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Predictive Analytics and Data Modeling

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To: crodgers@douglascounty-ne.gov

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Dan, I've copied you for record keeping and distribution to the other Commissioners.

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Chris, if the 2017 mayoral election had resulted differently, Mello would have appointed me Chief Innovation Officer for the City of Omaha. Part of the reason is I've studied local government innovation efforts, specifically at the city level, for seven years. Part of my duties would have been to create an open data site for the City, as well as implementing better data gathering procedures, assessment, and utilization across 14 City Departments. I also attended a Smart Cities Symposium in Chicago this January... for fun.

For our conversation, I'll guide you to county initiatives, not city programs, although you might be jealous of [how KCMO handles potholes](#).

Allegheny County, PA uses predictive analytics in child welfare decision making. [NY Times article](#) | [Social Work Today article](#) | <https://www.alleghenycountyanalytics.us>

New Hanover County, NC uses predictive analytics to identify child abuse and neglect risk. [Smart Cities Council article](#) | [SAS video](#)

National Council on Crime and Delinquency offers 18 articles on the use of data modeling in government, including LA County's approach to prevention in the juvenile justice system. <https://www.nccdglobal.org/analytics/predictive-analytics>

There are possibly hundreds of counties and cities in the US using data to guide policy making. If you like, I can introduce you to Omaha-based firm, [Contemporary Analysis](#). The president is a friend and would be happy to talk to the County Commissioners and anyone else in local government about how to approach data modeling and predictive analytics.

A goal throughout this process has been to identify HOW the County arrived at the number of 48 beds for its proposed facility. It appears to me that this number is not based on data, but a hope that the limited capacity will force upstream changes in juvenile justice. We can do better, and I hope we can do it together.

Brian Smith