FEEDING THE MACHINE: POLICING, CRIME DATA, & ALGORITHMS

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INTRODUCTION

"Challenging the Neutrality of Big Data in Policing"
Concerns Regarding Big Data Tools in Policing

- Increasing Use of Big Data in Policing
- Questions About Neutrality, Efficiency, and Quality
- Potential for Bias in Inputs
- Resource Constraints and Limitations
Police officers play a significant role in generating the information used by predictive policing programs, but they assume that they are just end users.

Resource constraints can also limit police decision-making.

The police's role in creating inputs is crucial in understanding the limitations of predictive policing programs and the filtered nature of crime data.
THE DEBATE OVER BIG DATA POLICING

"Big Data Policing: Balancing Advantages and Criticisms"
Advantages of Big Data Policing

- Capable of processing vast amounts of information more quickly than individuals
- Potential to help police departments make predictions about where crimes might occur and who might commit them
Algorithms may be flawed and reflect the biases of their creators.

Algorithms are subject to the "garbage in, garbage out" critique, meaning that their decisions are only as good as the data they rely on.

If the data used to make predictions contains racial bias, the algorithms will inevitably reflect that bias.
Feedback loops need to be thoughtfully constructed to avoid perpetuating policing practices that are not sufficiently attuned to community needs.

Transparency and accountability are necessary on data input and processes.

Focus on eliminating data that could serve as proxies for race or poverty, and ensuring that bias is not replicated through these tools.
CRIME DATA AND ALGORITHMIC POLICING

Limitations of Crime Data and the Role of Policing in Algorithmic Policing
Discretion and Bias in Policing

- Crime data is incomplete and influenced by social processes and institutions.

- Police discretion in deciding when to make an arrest and what to record as a crime can result in biased data.

- Discretion can be influenced by individual factors and departmental incentives and priorities.
Impact of Algorithms on Discrimination

- Reporting of crimes can vary based on factors such as race, class, and ethnicity.
- Algorithms can make discrimination more efficient and sanitized.
- Positive impact of algorithms is increased profits for organizations able to avoid risk and costs.
- Negative impacts of algorithms are carried by all deemed by algorithms to be risky or less profitable.
CONCLUSION

The Risks and Benefits of Predictive Policing and Algorithmic Decision-Making in Law Enforcement
- Predictive policing is becoming increasingly popular in many police departments

- However, there are potential concerns associated with these algorithms

- The data used to feed these algorithms may contain biases and prejudices, which could perpetuate existing social issues and lead to unfair policing practices

- It is important to monitor the use of these algorithms to ensure they do not lead to further harm

- The use of algorithms in policing should support and enhance human decision-making and critical thinking, not replace it
"True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."
- Martin Luther King Jr.
Algorithms should not replace human decision-making, but support it.

The use of algorithms must be monitored and audited to avoid causing harm or prolonging social issues.

The accuracy of the data generated by algorithms depends on the quality of the data input.

Our society is constantly changing, so maintaining accurate and current data is crucial.

Balancing the benefits and risks of technology is necessary when using it in law enforcement and crime prevention.

Technology integration in law enforcement must uphold the principles of justice and fairness.
THANK YOU!