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Presentation title: Police accessibility in Sweden: An analysis of the spatial arrangement of police services

The Swedish police organization has recently undergone a significant restructuring, combining previously independent regional bodies into a single national authority. To date it is unclear if and how this process has affected the accessibility of police services. Using Central Place Theory (CPT) and notions of public reassurance as theoretical references, this study examines the current distribution of police stations and how their spatial arrangement affects the population's access to police services by type (crime registration, passports & IDs, weapon licensing and provisional passports). This is done by conducting a network analysis intended to find the areas in Sweden that are farthest from police services when travelling by car, using open data and geographic information systems (GIS). Results show that despite regional differences in population density, a large majority of the population has less than a 20-minute drive to the nearest police station. However, in the most remote regions this can take more than 90 minutes. The article discusses policy implications of these findings in the Swedish context and suggests that they may be relevant for understanding the supply of police services in other sparsely populated countries.