

# 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NEAR-REPEAT PATTERNS AND CRIME PREVENTION

**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.**



## 1 THE “NEAR REPEAT” PATTERN IS PERSISTENT

Researchers have established the persistency of near repeat patterns and the contagion like process with which they occur.



## 2 NEAR REPEAT PATTERNS VARY BY TYPE OF CRIME

Residential burglaries, vehicle thefts, shootings, illegal carrying of firearms, and street robberies all have been demonstrated to have “near repeat” patterns. While near repeat patterns vary by crime type, for all time is usually of the essence. The risk of repeat occurrence is highest immediately after the initial crime event.



## 3 NEAR REPEAT PATTERNS CAN BE USED TO PREVENT FUTURE CRIMES

Any crime reduction or prevention plans based on “near repeat” patterns need to be tailored to the crime type and local space-time pattern.



## 4 RAPID DEPLOYMENT TO SMALLER GEOGRAPHIC AREAS IS KEY TO “NEAR REPEAT” BURGLARY PREVENTION

Broad law enforcement strategies focused on wider geographic areas are likely to be ineffective because they can exceed an agency’s capacity to be quick and proactive in their response.



## 5 NEAR REPEAT PATTERNS CAN BE USED TO INVOLVE THE COMMUNITY IN CRIME PREVENTION

In the case of residential burglaries, policing strategies can be developed to facilitate police-community collaboration on crime prevention. For example, police (or volunteer) officers can inform residents about the crime that just occurred and ask for help in preventing the next burglary at the same time.

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.

The Police Foundation is the oldest nationally-known, non-profit, non-partisan, and non-membership-driven organization dedicated to improving America’s most noble profession – policing. The Police Foundation has been on the cutting edge of police innovation for over 45 years since it was established by the Ford Foundation as a result of the President’s Commission on the Challenge of Crime in a Free Society.

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