Smart Policing in Los Angeles: Operation LASER

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Overview

- Background
- Results
- Crime Intelligence Detail (CID)
- Offender-Based Strategy
- Location-Based Strategy
- Implementation
- Evaluation by JSS
- More Results
Operation LASER: Los Angeles’ Strategic Extraction and Restoration Program

- LASER is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, US Dept. of Justice through the Smart Policing Initiative (SPI)

- The purpose of LASER is to reduce gun-and gang-related crime in Newton Division (one of 21 Divisions in the LAPD)

- LASER is focused on:
  - Chronic offenders and
  - Chronic locations
Results

- Newton Division ended 2012 with an all-time low of 16 homicides –
  - A 56% decrease in homicides compared to 2011 and 59% decrease compared to 2010.
- Overall violent crime dropped 19% in Newton (from 2011 to 2012).
- Newton ranked number one in violent crime reduction in the entire LAPD for 2012
Why Did LASER Succeed?

- LASER relies on data and intelligence from the Crime Intelligence Detail (CID)
- LASER is focused on:
  - Chronic offenders and
  - Chronic locations
- LASER stays on mission, measures dosage, uses Palantir
PALANTIR MAPPING SYSTEM
Ex. Photograph taken by license plate reader
The Crime Intell Detail (CID)

- Two officers and a Crime Analyst form the CID

- CID gathers intelligence daily from Patrol (Watch 2, Watch 5 and Watch 3), the Bicycle Unit, and the Parole Compliance Unit at Newton Division

- CID focuses on Robberies, Weapons Violations, and Aggravated Assaults related to gun and gang violence

- CID creates “Chronic Offender Bulletins”
CID reviews:

- Field Identification Cards (FIs)
- Traffic Citations
- Release From Custody Forms (RFCs)
- Crime and Arrest Reports
- Criminal Histories

CID selects the appropriate individuals based on pre-determined criteria:

- Robberies, Weapons Violations, and Aggravated Assaults related to gun and gang violence
Chronic Offender Bulletin

- Physical descriptors
- Physical oddities
- Gang affiliation
- Prior crimes committed
- Parole or Probation Status
- Vehicles
- Areas they frequent
- Contact with law enforcement
THE BELOW LISTED INDIVIDUAL IS NOT WANTED AT THIS TIME.

THIS PUBLICATION IS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON PROMINENT KNOWN OFFENDERS, PAROLEES AT LARGE, CAREER CRIMINALS, ETC AND IS NOT TO BE USED AS THE SOLE BASIS FOR YOUR PROBABLE CAUSE TO DETAIN THE INDIVIDUAL LISTED BELOW FOR ANY FUTURE CONTACTS.

OFFICERS:  HOGG #38358 / PONCE #36692

NAME:  SUTTON, DASHAWN

DOB:  09/07/1979

CII#:  A22166454

CDL#:  B9021269

1319 ½ WEST 92

ND ST LOS ANGELES, CA 90044

DOB:  05/26/1964

SEX: M

HAIR: BLK

HEIGHT: 507

EYES: BRN

WEIGHT: 148

PHYSICAL ODDITIES:

TATTOO ON BACK "COAST TO COAST SD"

TATTOO ON BACK "EAST COAST CRIP" WITH THE LETTERS "SD"

INTERTWINED

TATTOO ON CHEST "EAST COAST CRIP"

SSN#:  571-59-5784

ARREST:  211, EVADING, NARCOTICS VIOL, POSS OF FIREARM BY A FELON 10851 VC AND BURGLARY.

CAL GANGS:  62 EAST COAST CRIP WITH MONIKER OF "D, DAY DAY, SHY, SHYSTY"

PAROLE:  ACTIVE PAROLE UNTIL 01/01/2013 FOR POSS OF NARCOTICS FOR SALES, FELON IN POSS OF A FIREARM AND 459 PC

PROBATION:  NONE

WARRANTS:  NONE

VEHICLES:  2000 MERZ ML4 4D WHI CA-5ZUU439

PASSENGER 02/24/2011

1996 OLDS AUR 4D GRN CA-6KNZ899

PASSENGER 02/21/2011

1996 OLDS AUR 4D GRN CA-6KNZ899

DRIVER 01/28/2011

1996 OLDS AUR 4D GRN CA-6KNZ899

DRIVER 01/10/2011

RECENT STOP:

OFFICERS:   HOGG #38358 / PONCE #36692

DATE:  02/17/2011

LOCATION:  152 WEST 61 ST RD: 1381

NARRATIVE/MO:  CONSENUAL ENCOUNTER.  ADMITTED PAROLE FOR 459 PC.  WANT AND WARRANT CHECK.  SELF ADMITTED 62 EAST COAST CRIP WITH MONIKER OF "D."  QUESTIONED AND RELEASED.

POLICE CONTACTS IN/NEAR NEWTON:

02/24/2011 SAN PEDRO/62ND,

02/24/2011 138 E 93RD ST, LOS

02/21/2011 CRENSHAW BL/39TH ST,

02/21/2011 1319 W 92ND STREET,

01/28/2011 59TH/MAIN,

01/26/2011 SAN PEDRO/62ND ST,

01/10/2011 BROADWAY/79 ST,

09/22/2009 8103 S WESTERN AV, LOS

03/24/2009 VERNON/CENTRAL,

01/26/2011 62ND/SAN PEDRO,

01/10/2011 MAIN/FLORENCE
Chronic Offenders

- 125 Chronic Offenders identified and rank-ordered from August 2011 to January 2012

- 87 of the 125 (69.6%) have been arrested at least once from Aug 2011 to June 2012
  - 88 offenders scored 15 points or higher – 60 (68.1%) arrested
  - 37 offenders scored 0-15 points – 27 (72.9%) arrested

- New list created in May 2012 – 65 new offenders
  - 25 (38.5%) arrested

- Of 189 total offenders, 112 arrested at least once (59%)
LASER: Location-based efforts
Gun-Related Crimes
Newton Division
2006-2011

Five Hotspot Corridors (in green)
Interventions: Locations

Weekly Missions in Hot Spot Corridors

Use Existing Resources:
- Patrol Units (watches 2, 3 and 5)
- Bikes
- Foot Patrol
- Parole Compliance Unit
- HIDE
Measures

- **Dosage** = Extra minutes/month in hot spot corridors

- **Crime Count by Deployment Period (DP) and by month**
  - Gun-Related Crime (Part 1 and 2 incidents with a gun) since 2006
  - All Part 1 Crimes – Violent and Property since 2006
Measures: Dosage

TOTAL MINUTES IN NEWTON CORRIDORS
Dosage In Newton Corridors

- On average, patrol, bikes, foot, and PCU spent 13,326 extra minutes per DP in the hot spot corridors

- Range: low of 8,935 minutes (DP 5 in 2012) to high of 18,380 minutes (DP 12 in 2011)

- 13,326 equates to 222 hours per DP or 55.5 hours per week

- 7.9 hours extra time per day in the five corridors
Impact Analysis: Interrupted Time-Series Design

- One of the most powerful quasi-experimental designs
- Compare pre-existing trend before the intervention to the trend during/after the intervention
  - Change in level
  - Change in trend
Time Series Analysis for Newton

- Examined:
  - Gun-Related Crime –
    - Crime incidents (Part I and II) with a firearm
    - Includes: Homicides, Robberies, Aggravated Assaults, Drive-by shootings, Misdemeanors with weapons (drugs, vandalism, etc.)
  - All Part 1 Crimes

- From Jan. 1, 2006 to June 30, 2012 (78 month period) and 1/1/06 to 12/31/2012 (88 months)

- Intervention began Sept 2011
  - Arrests of chronic offenders started in Aug 2011, but increased patrol of corridors began Sept 2011
  - 10 post-intervention time periods
Time Series

- From January 06 to June 2012
- Results indicate that Operation LASER had **significant and tangible reductions in**:
  - Gun-related crime (Part 1 and 2)
  - Homicides
  - Robberies
  - Violent Crime (Part 1)
Results suggest that gun-related crime is falling nearly four (4) times faster in Newton after LASER was implemented in Sept 2011.

Differences are statistically significant at the .10 level.
Gun-Related Crimes in Newton
Jan 2006 to Jun 2012

- The graph shows the trend of gun-related crimes in Newton from January 2006 to June 2012.
- A notable intervention is observed around the 60th month.
- The predicted crime rate shows a decrease post-intervention.

Key:
- Blue line: Gun-Related Crimes
- Red line with dots: Predicted Crime
Interventions in Newton resulted in a decrease of Part I Violent Crimes by an additional 5.393 crimes per month.

Homicides decreased by an additional 22.6 percent per month in Newton after Operation LASER began.

Robbery decreased by an additional 0.218 robberies per month in Newton after Operation LASER was implemented.
Time Series: Violent Crime & Gun Crime

Figure 3B. Observed v Predicted Crime for Newton

- Total Part I Violent Crime
- Total Part I Gun Crime

Observed vs Predicted Crime Graphs for Newton.
Time Series: Homicide & Robbery

Figure 3D. Observed v Predicted Crime for Newton
Updated Findings

- Analyzed data from January 2006 to December 31, 2012
- Intervention period = 16 months
- Time Series analysis shows different results
Part I Violent Crime

- There is a significant decrease in Part I Violent Crime after LASER began.
- Reduction of approximately 2 violent crimes per month over the past 16 months.
There is a declining trend after LASER began.

Decrease is not statistically significant (p.<.125)

Previously significant for 10 months.
Robbery

- There is a declining trend after LASER began
- Decrease is not statistically significant
- Previously significant for 10 months
What Happened to Homicide and Robbery?

- Examining the data, it appears that Homicide reached a post-intervention high point in August, 2012 and Robbery in September, 2012.
  - Highest numbers since the start of the intervention
- These data points are substantially influencing the post-intervention trend
Future Directions: Analysis

- Continue to analyze data (quarterly) and evaluate LASER activities
- Additional time periods will provide more statistical power to detect an effect
  - We are analyzing data for all RDs using a ‘panel analysis’
  - The results may change due to model improvements
Future Directions: LASER

- LAPD has agreed to expand LASER to four new divisions:
  - Hollenbeck (violent crime)
  - Southwest (violent crime)
  - Foothill (property crime)
  - Wilshire (property crime)

- Continue in Newton (violent and property crime)
Future Directions: LASER in other Divisions

- Create Crime Intelligence Details
- Create chronic offender bulletins
- Use location-based strategies
- Measure dosage – minutes in the RDs and hotspot corridors
- Use Palantir
- JSS– continues with real-time evaluation
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Questions?