Residential burglaries have been well-researched and new evidence has emerged that demonstrates what is called a “near repeat” burglary pattern.

A “near repeat” pattern for burglaries refers to the phenomenon of subsequent residential burglaries occurring within 1-2 blocks and within 1-2 weeks of an initial burglary (Bowers & Johnson, 2005).

The existence of “near repeat” patterns has important implications for proactive policing and crime prevention as they can inform the development of targeted policing interventions.

Including the community in crime prevention efforts can transform these crime prevention strategies into ones that are community-driven.

When combined with other police data, “near repeat” patterns can be an effective way of increasing the accuracy with which law enforcement can forecast crime. Tools such as the “Near Repeat Calculator” developed by Dr. Jerry Ratcliffe of Temple University are available free of cost to law enforcement agencies. Crime prevention strategies to address near repeat burglaries can also leverage the community to become community-driven strategies. The crime prevention potential of “near repeat” patterns for residential burglaries is the focus of a Police Foundation project carried out in the Redlands Police Department (RPD) and Baltimore County Police Department (BCOPD) funded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. For the results of this study, please visit our website.