High-Reentry Communities

- Returning citizens are spatially concentrated
  - Impoverished communities with few jobs
- “Churn” of residents
- Community stigma
- Residents don’t interact with neighbors
  - Leads to higher crime/violence
- Neighborhood context affects recidivism
- What is it like to live in a high-reentry community?
Today’s Presentation

• Frankford: a high-reentry community
• Study design
• Structural features of Frankford
• Experiences of long-term residents
• Policy implications
Research Design

- Participant observation in Frankford
  - Community meetings, events since Sept. 2014
  - Access to leaders, involved residents
- Content analysis of *Frankford Gazette*
- In-depth interviews with male residents
  - Age 25-34 with less than college education
  - White, Black, and Latino
  - 42 complete of 60 planned
- A caveat about causality
Frankford: Structural Features
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Neighborhood</th>
<th>Crime Change</th>
<th>Income Change</th>
<th>Population Change</th>
<th>Poverty Index</th>
<th>Home Price Change</th>
<th>Category</th>
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PD: Suspect Beat Woman Unconscious, Tried To Stuff Her Into Trash Bag
A woman is fighting for her life after a heinous assault overnight in Philadelphia's Frankford section.

2 Students Charged In Attempted Rape At Frankford High School
Officers say two students tried to sexually assault a 14-year-old girl yesterday.

2 Shot While Driving In Frankford, Police Say
City police are investigating after they say two men were shot while driving in their vehicle this morning.

Police: Group of Armed Men Terrorizing People In Frankford
Philadelphia Police are looking for a group of men who robbed and threatened a man outside a Frankford restaurant.
Long-Term Residents

• Use community meetings to frame problems and solutions
  • Harsh responses to drug dealers
  • Public health outreach for “quality of life” offenses
“What about those who are unlucky enough not to be arrested?”

“The homeless veteran who had been living in his car on Herbert Street has moved. He caused no trouble and residents were more concerned about him than frightened.” – Frankford Gazette (Sept/Oct 2015)

“We know that locking people up doesn’t work.”
No It is Not Frankford

Frankford Heroes
Small town patriotism
in a big city neighborhood
Policy implications

• More local resources to support community reentry efforts
  • Investments in existing programs
  • Justice reinvestment?
  • Investments in economic development
• Shared approach by residents and police
  • Addressing quality of life “offenses”
• Opportunities for residents to build social ties
  • Critical role of community based organizations
  • Need to get younger generation involved/ invested
Living in a High-Reentry Community

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