

### HOT SPOTS POLICING

<b>What is it?</b>	Hot spots policing strategies increase police attention to places with concentrated criminal opportunities.
<b>Does it work?</b>	<b>Hot spots policing is generally effective.</b> In general, hot spots policing has the potential to reduce crime modestly. Problem-solving approaches tend to be more successful than patrol strategies in crime hot spots.
<b>How is it normally done?</b>	There is no standardized list of hot spot approaches and various tactics have been applied. Successful approaches have in the past included increased gun searches and seizures, foot patrols, problem-oriented policing, and offender-focused tactics. For focused patrols, some evidence (called the Koper Curve) suggests 15 minute police stops every couple of hours are effective.
<b>Mechanism?</b>	Usually general deterrence. Hot spots policing relies primarily on focused law enforcement strategies. For example, increased enforcement can convey a heightened sense of risk of apprehension to potential offenders. This discourages offenders from taking advantage of opportunities (though note that it doesn't change the distribution of opportunities). Problem-solving approaches often use situational crime prevention techniques.
<b>A hot spot?</b>	There isn't really a standard definition of a place for hot spots policing, but in general crime hot spots are places as small as individual buildings or street corners, blocks or clusters of a few streets, where crime is higher relative to the rest of the area. The term is generally not used once you get to the size of whole neighborhoods.
<b>How's the research?</b>	Reliable. A substantial number of studies, rigorously conducted, have generally found some positive benefits from hot spots studies.
<b>Caveats?</b>	For patrol strategies, dosage is always an issue. If you don't invest the resources in the right places (active, engaged officers, in small, high-crime areas), you won't see any effects.
<b>Other considerations?</b>	Little evidence of backfire effects damaging public perception, but be aware of that possibility. More evidence of a diffusion of crime control benefits to nearby (non-patrolled) areas than displacement.
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<b>Read more?</b>	Reducing Crime: A Companion for Police Leaders, Chapter 6.
<b>And finally?</b>	Standard disclaimer: This is a one page summary based on an individual's reading of the literature. It shouldn't be a replacement for your own thorough review of the research. That's why there are links above, and why this is free. Also, your mileage may differ. Experiment, evaluate, learn, share.
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