



INNOVATIVE PROSECUTION SOLUTIONS

IPS AT A GLANCE

Violent Crime Reduction Strategies:



San Francisco District Attorney's Office

- **"The Crime Strategies Unit" (CSU)** develops data and predictive analytics for strategic prosecution
- Using analytic tools, connections are made between criminal events, defendants, witnesses, and victims to facilitate more effective investigations, charging decisions, and case dispositions
- Uses data analysis to create a macro picture of crime trends, hotspots, crime drivers, and criminal networks
- Embeds prosecutors in the city's five districts, enabling them to build relationships with local stakeholders and develop a deep knowledge base about the communities they serve and the unique public safety challenges these communities face
- The Gun Enforcement Unit (GEU) has been operating within CSU since January 2017, and was created in response to an increase in San Francisco's gun crime: it unites the community prosecution model with analysts to determine crime problems in the community to create a holistic look at crime
- Research Methodology: the researcher is preparing an implementation guide to assist other agencies replicating a CSU model



Chatham County District Attorney's Office (Savannah)

- **The initiative** uses dedicated prosecutors to identify, investigate, and prosecute chronic violent offenders in an identified hotspot to reduce gun violence by focusing on group and gang violence
- The research partner assists prosecutors by utilizing crime-mapping, analyzing law enforcement data, developing and maintaining social media accounts to share pictures and statistics, and providing social network analysis
- Research Methodology: the researcher will prepare an impact evaluation using a mixed methods approach. This will consist of a quantitative analysis of before-and-after crime rates, as well as an analysis of the intervention hotspot in comparison to identified control hotspots. The researcher will analyze time spent, from arrest to prosecution, using time sensitive statistical analyses including survival/hazard models



Essex County Prosecutor's Office (Newark)

- The **"SMART Social Media Initiative"** has developed a specialized unit to investigate and prosecute cases based on suspects' usage of social media
- Prosecutors utilize a systematic, proactive approach to social-media mining that will reduce crime, empower victims, promote fair and impartial justice, and instill the public's confidence in criminal justice
- The unit screens approximately six new cases per week and has adopted a more "aggressive stance" in prosecuting cases with social media evidence
- Research Methodology: Researchers will assist with case selection, monitor cases, compare outcome data with a control group, advise on strategy development and project review, and provide a final report evaluating the value of social media data mining in criminal prosecutions



Florida State Attorney's Office, 11th Judicial Circuit (Miami)

- **"The Gun Violence Reduction Initiative"** places a team of prosecutors, investigators, and a community outreach and victim witness specialist to work directly with police and the community to combat shootings and homicides at the Northside District Station
- The Initiative's four goals include: 1) prosecute and convict individuals involved in gun/gang related crimes to reduce crime and victimization in the Northside District; 2) rely on data-driven methods to proactively identify gang members and chronic offenders; 3) analyze data from law enforcement agencies and use geographic information systems (GIS) to target "hotspots" and crime generators in the Northside District; and, 4) work with the community to dispel the "anti-snitch" mentality
- Research Methodology: Researchers will identify hotspots and chronic offenders, measure changes over time, and determine how the interventions affect crime, develop a strategy for intervention, conduct an evaluation, and issue a final report that will assist the office with program sustainability



Jackson County Missouri Prosecutor's Office (Kansas City)

- The **geographic-based initiative** targets 5 hotspots in the "East Zone," and coordinates with Kansas City Police Department's Smart Policing Initiative on crime reduction strategies in these areas
- Prosecutors dedicated to the initiative handle cases and collaborate with law enforcement, community partnership specialists, and community members to assess crime-related problems and develop solutions
- The program focuses on: (1) cleaning up derelict properties through an Abandoned Housing Initiative, (2) utilizing a diversion program with a Restorative Justice component for specific offenders, (3) Victim Advocacy, (4) Community Engagement, and (5) creating robust collaboration and partnerships
- Research Methodology: Researchers will: 1) assist with establishing protocols, specifically with victim assistance; 2) assist with strategies and analysis such as social network analysis to address identified problems; 3) assess overall program implementation including plans for sustainability (process evaluation); and, 4) conduct an assessment of overall program impacts of targeted objectives (outcome evaluation)



King County Police-Prosecution Partnership (3PI) (Seattle)

- The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is developing a Crime Strategies Unit (CSU) for its **"Shots Fired" Initiative**, designed to address increased firearm violence
- The 3PI Initiative includes prosecutors, a crime analyst, seven law enforcement partner agencies, a public health agency, and research partners
- CSU's initial goal is to institutionalize standardized intelligence gathering and sharing to concentrate resources on reducing shots-fired incidents and identifying those involving chronic victims and offenders in hotspot locations
- Research Methodology: the researcher will provide support by compiling a user-friendly project implementation guide, documenting the unit's purpose and developmental process, and delineating participant roles and responsibilities. Researchers will also assist by helping to develop policies, practices, and troubleshooting methods, and providing other information and support as needed, to help ensure a smooth transition post project completion.

Diversion-Based Initiatives:



Harris County District Attorney's Office (Houston)

- **"S.A.F.E. Court--Survivors Acquiring Freedom and Empowerment"** is a therapeutic-based, highly-structured diversion program utilizing supervised, targeted intervention and treatment for young adults between the ages of 17 and 25, charged with misdemeanor prostitution, who are not victims of human trafficking, and were assessed as high-risk according to a risk and needs assessment

- Program participants engage in a 9–16-month probation period that may include the following conditions: engaging in social service programming, such as drug treatment and trauma-informed care services; attending school; obtaining employment, and supervision by both probation and the Court

• April 1, 2015-March 31, 2017, 73 clients admitted to SAFE Court, 5 clients dismissed from program, 53.8% graduated, 28 % had warrants issued/were removed from the program

- Research Methodology: the researcher is collecting and analyzing data, reporting on structural and procedural aspects of the program, and assessing factors that impact SAFE Court outcomes



Los Angeles City Attorney's Office

- **"INTERCEPT—Introducing New Tools based on Evidence and Risk Assessment to Confirm Eligibility for Prosecution Treatment"** is a pre-filing diversion program for individuals charged with misdemeanor offenses
- Administrative Coordinators at the City Attorney's Office provide participants with a risk and need assessment for linkage to appropriate treatment and services
- Staffed by community volunteers, participants are required to attend Neighborhood Justice Panels (NJP) to address the harm caused to victims and the community

• As of March 2017, over 1500 diversion cases have been successfully initiated: 2.27% recidivism rate within the INTERCEPT project area (4 LAPD divisions); 5.00% recidivism rate outside the INTERCEPT project area (remaining 17 other LAPD divisions); 4.33% cumulative diversion program recidivism (citywide).

- Research Methodology: the researcher is providing a process and impact evaluation of INTERCEPT sites in Hollywood and South Los Angeles. The impact evaluation will examine whether INTERCEPT had an effect on client behavior, recidivism, and crime rates



Cook County State's Attorney's Office (Chicago)

- BJA funded the Cook County State's Attorney's Office Smart Prosecution Initiative, MDPEP, to defer defendants, charged with non-violent misdemeanor offenses, from prosecution, and utilize a risk and need assessment for appropriate referrals to treatment and other resources for case dismissal upon successful program completion.

• As of December 31, 2016, over 1,000 program participants (90.6%) successfully completed the program (resulting in case dismissal), failure rate was 9.3%.

- Research Methodology: the researcher is conducting a study that examines three statistically similar cohorts: a control group of individuals who committed non-violent misdemeanor offenses and who proceeded through the traditional court process; individuals with behavioral health issues who participated in the original MDPP (diversion program lacking a risk and need assessment); and, individuals who committed non-violent misdemeanor offenses and were diverted from court into MDPEP



San Diego City Attorney's Office

- **"The Community Justice Initiative" (CJI)** is a post-plea diversion program for individuals charged with a misdemeanor offense
- Through its use of a risk and need assessment, CJI connects program participants to community work service; upon successful completion, participants' criminal misdemeanor charges are dismissed
- **Research Methodology:** the researchers are collecting and analyzing data to answer questions including: (1) the number and predictive factors of clients accessing referral-based services; (2) the number and predictive factors of individuals completing the program; (3) circumstances of client drop-out; (4) recidivism rate of participants; and (5) the cost benefit of CJI



The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office

- The site is developing **"The St. Louis Young Adult Court"**, a prosecutor-led, young adult felony offender diversion program for individuals, 17-25 years old
- Using a risk and need assessment, the program offers first and near first-time, non-violent felony offenders an opportunity to complete a comprehensive program, which includes a robust supervision and services referral component, in lieu of traditional court processing
- The aim is to enhance program participants' opportunities to: (1) obtain future employment; (2) pursue educational and vocational prospects; (3) prevent future recidivism; and (4) become law-abiding citizens
- The program's duration is from ten to eighteen months, delivered in four-highly structured phases
- **Research Questions** include: (1) process for designing and planning the Initiative; (2) successes and challenges of collaboration between different partner agencies; (3) main successes, challenges, and surprises of program planning and implementation; (4) What outcomes at the participant and system level can be reasonably expected to result from the program?



Kings County District Attorney's Office (Brooklyn)

- In collaboration with the Center for Court Innovation (CCI), the site created **"The Brooklyn Young Adult Court"**, a diversion program for high-risk individuals up to 24 years old charged with a misdemeanor offense
- Brooklyn Justice Initiative (BJI) provides a risk and need assessment to program participants and linkage to services which may include: onsite short-term group and individual counseling; developmentally appropriate community service; educational and vocational services; substance abuse treatment; mental health and trauma counseling; and cognitive behavioral therapy sessions
- **Research Methodology:** the researcher will prepare a formal impact evaluation comparing program participants to a matched comparison sample composed of similar individuals up to age 24 years, arrested one year before program implementation



District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General

- **"Using Our Brains: Reducing Recidivism Among Youth and Young Adults"**, a diversion-based initiative, uses Restorative Justice panels for youth (ages 12-17) who commit misdemeanor offenses such as theft, destruction of property, and non-injury simple assault cases with victim consent
- The office is currently collaborating with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia to develop a similar diversion model for young adults (ages 18-24 years)
- **Research Methodology:** the researcher will issue a final research report including all process evaluation findings, final risk profiles, focus group findings, and impact findings concerning recidivism over one year.

Pretrial Justice Reform:



Office of the State's Attorney for Baltimore City

- The site, in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS) is developing an evidence-based, locally-tailored, **automated risk assessment** for use by charging prosecutors, defense counsel, and Pretrial Services during the pretrial phase
- The expected result of implementing the automated pretrial risk assessment is to increase efficiency and improve prosecutors' decisions for determining bail and release recommendations
- **Research Methodology:** the researchers will (1) obtain and analyze data from various criminal justice partners; (2) use that data to create an automated pretrial risk assessment; (3) provide a report evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of an automated pretrial risk assessment; and (4) address whether use of a pretrial risk assessment reduced the number of detained low-risk individuals, thereby reducing the overall jail population for Baltimore City

