



Michael Robinson-Chavez/The Washington Post/Getty Images

Reporting crime to the police is a vitally important task, yet for most crime, only a small percentage is reported by individuals. The police learn of crimes in other ways given technology. For example, in many cities, police are informed of a possible crime involving a firearm through Shotspotter technology. Shotspotter uses highly sophisticated microphones to detect the sound of gunshots and send a signal to dispatchers.