Chicago, like other US cities, has so much data but lacks the capacity to routinely mine the data to inform actionable policy solutions to important urban problems.

Generating exemplars to generate interest
Finding creative ways to supplement organisational resource
Exploring together to get the right questions
Managing expectations through iterative improvement

Many departments must focus on day-to-day operations to the exclusion of data analysis. To develop a predictive analytics model for the department, our team must gain a deep understanding of their processes. A manager directing the work of inspectors has a very different mind-set to our data scientists. Communicating effectively across these cultures is essential to our success.

Generating the right question to ask of the data requires the SDP team working closely with policy teams. This takes meetings, exploration of the data, and more meetings to clarify data or business process issues. Generating the right question to ask of the data requires the SDP team working closely with policy teams. This takes meetings, exploration of the data, and more meetings to clarify data or business process issues.

Impressed operations

Our rodent abatement model made city rat baiting teams 20% more efficient, leading to improved health and wellbeing for residents in affected areas. Our restaurant inspection algorithm helps inspectors find critical violations of health code 7 days faster, preventing foodborne illness and making restaurants safer.

Achievements so far

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Sharing our tools with other cities

The entire SmartData Platform will be available to other cities by the end of 2017. This fall we are making available the first version of our user interface, and by the end of 2015 we will release tools to help automate the process of creating new predictive analytics use cases.