Police Data Sources and Neighborhood Applications

Police departments collect a variety of administrative data as part of their normal operations. This data list represents police data types that are commonly but not universally collected. Data detail, comprehensiveness, and quality varies among departments. However, given adequate location detail, these data can help illustrate neighborhood-level disparities in policing practices and further understanding of neighborhood conditions. (Revised 6/11/2018)

This list is a product of the "Catalyzing Community Criminal Justice Reform with Data" project, a partnership of the Urban Institute's National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership and Microsoft Cities Team. It will be updated over time. For suggested additions or comments, email nnip@urban.org.

Police Data Type	Common Variables	Neighborhood Applications
reported crime	UCR or NIBRS classification, date/time of occurrence, date/time of reporting, x/y (lat., long.), related call code, related call identifier, arrest information, related arrest report identifier, clearance status, person suspected of crime demographics, person victimized demographics, weapon used, person victimized injuries	Neighborhood reported crime patterns and trends
arrests	arrest date/time, x/y (lat., long.), related crime date/time, related crime UCR/NIBRS classification, felony/misdemeanor categorization, related crime report identifier, person demographics, officer demographics, force utilization, related use-of-force report identifier, arrest result (disposition)	Proxy for neighborhood police activity and disparities; neighborhood patterns of arrest for serious offenses can show investigative effectiveness and inequities
use-of-force	force date/time, x/y (lat., long.), reason for force, force type, person weapon (possession, display, and use), person injury, person treatment/hospitalization, person arrest, related arrest report identifier, officer injury, officer treatment/hospitalization, date/time of occurrence, person demographics, officer demographics	Neighborhood use-of-force patterns and disparities
pedestrian stops	stop date/time, x/y (lat., long.), reason for stop, stop result (disposition), search performed, search yielded contraband, person demographics, officer demographics, pursuit involved	Proxy for neighborhood police activity and disparities; stop outcomes (e.g., search and arrest) can also reveal disparities at place and individual level
vehicle stops	stop date/time, x/y (lat., long.), reason for stop, stop result (disposition), search of person performed, search of vehicle performed, search yielded contraband, person demographics, officer demographics, vehicle information, pursuit involvement	Proxy for neighborhood police activity and disparities; stop outcomes (e.g., search and arrest) can also reveal disparities at place and individual level

Police Data Type	Common Variables	Neighborhood Applications
calls for service (911)	call date/time, incident x/y (lat., long.), caller x/y (lat., long.), call code, call incident description, description of person involved in potential crime, call priority, officer dispatched date/time, officer arrival date/time, call result (disposition), related crime report, related crime report identifier	Neighborhood call type patterns and trends; can contain officer self-initiated activity, which is a useful measure of police discretionary activity (e.g., foot patrols); neighborhood response time analyses can show response time inequities
complaints about officer conduct (internal or external)	nature of complaint (complaint type), complaint origin (person, officer, etc.), date/time of complaint, date/time of incident, involved officers' demographics, complainant demographics, related report identifier (e.g., crime, arrest, call, stop, or use-of-force), complaint result, date/time of result	Neighborhood complaint patterns and disparities; resolution patterns can reveal disparities at place and individual level