

N8PRP Data Warehouse: monitoring hate crime and community tensions: new methods and forms of data

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Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to gauge interest in further examining hate crime and community tensions across the N8 police services for the purpose of developing effective policing strategies.

Background

The aftermath of the EU referendum has resulted in increased public concern about the possible increase in incidents of hate crime and inter-community tensions. Tensions in racial relations can give early indications for communities 'at risk' of hate crime as well as the potential for unrest. To better understand the nature and level of risk in the contemporary digital age, it is imperative to gather intelligence from wide ranging sources to inform policing strategies that prevent criminality, target resources efficiently, and promote community safety. The purpose of this project is to scope the use of innovative data sources by overlaying demographic, voting, mobile phone and twitter data on top of routinely captured police hate crime data to develop a more nuanced understanding of the dynamic and changing risks in communities, notably in the north of England.

Discussion

The project will scope the use of new forms of unstructured data alongside traditional secondary data sources (e.g. Census 2011 and IMD 2014) to profile the demographics of communities, which will be used alongside recorded crime data supplied by the police. Police data extracts will be required by PFA as well as police division and local authority area and will require details on the date and time of the offences as well as offender and victim details. The complimentary novel data sources are likely to include:

- Ambient population estimates from mobile phone use data
- Geocoded twitter data to estimate levels of (racial) tension
- Brexit and general election geographic voting profiles

Collectively these data sets are expected to offer insights into; the geographical hot spots for community and tensions and hate crime, the profiles of communities 'at risk' of hate crime, and the changing profiles of hate crime perpetrators and victims pre and post the EU referendum.

Recommendations

- Interested policing partners to provide feedback on the proposal, sending letters of support/commitment to Fiona McLaughlin, N8 PRP Research Officer: F.McLaughlin@leeds.ac.uk. These should include a named contact with whom to liaise regarding the necessary extracts of hate crime data to facilitate the project.
- Where partners are willing to identify a member of staff with analytical skills interested in collaborating on this project with N8 PRP colleagues there may be possibilities for a knowledge exchange fellowship via the Leeds Social Sciences Institute (<http://www.lssi.leeds.ac.uk/social-sciences-impact-acceleration-account/>) to help fund their time and commitment. Expressions of interest should be forwarded to Fiona McLaughlin: F.McLaughlin@leeds.ac.uk.

Further Information

The N8 Policing Research Partnership (N8 PRP) enables research collaborations that help address the problems of policing in the 21st century. As a regional hub for research and innovation in policing it provides a platform for collaborations between universities, PCCs, police forces, the College of Policing and other partners working in policing policy, governance and practice.

Read more at www.n8prp.org.uk