Identifying High-Risk, Underserved Victim Populations

Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) and University of North Carolina at Greensboro

During 2020, the CCSO Victim Services program received 170 referrals, most of which were for adult physical assault. Victim Services served 54% of the referred victims; additional research is needed to determine the reasons why those victims were referred but did not receive services.

This project analyzed:
- Incident reports for victims eligible for services
- Number of households by census block
- Eligible victims’ locations and service receipt
- Crime hotspots and service gaps

Geographic information system analyses helped identify:
- Regions in which victims were served at proportionally higher (darker green) or lower (lighter green) levels.

...that for some areas in Cleveland County, residents face an elevated risk of experiencing crime, and yet they access the Victim Services program at lower rates.

Cleveland County’s 371 institutions.

In the six block groups analyzed, there are:
- 20 religious institutions
- 4 schools

Implications for Policy & Practice
- Partner with local religious institutions and schools to reach underserved regions.
- Work with the Shelby Police Department to increase victim services staff in the county’s primary violent crime hotspot, much of which is outside of CCSO jurisdiction.

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Sources:
- Based on the Cleveland County Sheriff’s Office Final Report. All mini-grant materials funded by the IACP-JRSA partnership are available here: https://www.jrsa.org/Projects/Leverage.html
- GIS Image: https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/geographic-information-system-gis/