

Online cognitive-skills training for improving police decision making: Can it work?

Abstract

A team comprising cognitive scientists, social psychologists, and criminologists are working to understand and model police decision making in order to provide feedback to the National Institute of Justice, policymakers, and law enforcement agencies on how to improve the safety and outcomes of police-community interactions.

The project uses a mixed-methods approach consisting of

- (a) experiments placing officers in immersive simulators to examine decision-making outcomes and cognitive processes,
- (b) psychometric surveys to assess personality and adaptability, and
- (c) a training intervention using a web-based interactive training system that uses police body-worn camera footage to create decision-making exercises.

Researchers are partnering with three US police departments to conduct the study. This study will be the first randomized-control-trial effort to examine the effects of using police body-worn camera footage as a training intervention.

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Joel Suss Ph.D. is an assistant professor in the psychology department at Wichita State University in Kansas, USA. His research focuses on human performance and cognition in complex, dynamic, and often stressful operational settings, with a specific interest in expertise, skill acquisition, and decision making in law enforcement.



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