A Spatio-Temporal Analysis of Carjackings & Neighborhood Disadvantage

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Highlights

- Community violence and crime negatively impact health and are important drivers of inequities
- Violent crime has increased in urban areas since 2020 with carjackings of interest to the media
- We examine the spatio-temporal patterns of carjackings in Minneapolis 2017-2022 in comparison to the well-established patterns for homicides
- Carjackings remain concentrated in disadvantaged neighborhoods. However, they dispersed to advantaged neighborhoods, which may influence media attention

What we know on recent violent crime trends comes from gun violence

- Gun violence has increased since 2020 though it continues to cluster in disadvantaged neighborhoods, just at higher rates
- Are carjackings, like gun violence, clustering in socially disadvantaged neighborhoods? Or are they occurring in neighborhoods with higher levels of collective efficacy and political connectedness?

Data and Analysis

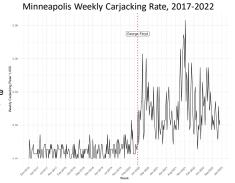
- City of Minneapolis Police Department Data on carjackings and homicides, 2017-2022
- IPUMS USA for 2020 census tract-level characteristics & population estimates

Analysis:

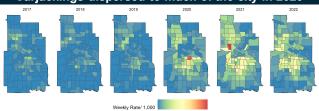
- 1. Describe carjacking spatio-temporal patterns
- Random effects models to examine neighborhood-level predictors of carjackings (carjacking as continuous outcome & then what predicts a tract going from 0 to any carjackings)

Carjackings dramatically increased in Minneapolis after the police killing of George Floyd

- Prior to the murder of George Floyd, the average weekly rate was 0.0048 carjackings per 1,000 residents
- Afterwards, the average weekly rate increased 528% to 0.030
- Homicides did not see as large or as sustained of an increase as carjackings



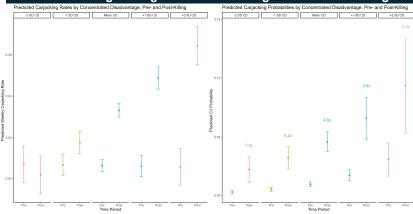
Carjackings dispersed to much of the city in 2020



- Prior to 2020: Carjackings occurred in Minneapolis but at lower rates and clustered in disadvantaged neighborhoods
- 2020 and 2021: Dispersed to much of the city with hotspots in disadvantaged neighborhoods
- 2022: Contracting, but rates remain high

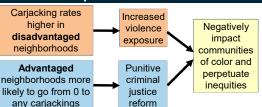
This dispersion was not observed with homicides

Disadvantaged Neighborhoods saw a larger increase in carjackings BUT Advantaged Neighborhoods saw a greater relative change



- · Post-killing, the carjacking rate was higher in more disadvantaged neighborhoods
- · A larger relative increase in advantaged neighborhoods may help explain media attention

Implications and Future Research Directions



- Does where a carjacking occur influence criminal charging?
- Does carjacking location influence media reporting?