



Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

Problem-Oriented Policing **Tools for Getting It Done!**

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What is a “Problem”?

- Incidents similar in nature that concern the public and/or the police
- Not always criminal
- Conduct observations of ‘problems’ in spatially ‘hot’ areas

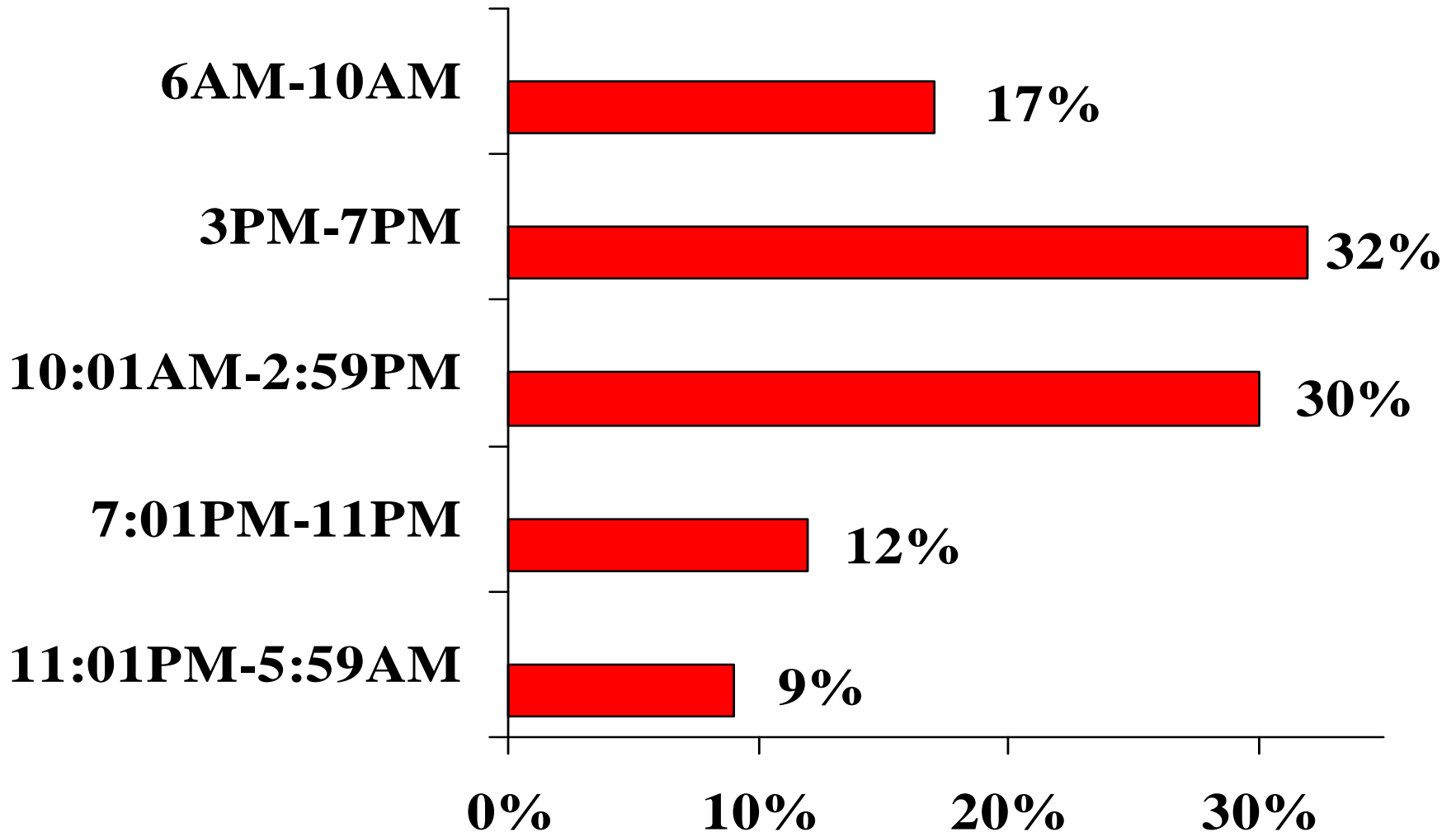
POP start-up: Traffic Accidents

- Lansing, Michigan
- Data entered into Access file (point and click) by volunteers, students, etc.
- Data should be useful and widely presented

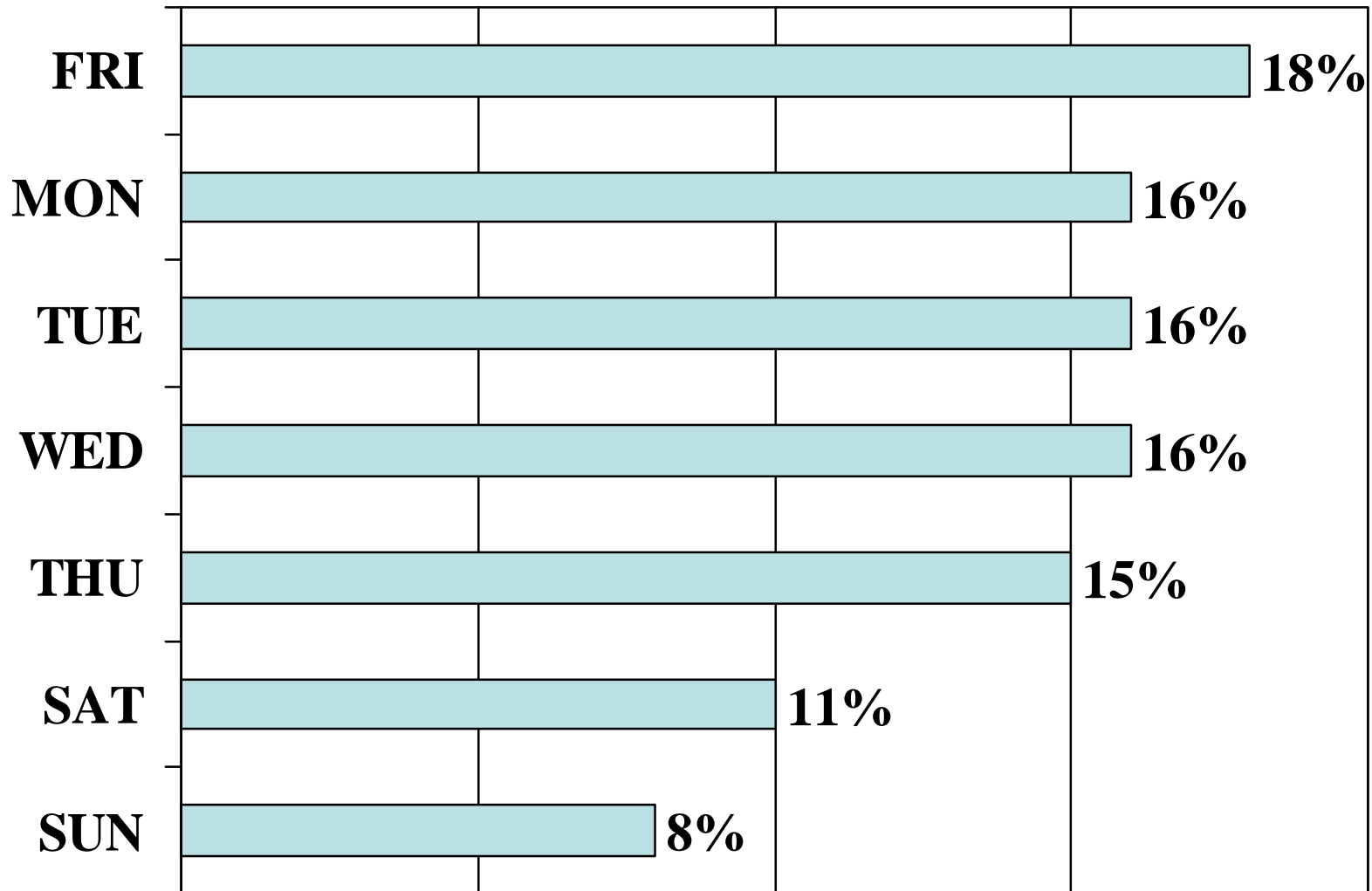
Lansing, Michigan Traffic Accidents

- October 29, 2000 thru October 22, 2001
- N = 6,341 traffic accidents analyzed
- 528 accidents a month
- 18 accidents per day
 - MAX: **62 accidents on 01/17/01**
 - MIN: **3 accidents on 10/07/01, 10/22/01, 11/23/00**

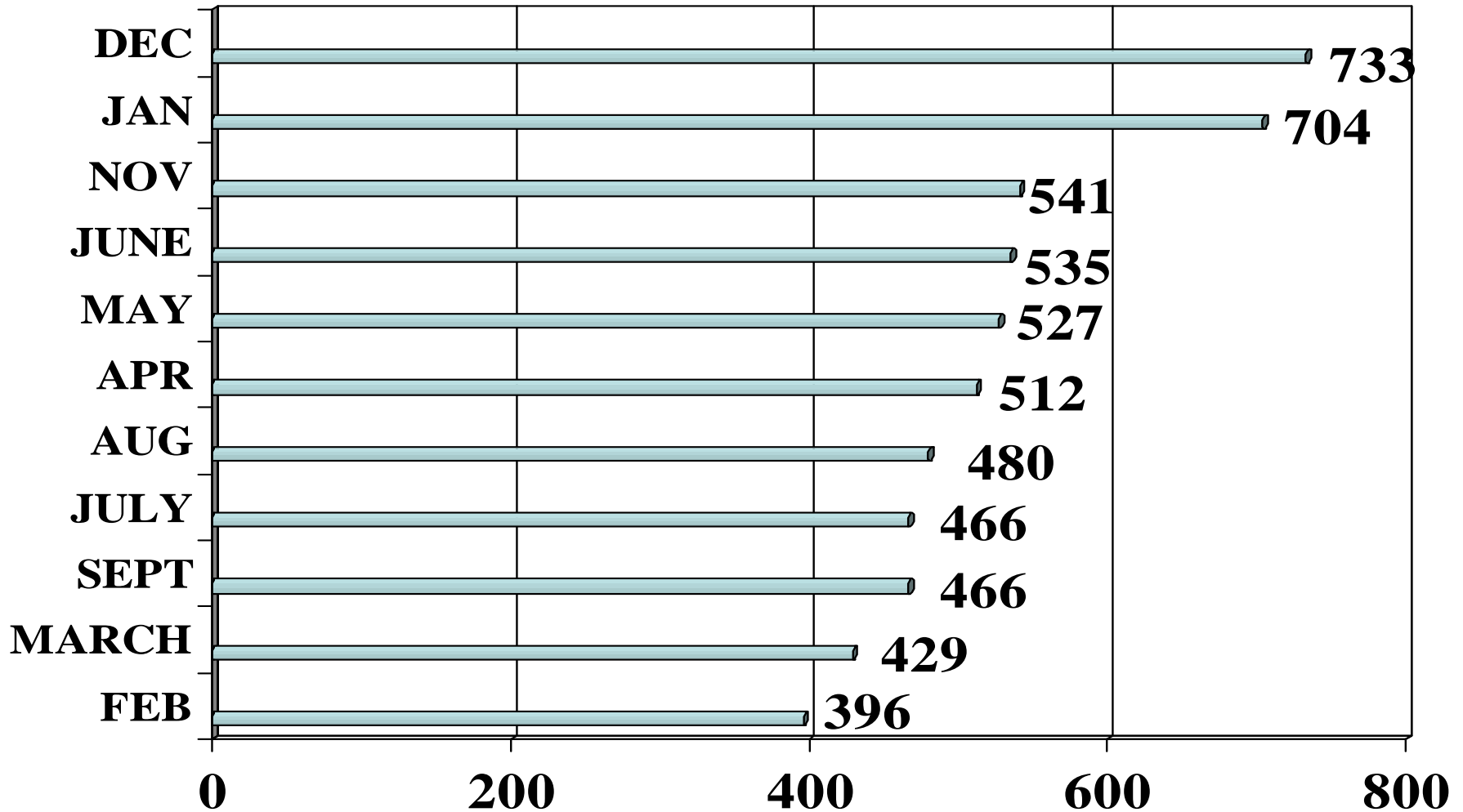
Hot Times for Accidents



Hot Days for Accidents



Hot Months for Accidents



NOTE: October is not listed due to partial data.

What we know

- 10% of victims involved in 40% victimization
- 10% of offenders involved in over 50% crime
- 10% of places are sites of about 60% crime

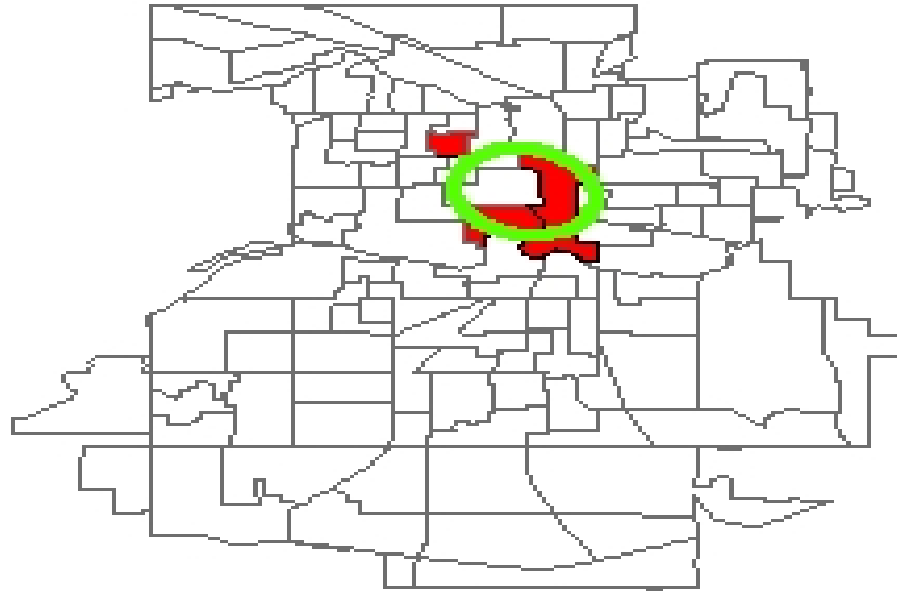
6 Required Elements of a Problem: The CHEERS Test

1. **C**ommunity- includes victims & offenders
2. **H**armful- not always criminal
3. **E**xpectation- that the police should handle it
(must be dealt with)
4. **E**vents- is it empirical?
5. **R**ecurring- does it?
6. **S**imilarity- commonalities of events, locations,
etc.
 - May require “new” police reports

Drilling Down your data

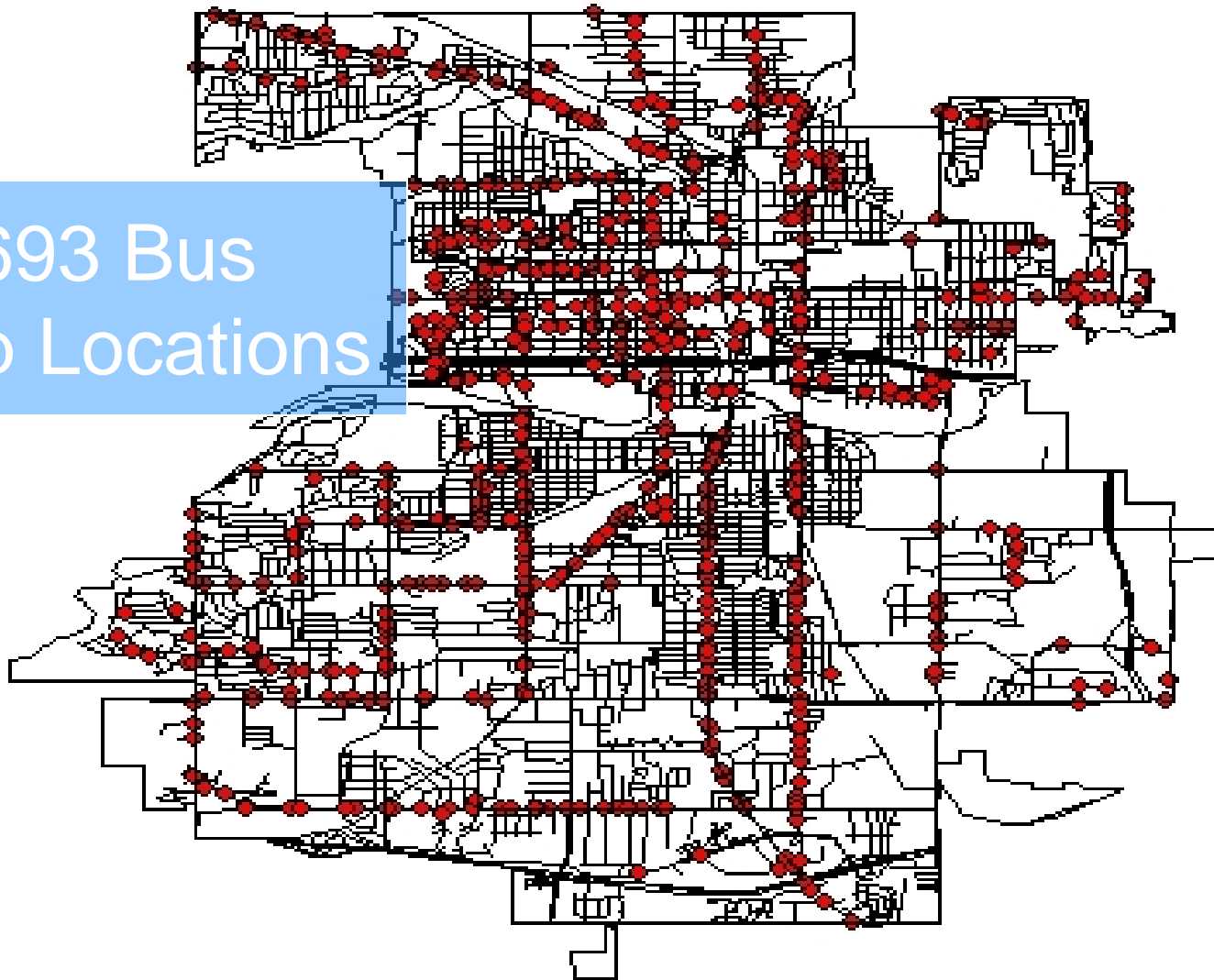
- Focus on the largest component of your problem.
- Begin with a very specific definition and broaden it progressively until you find relevant material. For example:
 - Car theft
 - Car theft from parking lots
 - Car theft from parking lots downtown
 - Car theft from parking facilities (lots or structures)

Lansing, MI (1995-2000) hot spot

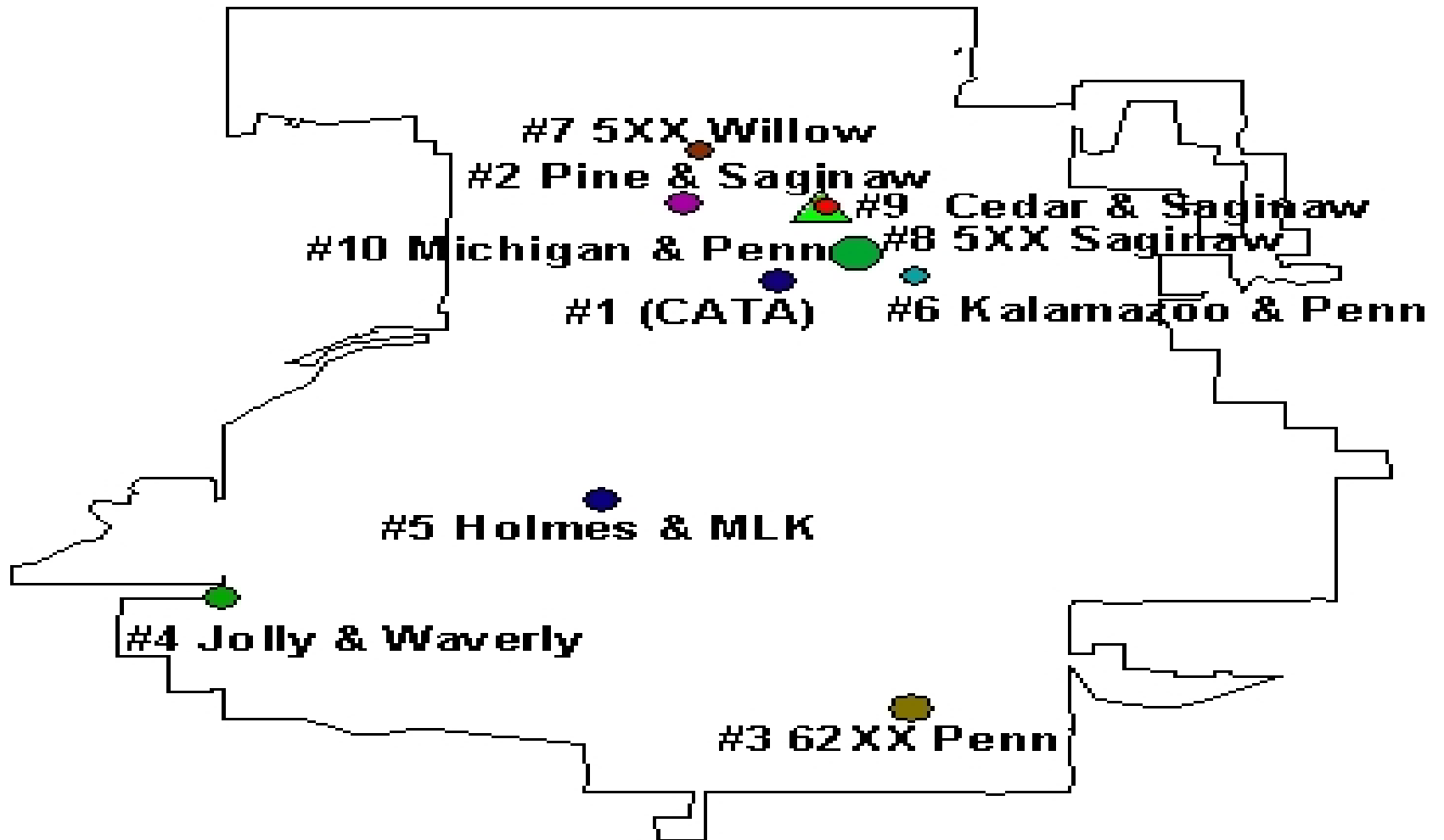


Lansing, MI

693 Bus
Stop Locations



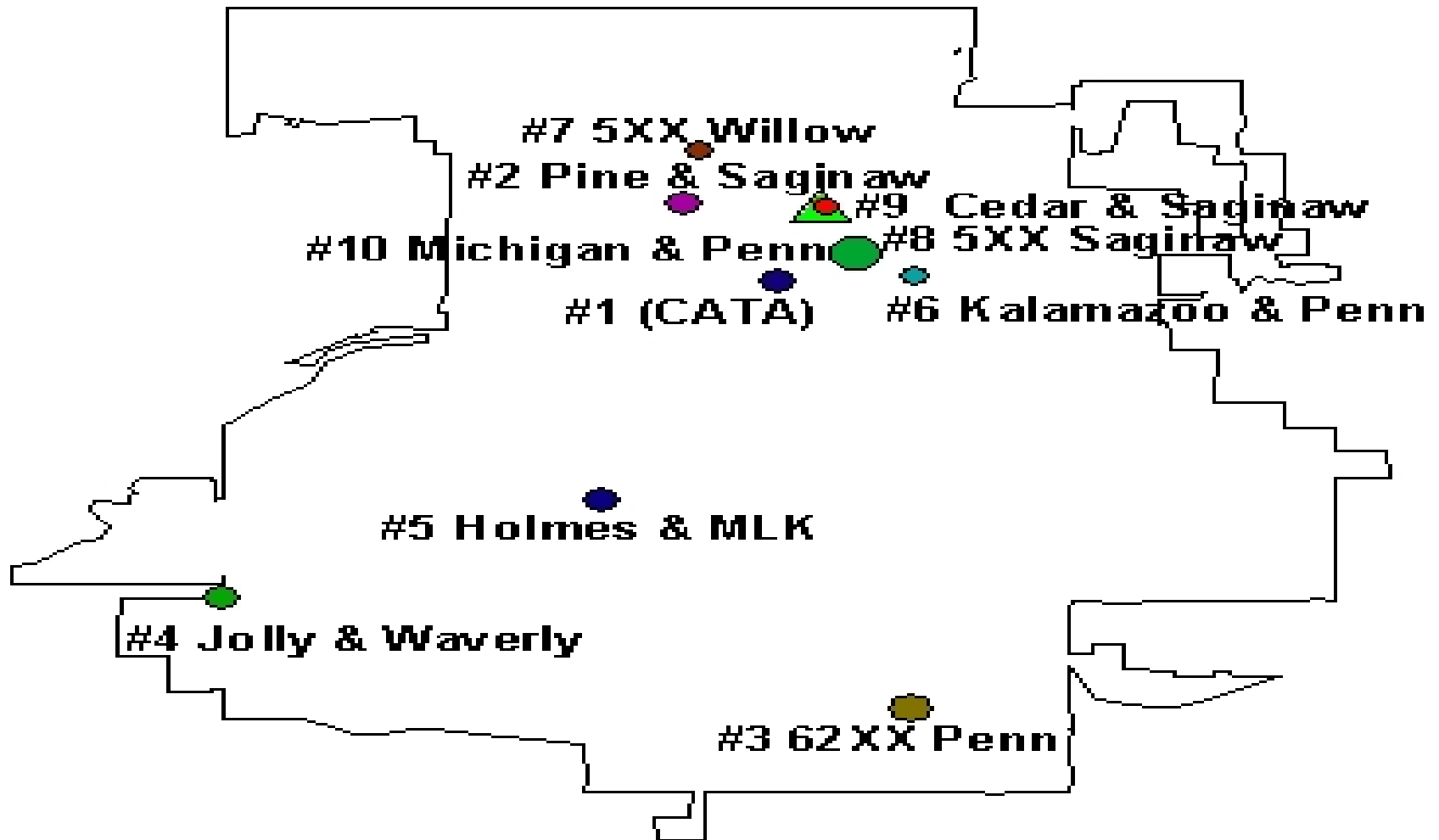
Top 10 Hotspots (1995-2000)



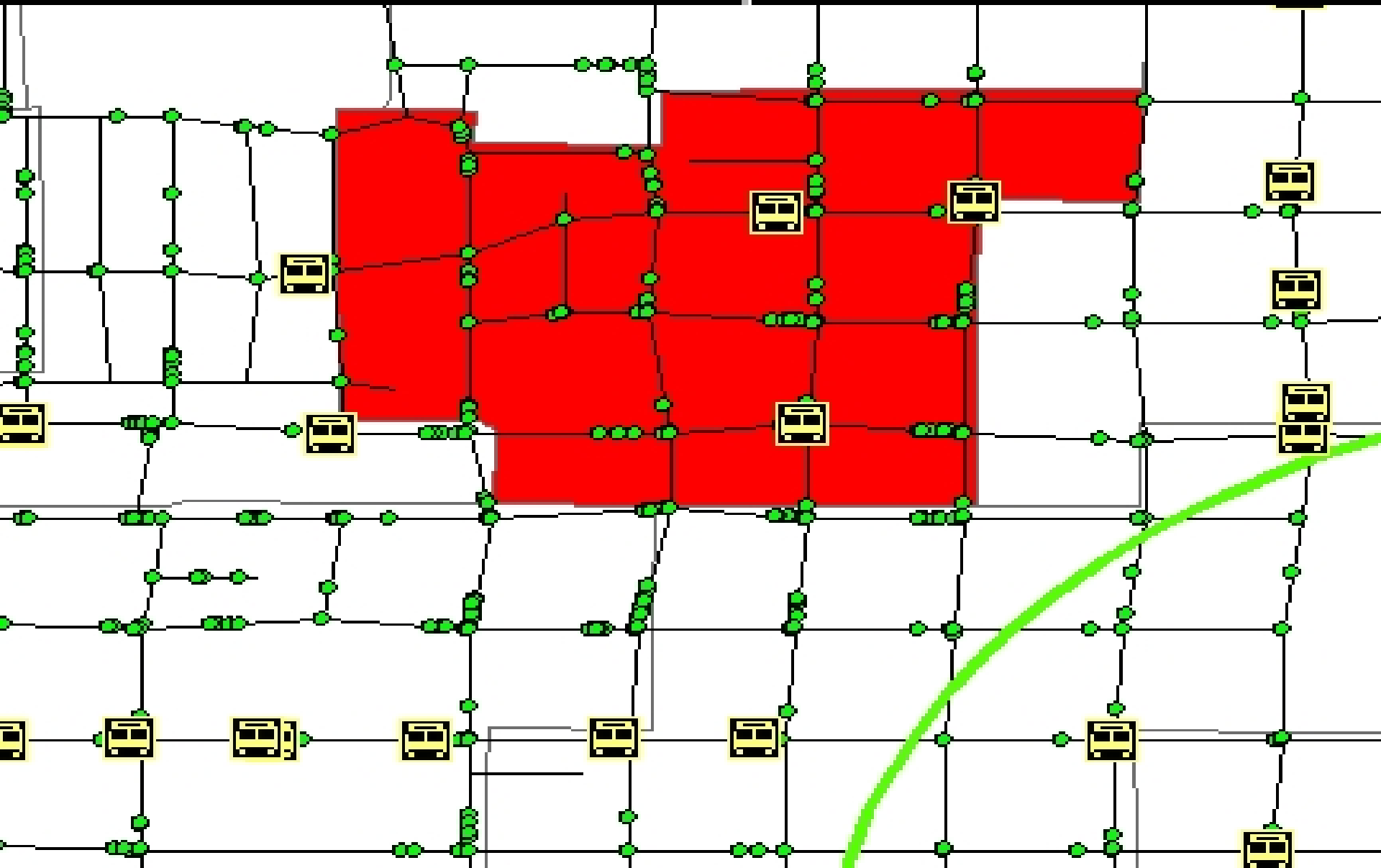
#1 hot spot (Bus Terminal) 587 incidents (**See Step 28- risky facilities*)



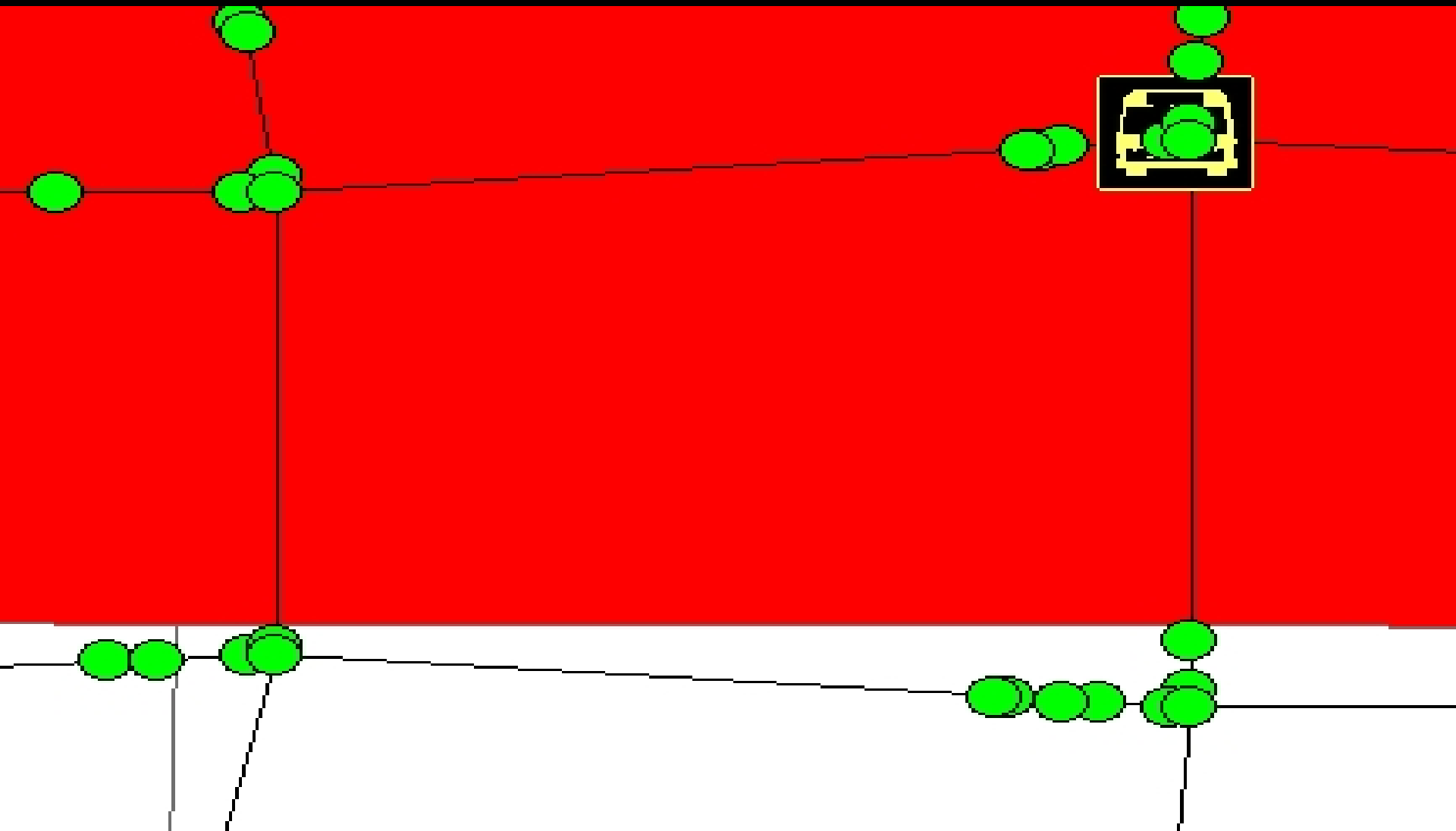
Top 10 Hotspots (1995-2000)



Hot Spot analysis- 728 incidents and 3 bus stop locations



322 Incidents at single intersection 1 bus stop



#2 Hot spot intersection



JUL 28 2003

#4 Hot Spot (235 incidents)



Addressing problems

- Behind every recurring problem are underlying conditions that continually create it
- Incident-driven policing will likely FAIL to address these conditions

Some Places to Start Your Research

- The Center for Problem-Oriented Policing at www.popcenter.org
- The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services at www.cops.usdoj.gov.
- The Crime Reduction Toolkits at <http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/index.htm>

http://www.popcenter.org/

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9 Tool-Guides

POP Guides – WWW.POPCenter.org

Problem-Specific Guides

1. Acquaintance Rape of College Students
2. Assaults in and Around Bars
3. Bank Robbery
4. Bomb Threats at Schools
5. Bullying in Schools
6. Burglary of Retail Establishments
7. Burglary of Single-Family Houses
8. Burglary at Single-Family House Construction Sites
9. Check and Credit Card Fraud
10. Child Pornography on the Internet
11. Clandestine Drug Labs
12. Crimes Against Tourists
13. Cruising
14. Disorder at Budget Motels
15. Disorder at Day Laborer Sites
16. Disorderly Youth in Public Places
17. Domestic Violence
18. Drive By Shootings
19. Drug Dealing in Privately Owned Apartment Complexes

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20. Drunk Driving
21. Exploitation of Trafficked Women
22. False Burglar Alarms
23. Financial Crimes Against the Elderly
24. Graffiti
25. Gun Violence Among Serious Youth Offenders
26. Identity Theft
27. Illicit Sexual Activity in Public Places
28. Juvenile Runaways
29. Loud Car Stereos
30. Misuse and Abuse of 911
31. Open-Air Drug Markets
32. Panhandling
33. People with Mental Illness
34. Prescription Fraud
35. Rave Parties

36. Robbery at ATM Machines
37. Robbery of Convenience Stores
38. Robbery of Taxi Drivers
39. School Break-ins and Vandalism
40. Shoplifting
41. Speeding in Residential Areas
42. Stalking
43. Street Prostitution
44. Street Racing
45. Student Party Riots
46. Theft of and from Cars in Parking Facilities
47. Theft of and from Cars on Residential Streets and Driveways
48. Underage Drinking
49. Witness Intimidation
50. Traffic Congestion Around Schools
51. Pedestrian Injuries and Fatalities

Tool Guides

1. Assessing Responses to Problems: An Introductory Guide for Police Problem-Solvers
2. Researching a Problem
3. Using Offender Interviews to Inform Police Problem Solving
4. Analyzing Repeat Victimization
5. Partnering with Businesses to Address Public Safety Problems
6. Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers: In 60 Small Steps
7. Understanding Risky Facilities
8. Using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design in Problem Solving
9. Enhancing the Problem-Solving Capacity of Crime Analysis Units

Response Guides

1. The Benefits and Consequences of Police Crackdowns
2. Closing Streets and Alleys to Reduce Crime: Should You Go Down This Road?
3. Shifting and Sharing Responsibility for Public Safety Problems
4. Crime Prevention Publicity Campaigns
5. Video Surveillance of Public Places
6. Sting Operations

Expanding Your Internet Search from Your Home or Office

- Make a general search of the Internet using *Google* or similar search engine.
- Search online archives of some large newspapers.
- Search online databases.

Searching the Internet Using Google (www.google.com)

- *Google* is considered the premier search tool on the Internet.
- *Google Scholar* (www.scholar.google.com)

Getting Advice

- **Crime Analysts**
- **Police Departments**
- **Local College or University Faculty**
- **National Experts**

POP officers

- Traditional training deals with tactical “experts”
- Create crime specific “experts” based upon POP success stories
 - NOTE: acknowledgement of broad community problems, often noncriminal in nature
- Utilize POP guides and have these guides available at the department
 - Challenge officer knowledge of POP guides when policing specific problems

The SARA Process

- **SCANNING**
- **ANALYSIS**
- **RESPONSE**
- **ASSESSMENT**

Problem Analysis

- Conduct innovative *Analysis* before jumping to a *Response*
 - The *Analysis* should drive the *Response*

Traditional Police Reports

- What do we record and why?
- Does it help accomplish POP?
- How do these reports continue to substantiate traditional law enforcement?
- How can we encourage POP solutions?

Collect your own data (Step 21)

- How often do your officers do this?
- Critical for POP – encourage it!
- Most crime is not reported “dark figure”
- Official data is grossly inadequate for a thorough analysis

Displacement

- Doesn't this 'POP' stuff just pop offenders into non-targeted areas?



MOVED

Don't be discouraged by displacement doomsters (Step 12)

- This type of “traditional” thinking is offender focused- Are they really *that* committed?
 - But nay sayers need to be addressed!
- No evidence that criminality is constant
- Research support showing displacement is low
 - Diffusion of Benefits – importance of media
 - Halo Effects- spill over effects

Repeating victims (Step 29)

- 4% of people experience 40% of all victimization *(British Crime Survey)*
- Victim and Offender mirror one another
 - Have officers teach crime prevention to known victims and assess the impact
(e.g., Credit Exchange)

Repeating offenders (Step 30)

- 5% of offenders commit 40% crime (6%-60% CFS)
- Offending is done through networks and facilitating environments (counter these)
 - Don't use 'sting' operations

Hot spots, 'hot' people

- Top five locations
- Top five repeat victims
- Top five offenders

Tools to know how hot spots develop

- Crime generators

- Large number of people present providing many targets

- Crime enablers

- Change in place management
- Inability to rent houses across from bus stop

Evaluating Sources of Information

- **Academic Article Format**
 - Abstract
 - Literature
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusions/Recommendations
- **Reports of Police Projects
(some Goldstein finalists)**
 - Be skeptical of assessment

Other Useful Research Websites

- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) Abstracts Database (<http://abstractsdb.ncjrs.org>)
- Australian Institute of Criminology (www.aic.gov.au)
- The Home Office, United Kingdom (www.homeoffice.gov.uk)
- Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) (www.policeforum.org)
- Community Policing Consortium (www.communitypolicing.org)
- Police Foundation (www.policefoundation.org)
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (www.theiacp.org)
- RAND (Public Safety and Justice Center) (www.rand.org/psj)

Tools for Addressing Problems

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