



About the Police Foundation

The Police Foundation is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting innovation and improvement in policing through its research, technical assistance, professional services, and communication programs.

Established in 1970, the foundation has conducted seminal research in police behavior, policy, and procedure, and works to transfer to local agencies the best new information about practices for dealing effectively with a range of important police operational and administrative concerns. The foundation has established and refined the capacity to define, design, conduct, and evaluate controlled experiments testing ways to improve the delivery of police services.

Our purpose is to help the police be more effective in doing their job, whether it be deterring robberies, intervening in potentially injurious domestic disputes, or working to improve relationships between the police and the communities they serve. To accomplish our mission, we work closely with law enforcement officers and agencies across the country, and it is in their hard work and contributions that our accomplishments are rooted.

The foundation helps police departments to acquire both the knowledge gained through research and the tools needed to integrate that knowledge into police practices. Working with law enforcement agencies seeking to improve performance, service delivery, accountability, and community satisfaction with police services, the foundation offers a wide range of services and specializations, including:

- research
- evaluation
- surveys
- management and operational reviews
- climate and culture assessment
- crime mapping and problem analysis training and technical assistance

- early-warning and intervention systems; risk management
- community-police collaboration
- accountability and ethics
- community-policing strategies
- performance management
- racial profiling and biased policing
- professional and leadership development

The foundation's Crime Mapping & Problem Analysis Laboratory operates with the goals of providing practical assistance and information to law enforcement agencies and to developing the physical and theoretical infrastructure necessary for further innovations in police and criminological theory.

The foundation has done much of the research that led to a questioning of the traditional model of professional law enforcement and toward a new view of policing—one emphasizing a *community* orientation—that is widely embraced today. For example, research on foot patrol and on fear of crime demonstrated the importance to crime control efforts of frequent police-citizen contacts made in a positive, non-threatening way. As a partner in the Community Policing Consortium, the foundation, along with four other leading national law enforcement organizations, plays a principal role in the development of community policing research, training, and technical assistance.

Sometimes foundation research findings have challenged police traditions and beliefs. When police agencies employed routine preventive patrol as a principal anti-crime strategy, a foundation experiment in Kansas City showed that routine patrol in marked patrol cars did not significantly affect crime rates. When police officials expressed reservations about using women on patrol, foundation research in Washington, DC, showed that gender was not a barrier to performing patrol work. To address the

intense debate about how police should respond to incidents of domestic violence, the foundation conducted the Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment—the first scientifically controlled test of the effects of arrest for any crime. Foundation research on the use of deadly force was cited at length in a landmark 1985 U.S. Supreme Court decision, *Tennessee v. Garner*. The court ruled that the police may use deadly force only against persons whose actions constitute a threat to life.

Despite efforts to control it, real or perceived use of excessive force by police has contributed to most of the country's urban riots. The Police Foundation itself was created in 1970 largely as a result of the need, made undeniably clear by the riots of the 1960s, to understand and improve the functioning of America's police. From its inception, the foundation has worked to ensure that the nature of force used by police is the minimum amount necessary to properly discharge their responsibilities under the law.

A widespread absence of any systemic approach for assessing risks that place municipal interests at risk can be faulted for the inability of officials to cope with this increasingly difficult problem. This led the Police Foundation to develop two software tools: The Risk Analysis Management System—The RAMS™II—for early warning and intervention, and The QSI™—Quality of Service Indicator—for traffic stop data collection and analysis.

The foundation has encouraged the creation of new forums for the debate and dissemination of ideas to improve American policing. For example the foundation has helped to create independent organizations dedicated to the advancement of policing. These organizations include the Police Executive Research Forum, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement

Executives, and the Police Management Association.

A guiding tenet of the foundation is that to advance, policing—like other public services—deserves the best of thorough, objective study, and the impetus of new ideas that have the widest possible dissemination. Foundation research findings are published as an information service and are widely used in college, university, and law enforcement training classrooms in the U.S. and abroad. The foundation publishes *Crime Mapping News*, an award-winning newsletter for GIS, crime mapping, and policing. The *Ideas in American Policing* lecture and monograph series presents commentary and insight from leading criminologists on issues of interest to practitioners, scholars, and policy makers.

Unconstrained by partisan imperatives, the Police Foundation speaks with a unique and objective voice. Our focus and perspective is the *whole* of American policing, rather than any single facet.

Hubert Williams is president of the foundation. A 30-year veteran of policing, Williams came to Washington and the Police Foundation in 1985, after serving for eleven years as director of police in Newark, NJ.

William G. Milliken is chairman of the foundation's board of directors. Formerly governor of Michigan and chairman of the National Governors' Association, Mr. Milliken joined the foundation's board in 1991, and was elected chairman in 1998.

Independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit, the Police Foundation works to improve American policing and enhance the capacity of the criminal justice system to function effectively. Motivating all of the foundation's efforts is the goal of efficient, effective, humane policing that operates within the framework of democratic principles and the highest ideals of the nation.



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