

POP & Evidence-Based Policing

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Histories

POP

- Article in 1979
- 1980s field tests in Madison, Newport News, Baltimore County
- Book 1990
- POP conference since 1990
- POP Guides since 2001

EBP

- 1970s studies
- 1980s medical analogy
- 1998 “Ideas” monograph
- 2010 SEBP (UK)
- 2011 “new paradigm”
- 2015 ASEBP & CAN-SEBP

Key Figures

POP



EBP



Examples

POP

- Gainesville robberies
- Charlotte robberies
- Charlotte construction site thefts
- Baltimore County paint huffers

EBP

- Minneapolis domestic assaults
- Hot spots patrol
- Street lighting
- Speed cameras

Is it just a matter of semantics?

POP

- Policing smarter
- Targeted
- Focus on outcomes
- What works
- Importance of analysis & assessment
- Appeals to eggheads & nerds

EBP

- Policing smarter
- Targeted
- Focus on outcomes
- What works
- Emphasis on scientific method
- Appeals to eggheads & nerds

Differences

- Core objective
- Type of research
- Standard of proof
- Source of knowledge
- Unit of analysis
- Normative judgments
- Principal actor



A few more

POP

- Very problem-specific
- Context is everything
- Engineering analogy
- Emphasis on creativity
- Shifting & sharing
- Policing as a knowledge-informed craft

EBP

- Tends to be generic
- Universal solutions
- Medical analogy
- Emphasis on fidelity
- No comparable
- Policing as a scientific profession

Causes for concern

- Evidence-based everything
- POP got marginalized by community policing in the 1990s
- EBP & Big Data threaten to marginalize it now
- Why hasn't it won already?



What's your take?



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