

Presentation title:

Burglar alarms, contextual factors and victimisation risk – a case study of residential properties in Humberside and West Yorkshire

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The presentation examines the differences in the characteristics of non-victimised and victimised properties between January 2015 and December 2020. To this end, it models police recorded burglary data from two English police forces (Humberside and West Yorkshire) linked to street and property physical characteristics (collected using Google Street View) and a variety of official and academic data sources to identify a range of other contextual factors at the property, street and area level that may influence burglary risk. Properties with alarms have significantly higher burglary risk compared to properties without alarms when no other property or area characteristic is controlled for. The positive association between presence of a visible alarm and burglary risk persists when characteristics of the area the property is situated in are controlled for, such as area income and barriers to housing and services deprivation, number of road exits and number of contextual factors increasing access to properties. Burglar alarms increase burglary risk but not in a statistically significant way when property characteristics are controlled for (either alone or together with area factors). Houses (rather than bungalows or flats), with a drive, and open side access to the back are property features that increase residential burglary risk. Moreover, if the property is near the corner of the street, it has a higher completed domestic burglary risk than others. Mid-terraced houses are not at higher risk of completed domestic burglary when compared to either bungalows or flats.