

Neighborhood Crime: Correlation Between Neighborhood Upkeep and Crime Rates

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Summary

- Neighborhood upkeep is a factor that keep residence in their neighborhood for long periods of time.
- Turn over rates, how often the population within a given neighborhood changes, influences almost everything within neighborhoods.
- If a neighborhood has no stability within its population, the neighborhood is at a greater risk to have high crimes rates, when compared to neighborhoods which high stability within its population.
- Crime rates depend on two factors: first, that a crime is committed and second, that the crime is reported. Both of these factors are not always met, which is why crime is a difficult concept to measure.
- Certain crimes do have high reporting rates, and this makes measuring the impact of these crimes less of a challenge. These types of crimes, however, are usually rare crimes that aren’t often considered street crimes.

Theory & Method

Theory:

- As neighborhood upkeep increase, crime rates will decrease.

Method:

- Crime data came from the Uniform Crime Report from 2008, 2009, & 2010
- Neighborhood information was taken from the 2010 United States Census

Existing Literature

- Neighborhood Characteristics, Peer Networks, and Adolescent Violence
- Attachment as a Source of Informal Social Control in Urban Neighborhoods
- Crime and Residential Choice: A Neighborhood Level of Analysis of the Impact of Crime on Housing Prices
- Neighborhood Attachment and its Correlates: Exploring Neighborhood Conditions, Collective Efficacy and Gardening
- A Dynamic View of Neighborhoods: The Reciprocal Relationship Between Crime and Neighborhood Structural Characteristics
- A Longitudinal Analysis of Neighborhood Crime Rates Using Latent Growth Curve Modeling
- Community (Dis)Organization and Racially Motivated Crime
- An Examination of Citizen Involvement in Crime Prevention in High-Risk Versus Low- to Moderate-Risk Neighborhoods
- Local Social Ties in a Community and Crime Model: Questioning the Systematic Nature of Informal Social
- A Test of Social Disorganization Theory in High-Risk Urban Neighborhood

Results

Does neighborhood upkeep affect a neighborhoods crimes rates?

Regression Analysis of Turn Over Rates and Poverty Rates on Crime Rates					
R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F Change	Sig.
.412	.17	.158	169.067	7.229	.000
Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients			
	B	Std. Error	Beta	t	Sig
(Constant)	213.104	13.897		15.334	.000
Turn Over Rates	-67.629	19.234	-.287	-3.516	.001
Poverty Percentages	46.227	17.193	.217	2.689	.008

- As neighborhood upkeep increases (as neighborhoods become more enjoyable to live in) crimes rages drop
- As neighborhood upkeep decreases (as people become detached to the community) crime rates increase

Does Turn Over Rates impact crime?

Test of Impact of Turn Over Rates on Crime Rates				
	Below Average Turn Over Rates		Above Average Turn Over Rates	
Below Average Crime Rates	30	41.1%	56	75.7%
Above Average Crime Rates	43	58.9%	18	24.3%
Chi Square: 18.100				
Correlation: .000***				
* P < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001				

- Turn Over Rates do impact crime rates
- As Turn Over Rates decrease (people stay in the community longer), crime rates also decrease.
- As Turn Over Rates increase (people stay in the community less), crimes rates also increase.
- Crimes measured: Assault, Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, & Robbery

Does Poverty Rates impact crime?

Test of Impact of Poverty Percentages on Crime Rates				
	Below Average Poverty Percentages		Above Average Poverty Percentages	
Below Average Crime Rates	62	78.2%	21	33.9%
Above Average Crime Rates	17	21.5%	41	66.1%
Chi Square: 28.549				
Correlation: .000***				
* P < .05, ** p < .01, *** p < .001				

- Poverty rates do impact crime rates
- As poverty rates decrease, so do crime rates
- As poverty rates increase, so do crime rates
- Poverty percentages measured by: Percentages of families whose income is below poverty line, Employment status (unemployed), Families who reported receiving food stamps, and families receiving public assistance

Limitations

- The alpha for Turn Over Rates (0.662) was lower than desired, but is still a very good measure of Turn Over Rates considering Turn Over Rates is a measure that is not easily quantified.
- This analysis was limited in data available and the number of cases that could be used for this analysis. Overall, there were only 148 cases that were able to be used, due to responses and what was being measured.
- This study was limited in that the controls and other indices that were desired could either not be used, or could not be produced. This, again, goes back to the data available for this analysis. Other controls that were considered, but couldn’t be used, included: rates of female heads of households, literal neighborhood upkeep, availability of afterschool programs for youth, and programs available for at-risk youth, among others.

Discriptives

- Crime Rates, Turn Over Rates, and Poverty Rates. Crime Rates is a measure of crime using Robbery, Assault, Burglary, and Motor Vehicle Theft rates from the years 2009, 2010, and 2011. The alpha produced for the Crime Rates Index is 0.937.
- The Turn Over Rates Index is a measurement of the fluidity of the area—how frequent people move from one house to another. The alpha produced for this index was 0.662.
- Poverty Index is a measurement of those whose income and resource levels are low, and who are therefore considered to be living in poverty. The alpha produced for this index was 0.814.