

# **Early Intervention Systems: What We Know & What We Need to Learn**

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# Overview

- What we know
  - Promise of EI systems
  - Structure of EI Systems
  - Processes
  - Outcomes
- Our current research
- What we need to learn
  - Identification, selection, and assessment
  - Intervention impacts
  - EIS structure and oversight



# What We Know

- Promise of early intervention
  - “Problem” officers
- Structure of EI systems
  - Performance indicators
  - Identification/selection
  - Intervention(s)
  - Post-intervention monitoring
- Processes
  - Importance of administrative commitment
- Outcomes
  - Evidence on intervention impacts is thin



# Our Current Research

- Supported by the National Institute of Justice
- Agency survey
  - Population: 344 agencies that reported having an EIS in 2007 LEMAS survey
  - 274 agencies responded
    - 243 reported having an EIS in 2014
  - Information on indicators, selection criteria, interventions, post-intervention monitoring
- Case studies of individual agencies' EI systems
  - Selected from among survey respondents
  - Process and outcome studies



# What We Need to Learn

- Identification, selection and assessment
  - False positives & false negatives
  - Ambiguity of indicators: smoke or exhaust?
    - Utility of peer comparisons or ratios
    - Utility of data over extended time periods
  - Estimate and improve predictive accuracy
  - Second-stage review/assessment & diagnosis
- Intervention impacts: intended and unintended
- Relationship of EIS to patterns of first-line supervision



## What We Need to Learn (cont.)

- EIS structure and oversight
  - Role of line and/or staff command personnel in selection, assessment, monitoring



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