

THE VALUE OF SHARING CRIME INFORMATION AND COLLABORATION BY COMMUNITY SAFETY NETWORKS



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POLICING IN CONTEXT

- **Police *versus* policing**
- International research emphasizes the importance of applying *policing* in a broader concept
- **Policing:** Includes efforts by police but also all other role players (government, researchers, private security, communities etc.)
- **Misapprehension that SAPS is supposed to do crime combatting alone**
- **Policing can only work if the police also understand the concept of partnerships; recognize and work actively with the other role-players**
- **Equally important for community to understand their role**

THE VARIOUS ROLE PLAYERS/ACTIVITIES IN POLICING

- **Police must be the primary role-player**
 - Supported in international literature and research
 - Coordinate actions of multi-disciplinary agencies/departments/role-players/experts/community etc.
 - SAPS say in the 2015/2016 Annual Report that they recognise the importance of collaboration
- **The other role-players from a South African perspective:**
 - Researchers; NGO's; organizations, business entities, police reservists, SANDF;
 - Communities, etc.
 - Community Policing Forums and Community Safety Networks (CSN)

WHAT CAN ROLEPLAYERS (IN THE BROAD SENSE) CONTRIBUTE?

- **Research by academics; SAPS crime intelligence, Stats SA, ISS, SABRIC, private security companies, community members etc.**
- **To understand the problem (i.e. Motives)**
- **Profiling of the offence and offenders**
- **International best practices**
- **Finding new solutions for a local problem**
- **Develop integrated databases**
- **Must adhere to the law including crime information kept in a database**
- **The ideal is to use Intelligence Led Policing (ILP)**
- **All actions to combat/prevent/safeguard must be based on ILP**

INTELLIGENCE-LED POLICING

- **ILP based crime prevention actions:**
- To inform all role-players including the public with reliable data
- Refute inaccurate data and speculation
 - Example: Marking of target houses
 - Incorrect motives ascribed
- Accurate information on how to successfully combat crime
- Information on how to prevent the escalation of violence during a crime (i.e. hijacking and house robbery)
- Provide for informed variation that is required in prevention strategies: (House robbers & hijackers study security measures and routine of security patrols in a neighbourhood)
- Provide insight (Inspect the security at your house and neighbourhood from the perspective of a burglar or house robber)

COMMUNITY SAFEGUARDING MEASURES

- **Informed by ILP to be successful**
- **Being organised principle (community safety networks)**
- **Frequent patrols (68%)**
- **Counter through tailored made programs**
 - **For example; when, where to patrol**
 - **Frequent patrols by police and security companies (visible)**
 - **Patrols to be done randomly (no fixed pattern)**
 - **busy roads within neighbourhoods,**
 - **highways and main roads**
 - **access routes to residential areas**
 - **Concentrate patrols at times when most of the crime occur**
- **Radio communication and coordinated reaction to incidents**
 - **Mahube Village CSN, Mamelodi East (whistles)**

SAFEGUARDING MEASURES CONT:

- **Sharing of information and resources**
 - **Key component of modern policing internationally**
 - **Modern policing requires a paradigm shift**
 - **Multi-organisation/party involvement**
- **Share information on best practices and effectiveness of equipment (prevent fruitless expenditure or experiments)**
- **Professional management style**
- **If feasible a business model for the CSN**
- **Incidents are going to take place**
- **More important on how these incidents are dealt with than the fact that the incident occurred**
- **Attitude: ‘Eyes and ears’ of police**

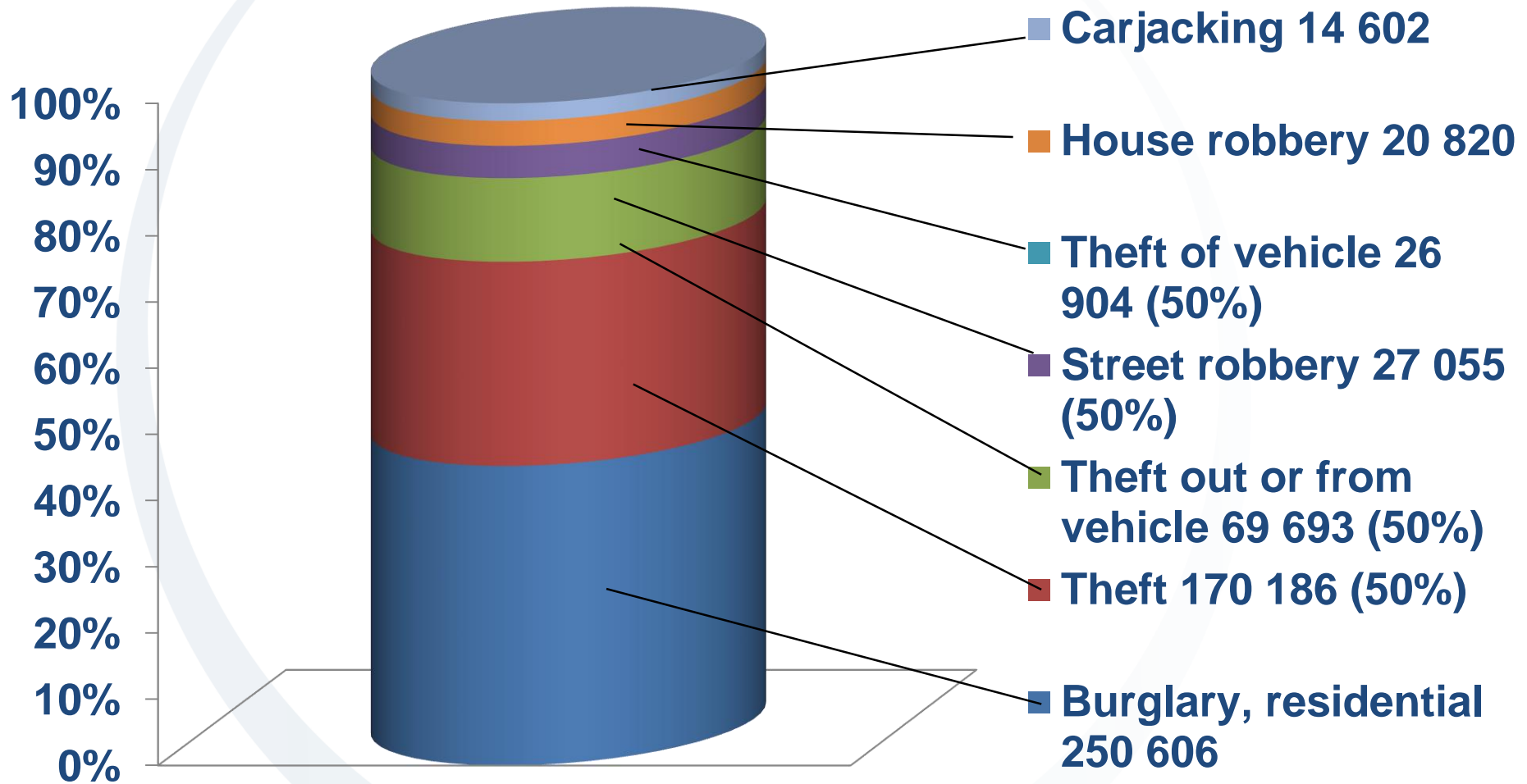
OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY SAFETY NETWORKS

- **CSN part of concept of policing and ILP**
- **Longitudinal studies on CSN (AfriForum & CSIR studies)**
- **Own success is biggest threat**
 - **Complacency**
- **Actions to retain the involvement of members of the community**
 - **Interest wane in the absence of immediate threat of crime**
 - **Providing other services to the community – cleaning and maintenance of the neighbourhood**
 - **‘Mini’ municipality**
 - **Communication (including radios)**
- **Avoid becoming isolated from the broader community or SAPS**

**REASON WHY COMMUNITIES
SHOULD TAKE UP AN ACTIVE
ROLE:**

**HIGHEST RISK OF FALLING
VICTIM TO CRIME IS WHEN IN
RESIDENTIAL
NEIGHBOURHOODS**

Home and Neighbourhood highest risk area (2015/16)

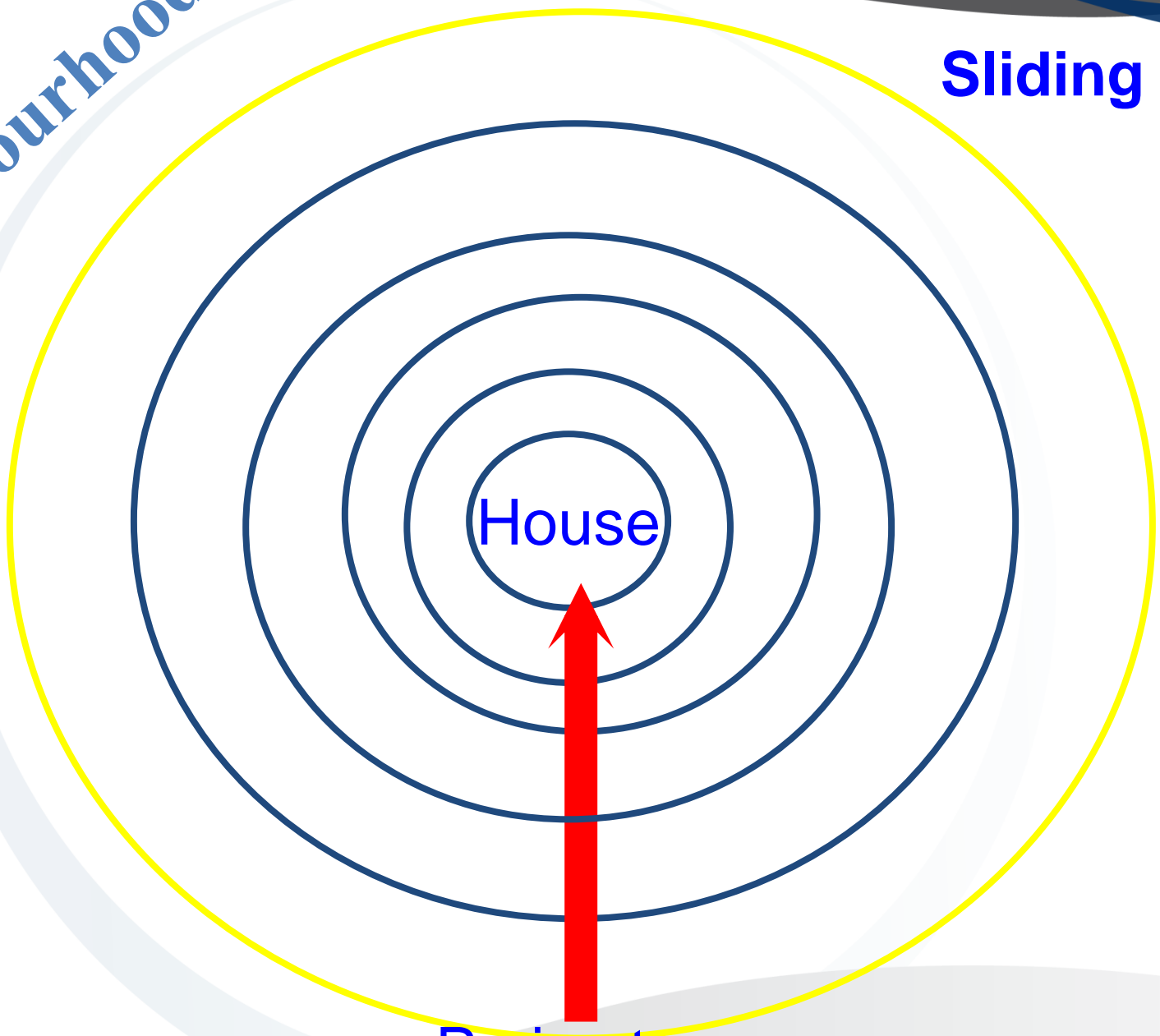


PREVENTATIVE MEASURES AT HOME

- **Studies on house robberies / hijackings**
- **Secure your neighbourhood**
- **Best deterrent according to respondents at house:**
- **Guard dogs (25%) (number of smaller dogs kept inside)**
- **Security fence (20%) (razor ribbon and alarm system)**
- **Alarm system (16%) (House and pre-warning around house, storeroom and garage)**
- **Armed response unit linked to an alarm system (16%)**
- **The house being in open view (14%)**
- **Security lights (9%)**
- **Layers of security**
- **No amount of security will deter if information is passed on regarding large amount of cash or how to overcome security measures**

Neighbourhood

Sliding scale



House

Perimeter



• Alarm 16%



• Armed response 16%



• Security lights 9%



• Dogs 25%



• In open view 14%

• Fence 20%

32%

(inside or near)

68%

(outside)

CONCLUSION

- **Need for sharing information in a structured manner**
- **Need to continuously collect and process crime information (integrated database)**
- **Realistic expectation of each role-player's impact**
- **Community Safety Networks are effective**
- **Short term prevention – “layers of security”**
 - **Be vigilant**
 - **Get involved in CPF’s and community initiatives**
 - **Make sure everything is done in accordance with the law**
 - **Prevent frustrated ‘vigilante’ reaction**
- **Long term prevention**
 - **Address reasons why people get involve in crime (holistic approach)**

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RESEARCH ON H/ROBBERS AS AN EXAMPLE

- **House Robbery: Crime History (self reporting)**
- **Repeat offenders**
- **22% also committed “farm attacks”**
- **The 30 respondents committed a total of 2099 crimes**
- **20 of the 30 respondents alleged involvement in 2 051 crimes for which they had never been convicted**
- **30 respondents in total had committed 1 202 burglaries**
- **30 respondents admitted to 140 h/robberies in this study**
- **On average committed 103 serious crimes over a period of 7 years and 6 months before being arrested for the first time**
- **Very violent (leave a number of traces at the scene)**
- **M/O correlates with SAPS case dockets analysis (1000 cases)**

H/ROBBERS MODUS OPERANDI

- **Choose neighbourhoods with low or inadequate security**
- **Selection of target house**
 - **Mainly on “inside” information received (53% to 77%)**
- **Low security at the house (25%)**
- **Affluent style of living (expensive house & cars) (19%)**
 - **Mostly middle class**
- **Residents “careless”; Windows and/or doors stood open (3%)**
- **General**
 - **Easy access**
 - **escape routes**
 - **“To much security”**
- **Opportunistic**
 - **Social functions**
 - **Select vulnerable targets**

NEIGHBOURHOOD IS HIGHEST RISK AREA

- **Most hijackings take place at entrance to yard or in neighbourhood (stop streets, traffic lights, shopping malls etc.) (14 602 – 14,3% increase).**
- **An estimated 50% of all vehicle theft, theft out of or from vehicles, common theft and street robberies occur at or near homes of victims**
- **House robbery (20 820 – 2,7% increase)**
- **Burglary the most common property crime in neighbourhoods (250 606 incidents for 2015/16)**
- **The changes based on time spend, crime patterns etc in residential neighbourhood or at work make these the places were you will most likely be a victim of crime**
 - **Similar to motor vehicle accidents were most accidents occur in a 2 kilometer radius from home**

RESEARCH ON H/ROBBERIES: MODUS OPERANDI

- **Could determine their full modus operandi (before, during and after robbery)**
- **Target selection**
- **Debunk myths about marking of target premises**
- **Understanding what makes a house/farm/person an easy victim**
- **Reasons for behaviour at the scene**
 - **Instrumental violence versus expressive violence**
- **Survival of victims**
- **Importance of Intelligence Led policing (integrated database)**
- **More research needed**