Situational Crime Prevention

Or

Problem-Oriented Situational Interventions
Both are preventive approaches
One is defined within policing while the other is not
Both originated in the 1970s, SCP in the UK and POP in the USA
Both focus on highly specific problems
Both use action research models
Intervening in the causal chain of opportunity to prevent crime from occurring
1748, Judge Henry Fielding and the Bow Street runners

Jonathan Wild story and Fieldings’ failures

Modern Police created in London (1829) under Sir Robert Peel (1788-1850) (father of modern policing)
1) The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.

2) The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.

3) Police must secure the willing cooperation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the law.
4) The degree of cooperation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionally to the necessity of the use of force.

5) Police seek and preserve public favor not by catering public opinion, but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law.
6) Police use physical force only to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient.
7) Police at all times should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition; the Police are the public and the public are the police. The police being only full time individuals charged with the duties that are incumbent on all of the citizens.

8) Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.
9) The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder, not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.
Crime Prevention Model

- Prevention vs. Control
- Medical model approach to crime

Disease prevention
1) Primary- vaccinations
2) Secondary- screening tests
3) Tertiary- direct treatment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>All Methods</th>
<th>By Gas</th>
<th>Percentage by Gas</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>5298</td>
<td>2637</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>5112</td>
<td>2499</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>5588</td>
<td>2469</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>5566</td>
<td>2088</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>4994</td>
<td>1593</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>4584</td>
<td>988</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>3940</td>
<td>511</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>3770</td>
<td>197</td>
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</tr>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>3899</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td>3816</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handgun Murders</td>
<td>Rate per 1 million</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>46,553</td>
<td>40.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England &amp; Wales</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0.23</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
3 Stages of Defense

Primary
Secondary
Tertiary
Three zones of protection (physical)

- Using business analogy
  1. Primary: perimeter areas
  2. Secondary: the building itself
  3. Tertiary: interior of the facility
Primary Crime Prevention

- Environmental criminology
  - Opportunity-reducing measures

- Architectural design (CPTED)

- Create defensible space
  - Can we create ‘territoriality’???
Secondary Prevention

- Early identification of potential offenders
- Decentralized, micro-level identification of problems and interventions
- Manipulating immediate environments
Tertiary Prevention

- Offenses have already occurred
- Formal CJ system is now involved (Failure?)
- Specific Deterrence
- Incapacitation
- Rehabilitation & Treatment
Two ways to prevent crime

1. Change people’s criminal motivations
2. Reduce opportunities for crime
Focus of New Crime Theories

- Crime, not criminality
- Events, not dispositions
- Near, not distant causes of crime
- How crime occurs, not why it happens
Analyzing criminal events

3 basic theories

1) Rational choice (Cornish & Clarke)
2) Routine Activities (Cohen & Felson)
3) Environmental criminology (Brantingham)
(1) Rational Choice

**MAJOR PREMISE**

Hedonism among situational factors
Practical Limits of Deterrence

- Penalties often learned well *after* arrest
- Underestimate risk of being caught
- Clearance rates are generally low
- Criminals easily replaced
Deterrence theory focuses on the impact of *punishment* on criminal choices

Rational choice theory focuses on the impact of *opportunity* on criminal choices
(2) Routine Activities Theory: The Interaction of Three Factors

Lack of capable guardians
- Police officers – Security guard
- Homeowners
- Security systems

Motivated offenders
- Teenage boys
- Unemployed
- Addict population

Suitable targets
- Unlocked homes
- Expensive cars
- Easily transportable goods
Routine Activities Theory

Target = fuel, can’t commit w/o it!

Motivated Offender = gets most the blame, like heat of the fire

Place = oxygen, must come together w/fuel & heat

*Guardianship takes away the fuel
Opportunity makes the thief (Step 9)

DO NOT be offender focused

Impossible mandate if the police focus on offenders

- Use SCP / POP TOOLS to impact spatial opportunities
- High percentage of crime concentrated in small number of places

- Jellystone Park (Warrens, Wisconsin)
Theoretical Implications

If ‘opportunity’ is true ..........

Crime rates may change without changes in the social conditions that motivate crime
#2 Hot spot intersection
#2 Hot Spot Bus Stop Location
#2 Hot Spot Bus Location
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Increase the Effort</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Steering column locks and immobilisers</td>
<td>- Take routine precautions: go out in group at night, leave signs of occupancy, carry phone</td>
<td>- Off-street parking</td>
<td>- Efficient queues and polite service</td>
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<td>- Anti-robbery screens</td>
<td>- &quot;Cocoon&quot; neighborhood watch</td>
<td>- Gender-neutral phone directories</td>
<td>- Expanded seating</td>
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<td>- Tamper-proof packaging</td>
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<td>- Soothing music/softened lights</td>
<td>- Hotel registration</td>
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<td>- Entry phones</td>
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<td>- Electronic card access</td>
<td>- Defensible space design</td>
<td>- Women’s refugees</td>
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<td>- Baggage screening</td>
<td>- Support whistleblowers</td>
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<td>- &quot;How’s my driving?&quot; decals</td>
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<td>- Enforce good behavior on soccer field</td>
<td>- Display boards</td>
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<td>- Speed bumps</td>
<td>- Censor details of modus operandi</td>
<td>- Alcohol-free events</td>
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Increase the Effort

- Harden Targets - Target stores

- Deflect Offenders – MSU football

- Control Tools/Weapons
  - Disable cell phones, Federal gun laws
Increase the Risks

- Extend guardianship
  - NAD

- Assist natural surveillance

- Reduce Anonymity
  - More important than severity of punishment

- Utilize place managers
  - Scrap dealers
Reduce the Rewards

- Remove targets
  - Cash in robberies

- Identify property
  - Metal theft

- Disrupt markets (market reduction approaches)

- Deny benefits
  - Speed bumps, ink tags
Reduce the Provocations

- Reduce frustrations and stress
  - Appleton, WI school

- Avoid disputes
  - Pub crawls, fixed taxi rates

- Neutralize peer pressure
  - Meth ads

- Discourage imitation
  - NY subway graffiti
Remove the Excuses

- Set Rules
  - hotel registration

- Alert conscience
  - shoplifting ramifications

- Assist compliance
  - public bathrooms, garbage cans

- Control drugs and alcohol
  - bar breathalyzers
Collective Efficacy

How can your officers influence collective efficacy (i.e., informal social control)?

As anonymity increases, informal social control decreases.
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<td>• Fixed cab fares</td>
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<td>• Public lavatories</td>
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**Notes:**
- "Cocoon" neighborhood watch: A strategy to protect property owners from criminal activity.
- Efficient queues and polite service: Measures to manage customer flow smoothly.
- Soothing music/muted lights: Environmental modifications to reduce stress.
- "No Parking": Unauthorized parking instructions.
- "Private Property": Privatization strategies.
- "Extinguish camp fires": Strategies to prevent problems at events.
- Roadside speed display boards: Public safety measures.
- Signatures for customs declarations: Policy enforcement mechanisms.
- "Shoplifting is stealing": Inspection and prevention techniques.
### Measure of Association (Step 33)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident</th>
<th>Odds Ratio</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.229 – (6 yrs) 9.693</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armed Robbery</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.244 – (6 yrs) 8.769</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Abuse</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.266 – (6 yrs) 8.425</td>
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<tr>
<td>Narcotics</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.404 – (6 yrs) 11.631</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obstruction</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.333 – (6 yrs) 9.205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapons</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.203 – (6 yrs) 7.899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Crime</td>
<td>(2 yrs) 1.305 – (6 yrs) 10.454</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Defensible Space

- Oscar Newman- 1972
  - Brownsville & Van Dyke housing projects

- Elements
  1) Territoriality
  2) Natural Surveillance
  3) Image
Get officers asking questions!

What are the worst bars and what are the crimes in and around those bars?

Where do local people get drunk and why?

Which bars have no crime and may help neighborhoods? Why?
- Get officers asking questions!

- Which parks are facilitating crime?
- Why? How? When?
- What is crime like near the park?
- Which park has a lot of women and children and less crime? What is the design of that park?
POP start-up: B & E

- Get officers asking questions!
- Break down the information
- What type of structures are broken into day/night/weekdays/weekends, etc.
- What percentage are repeat victims? You may need to ask for this data directly?
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