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## Abstract

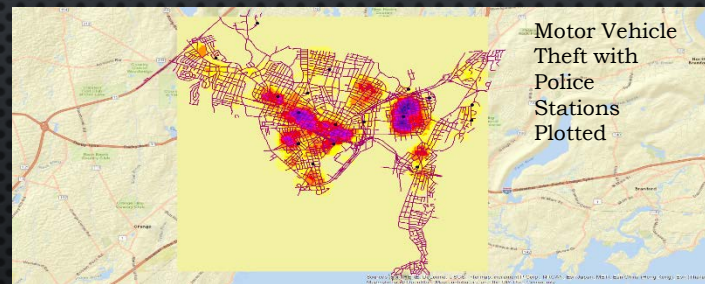
This study aims to express the relationship between points and areas of community organizations with that of various crime types in the New Haven, Connecticut area. The backdrop of the study is Social Disorganization Theory, which states that criminal activity is caused by a breakdown and/or lack of a number of ecological factors, such as schools, churches and the physical condition of an area. New Haven crime data was taken from the police department. ESRI's ArcGIS software was employed to geographically analyze the data sets. On a visual level, it can be observed that hot spots for various types of crime gravitate towards more socially disorganized neighborhoods.

## Introduction

Social Disorganization Theory is a criminological approach that emphasizes how environmental factors affect how and what crimes happen in a given area. The theory focuses on how a lack of social institutions break down the solidarity within them. This degraded bond to the community leads individuals to commit crime in their respective area. Levels of poverty, ethnogenic variability, and residential instability in these areas are thus exceptionally high and serve to perpetuate high rates of criminality (Brantingham & Brantingham, 1984). These issues persist as underlying long term causes of crime and are very rarely addressed in primarily inner city communities (Wilson, 1987).

## Method

Data from the New Haven Police Department were first obtained, containing all crimes reported to the police department for the year of 2015. Included in the data were the street address and type of crime for each specific call. Using an address locator that allows various locations to be plotted on a map grid on the New Haven area, all of the data were fed through the program to display the approximately 65,000 crime reports for 2015. Once plotted, the crimes were able to be individualized based upon the specific type of crime. In this case, murder, burglary, aggravated assault, emotionally disturbed, and robbery were utilized for analysis as they represent a the overarching theme of violent offenses and are generally well reported. Of the data given, we were also able to plot points of churches, police stations, and school areas as representations of social order.



## Analysis

After all the data have been appropriately separated, it became possible to compare the locations of crime to the various representations of social disorganization. In this comparison, it became apparent in most cases that points and areas of respective social organization are generally outside and apart from crime hotspots. A multivariate regression analysis of the distance of separation will follow.

## Conclusion

Although statistical data not yet processed, it is visible at a visual level that there is an evident union between areas of high social disorganization and respective crime levels. These conclusions are, however, in no way perfect. Foremost, the data leave out crimes that have not been reported to the police and therefore can obfuscate the true ecological nature of a crime. This phenomenon is more evident with crimes such as sexual assault, which are generally under-reported. Furthermore, crime incident locations that lacked a specific street address could not be effectively entered into ArcGIS which excluded some particular crimes. The observations do, however, point towards addressing such long term issues in communities in order to reduce criminality.

## References

- Wilson, W. (1987). *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*. University of Chicago Press.
- Brantingham, P. & Brantingham, P. (1984) *Patterns in Crime*. Macmillan/McGraw-Hill School Division.