Risky Facilities
Advancing theory and making difference in practice

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RISKY PLACES FOR CRIME- SAFEPLACES NETWORK SEMINAR
Organised by KTH-Safeplaces Network & NTU-Criminology Department
Systematic Reviews of Concentration of Crime at Places, Offenders, & Victims
(Eck, Lee, Martinez, & O, 2017 Crime Science)

Includes zero crime POV

Excludes zero crime POV
Frequency of troublesome events

- Most places have little or no crime
- Some have a modest amount of crime
- A few have a most of the crime

Cumulative % of Crime
Definitions

Crime Places

Proprietary Places

- crime sites – where crimes occur
- convergent settings – public meeting
- comfort spaces – private meeting
- corrupting spots – create crime elsewhere

• Facility
• Owner
• Bounded
• Small

Proximal Places

Pooled Places

Neighborhood
Facility – A place with limited purposes: Schools, bars, churches, petrol stations, retail shops, etc.

Facilities known to follow this law:
- Apartment complexes
- Banks
- Bars, pubs, and clubs
- Bus stop shelters
- Businesses (various)
- Coffee shops
- Construction sites
- Convenience stores
- Fast food restaurants
- Gas stations
- Health care facilities
- Hotels and motels
- Parking lots
- Places of worship
- Schools
- Sports facilities
- Telephone booths
- Young offender facilities

Facilities that may not follow this law: 0

The Iron Law of Troublesome Places

Risky Facilities

Frequency of troublesome events

- A few much crime
- Some have a modest amount of crime
- Most have little or no crime

Rank order of places

Most

Least
Worst 20% of complexes account for 47% of property and violent crime.

10,672 total apartment buildings experienced 4,615 serious crime

worst 10% have 31% of crimes

Addresses with no crime 77%
Urban Parks

Crime Risk in 28 Chula Vista Parks (Over Two Acres)

Risky Facilities

Bars

Distribution of violence across Cincinnati Bars

20% of the bars produced 71.77% of all violent incidents
Place Management

Who has legal responsibility/authority?

Privately owned

Public/government

Place Managers

- Owners
- Lessees
- Employees
- Contractors
- Designated volunteers

Is a public agency in charge?

Yes – not police
Yes – police
Unclear – police +

Place Managers

Public officials
Private contractors
Reasons a few places have much crime, but most have none ...

- Physical Design
- Low Informal Social Control
- Deficient Guardianship
- High Crime Reporting
- Persistent Repeat Victimization
- Inadequate Handling
- Surplus of Offenders
- Many Targets
- Presence of Hot Products

are manifestations of place management
Concentration of Apartment Buildings Among Owners (2006)

10,672 buildings owned by 3,854 owners

8% of owners hold 51% of buildings
10% of owners had 47% of crime
8% of owners hold 51% of buildings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP 10%</th>
<th>% Owners with 0 Events</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>property crime 26%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime 100%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calls to police 63%</td>
<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Of apt buildings 31%</td>
<td>77%</td>
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CRIME AS POLLUTION DOCTRINE – Farrell & Roman

- Victimization of place users
- Cost of government response
- Crime in the vicinity
- Costs to offenders’ family etc.
STANDARDS v PERFORMANCE

**Standards** – Tell place owner the actions that are required to reduce crime, and enforce compliance.

**Performance** – Set crime outcome ceiling and require property owners to keep crime below this level.
Are the police the best regulators of crime places?
- Most facilities are fine
- A few are big problems
- Focus on management and owner practices
- Consider regulation
References


