

Chapter 9

CRIME ANALYSIS

The standards in this chapter address crime analysis as it relates to both strategic and tactical activities.

Crime analysis is a police department function whereby data relating to crime are collected, collated, analyzed, and disseminated. Data are primarily generated from records and reports within the police department. Additional data may be obtained from outside sources, such as other police departments, other government agencies, private organizations, and other agencies of the criminal justice system.

Crime analysis represents a system utilizing regularly collected information on reported crimes and criminals to prevent and suppress crime and to apprehend criminal offenders. Crime analysis is a scientific process, in the sense that it involves the collection of valid and reliable data, employs systematic techniques of analysis, and seeks to determine, for predictive purposes, the frequency with which events occur and the extent to which they are associated with other events. Collecting and analyzing readily available crime data and making the analyzed information regularly available to line officers and investigators can make them more effective.

The information obtained by analyzing the data is used to support management and operations.

9.1 Crime Analysis

9.1.1 A written directive establishes and governs the department's crime analysis function, including procedures for the following elements:

- o collection of crime data;
- o collation of crime data;
- o analysis of crime data;
- o dissemination of analyzed crime information; and
- o feedback analysis and program evaluation.

Comments: A crime analysis function formally exists when a specific unit or person has been designated to collect and analyze available crime data and to disseminate the distilled crime information to operational user groups. Crime analysis should provide currently useful information to aid operational personnel in meeting their tactical crime control and prevention objectives by (1) identifying and analyzing methods of operation of individual criminals, (2) providing crime pattern recognition, and (3) providing analyses of data from field

interrogations and arrests. Also, much of the information developed by a crime analysis component can be useful to the department's long-range planning efforts by providing estimates of future crime trends and assisting in the identification of enforcement priorities. (O O M)

9.1.2 The department has a system for briefing the department's Chief of Police on crime patterns or trends as determined by the crime analysis function.

Comments: The intent of the standard is to create an "early warning system" so that the Chief of Police can be informed of trends through department efforts rather than through outside sources. (O O M)

A written directive specifies the organizational components or persons to receive crime analysis information.

Comments: For a crime analysis system to function effectively, information should be disseminated to the appropriate units or persons on a timely basis. (O O M)

The department documents the current and geographic distribution of selected crimes.

Comments: This documentation may be in the form of spot maps or computer-generated printouts. (O O M)

9.1.5 A written directive governs the distribution of crime analysis information to sources outside the department.

Comments: The written directive should support the dissemination of specified crime information to enhance public information and generate community support. (O O M)

A written directive requires the use of crime analysis information in developing department tactics, strategies, and long-range plans.

Comments: Crime analysis information should be utilized in developing tactics for operational components, general crime suppression strategies, and manpower and resource projections for a multi-year period.

Crime analysis, by identifying crime patterns or trends, can, through statistical analysis, determine the optimum strategy, tactics, and number of personnel necessary to deal with the problem. The possibility of crime displacement and/or disruption as the result of specialized operations and the emergence of new crime patterns require close examination to determine the need for continued specialized deployment.

Efficiency, effectiveness, and officer morale are all enhanced when specialized assignments are used to counteract existing crime patterns or trends.

Additionally, the long-range planning effort should prove beneficial in budgeting and other administrative activities. Factors to be considered include (1) analysis of crime trend data by type of crime; (2) analysis of offender characteristics; and (3) analysis of crime trend data by location. (O O M)

9.1.7 **The effectiveness and utilization of crime analysis information are documented.**

Comments: For the crime analysis function to be effective, several elements should be present. One of these elements is feedback on the analyzed information from the components or persons receiving and using this information.

Procedures for soliciting and receiving feedback should be established. The procedures should be designed to measure the crime analysis function's internal productivity and its external impact vis-a-vis acknowledged objectives. The procedures should attempt to ascertain whether the crime analysis process, as currently employed, is efficient and whether its products are effective tools for combating the crimes selected by the department for analysis. (O O M)