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KC-Area Police To Share Crime Information

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COPLINK Program Gives Police More Access To Details

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- Several law enforcement agencies from the Kansas City area are teaming up for a project that will allow them to share crime information easier and break cases.

 **Video: KC-Area Police To Share Crime Information**

They'll be using the [COPLINK](#) computer program. It was designed by a Tucson, Ariz., company to give departments more access to details about crimes in other communities so they can try to link suspects faster.

The police departments in both Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan., will be part of the project, along with 11 other area police and sheriff's departments.

The 13 agencies participating in the project are:

- Jackson County, Mo., Sheriff's Department
- Johnson County, Kan. Sheriff's Department
- Kansas City, Kan. Police Department
- Kansas City, Mo. Police Department
- Lawrence, Kan., Police Department
- Leavenworth, Kan., Police Department
- Leawood, Kan., Police Department
- Lenexa, Kan., Police Department
- North Kansas City, Mo., Police Department
- Olathe, Kan., Police Department
- Overland Park, Kan., Police Department
- Prairie Village, Kan., Police Department
- Shawnee, Kan., Police Department

"It is a tremendous robust system that will allow us to fight crime on a level that has never happened here before," Overland Park Police Chief John Douglass said.

"Intelligence information, data collection is the most important part of our actually tracking and finding what our specific problems might be," Kansas City Police Chief James Corwin said.

KMBC's Peggy Breit reported that the details of a crime are what could help solve a case more quickly. For example, Shy Bland, who was convicted of a rape in Westport in the 1980s, was later linked by DNA to 12 other rapes. One similarity among all the victims was that their attacker had strong body odor. Police said that is the kind of description that will be entered into COPLINK.

Police called the system an investigator on steroids. One analysis said COPLINK improves productivity 12-1.

The system is already operational in 1,600 American jurisdictions. The Kansas City project is expected to running by Jan. 1.

COPLINK is estimated to cost \$1 million for the first year, some of which is coming from police agencies and some from grants.

On The Web

- coplink.com

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