Spatial Concentrations of EDP and Non-EDP Calls-for-Service

A Comparison of the Geographical Distribution of Police Contacts

The locations where Emotionally Disturbed Persons (EDP)—persons with mental illness, substance use, and/or concurrent disorders—come into contact with police services is relatively unknown. Knowing where police interactions occur can help with the allocation of state resources (e.g., healthcare, housing, and criminal justice services). However, it is unknown whether the locations in which EDP come into contact with the police substantially differ from those of non-EDP. Thus, this study investigates the differences, if any, in the spatial concentration of police contacts between EDP and non-EDP in a medium-sized city over a one-year period. As seen in Figures 1 and 2, there are some similarities between the EDP and non-EDP density surfaces in terms of the hot spot locations for police contacts, particularly along major arterial routes and in the northwest quadrant of the city. However, as seen in Figure 1, EDP calls appear to be more spatially concentrated. Although there is some evidence of overlap in the spatial distributions of EDP and non-EDP calls, overall, findings suggest that non-EDP calls are spatially distinct given the number of additional hotspots found as well as their relative positioning throughout the city.

Source: Map by Authors based on RCMP E-Division PIRS Anonymized Dataset held in ICURS, 2006.