

Algorithms in Policing

Criminal Justice

Forecasting tools for places and people, and the failure modes they share.

Two families of tool, one common data problem.

What they do

Place-based: forecast where crime will occur

Person-based: score individuals for risk

Trained on police-recorded data

Outputs guide patrol and tasking

Marketed as objective and neutral

Known problems

Recorded data reflects past deployment

Feedback loops can entrench patterns

Often little better than simple crime maps

Opaque models resist external audit

Several forces withdrew tools after review

Educational reference. Independent evaluations are scarce; several published deployments were halted following review.