

## Police Process

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Lecture 8  
Police Patrol II:  
The Backbone of Policing

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## Outline for the lecture

- Identify major research studies on the effectiveness of patrol
- Explain how current philosophies of patrol differ traditional approaches
- Introduce some of alternative ways to improve the traditional patrol

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## The Call Service Workload

- The Volume of Calls
  - Workload produced by 911 systems varies widely
- Types of Calls: Handling "anything & everything"
  - 29.1 % crime-related calls (*just 3% for violent crimes*): not crimefighters, but peacekeepers or problem solvers
  - Most CFS: order maintenance, conflict management, service (especially, family problems)
  - Many situations require the exercise of discretion
  - "Hotspots": Minneapolis Study (5% people → 64% CFS)

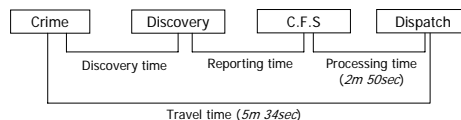
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## Aspects of Patrol Work

- Response Time (RT)
  - Quick RT will increase *the probability of an arrest and public satisfaction*, but little effect on clearance rate



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## Aspects of Patrol Work (cont.)

- Response Time (cont.)
  - 75% of all reported crimes are discovery or *cold crimes* (only 25% involve crimes)
  - Discovery delay time: 1 hour for property, 30 min for personal crimes of violence
  - *Victims took an average of 4 to 5.5 min to call the police*
  - Citizen satisfaction with police service is affected by RT. (e.g., more than 15 min, less satisfied)

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## Aspects of Patrol Work (cont.)

- Officer Use of Patrol Time
  - Traditional negative stereotypes: "*Donut shop*"
  - Committed time: officer occupied with handling calls
  - Uncommitted time: patrol, non-police related activity, stationary police-related activities, residual time
  - POPN study
    - a. P.O.s (beat) spend: encounters with citizens (20%), patrol(20%), traveling(15%)
    - b. CPO spend: encounters with citizens (14%), patrol(9%)
  - *Arrest: Major impact on use of time (1-2 hours processing)*

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## Aspects of Patrol Work (cont.)

- Evasion of Duty
  - Officers can create free time by delaying a call
- High-Speed Pursuit (HSP)
  - HSP is a situation where a P.O. attempt to stop a vehicle and a suspect knowingly flees at a high rate of speed
  - Poses serious risk to P.O., suspects, other drivers, bystanders (e.g., 33% resulted in accidents, 17% for injuries)
  - "Dark figures": short duration, don't report when violated dept's policy

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol

- Does Visible Police Presence deter crime ?
  - Since LPD, the basic assumption is *adding more P.O.s on patrols will increase the deterrent effect*
  - Research in 1950s and 1960s did not meet contemporary standards of research
    - a. Operation 25 (NY) – did not control for displacement
    - b. NYC experiment

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment (1972-73)
  - *The first experiment testing the effectiveness of patrol that met minimum standards of scientific research*
  - Research design
    - a. 15 beats in S. patrol division (out of 24, 9 eliminated)
    - b. 15 beats matched crime data, # of CFS, ethnic composition, median income, etc.

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment (cont.)
  - Research design (cont.)
    - a. Three level of patrol: reactive, proactive, and control

Figure 1  
SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE 15-BEAT EXPERIMENTAL AREA



R = No preventive patrol  
C = Normal patrol  
P = 2-3 times more patrol

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment (cont.)
  - Research design (cont.)
    - d. Measurement: the impact of the different levels of patrol on *criminal activity, community perceptions and attitudes, police behavior and PD practices*
    - e. Data: UCR, NCVS, other source (e.g., RT, PO's use of time, officer attitudes)
  - Findings:

*"No impact on crime, citizen feelings of safety, change in behavior or lifestyle, and attitudes toward the police"*

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment (cont.)
  - Findings (cont.)
    - a. Challenged traditional assumptions about patrol
    - b. *Crime and FOC did not increase in reactive beat*
  - Reasons for the findings and limitations
    - a. Did not control traveling among beats, people did not seem to notice the different level of patrol (i.e., *residual deterrence or phantom effect*)

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Kansas City Preventive Patrol Experiment (cont.)
  - Reasons for the findings and limitations (cont.)
    - Patrol is spread so thin: doubling is not have any additional impact
    - Crimes not to be deterred by patrol*
    - Tested only the level of police patrol rather than actual police activity
  - *Since then there have been many critics of KC study, but it remains a foremost study to police patrol*

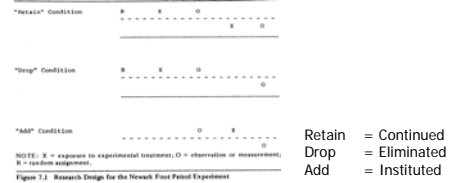
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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Newark Foot Patrol Experiment (1978-79)
  - Tested the effect of foot patrol on crime and public perceptions
  - Research Design: similar to KC study



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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- The Newark Foot Patrol Experiment (1978-79)
  - Measurement: the effect of different levels of FP on crime, arrest rate, and community attitude (using survey)
  - Findings

*"Additional FP had no effect on the crime rate, but FP reduce citizens' fear of crime, more positive attitudes toward the police"*

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## The Effectiveness of Patrol (cont.)

- Conclusions

Q: Does Visible Police Presence (adding more P.O.s on patrol) deter crime ?

A: Based on two empirical researches, it can be concluded that *simply adding more police officers on patrol will not deter crime.*

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## Improving Traditional Patrol

- Traditional Approaches
  - Patrol deterred crime, quick response is important, maximize patrol coverage (e.g., FP -> VP, one officer unit)
- Different Response to Calls
  - Calls classified according to *seriousness of the call*
    - Immediate response by S.O.
    - Delayed
    - No police response
  - Increased both citizen and officers' satisfaction, and overall quality of CFS system

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## Improving Traditional Patrol (cont.)

- Telephone Reporting Units (TRUs)
  - Handle calls when citizen reports crime but no immediate police response is necessary
- 311 Non-Emergency Numbers (3% PD)
  - Baltimore PD introduced in 1996
  - The average time it took to answer 911 calls reduced by 50%
  - Calls from 911 that are non-emergency transferred to 311 or vice versa

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## Improving Traditional Patrol (cont.)

- Non-English 911 Call Service
  - Creates a major problem for the police (e.g., Hispanics less likely to call the police due to language barriers)
  - PD may subscribe to translation services
- Reverse 911: PD call citizens to provide info.
- Computer and Video Cameras in Patrol Cars: Enhance police operations, and police accountability
- Police Aides and Cadets: handle low-priority calls
- Directed Patrol and Hot Spots: focus on specific duties

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