Jillian Interview

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camera because I'm in between meetings at my other job. Oh, yeah, I don't know. So if you need me on camera, I'll go be stationary at my computer desk. But if you don't need me on camera, then I can stay on this way. Oh, no, he's totally fine. Yeah. Okay. Yeah. So thank you so much for having this opportunity to like, like, discuss this issue with us. So, I will start with the question that we know that in 1989, the libraries was like implemented. But FBI made this transition to the numbers only data system like two years ago, and retire the summer reporting system. So like, what, what is the reason behind that behind this transition?

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Well, he wants to know why they actually made the transition, it's because the original UCR was only tracking eight crimes. So and we relied on a hierarchy system. So in some states, if you arrest someone for felony weapons possession, and you also arrest someone for drugs, the drugs are much higher charge, but that wouldn't be tracked under the old UCR system, because we only had the index crimes. So now our new and IVRS system, it tracks I believe, 52 Total offensive list. So it's a much more elaborate system instead of just relying on the old beat index crimes.

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And again, thinking about it from 1989, to when they finally tried to start implementing this in 2021. That's 18,000 law enforcement agencies that you're trying to get to now update their own internal crime, statistical software, to be able to compile data to them report, every agency works on a different crime data collection system. So I worked for New York City Police Department, that the agency I came from, we probably compared to smaller rural agencies had a much more modernized online booking sheet tracking system where we're computer coding our crimes. But imagine, you know, an agency in the middle of Wyoming that has 10 officers total doesn't see a lot of crime, they're probably not going to have a sophisticated a software for data collection or for analysis. - (quote about difficulties)

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Yeah, so as you mentioned, the like, with the transition to the new system, we are like taking a look into more categories of like crime incidents. So is this also a challenges for agencies to deal with? They need to look into like more data compared to the previous data collection, which may they like, difficult to deliver that collect that data and deliver it to the FBI?

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And I'm a little confused by the question. So are we saying because there's now so many different codes, you know, crimes in which they're coding for? Why is it difficult for them to report that? Yeah, as your talk earlier, to Alexa and your alert to deal with saying, you mentioned that one of the major challenges reflected in the change of analyzing more crime index. So it is a challenges for other agencies to face as well to like, analyze more crime data compared to the earlier

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systems, because, yeah, they're tracking a lot more now. So like I said, they used to rely on the hierarchical structure, so only the highest reporting charge, you can arrest someone for multiple charges. And under the old system was very simple. Whatever the top charge of that arrest was, that was then reported to the FBI. But now because we are tracking so many offenses, and you could have five offenses, but in one criminal incident, that's really hard for police departments to be able to manage because So say, for example, you have an incident in which someone attempted to murder someone else. Someone also robbed the person, someone had a weapon. And then there was a misdemeanor assault, you have now four crimes there, three of which are felonies, one of which is a misdemeanor, they have to understand which offense is part of the 52. Offense tracking and IVRS is looking at and then you have to figure out okay, this was all in one incident. Yes, there's several charges within which one is the one I'm supposed to be reporting to the FBI, because most of the agencies that have been able to transition in the last year, they received very minimal training. I mean, I am very good friends with the one of the main training sergeants for the New York City Police Department, so she was actually

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You know, working with the officers, NYPD did start using the new NIV ers system. But they didn't have it up to where they needed to be to be able to report last year. So although they made the transition in 2021, they weren't able to report in 2022, because they just didn't have enough compiled data. And again, it's because the FBI is helping in terms of funding them, getting them to where they need to be, technologically speaking, to be able to track and you know, compile this data, but they're not training them on what needs to be tracked, why it needs to be tracked, how it's to be compiled, and then ultimately, how it's to be reported. So there's a gap essentially, in, I don't feel like agencies are not willing to comply, and start using this new NID ers system. I feel like there's inefficiencies. And there's a significant lack of training because, you know, most agencies have a designated person who's in charge of their crime analysis. So that would be it could be an officer or it could be a civilian employee. Their sole responsibility is to track and code statistical data for the public, you know, release. And you know, we do it NYPD does it with their ComStat 2.0. They're able to publish every single week, you know, those certain types of crimes, but the NIV IRS is now seeking 52 different crimes. And then we also have instances where there's different categorizations under ni BRS, like hate crimes, what makes it a hate crime in one jurisdiction might not make it a hate crime in another jurisdiction. So because state laws vary so much, I think it's going to take several more years for us to have like a really reliable and IVRS.

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I see. So hi, Julian, just to jump in and just add a follow up question. So is there any communication between the New York City Police Department and the FBI about the lack of training, or support that the FBI has provided to this agencies? Or is FBI aware of this lack of training at the state level? I couldn't speak to if they talk to them regularly, but I do know that the FBI has provided or I should say the federal government, through the FBI has given millions of dollars to police agencies all across the country, to help enable them to be more effective in starting the collection of an IRS specific data. I don't know the level of training, though, that the FBI has been giving to local law enforcement agencies, I could imagine that it's not, you know, it's hard because training an agency like the New York City Police Department, or even comparing them to Philadelphia or Los Angeles or Chicago, right. Those are agencies that are dealing with ongoing complaint, criminal complaint reports, ongoing arrests, and then you have other smaller agencies that are probably not dealing with the sheer volume of criminal complaints. So I don't even know if the FBI in itself has a standardized training program on how to get agencies to be, you know, just more knowledgeable of how they're supposed to be navigating this new system.

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Okay, I see. Thank you.

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Yeah, so, um, as we know, in 2021, about 60% of like, nationwide, law enforcement agencies participated in reporting the data. Do you have an idea about how might like, this year's data might look like?

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Um, I actually do not have an full so 60% I think it was more like 62, I wrote a blog post on it for my other job, I could send that to you when we're done with this call. Because I subsequently was on you know, the news talking about the the ultimate failures of last year's FBI crime reporting, because if you're only getting 60% compliance throughout the country, you really can't make broad stroke policy recommendations when you're missing about 40% of the data. And then to boot. You have major agencies like the New York City Police Department, amongst others who failed to report. So that's that's huge number of gaps right there.

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I think that more agencies were starting to get on board toward the latter part of 2021, which of course meant that they had incomplete 2021 reports, and hence why they didn't publish those or report those entirely in 2022. I know that towards quarter three and quarter four of 2022. We were starting to see more compliance

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is no more reporting. The FBI does put out I'm sure you're familiar with this, but they generally put a quarterly report out

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with, you know, like compliance rates and reporting rates. And you did see from the beginning of 2022, to the end of 2022, there was an increase in the number of agencies reporting. So I do think that we will most likely see an increase over the 60 or 62%, from last year's numbers, but I don't think we're going to get to that, you know, ideal 100%, at least in the next two to three years.

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Yeah, I see. So as you mentioned, like, people are still like getting used to transition into this, like new system.

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And the entire picture of this industrial landscape is still like incomplete at this stage. But like people need to like cite those data for for use, like journalists, and other politicians need to kind of like use this data to do things. So do you think there might be a concern for people to use this kind of like incomplete and accuracy data to, to work on things like maybe go public?

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No, I mean, as you know, I'm a professor at John Jay College. So I often in my work at the college, and my other work that I do in DC, is I'm a policy director of criminal justice for a think tank in Washington, DC, I work primarily, I try and implement or give suggestions or policy recommendations, based off the data that we have, you look at the data, you analyze it, you try and come up with a solution. So if you have incomplete data, it's really hard to be able to come up with a plausible and practical solution, because you're working with, like I said, incomplete information. So I did say, in a couple of interviews last year, you know, and again, if I'm looking at it there, like a more politic policy and politicking arena, instead of just a research and evidence based arena, our legislators in this country, even our law enforcement officials, they will make their strategies and their tactical plans to you know, reduce crime in their jurisdiction, one would hope that they're making it based off a crime statistics that they have. But if they're not collecting data, or they're not getting it accurately, then they could be making mistakes in the ways in which they're trying to implement new programs. So, you know, I would never make a suggestion that we should look at a national report, say hypothetically, the NIV RS was fully functional, we had 100% compliance, right, we can then draw logical conclusions on the trajectory of either crime increases or reductions. But we could not say that a small, little rural jurisdiction in the middle of nowhere who might have completely different statistics than the national average, we can't make blanket policies for the entire nation based on the FBIs report ever, because crime is a local issue. And jurisdictions vary in terms of their needs, in terms of their demographics, in terms of their economic levels. And then, obviously, the constituency of that jurisdiction might have just complete different needs, you could have one area that seeing an increase in drug crime, with a decrease in property and violent crime. You can see, you know, it just really depends on where you're looking. But I would say as it stands now, I don't feel comfortable me personally, using last year's FBIs report to make any conclusions.

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Do you think you could be confident this year about this year's data using this for politics policy advising, I would probably hope to get to at least an 80% compliance before I was going to use it. And again, looking at the agencies that failed to report last year being a couple I think LAPD failed to report on top of NYPD, those are two of your eight largest agencies in the country to areas that, you know, as we know, and as the media reports have, for the last two years at least have seen significant increases in crime. If big agencies like that are incapable of reporting, I would still do it. But of course do it with the carve out like this, of course has limitations in the way in which I'm using it because we only have however much compliance but I like 80% to me is kind of where I feel a little more comfortable.

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Yeah, so for the ad person, actually, we talked to a data analyst earlier this week who specialized in evaluating criminal justice data. And he also mentioned that 80% in tax, and he said the data released in 2025 will be probably close to the 80% transition rate. And by the end of the decade, we will have

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They hope to back to the same pace at where we were with the UCR and the previous SRS system. So what do you think about this?

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expectation? Is there a fair gas?

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I think that that is a fair expectation. When you look at it, they started using canned IVRS. In 2021, they started rolling it out towards the end of 2020. And some agencies, and then in 2021, is when they were hopeful that all agencies would be using it. Of course, we know that they weren't. But many of them were striving to implement this transition. So if after one full year, we assumed, you know, we're hoping to get this up and running, and they did have a 60% compliance within that year's time, I think it's completely plausible to assume we have at least 80% compliance by 2025, I'm hoping for higher, because I'm going to estimate that we'll probably be at a closer to 70% by the end of this year, because with the amount of media coverage that we saw in the fall of 2022, you know, a lot of people were pointing the finger at law enforcement for their failure to report. So I think that reflecting really poorly on chiefs of police and sheriffs, who did not participate in the reporting. And I think that that maybe inspired them to get this transition going a little faster.

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Great, thank you.

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Do we have other questions? Yes. Just one last question. Because we are closely looking at the data in New York state. So I'm wondering what's your thoughts on different participation rates across these agencies, their impact on different demographics in New York state, as we know, most, like racial minorities are worthy in the coverage of NYPD and

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those agencies who reported their crime data are probably from other rural area and upstate New York. So what's your thoughts on this?

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All right. Well, I think one of the biggest issues, of course, was NYPD is failure to report this, as we know, it is the most populous city, we make up a large majority of I mean, I live a little north of the city now. But I grew up down there. And when you think of New York, that's what you think of the diversity. You know, they're just different demographics. And we don't see as much diversity, the further north you go, except in major cities, like buffalo, or in Rochester. But then you look across other parts of the state, and you're demographically very white. So if those agencies are reporting, that that's very disparate in the way it's being reported, because those are probably your lower to middle class white suburban areas, who don't see as much crime as other metropolitan parts of the state like buffalo like Rochester, like Syracuse, like New York City. So I'm looking right now, because I had pulled some information.

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I think it said that

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the data that was reported collectively, for the country was own and this is like the whole country. So of the agencies that reported, it was only a reflection of that 66% of the population. That was last year's 2021 report that was published in 2022. So if you have what's the I think the population of the state of New York, doesn't it make up about 1/3 of the total state? Roughly?

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I think that New York City is representative of about 1/3 of the total population of the state, if I recall looking at numbers, so if you're missing 33.3%, right, right off the bat, because that one agency did not report. And then on top of that, I don't think we had very high compliance in the state of New York. Overall, I don't think it is at all reflective of the crimes that are concentrated in more urban areas, the crimes that are populated mostly by black and brown individuals. As you know, we saw an increase in New York City specifically last year and the year prior with hate crimes. None of that stuff was reported. And that is the crux of the NI BRS. It is the goal of Ni DRS was to be able to understand the characteristics of crime. The previous UCR just looked at the numbers. It didn't look at any variables to the crime, it didn't look at victims, it didn't look at times, it didn't look at any of that information. So and IVRS his real goal is to give us a better sense of some of the contributing characteristics to crime and help us address it more swiftly. So if you have a state like New York, that is missing over 30% of the populations, crimes or you know complaint reports simply because one agency was incapable of reporting, you know, you're obviously not getting a good understanding of what's going on in that state.

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Okay,

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Thank you. One last question. I'm sorry. So like when we were doing our research, at the very first beginning of the semester, we found like, the FBI did not disclose very much details about their techniques in estimating the crime data. So I don't know how much do you know about their methodology and techniques? And what do you think of them? I personally have tried to, I don't know, if you look at the FBIs website, it is so hard the way that they broke it down and changed a few years ago with those new Microsoft spreadsheets and stuff, I think that they have made it so much harder to navigate that website than it used to be, I don't really think that they give us a good enough explanation of the methodology in which they're using,

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to, for me to be able to look at it. That's why I would never use the FBI data ever, as my sole source of quantitative information I would look for, I prefer to look more at individual agency reporting is depending on what kind of research I'm going to do, because again, I don't really understand the methodology that they're using. I understand why they're trying to get more characteristics of crime, that makes total sense. But they are not as forthcoming in terms of how they collect how they analyze it, and you know, the methodology within which they're using when they put out that quarterly report. So I think there's a lot lacking there in terms of FBI transparency.

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That's just my take on it. Because I know, when I worked for NYPD, we had a dedicated department who was responsible for compiling the information for ComStat ComStat. Two point out. And I mean, although we didn't necessarily report everything to the public, you know, we did have disclaimers in there, like the UCR used to have, you know, like rate, they had the disclaimer for rate, what's UCR rate versus not, I just don't feel like it is at the point where a regular layperson, not a researcher, researchers are a little better at digging through the information. But I don't think a regular person, especially an undergraduate student, trying to use this as a data source and understand the way in which this data was compiled and analyzed, I don't think they have a good understanding of the methodology that the FBI is using.

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Thank you. Thanks for the question as well, sorry.

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Is there any chance for us to get the specific crime status of the agencies from your website? Because I've searched for them online, but didn't find the report? What report? Like, how many months? Did they report crimes? And what is this specific, like, index todos in like 2021? Or things like that? I didn't find any data's on their website. Hold on. Oh, are you looking for the fer all that I can? Let me pull it up?

23:02

Not for the whole county or stages for some specific agencies?

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Oh, I don't you mean for through the FBI website or through other agencies websites and through the agency's website. So what I usually do if I'm going to look at individual agencies, you could pull up LAPD right now you could pull up Boston PD, and you can look at their ComStat numbers and look up their own independent agencies criminal data. And that's usually how I do my research, because they update those weekly. If you're looking at an independent agency, there's no state level reporting that's available online. Like we couldn't go and be like crime statistics of New York State, we'd never find that. So if I'm going to do something in New York, I usually pick, you know, a couple of the largest agencies and then make the attempt to sift through what they put on their website, and then use that information.

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Okay, I see. Thank you.

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Yeah, um, yeah, I think it's all the questions we have for today. Thank you so much for talking with us today and share your insights that really helped for and I may go to go back to you by email to fact check some details if we need in like future

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discussion. But thank you so much for today's talk. And Abraham and I'll send you I'll actually email you

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what I have what I wrote a couple of months back, just so you can have some of like, if you need like a direct quote you to pull from there. And if you do have any follow up questions, please make sure to email. Yeah, sure. Thank you so much. Thank you. Have a great day. Thanks.