

# HELP FIGHT **PREDICTIVE POLICING** IN PITTSBURGH

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## **PREDICTIVE POLICING IS HERE IN PITTSBURGH**

The Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has been using a predictive policing model since a 2016 pilot in **Homewood**. It is now deployed **across half the city**.

This model predicts crime "hotspots" to **proactively police communities** through patrols. Although the model has been in use for three years, **affected communities have not been informed** of its potential consequences.

## **WHY WORRY ABOUT PREDICTIVE POLICING?**

Black youth in Pittsburgh are already arrested 2.5x the national average. (For black adults, it's 1.5x national average). Pittsburgh's predictive policing model could worsen racial disparities in policing by **concentrating policing in already over-policed neighborhoods**. The model in particular may use arrests for minor crimes -- which are **often correlated with black and Hispanic populations** -- to predict future serious crimes.

## **WHO WANTED PREDICTIVE POLICING?**

Pittsburgh's model was developed under Chief McClay by researchers at CMU, and initially piloted in August 2016 in Homewood. At the request of Mayor Peduto, **despite ethics concerns**, a renewed city-wide experiment launched May 2017, funded by the Richard King Mellon Foundation as a CMU Metro 21 research project.

## **HOW HAS PREDICTIVE POLICING AFFECTED OTHER CITIES?**

Predictive policing has often **targeted innocent citizens, increased racial bias, lacked transparency**, and been **ineffective at reducing crime**.

### **CHICAGO**

Implementation of the **CrimeScan** model showed that "predictive crime mapping further entrenches and legitimizes racialized policing." Expansion of the program created a **secretive list of ~90,000 people** as most likely to be involved with violent crime. This list has been used to make arrests. (The creator of CrimeScan co-created Pittsburgh's model.)

### **LOS ANGELES**

The Stop LAPD Spying Coalition conducted a survey that found the predictive policing program **exacerbated racial bias** by leading to more minority interactions with police in areas that were already over-policed. After an audit in 2019, the LAPD suspended the use of some of their predictive policing models.

### **NEW YORK**

Civil liberties advocates **had to sue the NYPD just to receive basic information** regarding which companies were being contracted for predictive policing. The city's argument was that this was "proprietary information."

### **NEW ORLEANS**

The predictive policing program was **unknown to the public** for six years until it was covered by journalists. Questions remain as to how effective it was at preventing crime.

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