



Increasing Collective Efficacy at Crime Hot Spots

A Patrol Force Approach in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota

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Presentation overview

- Our Smart Policing project and team
- Why collective efficacy?
- Project design
- The “BP-ACT” intervention
- BP-ACT in practice
- Preliminary findings



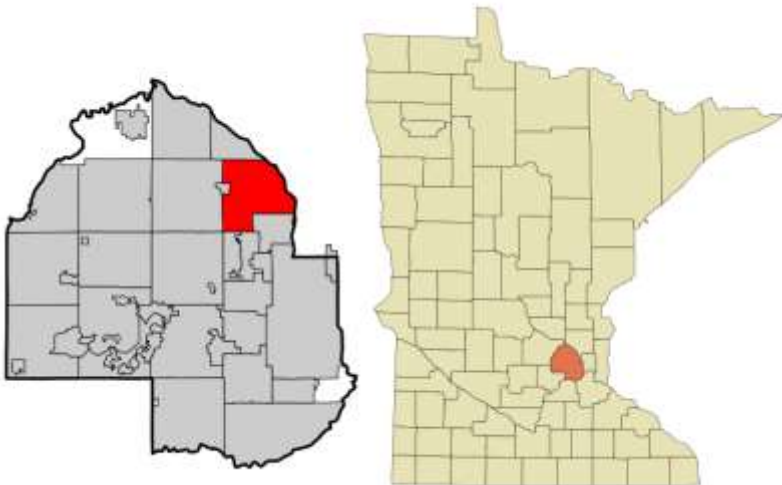
THE SMART POLICING PROJECT AND TEAM

Project team

- Brooklyn Park Police Department was awarded the grant
- Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy, George Mason University is the research partner
- Subject matter experts from CNA and JSS

Brooklyn Park, MN

- Population 77,000
- 2nd largest suburb of Minneapolis-St. Paul
- 50% non-white, 25% foreign-born
- ~108 sworn officers
- Highest crime rate among MSP suburbs with 50,000+ residents



Project overview

- Develop and test an innovative hot spots policing program that helps patrol officers build *collective efficacy* at high crime locations, which ultimately will reduce crime while helping residents trust and better engage with each other and the police.



Project goals

- To foster a sense of belonging in transient and marginalized communities through regular police patrol, ultimately reducing crime while helping residents trust and collaborate with one another as well as better engage with the police
 - Community takes on a more proactive role by taking on the responsibility of preventing/fighting crime with support from police



WHY COLLECTIVE EFFICACY?

Collective efficacy

- Two key elements (Sampson & colleagues)
 - **Willingness to Intervene**
 - **Social Cohesion/Social Ties**
- The two together predict the degree to which that people in the community are **able to mobilize** and **willing to exercise informal social controls** in cooperation with the police.
- Weisburd et al. (2012) argue that hot spots are types of micro communities.
 - Uchida and Weisburd both find that it varies within areas at a micro geographic level.

Theory of the project

- Reinforcing informal social controls and cooperation with the police at crime hot spots through enhancing collective efficacy
 - Deterrence through policing has an impact on crime hot spots, but it is generally short lived and must be reinforced to maintain benefits.
 - Enhancing informal social controls through increasing collective efficacy may increase crime control effectiveness in the long term.

The NIH crime hot spots study: Social cohesion

% Agree or Strongly Agree	Cold Spot	Cool Spot	Drug Spot	Violent Spot	Combined	Chisq
In general people on your block can be trusted (N = 3317)	92%	77%	65%	60%	56%	216.27***
People on your block usually do NOT get along with each other (N = 3524)	7%	14%	22%	24%	24%	113.19***
People on your block do NOT share the same values (N = 3141)	21%	35%	44%	46%	46%	89.54***

Weisburd, David, White, C., Wooditch, A., Ready, J., Lawton, B., & Haviland, A. (In progress)

Willingness to intervene

How likely is it that your neighbors would intervene if...

% Very likely or Likely	Cold Spot	Cool Spot	Drug Spot	Violent Spot	Combined	Chisq
a group of kids was spraying graffiti on a building (N = 3598)	95%	90%	81%	79%	80%	123.77***
a group of kids was climbing on a parked car (N = 3639)	94%	91%	84%	83%	81%	81.77***
there was a fight in front of your home (N = 3614)	89%	85%	77%	76%	75%	85.40***
the local fire station was going to be closed (N = 3362)	86%	82%	75%	72%	71%	92.39***

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PROJECT DESIGN

Project stages

- Planning phase (Oct 2013-Jun 2015):
 - Analysis & identification of hot spots
 - Develop and deliver collective efficacy training for patrol officers
- Intervention Implementation phase (Jul 2015-Oct 2016):
 - Treatment group hot spots- trained patrols use their uncommitted time to carry out strategies
 - Control Group hot spots receive regular patrol, continue regular activities
- Analysis & Assessment phase (Nov 2016-Aug 2017)

Block randomized trial

- 42 hot spots randomly allocated to treatment or control based on:
 - Police district, type of place (commercial, residential), crime level
- Outcomes:
 - Official crime data
 - Pre/post-intervention resident surveys (7-10 from each hot spot)
 - Willingness to intervene, social cohesion, legitimacy, procedural justice, performance, satisfaction with police



THE BP-ACT INTERVENTION

BP-ACT

- Problem solving approach
- Acronym for 3 stages of building collective efficacy
 - A- asset identification**
 - C- coming together**
 - T- Take action**
- Through ACT, residents will Learn how to build collaborations to enhance informal social controls





BP-ACT IN PRACTICE

Police implementation teams

- 2-3 officers per site; sergeants responsible for small group of sites
- Oversight from lieutenants (day and night shifts)
- Project oversight from Inspector
- Support from crime analysis unit, civilian crime prevention unit

Tracking the intervention

Collective Efficacy: ACT Place

Team members:
 Officer
 Officer
 Officer

Support:
 Officer
 Sgt.
 Sgt.
 Crime Analyst
 Crime Prevention



Asset Count & Type:

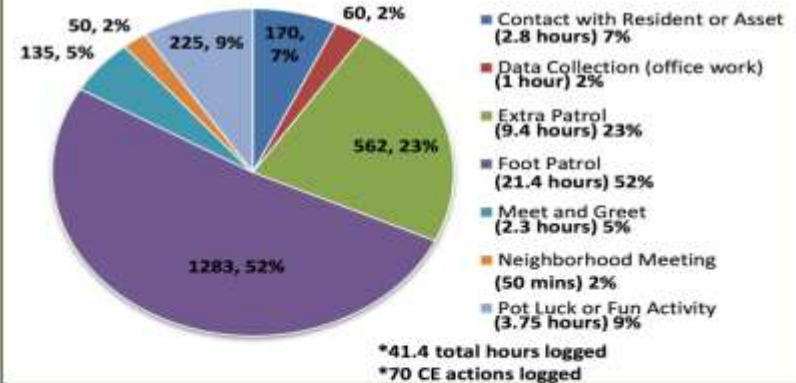
Asset Type	Other: unidentified	Maintenance	Apt. Manager	Resident Asset	Resident Liability	Total
Count	0	2	1	20	1	24

Action Type and Minutes Spent from 10/01-10/15



Note: foot patrol accounted for all actions (N=7) & minutes

July-Oct. Minutes spent per Action Type

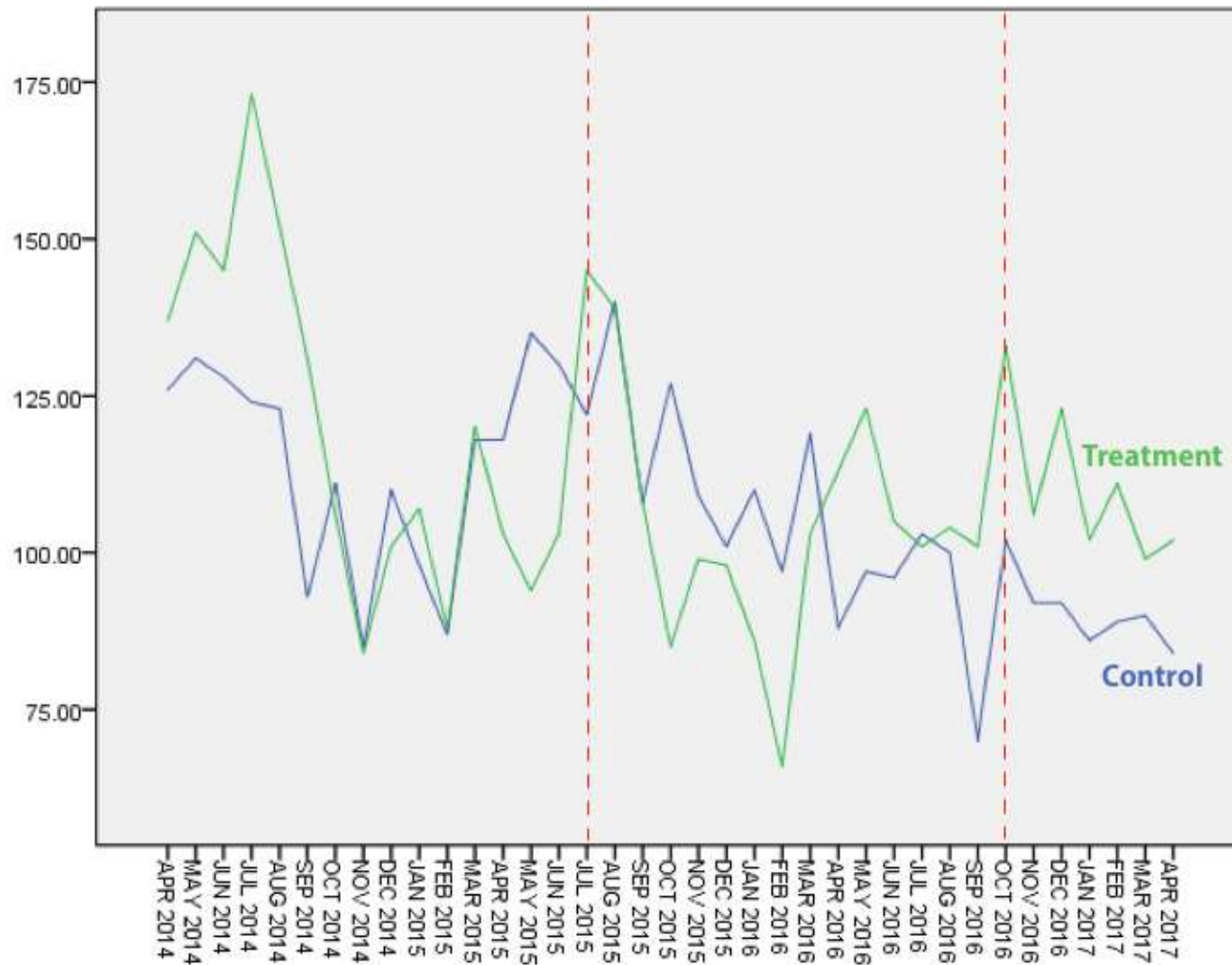


What are the site's challenges?...

Next Steps:

- Coalesce assets
- Identify resident/tenant issues

Preliminary findings



Preliminary Findings

- Crime trending down in both treatment and control spots
- Trends track with stages of the project
 - Jul 2015-Feb 2016: deterrence
 - Feb-Oct 2016:
 - More people calling police?
 - Less police visibility?
- Next steps: context for these results
 - Correlate with officer activity logs
 - Analyze survey data

Reflections on the project

- Changing the role of patrol officers is challenging but possible
- Asset identification is a deeper process than traditional policing
- Officers need to take full ownership of their sites; leadership is crucial
- People in hot spots want to be involved but may need some inspiration
- Police and community need time to learn to trust each other