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A Policy Analysis of the Effectiveness of Hot Spot Policing

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Abstract

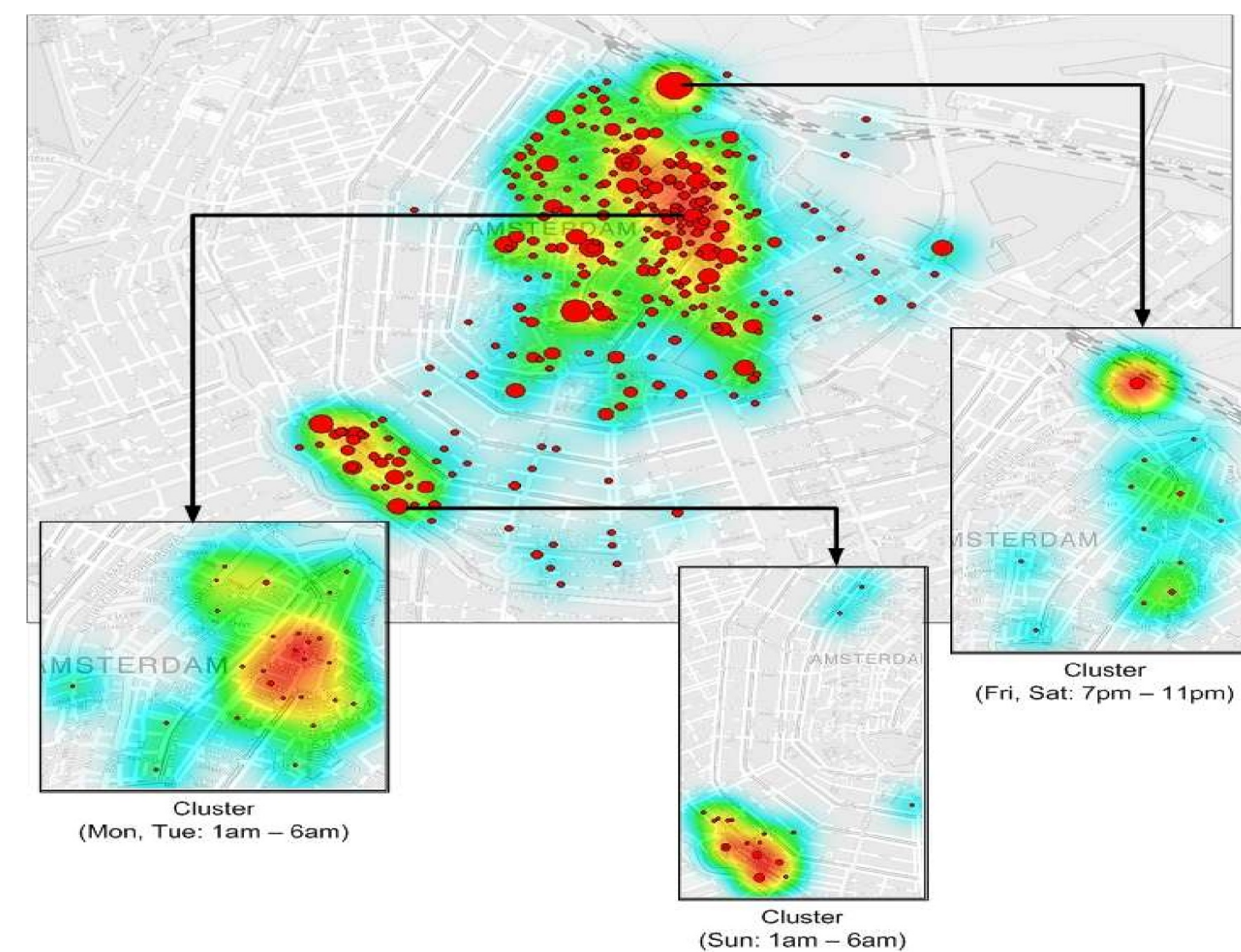
The objective of this research is to examine the effectiveness of Hot Spot Policing efforts in reducing rates of crime in high concentrated areas. A systematic review of studies conducted to assess the impact of this policy found that this policy is an effective means of reducing crime rates. In addition, this policy has also allowed for police agencies to make use of their limited resources in an effective manner.

Introduction

Hot spot policing is a crime prevention strategy that has been implemented in many locations world-wide since 1988. Hot spot policing was implemented in order to utilize available and limited resources in an effective way (U.S. Department of Justice, 2008).

- Focused Resources
- Identification of Clustered Crime
- Decrease Crime Rates

The purpose of this research is to determine whether hot spot policing is an effective crime prevention policy.



Example of Hot Spot Mapping

Studies Demonstrating Effectiveness

- Research has examined the effectiveness of hot spot policing and has found that this policy is effective at reducing rates of crime. For example, Braga, Turchan, Papachristos, and Hureau (2019) studied the effects of increased directed foot and vehicle patrol on 78 areas, of the 78 experiment areas, 62 or 79.5% showed noteworthy crime control gains.
- The research conducted by Weisburd, Braga, Groff, and Wooditch (2017) relies heavily on risk evaluation and determining if the benefits outweigh the risks.
 - Rational Choice Theory
 - Elimination of Opportunity = Crime Rates Decrease

Studies Demonstrating Ineffectiveness

While a significant amount of research indicates the effectiveness of hot spot policing as a policy to reduce crime rates, some research has questioned the efficacy of the program.

- Displacement

Summative Analysis

In order to implement hot spot policing in an effective manner, police officers will need to understand the importance of transparency while working within the communities (Valente, 2021).

- Adequately Trained
- Avoidance of Petty Tickets
- Supportive Community Members/Positive Relationships

Once those relationships have been established, it is important to examine the perceptions of crime, disorder, and attitudes towards police officers in areas where hot spot policing is implemented.

Conclusions

In conclusion, by 1988, hot spot policing was a crime prevention strategy that was being implemented in many locations world-wide.

- Utilize Limited Resources
- Pinpoint Cluster Areas of Crime
- Analyze the Problem
- Create Tailored Response – Directed Patrol
- Maintain Decreasing Crime Rates and Control Gains

Overall, the research regarding the effectiveness of this program has been supportive of the policies impact on lowering crime rates within high concentrated areas.

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