Q&A – 22 April – Christopher Herrmann

1. **Have you plotted the locations around each of the NYCHA projects where the shootings took place? For example, did most occur in the tree-covered areas that was shown in the Google Earth view?**
   Geocoding is certainly one of the most important functions to consider when you are doing any type of micro-level spatial analyses. That said, the NYPD has a very unique geocoding tool that looks at the building file first, then the property (land parcel) file, then the street file, then the centerline file. For NYCHA, we have buildings with addresses, but the point is located on/near the entrance to each of the buildings (usually). Ideally and in the future, hopefully police/analysts will be able to put points on the map where the crime actually occurs. This is especially true when you consider crimes in places like public housing, but even more important in larger space areas like public parks/beaches, public transit, etc. It would be great to be able to see where the true/actual location was – then you could analyze many of the external factors (lighting, vehicle/foot traffic, sound, CCTV, etc.) that contribute to risky places.

2. **I was wondering how much density is related?**
   Part of this study did take population density into consideration. Towards the front, I looked at the significant disparities between the average NYC resident's victimization rate compared to the average NYCHA resident's victimization vs. the rates at the highest individual NYCHA developments. The latter part of the presentation looked at the highest counts/hottest spots, so this did not take population density (or areal density) into consideration.

3. **Keeping the area clean and tidy- good maintenance- does it matter? / Management issues and control of the space in general?**
   Yes, we know that place management matters when we look into crime in and around public housing properties and buildings. Millions of dollars went into something called 'controlled access' (ie. do the doors lock….). Here is a good report from inside NYC government on the simple problem of locking doors in and around NYCHA. https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/stringer-releases-investigative-survey-of-nycha-doors/
   Litter, graffiti, noise pollution, etc. All of these things contribute to people feeling safe/unsafe, a la CPTED.

4. **Do you know if the NYCHA projects that concentrate gun violence also concentrate other forms of violence (you mentioned rape, robbery, etc in a slide)? Or are they concentrated in other projects?**
   Yes, I did mention the overlap between gun violence and other violent crimes (specifically, homicide/murder, sexual assault, assault, and robbery). Violence does concentrate in NYCHA, what is interesting is to see how some violence concentrates within these developments, which usually are usually made up of several buildings.

Why do some buildings have extreme levels of violence, while other neighboring buildings (same size, same population density)? This is another interesting question….it has to be the specific people (both potential offenders, victims, opportunities) and the place management.

5. **Are there areas in NYCHA with mixed tenure? Is all rental?**
   As I shared, this is one of the newer trends in public housing – some combinations of public housing and private housing between and within developments. NYCHA has had difficulties maintaining some of its properties and has benefited from some private place management, as well as non-NYCHA residents living within some buildings.

6. **Are there projects when hiring young ones, living in the area for estate management?**
   Job training for teens/young adults, as well as sports and arts programs for children have become a very important part of the NYCHA summer programs. Developing programs that are focused on youth, seem to be one of the most important policy ideas that are supported by NYCHA residents, Community Leaders, Police, and local government groups.

7. **Do you know anything about mobility between and within specific buildings? Mobility within public housing helps create sub-neighbourhoods in some past research.**
   This is a very good question / issue. In this dataset, I did not have the shooting suspect's home address and/or the victim's home address. All I had was a shooting location. It would be good to try to determine the mobility triangle – how did victim and suspect end up at the same space/time for crime to occur. This goes back to some of the crime radiator/absorber discussions from Kate Bowers and the situational mechanisms that Beth Hardie referred to.

8. **Regarding the big increase during 2020 on violence that you mentioned, have you found any reason behind that?**
   There is no really good answer that I have heard of. Rick Rosenfeld has done some very good work on this, but there is no 'one answer' to this big question. https://covid19.counciloncj.org/2020/07/28/crime/
   COVID has impacted different countries/cities at different times and in very different ways. For NYC, I think it was first this 'backlog of violence'. We had very low numbers in March and April, but then an explosive increase in Summer 2020 (May – September). All of these shootings and homicides that should have taken place in March-April never occurred, but when NYC 'reopened' in Summer 2020, the violence began and has not returned to 'normal' since. Physical, mental, emotional, and financial stressors impacted the communities that already had high amounts of violence – this increased violence. I also think all of the polarizing politics (USA Presidential Election) and post-Floyd anti-police feelings have created significant loss of faith/trust in the American Justice/Legal system.

9. **Do you know the percentage of shooting victims and offenders who had residence at the NYCHA location?**
   I do not have the residence addresses for the victims and offenders, but will plan on adding this data to this continuous project in the future. This is the key missing piece of data/info that will really determine if these risky places are crime generators or

attractors…..crime radiators or crime absorbers. Thank you for this question/comment.