

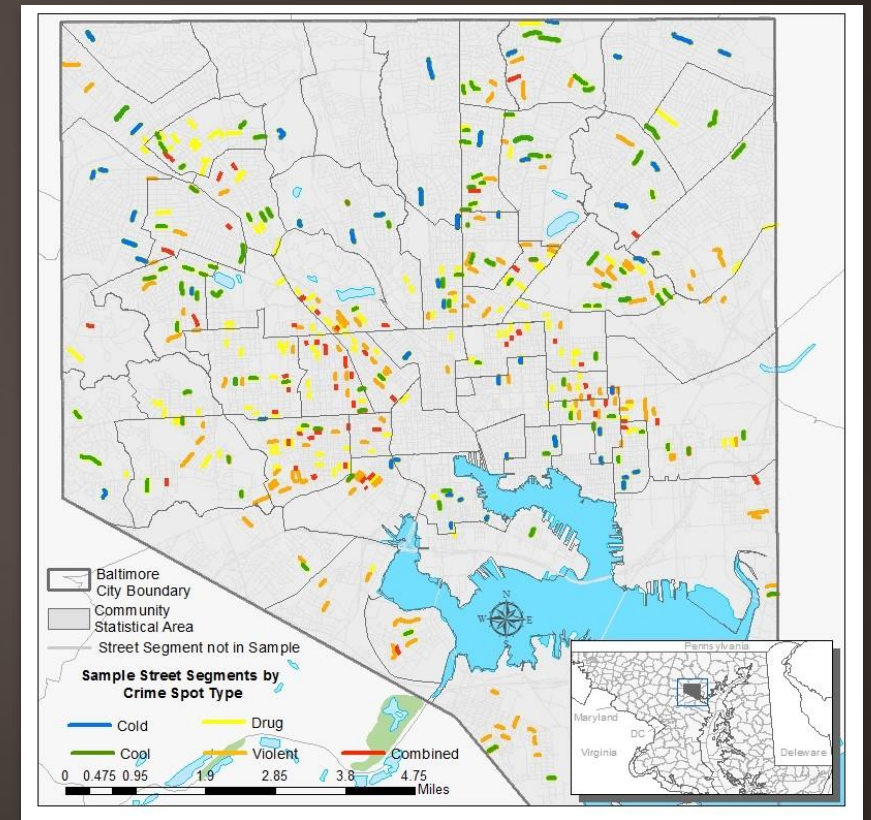


Lessons Learned and Considerations for Future Data Collection on Community Perceptions

CLAIR UDING (WHITE), PH.D.
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Longitudinal Study of Crime Hot Spots in Baltimore

- ▶ Project in Baltimore funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (Weisburd, Lawton, Ready, Haviland, 2011)
 - ▶ Residential Survey Data Collection
 - ▶ Physical observations
 - ▶ Qualitative interviews
 - ▶ 3 Waves of data over 6 years (2012-2018)
 - ▶ Hot spots throughout the city
- ▶ Focus on Micro-Geographic Unit of Analysis
 - ▶ Stratified random sampling approach
 - ▶ 449 street segments
 - ▶ Cold, Cool, and Drug and Violent Hot Spots





Survey Data Collection

- ▶ Face-to-face surveys were carried at residences on the sample streets
- ▶ Identified a random sample of 25 households in wave 1 with the goal of an average of about 10 surveys per street segment
- ▶ Participants compensated \$15
- ▶ Over 3,500 surveys collected per wave on 449 street segments
 - ▶ Average of 8 surveys per street
- ▶ High Response rates due to strong tracking of contacts, sampling, and persistence!

Systematic Observations

- ▶ Physical observations and census of all segments for each wave
 - ▶ Field researchers documented the physical environment of the street
 - ▶ Factors as the amount of drug paraphernalia, garbage on the streets, buildings in physical disrepair
- ▶ Systematic social observations in Wave 1 (N=1350)
 - ▶ Field researchers visited each street 3 times for 20 minutes
 - ▶ Collect information on social disorder, prosocial activity, guardianship, etc.
- ▶ Qualitative interviews during ethnographic data collection

Field Researchers

- ▶ Primarily undergraduates at universities in Baltimore
 - ▶ Recruitment in colleges courses, interviews on campuses
- ▶ Training- 2 days of classroom training
 - ▶ Practice interviews in the community
 - ▶ Ongoing trainings
- ▶ Project management primarily graduate students
- ▶ Keeping up morale



Considerations Moving Forward

- ▶ Measurement
 - ▶ Do community members understand the questions we are asking about safety, crime and disorder, and the police?
 - ▶ Society has changed a lot since many of the measures used to capture these concepts may be outdated
- ▶ Qualitative data collection and in-depth interviews
- ▶ Achieving “high” response rates for survey participation through random sampling is becoming more challenging, losing representativeness
 - ▶ Mix of random and convenience sampling
- ▶ Technology
 - ▶ Tracking visits to sites and field researchers
 - ▶ Electronic surveys



Thank you!

cwhite41@uwyo.edu

Weisburd, D., B. Lawton, J. Ready, and A. Haviland. 2011. “Longitudinal study of community health and anti-social behavior at drug hot spots.” National Institute on Drug Abuse, National Institutes of Health. [*Grant no. 5R01DA032639–03, 2012*].