

Hot Spot Policing

Criminal Justice

Concentrating patrol on the small number of places where crime clusters.

Directed patrol at micro-places, tested repeatedly in randomised field trials.

EVIDENCE BASE

Multiple RCTs and systematic reviews

TYPICAL EFFECT

Small reduction in the treated place

- Among the better-evidenced policing tactics
- Tested in many randomised controlled trials
- Effects are modest but repeatedly found
- Displacement is usually smaller than feared
- Benefits often diffuse to nearby streets

LOOK FOR IT

Short repeated visits appear to work better than long static posting.

Educational reference. Gains depend on how patrol time is used; aggressive enforcement can cost legitimacy elsewhere.