



## “Does Police De-escalation Training Work? Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial with the Louisville Metro Police Department”



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Friday, September 24  
Noon EDT  
406 Oswald Tower  
and Zoom



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Changes to police use of force policies and training to incorporate de-escalation tactics are among the most routinely noted police reform measures. Despite widespread promotion of police de-escalation training, however, no research has empirically demonstrated that these trainings reduce police use of force. We collaborated with the Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) in 2019 to evaluate the impact of the Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) de-escalation training developed by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). Implementing a research design used in other disciplines, our stepped-wedge randomized controlled trial (RCT) study panel regression results demonstrated statistically significant reductions in use of force incidents (-28.1 percent), citizen injuries (26.3 percent), and officer injuries (-36.0 percent) in the post-training period. These significant reductions occurred beyond any changes in LMPD arrest patterns during the same period. Our findings suggest that continuing to implement and evaluate innovative police trainings is our best opportunity for meaningful changes in policing and to make police-citizen encounters safer for all.

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