



## ACTION for Risk-Based Policing

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**ACTION** is a pragmatic focus on **Assessment, Connections, Tasks, Interventions, Outcomes and Notifications**. Meaningful and actionable information is achieved within this risk management agenda.

### Potential Impacts and Benefits

ACTION is a standard procedure for **intelligence-led policing** that can be replicated within and across various jurisdictions and crime problem types. ACTION allows for customization based on the problem-at-hand.

Law enforcement is an ongoing endeavor that requires thoughtful decision-making informed by real-time understandings of the spatial dynamics of crime and its related factors. With risk terrain modeling (RTM) and a diagnosis of the environmental correlates of certain behaviors or crime outcomes, your agency can make very **accurate forecasts**.

Legal scholars<sup>1 2</sup> have recently explained that RTM offers police an exceptional opportunity to quantify 'high-crime' areas in a way that respects **constitutional protections** for citizens. This is because RTM enables a concerted effort to not only focus on individual offenders present in locations at any given moment in time, but to understand and address the mechanisms that enable hotspots to emerge and persist over time. RTM suggests what to do at places that repeatedly attract illegal behavior in order to mitigate their appeal. RTM and ACTION produce quantifiable outputs to inform policing strategies. According to legal scholars<sup>3</sup>, generating a quantifiable output for where to police can safeguard residents Fourth Amendment rights.

Through the implementation of an ACTION Plan, key stakeholders are identified in the community. By actively involving community stakeholders, they become aware of policing efforts and become invested in the intervention activities and outcomes. Their insights can improve the understanding of the crime problem. This approach can greatly enhance a police department's ability to develop quality **community partnerships** that can be sustained.

RTM and ACTION has been tested in small and large cities throughout the United States. Research, funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), found significant **crime reductions** in target areas where RTM was used to inform risk-based policing strategies. For instance, one city experienced a 54% reduction in robberies over 3-

months (and, this was achieved without a significant increase in arrests). For a variety of crime types, RTM produced **actionable information** that helped to suppress crime in the short-term and mitigate the spatial risk factors at places so they were less attractive to criminals in the long-term.

ACTION is a framework that can be replicated across jurisdictions. So, if future partnerships with nearby agencies are likely for your agency, then an ACTION plan can be implemented by a variety of stakeholders, at both local and regional levels, for **multi-agency decision-making and action**.

### Supporting the Public/Safety Mission

Risk Terrain Modeling contributes to the law enforcement mission by providing **evidence-based** spatial intelligence that police can employ to mitigate the risk of crime and violence at micro places throughout urban, suburban or rural jurisdictions.

RTM puts an emphasis on intervention activities that **focus on places**, not just people located at certain places – so public perceptions and community relations are not jeopardized.

Recent researcher-practitioner partnerships, using RTM and ACTION, have led to new approaches to measuring **police productivity** that go beyond a heavy reliance on traditional law enforcement actions such as stops, arrests or citations. This is beneficial for both police officers and the people they serve.

RTM is a **sustainable** technique because it does not need past crime data to make valid forecasts. Police departments around the country are using RTM to be problem-oriented and proactive, to prevent new crimes without concern that a high success rate (and no new incidents) will hamper their ability to make new predictions.

<sup>1</sup> Koss, K.K. (2015). Leveraging Predictive Policing Algorithms to Restore Fourth Amendment Protections in High-Crime Areas in Post-Wardlow World. *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, 90(1): 300-334.

<sup>2</sup> Ferguson, A. G. (2012). Predictive Policing and Reasonable Suspicion. *Emory Law Review*, 62; 259-325.

<sup>3</sup> Koss, K.K. (2015). *Ibid*.

