



## The Application of the “Law of Crime Concentration” to Terrorism: The Jerusalem Case Study

Simon Perry

Summary by Evan Mudgett, University of Arkansas

### Summary

While much of the research on the spatial distribution of terrorism has focused on macro-places such as regions or countries, Perry argues for the necessity to examine the micro-place. The concentration of crime in micro-places known as hot spots, while typically is used to examine general crimes (burglary, homicide, assault, etc.), can be applied to terrorism at the street segment level. Applying the law of crime concentration, Perry finds evidence for hot spots of terrorism attacks in the city of Jerusalem that are stable over time.

### Methods

Data for this study were collected from Israel Security Agency (ISA) records to include all terrorism incidents in Israel from 2000 to 2017, totaling 249 attacks. The incidents were geocoded and attached to street segments (16,864) using ArcGIS software. To correct for issues with having less incidents than the total number of street segments, Perry applies the generalized Gini coefficient.

### Results

From the analysis, Perry identified 19 street segments where two or more terrorism incidents occurred, all of which were stable over the 18-year time period. While examining the characteristics of these hot spots, Perry found that many were located near bus stops, public facilities, and the main road that separated the Jewish and Arab neighborhoods in Jerusalem. Perry also found variation in the lethality of attacks amongst the hot spots, depending on type of attacks, weapons used, and group status of those involved.

### Implications

Aligned with previous studies analyzing more common crime types, Perry found support for the Law of Crime Concentration when examining terrorism attacks, further advancing the implications of counter-terrorism efforts tasked at reducing situational opportunities. Law enforcement can better predict areas of future attacks by identifying factors that make an area appear attractive such as bus stops or public facilities. Perry acknowledges the limitations of only focusing on the city of Jerusalem and calls for further research to expand in other contexts.