

The Abuse of AI in Law Enforcement: A Case Study on PredPol

Predictive Policing
and Its Implications

Industry: Law Enforcement

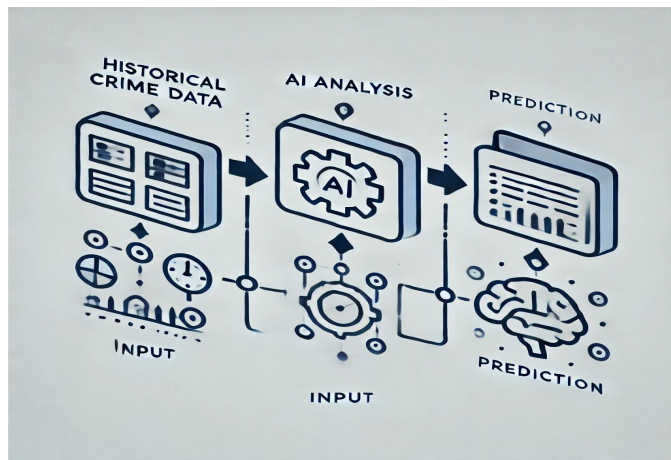
Technology: Predictive Policing Algorithm (PredPol)

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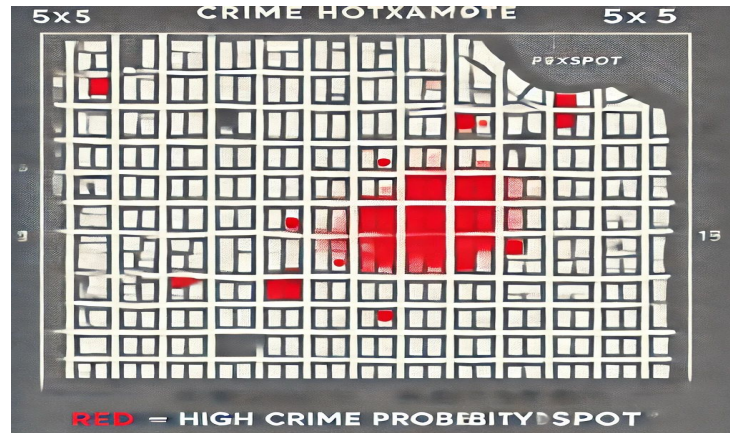
Overview of Predictive Policing

- AI-driven technology to predict and prevent crime.
- Analyzes historical crime data (locations, times, types).
- Goal: Allocate police resources efficiently to prevent crime.



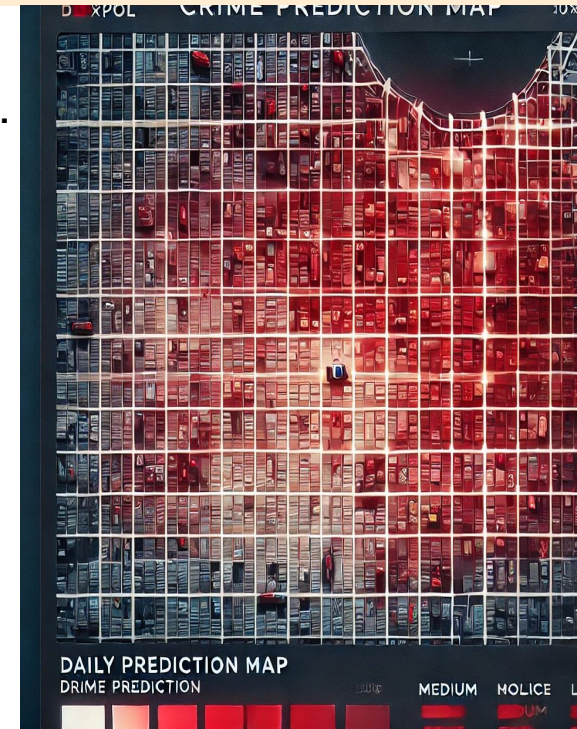
PredPol: The Predictive Policing Tool

- Developed by PredPol Inc.
- Uses machine learning to identify crime hotspots.
- Implemented in cities like Los Angeles, Atlanta, Richmond, CA.
- Marketed as efficient, data-driven crime prevention.



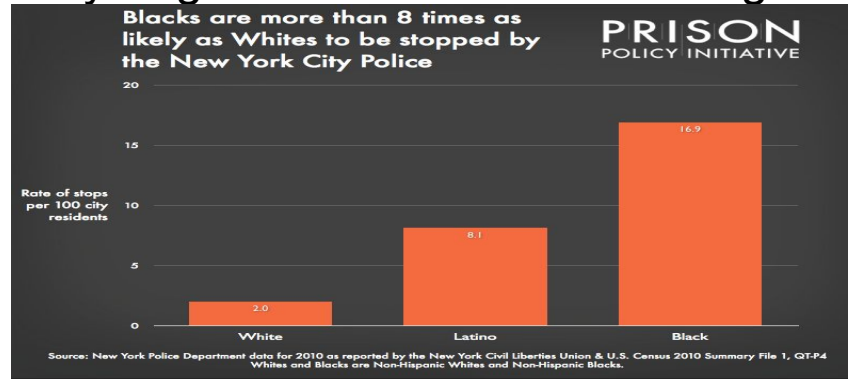
Implementation of PredPol

- Analyzed historical crime data from police reports.
- Generated daily maps of predicted crime hotspots.
- Focused on property and violent crimes.
- Assumption: Crime follows predictable patterns.



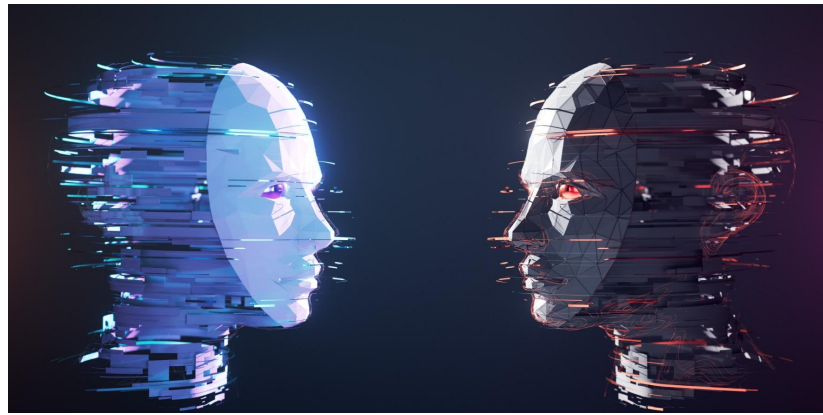
Challenges – Reinforcement of Racial Bias

- Used biased historical data (over-policed minority areas).
- Created a feedback loop: more policing → more arrests → more predictions.
- Disproportionately targeted Black and Latino neighborhoods.



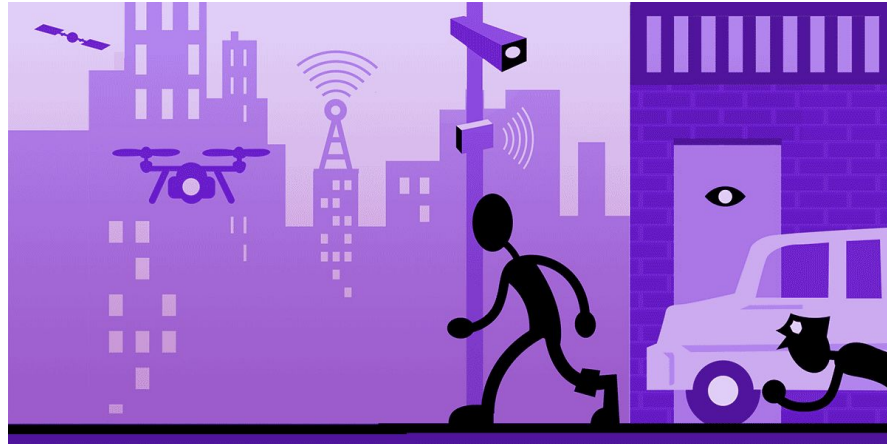
Lack of Transparency

- “Black box” system: Algorithm not fully explained.
- No public or expert scrutiny of predictions.
- Difficult to evaluate fairness or biases.



Over-Policing and Privacy Concerns

- Increased police presence in flagged areas.
- Led to more stop-and-frisks and surveillance.
- Raised civil liberties issues (e.g., privacy erosion).



Ineffective Crime Prevention

- Limited evidence of crime reduction.
- Predictions often no better than random chance.
- Resources wasted on low-crime areas.



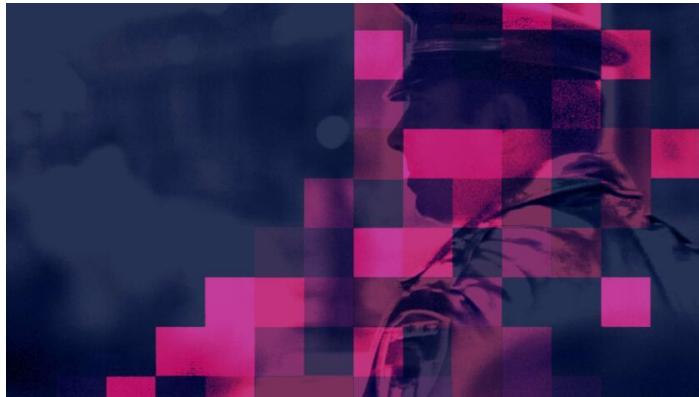
Legal and Ethical Issues

- Potential Fourth Amendment violations (unreasonable searches).
- Undermines due process and fairness.
- Ethical concerns: fairness, privacy, human rights.



The Fall of PredPol

- 2020: PredPol ceased sales, rebranded as Geolitica.
- Civil rights groups (e.g., ACLU) opposed predictive policing.
- Highlighted dangers of biased AI in policing.



Lessons Learned



- AI can perpetuate biases if trained on flawed data.
- Transparency and oversight are critical for ethical AI use.
- Human judgment must guide AI in high-stakes fields.
- Conclusion: PredPol shows the risks of unchecked AI in law enforcement.

