

(August 15, 2014)

I propose to do a current day test of the broken windows theory, which states that physical disorder in a neighbourhood leads to increased crime rate. To test the correlation between the crime and physical disorder, I will analyze the likelihood of a particular kind of crime occurring near graffiti sites in New York City (NYC) and Chicago. Both the city of New York and city of Chicago data portals contain hundreds of thousands of data entries about graffiti sites. These entries include graffiti location, date, and other attributes. The city of Chicago data portal also contains hundreds of thousands of data entries pertaining to crimes committed, including date, type of crime, location, and whether or not an arrest was made. I believe there is a similar database for NYC, or at the very least, there is an area averaged map of crime rates by type by neighbourhood and/or police precinct. Understanding link between graffiti and crime rate has serious economic implications for both Chicago and NYC. [It can be estimated](#) that NYC spends tens of millions of dollars removing graffiti each year. The results of this project may justify each city's expensive graffiti cleanup expenditures against the cost of not removing illegal graffiti.