Assessing the Influence of Gambling on Public Safety in Massachusetts Cities and Towns During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Analysis of the influence of Encore Boston Harbor on its surrounding community

*Crime Comparison covering periods before COVID-19
(pre-post casino opening),
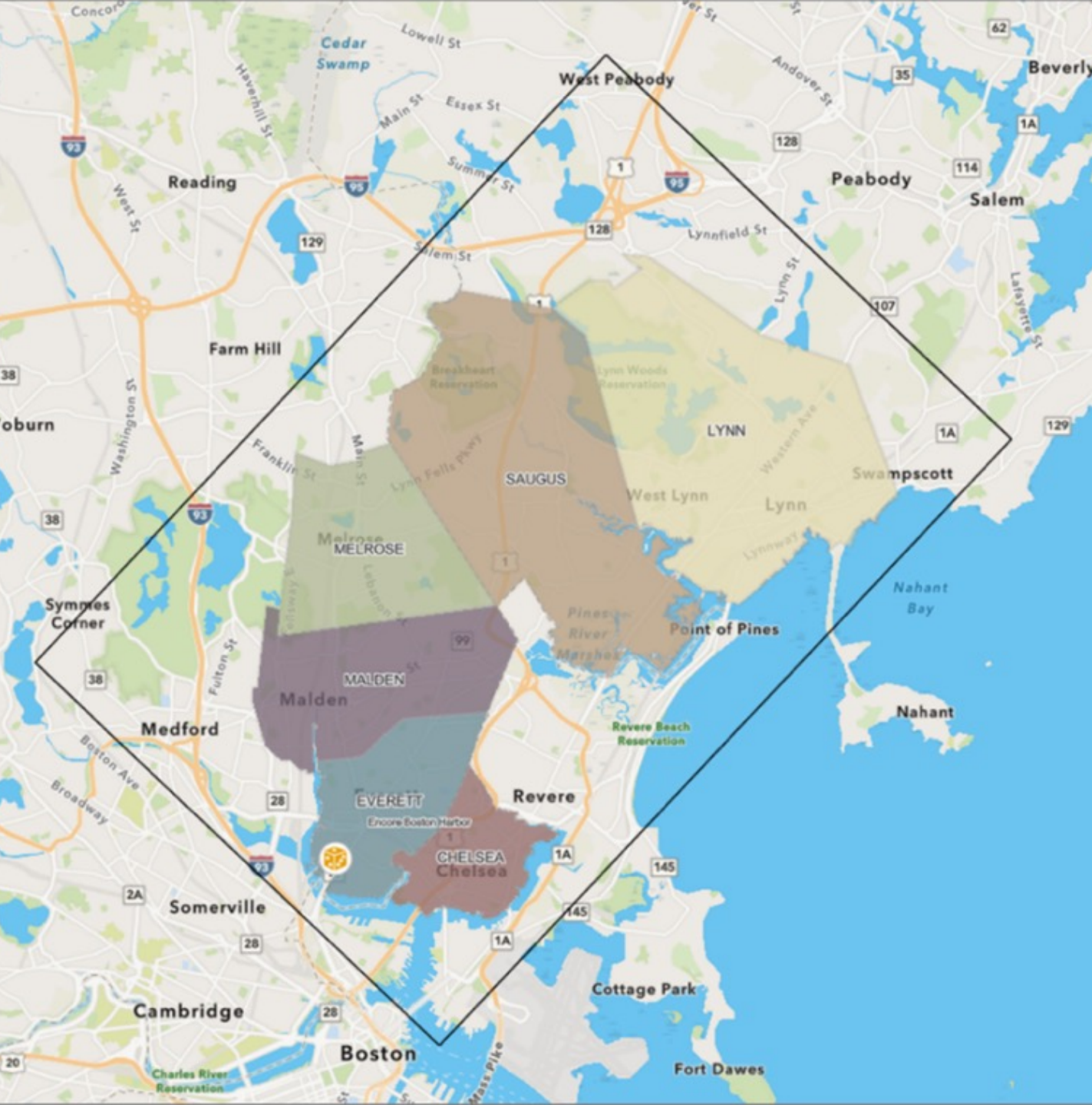during closure and restricted opening,
and the period since reopening*

2022

Research Funded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission

*The views presented here today are those of the authors of this report alone,
and do not represent the official point of view of Massachusetts Gaming Commission*

Welcome

- *Justice Research Associates*
  - Christopher Bruce – Partnership
  - Steven Hick
  - Noah Fritz
- CMAP – U.S. DOJ TA Program
- IACA & MACA
- Arizona State University, University of Denver, & George Mason University

- Feedback today?

MGC Reports

- Purpose – eye to future
  - Conduct an analysis of the increases and decreases in criminal activity
  - Provide insights into the temporal and spatial patterns during COVID-19
    - Benchmarks
  - Provides the researchers the opportunity to explore methods

- Build a partnership with each of you and the agencies in the region
  - Provide technical assistance and collaborate on crime analysis
  - Past Reports online – www.massgaming.com
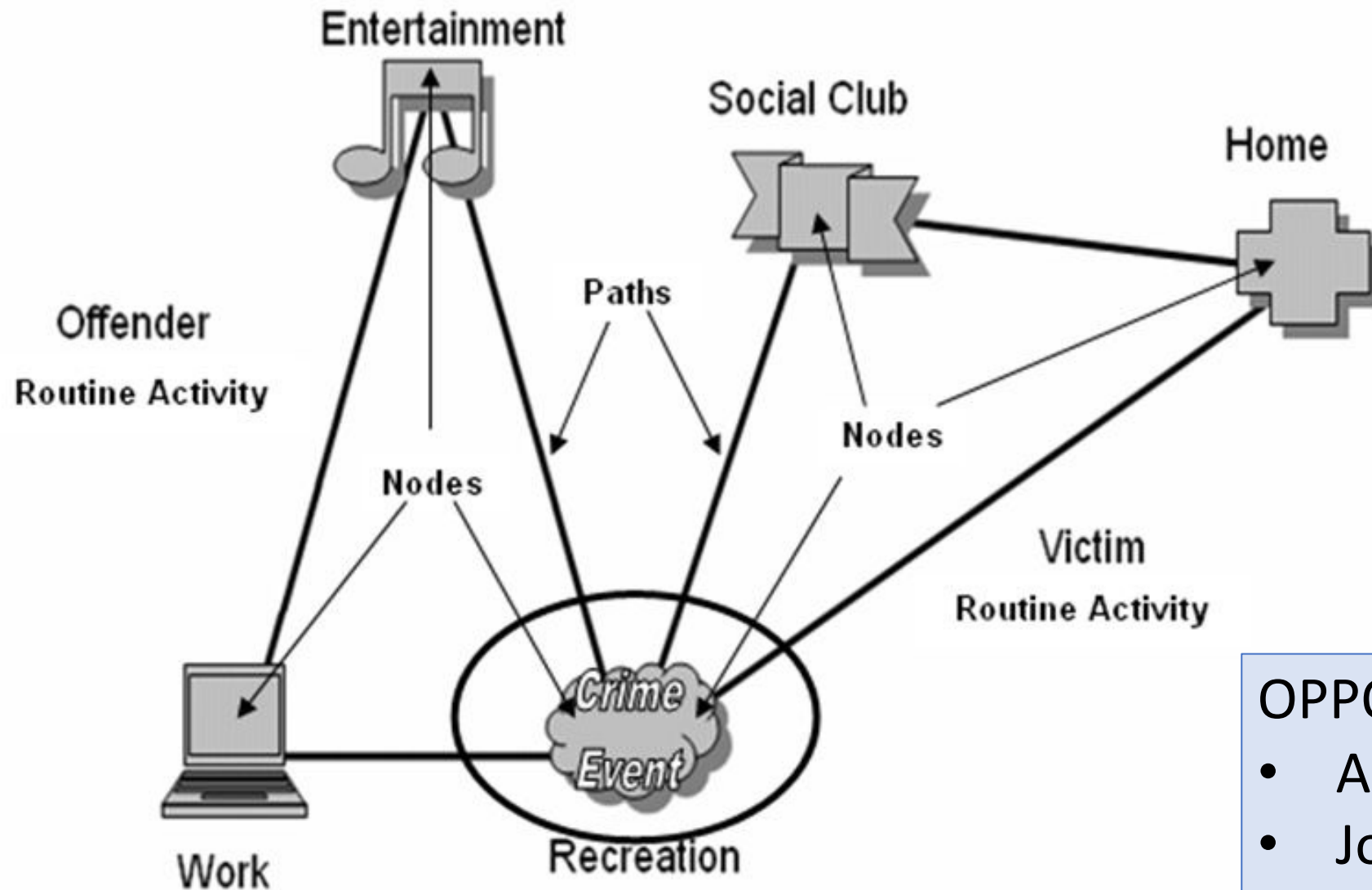 - Build Knowledgebase

Our First Report:
A Benchmark for the Future

- Historical context
- Temporal context
- Spatial context
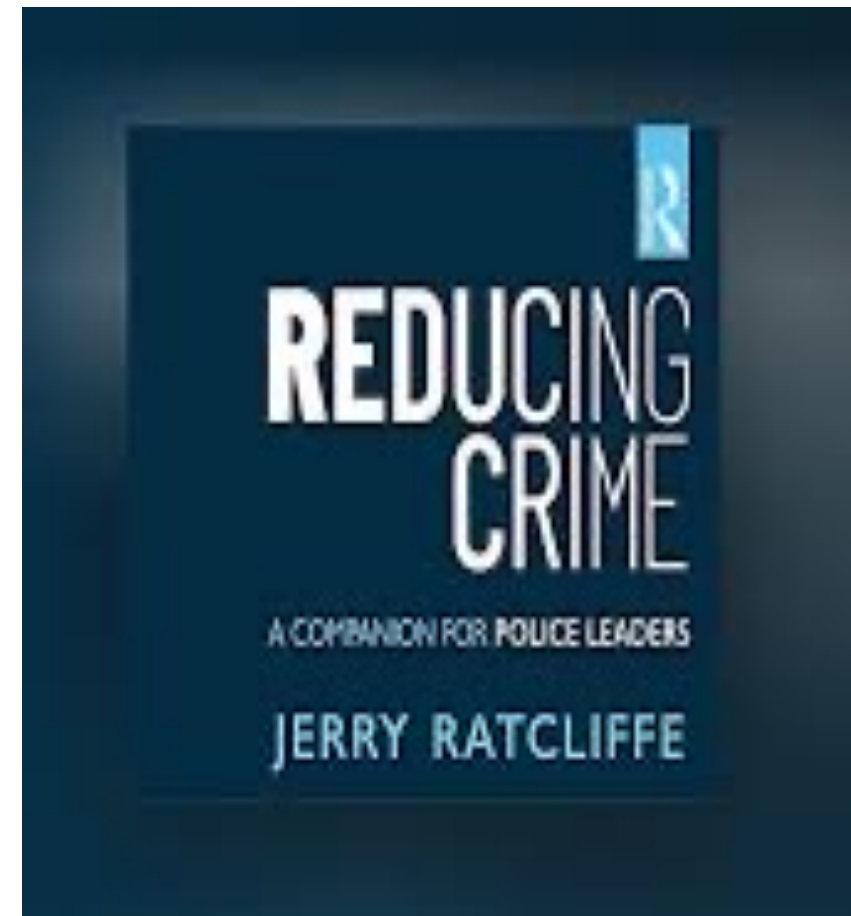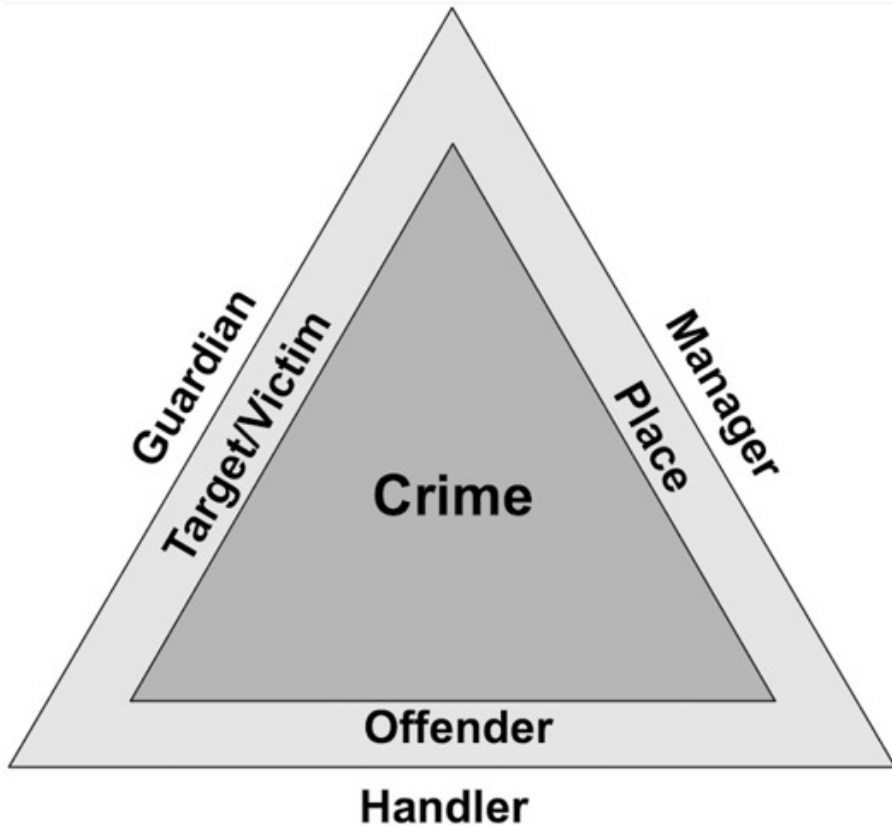
- Risk Terrain Model
- Crime Pattern Theory & Intelligence Led Policing
  - Reducing Crime – Area Commanders & Crime Analysis
    Jerry Ratcliffe

- Prolific Offenders
- Hotspots

Crime Pattern Theory

Entertainment

Social Club

Home

Offender
Routine Activity

Paths

Nodes

Nodes

Crime Event

Victim
Routine Activity
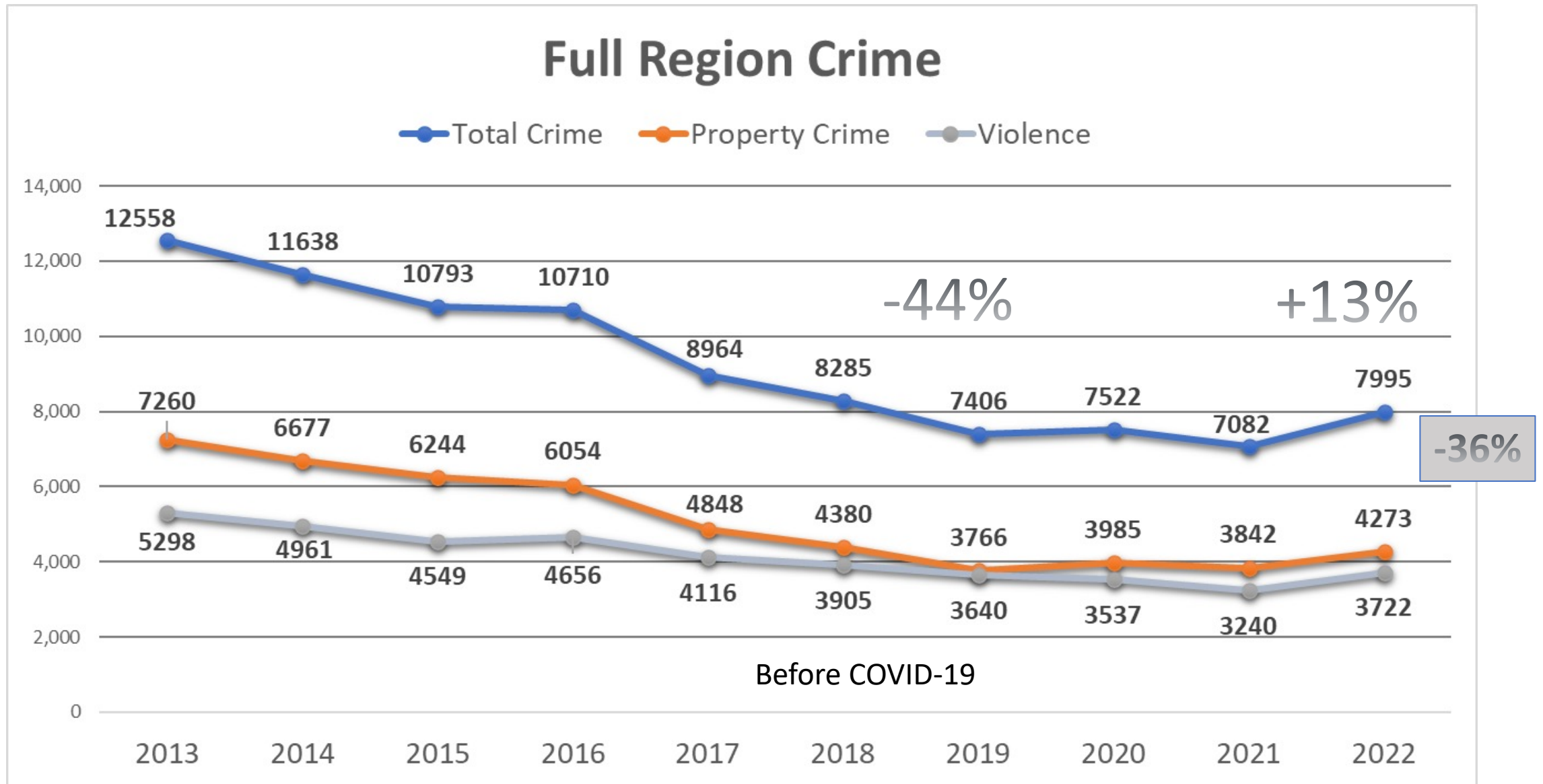
Work

Recreation

OPPORTUNITY FOR CRIME
- Activity Space
- Journey to Crime
- Hunting Grounds

Methods – Deductive Approach (drilldown)

- Data Collection – plethora of data
  - Crime Reports (RMS)
  - Computer Aided Dispatch (CFS)
  - Collision & OUI (i.e., drunk driving)Data – Massachusetts State Police
- Spatial Referencing – geocoding
  - Hotspot Policing
  - Hexagon Clusters
- Temporal Analysis
  - Tableau Data Visualization
  - Crime Cycles: 7-14-28 days (Used 7 days to compare COVID-19 Patterns)

	Pre-Open	Open	Closed	Restricted	Reopen
Time Frame	**9/30/18**	**6/23/19**	**3/15/20**	**7/12/20**	**5/30/21**
	6/22/19	3/14/20	7/11/20	5/29/21	7/2/22
	38 Weeks	38 Weeks	17 Weeks	46 Weeks	57 Weeks

10,000 ft Crime View of Encore Boston Harbor Region

Full Region Crime

Legend: —●— Total Crime   —●— Property Crime   —●— Violence

Year	Total Crime	Property Crime	Violence
2013	12558	7260	5298
2014	11638	6677	4961
2015	10793	6244	4549
2016	10710	6054	4656
2017	8964	4848	4116
2018	8285	4380	3905
2019	7406	3766	3640
2020	7522	3985	3537
2021	7082	3842	3240
2022	7995	4273	3722

-44%

+13%

-36%

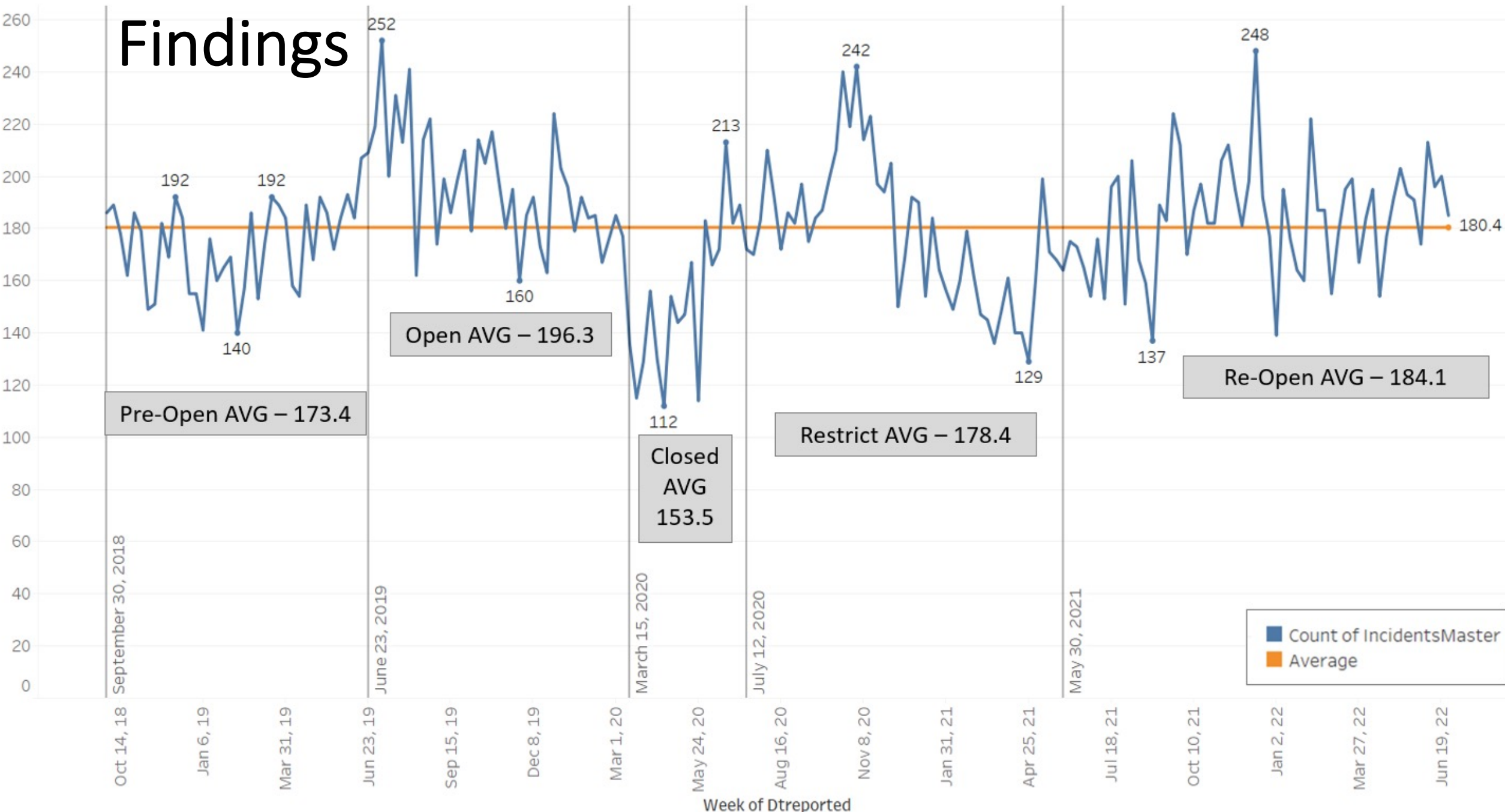Before COVID-19

Take a closer look: COVID-19 Drill Down

- Over time
- At Micro-Analysis Spatial Level
- COMPLEX PHENOMENON – Multi-faceted
- Further Analysis
- Greater Scrutiny and Assistance towards Public Safety Effort
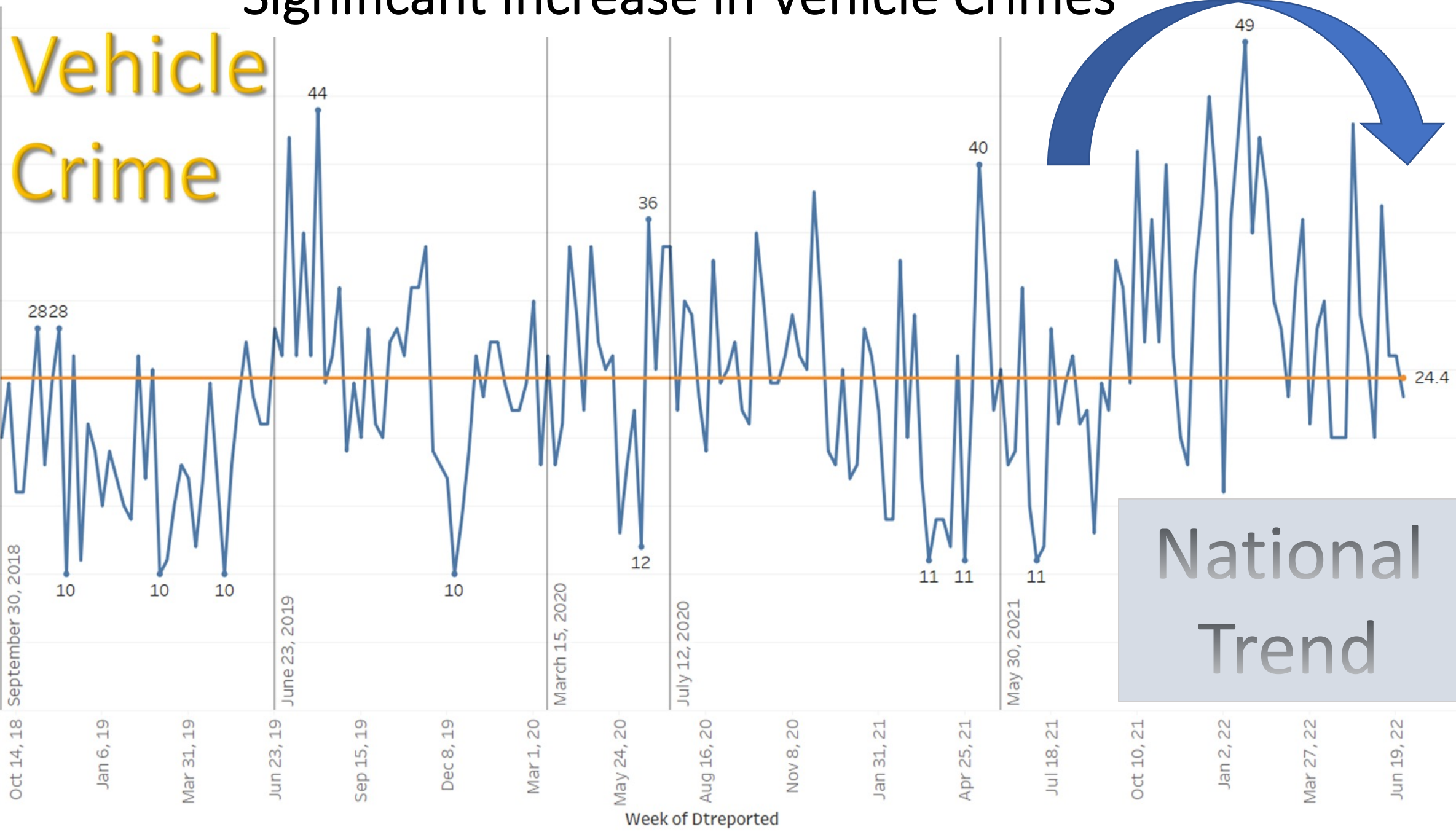
All Crime COVID-19 Effect All Jurisdictions
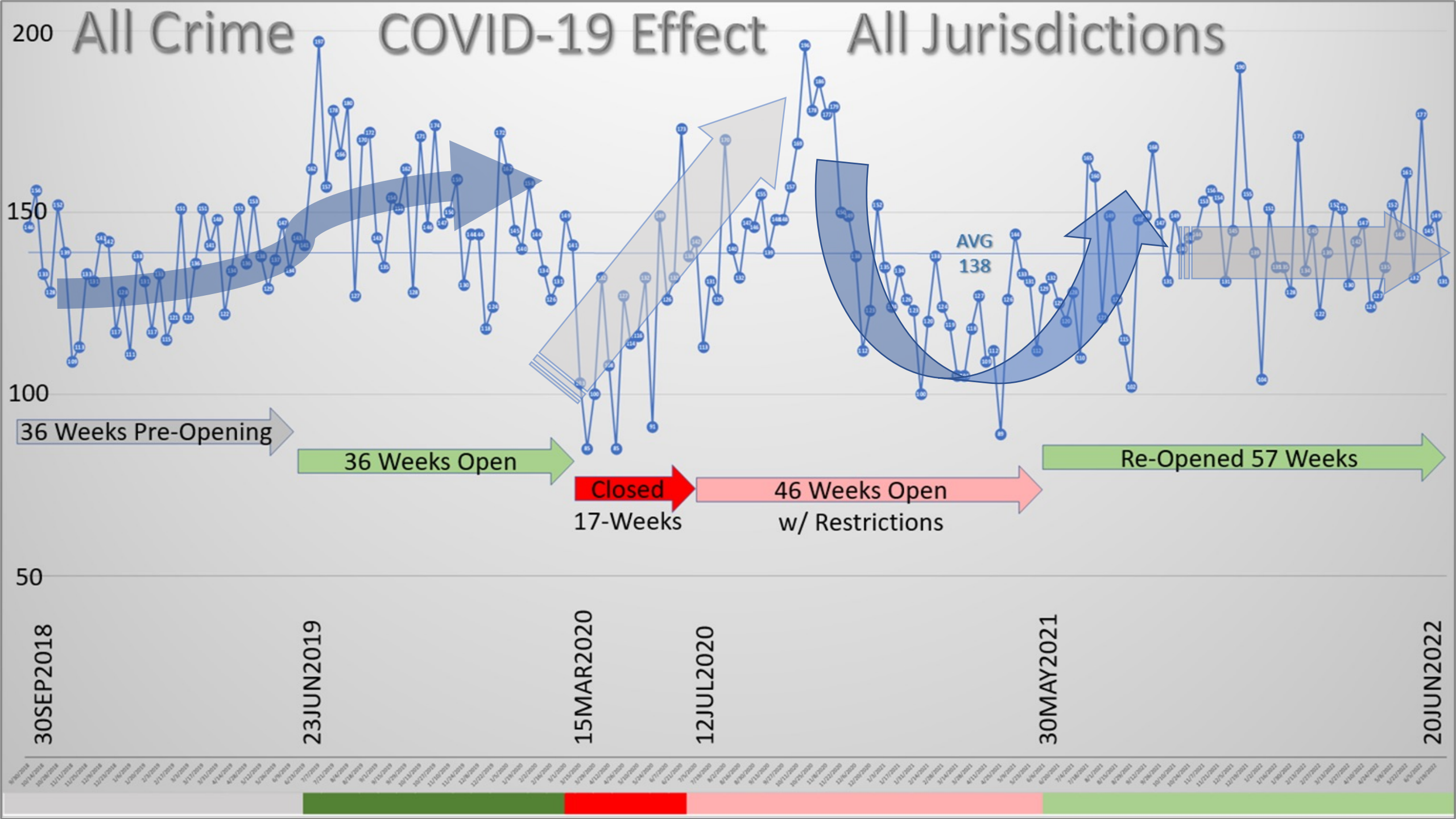
36 Weeks Pre-Opening

36 Weeks Open

Closed 17-Weeks

46 Weeks Open w/ Restrictions

Re-Opened 57 Weeks

AVG 138

30SEP2018   23JUN2019   15MAR2020   12JUL2020   30MAY2021   20JUN2022

Jurisdiction Comparisons

AVERAGE NUM OF CRIMES PER WEEK OVER STUDY PERIOD					
AVG	PRE	OPEN	CLOSED	RESTRICT	REOPEN
CHELSEA	36.3	37.2	28.1	24.6	28.7
EVERETT	17.6	22.1	15.6	18.7	18.1
LYNN	46.3	54.0	44.1	59.2	62.6
MALDEN	18.4	21.5			
MELROSE	4.4	5.8			
SAUGUS	11.7	10.6			
ALL	134.7	151.3			

6/23/2019 3/15/2020 7/
36 WEEKS 36 WEEKS 17

AVG FULL PERIOD	PCT CHANGE Pre2open	PCT CHANGE Open2close	PCT CHANGE Close2Restr	PCT CHANGE Restr2reopen	PCT CHANGE Open2reopen	PCT CHANGE Pre2reopen	City
30.8	2.46%	-24.59%	-12.37%	16.59%	-22.96%	-21.06%	CHELSEA
18.7	26.09%	-29.57%	20.07%	-3.18%	-18.11%	3.25%	EVERETT
55.4	16.52%	-18.41%	34.36%	5.80%	15.98%	35.15%	LYNN
19.3	17.05%	1.78%	-15.46%	-0.24%	-14.16%	0.48%	MALDEN
4.5	31.36%	-46.63%	18.54%	24.85%	-21.02%	3.75%	MELROSE
10.4	-9.66%	-23.82%	58.08%	-35.41%	-22.22%	-29.74%	SAUGUS
139.1	12.27%	-20.16%	13.80%	2.39%	-6.97%	4.44%	ALL

RANK OF TOP TEN ACROSS CITIES	CH	EV	LY	MA	ME	SA	X OF 6
Vandalism	2	1	3	3	1	2	6
Simple Assault	1	6	1	1	3	4	6
Other Theft	7	2	2	2	2	1	6
Theft from Vehicle	6	3	6	4	4	5	6
Burglary	8	5	5	5	5	8	6
Aggravated Assault	4	8	4	6	9	9	6
Threats	3	9		9	7	10	5
Shoplifting		7		8		3	3
Auto Theft		10	8	7	10		4
Fraud				10	8	7	3

Opportunity for Collaboration & Mitigation Funds

KEY FINDINGS

Opportunity & Targets of Crime

- Auto Theft
- Theft From Auto
- Robbery
- Assaults – DV?
- Door Pushers?
- Tub Stealers?

- Journey to Crime (Routes)
- Hotspots
  – Shuttles
  – Parking Structures

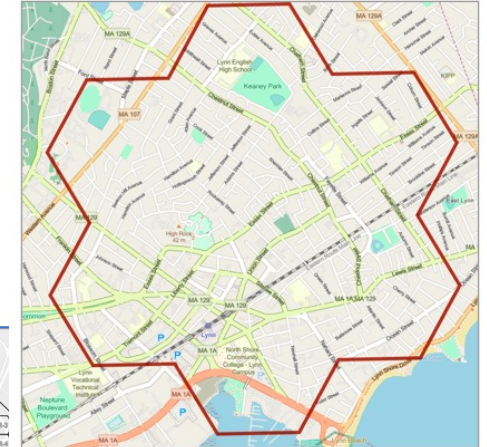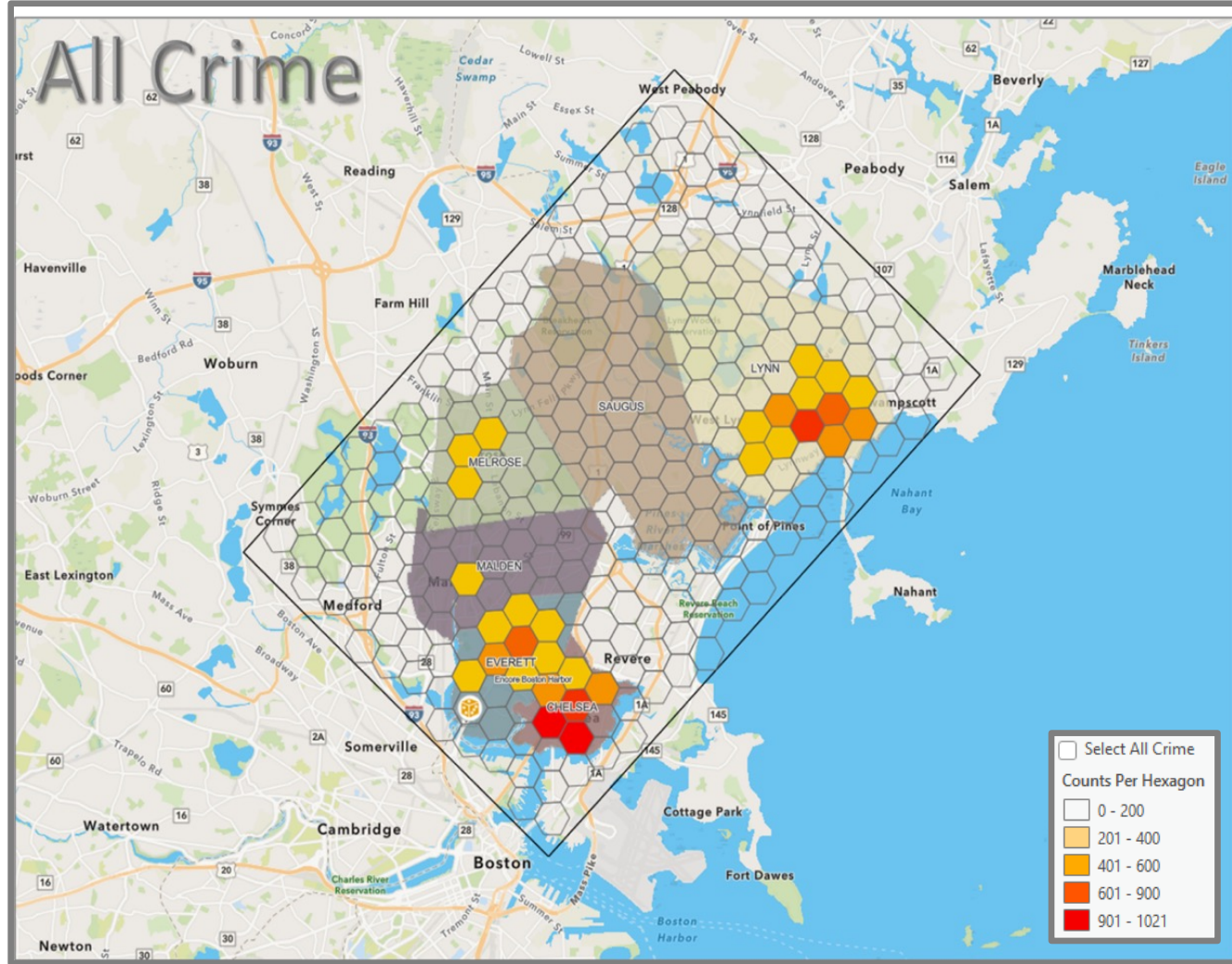- Opportunities to target?

  - Human Trafficking?
  - Vehicle Crime

LAS VEGAS STYLE CRIME

- Doorpushers
- Tub Stealers

FOCUS ON CONCEPTUALIZATION
OF CASINO RELATED OFFENSES

"Horrifying, yet enthralling" *NEW SCIENTIST*

MAPPING MURDER

THE SECRETS OF GEOGRAPHICAL PROFILING

DAVID CANTER

Risk Terrain Modeling

Kennedy, L. W., Caplan, J. M., Piza, E. L. & Buccine Schraeder, H. (2016). Vulnerability and Exposure to Crime: Applying Risk Terrain Modeling to the Study of Assault in Chicago. Applied Spatial Analysis and Policy. 9(4), 529-54.

Follow your Lead
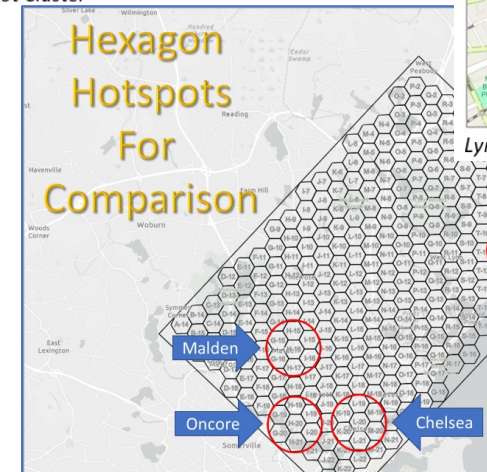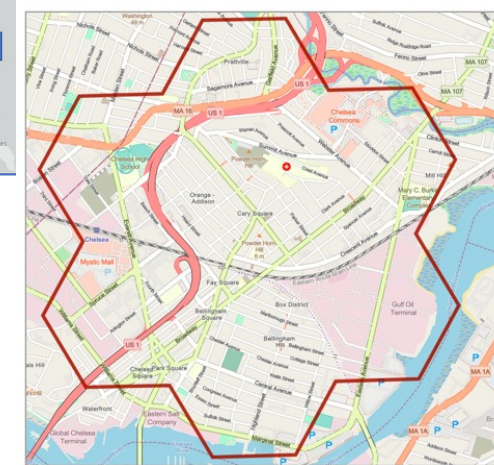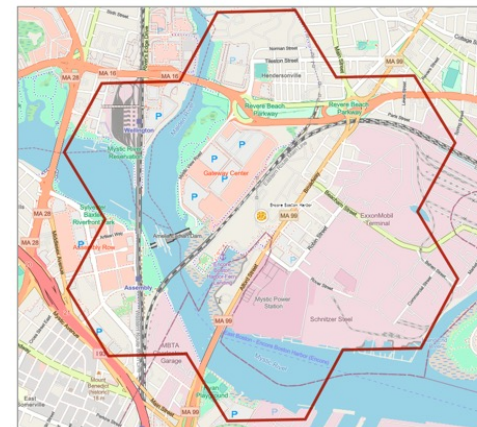
Feedback?

Collaborative Partnership

- Monthly or Quarterly Meetings

- Dashboards to Review & Discuss

- Provide Training & Technical Assistance

- MACA or Northeast Crime Analysis Association Conference

REDUCING CRIME

HOME   BOOK   CHAPTERS   BLOG   PODCAST   VIDEO   TRAINING   ABOUT

The Reducing Crime podcast

https://www.reducingcrime.com/podcast

Translational Criminology
SPRING 2020

Promoting knowledge exchange to shape criminal justice research, practice, and policy

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Countering Mass Shootings in the United States

The World of Emergency Calltakers and Dispatchers

Developing Methodology for Finding Ghosted Police Vehicle Pursuits

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GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

ANY QUESTIONS

Thank you