



## Crime Attractors, Generators and Detractors: Land Use and Urban Crime Opportunities

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### Summary

Operating within environmental criminology, the researchers analyze the pattern of assault and motor vehicle theft in relation to land use across Burnaby, British Columbia. To investigate crime opportunities, researchers use a routine activities perspective to understand land-use types acting as crime generators and attractors. The researchers argue that type of land-use across a city could influence the occurrence of crime.

### Data & Methods

The researchers used motor vehicle theft and assault data from the Police Information Reporting System (PIRS). Land-use (parcels) data were acquired through the British Columbia Assessment Authority (BCAA). Land-use was categorized into: 1. Civic, Institutional and Recreational; 2. Commercial; 3. Farm; 4. Residential; 5. Transportation and Industry; and, 6. Utility parcels. Crime rates were calculated by land use category. Crime density maps were created for each land-use category across the two crime types.

### Results

The researchers find Burnaby is largely residential, but crime is heavily located within the commercial civic-institutional-recreation land-use categories. Assaults were heavily concentrated across commercial land-use. Motor vehicle theft as well occurs disproportionately across commercial land-use types. Shopping Centers under the commercial land-use category accounted for the most assaults and motor vehicle thefts. The researchers attribute the thefts to unattended vehicles located in parking lots for shopping centers while the influx of people across shopping center's different amenities and brings many people together where opportunities for crime arise.

### Implications

The researchers suggest that the study of land-use types, and their facilities within the urban environment, provide a better understanding of the relationship between crime and urban design. There are Implications for crime prevention concerning facility types and their design process along with strategies on targeting problem facilities through prevention and Implementation of security forces.