We Can’t Manage What We Can’t Measure:
Uses and Challenges of Working with Police Data

A Special Issue in Police Practice & Research

Guest Editors:
Melissa S. Morabito, UMass Lowell
Janne E. Gaub, UNC Charlotte

In this special issue we seek to draw attention to an important, but often overlooked, component of today’s policing research: police data.

Our goal is to promote data literacy and rigorous data collection practices within law enforcement agencies.

To that end, we invite contributions from researchers and police practitioners (with a particular emphasis on academic/practitioner partnerships).

Potential Topic Areas:

- Strengths and challenges of using Record Management Systems (RMS) data to inform research
- Research uses for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records, as well as limitations with relying on this data source
- Challenges associated with national or local data collection schemes
- Areas of research for which there are not suitable police data sources
- Issues related to accessing data sources
- Methodological issues of interest to law enforcement agencies, such as missing records, data inconsistencies and data cleaning

We also welcome innovative papers in related topic areas.

Submitted papers should be no longer than 8,000 words including all text, references, charts and illustrations. Longer papers will not be accepted due to space constraints.

Please email a 150-word abstract to Melissa Morabito (melissa_morabito@uml.edu) and Janne Gaub (jgaub@uncc.edu) by May 15, 2021. Papers must be submitted for this Special Issue through the Police Practice & Research website by September 1, 2021. Articles will be published Online First as they are ready as part of the Special Issue.

Please contact the guest editors with any questions and include “PPR Special Issue: Data” in the subject line.