

Policing: A BC Practitioners' Toolkit

Lesson 2: Introduction to Problem-Oriented Policing



Overview of Lesson 2

Problem-Oriented Policing

- History
- Definition and concepts
- Strengths and benefits

Background Information

Police services have varied histories and mandates since their inception

Police services tend to be reactive (e.g., respond to calls for service)

Law enforcement is one of the most prevalent means for responding to crime and disorder

Law enforcement has limited ability to address community problems

Community crime and disorder are complex



Effective Problem Solving

Addresses community problems on the basis of:

- an **understanding** of the specific problem
- **customized** response strategies

Research suggests this is achieved through:

- focusing **attention on problems**
- creating response strategies from a **diverse pool of approaches.**

(R. V. Clarke & J. E. Eck, 2005)

History of Problem-Oriented Policing



Herman Goldstein

First introduced by Herman Goldstein in 1979

American professor of Law
Worked for Chicago Police Department

Developed systematic process based on
focused analysis and **diverse approaches**

Incidents grouped and viewed
as symptoms to a larger problem

Front-line officers utilized in problem analysis
and design of innovative responses

What Is Problem-Oriented Policing?

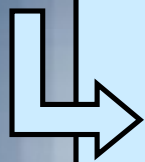
A method for integrating daily police practice with criminal justice theory and research methods in order to develop the best possible means for reducing crime and disorder.

Emphasis on Proactive Policing

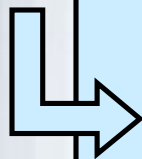
- ✓ Crime prevention
- ✓ Community partnerships
- ✓ Sustainable solutions
- ✓ Resource development
- ✓ Department-wide flexibility and commitment
- ✓ Use of officers' knowledge and experience

**More than a quick fix:
it works toward addressing root causes.**

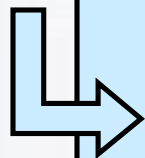
What Is a Problem?



Group of similar, related or recurring incidents

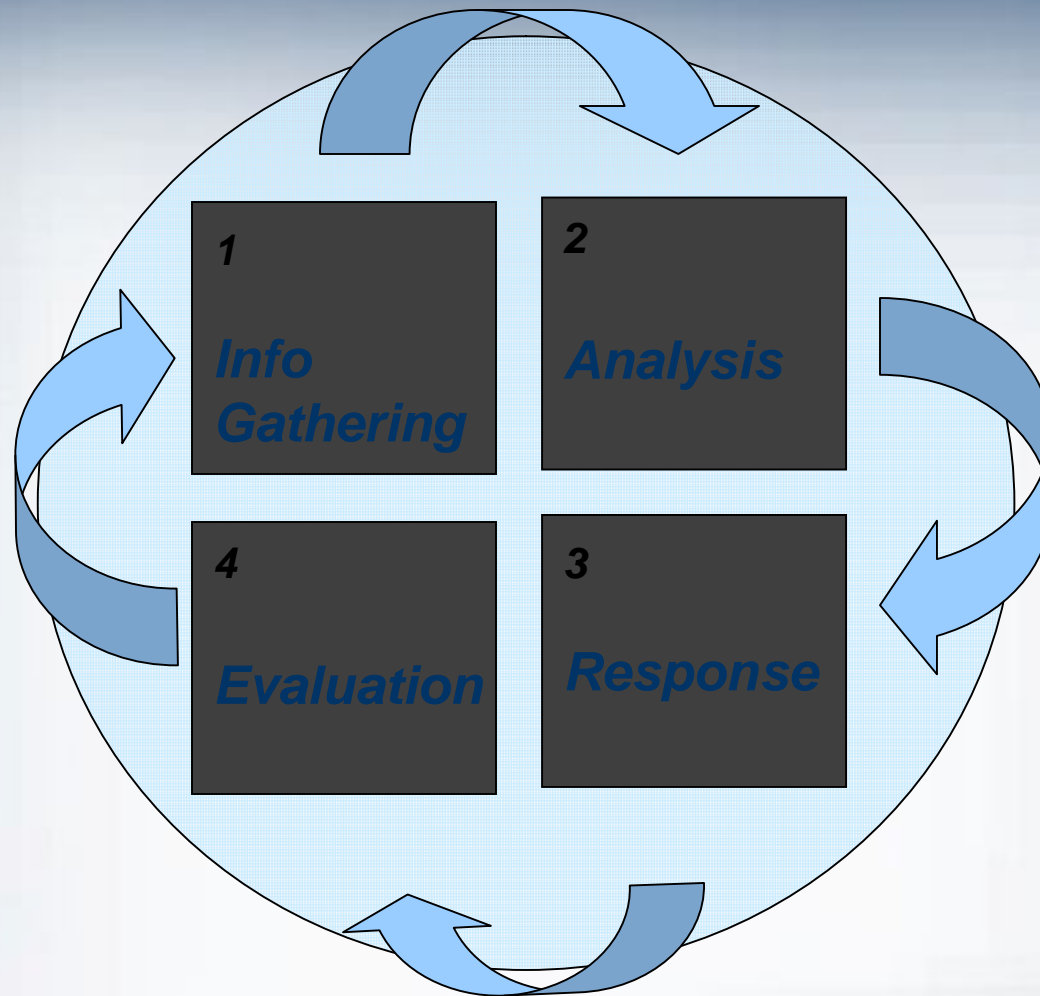


Specifically linked because of similar or related themes (e.g., time, location, event, method)



An issue of significant community and police concern

The Problem Solving Model



Problem Solving Model

A systematic process:

Information gathering

- Including local data collection



Analysis

- In order to understand and define a problem



Customizing of responses

- Committed to *best* possible responses
- Enforcement, situational, social development
- No preference for one approach over other
- From single response to multi-pronged over time



Evaluation of responses

- Share information
- Learn from successes and mistakes

POP and Community Policing

Similarities and Differences

Community Policing focuses on the reduction of crime, public-police relations, and organizational change

POP is a **method** for reducing persistent community crime and disorder

Community involvement

Increased sense of safety

**Positive
community perceptions**

**Department-wide
participation**

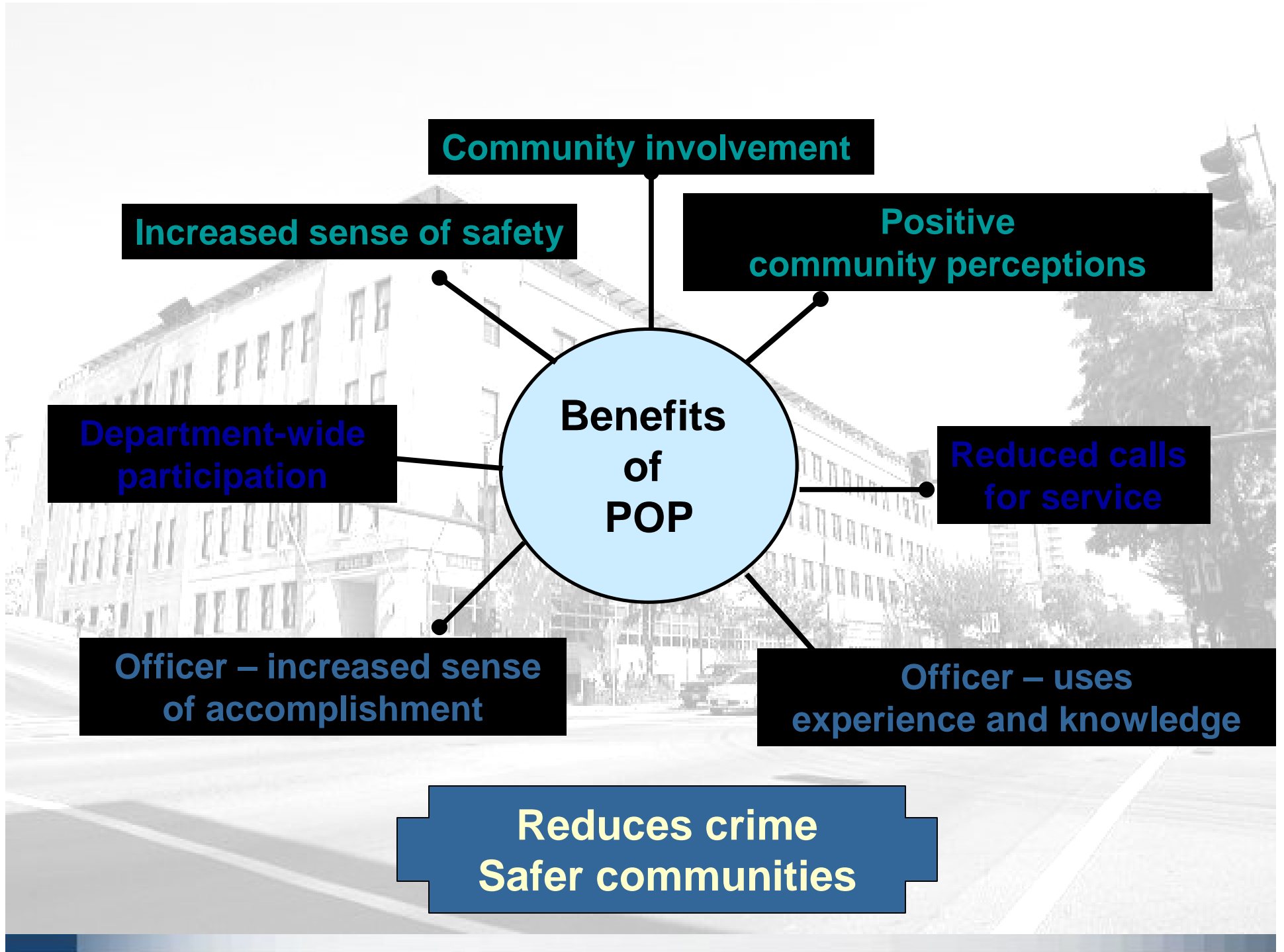
**Benefits
of
POP**

**Reduced calls
for service**

**Officer – increased sense
of accomplishment**

**Officer – uses
experience and knowledge**

**Reduces crime
Safer communities**



Summary

Problem-Oriented Policing:

- involves a commitment to using the best possible response strategies
 - ✓ by focusing on primary problems
 - ✓ by using a variety of strategies
- integrates criminal justice theory, policy and practice
- encourages community involvement
- is a department-wide approach
- seeks strategic input from front-line officers

Next Lesson

Lesson 3: The SARA / CAPRA Problem Solving Model

- The four steps of **SARA** / the five steps of **CAPRA**
- Importance of using all the steps as a guide