

Community Infused Problem-Oriented Policing in Crime Hot spots (CPOP-HS)¹

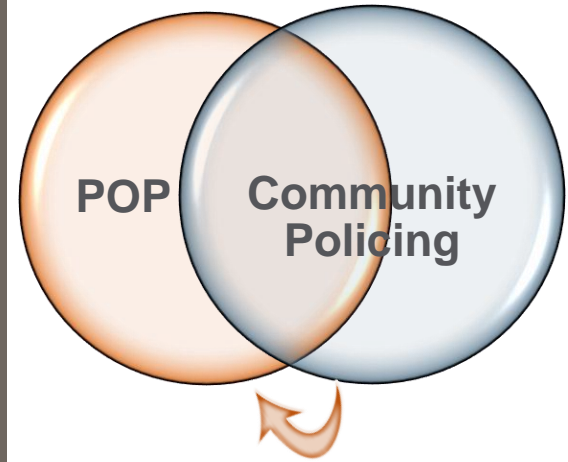
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**Hampton City
Council
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¹ This presentation is based on the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the US Department of Justice or any other entity.

Introducing the Research Team



Principal Investigator:
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About NORC at the University of Chicago

- NORC at the University of Chicago is an independent non-profit research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business, and policy decisions.
- 675+ Professional/Research staff, 1500+ Interviewers
- Based at University of Chicago, with offices in Bethesda, MD, Atlanta, Boston, Albuquerque, and a few other cities
- NORC maintains deep leadership and research ties to the University of Chicago.
 - ❖ UChicago faculty, administration, and trustees compose more than half of the NORC board.
 - ❖ The two institutions jointly staff Academic Research Centers (ARC) housed on the main campus.

Why NORC and George Mason University?

- NORC and GMU wrote competitive grant to the National Institute of Justice and was awarded a 3-year grant to conduct the evaluation
- Grant provides \$90,000 in support to cover HPD costs to implement the study intervention
- Team is experienced in conducting policing interventions across the US
- Conducted similar evaluations in other cities (Jacksonville, FL and Mesa, AZ)
- NORC/GMU will monitor the implementation of intervention and bring independent perspective to bring credibility to results
- Experienced and trained in conducting rigorous evaluations to bring unambiguous results on the effectiveness of the study intervention
- Have experienced data collection team to conduct scientific survey in crime hotspots in Hampton and Newport News

Background

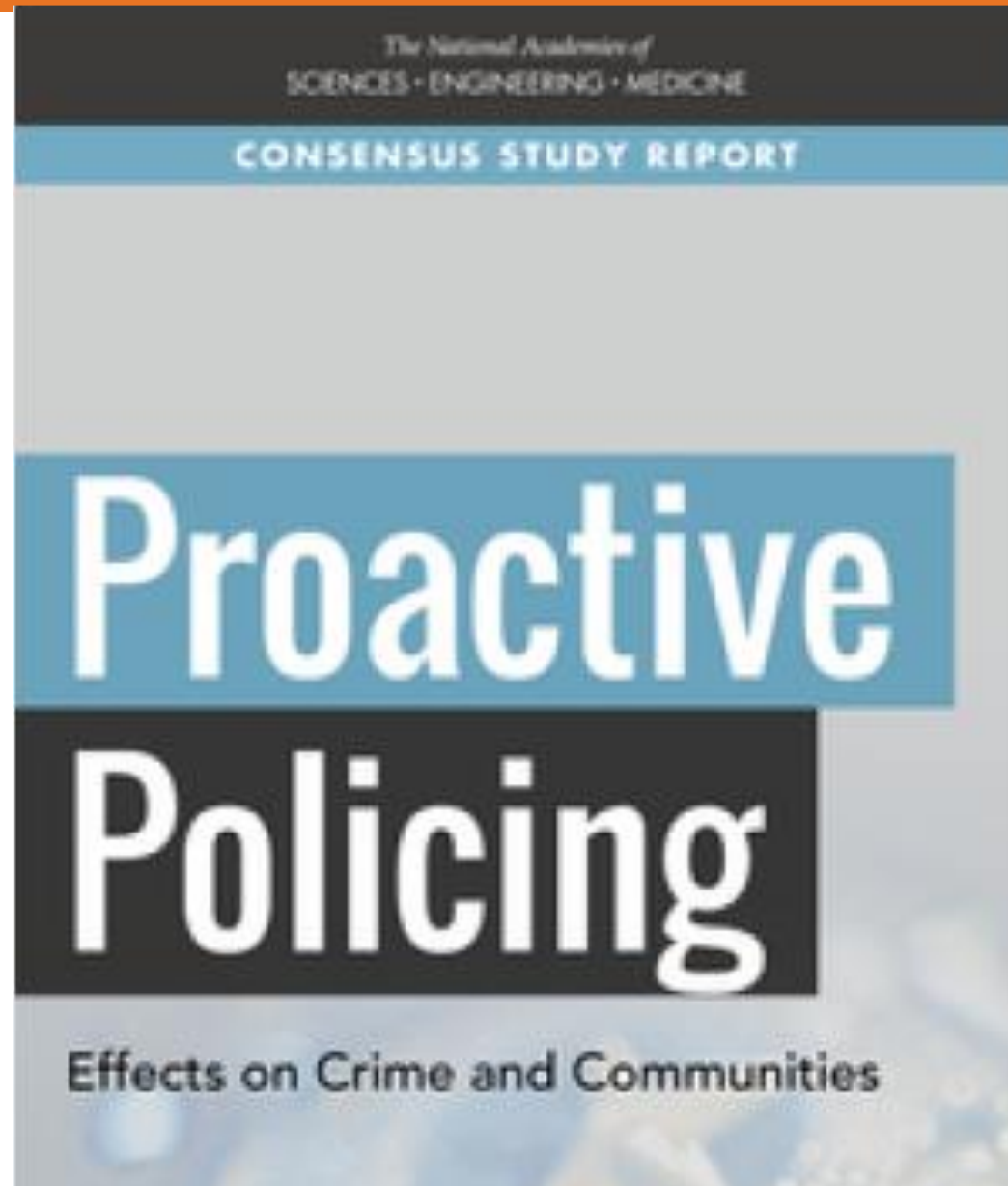
- A key finding in criminology: focused policing in crime hot spots can be an effective tool to address violent crime problem, with little evidence of displacement of crime to nearby areas.
- A recent review of 19 policing experimental studies (Braga et al. 2012) found that hot spots policing reduced crime and disorder in 20 of 25 tests across these studies.
- Very little research on outcomes beyond crime reduction in these 19 studies:
 - ❖ The effect of hot spots policing on citizen's views of police and their communities is less clear.
 - ❖ Concerns raised that hot spots policing may worsen police-citizen relationships and even increase fear of crime, when aggressive enforcement tactics are used (Weisburd et al. 2011).
 - ❖ There is strong need to build evidence that hot spots policing strategies can reduce crime while avoiding any negative effects on community sentiments and perceptions of police legitimacy

A Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) Framework

- POP framework – calls for the police to address the underlying problems that contribute to crime using a proactive preventative approach.
- SARA approach - Scanning for problems, Analysis of data, Response in the form of an intervention, and Assessment of the response
- Interventions grounded in POP tend to produce larger reductions in crime than traditional patrol measures (Braga et al. 2012).
- POP is particularly effective in the context of hot spots policing.
 - ❖ **Our team conducted research to illustrate the benefits of structured POP relative to other traditional policing methods in Jacksonville, FL, resulting in 33% reduction in street violence (Taylor, Koper and Woods, 2011).**

Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) alone may not be enough

Concerns have been raised by the National Academy of Sciences in their 2017 report and other policing experts that an emphasis on POP alone may fall short to produce both crime reduction and improvement in other community outcomes.



Need to **infuse** Community Policing to POP

- *Community Oriented Policing (COP)* can be viewed generally as an approach to policing that stresses working with citizens to co-produce public safety and develop solutions to local concerns.
- Three main components:
 1. Community engagement and partnerships
 2. Problem solving
 3. Organizational change strategies to facilitate the other 2 elements
- Examples of community policing activities:
 - Partnerships between the police and the business community
 - Foot patrol
 - Neighborhood watch
 - Community meetings with residents
 - Citizen contact patrols
 - Community sub-stations

Project Goal and Objectives

Goal: Test the effect of a place-based policing strategy that combines

- I. Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) and
- II. Elements of community oriented policing (COP)
 - “Community Infused Problem-Oriented Policing in Crime Hot spots (CPOP-HS)” Objectives:
 - Reducing crime/victimization and disorder
 - Reducing fear of crime
 - Increasing residents’ willingness to help neighbors and help with public order (collective efficacy)
 - Increasing citizen satisfaction
 - Improving community trust in police, police-citizen relationships and views of police legitimacy.
 - Increasing citizen involvement in preventing crime
 - Increasing police accountability to communities.

Broad Research Questions

- RQ1: What is the impact of CPOP-HS on crime rates in targeted hot spots?
- RQ2: What is the impact of CPOP-HS on community members' perception of safety, perceived police legitimacy, and perceived community collective efficacy in targeted hot spots?
- RQ3: What is the impact of CPOP-HS on police officers' perceptions of police-community relations and police role in the community, job satisfaction and stress levels as well as on LEA policies and practices?
- RQ4: What are the costs and benefits associated with CPOP-HS relative to regular police operations?

Why HPD and NNPD?

- Need more than one city to have enough crime hotspots to study
- Need two departments with histories of collaboration and strong commitment to this topic.
- Both HPD and NNPD have an impressive history of implementing POP. NNPD also participated in one of the first evaluations of POP in the 1980s.
- The departments border each other, similar in size, crime rates, number of personnel, population density, etc. (we will control for any differences in the statistical models).
- HPD was restructured to allow for dedicated Sergeants to focus on bridging the gap between HPD, citizens and business within the community to forge meaningful partnership.
- NNPD pioneered a four-stage problem solving process involving scanning, analysis, response, and assessment (SARA) that is still widely used in LEAs across the nation.

Intervention Design for 3-Year Study

Baseline Data Collection

Follow up and
data collection

Step 1: Hot Spots
Selection/Random
Assignment

Step 2: Intervention
Preparation

Step 3: Intervention

- Select hot spots
- Randomization
- Assign police officers

- Police officer training
- Community outreach
- Prepare for “Case of Place” strategy

- Implement CPOP-HS (community infused POP strategy in hot spots)

Step 1: Hot Spots Selection and Randomization

- Work with crime analysts in both HPD and NNPD to identify a total of about 100 hot spots (40-50 in each city) of serious crime (UCR Part I Crimes) using GIS software (We anticipate that these hot spots will be very specific blocks or clusters of blocks)
- Within each city, a block experimental design will be employed to assign half the hotspots to CPOP-HS and half to standard patrol services

Step 2: Intervention Preparation

- Selection of patrol officers to implement CPOP
- One-day training for police officers
 - ❖ The NORC/GMU research team will work with both departments to develop training curriculum, focusing on:
 - Problem-solving projects
 - Interacting with community members and explaining Dept. decisions
 - Training emphasize community collective efficacy, community building, and strong partnership with community members.
- Police officers conduct community outreach in intervention hotspots
 - ❖ Hosting community town hall meetings and sending flyers
 - ❖ Selected door-to-door visits to inform residents of the CPOP-HS intervention , to explain what the intervention entails and seek community input

Step 3: Intervention

- Police officers and crime analysts work with community residents as a team to
 - ❖ Scan for source of crime problem and Analyze specific crime problems within hotspots using the SARA Model
 - ❖ Response strategies to address problems using NORC/GMU as needed. For example...
 - ❖ Working with troubled youth
 - ❖ Coordinating work of various external agencies
 - ❖ Educating residents how to protect themselves from being victimized
 - ❖ Enforcing ordinances/more rigorous code enforcement
 - ❖ Work with residents/businesses on 'target hardening'
 - ❖ Securing vacant residences/clean-up.

Step 3: Intervention (Continued)

- Final step is Assessment by the officer/analysts teams working with residents to assess their specific intervention (e.g., better lighting) with NORC /GMU looking at the overall effect of all the interventions being implemented in HPD and NNPD
- NORC/GMU will also monitor the intervention throughout the study
- The idea is that the project will not take away any police services but add extra CPOP to selected hot spots to assess the effects of CPOP to standard patrol services
- One of the innovations to be used in this study is the use of a “case of place” strategy to systematically investigate and track hot spots and monitor the implementation of tailored problem-solving interventions

Case of Place Strategy

- A “case of place” investigative folder is established for each location which mirrors a detective’s case folder (used to investigate incidents and people) but with the elements of the folder translated into place-based equivalents.
- For example, a “suspect” in a case of place investigation might be a group of people, a building, or something in the physical environment that makes it conducive for crime at the hot spot.

For details: <http://cebcp.org/evidence-based-policing/the-matrix/matrix-demonstration-project/case-of-places/>



Multiple Data sources—Quantitative Data

- Official crime data: police call/911 data, complaints/reports, and arrest data (throughout the study period)
- Cost and benefit data (throughout the study period)



Baseline

Post intervention (12
months after baseline)

- Community survey data in crime hotspots
- Police officer survey data

Multiple Data sources—Qualitative Data

- Focus group with police officers (before, during and post-intervention)
- Case of Places forms and officers' log of visits and daily activities (e.g., routine patrol) (throughout the intervention period)
- Interviews with command staff (before, during and post-intervention)
- Observational data (multiple time points during intervention) during site visits

NORC/GMU will need access to collect data

- Provide the NORC and George Mason University (GMU) team access to police crime data and police activity logs in selected hotspots of crime.
- Allow officers to participate in a short officer survey conducted by NORC/GMU.
- Allow a small number of officers to participate in focus groups and some of the command staff to be interviewed on the nature of implementation of the CPOP intervention and effects they observed.
- Allow the NORC/GMU team to do some ride-alongs with officers to observe the CPOP intervention at some selected times.
- Work with NORC/GMU to document cost and benefits implementing the CPOP strategy.

Thank you! We look forward to working with you.



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