Title: Police Response Times to Calls for Service: Fragmentation, Community Characteristics, and Efficiency

Abstract:
I assembled a unique dataset of every event recorded by the Computer Aided Dispatch systems of 41 different police agencies from January of 2015 to December of 2016 to measure police efficiency by their response times to public calls for service. Using the detailed geographic information provided by these systems, I geocode the calls, match them to the census block group from which they originate, and calculate a predicted response time based on the optimal placement of police response units using a Maximum Covering Model. I find that minority communities can expect slower response times on average, but there is considerable heterogeneity across jurisdictions. In areas with less fragmented law enforcement, response times are significantly faster, especially for calls requiring an immediate response.