

Abstract Eurocrim 2013 - European Society of Criminology (max 2600 characters including spaces; min 1000)

Social disorganisation or Organisational disorganisation: Deprivation, resources availability and geographic distribution of offences perpetrated by mentally ill individuals
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Offences related to mentally ill individuals are not equally dispersed across areas, and understanding this geographic distribution is essential to allocate the appropriate level of mental health resources. The ecology of these offences reflects both criminal and mental health rates explanations. On the one hand, social disorganisation is a common ecological theory to explain the geographic distribution of crime in general. This theory stipulates that the lack of peer supervision might lead to higher crime rates in a given area. On the other hand, the availability of mental health resources might reduce the probability of individuals with mental illness of acting out. The present study located 2,481 offenses leading to a verdict of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder between 2001 and 2005 in 2,347 geographic areas across a Canadian province. The impact of social disorganisation and mental health resources availability on the rate of offences committed by mentally ill individuals is evaluated with a general linear model using Moran eigenvector spatial filtering. Results show that the level of social disorganisation of a neighbourhood increases the rate of offences. Concerning the availability of mental health resources, the number of community resources in a 30 minutes car distance radius decreases the number of offences in a neighbourhood. However, the farther the area is

from a hospital, the fewer the rate of offences. Thus, both organisational and social controls influence the rate of offending by mentally ill individuals in a given area.

Distribution of mental health resources, interpretation of not criminally responsible on account of mental disorder offense rate and rural and urban different realities will be discussed.