

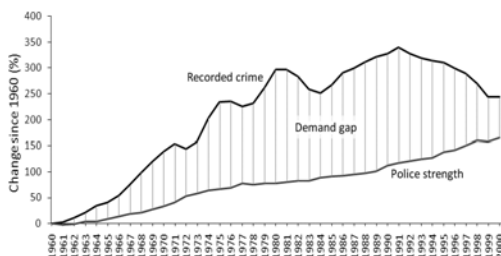
# Pocket guide to intelligence-led policing

## Definition

Intelligence-led policing is a business model and managerial philosophy where data analysis and crime intelligence are pivotal to an objective, decision-making framework that facilitates crime and problem reduction, disruption and prevention through both strategic management and effective enforcement strategies that target prolific and serious offenders.

## Origins

Intelligence-led policing has its origins in: improvements in information technology; pressure for greater managerial professionalization in policing; the growth of serious and organized crime; and the demand gap – the disparity between modest increases in numbers of police and the far greater demands for police service. For example, this figure shows the difference between numbers of police in America, and recorded crime levels 1960 to 2000.



Note that intelligence-led policing was a feature of British policing in the late 1990s; it does **not** have its origins in 9/11. While it can be used for counter-terrorism, this was not the original purpose.

## Myths and realities

Intelligence-led policing **is not**

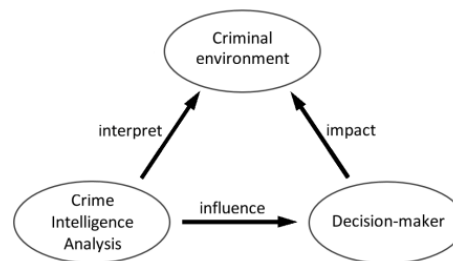
- A technique just for specialized units or investigators
- Only a tool for counter-terrorism
- Solely about information sharing
- A way to support investigations

Intelligence-led policing **is**

- A business model for managing policing demand
- About improved allocation of resources
- A strategic approach to crime and problems
- A decision-action model

## How it works

As shown in this **3-i model** intelligence-led policing requires: police analysts to interpret the criminal environment; influence decision-makers; and it requires decision-makers to use the crime intelligence to have an impact on the criminal environment.



It therefore requires analysts to work closely with police chiefs and other crime prevention executives who are able to control and direct resources. The aim of intelligence-led policing is for police executives to have a **strategic** overview of crime problems in their jurisdiction so that they can better **allocate resources** to the most important crime **priorities**.

## 10 ILP yardsticks

Police departments and agencies that are intelligence-led and not investigation-led will demonstrate the following qualities:

1. Supportive and informed command structure
2. Intelligence-led policing is the heart of an organization-wide approach
3. Integrated crime and criminal analysis
4. Focus on prolific and serious offenders
5. Analytical and executive training available
6. Both strategic and tactical tasking meetings take place
7. Much routine investigation is screened out
8. Data are sufficiently complete, reliable and available to support quality products that influence decision-making
9. Management structures exist to action intelligence products
10. Appropriate use of prevention, disruption and enforcement

Intelligence-led policing is significantly different from community policing and may require considerable organizational change to implement.

### Source

Ratcliffe, Jerry (2008) **Intelligence-Led Policing** (Willan Publishing: Cullompton, Devon).

Further details at [www.jratcliffe.net/ilp](http://www.jratcliffe.net/ilp)