

Police deployment at places: Do officer activities matter in crime reduction?*

ELIZABETH R. GROFF

Research Team Members¹:

- Cory Haberman
- Lallen Johnson
- Jerry Ratcliffe
- Evan Sorg
- Travis Taniguchi
- Caitlin Taylor
- Jennifer Wood

¹Listed alphabetically

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Background

- Two studies conducted in Philadelphia, PA
- Philadelphia foot patrol experiment (2009)
- Philadelphia policing strategies experiment (2010)



240 officers
60 foot patrol areas
Out on duty per week, in pairs
Two officers per area
12% reduction in vehicle crime

Philadelphia policing strategies experiment (2010)

- Three strategies
 - Foot patrol
 - Problem-oriented policing
 - Offender focus
- Identified all violent crime hot spots in city
- 20 focus areas for each strategy
- 21 control areas



Offender focus

Reduced violent crime by 22%
Reduced violent felonies by 31%

Post-mortem by strategy type

Why was offender focus successful?

- Infrastructure for offender focus already in place
 - Intelligence officers already assigned to districts
 - Assigned to "five squad" at the district level
- Traditional policing strategy

What happened with problem solving?

- PPD structural challenges
 - POP is assigned to the Police Service Area and not the district, yet the District Captain retains most of the spare operational capacity
- PPD cultural challenges
 - PPD generally associate POP with community-driven quality of life and property crime issues, not violence
- Violent crime stability
 - Some sites claimed that examination of their recent crime trends did not highlight violence



What happened with foot patrol?

- Dosage and activity

2009 Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment

Rookies
5 days/week
4 officers
16 hours/day & evening
10am to 2am

2010 Policing Strategies Experiment (foot patrol)

Veterans
5 days/week
2 officers
8 hours/day
Some to 6pm only



	Policing Strategies Initiative foot patrol	Philadelphia Foot Patrol Experiment
Narcotics arrests	+ 2.1%	+ 15%
Traffic stops	- 11.2%	+ 7%
Pedestrian stops	+ 4.8%	+ 64%
Result	Not significant	Violent crime down 23%



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groff@temple.edu
[@Liz_groff](#)

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