INTRODUCTION TO TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS

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TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS

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TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS

❖ Overview of Tactical Crime Analysis

❖ Terms, Concepts, and Theories

❖ Tactical Analysis Process

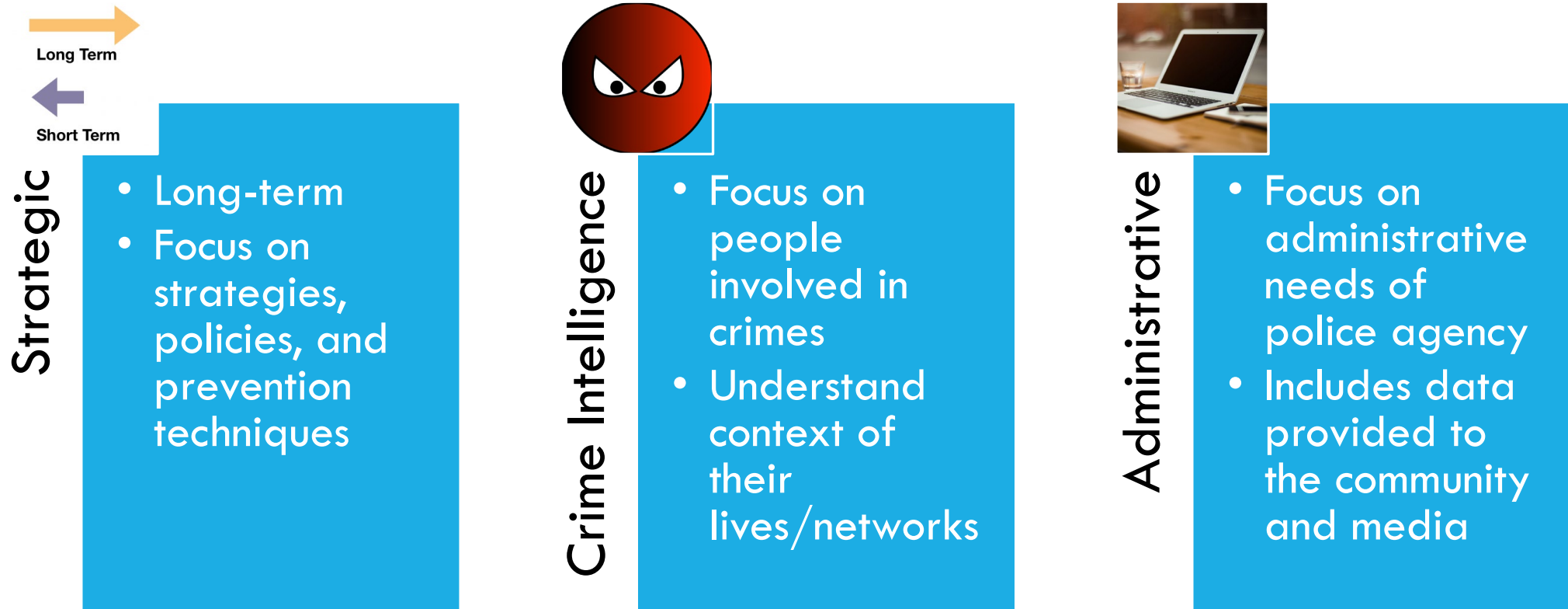❖ Tactical Analysis within Agencies

❖ About the Series

OVERVIEW OF TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS

- One of four types of crime analysis recognized by IACA

- Analysis of police data directed toward **_short term_** development of patrol and investigative priorities and deployment of resources

- Includes individual high-profile crimes, repeat incidents, and crime patterns, with specific **_focus on crime series_**

OVERVIEW OF TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS

- Action-oriented process for an immediate need

- Conducted frequently, what you can do today

- Patrol and Investigations Division focused (as opposed command/public/media)

- Focus on pattern of crime

- Important to have foundation of knowledge about policing, agency, typical crime patterns, seasonal activity, locale information, etc.

- Must read crime/traffic reports daily to stay informed

- SHOULD take up the majority of the analyst's time (may or may not depending on the agency)

TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS VS. OTHER TYPES OF ANALYSIS

Long Term

Short Term

Strategic
- Long-term
- Focus on strategies, policies, and prevention techniques

Crime Intelligence
- Focus on people involved in crimes
- Understand context of their lives/networks

Administrative
- Focus on administrative needs of police agency
- Includes data provided to the community and media

RELEVANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Tactical Crime Analysis Introduction

KEY TERMS

- Pattern of activity: distinct and unusual groups of activity that must be stopped if crime is to be kept under control*

- Crime Series: typically short-term crime problems (a few weeks to several months) that require rapid intervention to catch the offenders or disrupt the series

- Hot spot: small geographic concentrations of crime

- Analysis: a cycle of questions and answers that result in actionable information

- Modus Operandi: method used by the offender to successfully commit the offense

- Signature: behaviors that reflect the emotional or psychological needs that the crime satisfies for the offender – "what did he do that he didn't have to"

- Linkage Analysis: comparative case analysis – process of linking crimes committed by an offender to a crime series. First step in crime analysis process and arguably takes the largest amount of time.

PATTERN OF ACTIVITY

Two or more crimes that:

1) Share at least one commonality in type of crime, offender/victim behavior, or offender/victim/property/location characteristics

2) No known relationship between victim and offender

3) Shared commonality make crimes distinct from other crimes during the same timeframe

4) Limited in duration (weeks/months)

5) Crime set is treated as one unit

OTHER TERMS YOU'LL SEE IN THIS COURSE

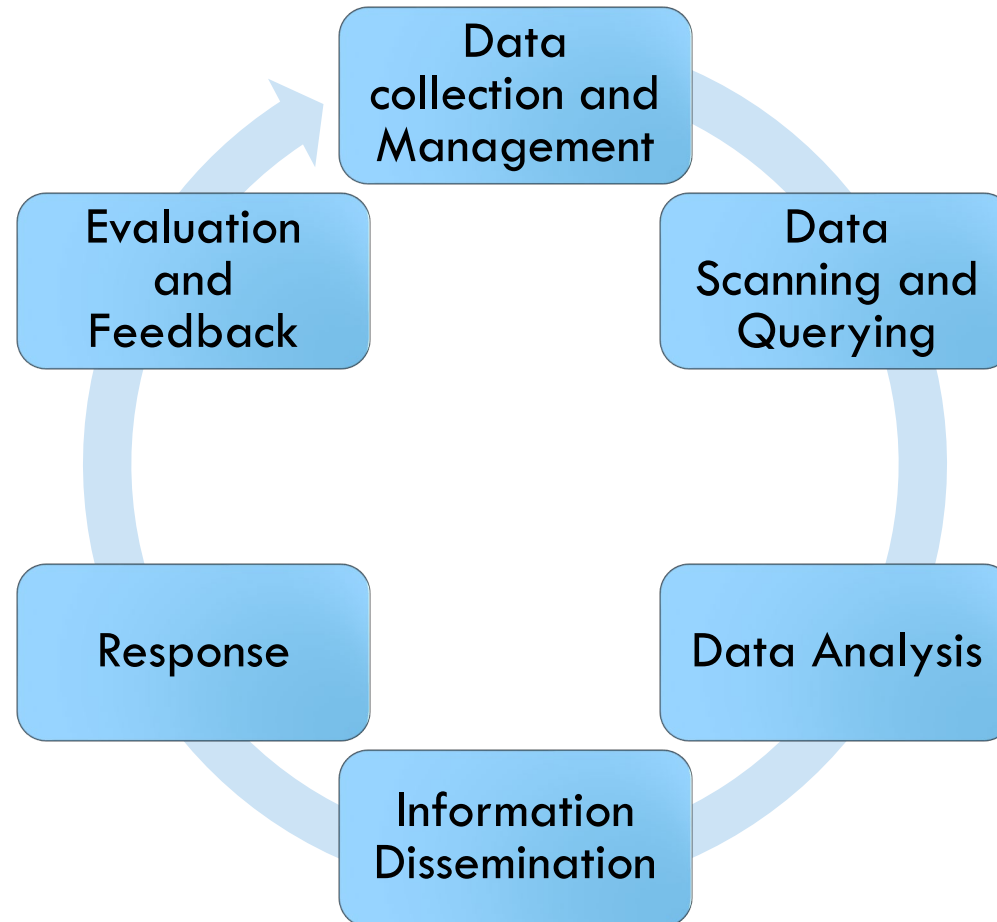| Pattern Analysis	Forecasting	Temporal Analysis
Spatial Analysis	Criminal Behavior	Tactical Profiling

CRIME ANALYSIS PROCESS
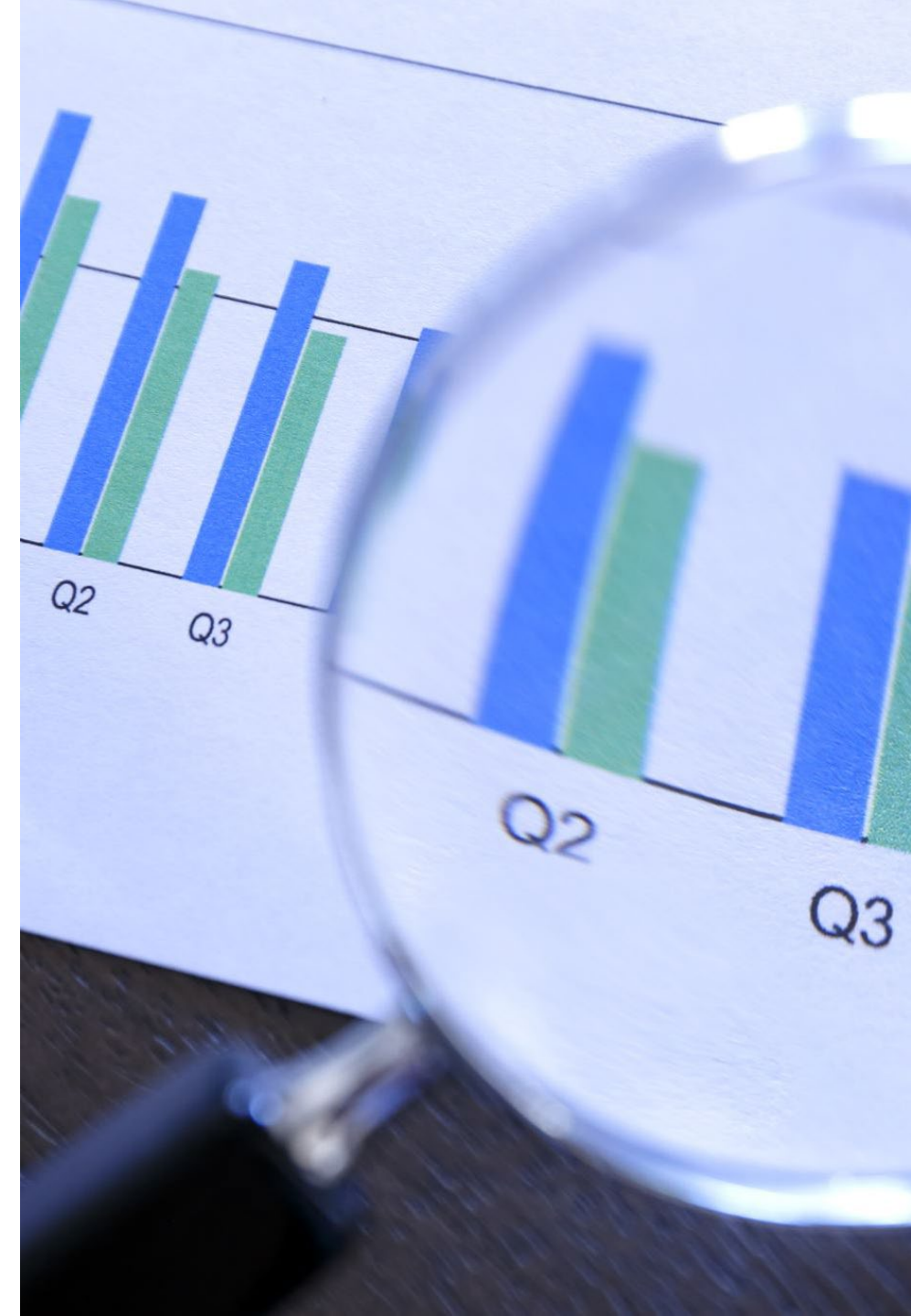
Tactical Crime Analysis Introduction

TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS PROCESS

Process starts with background knowledge that analysts must have. Knowledge includes knowledge about crime and criminal behavior, policing and police strategy, about your jurisdiction, and about your police agency.

Data collection and Management

Data Scanning and Querying

Data Analysis

Information Dissemination

Response

Evaluation and Feedback

DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

- Data about incidents that occur within the analyst's jurisdiction (primary data source)
  - Crime reports, arrest reports, CFS, traffic crashes

- Data from other agencies

- Data about the jurisdiction
  - Demographic statistics, businesses, new construction, economic indicators, etc.

- Intelligence about persons and businesses
  - Criminal histories, phone records, social media

- Data on police activity

- GIS Data

- CAD and RMS databases along with outside sources

TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS PROCESS
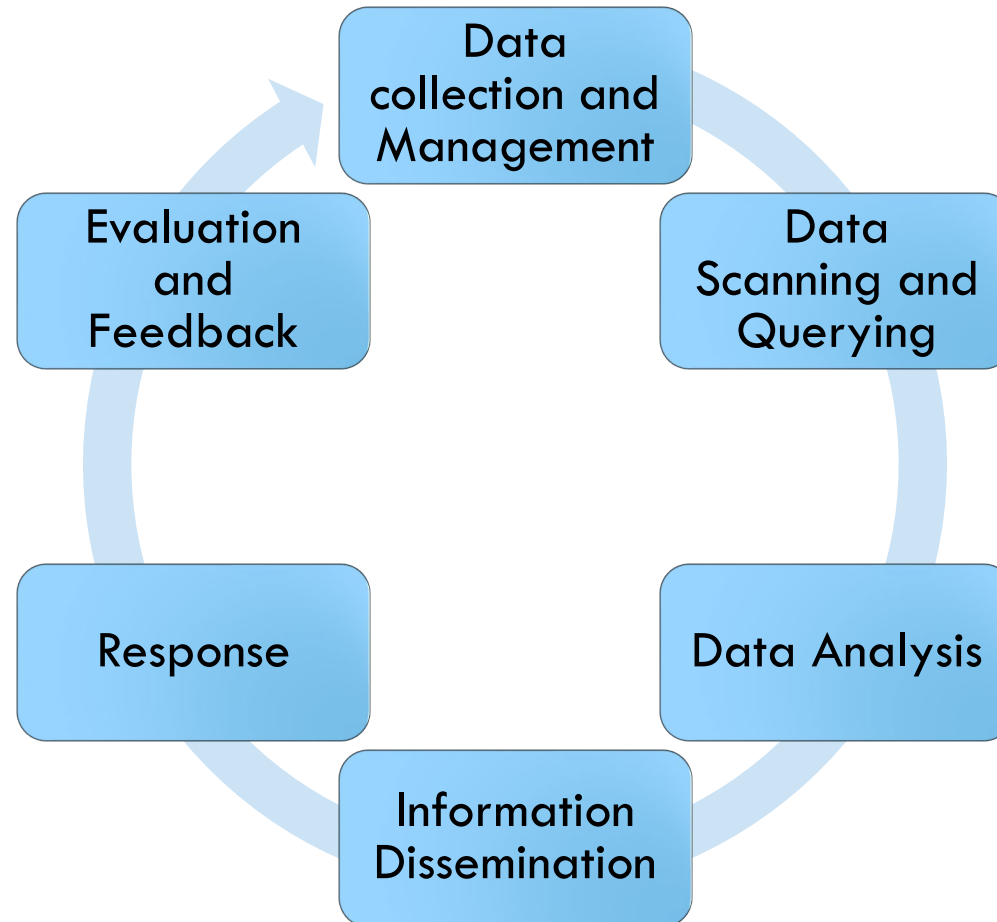
DATA SCANNING AND QUERYING

- Daily process of reading crime and traffic reports in an effort to identify emerging patterns.

- Compare new crimes to old crimes

- Look for unusual volume in a geographic area or during a particular timeframe

- Identify and prioritize top offenders and associations between individuals

- Use both qualitative and quantitative sources

- Use databases at the analysts' disposal
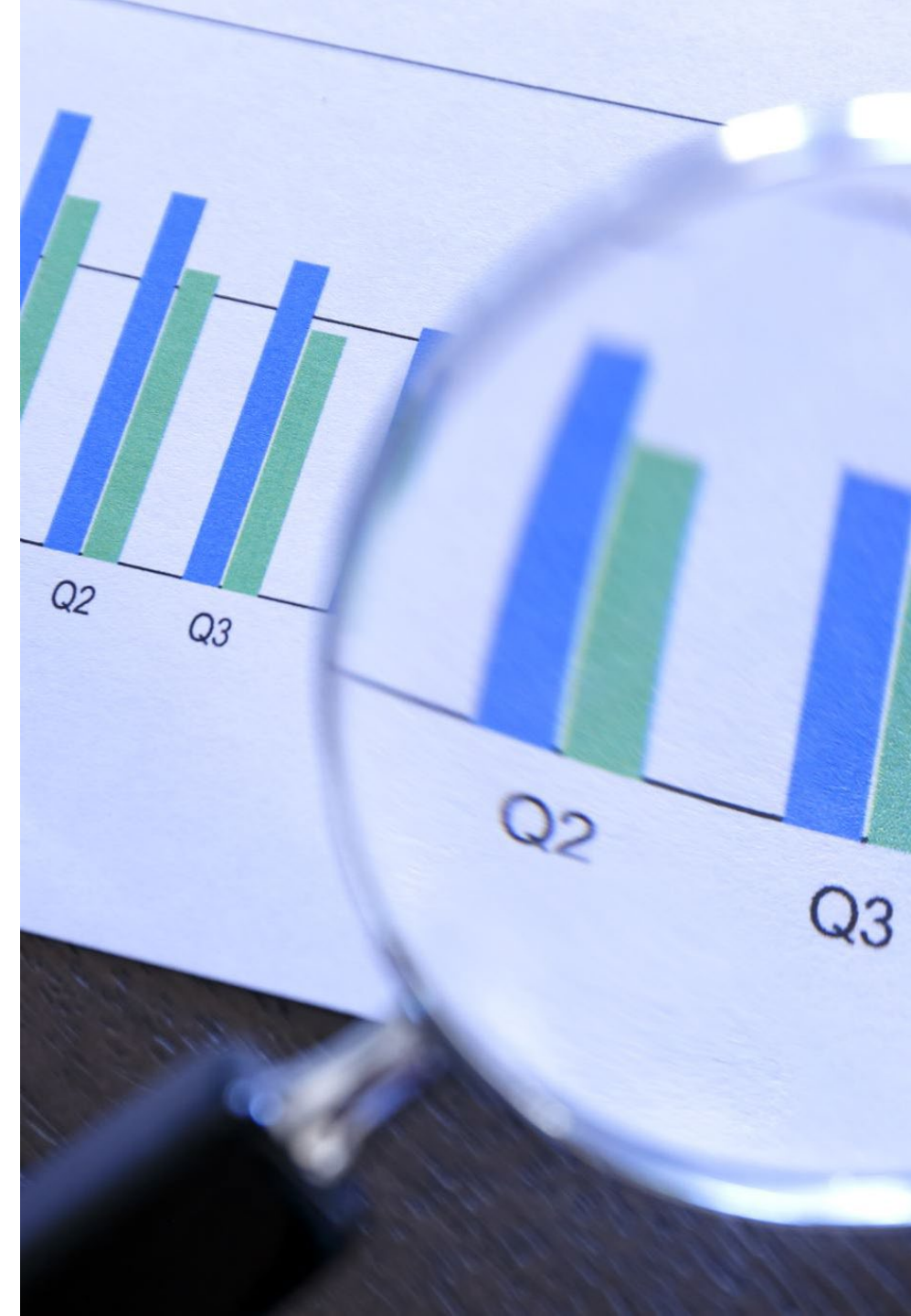
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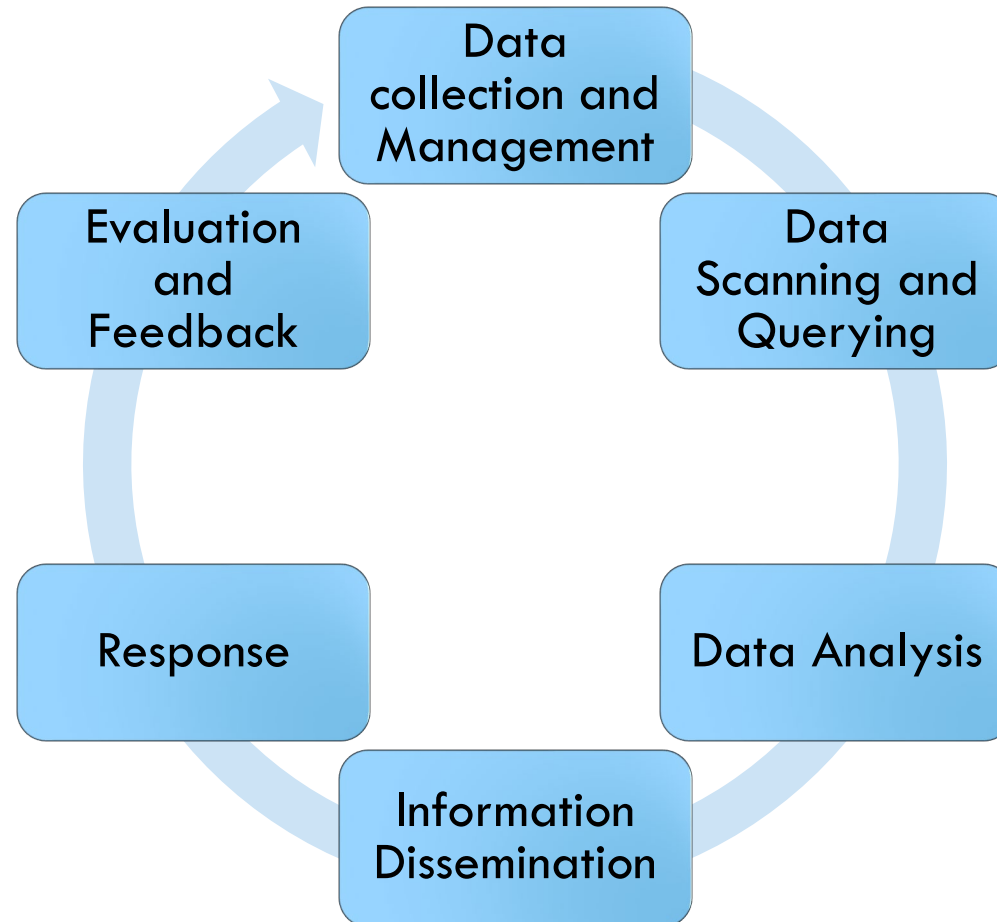
DATA ANALYSIS

- Use qualitative and quantitative techniques

- Quantitative = interpretation of structured data, including filtering, categorization, aggregation, and comparison of data sets

- Qualitative = unstructured data, including police officer narratives, victim/witness statements, photographs, environmental observations

- Results of the analysis may generate further questions to start the analytical process again.
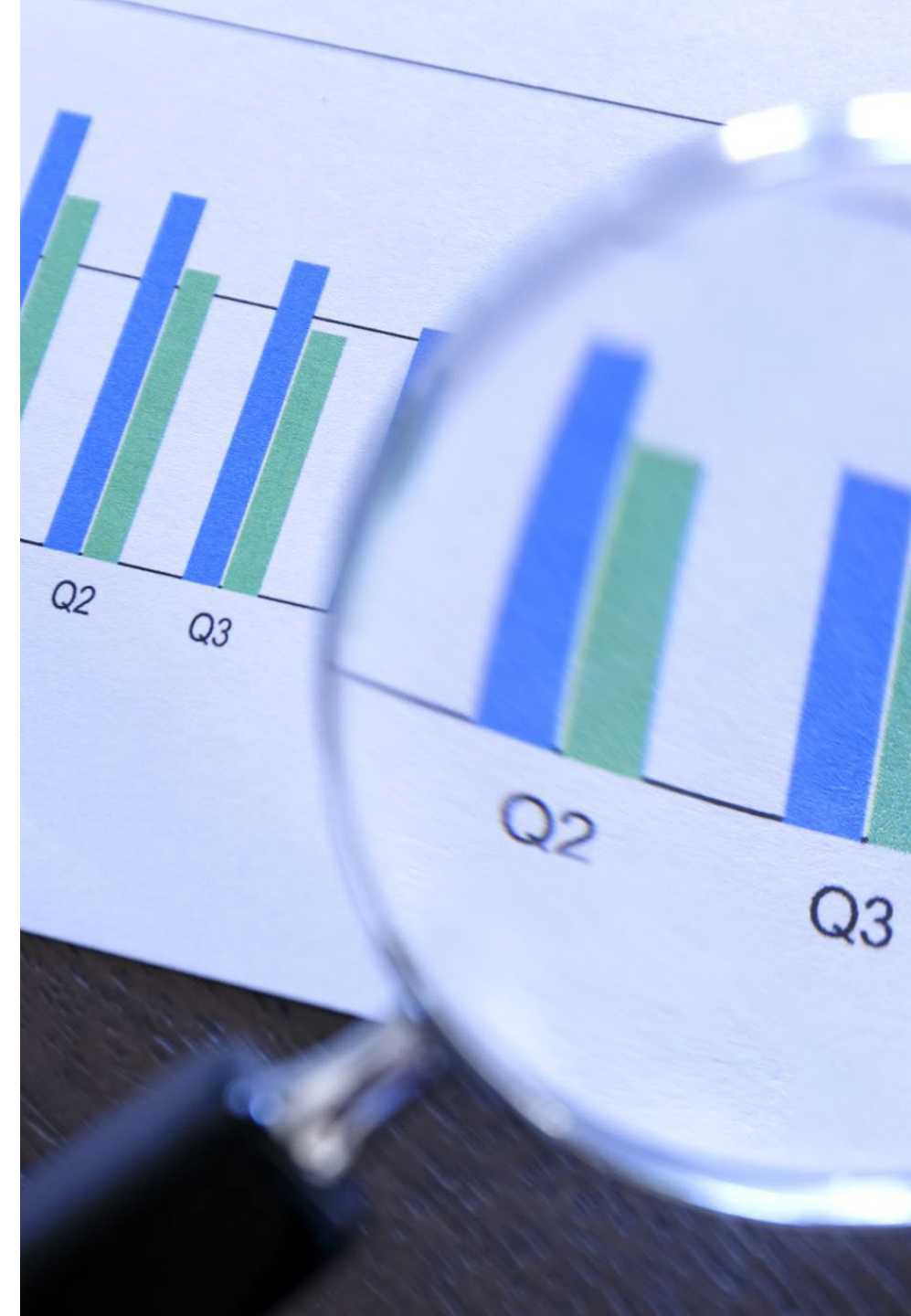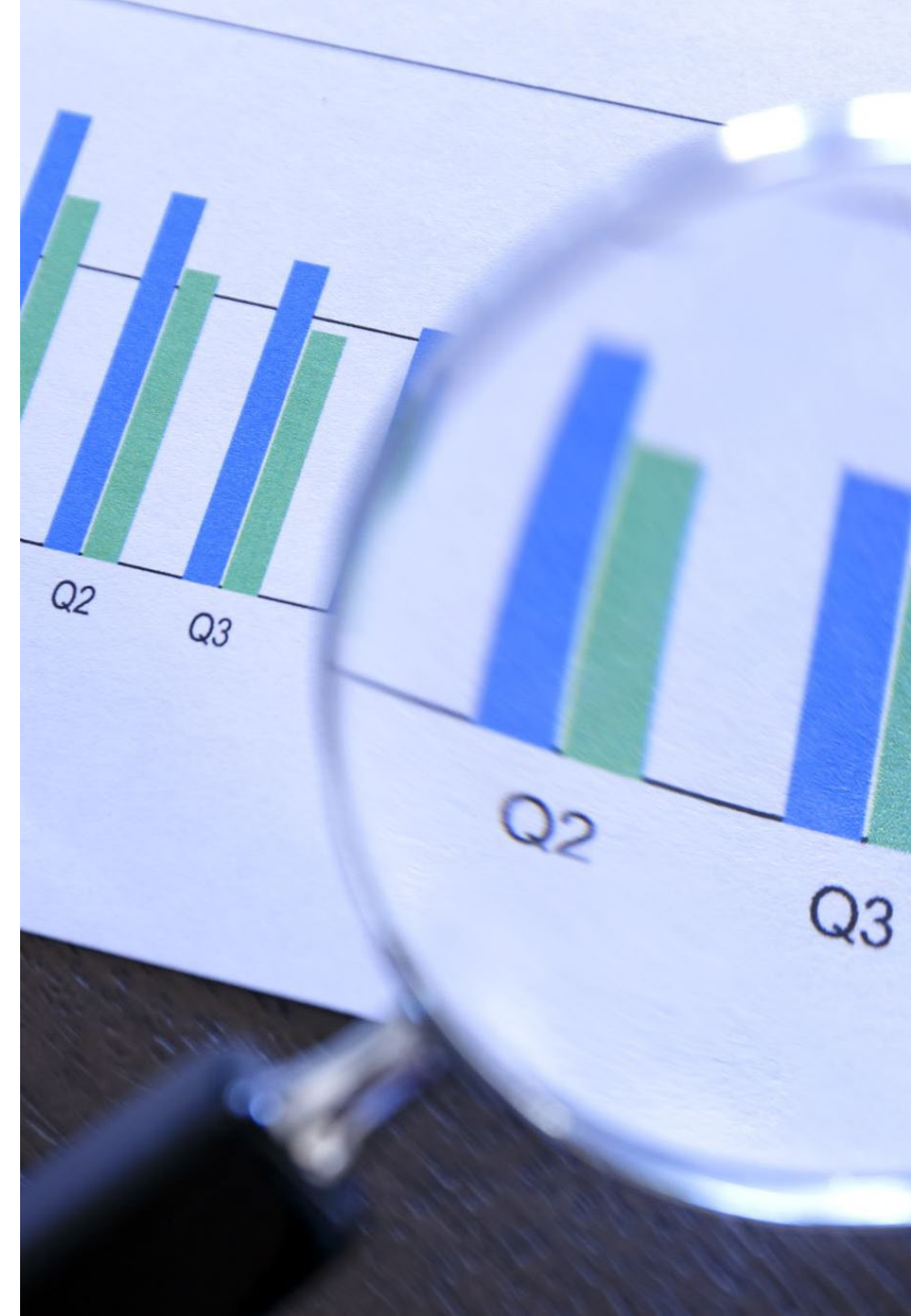
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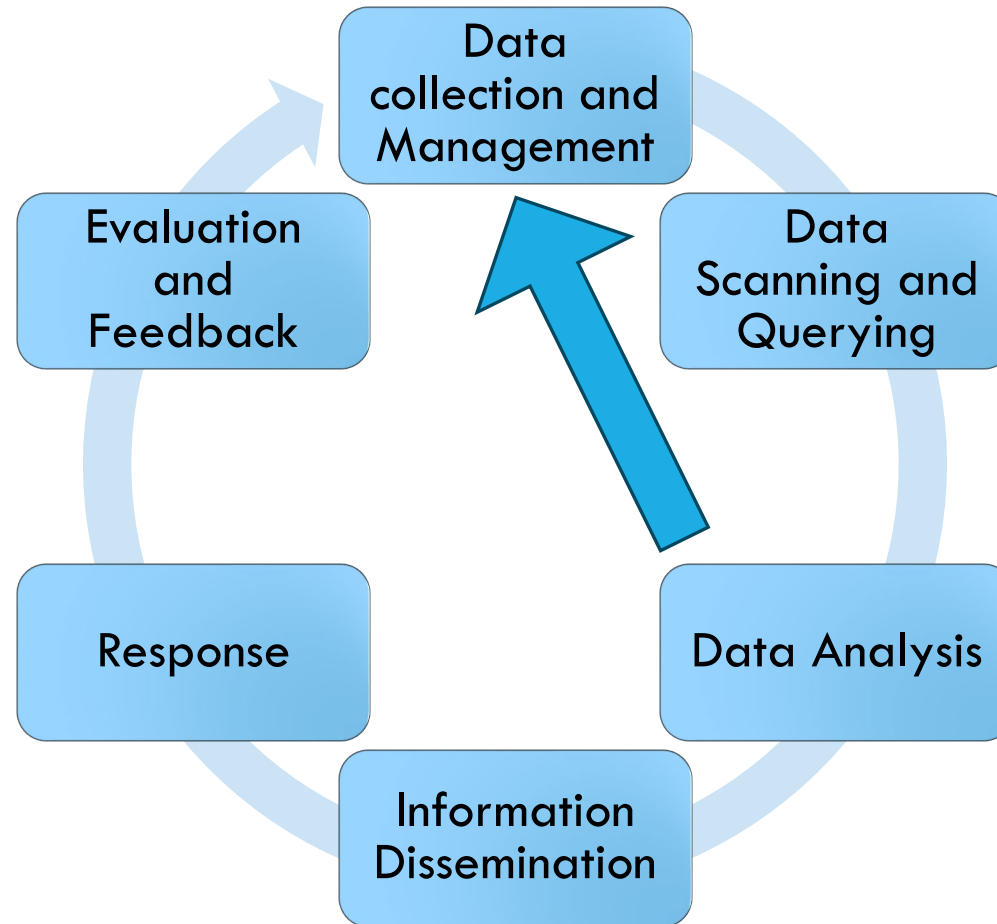
INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND RESPONSE

- Results of the analysis generally are relayed in a _**written product**_ (bulletins, maps, emails, reports, etc.)

- Analyst loses control of the process at the response stage.

- Agency takes the analyst's work and develops tactics and strategies based on it.

- Analysts create reports to inform targeted responses – address specific incident in question

- Use research and literature review to find other successful solutions used by other agencies
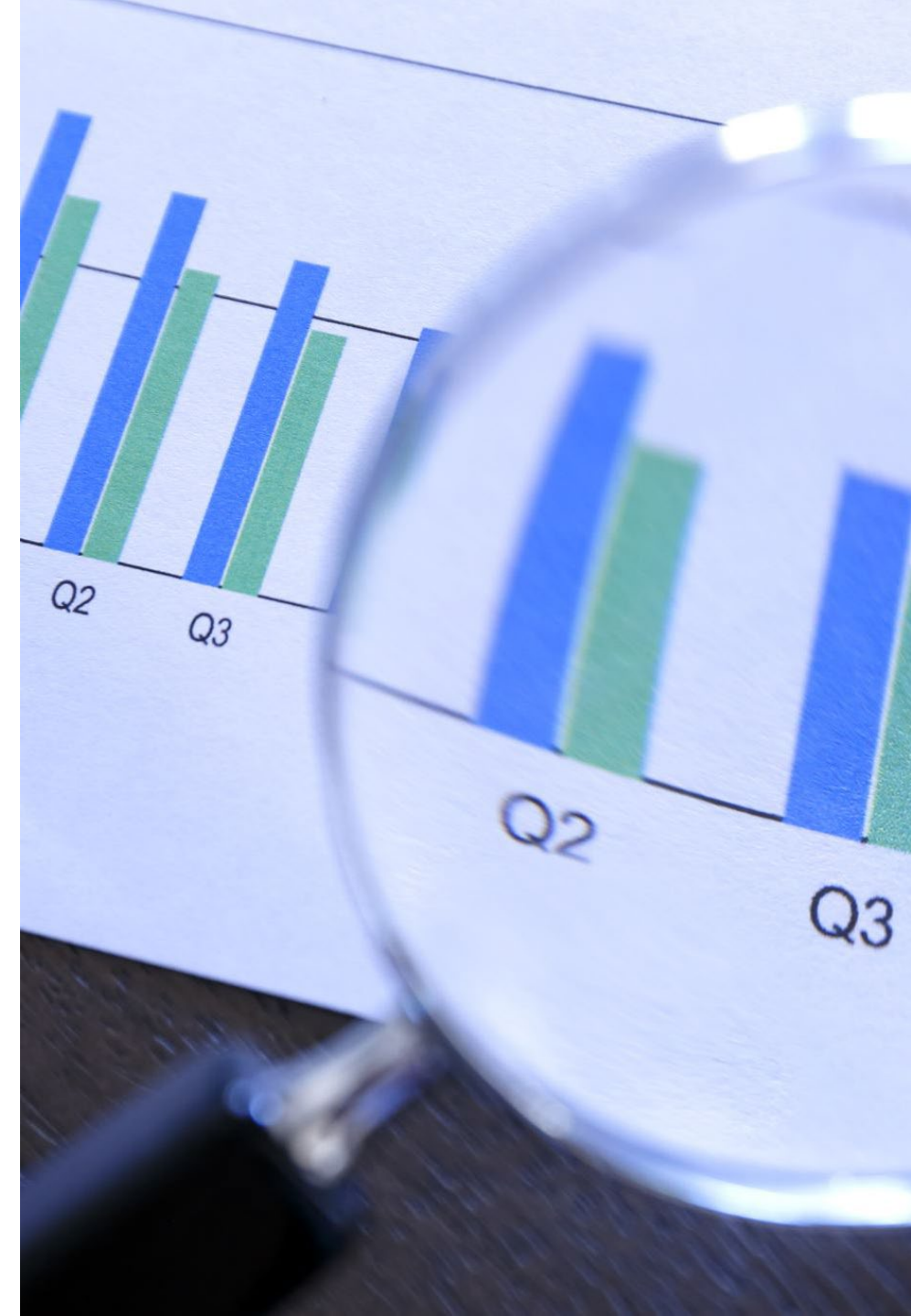
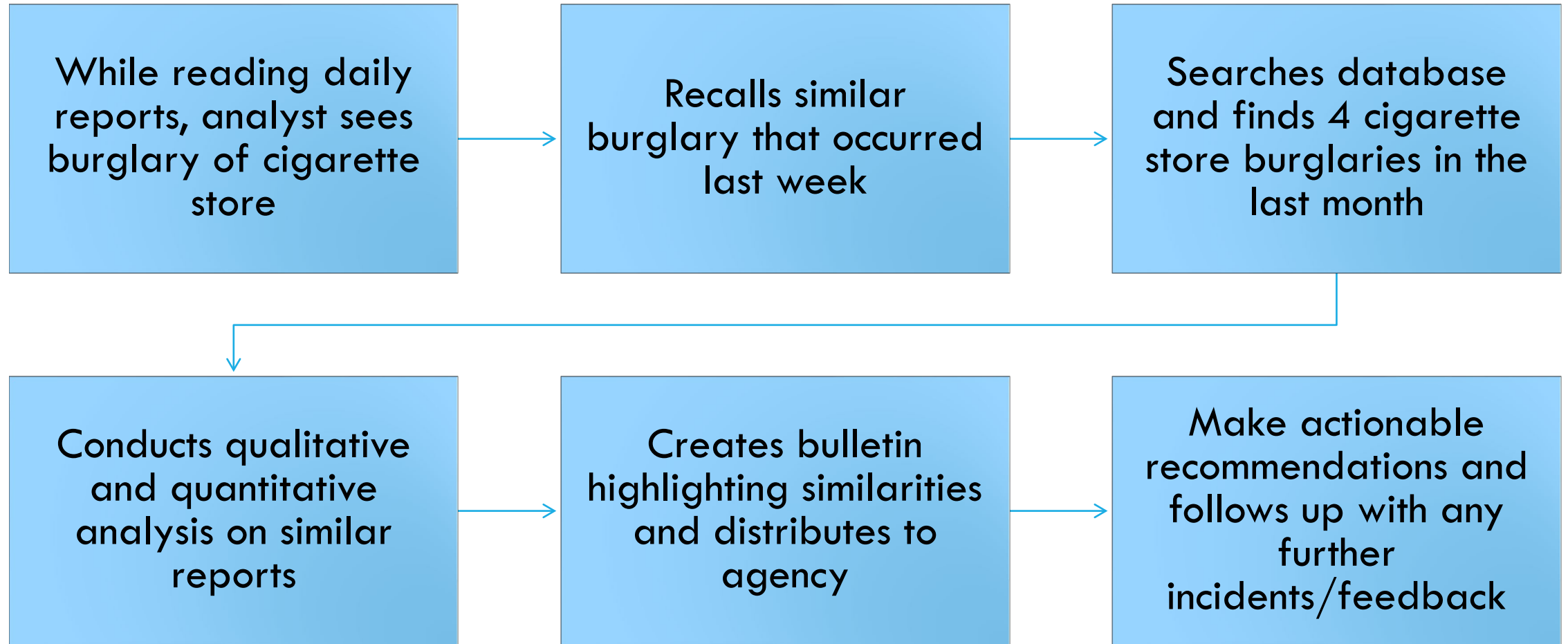# TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS PROCESS
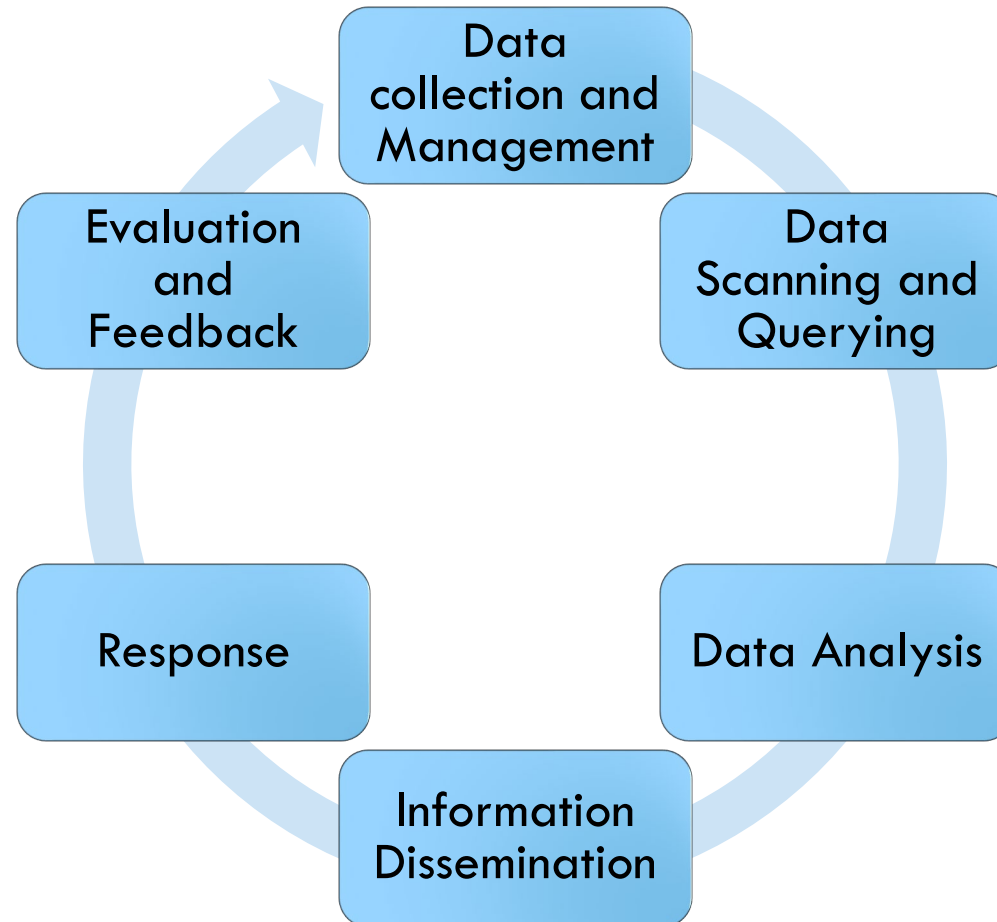
EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

- Often forgotten step

- Was your information valuable to the agency?

- Should periodically check in and see how your products are being used and if improvements need to be made

- Can do this through surveys, focus groups, process research, and networking (asking other analysts what works)

- Training can provide tips for feedback too

TACTICAL CRIME ANALYSIS PROCESS (REAL LIFE)

While reading daily reports, analyst sees burglary of cigarette store

Recalls similar burglary that occurred last week

Searches database and finds 4 cigarette store burglaries in the last month

Conducts qualitative and quantitative analysis on similar reports

Creates bulletin highlighting similarities and distributes to agency

Make actionable recommendations and follows up with any further incidents/feedback

CRIME ANALYSIS THEORIES

Tactical Crime Analysis Introduction

CRIME TRIANGLE/ROUTINE ACTIVITY THEORY

Handler

Capable
Guardian

Offender

Victim/Target

Crime

Place

Manager
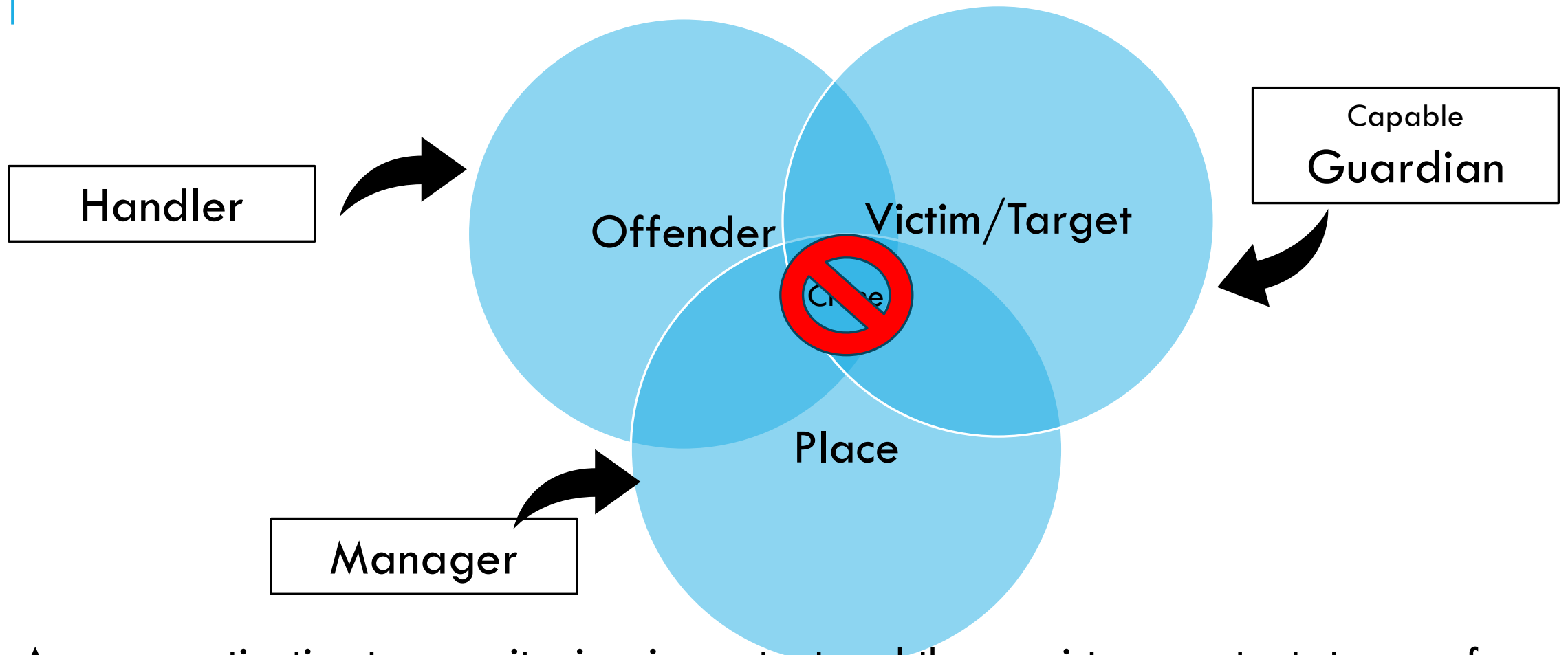
Assumes motivation to commit crime is constant and there exists a constant stream of offenders willing to commit crime

RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY

- Crime is a rational choice wherein offenders weigh the perceived risks and punishment of the crime vs. the gain or reward in determining their timing, targets, and methods.

- Notes humans are habitual creatures

- Argue that increasing the certainty, swiftness, and severity of punishment will curtain crime

- People will take no action, stop taking action, or take the opposite action when costs outweigh the benefits.

- Assumes individuals are rational so does not account for mental illness in crime

TACTICAL/STRATEGIC BLEND

- Tactical analysis theories can bleed into strategic analysis (long-term) with CPTED and DDACTS

- 80/20 rule aka Pareto Principle
  - Small number of offenders cause an inordinate amount of incidents
  - Can also reference a small number of places that have an inordinate amount of crime (hot spots)
  - Note that recidivism rates vary depending on the population being studied and the period of time under consideration.

- CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

- DDACTS – Data Drive Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety

- Analysts should be aware of the problem people/areas to reduce crime.

TACTICAL ANALYSIS IN AGENCIES

Tactical Crime Analysis Introduction

TACTICAL ANALYSIS WITHIN AGENCIES

- Analyst creates products for dissemination – may operate differently depending on the agency

- Centralized Crime Analysis Unit – all analysts in one office, typically at headquarters and requests come through that office
  - Clear where analysts can be found. May place perceived higher value on the unit. Can create a cohesive unit and allow for cross-training. Emerging trends may become more apparent.

- Decentralized Crime Analysis Unit – analysts sit within their assigned area command or investigative unit. May meet weekly/monthly to discuss things but are generally placed with their units
  - May become more familiar with their division or geographic area. Become accustomed to the types of requests and information their division needs. Must be cautious to not become detached from CAU.

TACTICAL ANALYSIS WITHIN AGENCIES OTHER MINOR TACTICAL DUTIES

- Notifying agency about latest serious crimes (daily/weekly report)

- Passing along intelligence/significant incidents from other agencies

- Supporting tactical operations with reports and maps

- Providing alerts on repeat incidents (calls for service at a particular location/repeat offenders)

REGIONAL DATA SHARING: FUSION CENTERS AND HIDTA

- ViCAP one of the first attempts – FBI for unsolved homicides

- Fusion Centers evolved at federal and state level.
  - Large task force – 2 or more LE agencies working together and sharing threat-related information to combat complex criminal activity.
  - Personnel from local, state, federal, and tribal organizations
  - Primary goal is to collect and disseminate threat-related information from a variety of sources for state and local context

- HIDTA – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agencies
  - Similar to fusion centers but have a focus on organized criminal activity and drug trafficking operations.
  - 28 HIDTAs across the country

TACTICAL ANALYSIS – FUTURE CLASSES

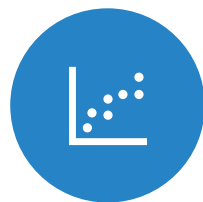Tactical Crime Analysis Introduction
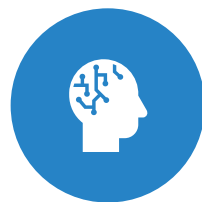
FUTURE CLASSES IN THE TACTICAL SERIES

DATA MANAGEMENT

CRIME PATTERNS AND SERIES

PATTERN ANALYSIS 1 AND 2

FORECASTING

TEMPORAL ANALYSIS

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR AND TACTICAL PROFILING

PRODUCTS AND DISSEMINATION

EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

AFTER THE ARREST

THANK YOU

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https://www.iaca.net/tactical-series-webinars

https://www.iaca.net/training-classes