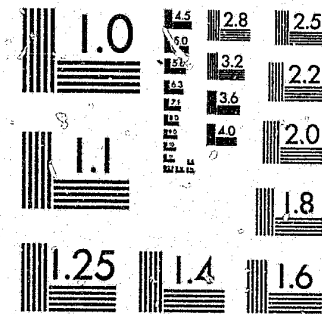


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THE DETROIT CRIME PREVENTION MODEL

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Traditionally, police operational strategies to reduce criminal opportunities have relied almost exclusively on preventive patrol. It was believed that given enough police manpower preventive patrol could be effective because only the irrational would venture to commit crime under the constant surveillance of a police officer.

Unfortunately, preventive patrol has not worked effectively in the United States. Increased public demands for police service in non-criminal areas have curtailed these efforts and the patrol function does not encourage private citizens or businessmen to assist in eliminating their own crime risk.

In the early seventies, results were released regarding a year-long experiment in Kansas City, Missouri, regarding the effect of preventive patrol. The results disclosed that by increasing or decreasing the level of routine preventive patrol had no effect of any consequence on crime, citizen fear, or satisfaction with police services.

As a result of such empirical data that questions traditional police strategies, police departments must now utilize programs and resources that will impact the rising crime rates. The most effective instrument to accommodate this demand is crime prevention with police and citizen involvement. Therefore, it is significant that crime prevention programs be planned and implemented with the idea that crime will be reduced; and, hopefully, that the quality of life will be positively affected.

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ACQUISITIONS

Therefore, with this objective in mind, the Detroit Police Department Crime Prevention Section did, in the spring of 1977, embark on a crime prevention endeavor that met the criteria of the scientific approach. The results of this effort has disclosed a significant reduction in crime.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The purpose of this crime prevention endeavor was to prove, or disapprove, the idea that a comprehensive crime prevention program involving both the police and citizens would reduce crime. Therefore, two areas of the city were selected for this project. The first area selected was the target area located on the northwest side of Detroit. It is called the Crary-St. Mary's Area and includes the following demographic characteristics:

City Blocks	155
Population	12,880
Senior Citizens	20%
Non-White	60%
A.D.C.	10%
Years of Education	12 - For persons over 25y
Medium Income	\$17,000
Owner/Occupant	75%

BUILDINGS

-- Residential.....	3,924
-- Commercial.....	219
-- Apartments.....	37
-- FHA.....	29.5

The target area Part I crime statistics disclosed an increase in crime, with high victimization in burglary and street robberies.

Also evidenced in the target area was much transition of people moving in and out. This was most significant with Whites moving out

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to the suburbs and Blacks moving into the target area. As a result of this transition there was a lack of neighborhood cohesiveness.

The control area had very similar demographics and crime characteristics. The control area is located about four miles away from the target area.

HYPOTHESIS

That a comprehensive Neighborhood Watch program in the target area which maximizes the optimum in citizen involvement will reduce the crimes of burglary, larceny and auto theft. A probability sample survey will be utilized to measure attitudes, perceptions and crime prevention activities.

The target area will be afforded extensive crime analysis data to identify crime problems, trends and patterns. Also, four trained crime prevention officers will be assigned to the area and will have an office in the work area.

CONCEPTS OPERATIONALIZED

CRIME PREVENTION (independent variable)

Crime prevention is the anticipation, the recognition and appraisal of a crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove it; it involves a trained police officer who contacts the citizen in an interpersonal relationship with information regarding crime prevention that makes the citizen more cognizant of ways to reduce the opportunity for crime. Crime prevention includes educational programs, conducting security surveys, follow-up contacts with victims, and organizing the community into neighborhood watch groups and neighborhood patrols. In addition to education, crime prevention includes what the state of the art is in both physical and electronic community countermeasures.

CRIME PREVENTION OFFICER (independent variable)

This is a police officer who has been afforded formal training in crime prevention and who works full time at crime prevention. This officer is still required to make arrest or to take the necessary action that a non-crime prevention officer would be required to do when exigent circumstances require it. The crime prevention officer is housed in both the police precinct and the mini-station.

PATROL POLICE OFFICER

This officer is required to walk a beat or ride in a patrol car. He is not working full time in crime prevention, but when the situation requires it he will administer crime prevention techniques. This officer's duties include responding to radio runs, making arrests, investigating crimes, writing reports, and providing general services to the public.

BURGLARY (dependent variable)

This crime is a breaking and entering. It is classified as "Break or Enter Business", "Break or Enter Dwelling", or Break or Enter Others". Also included in this offense is the crime of attempt to burglarize. After a time period, there should be a decline in this crime as a result of the crime prevention effort.

LARCENY (dependent variable)

The crime of larceny is a theft, if the property taken is under \$100, it is simple larceny, if the value is over \$100, it is a grand larceny. This crime includes "Larceny from Motor Vehicle", "Larceny from Person and attempt larceny."

AUTO THEFT (dependent variable)

This crime is the unlawful driving away of an auto with the intent to permanently deprive.

UNARMED ROBBERY (dependent variable)

This crime is specifically for purse snatchings and strong armings. In this crime there is no weapon, but physical force is used.

** All of the crime categories (dependent variables) will be measured by the regular reporting techniques, and at the end of the one year period the data will be received through the computer for comparison.

** As a result of the public's awareness to crime prevention, there will initially be an increase in reported crimes. Furthermore, victimization studies done on the five largest cities in 1972 by LEAA disclosed that Detroit had considerable unreported crime.

FEAR OF CRIME (dependent variable)

Because of the omnipresent of crime there is a fear of crime syndrome; but after the crime prevention program this variable will be decreased as a result of the citizens awareness to crime and crime prevention. This variable will be measured during the pre-test and then in the post-test.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The crime prevention educational program will include: Slides, films, lectures, visual aids and handout literature. The crime prevention officer will contact organized groups, schools, block clubs and any group of people willing to participate in the program.

SECURITY SURVEYS

The crime prevention officer will contact both residential and business owners and inform them in ways in which they can better secure their premises. This might include lights, windows, doors, screens, locks, dogs, alarms and other devices that harden the target.

FOLLOW-UP CONTACTS WITH VICTIMS

Crime prevention officers will contact victims of crimes with advice on how to prevent the crime from happening again; also to disclose a genuine concern for the victim's welfare.

ORGANIZING COMMUNITY GROUPS

The crime prevention program will include the organizing and controlling of citizen groups who are interested in crime prevention. Groups such as the Neighborhood Watch Group, who are active in their neighborhoods in protecting their property and prosecuting criminals. Also, the neighborhood civilian patrol who patrol their neighborhoods, attempting to observe any transgressions so that they can notify the police.

For crime prevention to be successful there must be adequate planning and evaluation of what is being done. In order to accomplish this we utilize program planning, implementation, evaluation, and maintenance as an integral part of our efforts.

PROGRAM PLANNING

The approach used by the Detroit Police Crime Prevention Section was to utilize crime analysis and demographic data to determine what the problems were. For example, in the crime of burglary over 35 percent occurred through unlocked doors and windows, and almost 60 percent occurred during daytime hours.

In addition, many home burglaries resulted in a rape or serious assault. Therefore, the planning phase prioritized a crime prevention program that would focus on safety in the neighborhoods.

In 1976, there were about 156,000 reported Part I crimes in the city and over 82 percent were the crimes of burglary, larceny and auto theft. These property crimes were the focus of the crime prevention program with the belief that we would be able to reduce them.

The four crime prevention practitioners assigned to the target area has the responsibility of contacting all of the service clubs, churches, business and community leaders informing them of the program and requesting their support and resources.

Several public service announcements and crime prevention brochures were developed which explained the different aspects of crime prevention.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The Neighborhood Watch Program consist of four facets: crime reporting; home security; operation identification; and self-protection. Each participating block must have a minimum of 50 percent involvement, and there must be at least two meetings dedicated to the crime prevention training. Blocks that meet this criteria will be

afforded neighborhood watch signs installed on their blocks denoting their participation.

The crime prevention officers canvassed each block requesting citizen involvement. On each block a person would host a meeting either at their house or in a police mini-station or precinct, or a nearby church. On the day of the meeting an officer would recontact the block reminding the citizens of the meeting and the importance of their attendance.

The first meeting usually involved neighbors getting to know each other and meeting the crime prevention officer and in some instances the patrol officers assigned to the area. The crime prevention officer is responsible for being informed of the crime problems and discussing the concept of crime prevention.

The subsequent meetings focus on the intricacies of crime reporting; homes security; Operation Identification; and self-protection. Also information regarding how to handle neighborhood problems and how to deal with government bureaucracy is covered.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The Neighborhood Watch Program has been evaluated with crime statistics and the probability sample survey. Also empirical data regarding the crime prevention activities are considered as a measure of citizens involvement.

The crime statistics disclose the following:

TARGET AREA CRIME	1977	1978	1979	
Rape	10	6	4	-60
Robbery	57	30	25	-56
B&E Dwelling	253	131	97	-61
Larceny	17	11	9	-53
Larceny from Auto	99	58	49	-51
Purse Snatching	31	20	12	-61
CONTROL AREA CRIME	1977	1978	1979	
Rape	8	9	8	- 0
Robbery	52	40	43	-17
B&E Dwelling	206	197	180	-12.6
Larceny	6	13	9	+50
Larceny from Auto	94	80	89	- 5
Purse Snatching	7	9	4	-32

These crime statistics disclose a substantial reduction of crime in the target area. Most notably is the 61% reduction in burglary, with total crime being down 58 percent. The control area depicts a 12.6 percent reduction in burglary and total reduction of 10 percent for all crimes.

Since the inception of the program there have been the following crime prevention activities conducted in the West-side target area:

NUMBER OF NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK CONTACTS	152
" " " " COMPLETIONS	151
" " MEETINGS	420
" " SECURITY SURVEYS CONDUCTED	636
" " PEOPLE ATTENDING PROGRAMS	9,680
" " NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH SIGNS INSTALLED	140
" " APARTMENT WATCH PROGRAMS	5
" " BUSINESS WATCH PROGRAMS	4
" " SENIORS TRANSPORTED PER MO.	239

Therefore, out of 155 blocks, 151 have been organized in the Neighborhood Watch Program and have at least two meetings covering crime reporting, home security, operation identification, and self protection.

*It should be noted that the number of people (9,680) attending crime prevention programs are in many instances the same people attending different and subsequent meetings.

The following is the pre and post Probability Sample Survey conducted in the target area.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PARTICIPANTS

Please Circle the Appropriate:

1. How fearful are you of crimes happening to you, your family, or your property?

- Very fearful 1
- Somewhat fearful 2
- Slightly fearful 3
- Not at all fearful 4
- Don't know 0

2. How safe do you feel, or would you feel, being out alone in your neighborhood at night?

- Very safe 1
- Reasonably safe 2
- Somewhat unsafe 3
- Very unsafe 4
- Don't know 0

3. Have you done anything in the last year to protect this house (apartment) from crime--things like stronger locks, outside lighting, protected windows?

- Yes (if yes, go to 3a).
- No

3a. What have you done?

- Stronger locks 1
- Outside lighting 2
- Protected windows 3
- Alarms 4
- Dogs 5
- Other (specify) 6

4. Have you marked your personal possessions with any permanent identifying marks?

- Yes 1
- No 2

5. Have you been a victim of a burglary within the past two years?

- Yes 1
- No 2

6. Would you say, in general, that your local Police are doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job?

- Good Job 3
- Average Job 2
- Poor Job 1
- Don't Know 0

7. Within the past year or two, do you think that crime in this neighborhood has:

- Increased 1
- Remained the Same 2
- Decreased 3
- Other 4

8. Do you have an arrangement with any of the neighbors on your block to watch each others' houses while you are away?

- Yes 1
- No 2

9. Have you ever reported a crime or suspicious activity to the Police? If so, were you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not satisfied at all with the way the Police handled your call or report?

- Very Satisfied 1
- Somewhat Satisfied 2
- Not Too Satisfied 3
- Not at All Satisfied 4
- Don't Know 5
- Never Called or Reported 6

10. Have you attended any Community or Block Club Meetings in your area in the last year?

Yes . . . (if yes, approximately how many?) _____

No

11. What do you feel is the greatest crime problem in your neighborhood?

1. Burglary

2. Larceny

3. Robbery

4. Auto Theft

5. Sex Offenses

6. Other (specify) _____

7. None

SURVEY FINDINGS

The probability Sample Survey was conducted to 500 citizens at the first neighborhood watch meeting they attended. The test was administered by the crime prevention officer prior to any crime prevention education and before any interpersonal relationship was established with the participants. The post test was administered to a large sampling of 20 percent, and between one and two years after the pre test. The post test was administered by non police personnel and was done by telephone.

The results of the probability sample survey discloses the following salient findings.

1. How fearful are you of crimes happening to you, your family, or your property?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
VERY FEARFUL	40%	12%

2. How safe do you feel, or would you feel, being out alone in your neighborhood at night?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
VERY SAFE	6%	30%

3. Have you done anything in the last year to protect this house (apartment) from crime...things like stronger locks, outside lighting, protected windows?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
YES	28%	60%
NO	72%	40%

4. Have you marked your personal possessions with any permanent identifying marks? (Operation Identification).

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
YES	28%	62%
NO	72%	38%

5. Have you been a victim of a burglary within the past two years?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
YES	24%	5%
NO	76%	95%

6. Would you say, in general, that your police are doing a good job, an average job, or a poor job?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
GOOD JOB	40%	75%
AVERAGE JOB	40%	22%
POOR JOB	14%	2%
DON'T KNOW	6%	1%

7. Within the past year or two, do you think that crime in this neighborhood has:

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
INCREASED	31%	15%
REMAINED THE SAME	40%	35%
DECREASED	17%	45%
OTHER	12%	5%

8. Do you have an arrangement with any of the neighbors on your block to watch each others' house while you are away?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
YES	72%	89%
NO	28%	11%

9. Have you ever reported a crime or suspicious activity to the police? If so, were you:

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
VERY SATISFIED	20%	35%
SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	15%	20%
NOT TOO SATISFIED	15%	10%
NOT AT ALL SATISFIED	10%	5%
DON'T KNOW	4%	5%
NEVER CALLED OR REPORTED	36%	25%

10. Have you attended any community or block club meetings in your area in the last year?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
YES	27%	100%
NO	73%	0

11. What do you feel is the greatest crime problem in your neighborhood?

	<u>PRE TEST</u>	<u>POST TEST</u>
1. BURGLARY	73	60
2. LARCENY	2	8
3. ROBBERY	5	15
4. AUTO THEFT	15	14
5. SEX OFFENSES	5	3
6. OTHER	0	0
7. NONE	0	0

The findings of this survey indicates that police and citizens working together in crime prevention can have some very positive results. For example, the fear of crime was reduced significantly, and the participants in the Neighborhood Watch program became more active in home security, operation identification, and more positive interaction with their neighbors and the police.

PROGRAM MAINTENANCE

This stage of the program is most critical and must be prioritized. Program maintenance has been the foundation of our success and is an ongoing process.

Program maintenance has been achieved through followup crime prevention programs; special workshop training seminars for block security chiefs; encouraging community leaders to attend the Chief's citywide meetings; personal recognition of leaders with certificates and plaques; the Chief's twenty-six member Crime Prevention Advisory Committee; and constant written communication with our Crime Prevention Newsletter (Ounce of Prevention) and letters of information.

All community organizations are encouraged to participate in crime prevention and particularly the Neighborhood Watch program. They are permitted to put the name of their organization on the Neighborhood Watch signs. The police department's role with community organization is one of support and allowing them to use our resources in their programs. We do not attempt to usurp their power or leadership.

CONCLUSION

The Detroit Neighborhood Watch program in the target area has been very successful in reducing crime and the fear of crime. This is demonstrated with the 61 percent reduction in burglary and a total reduction of 58 percent for all Part I crimes.

The probability sample survey discloses that the concept of crime prevention can serve as a catalyst that will promote citizen involvement in their community and especially with their neighbors. The post test categorically demonstrated more

involvement in home security, operation identification, and a stronger relationship with neighbors and the police.

This crime prevention endeavor also supports the concept of the systems approach to identifying and solving crime problems. This includes the identification of needs, issues, and problems; the need for contemporary data collection and analysis; program development and implementation; testing, measurement, and evaluation of the project; and the need for maintaining the program indefinitely are all germane to program success.

In conclusion, police administrators must look at crime prevention as a viable goal that should be prioritized as being cost effective for attacking crime and its aberrations.

~~With present and future budget restraints for law~~ enforcement on all levels it is critical that the police maximize the utilization of citizens through crime prevention as a means of attacking the crime problems.

END