

Alcohol Use and Crime in the College Community

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Statement of the Problem

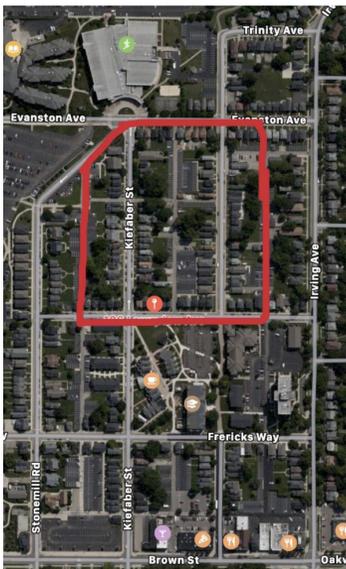
The problem addressed in this project is drinking related crime and disorder by students in the south student neighborhood, but specifically on Lowes, Kiefaber, and Lawnview.

Community Context

- We all live on the main streets in the south student neighborhood; Lowes, Kiefaber, and Lawnview. This is where big day and night drinks tend to happen, with a majority of residents being juniors and seniors.
- Large amounts of people tend to congregate on these streets.
- Food trucks are located on Lawnview, where many students stop late at night to get food.
- There is heavy foot traffic through all three streets to allow students to get to class and back from the surrounding areas of campus south, Lawnview apartments, and those who live in houses on Irving.
- Backyard space is also commonly shared with many neighbors.

Theoretical Framework

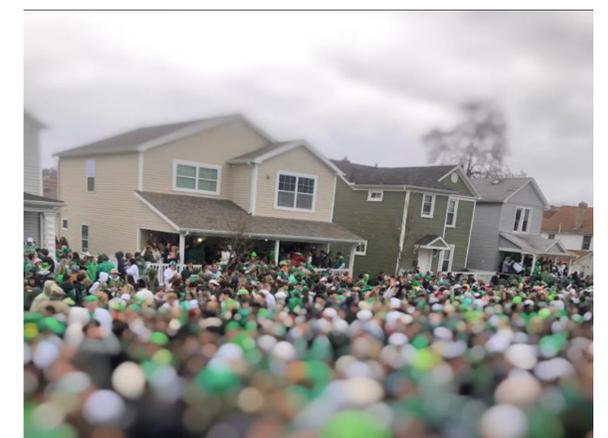
- Collective Efficacy says that Social Cohesion and trust reduce crime. They contribute to the feeling of community within the south student neighborhood and how this is disrupted when other students come onto the streets.
- Routine Activities theory comments on people's normal routines that make them vulnerable to crime. It highlights the motivated offender, suitable targets, and a lack of capable guardians.
- Rational Choice suggests that individuals weigh the pros and cons before choosing to commit a crime, but this is challenged when a person is incapacitated due to alcohol.
- Crime Pattern Theory explains why crime takes place in certain areas due to land use patterns and the individual's cognitive map.



Pulled from
google maps and
done by Richard
Morisette

Recommendations

- Keyless locks such as coded keypads or ID touch locks
 - Addressed through routine activities as students rarely lock their doors for fear of losing their key.
- Ring doorbells
 - Addressed through rational choice and crime pattern as it works to catch the people who are robbing, vandalizing, and littering.
- Effective Community Policing
 - Addressed through collective efficacy and social cohesion for communication between police and students.
- Less restrictive parking qualifications for parking in non-single letter lots
 - Addressed through routine activities as individuals typically park on the streets but need to move their cars to avoid vandalization during day and night drinks.



Picture taken by
Claire Esslinger

References

Hart, T., Lersch, K., & Chataway, M. 2020. *Space, time, & crime (5th edition)*. Carolina Academic Press.