The current study aims to provide a better understanding of the places in which calls-for-service associated with emotionally disturbed persons (EDPs) are taking place by analyzing: (1) the locations of these police contacts to determine if they cluster in space; and, (2) a series of environmental risk factors for EDPs (e.g., pharmacies, walk-in clinics, and mental health care providers, to name a few) to determine their role in explaining this clustering.

As is apparent from Figure 1, the kernel density model estimates that there are several ‘hot spots’ where EDP calls-for-service cluster in space. More specifically, all of the EDP police contacts during this one-year period take place in only a 24.5 square kilometer vicinity, which is approximately 7.5 percent of this city’s total area.

Findings also indicate that many of the environmental risk factors specific to EDPs are contained within these hot spot areas (see Figure 1). In total, 69 percent (i.e., 101 of 146) of these environmental risk factors are contained within the identified hot spots, which may explain the spatial distribution of EDP calls-for-service within this city.