

Using ILP Techniques to Reduce Post Prop. 47 Property Crime Rates

When California's Proposition 47 was approved in November of 2014, several felony level crimes were reduced to misdemeanor offenses. Many sources acknowledge a significant rise in the frequency of offenses within the same crime categories where penalties were reduced. The most significant increases were drug related crimes and various forms of theft of money and property valuing less than \$950, to include: shoplifting, burglary, receiving stolen property, forgery, fraud, and writing false checks. (California, 2014). Law enforcement officers have long understood the correlation between property crime and drug addicts that steal to support their habit. In 2004 a self-report inmate survey recorded that 32% of state prisoners admitted to committing their current offense while under the influence. Additionally, about a quarter of the inmates in local jails committed their offenses to get money for drugs. (BJS, 2006) Combating crime becomes increasingly difficult when there is little to no consequence for these criminal offenders.

In the year 2014, California boasted record lows in property crime, however, upon the passing of Prop. 47, there was an immediate uptick in property crimes from 57,176 to 61,735 for 2015 (ARJIS). Statistics are able to be reviewed and compared through the multiple online reporting programs. Many San Diego agencies contribute to the FBI's Unified Crime Reporting (UCR) Program by way of the Automated Regional Justice

Information System (ARJIS). A simple search is able to generate data reports and graphs of crime rates. This program is great for identifying local crime increases as well as the crime rates in comparison to the rest of the nation.

In 2015, San Diego jumped in rank and became ninth out of the 25 largest cities in the United States for the largest increase in both violent and property crimes. In fact, California cities “dominated” the top half of the FBI's list with Los Angeles, Long Beach, San Jose, Sacramento, and San Francisco all experiencing increases in violence and property crimes. (Howe, 2015). Since the passing of Prop. 47, Los Angeles County had seen property crime climb almost 8% while auto thefts went up 20%. Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell strongly believes Prop.47 is directly responsible for the increase in crime. While ever growing numbers fail to participate in drug court, crime continues to rise. (Chang, 2015) One tactic being used to combat property crime, is data analysis along with intelligence or information-led policing (ILP) tactics to target known repeat criminals.

The San Diego Sheriff's Department has embraced the information-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. The intent is to reduce crime and community problems through strategic management of resources and effective enforcement strategies that target prolific offenders. (Ratticliffe, 2008). The department has even created a specialized team, the Sheriff's Analysis Driven Law Enforcement (SADLE) team, which uses a variety of strategies and tactics to interpret the criminal environment, influence criminal decision makers, and impact the

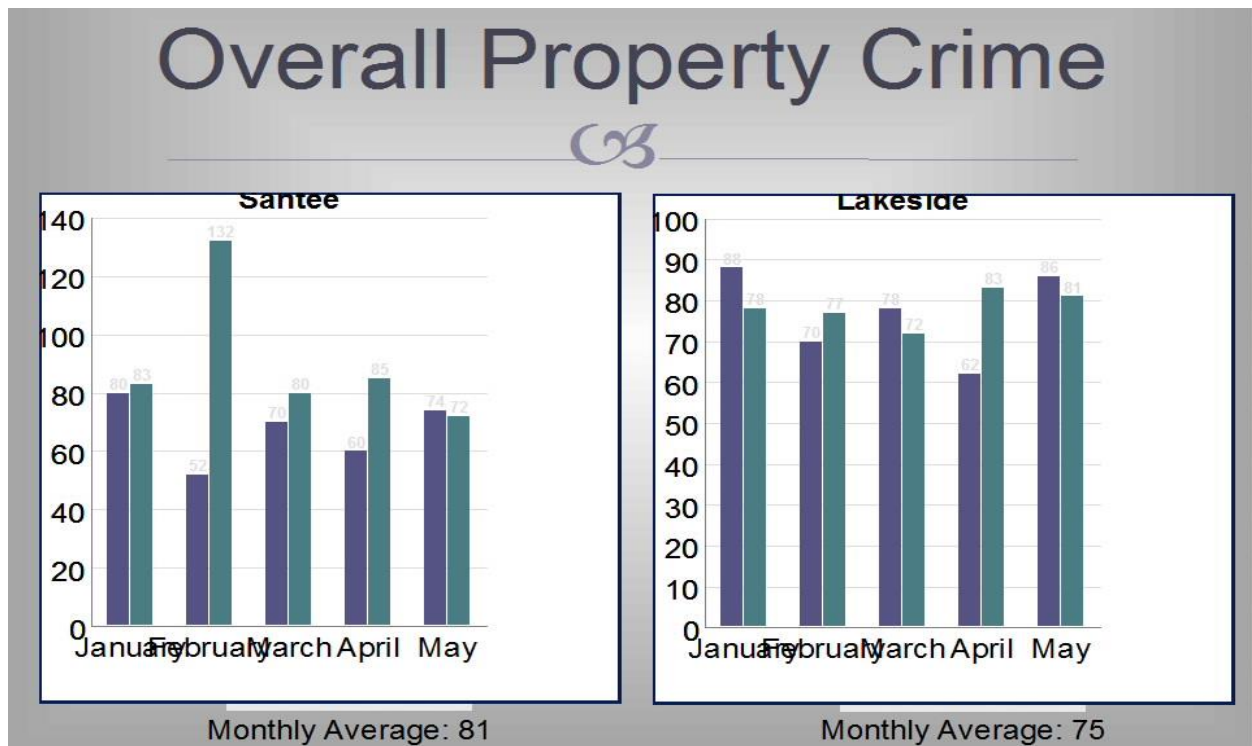
criminal environment. Thus far, the information driven and proactive approach to policing has been working well.

The SADLE team assists stations throughout the county who are experiencing high rates of crime by using ILP techniques to identify and target prolific offenders and determine their whereabouts. The crime data analyst plays a critical role in this process. An effective analyst is constantly reading case reports and field interviews as well as reviewing the crime mapping reports to recognize crime trends and compile prolific offender target lists. Analysts have the time to research the various systems to include the booking system and criminal history, probation/parole records, driver's license information and status as well as vehicle registration. Other systems cross reference the police contacts throughout the county and the state, such as: COPLINK, SRFERS and LexisNexis. Proactive analysts may even listen to the jail phone calls of recently arrested offenders to gather additional intelligence regarding a case, and generate link charts identifying a crime "crew." Further, they may generate a target packet that identifies the subject, their probation/parole status, who their most recent associates are, and where the person has been contacted.

The analyst then makes recommendations and the SADLE team defines the project objectives and formulates tactics. The analyst may identify intelligence gaps and make requests for the Deputies to seek and gather needed intelligence of targets, associates, vehicles, and 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.

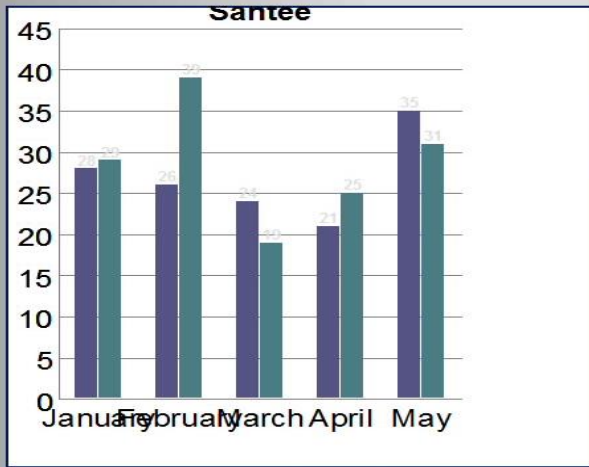
This analytical and proactive approach has proven successful in even a short amount of time. The SADLE team worked a project in county areas covered by the Santee and Lakeside Sheriff's stations where there had been a significant rise in property crimes. The SADLE team's goals were to reduce property crimes in these region by 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:

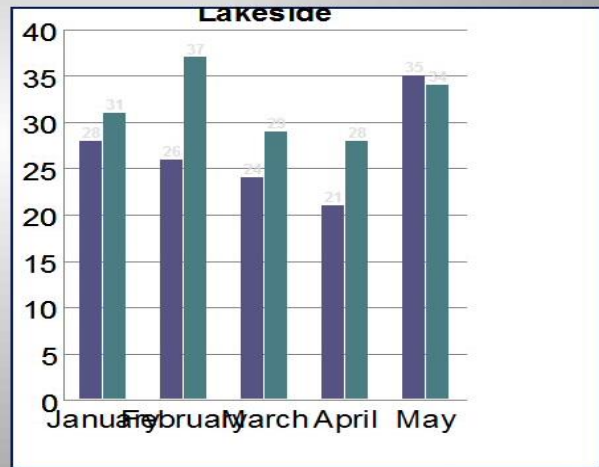


(McKinney, 2016)

Theft from Vehicles



Monthly Average: 21



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 directed patrols in areas of interest and contacted multiple known prolific offenders and their associates. The follow performance statistics were recorded along with the month's end impact results:

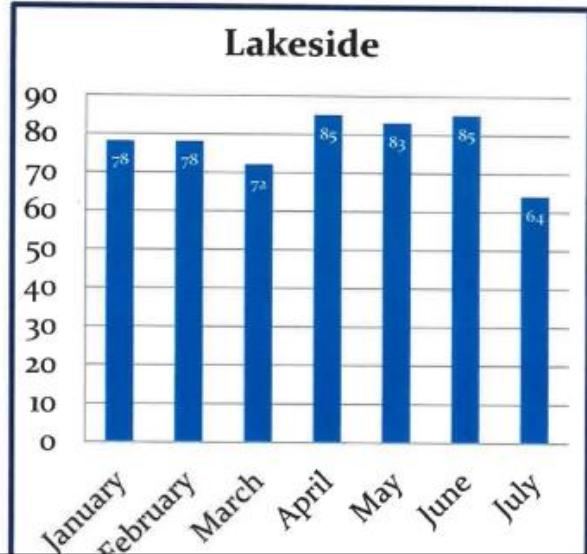
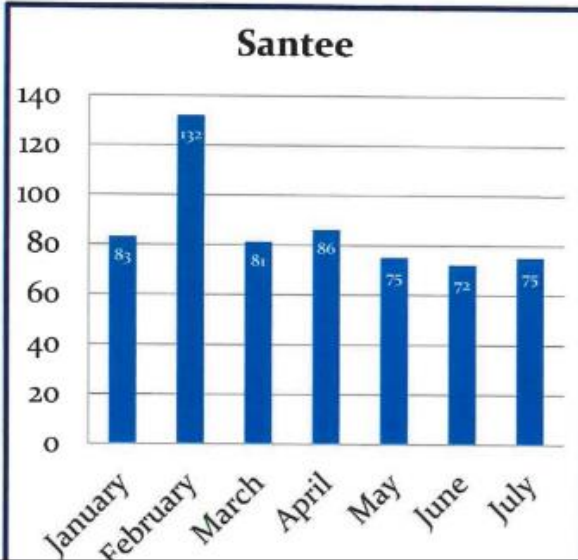
Santee/Lakeside	week 1	week 2	week 3	week 4	Month Total
Traffic stops	8	7	2	8	25
Pedestrian Stops	17	17	7	18	59
Felony Arrests	2	0	1	3	6
Misdemeanor Arrests	5	4	1	7	17
Field Interviews	9	20	5	15	49
Cleared warrants	5	7	4	8	24
4th waiver searches	1	4	0	4	9
Drug Paraphernalia seized	7	4	5	37	53
Methamphetamine 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)



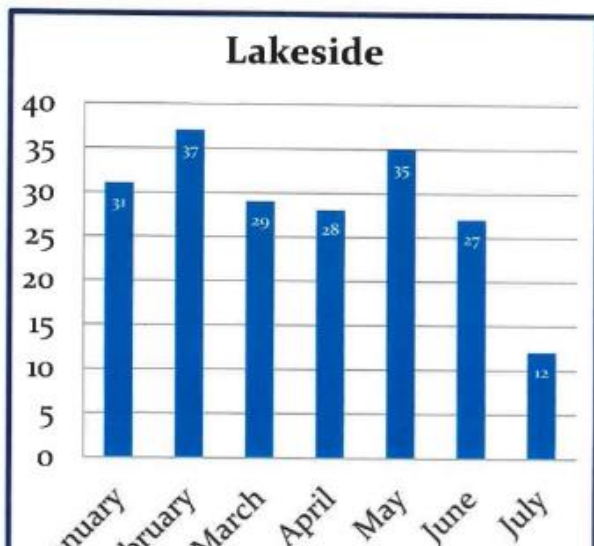
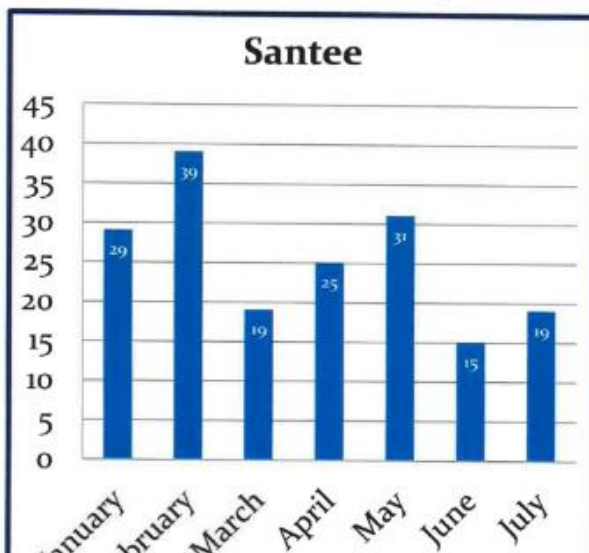
(McKinney, 2016)

Theft from Vehicles

of 7

Goal: Reduce theft from vehicles to monthly average:

- Santee—Less than 21
- Lakeside—Less than 27



(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 several others, who lacked probable cause for a new arrest, were extensively field interviewed. This proactive approach has repeatedly proven successful.

Most stations within the San Diego Sheriff's Department have been assigned a crime analyst. By providing law enforcement officers with this critical knowledge, patrol officers can target specific people, during the time and place that the offender is most likely to be, rather than simply keeping an eye out for a target, or supersaturating an area and simply flushing out the offenders rather than apprehending them. In my experience, I have found that developing a target packet prior seeking out a prolific offender or a subject with a warrant, has increased the probability of positive contact and affecting an arrest.

In one particular case, the SADLE crime analyst identified a couple that she believed were responsible for multiple burglaries throughout the county. SADLE Deputies created target packets. Through this workup process, Deputies gained the intelligence that their two targets had multiple arrests for under the influence and possession of methamphetamine and heroin. Both suspects also had suspended licenses and had current fourth rights waivers. While neither had a vehicle registered in their name, Deputies also identified the suspect's probable vehicle from researching prior case reports and field interviews and knew the vehicle registration was expired. After identifying the last hotel they were known to have been sleeping in, SADLE Deputies conducted surveillance, and initiated a traffic stop on the suspect vehicle on the road

outside of the hotel. The couple was arrested for possession of narcotics. From inside the suspect vehicle, SADLE Deputies recovered the property and contributed to the closure of 12 reported cases of thefts from vehicles and homes from the San Diego-Mexico border to the city of Vista, a crime area spanning approximately 60 miles.

What made the intelligence analysis and the subsequent arrest successful, was the ability to review the shared information of crime reports, arrests, and field interviews conducted by other county agencies. The intelligence gathered on the suspects in the aforementioned case was acquired from the information entered by five different law enforcement agencies in San Diego County. 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). In San Diego County we have 11 different law enforcement agencies, yet we are fortunate enough to have the ability to review most of law enforcement contacts throughout the county.

With the limitations presented by booking and conviction restrictions of crimes with penalties reduced under Proposition 47, law enforcement needs to become more intelligent in their approach to apprehending and charging criminals. Intelligence-led policing is extremely effective. By placing the right access and resources in the hands of law enforcement officers, they can develop intelligent and strategic approaches to crime and problems in an effort to combat crime and develop stronger cases against prolific offenders.

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