Problem-Oriented Policing

Function of Police: Image

- To fight crime

- To enforce the law

- To protect and serve

Function of Police: Reality

- To prevent and control threats to life and property
- To aid crime victims and protect individuals in danger
- To protect constitutional guarantees
- To facilitate the movement of people and vehicles
- To assist those who cannot care for themselves
- To resolve conflict between individuals, groups, or between citizens and government
- To identify problems
- To create and maintain a feeling of security in the community

Capacity

Capacity

Image

Reality
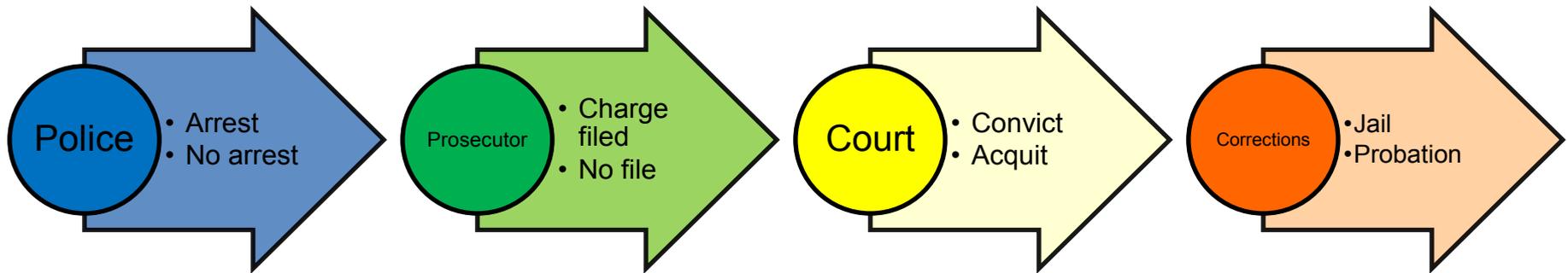
Policing Strategy

Preventive Patrol

Investigation

Rapid Response

Crackdowns

More Police

Relationship of Police to Criminal Justice System

Police
- Arrest
- No arrest

Prosecutor
- Charge filed
- No file

Court
- Convict
- Acquit

Corrections
- Jail
- Probation

Relationship of Police to Other Systems

Citizens' Role in Policing
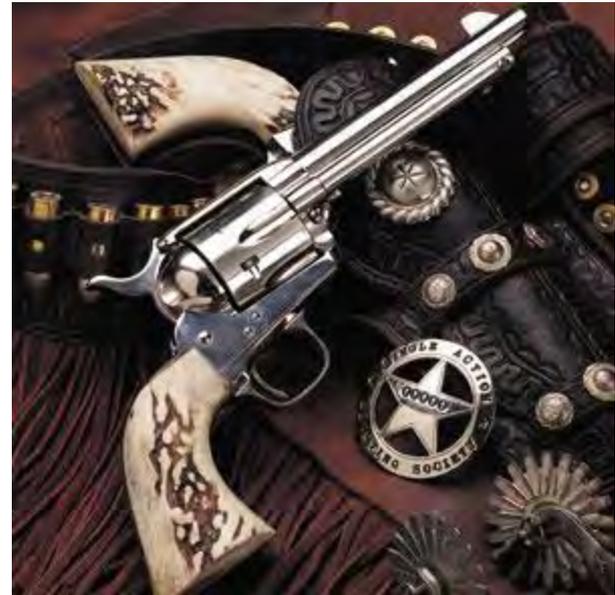
Identifying & Prioritizing Problems

Limited

Involved

7. What do you perceive to be problems in your neighborhood? A rating of 1 represents the

a. Sexual Assault — Select an Answer
b. Domestic Violence — Select an Answer
c. Illegal Drug Activity — Select an Answer
d. Gangs — Select an Answer
e. Physical Assaults — Select an Answer
f. Vandalism — Select an Answer
g. Child Abuse — Select an Answer
h. Burglary / Robbery — Select an Answer
i. Theft — Select an Answer
j. Loitering / Curfew — Select an Answer
k. Vehicle Accidents — Select an Answer
l. Public Drinking — Select an Answer
m. Traffic / Speeding — Select an Answer
n. Loud Parties / Noise — Select an Answer
o. List other issues:

Taking Action

Protesting

Patrolling

Cleaning

Monitoring

Petitioning

Officer Discretion

Image: None

Reality: Lots

- Where to patrol
- What to emphasize
- Whether to investigate
- How to investigate
- Whether to arrest
- How to arrest
- What alternatives to use

Key Elements of Policing	Image	Reality	Resolution
Function	Simple	Complex	
Capacity	Unlimited	Limited	
Assistance	Little needed	Lots needed	
Methods and Means	Patrol/arrest	Varied	
Discretion	None	Much	
Accountability	Clear & direct	Ambiguous	
Control	Tight	Loose	
Organization	Rigid	Flexible	
Personnel	Obedient	Adaptive	

Problem-Oriented Policing

1979

1990

What Is Problem-Oriented Policing?

PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING (POP) is an approach to policing in which **(1) DISCRETE PIECES OF POLICE BUSINESS** (each consisting of a cluster of similar incidents, whether crimes or acts of disorder, that the police are expected to handle) are subject to **(2) MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION** (drawing on the especially honed skills of crime analysts and the accumulated experience of operating field personnel) in hopes that what is freshly learned about each problem will lead to discovering a **(3) NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE STRATEGY** for dealing with it. POP places a high value on new responses that are **(4) PREVENTIVE** in nature, that are **(5) NOT DEPENDENT ON THE USE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**, and that **(6) ENGAGE OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES, THE COMMUNITY AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR** when their involvement has the potential for significantly contributing to the reduction of the problem. POP carries a commitment to **(7) IMPLEMENTING THE NEW STRATEGY, (8) RIGOROUSLY EVALUATING ITS EFFECTIVENESS,** and, subsequently, **(9) REPORTING THE RESULTS** in ways that will benefit other police agencies and that will ultimately contribute to **(10) BUILDING A BODY OF KNOWLEDGE** that supports the further professionalization of the police.
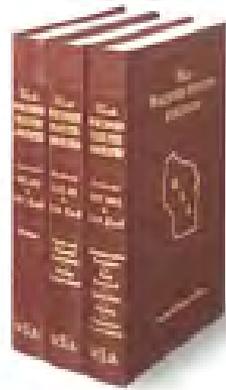
Defining Problems

"…discrete pieces of police business…"

Defining Problems by Behavior

- Panhandling
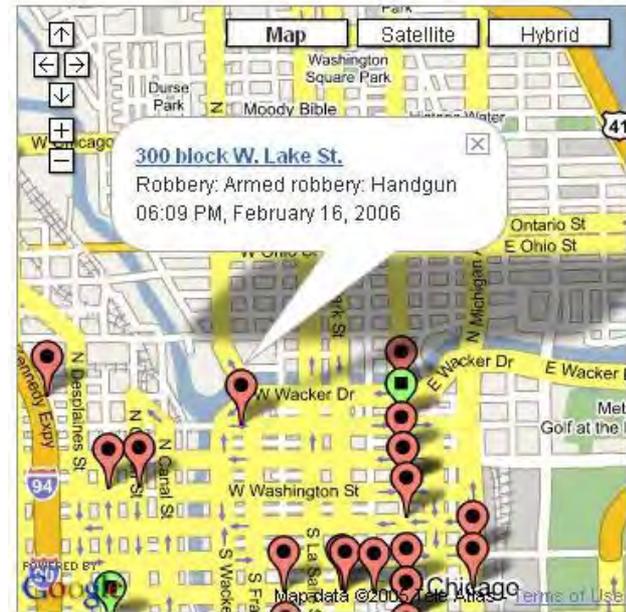- Robbery
- Assault
- Speeding
- Drug dealing

Defining Problems by Persons

- Gangs
- Mentally ill persons
- Chronic inebriates
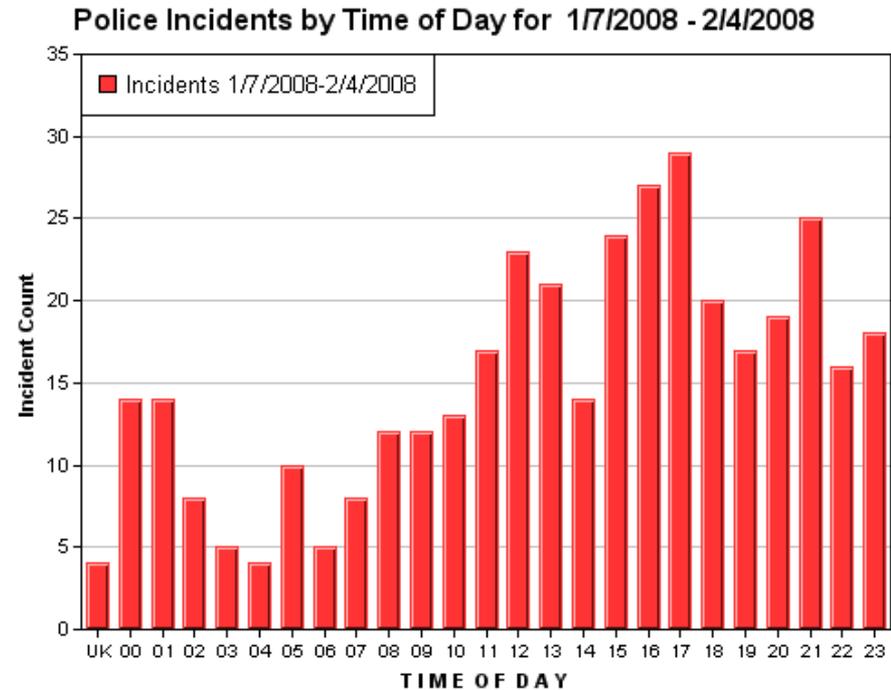- Repeat offenders
- Repeat victims

Defining Problems by Location

- Bar
- Intersection
- Neighborhood
- House
- Apartment complex

Defining Problems by Time

- Bar closing time
- Annual festival
- Rush hour

Police Incidents by Time of Day for 1/7/2008 - 2/4/2008
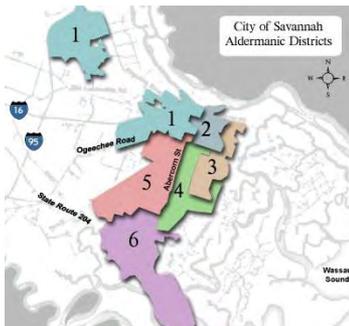
Scope of Problems

Single location/individual



Neighborhood

District

Citywide

Common Problems from A to Z

- Abandoned buildings
- Abandoned/derelict vehicles
- Assault and battery
  - Aggravated assault (see also Homicide)
  - Gun violence
  - Simple assault
  - Fighting
  - Drug-related assault (see also Drug Trafficking)…

- …Day laborer problems
- Dignitary and celebrity protection
- Disorderly youth in public places
  - Skateboarding or cycling on streets or sidewalks
- Domestic violence (aka Spousal abuse)
  - Domestic disturbances…

Common Problems from A to Z

- …Underage drinking (see also College problems)
- Unlicensed driving (see also Traffic accidents; Drunk Driving)
- Vandalism
  - Criminal damage to property
  - Graffiti

- Vehicle lockouts
- Weapons offenses
  - Trafficking in guns
- Witness intimidation

Scanning for Problems
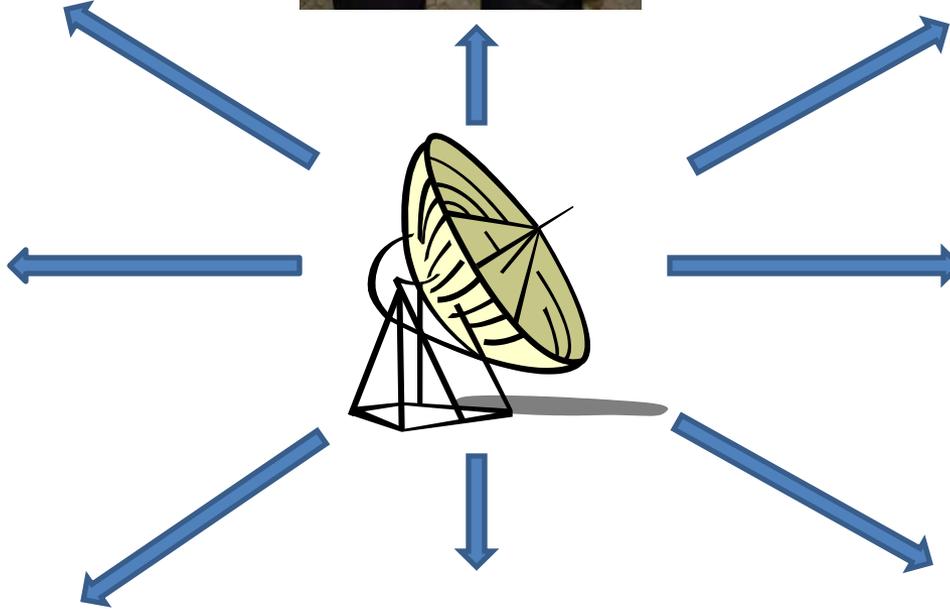
Analyzing Problems

"…are subject to microscopic examination…"

Purpose of Analyzing Problems

"…discovering a new and more effective strategy…"

Emphasizing Prevention

"…places a high value on responses that are preventive…"

Looking for Alternatives to Arrest

"…not dependent on the criminal justice system…"

Sharing Responsibility

"…that engage other public agencies, the community, and the private sector…"

Fire

Police Methods for Shifting Responsibility

Degree of resistance

Degree of coercion

Resources required

Evidence required

- Bringing a civil action
- Mandating through legislation
- Charging fees for police service
- Withdrawing police service
- Public shaming
- Making a confrontational request
- Advocating for new services
- Engaging existing services
- Educating
- Making an informal request
- **Engaging and supporting the community**

Taking Action

"…carries a commitment to implementing the new strategy…"

just do it.

Assessing Results

"…rigorously evaluating its effectiveness…"
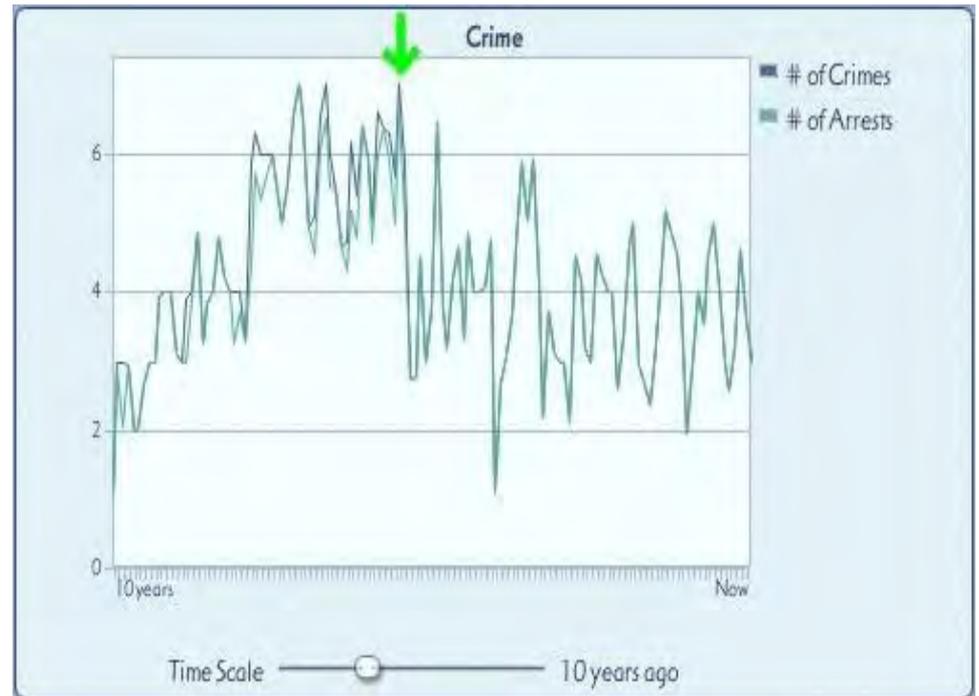
Defining Success

- Eliminate the problem
- Reduce the volume of incidents
- Reduce the harm from incidents
- Shift ownership to those better able to address it
- More humane, fair, equitable responses

Problem-solving Process

Scanning

Analysis
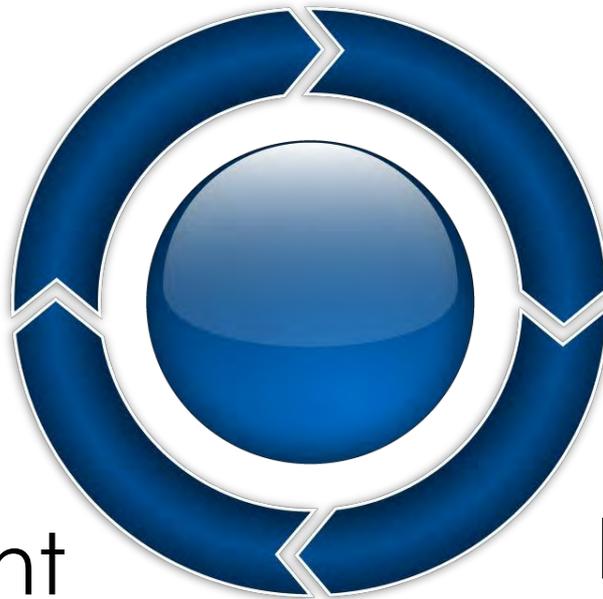
Assessment

Response

SARA

Problem Analysis Triangle

Reporting Results

"…reporting the results to benefit other police agencies…"
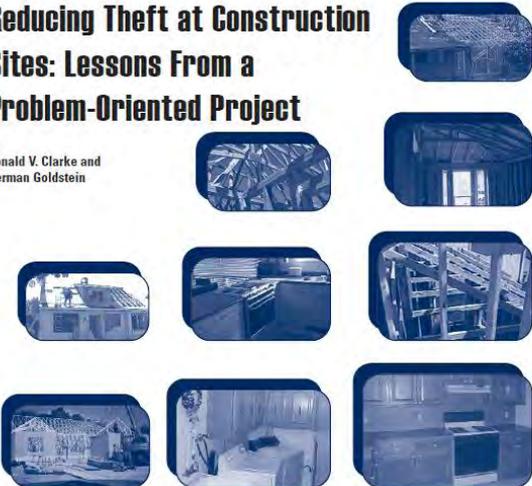
Furthering the Profession

"…building a body of knowledge…"