



The Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Training and Technical Assistance program developed the PSN Research in Brief series to provide a summary report of scholarly articles, studies, and publications relevant to the PSN program. This third issue of the PSN Research in Brief series summarizes the following study by Joel M. Caplan, Leslie W. Kennedy, Grant Drawve, and Jonas H. Baughman in *Police Quarterly*: ***Data-Informed and Place-Based Violent Crime Prevention: The Kansas City, Missouri Risk-Based Policing Initiative.***¹

BACKGROUND:

- Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) deployed place-based crime prevention strategies as a natural experiment.
- The program evaluation occurred after the initiative was implemented (rather than while it was occurring).

THEORY AND PRACTICE:

- Place-based crime prevention strategies place police in particular areas with the goal of identifying or deterring criminal activity.
- KCPD adopted a risk-based policing (RBP) strategy that included agency-wide training, data management technology and protocols, data-informed decision-making, multifaceted intervention actions in target areas, and multistakeholder accountability (described in detail in the article).
- The RBP strategy was guided by an analytic technique known as risk terrain modeling, which considers features of the environment that can generate risks for violent crime.
- KCPD identified and prioritized areas to be addressed with interventions that target the underlying problems.

STUDY OUTCOMES:

- The evaluation looked at data from one year before and one year after KCPD implemented the intervention.
- The RBP strategy reduced violent crime by nearly 23 percent without significant increases in arrests or citations.
- The benefits of this strategy were spatially diffused, meaning that the areas proximate to the specifically targeted areas also experienced effects.

¹ Caplan, J. M., Kennedy, L. W., Drawve, G., & Baughman, J. H. (2021). Data-informed and place-based violent crime prevention: the Kansas City, Missouri risk-based policing initiative. *Police quarterly*, 24(4): 438-464.