

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5 • August 14, 2025



Hot Spots Policing

Hot spots policing is effective. Crime reduction occurs when police focus on small units of geography, like specific addresses, intersections, or street segments that have high rates of crime. By targeting hot spot locations, you can efficiently reduce crime.

SARA and your Hot Spot Strategy

We recommend using the SARA process (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) to design and implement your strategy. The JSS webinar on SARA and the [SARA worksheet](#) can help.

- Scanning and analysis can assist in identifying micro-hot spots, the crime that occurs there, and the people involved. Effective SARA models use several years' worth of data for analysis, create maps of the area, and rely on input from stakeholders (e.g., community members).

- Use this information to inform our response.
- Continuously assess the impact of your efforts.

Hot Spots Patrols (Response)

One method for responding to crime in hot spots is to increase police presence and visibility in the area. Research has shown that visiting areas of interest for 15 minutes during a shift leads to crime reduction (known as the 'Koper' curve).

- Consider conducting foot patrols, talking with businesses and the community, and involving government and community partners.
- Officers should perform specific tasks in the hot spots related to the selected response. For example, if the response is to implement Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, officers receive CPTED training, and focus on environmental design improvements.

Hot Spots in Action

Click [HERE](#) for an example of hot spots policing effort from Onieda (NY) Police Department

5 Key Components of Hot Spots Policing

For more information on hot spots policing see the 5 Key Components of Hot Spots Policing on the [JSS website](#).

- Most people in hot spot areas want the crime to stop. Hot spot patrols are an opportunity for officers to interact positively with people. Consider training officers in fostering connections and having conversations with the people they serve. These methods have been shown to lead to better outcomes.

Assessment

What gets measured gets done!

- Track visits, time, and activities of officers in hot spots.
- Actively engage supervisors in hot spots.
- Regularly assess impacts and adapt when needed.

Bottom line

- Leadership matters! Be a strong champion of hot spots policing. Learn more [HERE](#).
- Consistency is key. Hot spots policing must be ongoing, not a one-time effort.
- It's more than enforcement. Your strategy should be holistic to identify and address root causes alongside enforcement.

Your JSS team is here to help. Reach out to us for individualized help with your hot spots work. And our hot spots policing webinar is available to you, [HERE](#).