# Using data and engagement for criminal justice reform

May 19, 2021

Microsoft project (2018-2020)

[Reentry Mapping Project](https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/activities/projects/reentry-mapping-network) (2001-2006)

[Using Data in Engaging Communities about Policing Practices](https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/activities/meetings/using-data-engaging-communities-about-policing-practices) (presentation at Dallas NNIP meeting)

add link - <https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/library/stories/milwaukee%E2%80%99s-amani-neighborhood-uses-data-target-traffic-safety-and-build>

Working with the vendors - St. Louis

* Kathy: had a project a few years ago on criminal justice reform, funded by Microsoft, did a scan and documents on data sources, and wrapped up with an analysis that created police-initiated contact with neighborhoods and resident-initiated contact. Finished 2 days before George Floyd was killed, decided not to publish given sensitivities. Didn't have a good closeout due to covid and racial justice movement changing frame of conversation. Some good stuff that came out of it. Right now, doing a project running a grant program for Microsoft, received 50 applications and will be running a small grants program for organizations doing data and or tech around reform/abolition. This is more of an exchange of ideas, what we can help with, any examples.
	+ KP will add links
* Amy Rohan - Data you can use from Milwaukee: started in June of 2020, didn't know about this report. At Data You Can Use, one of our Data Dream winners this year (a small nonprofit gets data services from us), one thing that one was Project Return, returning citizens focused on housing, also some focus on recidivism. Don't know much about it but here to learn more about the topic. Intersects with housing, which is a particular passion of mine.
* Kathy: we counted the whole spectrum of criminal justice in the report. We had a cross-site project on reentry mapping network a long time ago, will share.
* Robert Gradeck: there's a group of advocates, we're trying to be a part of that group, where we are right now is getting more data out of city police about policing, requesting data on traffic stops, investigations of police officers, that kind of data that we didn't have. You couldn't get at things like individual officers. Working with people on city council to say to think about data as open data or data feeds (not just dashboards). We did work with police department to do the data request. Waiting for the process to unfold. Not sure where things are, but will have a new mayor. Just had our primary yesterday, will be our first Black mayor (name?). With city of 25% Black population, it's a big deal.
* Kathy: you could get then a lot of data all of a sudden after approval?
	+ Robert: yeah, we were asking for data like unique identified officer data, also opportunity for legislation at state level to do this statewide around data systems/technology. Otherwise, it's small cities with no leverage to get them to do anything.
* Kathy: will add in traffic stop presentation. Anthony, only group with criminologist on staff?
* Anthony: It's not me. One of our big projects is with Dallas County and county administrator. Our DA last year had a community task force that put together  a bnch of recs for policing. county administrator put RFP and awarded 3 grants to 2 multi-city collabs and one individual city. they are all doing alternatives to policing, all about having a mental health worker, what our DA is calling deflection as opposed to diversion (which happens on the law enforcement side). Going to try to keep people out of criminal justice system by having social worker or medical worker. Our role is to help them figure out outcomes, how to measure that, also doing program design. They've started somewhat, but it's not a program, so we are helping to document that to measure their success. Supporting using data about smaller law enforcement not sharing data in meaningful ways, has a lot to do with capacity. we asked them a range of questions. Biggest ask, give us your data. some smaller asks, what are the calls most often answered that don't need officers' response. Some gave us the data and other people told us, there's an intersection of what is true and what is possible. We want to know for real what is the highest prevalence of live calls. What are officers spending their time on that they don't want to. Where those things intersect is where you can have a frank conversation with law enforcement to build trust. That's kind of where we came in with the data, where are you spending a lot of time that doesn't need police officers? We're selling it also as trying to help them be more efficient.
* Robert: we got a request from council, how do officers spend their time. I said no, but let me put you in touch with crime analysis at police department. Data viz from different communities. not dashboards, got us to a point where we could build trust, but it is bogged down in politics now. No reason we shouldn't  be possible.
* Shiloh Deitz: Community Data Coordinator with Spokane public library.  I work with open data and data governance, closest partner in the city is with the police department. Interesting, navigating keeping relationship positive. Tricky group to work with.
* Kathy: pressing issue. LA is doing close work with police also, being associated with police when headlines of police are negative right now and being positive with the folks you are working with, is a hard line.
* Shiloh: person i work with is interested in anti-data bias procedures with me. She's personally interested. Things that fall under the umbrella, police and libraries are at different poles of perceptions.
* Kathy: libraries do a ton of stuff. In DC major shelter for homeless population.
* Shiloh: interesting point about classifying the data. Someone requested data of 911 calls made from the library, so there was this story about library being dangerous, but no it was the opposite.
* Kathy: Amy was interested more on data. Some people come to this because they are involved in policing itself, but some others maybe because you are involved in neighborhood and surface that concern. most people are not criminal justice experts.
* Amy: point about carrot vs stick is important. We had wrapped up  a 5 year partnership that involved the Milwaukee police department that was XX% African American. Looking at crime, and perceptions of police officers. This piece was so central, but timing was wrong. Perceptions of police slightly improved because of the bike cops in particular, people knew the bike cops. Things got worse in others, but the bike cop patrol piece was positive, and tehy took that up and ran. Related to piece about what are you doing that you shouldn't, good framing.
* Anthony: some strategies to get on the good side of officers. another is, mentioned by Shlloh, for us several of data people are just sergeants rotating from patrol. I'd ask him for a shapefile and he's on patrol. Also having... there's this line I use, they buy whatever system they buy ... being empathetic, they don't see their data the way we want to experience it, they see it through the lens that their system shows it. They have reports they run, so having conversations about sitting down and finding out how to run report that I want. Sometimes person in charge is not data person is at all, they just run reports. Really about having that empathy. You have this computer in this patrol car, type in information in computer, where does that info does it go? and they're like, yeah, where does it go? Meet them where they're at.
* Amy: data seems to be secondary.
* Kathy: negotiations with vendors is one thing, XX were able to do it, it is possible that the vendors know more though vendors can shut you down?
* Anthony: I have a friend that works at Tyler Technologies. I haven't gotten that far. Dallas has been transparent sometimes to a fault like not protecting victims, but they also publish badges, so we haven't had to go with the city of Dallas. it is probably a thing of going with the suburbs, but has to be collaborative because its a capacity issue. then maybe do one ask for a group of cities if they have the same vendor. Primarily have been focused on city of Dallas.
* Kathy: I got police data for choice neighborhood evaluation and I felt bad about putting things in the plate of police departments. Then questions about why you don't have homicides in data? " i don't know".
* Shiloh: XX had an anti-bias review done, the review showed that, using arrest data, that they weren't. a professor had been doing this work for years that said they had been biased. so they hired this company that was famous for crunching the numbers in a way that shows opposite.
* Kathy: a lot at stake and they are being defensive. What reform looks like and being nervous and getting caught.
* Shiloh: there must have been a conversation about going to other person about getting the result they want because someone else had been doing the analysis for free.
* Anthony: situation that sounds familiar. we had a high profile criminologist, who liked to do interviews, op-eds, very pro police. He's very pro-himself, self promoter. He doesn't care for anything. Beyond that, published a lot of work with policing institute that police department runs, their director is coauthor in articles, and some of them are really bad, very pro-our department, and using a version of data that they won't give us. Even though, we have much better data that most cities do. Kind of gross but that's where we are at. Every research article starts with 3 paragraphs about how hard it is to be a cop and nothing else matters after that.
* Kathy: question about credibility of research of NNIP partners, you have to think about credibility with community about whether they think you are hiding things from police or credibility with police if you are not.
* Shiloh: they were set on making anti bias data open, are we associated? we're not necessarily responsible for it, but kind of? i don't know.
* Kathy: a lot of evaluation work that will come. DC just did a department for 911 codes to send social worker, etc, a lot of experimentation around that. I saw Oakland, looks like there would be business opportunities in there too or opportunities to engage about what kind of data they will be collecting to tell if that's a success or if they will be expanding to more hours.
* Anthony: start is pretty low touch, a lot of outputs. Have a couple of officers. A lot of cities doing a 9-5 model, buydng EMTs off-day, proof of concept model. and theya re not all first responders, some are second responders doing follow up. might intersect them and keep them out of jail but unless it happens between 9-5, they can be but are not counting on them to be first responders. Although one city has housed this program at the library, office at public library, because it's a municipal program not a police program. We've got to figure out how to prove it's working. Part of what you are doing is well' we sort of deflected some costs of incarcerations, maybe some cost-savings, trying to figure out what could have happened to a particular person, how do you quantify that counterfactual.

From Kathy: Our partner in Oakland helped classify 911 call categories that would be referred to a community-response team instead of police.

From Bob: We're looking to get data on calls for service (911 and other systems, including shot spotter and internal referrals), complaints about police and investigations, traffic stops, and field contacts. We want to get de-identified record level data with race and ethnicity included + a pseudonymous officer id enabling us to look at individual officer behavior.

From Kathy Pettit, Urban/NNIPHQ to Everyone: (3:28 PM)

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* From Gradeck, Robert M to Everyone: (3:37 PM)
* From Kathy Pettit, Urban/NNIPHQ to Everyone: (3:37 PM)
* an early Amani ngh story - <https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/library/stories/milwaukee%E2%80%99s-amani-neighborhood-uses-data-target-traffic-safety-and-build>
* From Shiloh Deitz to Everyone: (3:39 PM)
* No IT department? We have 2 data-ish people now!
* From Anthony Galvan - Dallas to Everyone: (3:42 PM)
* From Amy Rohan- Milwaukee to Everyone: (3:43 PM)
* Here’s the full Amani final report: <https://www.datayoucanuse.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Full-Amani-Safety-Initiative-Final-Report_May2021.docx.pdf>
* From Shiloh Deitz to Everyone: (3:48 PM)
* Circling back, I guess it makes me nervous some because the professor probably felt like he had a good relationship with them until he didn't (or they stopped working with him).
* From Gradeck, Robert M to Everyone: (3:50 PM)
* Does anyone remember Cop Rock, the musical TV series about police? <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cop_Rock>
* Cahoots in Eugene is such a great model.