

Community POLICING

PARTNERSHIPS FOR
PROBLEM SOLVING

EIGHTH EDITION



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Chapter 9:

Early Experiments in Crime Prevention and the Evolution of Community Policing Strategies

Learning Objectives

- LO 1 Know what the most commonly implemented crime prevention programs have traditionally been.
- LO 2 Identify what the most common strategies used in community policing have traditionally been.
- LO 3 Explain what was demonstrated in the Flint, Michigan Neighborhood Foot Patrol Program.

Learning Objectives (cont.)

- LO 4 Summarize the characteristics of several exemplary police–community strategies.
- LO 5 List the impediments that might hinder implementing community policing.

Introduction

- Community involvement with and assistance in accomplishing the mission of law enforcement is becoming widely accepted.
- The change from traditional policing to community involvement does require many chiefs of police and their officers to take risks.

Traditional Approaches to Crime Prevention

STREET LIGHTING PROJECTS

- Lighting is one means to deter and detect crime.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION PROJECTS

- Aim to deter burglary
- Return of stolen property, if recovered

CRIME PREVENTION SECURITY SURVEYS

- Environmental design of facilities and “target hardening”

Traditional Approaches to Crime Prevention (cont.)

CITIZEN PATROL PROJECTS

- Specific problems
- General crime prevention and enhanced citizen safety

CITIZEN CRIME REPORTING, NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAMS

- Organize neighborhoods as mutual aid society
- Eyes and ears of the police

SPECIAL CRIME WATCH PROGRAMS

- Mobile crime watch, youth crime watch, etc.

Discussion

- Which of the traditional crime prevention programs would you choose to implement in your community?

Other Efforts to Enhance Crime Prevention

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

- Nationwide program
 - Residents turn on their porch lights
 - Go outside and meet their neighbors
 - Build stronger, more vigilant communities
 - More resistant to crime and disorder



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ORGANIZATIONS FOCUSED ON CRIME PREVENTION

- Citizen Crime Prevention Association
 - Fund programs and raise awareness
- Crime Stoppers
 - Nonprofit offering rewards for information
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
 - Nonprofit, grassroots organization
 - Membership is open to anyone

USING VOLUNTEERS

- Volunteers may serve in a crime prevention capacity as:
 - Reserve officers
 - Auxiliary patrol or community service officers
 - On an as-needed basis

Early Empirical Studies of Community Policing

FLINT, MI: NEIGHBORHOOD FOOT PATROL PROGRAM

- Documented what police did on foot patrol
- Explained how that differed from motorized patrol

FIRST NEWARK, NJ: FOOT PATROL EXPERIMENT

- Residents reported positive results.
- Business owners reported negative results.

SECOND NEWARK, NJ: FOOT PATROL EXPERIMENT

- Coordinated foot patrol, cleanup campaign, and distribution of a newsletter

Discussion

- What was learned from the Flint, Michigan, Neighborhood Foot Patrol Program and what are its implications for today's policing strategies?

Early Empirical Studies of Community Policing (cont.)

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, FOOT PATROL PROGRAM

- Foot patrol in central business district
- Report Incidents Directly program

SAN DIEGO, CA: COMMUNITY PROFILE PROJECT

- Officers became more service oriented.
- Increased non-law enforcement contacts with citizens
- More positive attitude toward police-community relations

HOUSTON, TX: FEAR-REDUCTION PROJECT

- Victim recontact program, community newsletter, citizen contact patrol program, a police storefront office program

BOSTON FOOT PATROL PROJECT

- Violent crimes were not affected by increased or decreased foot patrol staffing.

BALTIMORE COUNTY CITIZEN ORIENTED POLICE ENFORCEMENT PROJECT

- Reduced fear of crime by 10%, crime by 12%

FEAR-REDUCTION STRATEGIES EXPERIMENTS COMPARED

- Newsletters, victim recontact, police community station, citizen contact patrol, community organizing, signs of crime, coordinated community policing

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE OF PUBLIC PLACES

- Public strongly favors surveillance system in public areas

THE SEATTLE PROGRAM

- Property identification, home security checks, and neighborhood block watches

THE PORTLAND PROGRAM

- Reduced the burglary rate for those who participated

THE HARTFORD EXPERIMENT

- Restructured the neighborhood's physical environment

Later Studies of Foot Patrol Programs

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT FOOT PATROL PROGRAM

- Committed significant resources to foot beat staffing
- Foot patrols increase the perception of safety.
- Police staff and community widely accept foot patrols.

Later Studies of Foot Patrol Programs (cont.)

PHILADELPHIA FOOT PATROL EXPERIMENT

- Focus on place based policing
- Police resources directed at hot spots
 - Foot patrol can indeed have a net positive effect.
 - Reduces crime, particularly violent crime

THE “MCGRUFF” NATIONAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

- Promoting citizen involvement in crime prevention through public service announcements

POLICE–COMMUNITY ANTICRIME NEWSLETTER AND BROCHURE

- General publicity campaigns aimed at victims have had limited effectiveness.

MORE DESCRIPTIVE LESS STATISTICAL

- Qualitative evaluations
- National Symposium on Community Institutions and Inner-City Crime Project
 - Identified programs for reduction of inner-city crime
 - Focused on specific social problems of inner-city residents
 - Had a clear focus, audience, and idea of how to proceed

RESISTENCE TO CHANGE IS COMMON

- Challenges
 - Resistance by police officers
 - Difficulty involving other agencies and organization the community
 - Reluctance of citizens to participate
 - Either because of fear or cynicism

Discussion

- What would you recommend to overcome the impediments to community policing?

Programs versus Community Policing

PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY POLICING

- Community policing
 - Affects every aspect of police operations
 - Is not a single program or even a hundred programs
- Programs, particularly in isolation
 - More community relations or even public relations
 - Not community policing

Summary

- Crime prevention became popular in the late 1960s and early 1970s, with many communities taking an active role.
- New programs and organizations were initiated during the 1980s and 1990s to encourage citizens to play an active role in reducing crime.
- Implementation must be weighed against tradition.