

CEPOL 2016 Annual Police Research and Science Conference
Global trends in law enforcement training and education
5 – 7 October 2016

The Community Policing Evaluation in the Croatian Urban and Rural Communities



Ksenija Butorac, Assoc. Prof.,
Police College, Department of Criminology,
Zagreb, Croatia

Irena Cajner Mraović, Assoc. Prof.,
University of Zagreb, Center for Croatian
Studies, Department of Sociology, Croatia

Community policing in Croatia: A brief history



Projects

- ✓ Reform of the uniformed police
- ✓ Development and enhancement of crime prevention
- ✓ Organization of prevention in local communities
- ✓ Reform of public relations
- ✓ Reform of the police education and professional development system (MoI, 2004), and
- ✓ Internal democratisation of the police (MoI, 2009)

New strategy for police activities

- New posts of ‘contact police officer’ and ‘police officer for prevention’
- Coordinating bodies, consisting of representatives of both citizens and the police: Prevention Councils since 2004 -167 Prevention Councils have been established.

Purpose of the research

- Examination of the impact of implementation of community policing on citizens' perceptions & comparison of the level of implementation on CP in a specific urban community in the city of Zagreb and the rural community in Medjimurje County (MC) in Croatia.



Methodology



Sample

Convenience Sample

Zagreb (N=99) MC (N=166)

Instrument

The questionnaire for evaluating community policing as the basis (developed and validated by Adam J. McKee (2001). *The Community Policing Evaluation Survey: Reliability, Validity and Structure*– four sets of questions:

- Quality of contacts between the police and citizens
- Perceptions of crime and disorder
- Personal fear of victimisation
- Community cohesion

Methods (SPSS 20 for the Social Sciences)

Descriptive statistics

Parametric statistics

Sample description

MEDJIMURJE COUNTY

N=161

Males - 42%; Females-58%

Age: 19-34=41%; 35-50=37,4%;
51-65=19,1%; 66-80=2,4%

Education: PS-3,1%; SS-39,8%;
HE-34,7%; MSc&Dr.sc.-22,4%

Employment: Students-17,4%;
Employed-70,8%; Unemployed-6,2%;
Retired: 5,6%

ZAGREB

N=99

Males - 41%; Females-59%

Age: 19-34=59%; 35-50=19%;
51-65=13%; 66-80=9%

Education: PS-5,3%; SS-51,1%;
HE-23,4%; MSc&Dr.sc.-20,2%

Employment: Students-25,3%;
Employed-51,67; Unemployed-4,2%;
Retired: 18,9%

Results

Table 1 - Quality of police contact

	Place	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	STAT. DIFF.	SIG.
How good of a job do you think the police in this area are doing in helping people out after they have been victims of crime?	MC	161	2.94	1.062	YES t=43.00 p=.015	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.08	1.158		
In general, how polite are the police in this area when dealing with people around here?	MC	161	3.35	.831	YES t= 31.455 p= .020	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.57	1.080		
In general, how helpful are the police in this area when dealing with the people around here?	MC	161	2.99	1.055	YES t = 13.458 p = .047	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	98	3.47	1.142		
In general, how fair are the police when dealing with people around here?	MC	161	3.09	.869	YES t= 76.250 p= .008	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.01	1.035		
How good a job are the police doing in keeping order on the streets and public places?	MC	161	3.17	1.062	YES t = 36.222 p = .018	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.35	1.043		
QUALITY OF POLICE CONTACT SCALE	MC	161	15.54		YES	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	16.48			

1-low; 5-high; min 5 max 20; a higher value means that the respondents believe the police have good quality contacts with citizens

Table 2 - Perceptions of Crime and Disorder Scale

	Place	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	STAT. SIG. DIFF.
How big of a problem is people breaking windows out of buildings in the area?	MC	161	2.99	1.275	YES t= 36.176 p= .018
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.16	1.243	
How big of a problem is people drinking in public places in this area?	MC	161	2.99	1.196	YES t= 86.429 p= .007
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.06	1.276	
How big of a problem is people being attacked or beaten up by strangers in this area?	MC	161	3.67	1.161	YES t = 74.400 p = 0.09
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.77	1.132	
How big of a problem is people being robbed or having their money, purses or wallets taken?	MC	161	2.80	1.208	NO t = 9.889 p = .064
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.43	1.099	
How big of a problem is vacant lots filled with trash and junk in this area?	MC	161	2.88	1.242	NO t = 7.471 p = .085
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	2.20	1.229	
PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME AND DISORDER SCALE	MC	161	15.33		
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	15.62		

1 – low; 5 – high; min 5 max 20; a lower value means that respondents see crime and disorder as a problem in their community

Table 3 - Personal Fear of Victimization Scale

	Place	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	STAT. DIFF.	SIG.
How worried are you that someone will try to rob you or steal something from you when you are outside in this area?	MC	161	3.30	1.234	YES t= 45.000 p= .014	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.45	1.288		
How worried are you that someone will try to break into your home while someone is there?	MC	161	3.48	1.146	YES t= 173.000 p= .004	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.44	1.303		
How worried are you that someone will attack you or beat you up when you are outside in this area?	MC	161	3.87	1.050	MEANS ARE EQUAL Sd. = 0.00	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.87	1.157		
How worried are you that someone will try to steal or damage your car in this area?	MC	161	3.58	1.223	YES t= 26.538 p= .024	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.32	1.316		
How worried are you that someone will try to break into your house while no one is there?	MC	161	2.86	1.297	YES t = 144.000 p = .004	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	2.90	1.329		
PERSONAL FEAR OF VICTIMIZATION SCALE	MC	161	17.09		YES	
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	16.98			

1 - always; 5 - never, min 5 max 25; a lower value means that respondents are afraid of victimization in their community

Table 4- Community Cohesion Scale

	Place	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	STAT. SIG. DIFF.
If I were sick, I could count on my neighbors to shop for me at the supermarket, go to the drug store, etc.	MC	161	3.73	1.341	YES t= 42.882 p=.015
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.56	1.387	
When I am away from home, I can count on some of my neighbors to keep their eyes open for possible trouble.	MC	161	3.80	1.293	YES t = 83.444 p = .008
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.71	1.416	
If I had to borrow 25 EUR for an emergency, I could turn to my neighbors.	MC	161	3.73	1.355	YES t= 14.872 p= .043
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.26	1.489	
The people in this area work together to solve problems.	MC	161	2.75	1.221	YES t= 92.667 p= .007
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	2.81	1.353	
I know several people in this area well enough to ask a favor.	MC	161	3.64	1.217	YES t= 35.400 p= .018
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	3.44	1.387	
COMMUNITY COHESION SCALE	MC	161	17.65		YES
	ZG- Novi Zagreb	99	16.78		

1 – strongly disagree; 5 – strongly agree; min 5 max 25; a higher value means a higher level of community integration

Are the differences between the urban and the rural community fading away?

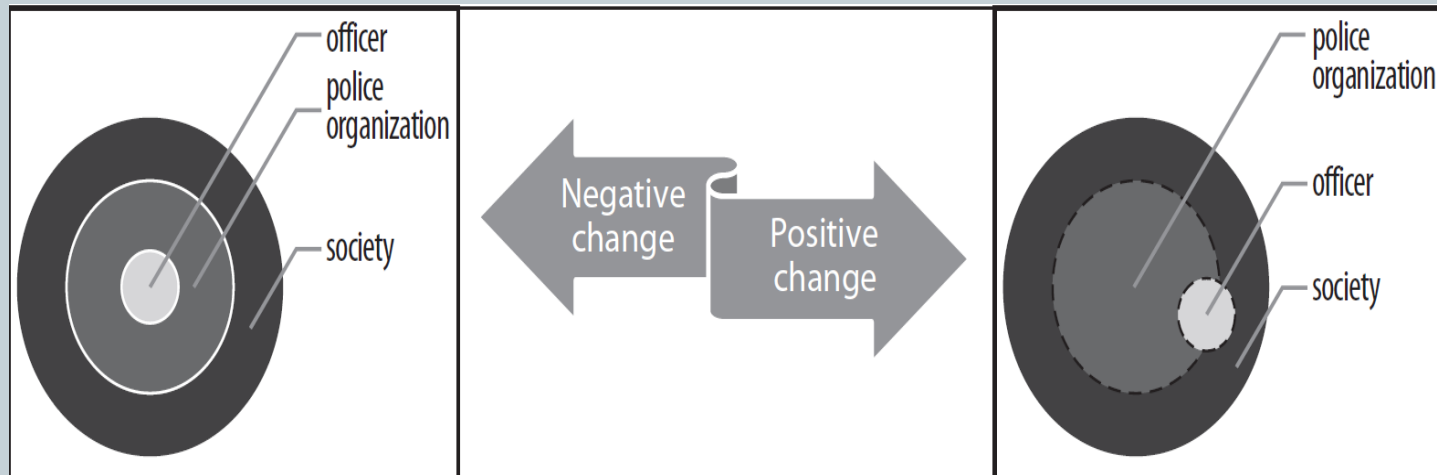


- **MC** - there is a lack of contacts with the police, high level of perception of crime and disorder, existence of personal fear of victimisation and a high level of community cohesion. In addition, our understanding of rural community must be explored, as the rural lifestyle changed.
- **Zagreb** - the main fear is that someone would break into their home or would steal their car. However, there is a perception of good communication with the police, and the respondents prefer joint problem solving. Due to more heterogenous population, migrations and therefore, accepting the differences in the immediate social surroundings, the residents of Zagreb have higher level of bonding both among themselves and with the police.
- The personal fear of victimisation is equally represented in both samples. It can be partially attributed to the culture of fear and the sense of insecurity that is induced into people through mass media and the culture of violence

Individual and police within society



Diagram 1 - The continuum of open/closed systems





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!