Crime and Place
Why and how Police should look at places rather than people
(web-version)
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Introduction

• Crime fighting and prevention (soft policing) focus at people
• Why?
• What is the problem with the „usual suspects“?
It is time...

Shifting crime and justice resources from prisons to police
Shifting police from people to places

David Weisburd
Hebrew University
George Mason University

“We need to shift the focus of policing from people to places. Police practices today continue to be focused primarily on individuals. They usually begin with "people" who call the police. They are focused on identifying offenders who commit crimes. They "end" with the arrests of those offenders and their processing through the criminal justice system. This is not to say that the police ignore the places and situations (…).”

http://www.popcenter.org/Library/CrimePrevention/Volume_04/02-Sherman.pdf

Police know who their clients are ...

- ... and where they are coming from...
- We should use these informations! But for what purposes?
- Jo Reichertz: “Meine Schweine erkenn ich am Gang”, or "I identify my pigs by the way they walk."
- Most of these criminals are recurrent customers. For other crimes or public disorder cases, similar “everyday police knowledge” (polizeiliches Praxis- oder Alltagswissen) is available, but not so often used in strategic decision making.
- Rumors also exist about the unofficial police motto of "Pack schlägt sich, Pack verträgt sich", or "one minute the pack are at each other's throats, and the next minute, they're the best of friends."
- As such, when a call for service to mediate a brawl comes in from a "chavtown" or chav neighborhood, police often wait for some time before they intervene with the hopes that the problem may have worked itself out in the meantime. http://www.chavtowns.co.uk/
Theory of Social Desorganization

- Chicago-School 1920ies (Clifford R. Shaw, Henry McKay u.a.)
- Robert E. Park und Ernest W. Burgess: concentric zones
- Social desorganization theory: People move, crime stays
- Robert E. Park "The City" (1925)
„Attracting Areas“ in Hamburg

Violent Crimes per 1000 inhabitants

What are „attracting areas“, what are „breeding areas“?
„Attracting Areas“ in Heidelberg 2001 (!)
Quelle: Kriminalitätsatlas Heidelberg

Erfaßte Straftaten im Stadtgebiet Heidelberg im Jahr 1998

Quelle: Polizeidirektion Heidelberg
Amt für Stadtentwicklung und Statistik, Heidelberg 1999

Insgesamt 13.017 Fälle, davon konnten 3.327 Fälle keinem Baublock zugeordnet werden.
Next step: **Changes in Crime**

Veränderung 2006 zu 2011 im Vergleich zu Berlin insgesamt

Der Polizeipräsident in Berlin
Bericht zur Kriminalitätsbelastung öffentlicher Räume

Straftaten-insgesamt-
(Ortsteile)
Häufigkeitszahl
Veränderung 2006 zu 2011

Abweichung zur Gesamtentwicklung bei Straftaten-insgesamt-
- unter -30%-Punkte
- -30 bis -15%-Punkte
- -15 bis 15%-Punkte
- 15 bis 30%-Punkte
- über 30%-Punkte
- geringe Basiszahl (<20 Fälle/Jahr)

Entwicklung Berlin: -2,3%
Background: Crime and Poverty

Crimes 2010

Source: Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband

Poverty 2011

Source: Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband
Correlation between unequal (!) income & homicides

But also between crime &
• violent crimes
• health
• education
• adiposis
• consumption of fast food
• teenage pregnancy
• …
What we know

Crime is not the only problem we can „map“. We can also map:
- Poverty
- Social discrimination
- Education
- Health

How they are related to each other?
What is the „additional value“ of crime mapping, combined with other information available at neighborhood-level?
Crime Mapping, Tools and Fools...

- Tools have been used for some years by police to analyze crimes and offenders geographically.
- **Crime mapping software** is used in different, and sometimes stigmatizing, ways.
Citizen Law Enforcement Analysis and Reporting

(ClearMap, Chicago Police Department)

http://gis.chicagopolice.org/
Calls for Service  http://www.myneighborhoodupdate.net/

Visible agencies:
San Jose, CA Police Department

12-Month Trend in Current Map Area

250 most significant events out of 671 (click a row to get more info)
Crime Reports (a private Site!)

https://www.crimereports.com/

"... to help law enforcement agencies put crime data in the hands of those who care about it most - citizens"
Megan's Law is an informal name for laws in the United States requiring law enforcement authorities to make information available to the public regarding registered sex offenders, which was created in response to the murder of Megan Kanka. Commonly included information is the offender's name, picture, address, incarceration date, and nature of crime. The information is often displayed on free public websites, but can be published in newspapers, distributed in pamphlets, or through various other means.
Megan’s Law (by State of California Department of Justice)

**Known Aliases**
None

**Description**
- Date of Birth: 12-31-1991
- Sex: MALE
- Height: 5'5"
- Weight: 130
- Eye Color: BROWN
- Hair Color: BLACK
- Ethnicity: HISPANIC

**Offenses**
- Offense Code: 288(b)(1)
- Description: LEWD OR LASCIVIOUS ACTS WITH CHILD UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE BY FORCE OR FEAR
- Year of Last Conviction: 
- Year of Last Release: 

DOJ is unable to determine if there are any subsequent felony convictions for this registrant at this time.

**Risk Assessment**
- Tool Name: STATIC 99R
- Score Date: 11/21/2011
- Score: 3
- Risk Level: LOW-MODERATE RISK

**Addresses**
- Last Known Address: [Redacted] B, LONG BEACH, 90805
- County: LOS ANGELES

**Scars/Marks/Tattoos**
- ARM, LEFT, NONSPECIFIC
- CHEST
- BACK
- ABDOMEN
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Known Aliases</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Offenses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KNIGHTEN, HAOLOD</td>
<td>Date of Birth: 08-10-1942</td>
<td><strong>Offense Code</strong> 288a(c) <strong>Description</strong> ORAL COPULATION WITH A MINOR UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE OR BY FORCE OR FEAR</td>
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<td>Description</td>
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National Sex Offender Public Registry
http://www.nsopr.gov/

“This site, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, allows parents and concerned citizens to search existing public state and territory sex offender registries beyond their own states.”

„real-time access to public sex offender data nationwide with a single Internet search“
Well known **stigmatising effects** for released prisoners and their families

- Loss of social contacts, isolation
- Loss of work and home
- Physical and psychological threats
- Stress

**Consequenses are dysfunktional**

**no lower, mostly higher recidivism rate**

Tewksbury, R., **Collateral consequences of sex offender registration.** Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice 21, 1, 2005, S. 67-81; Levenson, J.S., Cotter, L.P., **The effect of Megan’s Law on sex offender reintegration.** In: Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice 21, 1, 2005, S. 49-66 (see next slide); Hughes, L.A., C. Kadlec: **Sex Offender Community Notification and Community Stratification.** In: Justice Quarterly 25, 3, S. 469-495; Zgoba/Veyses/Dalessandro Justice Quarterly October 2010)
Google Earth Pro
Next step? Google Earth Pro Plus ...
Some prisoners released get a GPS/GIS-Chip implanted.

At [http://www.gps.tracking.google.com](http://www.gps.tracking.google.com) you can search for the name, the city or the region, where the probationer is actually underway.
Crime Places: Burglary in Bremen

This and the next slides have been provided by Ulrich.Goritzka@Polizei.Bremen.de
Crime scenes with and without suspect
Crime Scenes: Space-Time Visualising and repeat adress mapping
City Blocks and focus points (micro units) (Bremen)

- specific characteristics of places inhibit or encourage crime
- opportunity and social disorganisation cause crime

David Weisburd, The Criminology of Place, p.164

3% of the addresses in Minneapolis produced 50% of all calls to the police (Weisburd, p. 9)
City Blocks (micro units) (Bremen)

The „Top-Three“ of Bremen
Combination of crime and social data (Bremen)
At the End: Consequences?

- For police
- For public administration?
- For politicians?
- Other???