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Effects of Applying Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Policing

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Effects of Applying Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Policing

The misbehavior of a few police officers in the field has tarnished the image of law enforcement agencies. These acts of wrongdoing range from prejudiced police encounters, unwarranted searches, and police brutality. Police departments attempt to identify police officers who demonstrate indicators of reoccurring inappropriate behaviors and intervene quickly after such indicators emerge through psychotherapy or refresher course to fight police misconduct.

The purpose of this early diagnosis program is to limit police misbehavior. Police actions, experience, and pre-employment background are all areas of focus that are studied. Officer identification is a crucial problem that has exposed different police departments to litigations. For instance, between 2005 and 2010, New York City spent \$500 million in lawsuits and judgments due to police operations (O'Sullivan, 2020). In addition to that, Chicago spent around \$126 million in claims against the Chicago Police Department between 2000 and 2007 (Robinson, 2020). From these two examples, it is clear that with proper risk assessment and risk management practices, the police will be better positioned to avoid lawsuits that cost them millions due to police misconduct.

Based on the criminal justice department, risk assessment and management is linked to risk reduction. The basic principle of addressing risk is to embrace intensive treatment directed at the offenders. In this perspective, a risk assessment should identify police officers prone to taking unnecessary risks in their duty. These officers are responsible for some of the lawsuits their departments are subjected to when complaints arise. In this regard, Worden and McLean (2016) suggest that risk assessment should identify officers who are likely to engage in misconduct. Risk management proposes retraining or redeployment to non-sensitive areas to avoid the likelihood of misbehavior from happening. Also, risk assessment and management in

law enforcement ensure that police officer do not put public members at risk. Instead, their actions reflect a desired level of professionalism that achieves equal protection and treatment as prescribed by law. Citizens entrust police officers to carry lethal weapons with carefulness, skills, and astuteness.

Risk assessment and management ensure that these officers take responsibility for the desired policies and procedures that constantly apply to their profession. Risk assessment and management helps police officers act right by managing individual risk and organizational risk to avoid unnecessary burdens like lawsuits that can affect the daily functioning of the police departments and erode public confidence in the police.

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