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Abstract

There is a strong evidence that crime is tightly concentrated in a small number of micro places in urban areas. Indeed, studies conducted in different U.S. cities show how 50% of crime events are concentrated in about 3% to 6% of street segments. Moving from these findings, Weisburd, Groff and Yang raise the issue as to whether there is a law of crime concentrations, applicable across different cities and stable over time. Indeed, despite the general decrease of crime trends in Seattle, the authors find that almost an equal number of street segments in the city produce the same proportion of crime in the 16-year period under study. These results were confirmed in Tel Aviv-Jaffa (Israel), suggesting the presence of a sort of "normal level of crime" among cities at micro level.

This study aims at testing the presence of crime concentrations outside the U.S., in a different context, where this hypothesis has not yet been tested and quantitative studies at street segment level have not yet been developed. In particular, a street segment analysis was conducted in Milan (Italy) and the presence of crime concentrations was confirmed. In addition, in order to understand the main determinants of crime concentrations in Milan, a set of negative binomial regressions models were run. Findings show how social disorganisation factors seem to have stronger influence on crime at street segment level, compared to opportunity factors.