The **SCRAP** test

A tool to identify crime reduction strategies that will not work

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If your strategy assumes...

Solutions to crime are complex
Crime is widespread
Residents matter most
Arrests reduce crime
Police can solve all crime problems
Scrap it!
1 Myth: Solutions to Crime are Complex
Fact: Break issues down to problems

1. Major Societal Issues
2. Problems
3. Immediate Events
Myth:
Crime is Widespread
Fact:
Crime is Concentrated

Image courtesy of Jillian Desmond
Fact:
Crime is Concentrated

Distribution of Robbery and Aggravated Assault in Fort Myers, FL
January 1 - 31, 2018

49% of incidents occurred in 1.1 sq. miles (2.3% of city’s area)

*Image courtesy of Jillian Desmond
Fact:
Crime is Concentrated
Fact: Crime is Concentrated

- Places with most of the crime
- Places with modest amounts of crime
- Places with no crime

Ranked Places
Fact: Crime is Concentrated

- Places with most of the crime
- Places with modest amounts of crime
- Places with no crime

Ranked Places
Deployment with a Purpose

Distribution of Agg Assault in Dunbar Neighborhood
January 1 - December 31, 2019

Offense Type
- Aggravated Assault
- Robbery

Degree of Concentration
- Top 30%
- Top 20%
- Top 10%
Deployment with a Purpose

Welcome to the FMPD Intelligence Hub

This page was created to act as an one stop shop for all resources created by the Criminal Intelligence Bureau and/ or third party applications that are intended to assist all front line employees. This page is broken down into four (4) categories:
3 Myth: Residents matter most

Stop fighting

That's enough already.
Fact: Place managers are part of communities
Fact: Place managers are part of communities

Organization of Space

Regulation of Conduct

Control of Access

Acquisition of Resources
Myth: Arrests Reduce Crime
Fact: Arrests are a result, not an outcome

Inputs → Processes → Results → Outcomes
Myth: Police can solve all crime problems
Fact: Place managers can change crime opportunities

- Differences in place management
- Powers of ownership
- Can change places
If your strategy assumes...

Solutions to crime are complex
Crime is widespread
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Police can solve all crime problems

Scrap it!

Instead, ask yourself...

Is there a smaller solution?
Does the 80/20 rule apply?
Who are the place managers?
What is the desired outcome?
How can we change the opportunity?

Try this!
Ft. Myers PD’s Strategic Plan includes SCRAP Test

**1-22:** Tightly merge a Place-Based Crime Strategy with the existing FMPD Offender-Based Strategy and develop one overarching narrowly focused FMPD Crime Strategy. Usually, about 6% or fewer places experience half of the crime in any US city (Weisburd, 2015). This trend has become so commonly observed that it has even been classified as a fundamental law in criminology: *The Law of Crime Concentration.* Crime-prone places often encourage or allow offending by providing criminal offenders access to valuable targets in areas with little or no guardianship or by facilitating the criminal activities of a large number of highly motivated offenders. Offender-based strategies, like focused deterrence, do not explicitly focus on crime-prone places. By addressing the underlying causal mechanisms, FMPD can be more effective in reducing both the criminal opportunity and crime associated with particular places.

**1-23:** Prior to implementation, test this Strategy (and any newly proposed FMPD strategy) against Linning’s SCRAP Test to assess the likelihood the strategy will be effective.

**SCRAP Test**

The SCRAP Test is a checklist-style test that can be used to determine whether an intervention or strategy is appropriate. It lists 5 common misconceptions surrounding crime and policing.

If a proposed strategy assumes one or more of the statements is true, the strategy/intervention should be “scrapped” or altered to address the misconception.

*See Addendum A for more details*