



Welcome to RTI International's [Policing Research Program's \(PRP\)](#) first newsletter, a biannual email that will provide the latest updates on research, events, and news from our program. You're receiving this newsletter because you either signed up for it or have worked with our program in the past. We look forward to providing you with timely and useful information that supports your work.

## Policing Research Program Work



### [Watch: Measuring Officer Stress Through Biometric Sensors](#)

The Durham Police Department participated in a first-of-its-kind study involving wearable sensors to analyze and understand police officer stress levels. Existing research has shown that stress can hinder job performance and could make people more prone to violence. The PRP's study aims to understand officer stress and what triggers it. [A recent article](#) in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research—Research Protocols* demonstrates the practicality and utility of wrist-worn biometric sensor-based research in law enforcement.



### [Improving the Response to Sexual Assault](#)

RTI is working to improve how law enforcement and their partners collect and utilize the valuable information contained in sexual assault kits (SAKs). As part of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Sexual Assault Kit Efficiency Project, we quantified the importance of staffing and policies as key factors that improve a jurisdiction's ability to submit and test SAKs. See highlights of the results [here](#).

The [Sexual Assault Kit Initiative \(SAKI\)](#) is funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to prevent future delays associated with the handling and investigation of sexual assault cases. RTI and its partners assist teams of police, prosecutors, crime labs, and victim services agencies to establish victim-centered and sustainable best practices. Watch a video on the [Foundations of SAKI](#).



### [RTI Statistical Traffic Analysis Report \(RTI-STAR\)](#)

The RTI-STAR analytic tool can be used to determine if a pattern of racial disproportionality exists in a law enforcement agency's traffic stops. Our free tool, which automated the veil-of-darkness methodology, can be used to analyze traffic stop data to see if race is a factor in a department's stops, and to increase transparency. Recent reports used the same methodology with data from [Durham](#), [Raleigh](#), [Greensboro](#), and [Fayetteville](#), North Carolina. [Read a recent article](#) in Police Quarterly to learn more about how RTI-STAR extended the veil-of-darkness approach using Durham traffic stop data.



### [Calls for Service \(CFS\) ANALYTICS™](#)

[CFS Analytics™](#) presents data from 911 calls for service in a visual dashboard that helps managers compare response times, community demand, and other factors. By integrating and harmonizing information across numerous administrative data sources—in addition to geographic data, such as automatic vehicle location data and police incident data—an agency can paint a comprehensive picture of officer activity.

## In the Media

[RTI North Carolina Crime Analysis symposium hosts law enforcement to identify ways to improve policing through research and data](#)

[How better police data can make communities safer—An interview with Dr. Kevin Strom](#)

[RTI and local law enforcement team up to study officer stress](#)

[Durham Police Department and RTI hold press conference on study identifying patterns of disparity in traffic stops](#)

[Local groups respond to Durham traffic stop analysis](#)

## Spotlight: Meet the Experts

The Policing Research Program is staffed with criminologists and other leading experts in the field of policing, including those who have worked in law enforcement agencies as patrol officers, criminal investigators, accreditation and training staff members, imbedded researchers, and crime analysts. Our policing research staff members regularly partner with police agencies from across the nation and with other researchers at RTI from a variety of fields. Our diversity and novel perspectives can help develop more effective policing policies and practices.



This issue spotlights [Brian Acken](#), one of our leading experts in police operations, data, and record systems. Before joining RTI, Brian served 27 years with the Pennsylvania State Police, retiring as a Major, and then spend 4 years as Chief Information Office (CIO) of the Montgomery County Police Department. His current projects include the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X), which supports the nationwide transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) crime statistics reporting, the Sexual Assault Kit Initiative, the commercialization of RTI's Calls for Service Analytics software, and analysis of videos from police body-worn cameras.

[Meet the rest of the PRP team.](#)

## Events

### Come find us at:

[Association of State Uniform Crime Reporting Programs \(ASUCRP\) Conference](#)

November 6–9, 2017

Stowe, Vermont

RTI Presenter: Kevin Strom

[American Society of Criminology \(ASC\) Conference](#)

November 15–18, 2017, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

RTI Presenters: Daniel Lawrence, Josh Hendrix, Karen Lissy, Kelle Barrick, Kevin Strom, Mark Pope, Travis Taniguchi

### Past Events:

[International Association of Chiefs of Police \(IACP\) Annual Conference](#)

October 21–24, 2017

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

RTI Presenter: Kevin Strom

[2017 RTI Policing Symposium](#)



RTI International hosted more than 60 law enforcement officials and crime analysts from 27 agencies at its second Policing Symposium. These symposiums provide attendees opportunities to network and collaborate on ideas that can improve the quality of policing throughout North and South Carolina. The symposium touched on topics ranging from Data-Driven Policing in the 21st Century to Body-Worn Camera Policies and Use, with participants enjoying a complimentary GIS training during the afternoon session. Read more about the most recent symposium [here](#). Keep an eye out for RTI's Policing symposiums being scheduled for 2018!

Questions? Contact us at [policing@rti.org](mailto:policing@rti.org).

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About RTI International

RTI International is an independent, nonprofit research institute dedicated to improving the human condition. Clients rely on us to answer questions that demand an objective and multidisciplinary approach—one that integrates expertise across the social and laboratory sciences, engineering, and international development. We believe in the promise of science, and we are inspired every day to deliver on that promise for the good of people, communities, and businesses around the world.

