Spokane Police Department

Guide to data from the Computer Aided Dispatch and Law Enforcement Records Management System

Overview:

Spokane Police Department IT staff pulled data from the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Law Enforcement Records Management System (RMS) and supplied it to Police Strategies LLC for a demographics disparities study.

IT staff pulled data first from CAD for all calls for service where an officer made contact with at least one individual listed in the call (a victim, witness, suspect, etc…). Calls that were cancelled (ex: a call for a traffic accident comes in but is a duplicate of an existing call) were not included. Calls for service include citizen calls to 911 and Crime Check and officer-initiated stops (ex: traffic stops or situations where an officer observes and responds to an incident in progress).

Data from CAD was combined with RMS data including data for case/police reports, arrest reports, citations, incidents, and individual demographics.

Incident Number is the primary key to the data. There may be multiple records per incident number, depending on the number of individuals listed in the call for service or police report and the number of charges filed. For example, an incident regarding a burglary and theft where two individuals were arrested for both the burglary and the theft would have four records in the table – a record for Arrestee A for the burglary offense, a record for Arrestee A for the theft offense, a record for Arrestee B for the burglary offense, and a record for Arrestee B for the theft offense. These records can be grouped together by the Incident Number and the Person Number. Person Number is used solely within the CAD and RMS system and is not Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Location data has been generalized in order to protect the privacy of victims. Location data includes the police beat/district (North, South, or Downtown), the City Neighborhood, a business/place name where applicable, a description of how the location was verified against spatial data, the street or intersection where the incident occurred, and the City and ZIP where the incident occurred. Please note: sometimes the reported location is not where the actual incident occurred. For example: a citizen may make a report of an incident while seeking medical treatment at a hospital. The record in the data may show the hospital name as the incident location even though the incident occurred elsewhere.

Field Definitions:

Field Name	Description
CallNumber	The call for service number from Computer Aided Dispatch. This number is recycled on a periodic basis so there are many duplicates.
IncidentNumber	The Incident number from Computer Aided Dispatch. This number is unique to a specific incident.

CallType	The Call Type entered into Computer Aided Dispatch. The Call Type is the initial call type and may not accurately reflect the nature of the call. For example: a call can come in as suspicious circumstances, but upon further investigation be a different type like a theft.
CallTypeDesc	The Call Type description.
CallCreated	The date/time when the call was created in Computer Aided Dispatch. This indicates the time 911 and/or law enforcement was first made aware of the incident. Data is in the Pacific time zone.
CallSource	The call source (typically 911, Crime Check, or an Officer Initiated stop).
OfficerContact	A call for service disposition code that indicates the officer made contact with someone from the call (victim, witness, suspect, etc…).
LocationName	A business or place name associated with the call for service. Note: this may not be where the incident occurred. For example, if a victim calls from a hospital, the incident may have occurred elsewhere, but have been reported from the hospital. Numbers after a business name are present for the purpose of making the name unique in the system. For example, Safeway 1 and Safeway 6 indicate different Safeway stores in the City. The numbers are meaningless outside of that context.
Beat	The Spokane Police Department dispatch region where the incident occurred.
Neighborhood	The City of Spokane neighborhood where the incident occurred.
GeocodingType	The method that the location was validated. The system matches locations to address points, street centerlines, street intersections, or latitude/longitude depending on the location and information in GIS.
StreetORintersection	The street name or intersection where the incident occurred. Note: this information is generalized to street name in order to protect victim privacy.
City	The City where the incident occurred.
ZIP	The ZIP Code where the incident occurred.
CaseReport	An indication of whether or not a Case Report/Police Report was created for the incident.
ArrestReport	An indication of whether or not an Arrest Report was created. An Arrest Report may indicate an arrest and booking into jail, or a cite and release arrest.
CitationType	An indication of whether or not a Citation was created. Citations can be either Criminal Non-Traffic or Criminal Traffic depending on the circumstances. A Citation is considered an arrest and can include booking into jail or cite and release.
InfractionType	An indication of whether or not an Infraction was created. An infraction can be either Traffic or Non-Traffic. An infraction is not considered an arrest.

OffenseSource	If an offense was listed, this field indicates where the offense was listed (in the arrest report, citation or infraction). Offenses listed in case reports are not included because they may not be fully validated at the time of listing in a report. For example, an offense can be listed in a report to Crime Check, but until that offense has been investigated by an officer, it may or may not be founded. Example: someone can call Crime Check and state that they've had a theft, but later find that they misplaced the item, therefore no theft occurred.
CrimeClass	The degree of the offense (Felony, Gross Misdemeanor, Misdemeanor, Infraction, etc…).
IBRCode	The FBI Incident-Based Reporting code associated with the offense.
Statute	The Washington State statute or municipal code that was violated.
StatuteDescription	The description of the Washington State statute or municipal code that was violated.
Counts	The number of times a specific offense was violated.
AttemptCommit	An indication of whether the suspect/arrestee attempt to violate a statute or municipal code or actually violated the statute or municipal code.
PersonNumber	A number associated with an individual within the records management system - individuals included are listed as suspects, arrestees, drivers, or involved persons. Victims, passengers, and witnesses are not included. This number is meaningless outside of that system and does not disclose an individual's identity. The number can be utilized in data analysis to see how many offenses were associated with a given individual. For example, this data set would list a theft and a burglary offense charged to a single individual as two separate records. If the Incident number and Person number are the same, then the records can be combined as a single incident.
PersonSex	The individual's sex (Male, Female, or Unknown). Gender identity is not represented here as the police department is required to submit binary sex to the FBI for Incident-Based Reporting statistics.
PersonRace	The individual's race (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, White, or Unknown). These races come from reporting requirements of the FBI Incident-Based Reporting system.
PersonEthnicity	The individual's ethnicity (Hispanic or Non-Hispanic).
AgeAtTimeOfCall	The individual's age at the time of the incident.
PersonCity	The individual's reported home City.
PersonZIP	The individual's reported home ZIP code.