Presentation title:

Crime prevention and the use of emerging technologies: The application of smart video doorbells

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Various technologies have known effects on reducing and preventing crime, from closed -circuit television (CCTV) cameras to improved street lighting. One other technology recently developed is smart video doorbells which can notify the owner and record video and/or sound when activated. In this presentation, I will introduce an experiment in London where households are randomly sampled and assigned to receive a smart video doorbell or to control groups. This is done to assess the impact of the doorbells in preventing or reducing burglaries or other household-related crimes, the fear of crime and the potential uptake of other smart and non-smart security products. The methodology includes multiple steps, such as finding areas with high burglary rates, filtering applicable (single-family homes) on street segments, auditing the households for any existent security technologies and any ineligibility criteria, and surveying the chosen households when receiving the doorbells and during the intervention. This presentation will also show the preliminary results of the resident's survey and emphasizes the necessity of thorough planning and the need for adapting based on field observations. This is collaborative work with the Metropolitan Police and has valuable implications for evaluation design and strengthening academia-law enforcement collaborations.