles Police Department and have already begun implementing lessons learned and new strategies into their own departments. One PSP site, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has implemented its own "PSP CompStat" process, which is a collaboration of local and federal partners working together to strategically address violent crime in a specific corridor in the city experiencing high levels of violence.

KEY PRINCIPLES



Enhancing CompStat Strategy

Sample Agenda Items

- Attend a CompStat session to gain a better understanding of data-driven problem-solving and information sharing techniques and practices.
- Meet with agency executives to discuss accountability and understand the agency's CompStat goals and strategy.
- Meet with the fusion or intelligence center regarding data analysis used in CompStat.
- Meet with district commanders or captains to discuss how CompStat data affects deployment strategies.

Sample Objectives

- Learn about the CompStat principles and why they are effective.
- Focus on problem solving and the development of new policing strategies and solutions.
- Learn how the agency increases effectiveness by blending information and sharing of best practices and lessons learned between precincts.
- Learn how the agency utilizes smartphones for accessing data.
- Understand what data the community has access to.

Potential Outcomes

- Change the CompStat process.
- Integrate additional data sets into the CompStat process (e.g., quality of life data, citizen complaints, community engagement).
- Change frequency of CompStat meetings (e.g., monthly, weekly, biweekly).
- Invite additional local or federal law enforcement or prosecutorial partners to attend.
- Modify resource deployment.
- Increased accountability.
- Increase community engagement/make data available or more easily available to citizens.

Additional Resources

- NYPD CompStat
- Los Angeles Police Department CompStat
- Dallas Police Department Crime Reports
- CompStat: Its Origins, Evolution, And Future In Law Enforcement Agencies
- The Co-Implementation of CompStat and Community Policing: A National Assessment
- First-Line Supervision Under CompStat and Community Policing—Lessons From Six Agencies
- The Growth of CompStat in American Policing

