

Public Abstract

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Title:THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY POLICING  
IN THE CONTEXT OF BASIC POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING

**Purpose.** The purpose of this study was to forecast the likely and desirable conditions associated with community policing training during basic police academy training by seeking consensus among experts regarding selected conditions associated with community policing concepts and practices.

**Procedures.** The process utilized the Delphi method of inquiry. Experts in community policing and police training were selected to serve one of two panels. The external panel, which included national policy makers, police executives, university professors, and police academy directors, was tasked with developing a survey instrument. The internal panel, which included police managers, supervisors, and trainers, as well as state regulatory board members, academy instructors, and community policing officers, were asked to respond to the statements of the survey designed by the external panel. Panelists in both processes were asked to rate and comment on the content and format of the survey as well as the conditions rated in the survey. This was done in successive rounds during which the panelists were made aware of the previous round's results to inform their rankings and commentary. The rounds were completed when the researcher observed consensus emerging.

**Findings.** Panelists' responses revealed significant levels of consensus on what practices are desirable for community policing training and indoctrination to occur, yet were also ambiguous or in convergence of opinion that there will be no change from the status quo in the adoption of accepted modes for basic police training to be the training ground for community policing skills for the future.