

Police Data as a "Worst Case" Example of IQ Issues

ABSTRACT

Police agencies throughout the United States are primarily concerned with responding to crimes and maintaining order. However, they have an important role to play as collectors of data on a range of behaviors – of both law breaking and law abiding persons. These data are used at the local level for administrative and tactical purposes, but are the raw material for regional and national data systems. These data systems may have many significant and legitimate uses. However, when data from many collectors are aggregated into large databases, there should be concerns raised about the accuracy, validity, and completeness of the resulting database. A recent Supreme Court case highlighted the problematic use of police data, but there have been few studies of the issue. This presentation will discuss some of the issues of police data collection practices as they impact on information quality.

BIOGRAPHY

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Mr. Bibel is the program manager of the Crime Reporting Unit at the Commonwealth Fusion Center, Massachusetts State Police. In this role he has led the implementation of incident-based crime reporting in the Commonwealth. Mr. Bibel was a participant in the earliest development of the National Incident Based Reporting System and of the National Data Exchange system, both developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He has given numerous presentations on crime analysis, crime mapping and police management. He is currently the president of the Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs.