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LEPS 550: Community Assessment - Crime
Module 6: Officer-Involved Shootings
University of San Diego: Professional and Continuing Education

The Efficacy of Information-Led Policing Techniques in the Reduction of Crime

The San Diego Sheriff's Department has embraced the intelligence-led policing (ILP) concept. Significant effort is being made on behalf of the agency to use this business model and managerial philosophy to use data analysis and crime intelligence to identify crime solving objectives and have it serve as the decision making framework. Thus far, the proactive approach to policing has been working well.
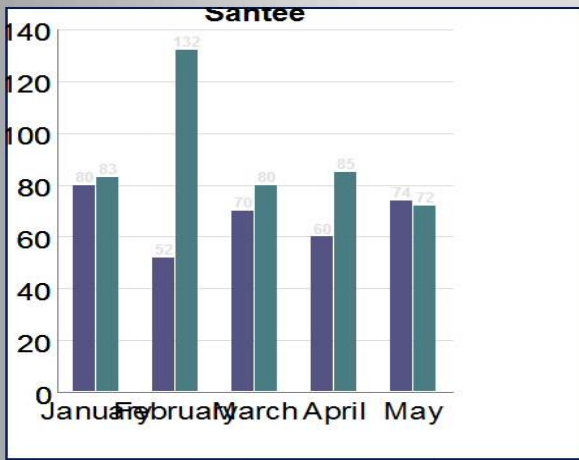
The Sheriff's Analysis Driven Law Enforcement (SADLE) team assists stations throughout the county who are experiencing high rates of crime by using a variety of information-led policing (ILP) techniques to identify and target prolific offenders. The presence of an analyst significantly influences the success of an ILP program. As identified in "Reducing Crime Through Intelligence-Led Policing," one of the top 10 lessons learned by other agencies is that information sharing between officers and jurisdictions is critical to ILP success. (USDOJ, 2008). The analyst plays a critical role by reviewing the information sharing systems that are offered throughout San Diego and California. Next the analyst makes recommendations and the team defines the project objectives and formulates tactics. The analyst may identify intelligence gaps and make requests for the Deputies to seek and gather particular information to either identify people or their whereabouts. Deputies begin operations and relay new information to

the analyst. The analyst continuously monitors case reports and field interviews and reevaluates the target prioritization and assesses the operational success of the team.
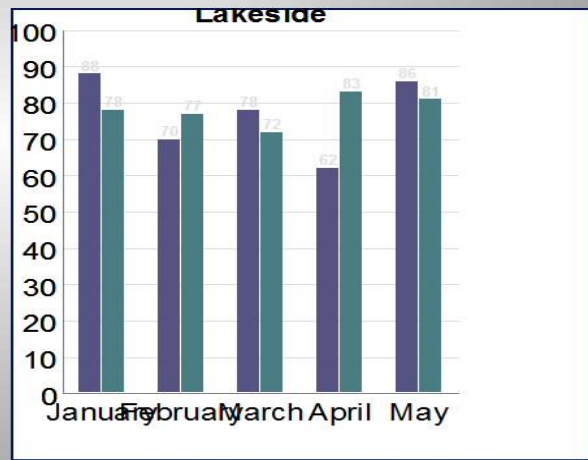
This proactive approach has proven successful in even a short amount of time. The SADLE team is currently working a project in areas covered by the Santee and Lakeside Sheriff's stations. There has been a significant rise in many crime categories, but none more than the personal use of illegal drugs along with most forms of stealing money or property less than $950, to include: shoplifting, theft, receiving stolen property, forgery, fraud, and writing false checks. (California, 2014). Since the passing of Proposition 47, this particular jurisdiction has seen an increase in property crimes. The SADLE team's goals are to reduce property crimes in the jurisdictions of the Santee and Lakeside Stations using the following tactics: 4th waiver, warrant, and roll back searches, hotel registry checks, high visibility directed patrol, informant development, surveillance operations, vehicle trackers, jail call monitoring, and utilization of misdemeanor booking exception agreements with the county jails.

At the start of the project, the analyst for the SADLE team, presented the following statistics:
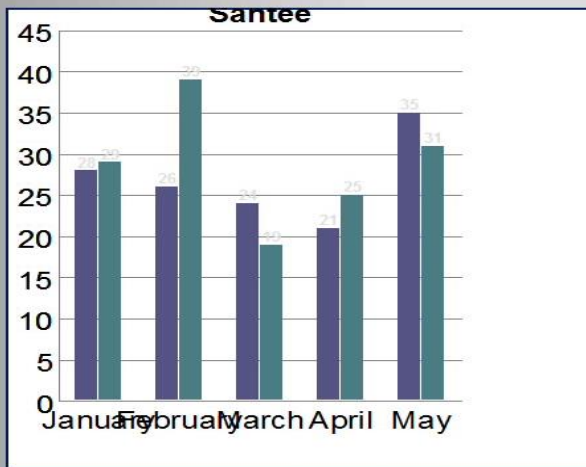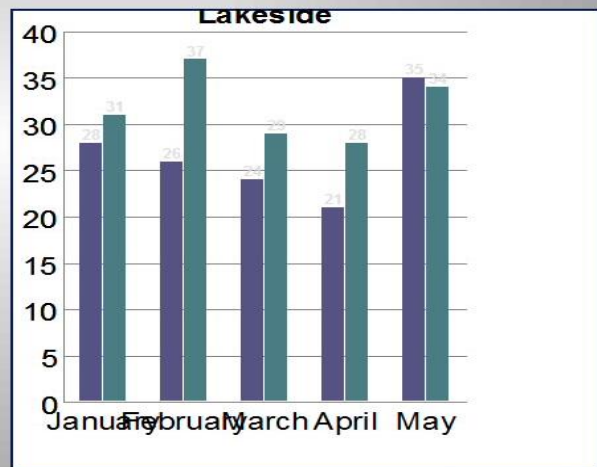
Overall Property Crime

Santee — Monthly Average: 81

Lakeside — Monthly Average: 75

Theft from Vehicles

Santee — Monthly Average: 21

Lakeside — Monthly Average: 27

(McKinney, 2016)

SADLE Deputies began familiarizing with the area and making proactive stops prior to the project's official start on June 27, 2016. Over the next month, the SADLE team Deputies performed purposeful contacts of persons of interests and in areas of interest. The follow performance statistics were recorded:
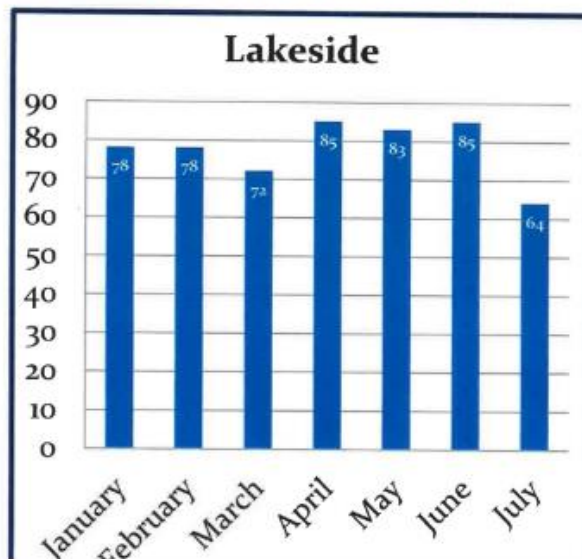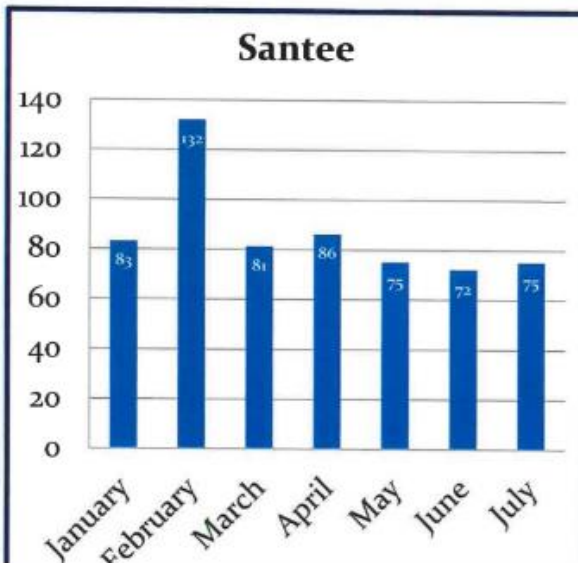
Santee/Lakeside	week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	Month Total
Traffic stops	8	7	2	8	25
Pedestrian Stops	17	17	7	18	59
Felony Arrests	2	0	1	3	6
Misdemeanor Arrests	5	4	1	7	17
Field Interviews	9	20	5	15	49
Cleared warrants	5	7	4	8	24
4th waiver searches	1	4	0	4	9
Drug Paraphernalia seized	7	4	5	37	53
Methamphetamine seized	6.06	0	0.16	1.67	7.89 grams
Heroin seized	0	0	0	0.5	0.5 grams

(McKinney, 2016)

Overall Property Crime

Goals:
- Keep overall property crime at a below average level in Santee. (Less than 81)
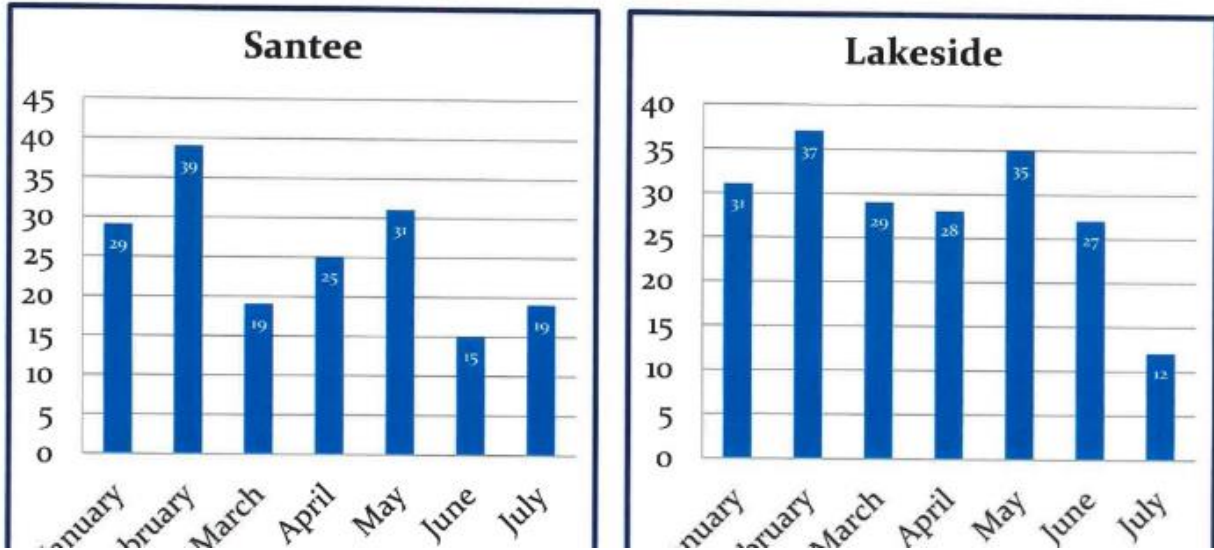- Reduce overall property crime in Lakeside to monthly average. (Less than 75)

(McKinney, 2016)

Theft from Vehicles

Goal: Reduce theft from vehicles to monthly average:
- Santee—Less than 21
- Lakeside—Less than 27

Santee

Month	Value
January	29
February	39
March	19
April	25
May	31
June	15
July	19

Lakeside

Month	Value
January	31
February	37
March	29
April	28
May	35
June	27
July	12

(McKinney, 2016)

In just one month, a small team of Deputies targeting prolific offenders and high crime areas effectively reduced the crime of two station coverage areas. Six prolific offenders were located and arrested while others have been contacted but there lacked the probable cause to arrest at the time. Thorough field interviews are completed on these subjects and their companions. Information led policing allows the SADLE Deputies to do more than simply hope to run into an offender in a particular area. Information gathering and data analysis increases the probability that law enforcement contacts a known offender by interpreting the crime intelligence to impact the criminal environment and influence the decision making criminal to not commit crime. This proactive approach has repeatedly proven successful.

References:

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