

Crime Analysis Community of Practice

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) established the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) in June 2017 to enhance the capacity of state, local, and tribal law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate, prosecute, and deter violent crime. PSP enables cities to receive customized and coordinated training, technical assistance, and other resources from DOJ in seven core areas: gun violence, federal partnerships, crime analysis, technology, criminal justice collaboration, investigations, and community engagement.

Goal of CACoP

In 2018, PSP established the Crime Analysis Community of Practice (CACoP). The CACoP serves as a conduit for accessing a multitude of subject-matter experts and crime analysis colleagues to improve performance relating to criminal analysis.

The goal of the CACoP is to build relationships in order to encourage communication and shared learning at the practitioner level to support federal resources on the critical needs and challenges facing the field. The key to any successful crime reduction strategy is timely and accurate analysis of criminal justice data. Due to the important role that crime analysts play throughout an investigation, it is imperative that crime analysts participate in collaborative training opportunities to ensure that investigations are more thorough and accurate. Through the CACoP, crime analysts can come together to share strategies, work products, and concepts to support the analytical needs of their agency and improve the overall quality of information sharing and data analysis among the network of crime analysts and fusion centers across the nation.

“Today’s crime analyst has an arsenal of data available to assist with tactical and strategic decision making, criminal investigations, prosecutions, problem solving, and quality of life issues. Obtaining the knowledge and skills needed to turn data into actionable information can best be obtained through analyst collaboration resulting from peer exchange.”

—Annie Mitchell, Supervising Crime Analyst (Retired), Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department

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“It’s exciting to witness the growth of the crime analyst profession as well as the incredible potential of the analysts currently in the field. By leveraging partnerships and best practices through the PSP, analysts and the law enforcement agencies they support can advance the mission of public safety in new, progressive ways.”

—Stephanie Sikinger, Crime and Intelligence Manager, Fusion Division, Milwaukee Police Department

“Crime analysts play an important role within policing. Effective analysts help agencies strategically address emerging crime problems and provide valuable insight on the interconnecting relationships between chronic criminal offenders. It is imperative that police leaders support the work of analysts and encourage their development within the PSP community of practice.”

—John Skinner, PSP Strategic Site Liaison

Through the support of DOJ’s Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the PSP CACoP will encourage outreach and relationship building among all crime analysts through peer-to-peer exchanges, webinars, group participation at relevant meetings and conferences, and other learning opportunities that increase knowledge and share best practices to support PSP’s efforts to reduce violent crime and drive evidenced-based crime reduction strategies to enhance public safety in some of America’s most dangerous cities. The PSP CACoP welcomes crime analysts and their supervisory and command staff members representing the PSP sites across the nation to participate in this exciting and rewarding program.

Since its inception, PSP has encouraged and supported the belief that any crime reduction strategy must be supported by a sound foundation of data and analysis. The cadre of crime analysts in the PSP network of cities can benefit tremendously from sharing their knowledge and best practices with each other through the community of practice (CoP) concept. CoPs expand PSP from a primarily leadership focus to a practitioner focus, allowing members within the PSP Program to network, build relationships, and collaborate to strengthen analytical, technological, and prosecutorial activities to reduce violent crime.

Through communication and collaboration, CoPs aim to address:

- Problem solving
- Requests for information
- Seeking experienced opinions
- Overcoming implementation challenges
- Coordination and strategy
- Building an argument
- Growing confidence
- Discussing developments
- Documenting projects
- Peer exchanges and site visits
- Mapping knowledge and identifying gaps

PSP CoPs are supported by BJA and are coordinated by the Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR). Strategic activities are developed in consultation with BJA and PSP site leadership and the PSP practitioners.

Contact Information

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Issued April 2020