

Community Policing:
In-Depth Problem
Solving (POP)

Baltimore Police Department

Performance Objectives

- Distinguish between the primary aims of engagement and problem solving.
- Distinguish between daily and in-depth problem solving.
- Apply the SARA model and the Crime Triangle to crime and disorder problems.
- Access POP resources.



Engagement & Problem Solving



Engagement (*formal & informal*) – mainly aimed at building public trust.

Problem solving (*daily & more in-depth*) – mainly aimed at tackling community crime and disorder problems.

Different but complementary

- Solving community problems builds trust too.
- Engaged residents can help police solve community problems.

Daily Problem Solving

- Informally resolving civil matters, disputes, and other minor incidents using:
 - Critical thinking
 - Interpersonal skills
 - Emotional intelligence
 - Procedural justice
- Submitting environmental issues via 311.
- Making referrals to social services and other providers.





In-depth problem solving:

- Primarily the responsibility of NCOs & Patrol Support Services
- Facilitation by District Commanders
- Problem analysis support from the Data-Driven Strategies Division

Patrol officers:

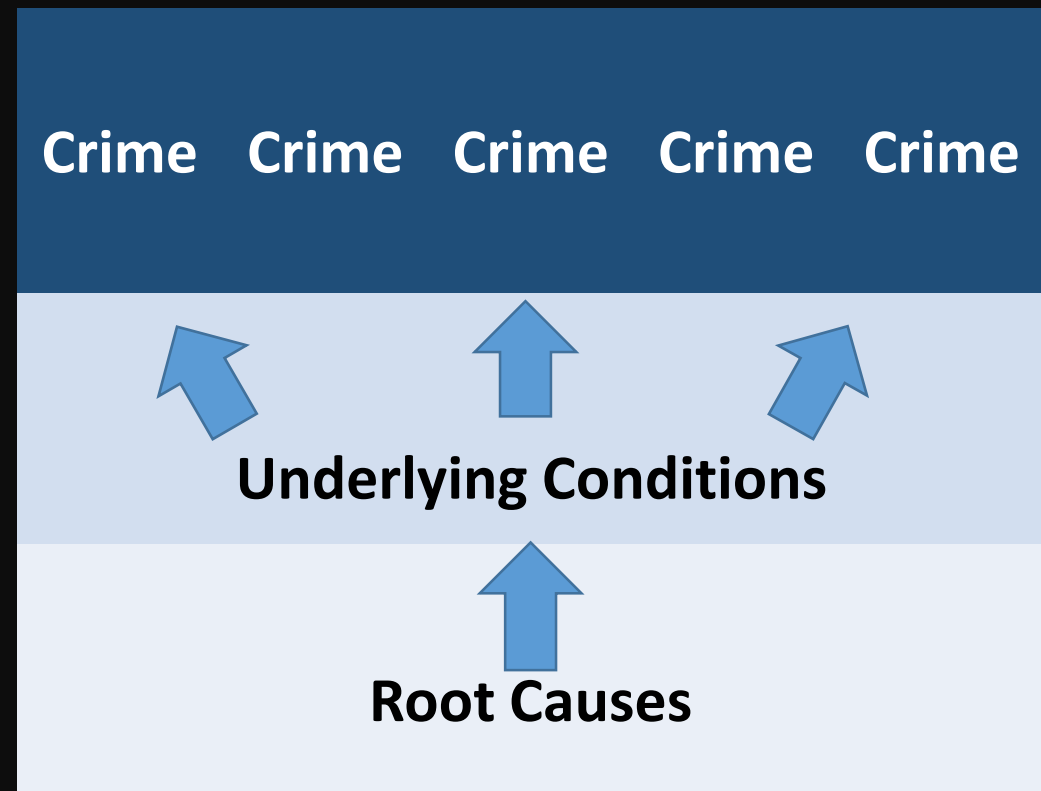
- Expected to help identify and report recurring problems
- Nationally, lots of great POP work has been spearheaded by patrol officers – don't be shy
- Can play a significant role in implementation of POP strategies

POP in the Community Policing Plan

In-Depth Problem Solving (POP)

Problem-oriented policing (POP) is simply bigger-scale problem solving

- Focused on recurring problems.
- Looking for underlying conditions that contribute to ongoing problems.
- Tackling those underlying conditions whenever possible in order to prevent future occurrences.



POP Principles

- Crime, disorder, and other problems are almost always concentrated – not evenly spread around.
- Look for opportunities to “shift and share” responsibility for problems.
- Be realistic – problems can’t always be solved, but they can be reduced.



SARA Model



Scanning

Be on the lookout for problems.

Analysis

Try to figure them out and look for underlying conditions.

Response

Once you understand the problem...

- Consider a wide range of alternatives.
- Pick the most promising ones.
- Implement them.

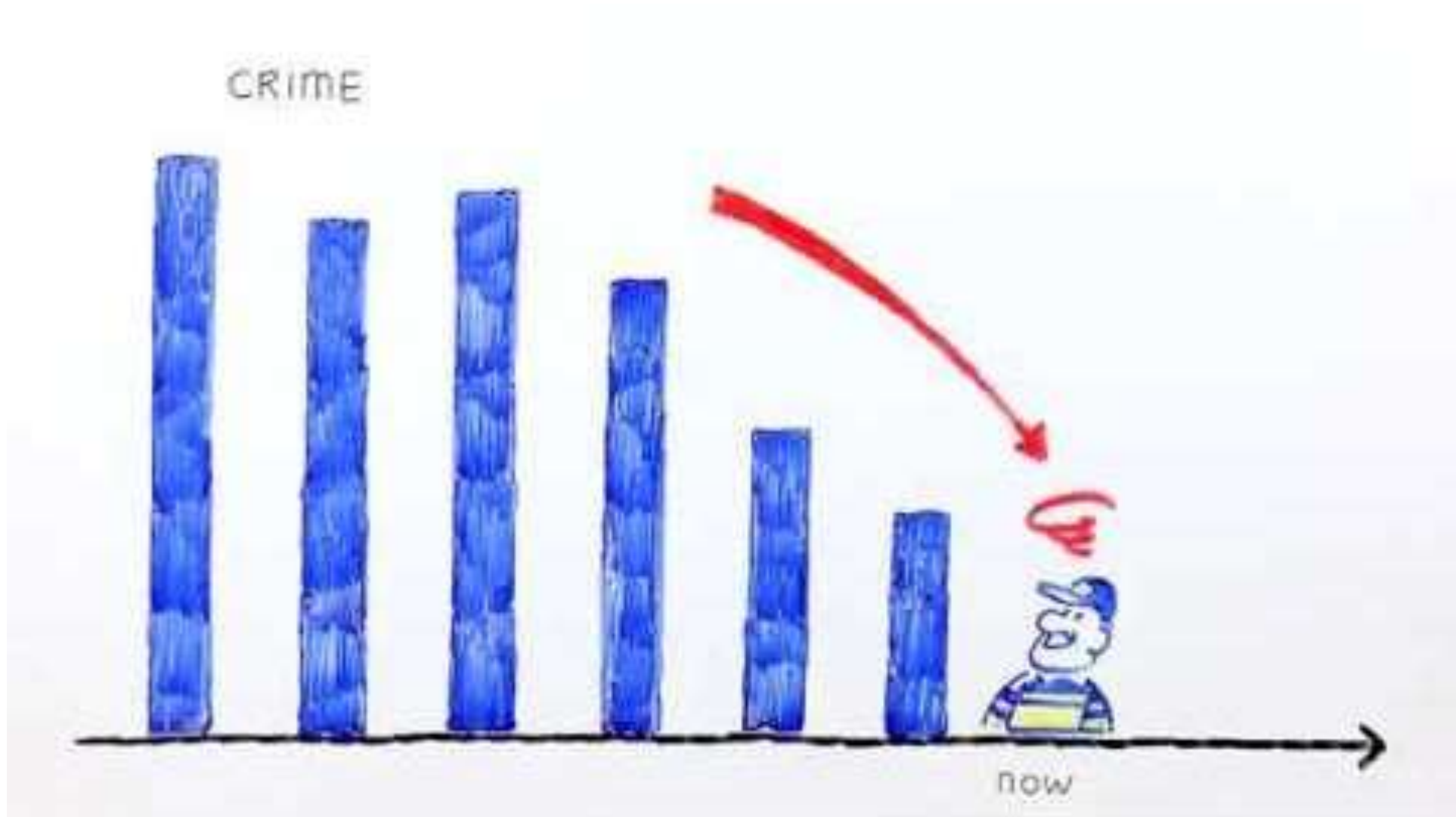
Assessment

See if it's working, adjust if it's not.

Crime Triangle



CASE STUDY:



Scenarios

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you analyze your assigned problem?
2. What are some possible responses to this problem?

Problem #1

Noise, disorder, and fights outside the bars in the neighborhood. Residents are afraid to go out, can't get any sleep, and have to clean up the area every morning.

Problem #2

There's an all-night convenience store that attracts a bad crowd. There's loitering, drug dealing, and there's been more than one shooting. The guy who owns it isn't from around here and doesn't care.

POP Applies to All Kinds of Problems – Including Violence

- Remember concentration – it's a small percentage of the population that does our shootings
- Many of those people are involved in some kind of group, DTOs for example
- BPD & City Hall are currently developing a new Group Violence Reduction Strategy (GVRS)
 - Concentrate on that small number of shooters and victims (often retaliations)
 - Use focused deterrence + offer real options (treatment, education, jobs, etc.)
 - It's an approach that has worked well in other cities

Focused deterrence has a record of success

Boston, MA

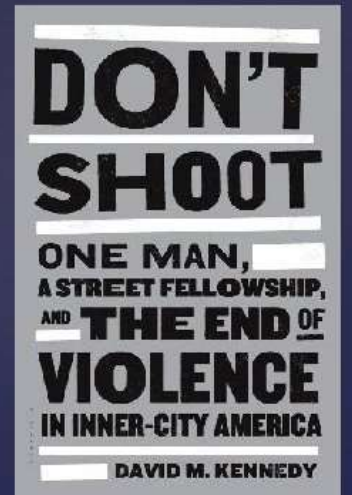
Minneapolis, MN

Richmond, CA

High Point, NC

Peoria, IL

and elsewhere

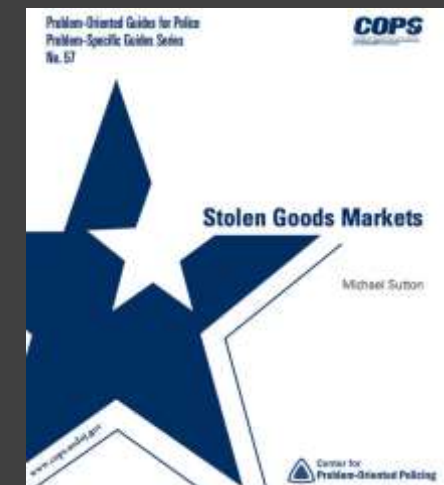
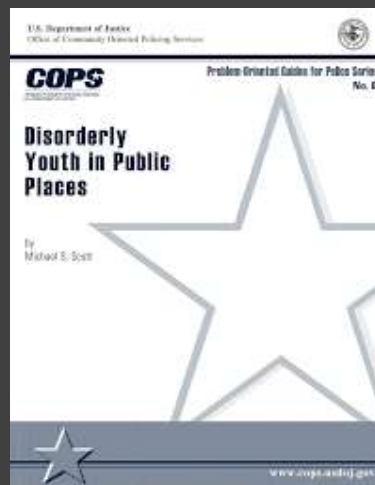
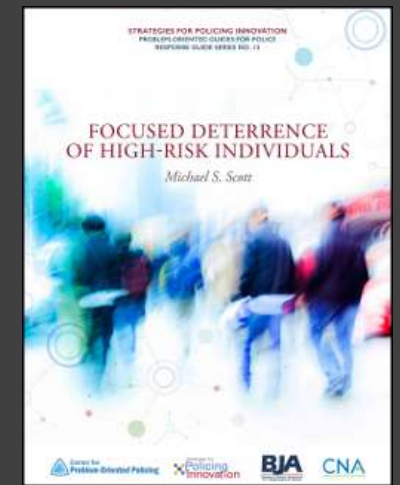



POP Works



- The evidence is consistent – POP works better than anything else at reducing crime & disorder.
- Also, “diffusion of benefits” is more common than displacement.
- A winning formula:
community engagement + POP = public trust + crime control

Popcenter.org – Examples of POP Guides





BACK IN
10 MINUTES