Experimentally Examining the Effects of a Neighborhood Intervention
to Reduce Theft in Multiple City Neighborhoods

by

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Abstract

Property crime and theft are a priority concern in many communities and costs in the United States are more than 17 billion dollars annually. Research has shown that multiple environmental change strategies implemented at the neighborhood level, such as increased lighting and reduced traffic flow, can reduce rates of property crime. This dissertation uses a multiple baseline design to experimentally examine the effects of a comprehensive set of crime control interventions on rates of theft in four neighborhoods. Two neighborhoods received the full intervention package, a combination of neighborhood and city-wide elements; and two received a partial intervention package consisting of only the city-wide elements.

Results show a reduction in thefts following implementation of the neighborhood (and city-wide) intervention. When implemented as a package, these interventions brought about substantial reductions in property crime. Systematic replication of this neighborhood intervention across additional contexts should be conducted to further explore the generality of these findings. This study adds to the emerging evidence base for how community-determined interventions can help enhance local crime prevention efforts.

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Crime is a major concern in the United States and across the globe (van Dijk, van Kesteren, & Smit, 2007). Burglary and theft are a significant portion of the overall crime problem (Dodd, Nicholas, Povey, & Walker, 2004; van Kesteren, Mayhew, & Nieuwbeerta, 2001). Recent data show three quarters of all criminal behavior in the United States to be property crime (Rand, 2009) resulting in losses of more than 17 billion dollars annually (Criminal Justice Information Service [CJIS], 2009a).

Property crime includes burglary and theft. Burglary is defined as, "the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft" (CJIS, 2010a), while theft itself is defined as, "the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another" (CJIS, 2010b). Property crime occurs frequently in four types of behavior settings: (a) commercial venues such as stores, malls, banks, and bars or taverns, (b) transport (e.g., airports, parking lots, and public transportation such as busses and subways), (c) public settings (e.g., parks, open spaces, and public facilities such as schools or libraries), and (d) residential areas (Eck, 2002).

Residential theft and burglary is of particular interest because more than one in ten U.S. households was a victim of theft in 2008 (Rand, 2009). Further, a residential property crime is committed every 3.2 seconds in the United States (CJIS, 2009b). Developing and testing methods for reducing theft and burglary in neighborhood settings is an important line of inquiry not only because it addresses the presenting issues of victimization and economic harm, but also because fear of crime can adversely affect other health and social outcomes.

Fear of crime can contribute to overall neighborhood decline and residents withdrawing from neighborhood life (Skogan, 1986). As many as 50% of respondents in some national surveys report being afraid to walk in their own neighborhood at night, a rate that far exceeds actual rates of victimization (War, 1995). These fears area associated with reduced rates of physical activity (Carver, Timperio, & Crawford, 2008; Gomez, et al., 2004), increased rates of depression (Stafford, et al., 2007), and lower overall health quality (Jackson & Stafford, 2009; Young, Russell, & Powers, 2004)

Many cities have attempted to alter the design of neighborhoods to reduce high rates of theft and victimization (Crowe, 2000). These efforts are based on the premise that crimes occur in specific places and that the local environment can have an important effect on opportunities for theft or other criminal behavior (Brantingham & Brantingham, 1981, 1995; Jeffrey, 1976). Changes to the physical design of neighborhoods have taken six identifiable forms (Weisel, 2004), but the related research suggests a mixed evidence base.

First, the effects of increased street lighting have been investigated for nearly forty years. Contemporary studies in the United Kingdom have found that increased street lighting in neighborhoods has a positive effect on theft (Clarke, 2008; Painter & Farrington, 2001a, 2001b). A meta-analysis of 15 studies reported an average of 20% reduction in rates of property crime over baseline (Farrington & Welsh, 2002). Additionally, studies associate increased street lighting with more pedestrian traffic (Davidson & Goodey, 1991; Herbert & Moore, 1991) and reduced fear of crime

(Painter & Farrington, 1997). Recent research suggests that darkness or dimly lit surroundings can induce a sense of anonymity and higher levels of unethical behavior even when participants are fully aware they are being observed (Zhong, Bohns, & Gino, 2010).

Second, street closures and other traffic suppression measures have a smaller literature. Emerging research suggests that neighborhoods with high traffic flows and relatively easy access experience more crime than neighborhoods with traffic patterns that restrict access (Beavon, Brantingham, & Brantingham, 1994; Eck, 2002; White, 1990). Several experimental studies appear to support this hypothesis (Donnelly & Kimble, 1997; Fowler & Magione, 1982). For example, Fowler and colleagues reported that burglary victimization declined from an average baseline of 13.5 per 100 households to 10.6 after traffic suppression measures such as street closures, street narrowing, conversion to one-way traffic patterns, and speed bumps were implemented (Fowler, McCalla, & Mangione, 1979).

Alley gating is a third and more recent strategy. Alley access is restricted by erecting iron gates at access points. Gates typically have a pedestrian entry cut into the larger automobile gate and keys are given to the block's residents. Two strong studies in the United Kingdom showed beneficial effects on property crime with reported reductions in theft of as much as 37% from baseline levels after alley gates were installed (Bowers, Johnson, & Hershfield, 2004; Haywood, Kautt, & Whitaker, 2009; Young, Hirschfield, Bowers, & Johnson, 2003). Results of these studies

suggest that some benefit is also experienced by the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the intervention communities.

Target hardening is a fourth strategy and represents the longest and most intuitive approach to crime reduction (Forrester, et al., 1990). Target hardening measures typically include the installation of locks on windows and doors, placing iron grates or other deterrents on basement windows, and securing outbuildings or garages. Correlations from large data sets suggest this strategy might be effective (Budd, 1999). Some experimental evidence also supports this approach (Tilley & Webb, 1994). For instance, the Kirkholt study demonstrated a reduction of 40% in theft and an elimination of repeat victimization after a community-wide target hardening intervention (Forrester, et al., 1990; Pease, 1991).

Fifth, remotely monitored home alarm systems have been widely implemented with corresponding calls to police who must respond to an overwhelming number of false alarms (LeBeau & Vincent, 1997; Sampson, 2007). In 1995, 30% of police manpower was spent responding to false alarms; 98% of all home alarms were false (Hakim, Rengert, & Shachmurove, 1995). No experimental studies have been published examining the relation between installation of home alarms and rates of theft and burglary. However, a large correlational study found a 40% reduction in burglary and theft in the five years after alarm installation in a large sample (Lee, 2008).

Finally, property marking by labeling valuables with identifying information is the sixth typical alteration to the physical design of neighborhoods used to prevent

theft. Although the last study of property marking was conducted 25 years ago,

however, the early studies suggest positive effects on property crime when

implemented at large scale with accompanying publicity campaigns. Laycock (1985)

found reductions in burglary and theft of almost 60% after a widely implemented and

well publicized property marking intervention. Closed circuit television systems

(CCTV) are being used as a crime control strategy in some countries. CCTV has not

been widely used to address property crime in US residential settings (Welsh &

Farrington, 2002).

In addition to these six environmental interventions, communities often use

Neighborhood Watch approaches to engage local residents in crime reduction efforts.

Frequently, these interventions call on neighbors to attend monthly meetings, increase

their "surveillance" of the area, properly identify suspicious activity, and call police

with appropriate information. Communities also post signs indicating that a

Neighborhood Watch scheme is in effect (Garofalo & McLeod, 1989; Rosenbaum,

1987). During the past thirty-eight years Neighborhood Watch has been widely

adopted and now covers more than 40% of the U.S. population (National Crime

Prevention Council, 2001). The popularity of Neighborhood Watch is not limited to

the United States (Bayley, 1989; Hourihan, 1987; Johnson, 2005; Sims, 2001;

Walker, Walker & McDavid, 1992). Bennett, Holloway and Farrington (2006)

conducted a meta-analysis of Neighborhood Watch evaluations. They noted that

fifteen of eighteen studies reviewed showed reductions in crime. Neighborhood

Watch is generally a successful anti-crime intervention.

There are several prominent critiques of the crime prevention literature. First, most studies are too short to see clear trends in crime over time (Farrington & Welsh, 2002; Rosenbaum, 1988). Collecting crime data for periods of less than one year is highly problematic in determining cause and effect relationships (Fagan, 1990). Any changes observed could just as likely be due to period effects such as seasonal variability in criminal behavior making it difficult to rule out history or other correlated events as a threat to internal validity (Hipp, et al., 2004). In addition, typical patterns in crime data following interventions (e.g., brief effects followed by a return to baseline) also commend longer study periods (Donnelly & Kimble, 1997). Longer follow-up periods and sufficient post-intervention measures can help to document the extent to which preventive effects are maintained.

Second, replication of interventions in multiple neighborhoods with matched controls are needed to advance research on crime prevention (Bennet, Holloway & Farrington, 2006; Farrington & Welsh, 2002). Multiple intervention areas are recommended, in part, because selection bias and regression are key challenges in the design of community intervention research (Weeks, 2007). Matched controls can be helpful in ruling out history when random assignment is impractical or unethical (Flay et al., 2005). Yet, true control conditions can be difficult to establish in community research to prevent crime (Fagan, 1990). Investigators cannot prohibit the introduction of crime prevention efforts in neighborhoods designated as comparison sites (Fowler & Magione, 1982; Fowler, McCalla, & Mangione, 1979). Many study locations have limited numbers of candidate comparisons that may or may not meet

tests of similarity to intervention neighborhoods (Haywood, Kautt, & Whitaker, 2009). Systematic replications across neighborhoods offer a promising approach to increasing confidence in the research findings (Flay et al., 2005).

The final critique of existing research in crime control is that investigators should begin testing more comprehensive intervention packages. These packages should be theoretically capable of reducing overall levels of neighborhood crime (Schneider & Kitchen, 2002). Moving beyond component testing and examining real-world packages of interventions could improve the social validity of the research (Wolf, 1978).

The present study addressed several prominent critiques of the crime prevention literature. First, it addressed the brevity of typical studies by collecting neighborhood-level crime data for a period of nine years. This time frame assured at least three years each of baseline and post-intervention measures – a minimum standard for discerning trend patterns. This extended timeline also allowed for better assessment of the maintenance of possible effects. Second, this study provided a systematic replication of a promising intervention to reduce theft in two neighborhoods. The best available matches based on demographic, geographic, and dependent variables were selected as comparison sites. Measures of the dependent variables were collected for each condition for the nine years of the study. Finally, this study used a comprehensive intervention to reduce theft. Its components reflect a realistic analysis of environmental conditions – going beyond information to affect

access and consequences – thought necessary to achieve changes in behavior at the neighborhood level.

The present study examined the effects of comprehensive neighborhood efforts to reduce theft in a mid-western city. In partnership with a community-led coalition known as Safe Streets, the study engaged community and scientific partners using the key principles of Community-Based Participatory Research [CBPR] (Isreal et al., 2001; Isreal et al., 2003; Minkler & Wallerstein, 2008). Neighborhood residents determined local priorities, what interventions to implement, and on what timeline. As a result, the study investigates the effects of implementing community-determined, comprehensive interventions as they unfolded in multiple neighborhoods.

Method

Context and Setting of the Study: Safe Streets of Topeka

Safe Streets was founded in 1995 as a crime prevention coalition in Topeka, Kansas to promote "peace in the neighborhood." It has the mission of "making Topeka's neighborhoods safe for peaceful living." Safe Streets drew on emerging credibility from early successes when it initiated its planning and intervention process in participating neighborhoods. The organization is well known in the city, receiving unsolicited calls from concerned neighbors requesting that it intervene to provide support for crime prevention. Often these calls are fielded in response to catalytic events such as well-publicized instances of violence or property crime.

Safe Streets' earliest neighborhood work from 1994 to 1999 served as a pilot period in which the Safe Streets model and related intervention components and

elements were developed and tested. Among these were the steps for implementing initial neighborhood meetings, developing cooperating partnerships with city police and government agencies, and refining an emerging set of promising intervention components and elements. Perceived success in these early efforts, continued advocacy for a neighborhood-centered approach to development and crime prevention, and the personal experience of Safe Streets staff all served as sources of credibility.

The setting for the study is the midsized city of Topeka, Kansas. The total estimated population of Topeka in 2006 was 123,446 (US Census Bureau, 2009). The city's demographic profile is slightly more diverse, poor, and transient than the average for the State of Kansas. The city's demographic profile is displayed in Table 1.

Participants

The focus of this study is four neighborhoods that received the Safe Streets facilitated intervention. Neighborhoods A and B received the full intervention (the neighborhood plus city-wide aspects). Neighborhoods A_1 and B_1 received a partial intervention (only city-wide aspects of the intervention - see Table 3). Neighborhoods A and B were the only two neighborhoods with complete data and full implementation. Paired Neighborhoods A_1 and B_1 were chosen a priori as matched comparisons from among those Topeka neighborhoods experiencing just the city-wide aspects of the Safe Streets intervention.

Table 1

Demographic Profile of Topeka, Kansas Based on 2000 Census Data

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Total Population	122,377
Density (Persons per Square Mile)	2,184
Housing Units	56,435
Living in the Same House 5+ Years	50.6%
Racial and Ethnic Distribution	
White Persons	78.5%
Black Persons	11.7%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	1.3%
Asian Persons	1.1%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	--
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin	8.9%
Persons Indicating Two or More	3.3%
Education	
High School Graduates	85.9%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	25.3%
Income	
Median Household Income	$ 35,928
Per Capita Money Income	$ 19,555
Persons Below Poverty	12.4%

Following up on unsolicited calls for assistance from residents in Neighborhoods A and B, Safe Streets staff helped convene an initial neighborhood meeting in each of the participating neighborhoods. Neighborhood volunteers formed local leadership teams that conducted the planning and implementation. An average of twenty-five residents served on each neighborhood leadership team during the study period. As many as fifty-two, and as few as ten, team members attended monthly meetings during the four years and across both neighborhoods. The

Table 2

Profile of Intervention Neighborhoods

Profile Element	Full Intervention Neighborhood A		Partial Intervention Neighborhood A_1	
Total Population	2395		2307	
White	1876	77.3%	1474	63.1%
Black	325	13.4%	685	29.3%
All Other Categories	225	9.4%	179	7.7%
Housing Units	1162		1711	
Average Thefts per 100 Housing Units 2000-2004	16.30		30.61	

Profile Element	Full Intervention Neighborhood B		Partial Intervention Neighborhood B_1	
Total Population	990		3144	
White	657	65.6%	1947	60.7%
Black	283	28.3%	976	30.4%
All Other Categories	61	6.1%	283	8.8%
Housing Units	358		1291	
Average Thefts per 100 Housing Units 2000-2004	23.86		13.06	

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demographic characteristics of the four participating neighborhoods are provided in

both full intervention neighborhoods sought Safe Streets support following catalytic

events. Intervention Neighborhood A experienced a spike in theft accompanied by

vandalism. These issues reached a tipping point when a resident's car was set on fire

and neighbors called Safe Streets for assistance. Residents in Intervention

Neighborhood B believed they saw the signs of a home being used as a drug dealing location in their neighborhood and contacted Safe Streets about what actions they could take to address this issue.

The leadership teams largely reflected their neighborhood's demographic distribution. There was substantial turnover in participants over the course of the more than four years of intervention implementation. The degree to which the leadership teams reflected their respective neighborhood demographic profile varied considerably over this time period.

Neighborhoods A and B were selected for this study because they fully implemented and sustained the Safe Streets intervention, a community problem-solving process directed at reducing crime. After the initial neighborhood meetings convened by Safe Streets, the residents elected to adopt the Safe Streets approach and actively worked to implement all fourteen neighborhood-level intervention elements. Partial implementation Neighborhoods A_1 and B_1 were added to the study to be watched neighborhoods receiving just the city-wide aspects of the intervention. Therefore, this study is an exploration of the effects of full and partial implementation of a neighborhood intervention. Those Topeka neighborhoods that met with Safe Streets staff only once or twice to address crime and failed to fully implement or sustain the Safe Streets neighborhood aspects were not included in this study.

Consistent with the policy of Safe Streets, participating neighborhoods were not selected or targeted in advance of the study. All neighborhoods in the county were eligible for supportive services from Safe Streets. Neighborhoods entered the study

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by requesting and receiving support from the community partner. Once a neighborhood had requested help, they received services and all neighborhoods received essentially similar assistance based on the nature of their request. The two neighborhoods with full and sustained implementation of the intervention were the focus of this study. Matched neighborhoods were selected a priori (i.e. based on demographic and geographic characteristics only) to examine the effects of partial implementation.

The neighborhood leadership teams determined all aspects of their own neighborhoods' work, including the initial geographic boundaries for the intervention. These choices resulted in intervention neighborhoods ranging in size from 990 to 2,390 people. The number of housing units ranged from 358 to 1162. The demographic profile for the study neighborhoods reflected a relatively more diverse, poor, and transient population than the city as a whole. Intervention neighborhoods also had higher rates of theft than the city average. Figure 1 maps the locations of the intervention and comparison neighborhoods.

After two years of neighborhood-level implementation with participating neighborhoods, Safe Streets was successful in convening a city-wide partnership which began a campaign to "become the safest capital city in America." This city-wide initiative is typical of multi-sectoral partnerships working to achieve community-level outcomes (Butterfoss, Goodman, and Wandersman, 1993; Roussos

Figure 1

Geographic Location of Study Neighborhoods in Topeka, Kansas
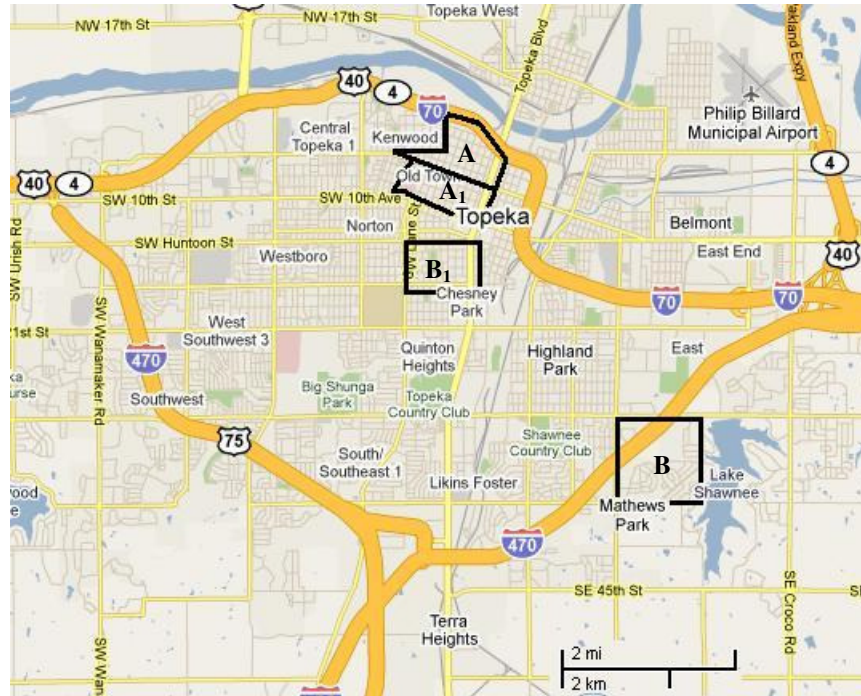
& Fawcett, 2000; Wolff, 2001). The partnership enjoyed broad participation,

including law enforcement, business, media, government, non-profits agencies, youth,

and faith-based organizations, and averaged 200 participants at monthly meetings.

Participants were largely organizational leaders such as the chief of police, mayor,

business owners, and non-profit executives.

Measurement

The two primary measures reported in this study were: (a) data on thefts (the

primary dependent variable) and, (b) instances of community change (a measure of

implementation of the independent variable) facilitated by neighborhood residents or

the city-wide partnership to prevent theft. The main dependent variable in this study is incidents of theft, defined as "the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession of another" (CJIS, 2010b). These data were provided by local law enforcement (Topeka Police Department) which had collected them as part of their federal Uniform Crime Report (UCR).

UCR data for theft are generally accepted as reliable and valid indicators of the targeted behaviors (Gove, Hughes, & Geerkin, 1985; Lynch & Addington, 2007; Mosher, Meithe, & Phillips, 2002). Total incidents of thefts are reported, as are rates per 100 housing units to permit inter-neighborhood comparisons. Housing units were selected as the denominator because each unit represents an opportunity for theft that is constant even if not occupied and because population numbers were difficult to establish accurately in years following the 2000 U.S. Census. Each incident of reported theft was geographically coded using the neighborhood boundaries set by the local leadership teams.

Community changes – a measure of the independent variable in this study – are defined as new or modified policies, programs, practices, or physical design features facilitated by neighborhood residents or the city-wide partnership to reduce theft. Safe Streets staff members were trained on a published protocol's observation and coding system that monitors the reports of community change (Chalmers, et al., 2003; Francisco, Paine, & Fawcett, 1993). Staff logged candidate events on a monthly basis throughout the intervention period.

Originally, these logs of community changes were kept on paper. This was followed by a local database and eventually an internet-based data collection and reporting system (Fawcett et al., 2003). The candidate events were then reviewed for adherence to the definition and scoring criteria, and inter-observer agreement was calculated. In addition to reviewing documented events to see if they met the established definition, events were further coded by which intervention element and behavior change strategy the event sought to implement. The definitions for these additional scoring criteria are included in Table 3, "Safe Streets Intervention Components and Elements." The complete code book and detailed scoring protocol are provided in Appendix D.

Probes for maintenance of intervention elements whose onset was monitored via the measurement system were conducted by project staff as part of their normal support and implementation activities. Each intervention element was probed for maintenance at least once every six months throughout the intervention period. Direct observation (e.g., visiting community festivals, monthly meetings, and neighborhood clean-up events) was used to verify reports in many instances. Review of archival records were used to verify those intervention elements better suited to this method, such as the presence of a current phone tree with resident corroboration of recent use.

Safe Streets Intervention

The components and elements of the Safe Streets intervention were implemented through both neighborhood-based and city-wide approaches.

Neighborhood-based intervention. In collaboration with Safe Streets, city government, and local police, neighborhood residents were convened in each participating neighborhood to analyze the current property crime trends and data for their community. Protocols for the initial neighborhood meetings are provided in Appendix A. Neighbors were given paper and pencil assessment instruments with which to walk their neighborhood and identify current conditions that make criminal behavior easier or more likely. (The neighborhood "Walk Your Block" assessment tool is provided in Appendix B.)

At a subsequent meeting, the assigned neighborhood police officer provided detailed information about current crime trends and recent incidents. Based on the neighborhood analysis and police data, neighbors then selected targeted interventions to be implemented in their neighborhood. Monthly meetings were used to review progress, data trends, and to make needed adjustments.

Safe Streets' stated aim is to build the capacity of neighborhood residents to reduce crime and promote neighborhood development. Safe Streets has identified fourteen intervention elements or practices that neighborhood groups should be able to successfully implement on their own after a period of Safe Streets support (summarized in Table 3). In each instance, Safe Streets provided initial modeling, training, and prompts to establish these intervention routines. It then quickly faded these supports in an effort to maximize resident participation, skills development, and ownership of implementation.

The Safe Streets model required functional neighborhood meetings that can identify concerns, plan actions, implement appropriate interventions, monitor implementation and progress, and celebrate or make needed adjustments. This model or process was used to implement the fourteen neighborhood-level intervention elements (see Table 3). Implementation of the model depended on a reasonable number of neighborhood residents regularly meeting to participate in the process. The iterative steps of the Safe Streets Neighborhood Intervention Model are displayed in Figure 2.

The first intervention element, regular neighborhood meetings, was carried out in each participating neighborhood. Safe Streets staff members provided a template for the first meeting and helped serve as facilitators. During the initial meetings, rationales for the agenda, ground rules, and process were provided. Staff members identified residents willing to co-facilitate the second meeting. When skilled residents were already present, they were asked to facilitate the second meeting on their own. Consistent with community organizing practice, Safe Streets community mobilizers worked to remove themselves from the process as quickly as possible.

The second intervention element, neighborhood communication, was established during these first neighborhood meetings. Residents worked to create a formal communication tool either in the form of a phone tree, e-mail system, or other communication channel. This primary means of communication is frequently supplemented with neighborhood newsletters, websites, "hot spot" flyers, and billboards.

Figure 2

Safe Streets' Neighborhood Intervention Model
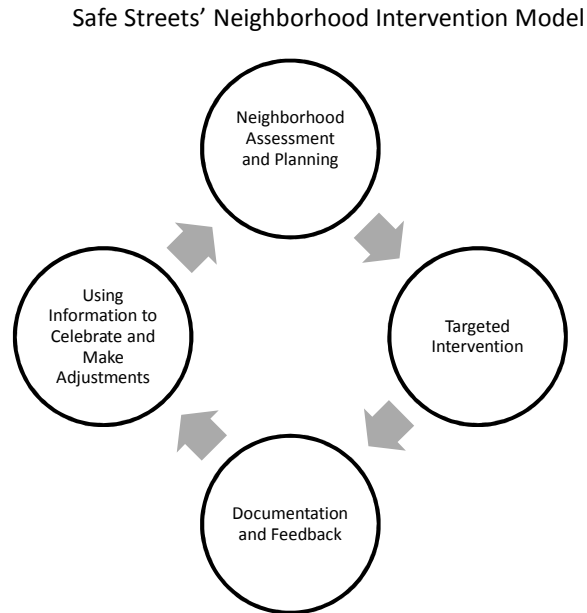
A third intervention element is ongoing resident training. This training can be provided by any number of residents, local leaders, professionals or Safe Streets staff members. Topics for additional training included Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), drug paraphernalia, methamphetamine labs, zoning issues, community history, and the like.

A fourth intervention element is active connections to neighborhood institutions and assets. These include businesses, non-profits, and schools located in the neighborhood. Engaging communities of faith in the neighborhood is particularly important in this element. Residents work to directly involve institutional leaders in the local process and in implementation of proposed interventions.

Social support and service to neighbors are two additional intervention elements. Social support was facilitated through events such as annual festivals, cooking contests, and parades. Service to neighbors has been implemented via "adopt a family" efforts during holiday seasons and community garage sells to help raise money for all families. The intention is to foster better social relationships between neighbors and a spirit of service to each other and the community.

A positive and structured relationship with law enforcement is a sixth intervention element. This is the main avenue for assuring access to important data about community concerns and for tracking progress on thefts. Further, community law enforcement officers can inform residents of new crime-related issues, such as the risk methamphetamine laboratories pose to neighborhood health, and provide subject matter expertise in related crime prevention. Finally, a trusting relationship with law enforcement is foundational to assuring that residents report crime and can use police supports appropriately.

In its active citizen patrol element, Safe Streets helped neighborhoods implement innovative neighborhood watch strategies. Traditional neighborhood watch programs are implemented where appropriate. Alternative watch strategies such as "stroll patrols," "park watch," and cocoon watch (i.e., a small cluster of homes or neighbors agree to watch for each other) have also been implemented. These are good examples of the eighth intervention component being adapted to fit specific community geographic and demographic contexts.

Table 3

Safe Streets Intervention Components and Elements

Intervention Component	Specific Elements	Neighborhood	City-Wide	Element Definition
Provide Information	1:Neighborhood Meetings	◆		Maintaining monthly meetings facilitated by residents designed to identify and address neighborhood concerns.
	2:Neighborhood Communication	◆		Formal phone tree, e-mail or other communication system used at least once every 60 days.
	3:Informational Campaigns		◆	Coordinated adverstising campaigns promoting safety (such as the "Lock it, Remove it, or Lose it Campaign")
Build Skills	4:Citizen Training	◆		At least one annual training for neighborhood residents. (To include CPTED, Neighborhood Watch, drug paraphernalia, meeting facilitation, etc.).
Enhance Social Support	5:Connecting to Institutional Assets	◆		Leaders from schools, business, or churches located in the neighborhood regularly attend meetings or are directly involved in neighborhood interventions at least annually.
	6:Social Events	◆		At least annual neighborhood specific festivals, celebrations, or parades facilitated by area residents.
	7:Service to Neighbors	◆		Coordinated effort to address needs of residents by residents (self-help and mutual aid such as through neighborhood-wide garage sales, Christmas adoption, etc.).
Modify Access & Barriers	8:Formal Police Relationship	◆		Police representative attends monthly meetings and police are proactively contacted between meetings by neighbors for reasons other than crime reporting.
Change Consequences	9:Active Citizen Patrol or NW	◆		An established system of observation with monitoring or logging and with at least 40 hours a month of patrols.
	10:Landlord Intervention	◆		Successfully intervening with a non-resident landlord to address neighborhood concerns (code violations, drug houses, etc.).
	11:Targeted Enforcement		◆	Law enforcement target enforcement either in identified hots spots or targeting top repeat offenders responsible for large numbers of thefts.
	12:Use of Code Compliance	◆		The application of city building codes to the improvement of neighborhood housing stock (sometimes accomplished through neighborhood service events).
Modify Physical Design	13:Street Lighting Improvement	◆		Street lighting improvements on at least one block within the defined neighborhood boundaries.
	14:Traffic Suppression Measures	◆		Any method of traffic suppression and pedestrian aid implemented within defined neighborhood boundaries to include speed bumps, traffic rounds, street closures, etc.
	15:Residence level CPTED	◆		Application of CPTED physical assessment with corresponding changes (numbering, site lines, lighting, target hardening, etc.) to neighborhood housing stock.
	16:Property Marking		◆	Providing tools and support to participate in the "Record It! Report It! Recover It!" campaign.
	17:Neighborhood Clean Ups	◆		At least annual coordinated removal of trash or graffiti from the neighborhood by residents on a volunteer basis.

The landlord intervention element is in response to neighborhoods routinely encountering difficulty in their relationship with absentee landlords. Rental properties were often not properly maintained or failed to provide adequate screening of residents. City codes can be used as means for residents to demand compliance with minimum standards when landlords fail to respond to initial positive outreach. Effective landlord intervention and the use of Code Compliance to further resident's development and improvement goals are two potent intervention elements.

The final four neighborhood-level intervention elements afforded residents the opportunity to change the physical design of their neighborhood to reduce the opportunities for theft. These intervention elements included improved street lighting and traffic suppression measures. The intervention elements also included assessment and change at the individual housing unit level and upkeep of the overall neighborhood such as through designated clean up days with supported trash removal.

These intervention elements were implemented in different combinations and adaptations to reflect different neighborhood contexts. Table 3 provides an overview of the intervention components and the typical elements that make up the intervention package in each neighborhood. Intervention elements in Table 3 are noted as either "neighborhood" or "city-wide." The fourteen elements overviewed here were all implemented at the neighborhood level.

City-wide intervention. In addition to promoting a neighborhood response to crime, Safe Streets worked to establish a city-wide coalition that implemented additional elements for all neighborhoods. Three intervention elements were

implemented during the study period, beginning with a city-wide information campaign called, "Lock It, Remove It, or Lose It!" This campaign encouraged citizens to remove valuables from vehicles or other places where they might be in public view and to lock unattended vehicles and homes regularly. This campaign was promoted through billboards, radio advertising, flyers, and targeted events such as free car washes where drivers were provided with informational brochures.

A second city-wide intervention was the promotion of property marking. This campaign was called "Record It, Report It, Recover It!" and encouraged citizens to mark valuable property and record video of household valuables. The campaign also promoted the importance of reporting theft in order to allow for potential recovery of stolen items.

Finally, in cooperation with law enforcement, the city-wide coalition encouraged targeted police enforcement. Increased enforcement was targeted in one of two ways. Law enforcement stepped up patrols and investigation in areas where data revealed "hot spots" for theft. Hot spots were typically concentrated geographic areas of several blocks (i.e., smaller than an entire neighborhood). In addition to geographic targeting, police also employed "perpetrator targeting" to apprehend and successfully prosecute known repeat offenders who perpetrated a disproportionate number of property crimes in the city.

Experimental Design

A multiple baseline design across neighborhoods was used to examine the effects of the Safe Streets intervention on thefts. The multiple baseline design

controls for all of the eight internal threats to validity including history, maturation, testing, instrumentation, regression, selection, mortality, and their interaction (Hawkins et al., 2007; Campbell & Stanley, 1963). There have been frequent calls for the application of this design to the study of community-level, multi-component interventions (e.g., Biglan, Ary, & Wagenaar, 2000).

In addition to the strength of the multiple baseline design, replication of both full and partial interventions was used to strengthen the evidence that history and other threats to internal validity are ruled out as alternative explanations for observed effects. Replication also begins to address issues of external validity or generalizability, particularly if similar results are seen in different contexts and with differing populations. The present study examines the effects of the intervention in multiple neighborhoods (baselines) with staggered introduction of the intervention across neighborhoods. Matched pairs were selected from those neighborhoods known to not have implemented the fourteen neighborhood-level intervention elements and that were most similar to the full intervention neighborhoods in demographic characteristics.

Research Questions.

This study examines four core research questions: 1) Did the Safe Streets intervention reduce the rate of theft in intervention neighborhoods? 2) Were observed decreases in the rate of theft associated with the implementation of intervention elements? 3) What is the amount and kind of crime prevention approaches (intervention elements) implemented by participating neighborhoods in this study and

by the city-wide partnership? and 4) Did the participating neighborhood groups sustain these crime prevention approaches without further direct support?

Results

1) Did the Safe Streets intervention reduce the rate of thefts in intervention neighborhoods? Figure 3 displays the incidents of reported theft for intervention Neighborhood A (full implementation) and Neighborhood A_1 (partial implementation). During baseline for intervention Neighborhood A, the monthly incidents of theft varied widely from a low of three to a high of 31. The annual total incidents of theft initially fell during the first year of baseline from 191 in 2000 to 143 in 2001 and then remained level for the remainder of the three years of baseline. Annual incidents of reported theft decreased steadily throughout the intervention period to a low of 74 in 2008.

For Neighborhood A_1, the total incidents of monthly theft varied from a low of 15 to a high of 47 from 2000 to 2006. Each year saw a decrease in the total annual number of thefts from a high of 449 in 2000 to a low of 318 in 2006. In 2007, the first year of the city-wide approach, the monthly incidents of theft also dropped, ranging from 11 to 28 with an annual total of 254. Reported theft declined further during 2008 with a monthly range of 14 to 23 and an annual total of 217.

Figure 4 displays the incidents of reported theft for intervention baseline Neighborhood B (full implementation) and Neighborhood B_1 (partial

Figure 3

Thefts Known to Police (UCR) for
Neighborhood A and Neighborhood A$_1$
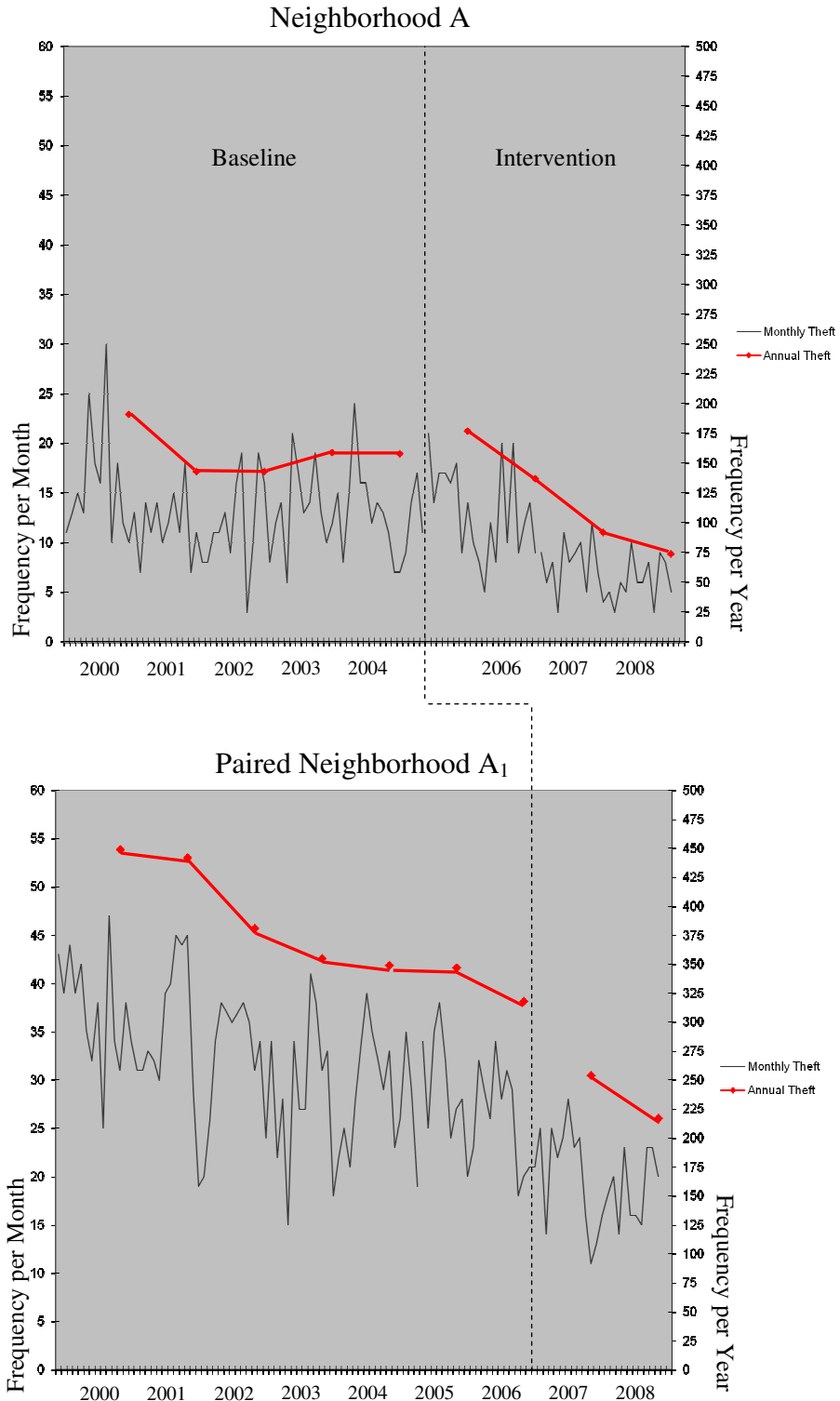
implementation). During the baseline period for Intervention Neighborhood B, monthly totals of thefts known to police ranged from two to 16. The annual total of thefts increased during the first three years of baseline to a high of 111 in 2003 and then decreased in the final year to a total of 74. During the first year of implementation of the intervention, the data showed an increase in the annual total of thefts known to police (n=93) in 2005. Each of the following years saw a steady decline to a new annual low of 28 thefts known to police in 2008.

For Neighborhood B_1, the incidents of theft varied from a low of seven to a high of 27 from 2000 until 2006. The annual total during these years ranged from a low of 199 (2003) to a high of 256 (2004). In 2007 fewer thefts were reported, with a monthly range of eight to 17 and an annual total of 136. In 2008 an increase in reported theft was documented with monthly incidents ranging from eight to 21 and an annual total of 166.

Figures 5 and 6 provide the same multiple-baseline display with the dependent variable converted to reported incidents of theft per 100 housing units. This metric of prevelance takes into account the varying size of intervention units to facilitate comparison across neighborhoods. Table 4 displays the dataset used to generate Figures 5 and 6.

2) Were observed decreases in the rate of thefts associated with the implementation of intervention elements? Figures G displays the cumulative onset of intervention elements (community changes) in relation to the reported incidents of

Figure 4

Thefts Known to Police (UCR) for
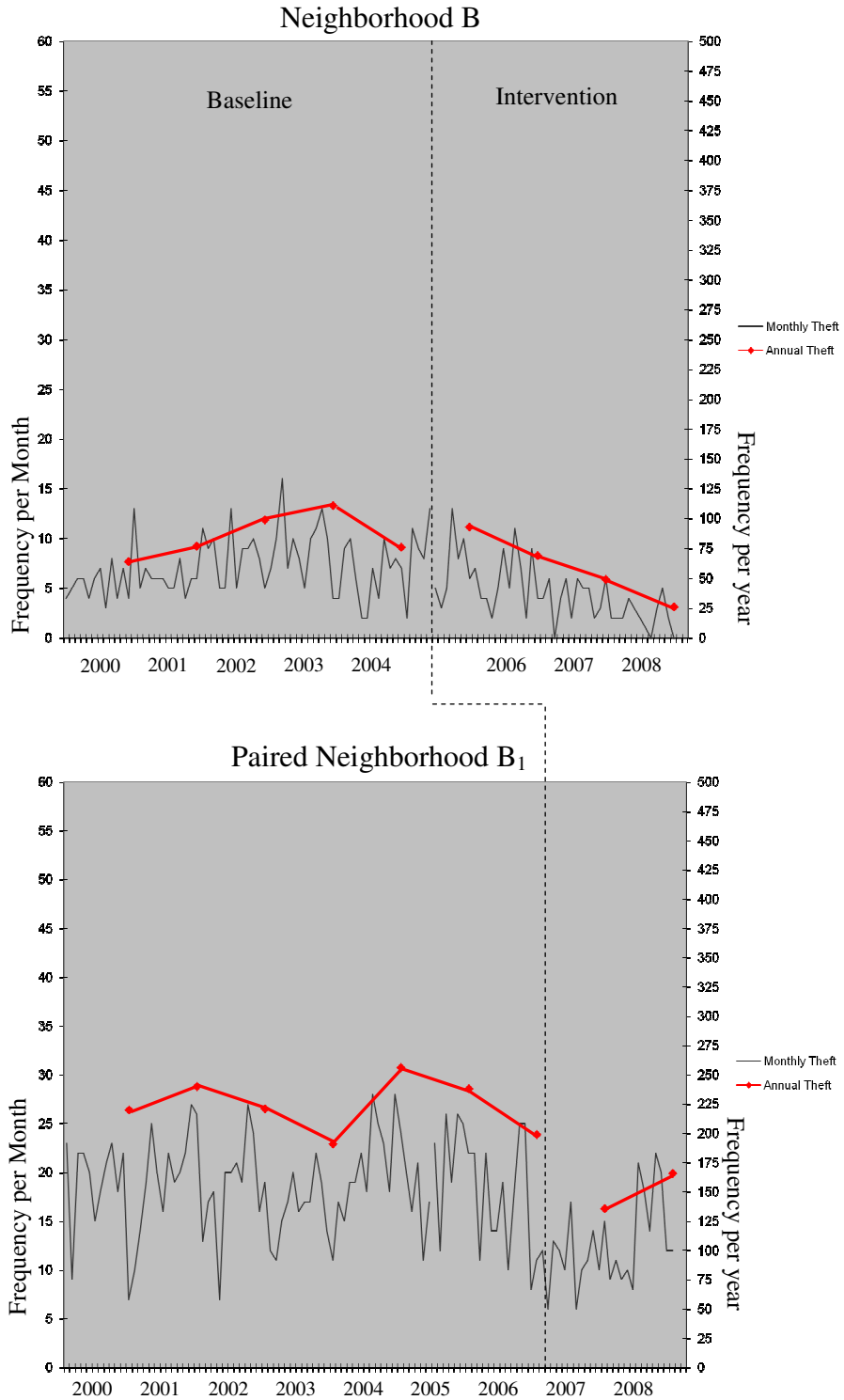# Neighborhood B and Neighborhood B_1

Neighborhood B

Paired Neighborhood B_1

Table 4

	A	B	A$_1$	B$_1$
Prevalence of Theft in Four Topeka Neighborhoods (per 100 housing units)				
2000	19.069	17.877	34.779	12.858
2001	14.681	21.508	34.237	14.026
2002	14.681	27.653	29.512	12.916
2003	16.324	31.005	27.498	11.163
2004	16.221	21.229	27.033	14.962
2005	**18.172**	**25.977**	26.878	13.910
2006	**14.065**	**19.273**	24.632	11.630
2007	**9.445**	**13.687**	**19.674**	**7.948**
2008	**7.597**	**7.262**	**16.808**	**9.701**

Dotted line indicates beginning of the intervention period.
Numbers in bold are post-intervention measures.

theft per 100 housing units for intervention Neighborhood A and intervention

Neighborhood B. In Neighborhood A, 65% of the intervention elements were put in

place during the first year of implementation, 71% during the second year, and 86%

in the third and fourth year. In Neighboroood B, 50% of the intervention elements

were put into place during the first year of implementation, 93% in the second year,

and all elements (100%) were in place during the third and fourth years of

implementation. In each case, the first year of intervention showed an increase in

reported theft followed by three years of progressively lower rates of theft.

3) What are the amount and kind of crime prevention approaches

(intervention elements) implemented by participating neighborhoods in this study?

The onset and maintenance of prevention approaches facilitated in intervention

Neighborhood A is displayed in Figure 8. Neighborhood A implemented nine of the

Figure 5

Thefts per 100 Housing Units for
Neighborhood A and Neighborhood A_1

Neighborhood A

Paired Neighborhood A_1
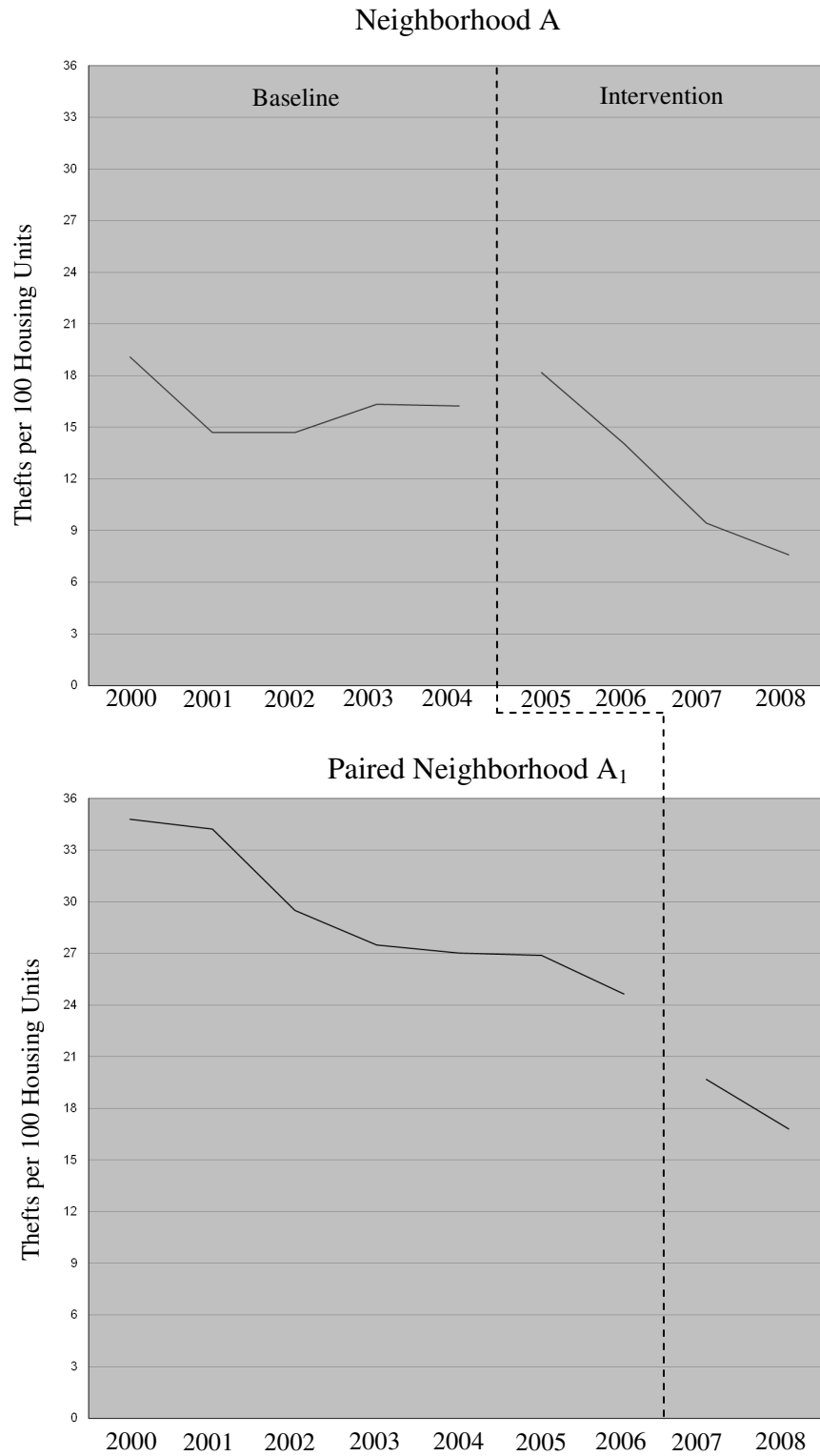
Figure 6

Thefts per 100 Housing Units for
Neighborhood B and Neighborhood B_1
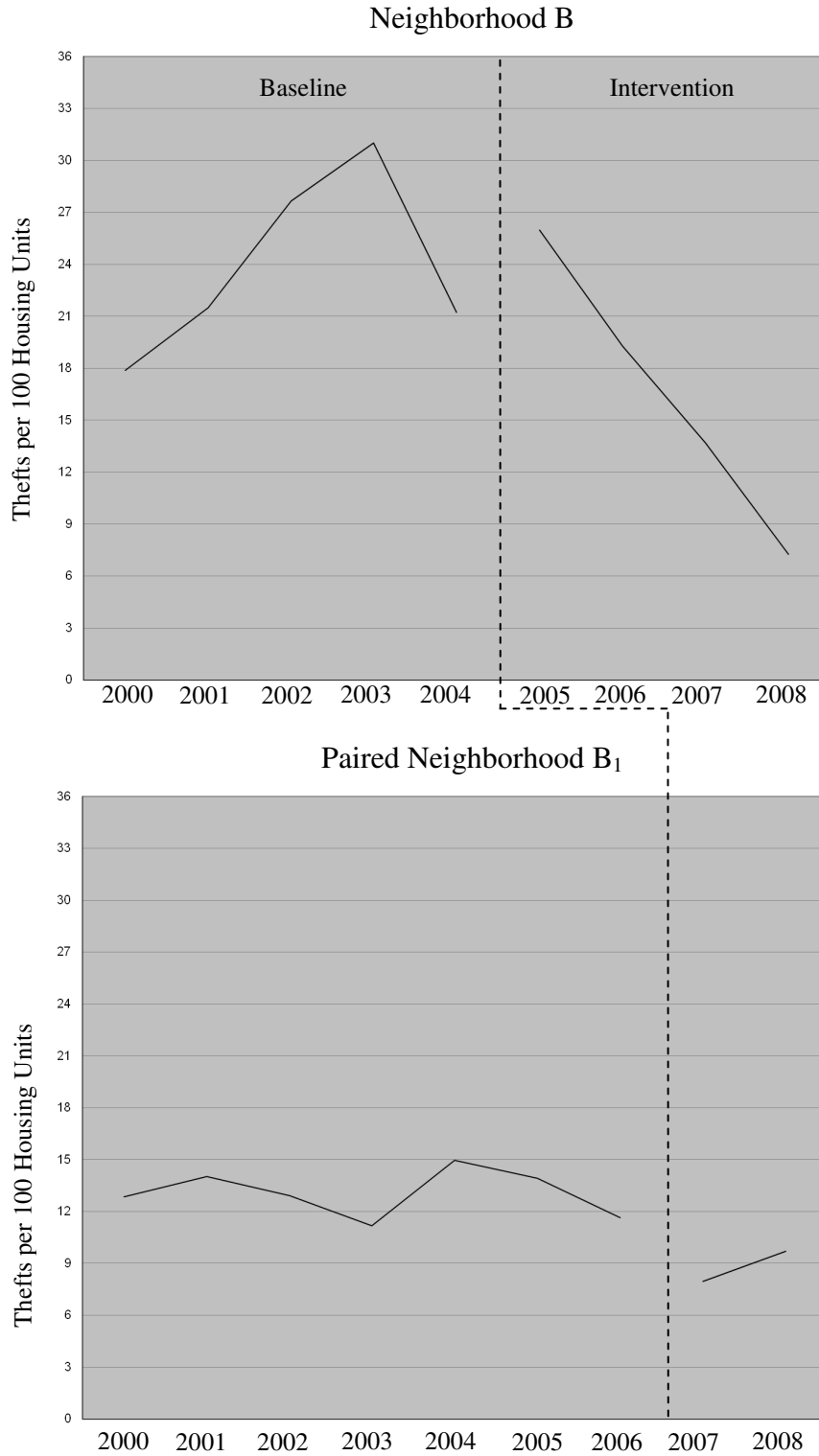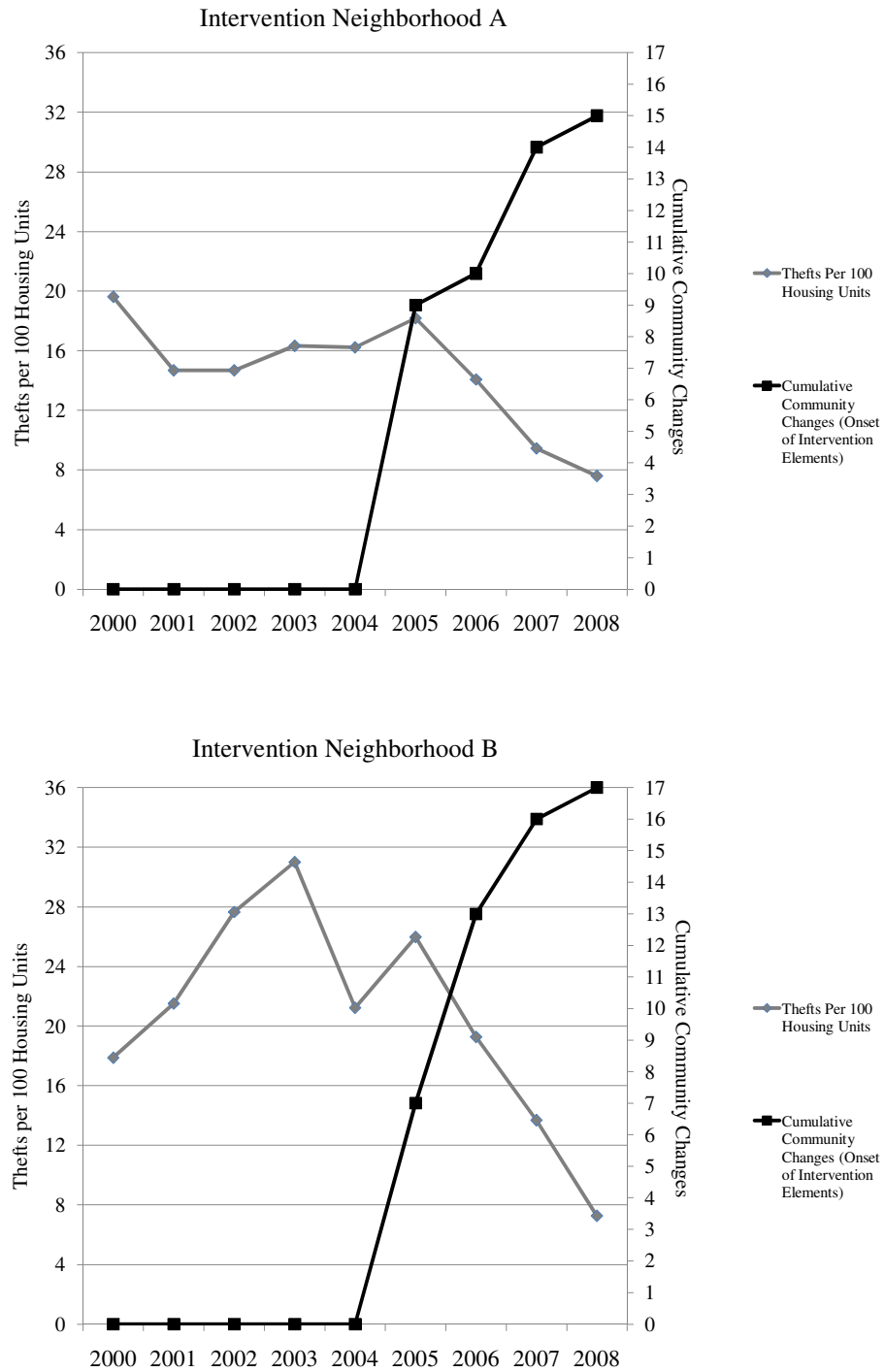

Neighborhood B

Paired Neighborhood B_1

Figure 7

Relationship in Time Between the Onset of Safe Streets Intervention Elements
(community changes) and Reported Rates of Theft per 100 Housing Units –
Intervention Neighborhoods A and B

Intervention Neighborhood A

Intervention Neighborhood B

fourteen Safe Streets neighborhood-level elements in the first year of their work. Elements implemented included monthly neighborhood meetings, a neighborhood phone and   e-mail tree, citizen training that addressed methamphetamine laboratories, strong connections to their assigned community police officer, creating strong connections with churches and non-profits located within the neighborhood boundaries, assisting individual residents with implementing crime prevention through environmental design principles to neighborhood property, the use of codes enforcement to improve housing stock, improving street lighting, and the first annual neighborhood clean-up project.

During 2006, intervention Neighborhood A maintained the nine elements implemented during the previous year and added one more. The new element was successfully intervening with several absentee landlords. This element was maintained and expanded further in 2007.

In 2007 the neighborhood began its first regular mutual help event by working with an area non-profit to adopt families living within neighborhood boundaries as part of annual Christmas celebrations and the beginning of a number of regular social support events such as cooking contests and annual festivals. In 2007 two city-wide elements were implemented including targeted enforcement and city-wide information campaigns.

In 2008 an additional city-wide element was added. The target hardening campaign was introduced. Two intervention elements were not implemented by

Figure 8

Onset and Maintenance of Intervention
Elements in Neighborhood A

Safe Streets Element	Neighborhood	City-Wide	2005	2006	2007	2008
1: Neighborhood Meetings	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
2: Neighborhood Communication	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
3: Informational Campaigns		◆			▪	▪
4: Citizen Training	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
5: Connected to Institutional Assets	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
6: Social Support Events	◆				▪	▪
7: Service to Neighbors	◆				▪	▪
8: Formal Police Relationship	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
9: Active Citizen Patrol or NW	◆					
10: Landlord Intervention	◆			▪	▪	▪
11: Targeted Enforcement		◆			▪	▪
12: Use of Code Compliance	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
13: Street Lighting Improvement	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
14: Traffic Suppression Measures	◆					
15: Residence level CPTED	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪
16: Property Marking		◆				▪
17: Neighborhood Clean Ups	◆		▪	▪	▪	▪

▪ Element Implemented or Maintained

☐ Element Not Implemented

Figure 9

Onset and Maintenance of Intervention
Elements in Neighborhood B

Safe Streets Element	Neighborhood	City-Wide	2005	2006	2007	2008
1: Neighborhood Meetings	◆		■	■	■	■
2: Neighborhood Communication	◆		■	■	■	■
3: Informational Campaigns		◆			■	■
4: Citizen Training	◆		■	■	■	■
5: Connected to Institutional Assets	◆			■	■	■
6: Social Support Events	◆		■	■	■	■
7: Service to Neighbors	◆			■	■	■
8: Formal Police Relationship	◆			■	■	■
9: Active Citizen Patrol or NW	◆		■	■	■	■
10: Landlord Intervention	◆				■	■
11: Targeted Enforcement		◆			■	■
12: Use of Code Compliance	◆			■	■	■
13: Street Lighting Improvement	◆			■	■	■
14: Traffic Suppression Measures	◆			■	■	■
15: Residence level CPTED	◆		■	■	■	■
16: Property Marking		◆				■
17: Neighborhood Clean Ups	◆		■	■	■	■

■ Element Implemented or Maintained

☐ Element Not Implemented

Neighborhood A during the intervention period. The neighborhood did not establish a watch or citizens patrol nor did it implement traffic suppression measures. The onset and maintenance of prevention approaches facilitated in intervention Neighborhood B are displayed in Figure 9. The neighborhood was able to implement seven of the fourteen Safe Streets neighborhood-level intervention elements in the first year of their efforts. During 2005, Neighborhood B established regular citizen meetings, created a phone tree that was used throughout the year, provided citizen training on crime prevention through environmental design, applied CPTED principles to individual residences in the neighborhood, established a citizens patrol that logged over 130 hours a month, and instituted neighborhood clean-ups in the form of the first major cleaning and reclamation of the neighborhood creek. The neighborhood also began several annual festivals and social events including a major gathering for the National Night Out Against Crime. Safe Streets staff documented that these first seven elements were maintained in 2006. During 2006, Neighborhood B instituted traffic suppression measures designed to aid pedestrian safety, improved street lighting, used code compliance to address housing maintenance issues, established a formal relationship with their community police officer, actively involved area business owners, and held the neighborhood's first mutual aid event by sponsoring a neighborhood-wide garage sale.

Safe Streets staff documented that the thirteen previously implemented elements were maintained and one more was added in 2007. Neighborhood B successfully intervened with an absentee landlord to address tenant complaints. Also

in 2007 two city-wide intervention elements were implemented including targeted enforcement and city-wide information campaigns. In 2008 all fourteen neighborhood-level Safe Streets elements were maintained in Neighborhood B. The city-wide property marking campaign was added in 2008.

4) Did the participating neighborhood groups sustain these crime prevention approaches without further direct support? As displayed in Figures 8 and 9, probes for maintenance of intervention elements show that the neighborhood-level intervention elements were maintained after initial staff training and support was withdrawn. The results showed that for Neighborhood A all twelve neighborhood-level intervention elements put in place during the first three years of implementation were sustained during the fourth year (2008). In Neighborhood B, all fourteen neighborhood-level intervention elements put in place during the first two years of implementation were sustained through the third and fourth years of in the intervention period (2007 and 2008). Safe Streets staff did engage in episodic reminders and prompts throughout the intervention period by occasionally attending neighborhood meetings to "check in," providing additional technical assistance in response to specific questions, and by visiting individually with neighborhood leaders and residents.

Discussion

Total reports of theft during the intervention period were lower than during baseline but mixed trends during baseline make clear conclusions difficultRates of theft were highly variable in three of the four participating neighborhoods.

Neighborhood A_1 saw the most stable trends and this may be due to the larger population size and smaller population sizes may have contributed to greater variability in the other neighborhoods such as seen in Neighborhood B. Although there was a slight increase in reported theft in the first year of the intervention period, this was followed by a three year sustained decline in reported thefts following fuller implementation in the two full intervention neighborhoods. This is consistent with the evidence that increases in reported crime are typically associated with interventions that promote reporting crimes to police (Lee, Cheurprakobkit, & Deng, 1999).

Reductions in theft might be associated with the Safe Streets effort and with the increasing comprehensiveness of each neighborhood's intervention. Other correlated events may also have contributed to this decline. These include non-Safe Streets prevention efforts by a myriad of non-profits and faith-based organizations targeted at positive youth development and family strengthening, a city-wide underage drinking cessation campaign, and broader economic trends. It is likely that the Safe Streets intervention contributed to the reductions in theft observed in the study but attribution of effects is difficult to establish from the observed pattern.

The participating neighborhoods and residents in this study were able to implement the majority of the Safe Streets neighborhood-level intervention elements with support from city agencies, law enforcement, and Safe Streets staff. These elements reflect the implementation of crime control strategies for which there is a fairly strong research base. Neighborhood meetings, formalized neighborhood communication channels, resident training, and citizen patrols (intervention elements

one, two, four, and nine in Table 3) draw on the evidence base and lessons learned from Neighborhood Watch implementations. Landlord intervention, use of code compliance, and residence-level application of crime prevention through environmental design (intervention elements ten, twelve, and fifteen) are the means by which target hardening was implemented in addition to the city-wide campaign (intervention element sixteen).

The research evidence behind increased street lighting was acted on by both intervention neighborhoods through implementation element thirteen. Traffic suppression was implemented by Neighborhood B but not implemented in Neighborhood A. Alley-gating was not an element of the Safe Streets intervention package because implementing this strategy did not suit the physical design of Topeka neighborhoods and alleys.

The seventeen Safe Streets intervention elements expanded on the research base regarding neighborhood environments and incorporated best practices in community policing (Cordner, 1995), problem-oriented policing (Braga, et al., 2006), and citizen engagement (Carpini, Cook, & Jacobs, 2004; Foster-Fishman, Cantillon, Pierce, & Van Egeren, 2007). This larger evidence and practice base supported implementing formal police relationships, connections to institutional assets, regular neighborhood meetings, and the city-wide targeted enforcement strategy (intervention elements one, five, eight and eleven). Each of the intervention elements, therefore, had multiple purposes, threads of supportive research, and potential to have an impact on rates of reported theft.

Most of these intervention elements were assembled by community practitioners based on four years of intensive pilot work with collaborating neighborhoods. Although broadly "evidence-based," the purpose of the comprehensive intervention package was to maximize the likelihood of addressing pressing resident concerns and not to test specific elements or theories. Interaction between intervention elements and possible additive effects were desired and no one crime control theory was relied upon or tested.

The neighborhood-level intervention elements implemented earlier in the intervention effort were maintained by both neighborhoods for a period of at least two additional years. Some intervention elements are easier to sustain (such as street lighting and traffic suppression measures) because they represent relatively permanent alterations to the physical environment. Other intervention elements required sustained effort on the part of individual neighbors. This was particularly true of regular neighborhood meetings and the planning and execution of neighborhood festivals and events. The opportunity to reduce crime alone is not likely to serve as an adequate reinforcer to maintain these behaviors. These routines probably will have to be connected to other concerns and reinforcers to be sustained. This connection to multiple, local, and more proximate reinforcers (such as social connections and progress on parallel concerns such as pedestrian safety or night-time noise levels) likely contributed to the maintenance of intervention elements. Finally, Safe Streets staff developed a fairly sophisticated support technology that included trainings, models, and prompts for each intervention element. A robust supportive

technology may be necessary to establish and maintain the fourteen neighborhood-level intervention elements.

This study suggests that neighborhood residents are capable of implementing and sustaining crime control strategies when provided with appropriate skills and support. Cooperation of key city agencies and law enforcement officials, and the support of key intermediaries such as Safe Streets, may be necessary to facilitate these relationships and outcomes. Additional successful replications would likely require an intermediary organization with a similar role and mission of neighborhood engagement and development.

The two primary intervention neighborhoods were selected because they fully implemented and sustained a community problem-solving process, the Safe Streets model, directed at reducing crime. After the initial neighborhood meetings, the residents elected to adopt the Safe Streets approach and actively worked to implement all fourteen neighborhood-level intervention elements. Therefore, this study examines the outcomes such comprehensive work by neighborhoods might produce. An interesting question for future research is why some neighborhoods met only once or twice to address crime and then failed to sustain their efforts, while other neighborhoods fully implemented and sustained the Safe Streets intervention.

This study has several important limitations. The comparison neighborhoods which form the second baseline in each group, although matched as closely as possible on key characteristics, were different in important ways from their paired neighborhoods. The selection of neighborhoods was limited by available sites within

the greater Topeka metropolitan area. Comparisons were not perfect matches for their paired communities when demographic, geographic, and dependent variables are used as the basis for comparison. The neighborhoods were different in important ways, including their basic topography and geography (e.g., downtown grid patterns versus traditional suburb with cul-de-sac configurations), as well as pre-intervention theft rates.

The incidence of thefts known to police and the prevalence of reported thefts per 100 housing units were used as the dependent variable. Although these are consistent with recommendations in the literature, additional measures might more fully capture potential effects of comprehensive neighborhood interventions. Context limitations prevented collecting relevant data that future research may find relevant including additional UCR data, traffic and pedestrian counts, and self-reported victimization. These data could provide a more complete description of effects or potential indicators of success.

The potential for a diffusion of benefit particularly for neighborhood pair A and A_1 is a concern because they were adjacent neighborhoods. Displacement is always a question in crime prevention studies (Hesseling, 1995). It is possible that interventions that appear to reduce theft in one neighborhood setting are likely to displace the behavior to nearby areas, thus, not actually reducing the overall amount of the behavior (Weisburd, et al, 2006). Most of the empirical literature to date has shown a diffusion of benefit to nearby areas (Clarke & Weisburd, 1994); as such, one

of the paired baselines in this study (A and A_1) may have also shown benefits from the nearby intervention. The data suggest this may be the case.

Additional concerns exist regarding neighborhood pair A and A_1. For example, during the baseline condition for A_1, the neighborhood participated in a federally funded "Weed and Seed" effort. The Weed and Seed program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice and specifically targets neighborhood crime, though not exclusively property crime. Neighborhood A_1 also experienced some targeted enforcement efforts during baseline. Both of these correlated interventions – not facilitated by Safe Streets – may have contributed to the decline in the high incidence of theft for Neighborhood A_1 and hinder comparisons to Neighborhood A.

The multiple baseline design used in this study addresses a number of key threats to internal validity. However, it is vulnerable to threats to external validity. Multiple intervention sites – systematic replication in two different neighborhood pairs – helps to address the threat of interaction of selection and treatment (intervention). However, similar demonstrations of effects with more closely watched intervention elements in other cities would be required to better demonstrate the generality of the findings. Selection bias and regression may also limit the generalization of the findings with this community intervention (Fagan, 1990; Flay et al., 2005). The results of this study, and the literature on community crime prevention more generally, may be particularly vulnerable to threats of regression because intervention communities are either selected or self-selected precisely because crime is an elevated concern. An additional concern is that the multiple baseline design is

able to control for threats to internal validity when, and only when, baseline data are stable or show a counter-therapeutic trend. In community settings the investigator cannot control the timing of the introduction of the independent variable. These factors limit the capacity of the study's design to rule out several plausible threats to internal and external validity.

The study has a number of strengths. Systematic replication of the effects of theft reduction in more than one neighborhood increases confidence in the findings. The two full implementing neighborhoods were different in important ways. The basic topography and geography (downtown grid pattern versus traditional suburb with cul-de-sac configuration) of the settings were different. The presenting issues for one neighborhood were theft and arson, compared to perceived drug dealing and associated vehicle traffic in another. These differences in setting provide modest support for the generality of findings that the intervention – and not something else – produced the effects in these diverse settings.

The elements of community-based participatory research (CPBR) were implemented throughout. Fawcett and colleagues (2003) outline a six-step process for implementing the CBPR framework. In the present study, community members set the research agenda (step 1). Initial work was funded through substance abuse prevention grants, but neighborhood leaders chose a crime reduction framework and goal. Community members and Safe Streets staff developed their own logic model for reducing crime and refined the elements during several years of pilot work (step 2). The primary research question (Did the Safe Streets intervention reduce the rate of

thefts in intervention neighborhoods?) was determined by Safe Streets' leadership (step 3). Local staff from Safe Streets and the Topeka Police Department documented the intervention and potential effects (step 4). Community leaders were the first to review resulting data and critique results, and their first-hand understanding of the community context and data were incorporated into the report (step 5). Finally, Safe Streets leaders have taken these data to broader community audiences for engagement, sense making, and celebration (step 6).

These steps in the CBPR approach set the framework for assuring the social validity of the goals, procedures, and effects (Wolf, 1978). The community consensus process employed in early neighborhood meetings allowed each neighborhood to determine their priorities and goals and helped to assure the social validity of these goals. Procedures were selected by residents for implementation and the manner of implementation was largely under their control. For example, no one community event, type of neighborhood clean-up effort, manner of traffic suppression measure, or target hardening procedure was mandated. Rather, residents determined for themselves how best to implement the procedure in the context of their own neighborhood with support and advice from Safe Streets staff. This process helped to assure the social validity of procedures. The regular provision of current crime data to neighbors during monthly meetings allowed residents to determine for themselves if any measure improvement was adequate or represented "success." This process helped assure the social validity of effects. Although surveys of key stakeholders or

other formal data collection processes were not used in this study, their use in future research would strengthen the social validity of the study.

Keeping pace with the growing capacity of neighborhood groups and the layering of interventions is a typical challenge in evaluating community-based initiatives (Potvin & Richard, 2001). This challenge has been specifically cited as a central concern in neighborhood crime prevention research (e.g., Lavakras & Bennett, 1988). The present study was able to document the onset and maintenance of a comprehensive set of intervention elements implemented with different neighborhoods and at multiple ecological levels (i.e., individual residences, neighborhood, city-wide). The observation and coding system adapted from other studies appears well suited to documenting the implementation of neighborhood crime prevention efforts. Careful tracking of the gradual unfolding of interventions can help prevent key interpretation errors such as assuming the intervention is fully in place when it is not, assigning the intervention period to a point in time most favorably associated with outcomes, and mistaking delayed effects as unrelated to the intervention (Shadish, Cook, & Campbell, 2002).

This study contributes the literature in three important ways. First, it is the first to document neighborhood crime trends for the extended time period of nine years. Second, this study applies the multiple baseline design as called for by investigators in community intervention research. It extends application of this design beyond single subject research and behavioral science to community-level interventions. Finally, this study incorporates most of the major strategies used in

community crime control and prevention and as such offers one of the few investigations of comprehensive interventions to reduce neighborhood theft.

This study raises important questions for future research. The data suggest that both neighborhood-level and city-wide interventions may have had an effect on the rates of theft. The relative contribution of these intervention components and approaches should be explored. Cost-benefit analysis as part of future studies would help answer important questions for local practitioners as they make real-world decisions about how to intervene with limited community resources. Finally, the transfer of responsibility for Neighborhood Watch away from law enforcement, and the adaptations made to maximize citizen participation are rich areas for intervention research in communities taking this approach. The focus of future research should be to better understand and inspire residents' efforts to create the conditions for true peace in the neighborhood.

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Protocol for Initial Neighborhood Meetings

Appendix B – "Walk Your Block" Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
     Assessment Tool

Appendix C – Detailed Crime Prevention through Environmental Design
     Assessment Tool for Individual Residential Structures

Appendix D – Measurement of Community Change: Observer Definitions and
     Code Book

Appendix A – Protocol for Initial Neighborhood Meetings

First Neighborhood Meeting Agenda

20 Min   Introductions

        History of Safe Streets

        Ground Rules
            No Blaming
            No Soapboxing
            Other

        Goals of the Meeting
            1.5 Hours
            Strategies for Top Concern
            Communication with TPD and Neighbors
            Action Plan and Assignment
            2 Meetings Minimum to Cover all Information

        Health Map with Explanation

40 Min   List Concerns and Challenges of the Area

        List Strengths of the Neighborhood

        Community Police Officer

        Address Top Concern
            Refer to Why Organize and Important Numbers Packets

30 Min   Phone Tree / E-Mail Tree (General Tree or one Divided by Blocks)
            Assignment: Practice Using the Tree Before the Next Mtg.; Assign Leader
            Assignment: As Neighbors to Join the Tree: Send Names to Safe Streets

        Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
            Assignment: Complete Walk Your Block Survey, Bring to Next Meeting

        Summary of Meeting and Assignments

        Over of Next Meeting
            (CPTED, Safe Tips, Video, Locks, Personal Safety, Top Concerns,
            Maintaining a Neighborhood Watch)

        Set Next Meeting Date (Within 2-4 Weeks)

Second Neighborhood Meeting Agenda

20 Min   Introductions

        History of Safe Streets

        Ground Rules
                No Blaming
                No Soapboxing
                Other

        Goals of the Meeting
                1.5 Hours, CPTED, Safe Tips, Video, Locks, Top Concerns, Maintaining a Neighborhood Watch

        Review of First Meeting

30 Min   Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
        Walk Your Block Survey Report from Neighbors
        Discuss CPTED and Safety Tips in More Detail

        Video

        Locks, Alarms, Personal Safety Devices

30 Min   Top Concerns

Community Police Officer/Sherriff's Deputy: Mention that strategies will be described later. Ask him/her to describe:
        Role in Community / Neighborhood, Working Hours and Boundaries
        Recent Crime Reports / Statistics
        How to be Contacted (phone, pager, and e-mail, etc.)

New Strategies / Assignments

Revisit Health Map

20 Min   Phone Tree
        Report from Neighbors About Practice Run
        Discuss How it Works Again if Needed

Maintaining and Active Neighborhood Watch
        Meet Again and Begin to Meet Regularly
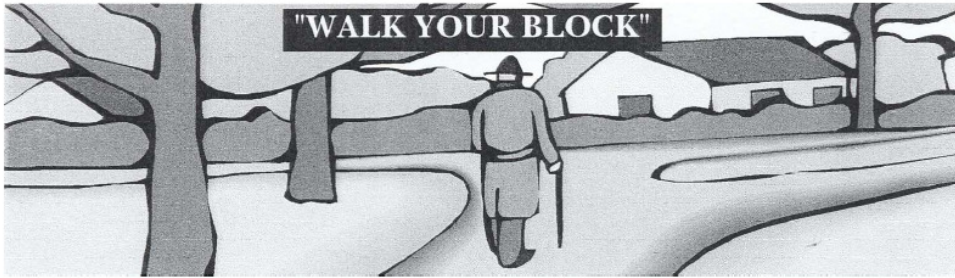   Hold Neighborhood Events (clean-ups, block parties, annual parades)
        Attend NA/NIA Meetings
        Have Meetings to Learn About Special Topics

Discuss Where to From Here

Meeting Summary

Appendix B – "Walk Your Block" Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) Assessment Tool

Would a criminal consider your neighborhood to be an easy target? Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an approach that reduces the opportunity for crime to occur by effectively using and designing the physical environment. As you "WALK YOUR BLOCK", use the following checklist to examine the design and use of your neighborhood.

1.   For a stranger, is there easy access in/out of your neighborhood? YES ____ NO ____

2.   Neighborhood activity level – is anyone watching?   YES ____ NO ____
     (i.e., joggers, kids playing, people on porches, people walking dogs)

3.   Are there Security Systems? YES ____ NO ____   Number on block ____
     Is there a Private Security Patrol? YES ____ NO ____

4.   Are there visible outside dogs? YES ____ NO ____   Number on block ____

5.   How dark is your street?
     Is there public lighting (i.e., street lights)? Number on block ____ Number working ____
     Private lighting (i.e., porch lights, motion lights, yard lights)? YES ____ NO ____
     If yes, does it appear adequate? YES ____ NO ____

6.   Could a stranger easily tell who is home and who is not on your block?
     Why? _____

7.   What types of fencing are there in your neighborhood? Chain Link ___ Privacy ___ Other ____

8.   Are trees and bushes obstructing your ability to see your neighborhood? YES ____ NO ____

9.   Are windows and doors easily accessible and hidden from view for a criminal to enter property?
     YES ____ NO ____

10. Are house numbers visible? YES ____ NO ____

11. Are there neighborhood watch signs? Number on block ____ Location _____

12. Are there vulnerable areas for illegal activity? (i.e., parks, dark areas) YES ____ NO ____
     Explain _____

13. Other? Boarded up houses ____ Code Issues (i.e., junked cars, unmowed grass) _____

2209 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66611-1908
Phone: 266.4606

1

Neighborhood Watch
Walk Your Block Survey: Safety Tips

Neighborhood Watch enables law enforcement and the community to work together to build neighborhood price and to make each block more crime resistant. In addition to communicating with neighbors and law enforcement, looking at the physical environment and making appropriate changes can help to greatly reduce the incidence and fear of crime. Walk your block

1. Easy access in and out of the neighborhood

Does your neighborhood include many through streets and access points or is traffic limited by one way streets, cul-de-sacs and few or restricted entrances? Highly accessible neighborhoods have a greater susceptibility to crime.

2. Neighborhood activity level-is anyone watching?

Neighbors who spend time on their porches, in their yards or walking through the neighborhood can informally watch what is going on and may more easily recognize illegal or suspicious activity. Criminals are less likely to commit crime if there is natural surveillance of an area by joggers, people walking their dogs, children playing outside, residents sitting on their front porch, gardeners and other active "watching" neighbors. Consider putting in sidewalks, increasing lighting and making other changes that may encourage people to be more active in their neighborhood.

3.   Security Systems

Home alarm systems have many benefits, but are not of much help if more common sense strategies are not already in place. Consider the following statistics and information to help you decide whether an alarm system is right for you.

Home Burglaries…
- Burglaries occur 5 times more often during the day than after dark
- A Shawnee County study indicated that homes with alarms and stickers are 20 times less likely to be broken into than those homes without the alarm signage.
- 84% of the home break-ins in Shawnee County showed entrance was made through doors
- 51% of Shawnee County home break-ins are made through the front door.
- Of all uncompleted burglaries, 74% can be credited to an audible alarm.

Benefits of a Home Alarm…
- Added protection and peace of mind
- Insurance companies offer discounts of 10% or more when premises are protected by electronic security systems.
- A burglar most often chooses to enter a home without an alarm system
- Alarm systems can be configured to detect smoke, heat, carbon monoxide, freezing temperatures and rising water.   Special monitoring can also be set up to alert emergency services for medical conditions.

2

Concerns with a Home Alarm…
- There is no such thing as a burglar-proof system
- Systems only work if they are consistently set (alarmed) and maintained

Explore all options…
- Check with local law enforcement authorities and Better Business Bureau when considering a particular alarm company. Verify how long the alarm company you are considering has been in business.
- Do not be sold equipment excessive for your needs. Obtain several written proposals from various companies before signing with anyone. Also ask about warranties and exactly what they cover.

4.   Outside dogs

Watch dogs can warn you and your neighbors that someone is on or near your property. Even a "beware of dog" sign or water bowl may help to deter criminals. If a dog barks frequently however, at squirrels or other distractions, neighbors may ignore a bark that is a warning.

5.   Lighting – how dark is your street? Public, private

Lighting is one of the simplest and most affordable ways you can reduce the opportunity and fear of crime. Lighting helps to:
- Promote a safer atmosphere for walking along sidewalks, driveways and pathways in the evening. Neighbors who walk in the neighborhood can spot suspicious activity.
- Make intruders visible to neighbors and passing traffic.
- Reduce the likelihood that someone could successfully hide near an entrance or in the yard.
- Enable emergency vehicles to quickly locate a building

Private Lighting
You can choose lights that remain on all night or motion sensitive lights. Timers on inside as well as outside lights give the impression that someone is home. Other types of lights include spot lights, flood lights, front and back porch lights and dusk to dawn lights.

Westar Energy Security Lights: 1.800.383.1183 or www.westarenergy.com (residential customers)
Westar Energy Engineer: 575.1227
Security lights provide significant light for private property and can be placed to light up yards, alleys and easements. If there is an existing pole the cost is $9.57 per month. This is for a 70 HPS light similar to a street light. For a 150 HPS light the cost is $15.51 per month. There is also a variable tax per light. A one year commitment is required for either.

If there is no pole, Westar will send out an engineer. The engineer must have access to power and will not run a line over a house or across another's property. Trees can also be a problem. If the engineer approves, a pole and light will be installed at a cost of $2.75 per month for a Westar pole. The commitment for this is three years. This is a flat fee and does not go through the meter. There is also a variable tax per pole. It takes six to eight weeks if a pole has to be installed.

3

Street Lights – 368.3913 (Traffic Operations)
To report a burned out street light call 368.3913 and report the exact location or e-mail via the city web page at www.topeka.org.

To request a new street light or a mid-block light contact the above number. If there is no money in the budget for new lights you can contact your city councilperson and request additional funds for lighting.

6. Who is home and who is not

- Stop all deliveries or arrange for neighbors to pick up papers, mail, packages, etc.
- Notify a neighbor when you're leaving and how long you'll be gone.
- Contact law enforcement to see if they provide extra protection for vacant homes.
- Leave some shades up so the house doesn't look deserted and set some lights on timers.
- Arrange to have your lawn mowed, garden worked on, or snow shoveled off walks and driveways.

7. Fencing

- Are neighbors able to see through your fencing to watch for suspicious or illegal activity?
- Fencing can mark territory and may help to promote the use of walkways. Short fences or even bushes may prevent unwanted foot traffic in areas.
- Consider if a fence or thorny bush would guide walking traffic away from or towards certain places.

8. Trees and Bushes

- Bushes should be no taller than 3' in height and tree branches should be no lower than 6' so no one can hide behind them.
- Doors and windows that are hidden increase the chances of a burglar not being seen.
- Maximum security should be used on doors and windows that have limited visibility.

9. Doors

- Invest in a quality door. Door security begins not with a good lock but with the door itself and the frame it fits into. Weak door assemblies can be broken with a single kick, popped open with a jimmy bar or even pried out-frame and all from the wall. Strong exterior doors have solid, not hollow, cores; doors that are sheathed in metal are even better.
- Check that outside doors are made of solid core wood or metal and are at least 1 3/4 inches in thickness.
- On exterior doors securely mount heavy duty strike plates to the frame with screws long enough to reach through the frame into the wall.
- Use locks on your outside doors that are the stress tested "deadbolt" or "jimmyproof" type.
- Deadbolt locks provide the best protection for the least amount of money. Ordinary spring-operated locks can be defeated with a credit card. Intruders can't slip a deadbolt lock because it has a solid metal bar that fits into the door jamb. To be effective, a deadbolt lock should have at least a one-inch throw, meaning the metal bolt extends at least an inch past the edge of the door. Install one on each exterior door.
- Install a mag, or metal sleeve around the lock.

4

- Check to see if any of your door locks can be reached (40" from lock) by breaking out glass or a panel of light wood.
- Use a wide angle viewer on all exterior doors so you can identify the person at the door.
- Have locks on basement doors to allow you to isolate that part of your house.
- Know everyone who has a key to your house.
- Get all the keys from the previous owner or re-key the locks when you move in.
- Don't hide keys in obvious places such as under the door mat.

Windows and Sliding Glass Doors
- Windows and sliding glass doors should be secured. Look for locks specifically made for different window styles at your local hardware store.
- You can secure a sliding glass door with a broomstick, Charlie bar, or piece of 1" x 2" lumber laid in the door track when the door is closed.
- Use track screws to keep the sliding door from being lifted off its track.
- Keep your windows properly and securely mounted.
- Lock your windows when they are shut.
- Basement windows can be secured externally or internally by mounting expanded metal screens to the foundation of the building.
- Use locks that allow you to lock a window that is partly open.
- Crank out windows can only be secured when closed and crank is removed.
- Make it more difficult for the burglar by locking or removing ladders and other climbing aids such as trellises.
- Always ensure that windows can be unlocked quickly and easily in case of a fire.
- Do not leave purses, checkbooks and other valuables near a window where they can be seen from outside and quickly stolen.

Garage
- Keep your garage door closed and locked at all times. A burglar can take tools or equipment quickly and quietly - even when you are working in the yard.
- Use good, secure locks on all the garage doors and windows.
- Lock your car and take the keys out even when parked in your garage.
- Windows should be covered and screened from the inside to reduce visibility and entry.
- Thin panel garage doors should be secured from the inside with security screens or metal bars.
- Make sure your automatic garage door locks in place when the door is down.

10. Address Numbers
- Reflective address numbers should be visible on the front and back of the house.

11. Neighborhood Watch Signs
- Neighborhood Watch signs are meaningful when the neighbors are organized, watching out for each other, contacting law enforcement, and doing all that they can to prevent crime.
- Signs can be purchased if the neighborhood has had a neighborhood watch meeting within the year.
- Each sign costs $12 and may be arranged by calling Safe Streets, completing a form and deciding upon the placement of the sign. There is no limit to the number of signs a neighborhood can purchase.

5

12. Vulnerable areas for illegal activity?

Check for other areas in the neighborhood that may entice crime such as parks with poor lighting, overgrown easements, dark areas around businesses closed at night, etc.

13. Other: Boarded up houses, etc.

If a place looks abandoned or uncared for, it may become more susceptible to crime and it may lead to more neighbors neglecting their properties. Check for junked cars, boarded up homes, overgrown grass, trash in the yard, extra tires in the yard, etc.

Additional Safety Tips

Fire
- Keep a working smoke detector on each floor of the home.
- If battery operated, check your battery periodically and replace it yearly. If electrical, check periodically for proper operation.
- Have fire extinguishers accessible, fully charged and within the expiration date.

Plumbing
- Periodically check to see if the following are secure and leak free: Hot water tank, dishwasher, washing machine, and icemaker.

Electrical
- Avoid overloading extension cords.
- Remove extension cords from under rugs or furniture.
- Use surge protector bars on air conditioners, entertainment equipment and computers.

Heating
- Keep your furnace cleaned and checked annually.
- Change the filters regularly.

Safe Practices
- Keep as much cash as possible and other valuables in a bank.
- Keep a list of the serial numbers from your TVs, VCRs, CD players, cameras, and other valuables.
- Keep descriptions or pictures of other valuables that do not have serial numbers.
- Mark valuables with your own personal ID or Drivers License Number with an engraver.
- Avoid leaving boxes from purchases (especially TVs, VCRs and computers) out on the curb for trash.
- Tell your family what to do if they should discover a burglar breaking in or already in the house.
- Leave the house undisturbed and call the police if you discover a burglary has been committed.
- Know the phone number of the law enforcement agency in the area your home is located.
- Avoid using the mailbox in front of your house to mail bills with checks in them. Thieves can steal the mail and rewrite the checks.
- Don't allow visitors such as utilities employees into your home unless they have proper identification and you have verified it with the company before allowing them to enter.

6

- Lock and secure bicycles even when in the garage.
- Store firearms locked and out of sight and store the ammunition separately
- Leave lights, radios or televisions on while you are away to make it appear as though someone is home.

Personal Safety
- Be observant of activity around you.
- Be cautious about displaying or discussing valuables in public.
- Avoid dark, desolate, or high crime areas
- Only carry small amounts of cash with you if possible. Credit cards can be easily canceled if lost or stolen.
- Avoid using a purse in crowded areas such as malls and sporting events, or carry it close to your body and always zipped shut.
- Be extremely careful using ATM machines, especially when it's dark. Use them in populated places and constantly pay attention to your surroundings.
- If at a mall, leave well before closing time. This way, there is greater assurance you will walk out with other people. Safety is in numbers.
- Check underneath your parked car as you approach it. This is a common ploy of criminals in large parking lots and they will take you by surprise.

Residential Security Assessment
Topeka Police Department
Crime Prevention

The first line of defense in crime prevention is not Law Enforcement, but an educated Community. Criminal behavior requires three elements to be present: Opportunity, Desire and Ability. **REMOVE** any **ONE** of the three and the **CRIME WILL NOT OCCUR**. Understanding the risk and managing the risks can create a much safer environment for you and your neighborhood. You be the expert in crime prevention. Thank you.

Yes   No

___ ___ Has the resident met and become acquainted with the neighbors who live on all sides of his or her residence?

___ ___ Has the resident talked to his or her neighbors about mutual residential security?

___ ___ Does the resident tell his or her neighbor when they are going on a vacation or when their home will be left unoccupied for an extended period of time?

___ ___ Does the resident belong to a Neighborhood Watch Program?

___ ___ If so, does the resident attend the meetings?

___ ___ Is there effective street lighting in the neighborhood?

___ ___ Are the house address numbers easily seen?

___ ___ If a curb is present, are the numbers painted on the curb in black letters four (4) to six (6) inches high on a white background?

___ ___ Are there any house numbers painted or put up to the rear of the residence and are the numbers easily seen?

___ ___ Are shrubs, bushes and other plant growth within four (4) feet of any home sidewalks, driveways, doors or gates maintained at a height of not more than two (2) feet?

___ ___ Are the area shrubs, bushes and other plant growth at a height of not more than three (30) feet?

___ ___ Are the trees trimmed so that the branches hang no lower then seven (7) feet off the ground?

___ ___ Are there any trees located or trimmed so that they cannot be used to gain access to an upper level of the home?

___ ___ Are spiny (thorny) plants used as ground cover along fences and under windows of the home?

___ ___ Has decorative stone or rock been used as ground cover near the home so that it makes noise when walked on?

___ ___ Has fencing, paving, landscaping or some other comparable means been used to identify when a person transcends from public to private property?

___ ___ If there is a fence around the property or home, are the gates routinely locked?

___ ___ Do family members routinely secure items of value such as bicycles, lawn mowers, ladders, etc. at night or when the home is unoccupied?

___ ___ Are all entryways, porches and sidewalks to the residence well lighted?

___ ___ Are all sides of the residence protected by security lighting that is located high out of reach (under the eaves of the house preferably) and vandal resistant?

___ ___ Are the exterior lights controlled by photocell (versus interior switches)?

___ ___ Is motion detection lighting used on the exterior of the home?

___ ___ Is the telephone lines entering the home high enough that it cannot be easily reached and cut?

___ ___ If there are any detached buildings on the property (garages, storage, barns, etc.) are the doors and windows security locked?

___ ___ Is the garage door kept closed when not in use?

___ ___ Is the garage door locked at all times (even when the occupant is at home)?

___ ___ When the resident leaves for an extended period of time (vacation, trip, etc.) is the overhead track operating the garage door disconnected and the door locked?

___ ___ Are the doors leading into the garage or from the garage into the home either solid wood or metal core and are deadbolts and security strikes installed?

___ ___ Are the garage windows pinned to deny easy access?

___ ___ Are the garage door openers removed from the vehicles parked outside of the garage?

___ ___ Are keys removed from the cars when parked inside the garage?

___ ___ Are exterior doors or entrance doors either solid wood or metal core and are deadbolts and security strikes installed?

___ ___ Are door locks that can be opened from the inside at least 40" from glass?

___ ___ Is the glass that would allow the lock to be reached within 40" glazed with break resistant polycarbonate glazing material?

___ ___ Do exterior or entrance doors fit tightly within the door jam?

___ ___ Do exterior doors have wide angle (180°) door viewers?

___ ___ Are exterior door strikes secured with screws at least 3 to 3 ½ inches long?

___ ___ If the exterior doors swing outward and have exposed hinge pins, have removable pins been replaced with non-removable pins?

___ ___ Have screws been installed in the tracks of sliding glass doors?

___ ___ Are locking bars used to secure sliding glass doors?

___ ___ Are deadbolts with at least a one (1) inch throw installed on all exterior or entrance doors?

___ ___ Was the home re-keyed the last time a new occupant moved in?

___ ___ Are the door locks in a good state of repair?

___ ___ Have double hung windows been pinned?

___ ___ Do basement windows have security bars, grills or auxiliary locks?

___ ___ Are window air conditioners anchored and protected by steel grillwork to prevent removal from the outside?

___ ___ Does the home have an electronic intrusion alarm system?

___ ___ Was the alarm system installed by a reputable and experienced installation company?

___ ___ Is the home security alarm monitored by a professional alarm monitoring company?

___ ___ If the alarm system is more than five (5) years old, has the equipment been evaluated for upgrading or updating?

___ ___ Does the alarm system have a back-up power source (battery)?

___ ___ Does the home have a security closet for the storage of firearms, silver coin collection, etc. with either load bearing or reinforced walls and have a high security lock?

___ ___ Does the home have an Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) burglary resistant safe?

___ ___ Does the resident store valuable papers such as stocks and bond certificates, mortgages, property titles, deeds, birth certificates, etc in a safe deposit box?

___ ___ Has the homeowner engraved items of value?

___ ___ Has the homeowner recorded serial numbers of valuable items (stereo, Makita drill, etc.)?

___ ___ Has the homeowner conducted a video inventory of household goods and items?

___ ___ Are all exterior doors locked at night or when the home is unoccupied?

___ ___ Does the homeowner keep exterior doors locked that are not in line of sight even while at home in the residence or outside working in the yard?

___ ___ Is there any type of home or personal identification information on key rings?

___ ___ Does the homeowner have a plan to make the house appear occupied while on vacation or away?

___ ___ Are there any lights, radios or televisions on timers to give the appearance of occupation even if the homeowner or resident is home?

___ ___ Does the answering machine have a generic greeting as to not allow information about the homes occupancy?

___ ___ While at home does the resident make it a habit to look out the windows to see if anything is going on or anybody around?

When going through this assessment, items of interest and change should become apparent. In the space provided the Law Enforcement Officer though his/ her training and experience will provide recommendations for positive change therefore lessoning your risk of becoming a victim. This is intended as a guide and to educate while raising your awareness of risk and the management of that risk. Remember by removing any one of the three elements of criminal behavior, the crime will not take place!

Appendix D – Measurement of Community Change: Observer Definitions and
Code Book

CODING INSTRUCTIONS AND DEFINITIONS
for the Online Documentation and Support System

General Coding Instructions: This section provides general guidance for deciding which documented events fit into which category of activity. With training and experience, categorizing events can be done with high levels of agreement among observers. As you gain experience in classifying events, you may want to make additions to coding instructions to clarify the definitions used to categorize events. Adding examples of events that are difficult to categorize will help others using this system.

The table below offers a brief summary of the observational codes used to categorize five types of events. What is an *event*? Broadly stated, **events are activities, accomplishments, or outputs that are facilitated by the initiative or group and related to its goals and objectives**. We recommend using the definitions, coding instructions and examples (and non-examples) to categorize activities.

Brief Definitions for Seven Types of Community Activities			
Code	**Activity**	**Brief Definition**	**Examples**
CC	Community/ System Change	A new or modified program, policy, practice or physical change in the community.	A new neighborhood association, a new city ordinance (policy), different hours for key services (practice).
O	Other	Items for which no code or definitions have been created.	Phone calls to set up meetings, internal staff meetings.

The next section outlines several general considerations in coding these events. More specific definitions, coding instructions, and examples/ non-examples for each of the eight types of events follow.

Distinguishing between Events that are External or Internal to the Initiative

Most of your events will involve people not directly associated with the initiative. For example, group members may work with law enforcement to improve monitoring of and response to community laws and norms or may co-sponsor a walk to promote Red Ribbon week. Both of these events include people from outside the initiative (law enforcement and walk organizers and participants) and are considered *external events*. External events can be classified as *Community Changes, Services Provided*, or M*edia Coverage*. External events involve making things happen in the community related to the group's goals and objectives.

Some events facilitate the development of the partnership or group in attaining its goals and objectives. These events may be internal, involving only those working directly with the group. For example, the Steering Committee may complete their strategic planning process and adopt a formal action plan; or an executive from the initiative's Board of Directors may donate office supplies. *Resources Generated* (e.g., volunteers' time, donated materials, or money) are internal events if the beneficiary is your group.

Identifying and Documenting multiple Events Contained in One Log Entry

A single reported entry may sometimes contain several discrete events that should actually have been recorded separately. Support the documentation by breaking out the one entry into several items and coding each event separately. For example, the following entry might be recorded on a log form: "A second awareness event was facilitated in the East End neighborhood. Publications were distributed and workshops were given. The event was filmed by the local TV Station and appeared in the evening news." The reported entry includes at least one *Service Provided*, and the TV coverage would be coded *Media*.

Community/System Changes (CC)

General Definition: New or modified programs, policies or practices in the community or system facilitated by the initiative and related to its goals and objectives. Changes that have not yet occurred, which are unrelated to the group's goals, or those which the initiative had no role in facilitating are not considered community changes for the initiative. [Note: We use the term "Community/System" and "Community" Changes interchangeably since they represent the same type of event at different levels (e.g., neighborhood or city or broader system).

Coding Instructions: Specific instructions for using the definition to code events follow:

CC1   Community changes <u>must</u> meet all of the following criteria:

    CC1.1   have occurred (e.g., when a policy is first adopted; when a new program is first implemented - not just been planned), and

    CC1.2   are related to the initiative's chosen goals and objectives, and

    CC1.3   are new or modified programs, policies, or practices in different parts of the community or system (e.g., government, business, schools, health organizations), and

    CC1.4   are facilitated by individuals who are members of the initiative or are acting on behalf of the initiative.

CC2   <u>When considering whether an event is new or modified</u>: to be judged as "new," a program, policy or practice must not have occurred before in the effort (e.g., with these groups of people, with these organizations or partners, in these settings, delivered in these ways). To be judged as "modified," a program, policy or practice must be expanded or altered (e.g., a training program was expanded to include new modules, a policy was altered to affect new groups of people, a program was delivered in new organizations or places).

CC3   <u>When considering whether to score multiple events</u> as one instance or as multiple instances of a community change: To be judged as multiple instances, changes must be implemented in multiple settings (e.g., different schools or businesses) or levels (e.g., local, state levels) AND require separate approvals (e.g., a school principle approved a life skills program to be taught in her school; a second principle later agreed to do so in his school). If the event either occurred in only one setting or occurred as a result of one approval, it is coded as **one** instance of community change (e.g., the school board agreed to implement a district-wide life skills program that was implemented in multiple schools).

CC4   <u>When multiple entries of the same event</u> are being entered/documented: The recorders involved should discuss how to record the event as a single entry (e.g., the same program implemented in the same place by multiple groups). If there is disagreement, a data coordinator should resolve differences to best represent how the environment is changing in a way that does not count the same event multiple times.

CC5   The *first* instance of implementation of a new program or practice in the community is coded as a community change, since it constitutes a change in a program or practice in the community.

CC6   A first time occurrence or enactment of a policy is recognized as a CC at the point of approval to implement the policy.

CC7   The *first* committed agreement of collaboration between two or more organizations or individuals facilitated by individual(s) who are acting on behalf of the initiative. For a collaboration to occur, independent groups must commit to sharing at least one of the following: 1) resources, 2) responsibilities, 3) risks, and/or 4) rewards.

CC8   Not all first-time events are community changes; *the event must meet all parts of the definition of a community change.* For example, if staff members attended a seminar for the first time it is generally not a community change.

CC9   Specifically excluded as community changes are Planning Products (e.g., new bylaws, completed action plan) and Resources Generated (e.g., a grant or donation to the initiative) that occur internal to the initiative.

Some Examples of Community Changes:

✓ Members of the Promise Community Coalition brought together representatives from five sectors for the first time to form a speaker's bureau. This new program will help connect the community and is directly related to the coalitions' goals. (A new program. See coding instruction CC1.)

✓ The University board approved a new campus policy related to early intervention around substance use/abuse after meeting with our DFC Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. This new policy will help the initiative identify substance abuse among students earlier. (A policy change directly related to the coalition's actions and specific objectives. See coding instruction CC1.)

✓ The DFC Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the local treatment center presented a workshop at the school for students and parents on prevention of youth substance use. This was the first time this workshop was presented in the community for local students and parents. This workshop helped educate community leaders. (A new program created by the coalition's partnering with a local resource. See coding instruction CC1.)

✓ After speaking with our Youth Tobacco Free Coalition, law enforcement decided to revise their documentation practice to include additional information when enforcing laws with youth under the age of 18 caught with tobacco. This practice change in documentation will help identify specific populations in our community that have an elevated level of tobacco use. (A practice change. See coding instruction CC1.)

Some examples of items not coded as Community Changes:

✓ The Youth Tobacco Free Coalition plans to administer a new program to increase awareness of the effects of alcohol and other depressants on motor skills. This program will help educate high school students in the community. (Outcome written in the future tense. It will only be coded if it already occurred. See coding instruction CC1.1. This entry would be coded X.)

✓ The Promise Community Coalition formed a new subcommittee to develop a strategic plan to address federal legislative issues. This new subcommittee will help the coalition form a better strategy for addressing legislative issues. (This would be coded as a Planning Product because it reports a change in the organization of the initiative, not the community. See coding instruction CC1.3.)

✓ The DFC Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition's administrative assistant reported that the AME church started a new Sunday afternoon support group for recovering substance abusers. This new program will help reach more people within our community. (As written, the program was not facilitated by the DFC Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition. See coding instruction CC1.4. The entry would be coded X.)

Documentation Instructions:

When writing descriptions of Community Changes:

Description Component	Example
<u>Who</u> was involved in this change and what are their positions/responsibilities within the community?	*John and Carol from the Community Coalition and leaders from ten community sectors…*
<u>What</u> new/modified program, policy, or practice was implemented?	*…led the first of five planned town hall meetings aimed to reduce youth alcohol use in Kansas for interested members of the community in Wichita*
How might the community benefit from this change?	*This new program will help create awareness of youth alcohol use in Kansas and promote multi-sector collaboration to address the problem.*

Not Coded, Other (O)

General Definition: Additional activities that are recorded for which no code or definition has been created. These activities should be coded with an "O."

Coding Instructions: Specific instructions for using the definition to code events follow:

O1   If an item is coded as an "O," it is not also coded as something else.