

# Smart Policing Initiative

The Smart Policing Initiative program (SPI) is a Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)—sponsored initiative that supports law enforcement agencies in building evidence-based, data-driven law enforcement tactics and strategies that are effective, efficient, and economical. SPI represents a strategic approach that helps police agencies figure out what works in crime prevention and crime reduction initiatives.

With the assistance of CNA (BJA's partner in SPI training and technical assistance), SPI sites—law enforcement agencies and research partners—collect and analyze data to devise evidence-based solutions to target serious crime problems, such as street robberies, substance abuse, repeat violent offenders, retaliatory violence, or gun violence. CNA documents lessons learned and research-tested practices to share proven policing innovations nationwide.

## Core Smart Policing Practices

Five goals guide Smart Policing: creating sustainable partnerships between law enforcement and researchers; using technology, intelligence, and data in innovative ways; enhancing collaboration within law enforcement agencies, with external agencies, and with the communities these agencies serve; promoting evidence-based practices in law enforcement agencies; and advancing science-based policing practice. To achieve these goals, SPI sites engage in five key Smart Policing practices:



**Strategic Targeting.** Successful SPIs require analysis that helps agencies focus on the small percentage of people and places that account for large percentages of crime, victimization, and public harm.

**Making Better Use of Intelligence and Other Data and Information Systems.** SPI helps police agencies build capacity to make more efficient use of data, intelligence, and information resources. SPI sites use data that go beyond calls for service, offenses reported, arrests, and complaints. They also use police intelligence, as well as research data (e.g., offender- or location-based studies), data from external entities (e.g., hospital, school, and social services databases), and data from external justice agencies (e.g., probation and parole) to develop their crime reduction strategies.

**Performance Measurement and Research Partnerships.** A foundational element of SPI is decision making based on what does and does not work in policing. SPI agencies achieve this by partnering with researchers to engage in systematic, rigorous research to expand the knowledge base about effective policing strategies and support decision making about resource allocation.

**Managing and Sustaining Organizational Change.** Successfully sustaining organizational gains and changes that result from new approaches is a challenge for all complex organizations, especially for law enforcement agencies. Thus, SPI sites prepare the organization to adopt more effective practices so that evidence based approaches are sustained through training, revised policies and directives, improved communication, and establishment of interdisciplinary working groups.

**Outreach and Collaboration.** Public education, outreach, and buy-in are critical to both success and sustainment of crime reduction initiatives over the long term. Thus, SPI emphasizes the importance of communication and outreach at all levels of the law enforcement organization and with external government, criminal justice, and community stakeholders.

SPI sites apply for grant awards through a competitive review process. Once an SPI grant is awarded, CNA assigns subject matter experts to work with site on planning, implementation, and research methods. Since 2009, BJA has funded 55 agencies and research partners and CNA (SPI training and technical assistance provider) to engage in these SPI practices, resulting in a wealth of new knowledge for the policing profession. To learn more about these initiatives and the Smart Policing Initiative, visit: [www.smart-policing.com](http://www.smart-policing.com).



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# AGENCIES AND RESEARCHERS FUNDED FOR 93 SPI PROJECTS

**PULLMAN, WA:** Revealed that closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) in crime hot spots provide direct evidence of criminal activity, as demonstrated by the closure of a high profile case. Developed a police-university CCTV surveillance internship program where students provide thousands of dollars in volunteer efforts for the police each semester.

**LOS ANGELES, CA:** Reduced homicides by more than 22 percent per month in a target division using an analysis-driven place- and offender-based strategy.

**PHOENIX, AZ:** Found that body worn cameras increased arrest activity and reduce complaints against officers (23 percent decrease).

**GLENDALE, AZ:** Sustained reductions in theft using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design and problem-oriented policing strategies.

**KANSAS CITY, MO:** Reduced homicides by 40 percent using a focused-deterrence strategy.

**PALM BEACH, FL:** Increased police legitimacy, improved police-community relations, and reduced victimization using a community liaison.

**LOWELL, MA:** Increased the effectiveness of Compstat by institutionalizing the use of data and strategic problem-solving.

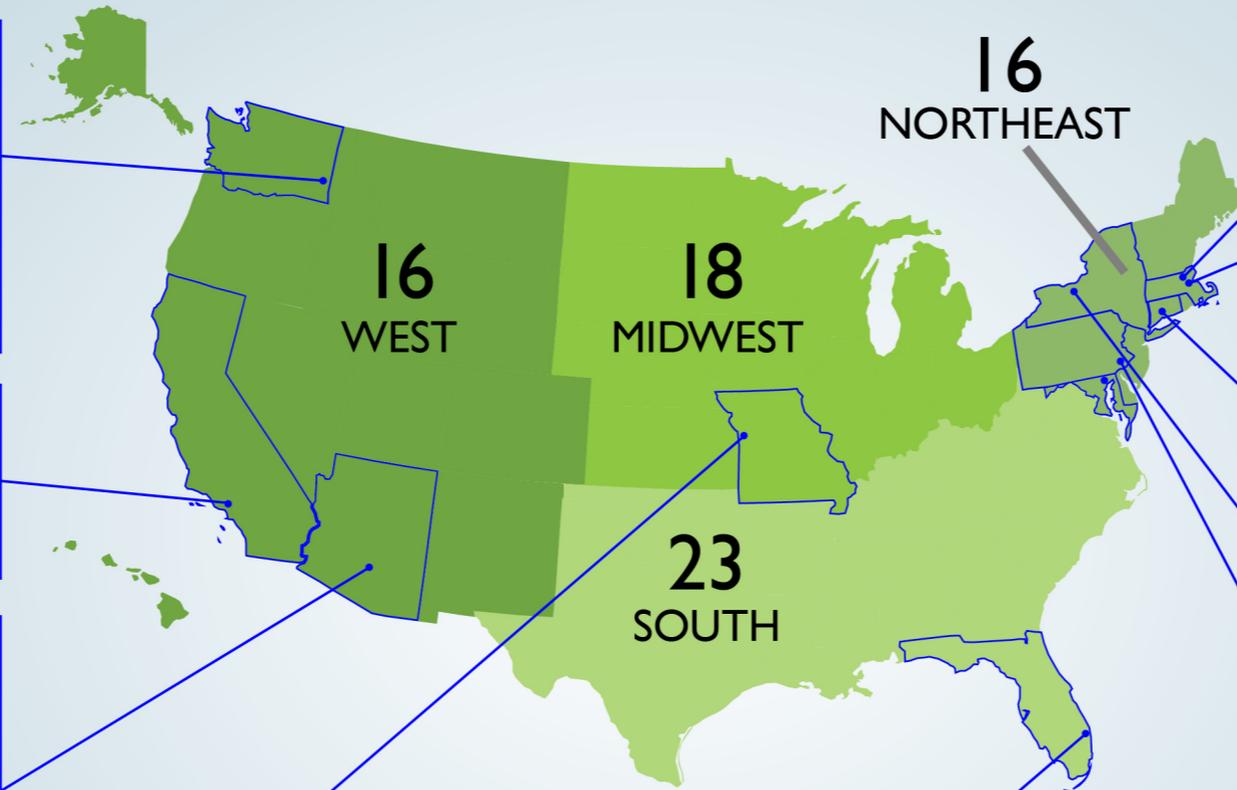
**BOSTON, MA:** Reduced violent crime by more than 17 percent using a problem-oriented policing strategy in hot spots.

Increased homicide clearance rates by 10% by altering protocols and processes.

**NEW HAVEN, CT:** Reduced violent crime by 36 percent in risk areas using a modified problem-oriented policing and enhanced foot patrol strategy.

**ROCHESTER, NY:** Developed a risk assessment tool that predicts retaliatory violence.

**PHILADELPHIA, PA:** Found that offender-focused strategy outperformed foot patrol and problem-solving strategies.



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SMALL



32

MEDIUM



22

LARGE



63

LOCAL POLICE  
DEPARTMENTS



8

SHERIFF'S  
OFFICES



2

STATE  
POLICE