

A photograph of a police car's rear, showing a prominent red emergency light bar. The background is slightly blurred, showing other vehicles and what appears to be a police officer in uniform.

RESEARCH FOR JUSTICE SOLUTIONS

For nearly 30 years, CNA has applied research, analysis, and technical assistance to solve complex problems in the public and government sectors. We work with more than 450 agencies and organizations to analytically assess challenges and develop responses that promote public safety, reduce violence, prevent crime, address victim needs and services, and improve police and corrections operations. Through methodologically sound scientific research grounded in field operations analysis and assistance—and through our close connections with justice agency management and operations—we help local, state, and federal organizations achieve practical results that save lives, promote justice, and improve trust and accountability in justice system agencies.

LEADERS IN JUSTICE RESEARCH

A national leader in criminal justice research, we specialize in translating academic research into practice in the field. By harnessing research findings, sophisticated analysis and a robust understanding of systems, we encourage our nation's criminal justice leaders to approach problems differently, with an evidence base that promotes safety, effectiveness, and efficiency. Our justice research includes the following:

- A **test and evaluation of a micro-jamming technology** implemented in a prison system to prevent the use of contraband cell phones
- An **evaluation of a crime reporting application** deployed by the Milwaukee Police Department to improve information sharing with members of the public and address violence in and around schools
- A **rigorous, quasi-experimental evaluation** of a comprehensive reentry program in Orange County, California, for individuals released from jail and suffering from mild to moderate mental health or substance use disorders
- A **randomized controlled trial** assessing the impact of the St Louis, Missouri Police Partnership, a deterrence program that focuses on home visits
- A **randomized controlled trial examining** the implementation of body-worn cameras in the Loudoun County, Virginia, jail system
- A **randomized experiment with body-worn cameras** in the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department that produced strong evidence that the cameras reduce use-of-force incidents and complaints against police officers, increase proactive policing responses, and save money
- A **study to identify how protective equipment usage** in adult correctional facilities affects officer injuries and safety
- A **comprehensive analysis of law enforcement agency** use of common operational picture technology, which allows multiple agencies to share information during emergencies.

RESEARCH-INFORMED PRACTICE

CNA conducts evaluative and action-oriented research grounded in operational realities. For example, our research on the impact of technology in the justice system—through studies of body-worn cameras, correctional officer safety, common operational picture programs, and critical incident response—informs the criminal justice field about promising practices and opportunities for improvement. With funding from the National Institute of Justice, we have conducted a variety of research studies.

CNA also works with law enforcement agencies in diverse locations on comprehensive analyses of use-of-force incidents, traffic stops, complaints, police shootings and community engagement practices. Locations include Fayetteville, NC; Las Vegas, NV; Philadelphia, PA; Spokane, WA; Maricopa County, AZ; Charleston, SC; Albuquerque, NM; and Puerto Rico.



Through such analyses, we identify opportunities for law enforcement agencies to implement improvements in training, investigations, community engagement, and procedural justice. In each instance, our research has resulted in significant reductions in complaints against police, use-of-force incidents, and police shootings, and an increased in community partnerships. As a result of our work, the Las Vegas and Philadelphia police departments for example, reduced their officer-involved shootings by 50 percent within a few years.

PROTECTING OUR POLICE AND COMMUNITY

Our research aims to understand how to keep police and community members safe, protect victims from harm and support them in the aftermath of harm, and proactively prevent crime in different community and organizational environments.

- Our **research on police ambushes in the United States** has identified factors in the likelihood of an ambush against officers—both environmental (e.g., violent crime rate, recruitment standards) and incident related (e.g., perpetrator’s criminal record)—as well as survivability factors that protect officers from such ambushes (e.g., lighting conditions, distance from an assailant, use of cover).
- Our **reconstruction and after-action analyses** of critical incidents involving police (e.g., police shootings, police ambushes) provide direct evidence to police officers on what they are doing well in these situations and what needs improvement.

SCIENCE-BASED RESEARCH

Our research uses sophisticated methodologies and statistical analysis techniques, producing scientifically valid, peer-reviewed findings that add to the knowledge base of what works and that enable law enforcement agency leaders to confidently forge positive change in their communities. Our in-depth assessment of use-of-deadly-force polices and practices contributed to significant reductions in police shootings of civilians in Las Vegas, Spokane, and Philadelphia. In addition, we conducted the first comprehensive set of analyses on the topic of ambushes on police in more than two decades, which provides a staging ground for future research.

NETWORK OF RESEARCH PRACTICE

We work with practitioners—from leaders to line officers—to conduct and interpret research and apply it to practice. We also work with top academic researchers and methodologists from across the country and with professional crime analysts and information system experts, both within and outside justice agencies. Our strong network of practitioner-oriented and academic researchers produces consistently excellent and useful research and analysis.

OTHER CNA JUSTICE SKILLS AND SERVICES

Law Enforcement Operations Analysis | Law Enforcement Agency Assessment | Technology Assessment | Critical Incident Reconstruction and Review | Curriculum Development | Multifaceted and Virtual Training and Technical Assistance Delivery | Meeting Planning and Facilitation | Policy and Program Development, Implementation, and Evaluation | Organization Change Management | Cost-Benefit Analysis | Research Design Using Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis

ABOUT CNA

CNA is a nonprofit research and analysis organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. It operates the Institute for Public Research — which serves civilian government agencies — and the Center for Naval Analyses, the Department of the Navy’s federally funded research and development center (FFRDC). CNA develops actionable solutions to complex problems of national importance. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts and professional staff, CNA takes a real-world approach to gathering data, working side-by-side with operators and decision-makers around the world. CNA’s research portfolio includes global security and strategic competition, homeland security, emergency management, criminal justice, public health, data management, systems analysis, naval operations and fleet and operational readiness.

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