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Title:

Police Data as a “Worst Case” Example of IQ Issues

Abstract:

Police agencies throughout the United States are primarily concerned with responding to crimes and maintaining order. However, they have an important role to play as collectors of data on a range of behaviors – of both law breaking and law abiding persons. These data are used at the local level for administrative and tactical purposes, but are the raw material for regional and national data systems. These data systems may have many significant and legitimate uses. However, when data from many collectors are aggregated into large databases, there should be concerns raised about the accuracy, validity, and completeness of the resulting database. A recent Supreme Court case highlighted the problematic use of police data, but there have been few studies of the issue. This presentation will discuss some of the issues of police data collection practices as they impact on information quality.