https://www.wired.com/story/los-angeles-police-department-predictive-policing/

**How the LAPD Uses Data to Predict Crime**

This article is a media investigation about the use by the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) of an algorithm supposed to be capable of predictive policing.

The operation Laser, which began in 2011, is trying to predict where crime will happen, and who those future criminals will be, based on information about past offenders over a two-year period, using a technology developed by the data analysis firm Palantir.

The algorithm is based on a point system, each individual accumulating points according to crim record such as gang membership, recent release from prison ... Every day, the algorithm calculates and identifies a certain number of the most "at risk" individuals.

The LAPD is also using a piece of software called PredPol to predict property crimes. It looks at the types of crimes that were committed in a given area, the time, and the location, and determines whether and when another crime is likely to occur there.

The city and the police says this so-called “predictive policing” approach can help the department efficiently target resources and help reduce crime. But civil rights advocates worry that the technology is biased because the data is based on police records already accused of specifically targeting minorities and in particular the Hispanic and African-American communities.