30th Problem-Oriented Policing Conference

Strategic Investigation
Off-Campus Burglary Reduction Project

University of Cincinnati
Police Division

April 25-27, 2022

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Introduction

University of Cincinnati Police Division

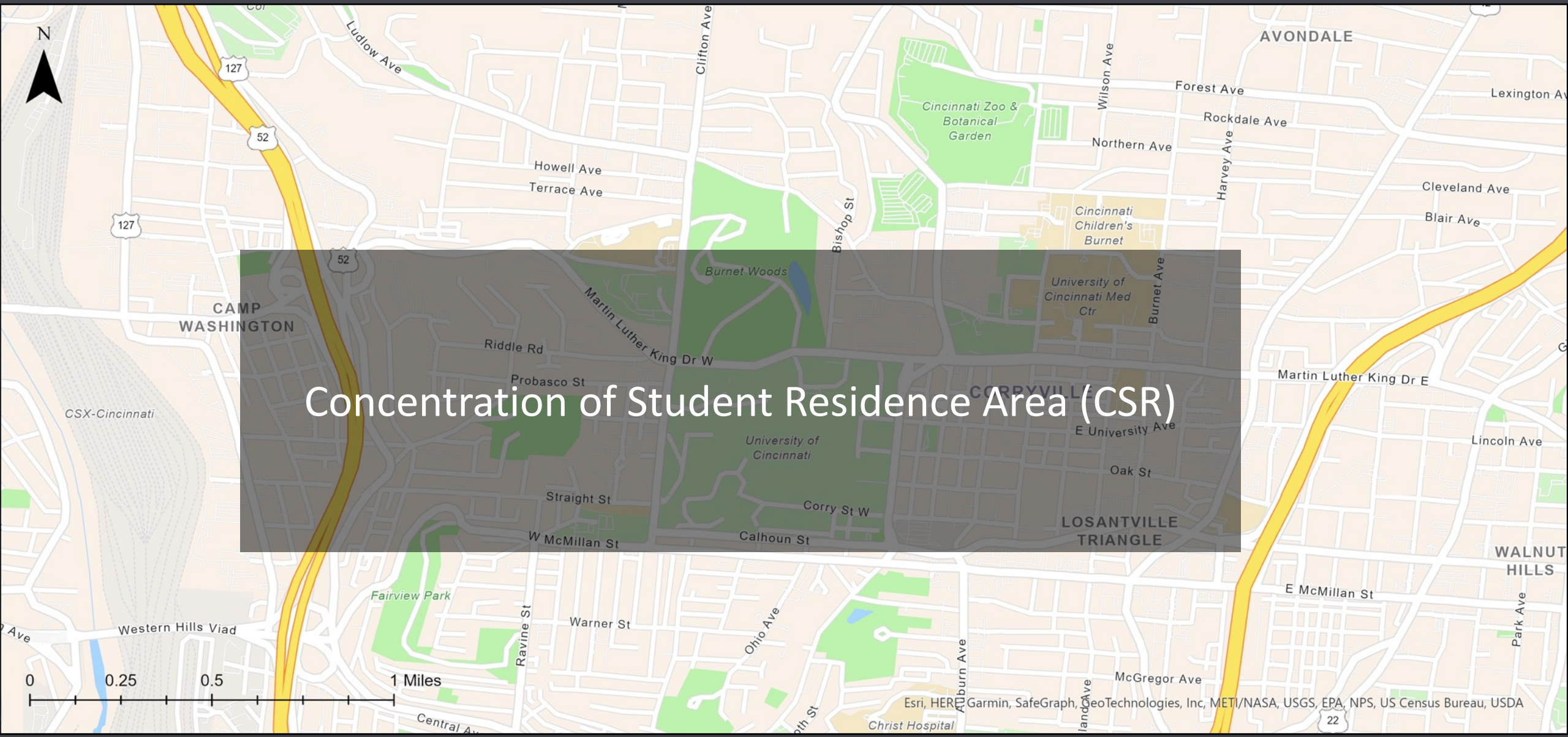
JURISDICTION

- Public research university founded in 1819
- Main campus and 2 regional campuses
- > 46,000 students and 6,000 faculty
- Enrollment from 50 states and 114 countries
- 118 facilities across 476 acres

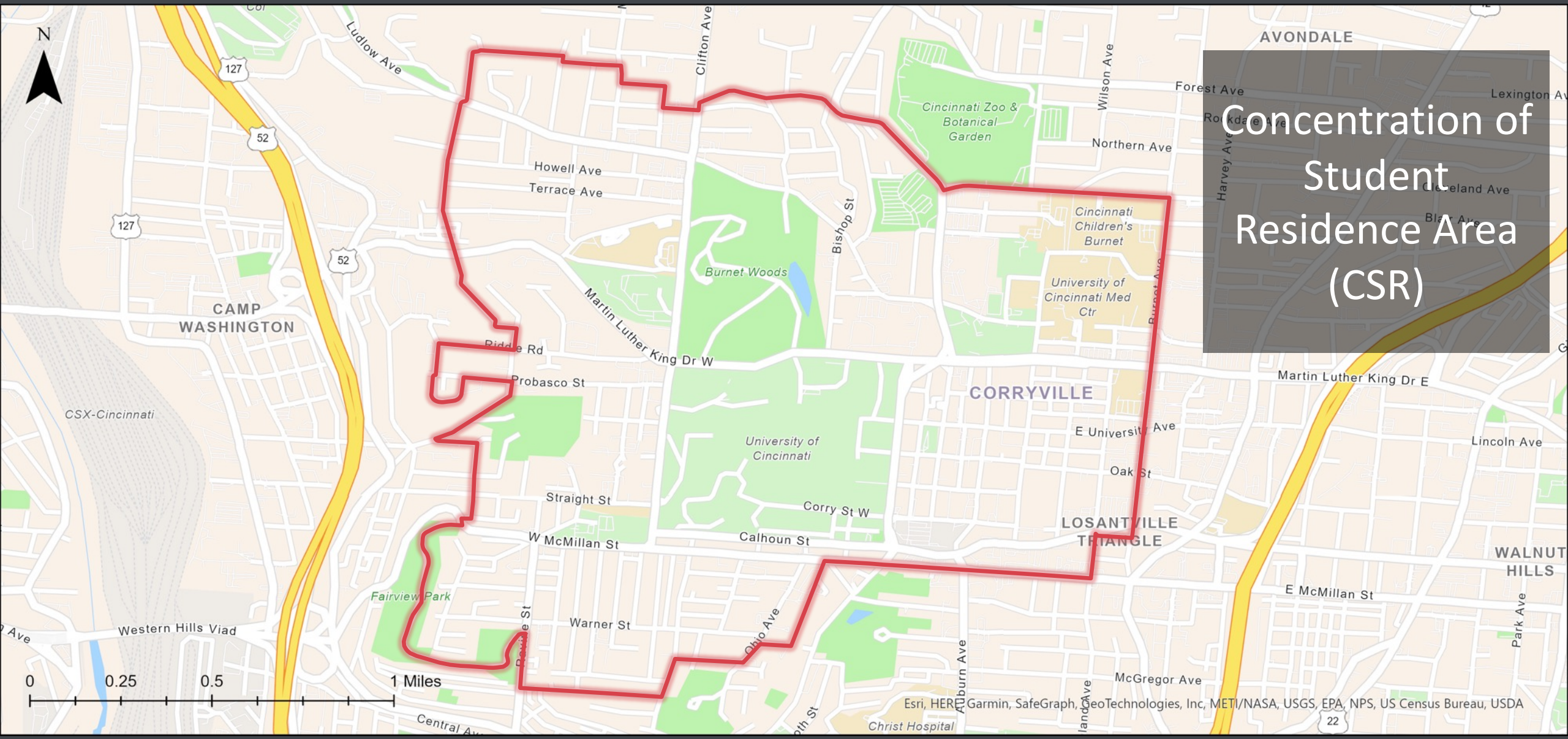
WORK FORCE

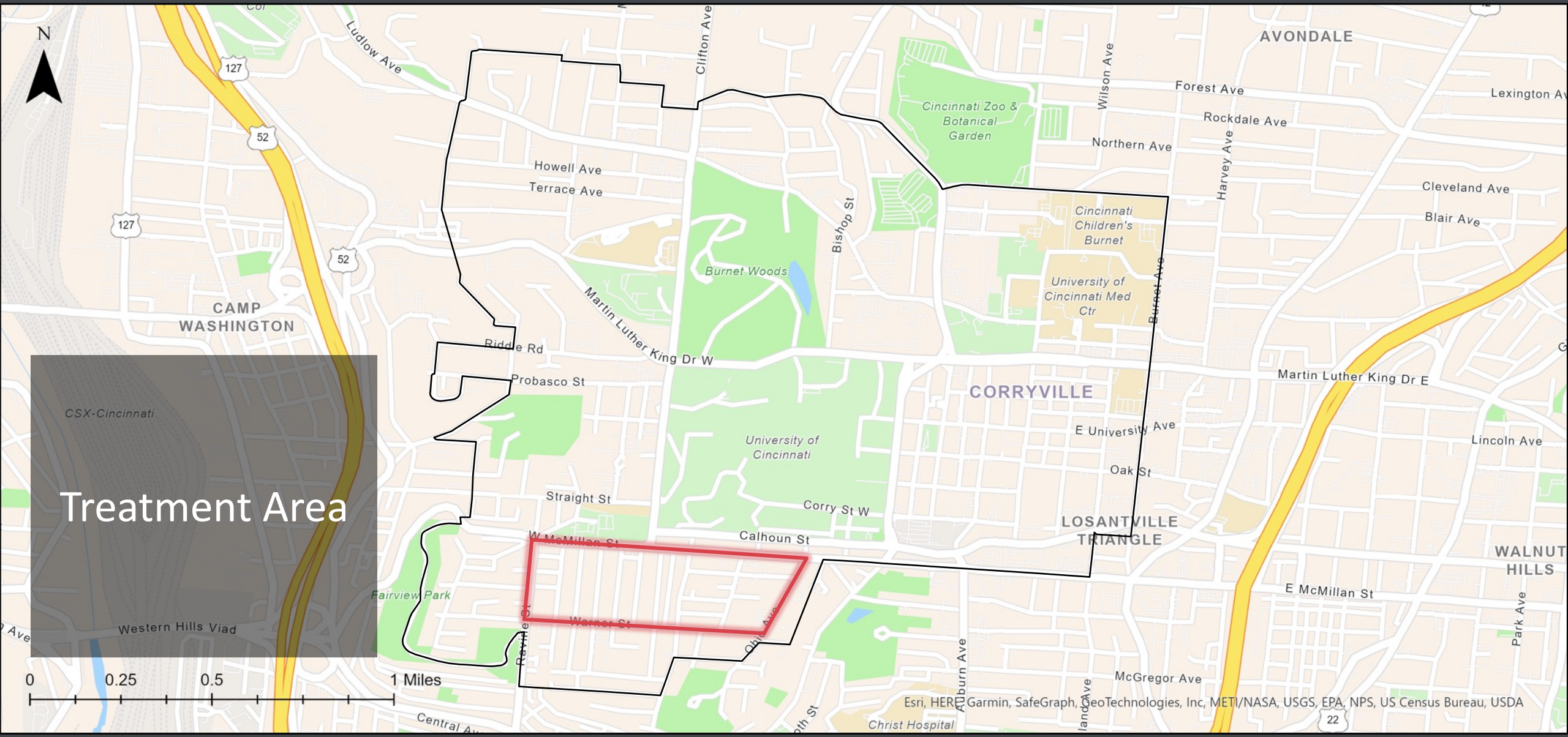
- 65 sworn officers
- 23 security officers
- 22 professional employees
- ~30,000 CFS annually

Project Background and Introduction



Concentration of Student Residence Area (CSR)


Concentration of Student Residence Area (CSR)
N
AVONDALE
CAMP WASHINGTON
CORRYVILLE
LOSANTVILLE TRIANGLE
WALNUT HILLS
Ludlow Ave
Clifton Ave
Wilson Ave
Forest Ave
Northern Ave
Howell Ave
Terrace Ave
Bishop St
Burnet Woods
Martin Luther King Dr W
Martin Luther King Dr E
Riddle Rd
Probasco St
CSX-Cincinnati
University of Cincinnati
University of Cincinnati Med Ctr
Cincinnati Children's Burnet
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
E University Ave
Oak St
Lincoln Ave
Straight St
Corry St W
W McMillan St
Calhoun St
E McMillan St
Fairview Park
Warner St
Ohio Ave
Auburn Ave
McGregor Ave
Park Ave
Western Hills Viad
Christ Hospital
Central Ave
127
52
22
0
0.25
0.5
1 Miles
Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA


N
Treatment Area
0
0.25
0.5
1 Miles
AVONDALE
CAMP WASHINGTON
CORRYVILLE
LOSANTVILLE TRIANGLE
WALNUT HILLS
Ludlow Ave
Clifton Ave
Wilson Ave
Forest Ave
Rockdale Ave
Northern Ave
Harvey Ave
Lexington Av
Cleveland Ave
Blair Ave
Howell Ave
Terrace Ave
Bishop St
Burnet Ave
Martin Luther King Dr W
Martin Luther King Dr E
Riddle Rd
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127
52
22
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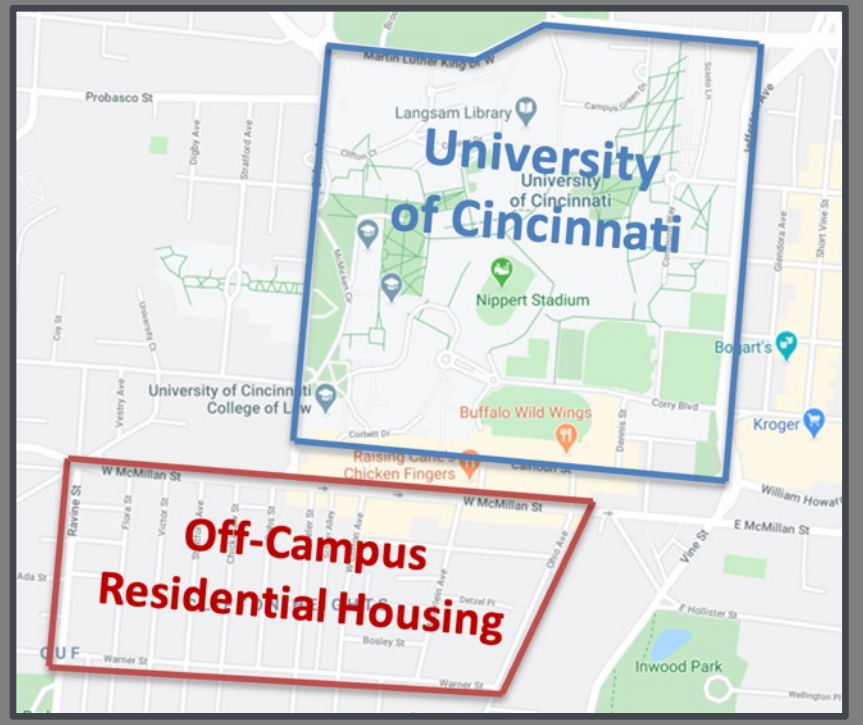
Straight St
Treatment Area
Corry St W
W McMillan St
Calhoun St
Ravine St
Warner St
Ohio Ave

SARA Scanning

Preliminary Investigation: CHEERS



- **COMMUNITY** – 78% rental properties; turnover
- **HARM** – > 340 items; > $179,000 USD (12 mos)
- **EXPECTATION** – Media coverage, CPD partnership
- **EVENTS** – Predatory crimes; 66.2% no forced entry
- **RECURRING** – 78 burglaries in previous 12 months (10/01/18 – 09/30/19)
- **SIMILAR** – Geographically concentrated (<0.5 square miles)

S A R A
Scanning

Media Coverage

Item	#	Value
Computer	53	$43,679.99
Jewelry/Precious Metals	19	$34,320.00
Automobile	4	$33,000.00
Video Game/Accessories	81	$21,174.00
Other Property	57	$14,922.00
Money	13	$5,741.00
Stereo TV Equipment	15	$3,500.00
Television Set	9	$3,479.00
Firearms	6	$3,300.00
Glasses, Sunglasses	8	$2,915.00
Cellular Phone	3	$2,550.00
Purses / Handbags / Wallets	16	$1,720.00
Camera	2	$1,650.00
Clothing / Furs	9	$1,530.00
Audio / Visual Equipment	5	$1,140.00
School Supplies	4	$901.00
Speaker	4	$899.00
Tools	2	$600.00

Stolen Item Analysis

SARA Scanning

SARA Analysis

4 Analysis Objectives

Strategic Investigation Directives

gather and analyze existing data

collect intelligence through interviews

conduct site observations

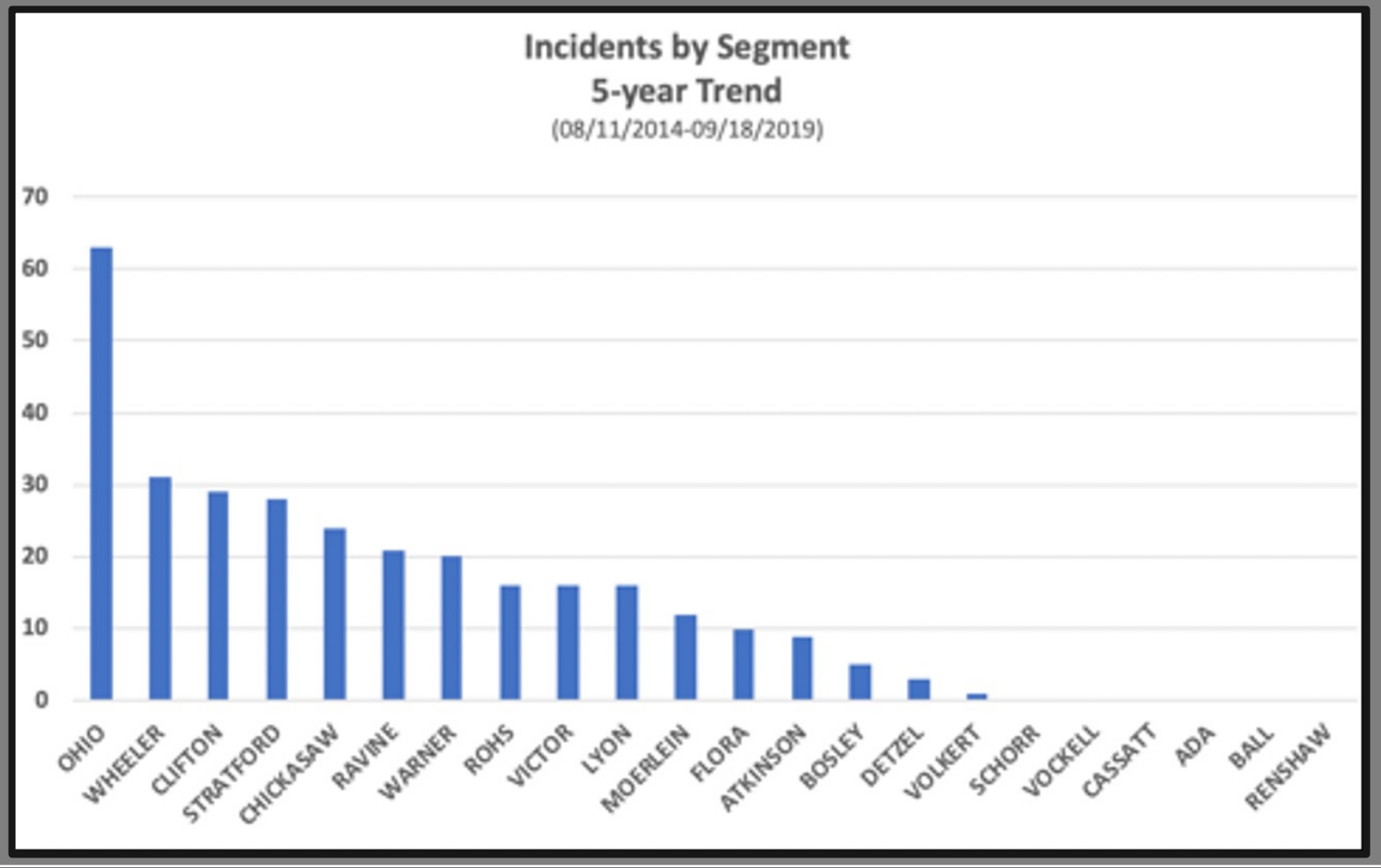
develop a comprehensive list of potential interventions

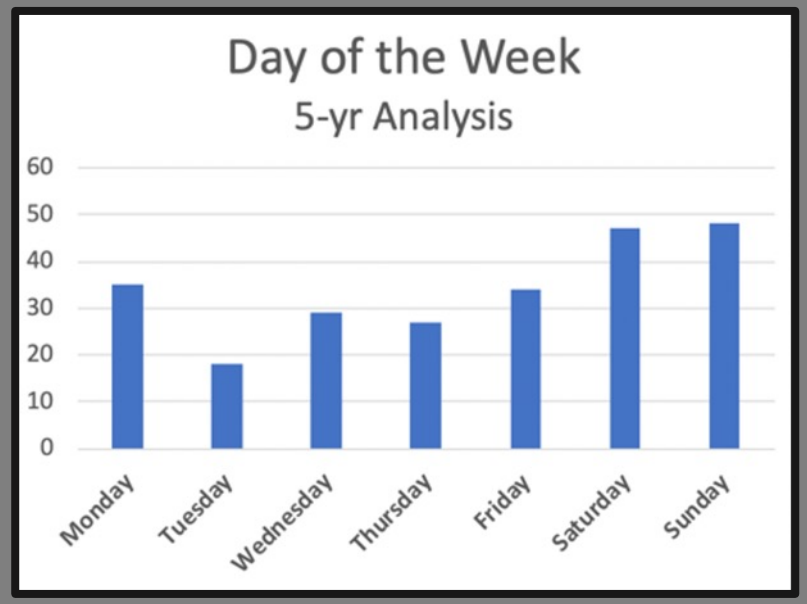
Temporal Analysis

	5-yr	(sig)	3-yr	(sig)	2-yr	(sig)
SEMESTER						
Fall Semester	.22	(.000)	.18	(.021)	.19	(.347)
Spring Semester	.07	(.000)	.09			
Summer Session	.14	(.107)	.16			
BREAKS/FINALS						
Summer-Fall Break	.31	(.000)	.29			
Winter Break	.21	(.014)	.24			
Spring-Summer Break	.12	(.242)	.20			
Final Exams	.15	(.774)	.22			
HOLIDAYS						
Veterans Day	.33	(.000)	.07			
Labor Day	.20	(.213)	.07			
Thanksgiving	.22	(.047)	.24			
Martin Luther King Day	.04	(.003)	.00			
Spring Break	.07	(.002)	.12			
Memorial Day	.16	(.863)	.07			
Fourth of July	.13	(.541)	.21			

	5-yr	(sig)	3-yr	(sig)	2-yr	(sig)	5-yr	(sig)	3-yr	(sig)	2-yr	(sig)
FALL WEEKS												
Fall Week 1	.09	(.040)	.10	(.113)	.07	(.056)	.06	(.003)	.05	(.005)	.00	(.000)
Fall Week 2	.29	(.001)	.10	(.113)	.14	(.564)	.03	(.000)	.05	(.005)	.00	(.000)
Fall Week 3	.11	(.269)	.10	(.113)	.07	(.056)	.11	(.221)	.19	(.612)	.21	(.605)
Fall Week 4	.20	(.268)	.24	(.090)	.29	(.063)	.06	(.003)	.05	(.005)	.07	(.056)
Fall Week 5	.46	(.000)	.19	(.612)	.14	(.564)	.17	(.669)	.24	(.090)	.29	(.063)
Fall Week 6	.14	(.871)	.05	(.005)	.07	(.056)	.06	(.003)	.05	(.005)	.07	(.056)
Fall Week 7	.14	(.647)	.19	(.612)	.14	(.564)	.03	(.000)	.05	(.005)	.00	(.000)
Fall Week 8	.26	(.042)	.24	(.178)	.07	(.056)	.00	(.000)	.00	(.000)	.00	(.000)
Fall Week 9	.17	(.802)	.24	(.178)	.21	(.605)	.06	(.003)	.00	(.000)	.00	(.000)
Fall Week 10	.29	(.002)	.38	(.000)	.43	(.002)	.09	(.040)	.14	(.639)	.21	(.605)
Fall Week 11	.17	(.669)	.10	(.113)	.14	(.564)	.11	(.221)	.14	(.639)	.21	(.605)
Fall Week 12	.37	(.000)	.14	(.639)	.14	(.564)	.09	(.040)	.10	(.113)	.14	(.564)
Fall Week 13	.29	(.001)	.19	(.432)	.21	(.379)	.06	(.003)	.05	(.005)	.00	(.000)
Fall Week 14	.23	(.084)	.33	(.002)	.50	(.001)	.14	(.647)	.19	(.612)	.07	(.056)
Fall Week 15	.14	(.647)	.19	(.612)	.14	(.564)	.06	(.003)	.10	(.113)	.14	(.564)

Street Segment and Day of Week Analyses





← 6 segments =
70% of burglaries

S A R A
Analysis

Repeat Analysis

Recent Repeat Addresses	# Incidents	Type (# prior)
2419 OHIO AV	7	Historical (6)
2420 OHIO AV	5	Historical (4)
117 LYON ST	3	Historical (1)
2358 STRATFORD AV	3	Historical (1)
2404 OHIO AV	3	Historical (2)
2326 CHICKASAW ST	3	New
2328 FLORA ST	2	Historical (1)
2350 WHEELER ST	2	Historical (1)
2352 STRATFORD AV	2	Historical (1)
2357 CLIFTON AV	2	Historical (1)
2440 OHIO AV	2	Historical (3)
2362 CHICKASAW ST	2	New
2381 WHEELER ST	2	New
2303 WHEELER ST	2	New
2313 RAVINE ST	2	New
2349 WHEELER ST	2	New

Previously “Hot” Addresses that “Cooled”

"Cooled" Repeat Addresses	# Prior Incidents
114 LYON ST	4
2353 OHIO AV	4
2363 OHIO AV	4
2410 OHIO AV	4
128 LYON ST	3
206 ATKINSON ST	3
2313 STRATFORD AV	3
2314 ROHS ST	3
2339 VICTOR ST	3
2377 RAVINE ST	3
2404 CLIFTON AV	3
2405 CLIFTON AV	3
2430 OHIO AV	3

RISK FACTORS: (1) New ownership, (2) Resident turnover, (3) Place management

Interviews

- University stakeholders
- Landlords
- Residents
- Chronic burglary offenders
  - 7 male offenders, yrs 18-64, 4 SW Ohio institutions

Why UC Neighborhood?

Lt. Brinker: *How many people know that UC is a good or easy hit?*

Offender #1: *Oh, a lot of people Downtown.*

- - -

Analyst Zidar: *Did any of the neighbors ever stop you?*

Offender #1: *Once… They talked to me, but they thought I knew the people who lived there. They said, "What are you doing?" I said, "I'm helping them move!"*

20 narrative commonalities used to inform response phase

Have children

Unmarried

Refer to students as naïve and easy/valuable targets

High-school dropout

Deterred by resident awareness, locked property, sounds, lights, and surveillance systems

No mental health issues

From Cincinnati with connection to Downtown or UC area

Cocaine addictions

No car – walk or take bus

Ravine, W. Clifton and Vine used as pathways

Noted the neighborhood diversity (do not stand out)

Electronics highly valued

Non-steady work history

MOs – knock on door, prefer open windows/ doors, watch students leave using NightRide service

Committed crimes as juveniles

Motivated by need for drug money or desired items

No consistency in preferred time of day, location of house on street, or whether police presence deters

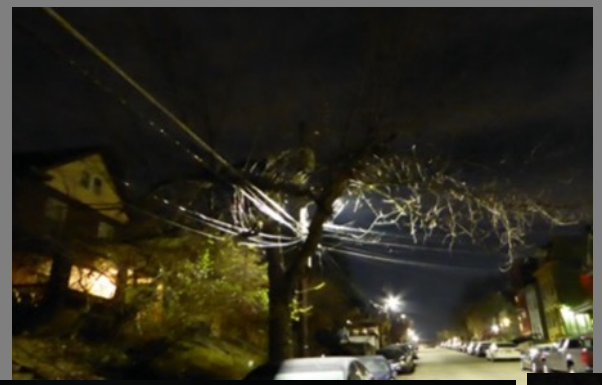
Homeless or staying with other offenders

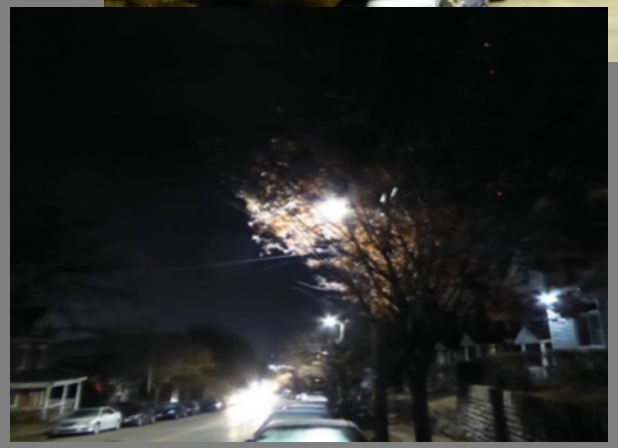
Items fenced on street to locals and "Dope Boys"

Started out committing less serious offenses

S A R A Analysis

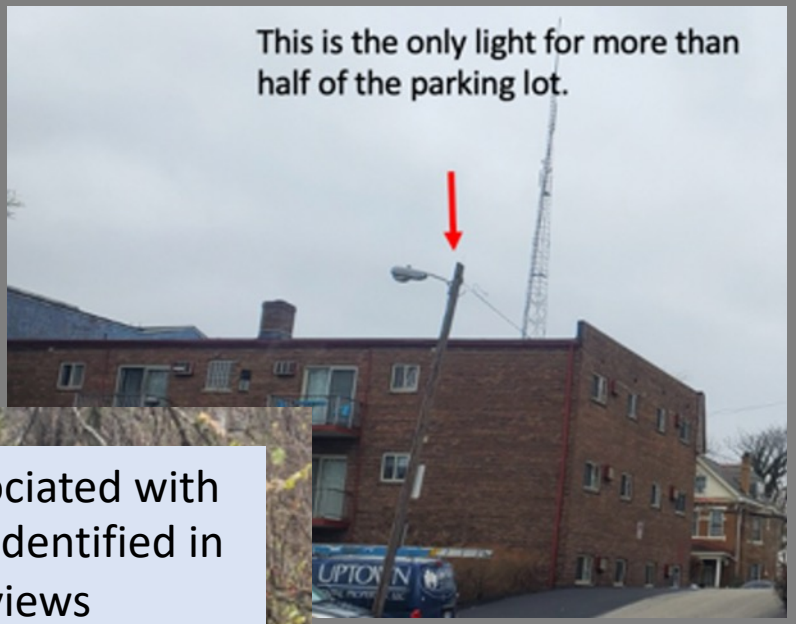
Site Observations

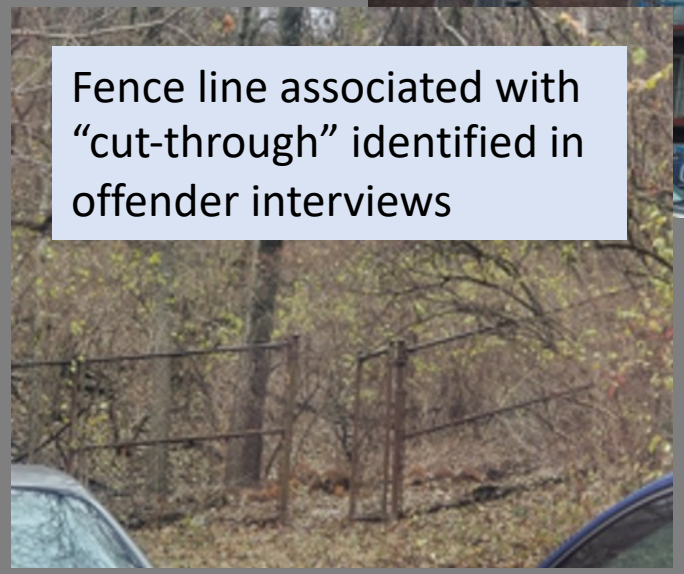




Tree Canopy Impact on High Intensity LED Lighting

CPTED Assessments High-risk/Repeat Locations

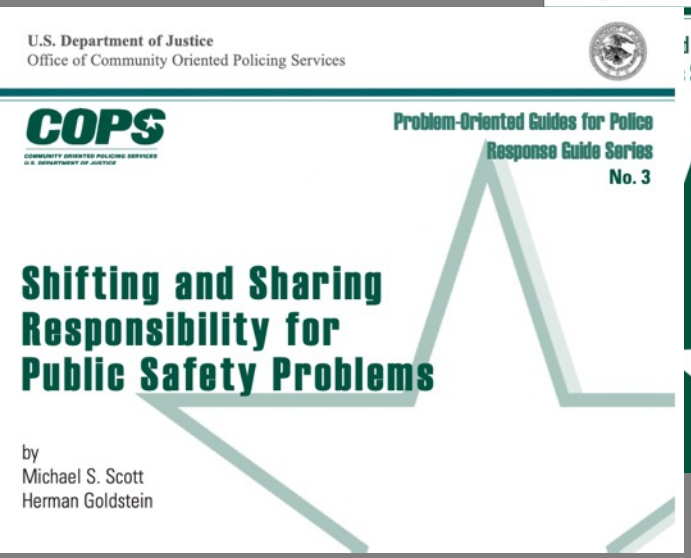


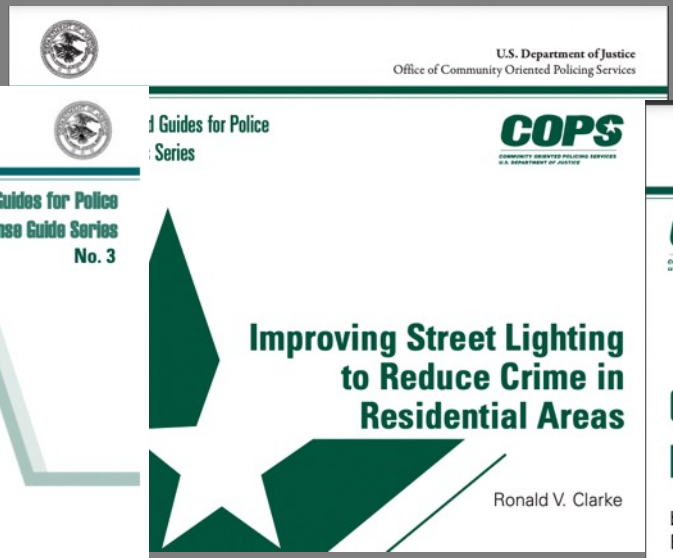


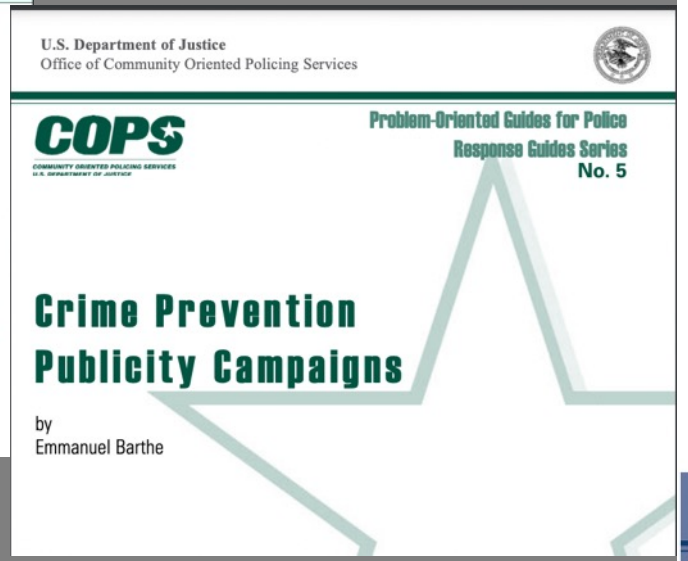
Fence line associated with "cut-through" identified in offender interviews

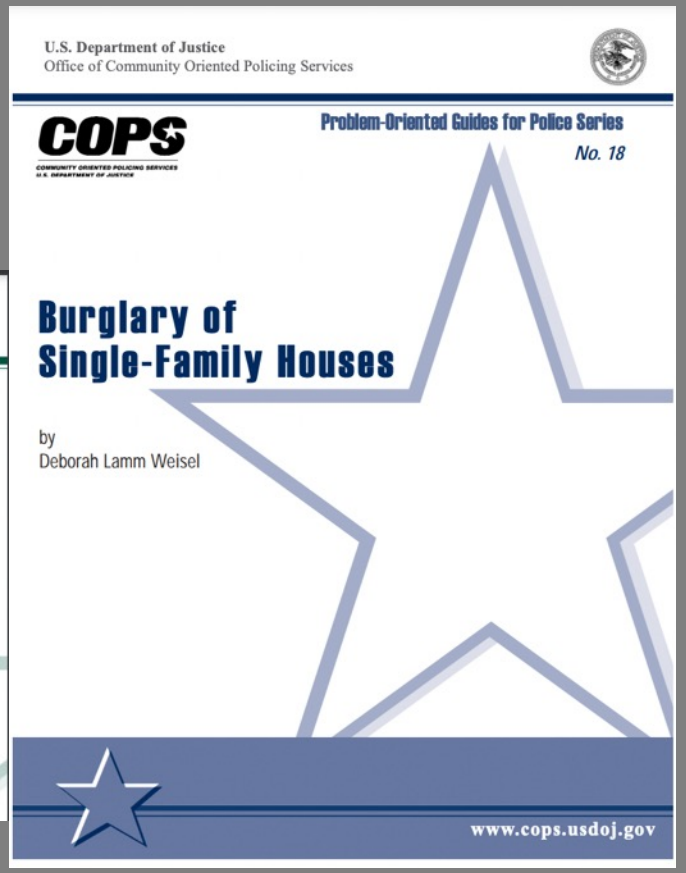
S A R A Analysis

List of Potential Interventions









- Academic literature / websites
- Neighboring jurisdictions (OSU)
- Reviewed by UCPD's police oversight board: Citizen's Compliance Committee (CCC)

S A R A
Analysis

S A **R** A

Response

Burglary Response Framework

#1 Knock and Talk Awareness Campaign

Lt. Brinker briefing student volunteers

Since 2016

1,011 burglaries

have been reported around campus.

Nearly **ALL** were **preventable.**

Repeat offenders say the following about the UC neighborhood:

- They know the area better than you, and they often find students to be easy targets.
- Students often have valuable technologies, such as laptops and gaming systems.
- It can be easy to learn personal information by having causal conversations, allowing them to get a sense of where students live, and how long they'll be gone.
- They "knock and snatch." Burglars will knock on your door to see if someone is home. If someone answers, they will make up a reason to be there.
- Students often leave their doors and windows unlocked.

Know your area, know your neighbors

- Meet your neighbors. Know who they are and help each other keep an eye on the neighborhood.
- Ask neighbors to keep a close watch on your home if you'll be gone.
- Call the police if you see something suspicious.

Lock your doors and windows

This is one of the easiest and effective ways to reduce your risk of burglary.

The above map shows burglaries reported near campus from 2016 to 2019.

Opportunity, sound and visibility are the three main factors that need to be addressed to help prevent burglary.

Ask yourself:

- ○ Are my doors locked, double locked if possible?
- ○ Do my doors lock automatically?
- ○ Are my windows locked?
- ○ Is my property well lit at night?
- ○ Can I see my valuables from outside?
- ○ Are there areas around my home that could offer cover or leverage for a criminal to break in?
- ○ Does my routine make it easy for a thief to know when the best time to enter is?

Burglary Prevention Check List

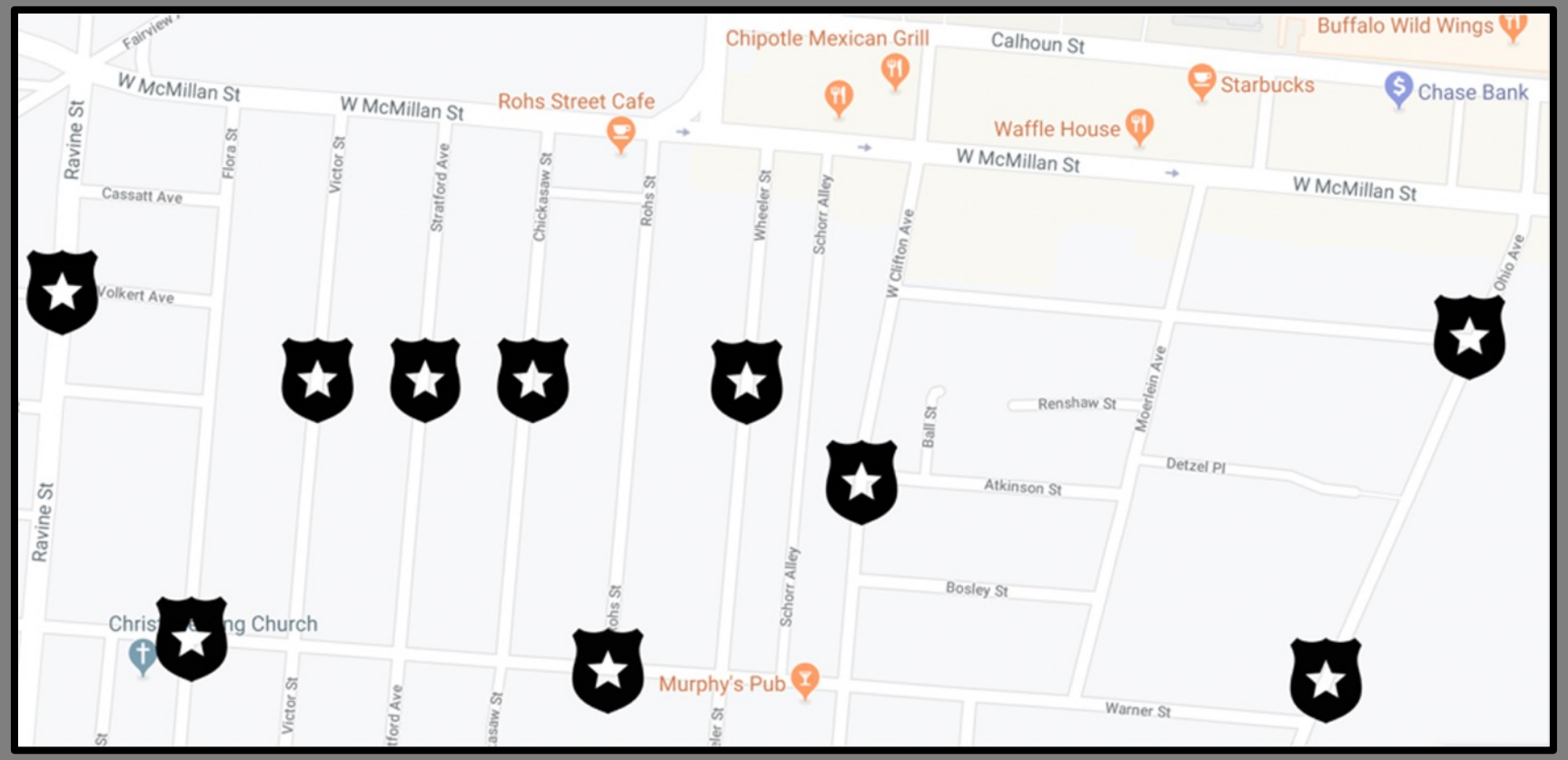
- ○ Put indoor lights on a timer to give your home the appearance of being occupied.
- ○ Noise is also a deterrent. Put a TV or radio on a timer.
- ○ Install a surveillance and alarm system (many are inexpensive).
- ○ Connect with your neighbors, both in person and on a neighborhood app.
- ○ Only let people in your home that you know. Ask uninvited people to leave.
- ○ Make sure all the locks on your doors work. If they don't, make it a priority to replace them.
- ○ If you are leaving for a trip or school break, ask the post office to hold your mail. Learn more on the USPS website.
- ○ Be careful about what you throw in the trash (such as TV or game system boxes).
- ○ If you see something suspicious, call the police or submit a tip via the Bearcat Guardian app (download by searching Rave Guardian in your app store).

UC Police do home security evaluations. Call 513-556-1111 or email publicsafety@uc.edu and ask about scheduling an evaluation.

University of CINCINNATI | DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

S A **R** A Response

#2 Directed Patrol & Plus One Protocol



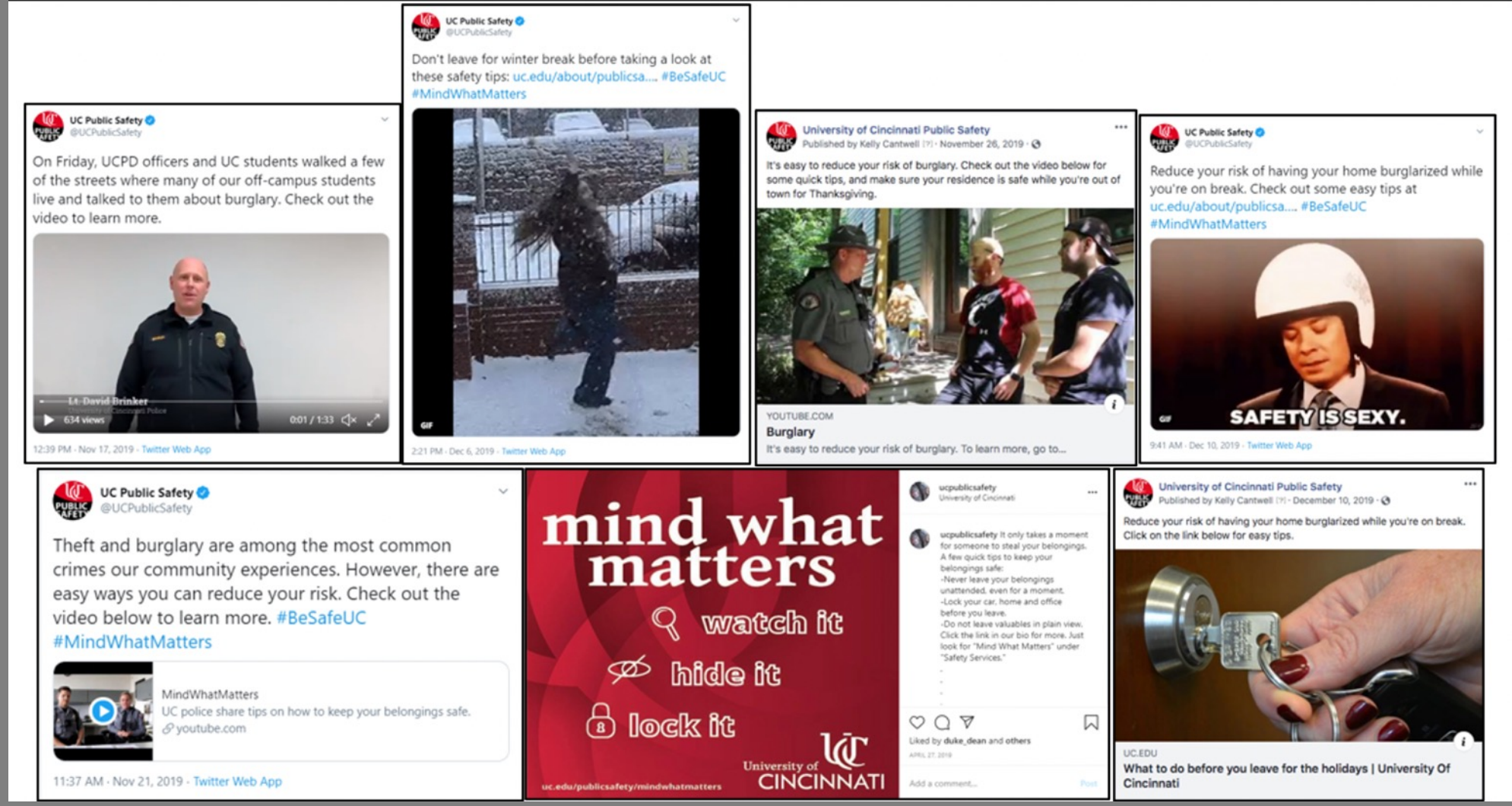
Patrol vehicle lights on and walk the block
(to **deter** potential offenders)

Talk with residents
(to increase **awareness**)

Identify and address structural problems
(to eliminate **environmental facilitators**)

S A **R** A
Response

#3 Social Media Awareness Campaign



#mindwhatmatters

S A R A Response

#4 Parental (Guardian) Notifications

Crime Awareness Information Shared through UC's Family Portal

University of Cincinnati Families
August 30, 2019 ·

Two of the most common crimes on the University of Cincinnati campus are theft and burglary, which tend to increase at the beginning of the school year as students return to campus.

Your student can take simple steps to reduce their risk. Do not leave your belongings unattended, or your valuables in plain view. Lock your room and car when you leave, even if you plan to return soon. Lastly, pay attention to your surroundings.

Learn more at: uc.edu/about/publicsafety/services/mind-what-matters.

#5 Visibility Improvements

Tree canopy trimming has been conducted by the City of Cincinnati and Duke Energy with on-going assessment

COVID-Delayed Initiatives: 2021-2022

#6 Landlord Education

Partnership with the City of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Police Department to provide best-practice leasing and property security information

#7 University-Sponsored Resource Center for Off-Campus Living

Partnership with UC Student Affairs
Modeled after OSU program

Investigative/Analysis Findings	Response						
	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7
Burglaries are often the result of attractive opportunities (majority of incidents involved no forced entry)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Burglaries cluster in time and space		X					X
A small proportion of addresses experienced repeat burglaries		X				X	X
Most residences were used as student rental properties with high turnover rates	X		X			X	X
Many properties had physical design features conducive to burglary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Students away from home and unaware of risks	X	X	X	X		X	X
Previous flier campaigns were no longer effective and facilitated burglaries	X		X				
Offenders are deterred by resident awareness, locked property, sounds, lights, and surveillance systems	X	X	X		X	X	X
Trees canopies reduced streetlighting effectiveness					X		

S A **R** A

Response

S A R **A**ssessment

Initial Results

- 2,850 directed patrols (plus one protocol) 11/2019 – 03/2020

Burglaries

- Prior to COVID shut-down **-30%** (20 to 14)
- After COVID class suspension Burglaries **-50%** (6 to 3)

Displacement

- Theft from Auto **-40%** (15-9)
- Other Theft **-27%** (15 to 11)
- CSR Burglary **-11%** (88 to 78)

Re-Assessment

2021 Academic Year

- 4,539 directed patrols (plus one protocol)
  8/2019 – 05/2021

Treatment Area Burglaries

- **-73%** (26 to 7)

Crime Type Displacement

- Thefts From Auto **-0%**
- Other Thefts **-9%**

Wider Project Impact

Larger Student Residential Area (CSR)

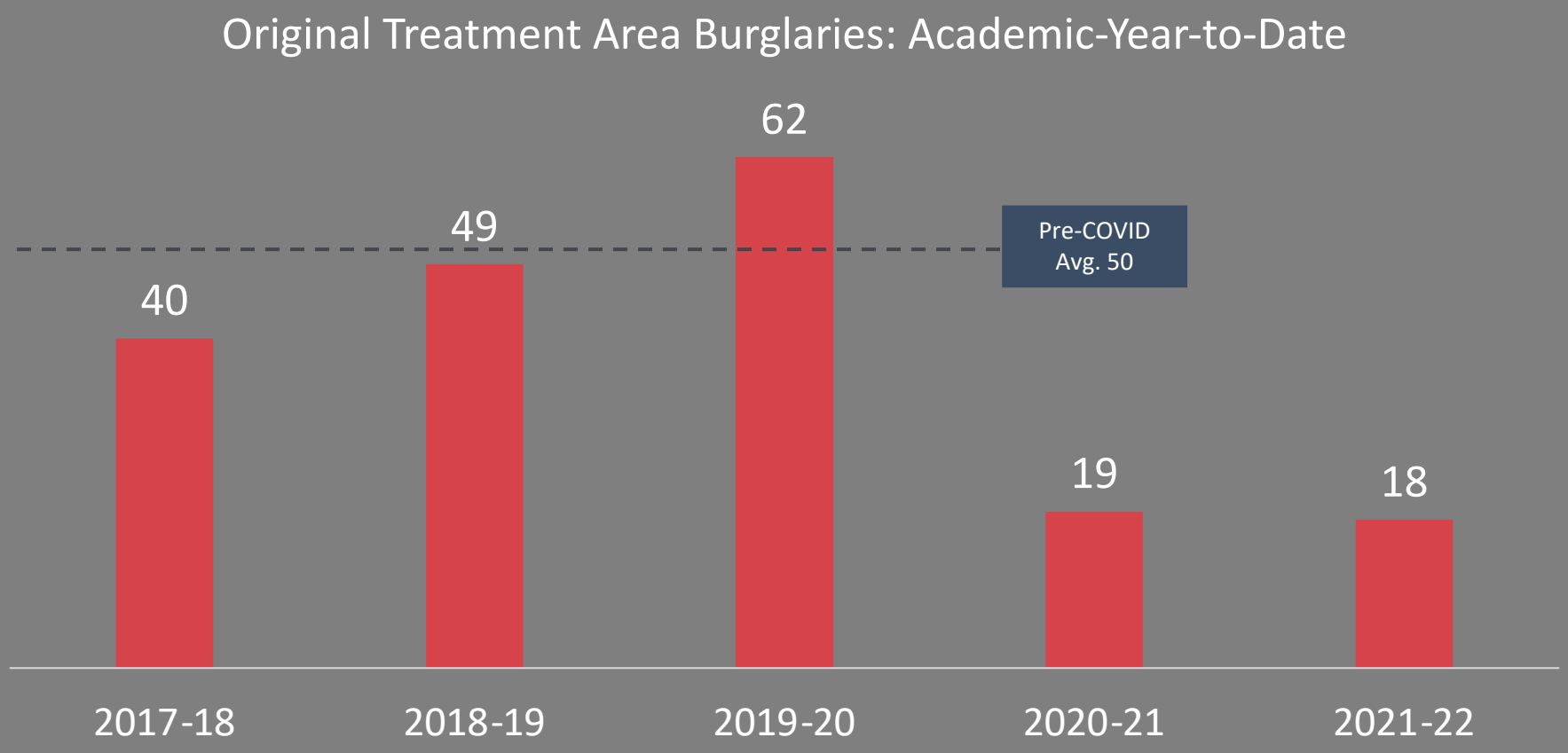
- Burglaries **-59%** (88 to 36)

Re-Re-Assessment – The Return to Normal?

Fall 2021 – Students return to campus

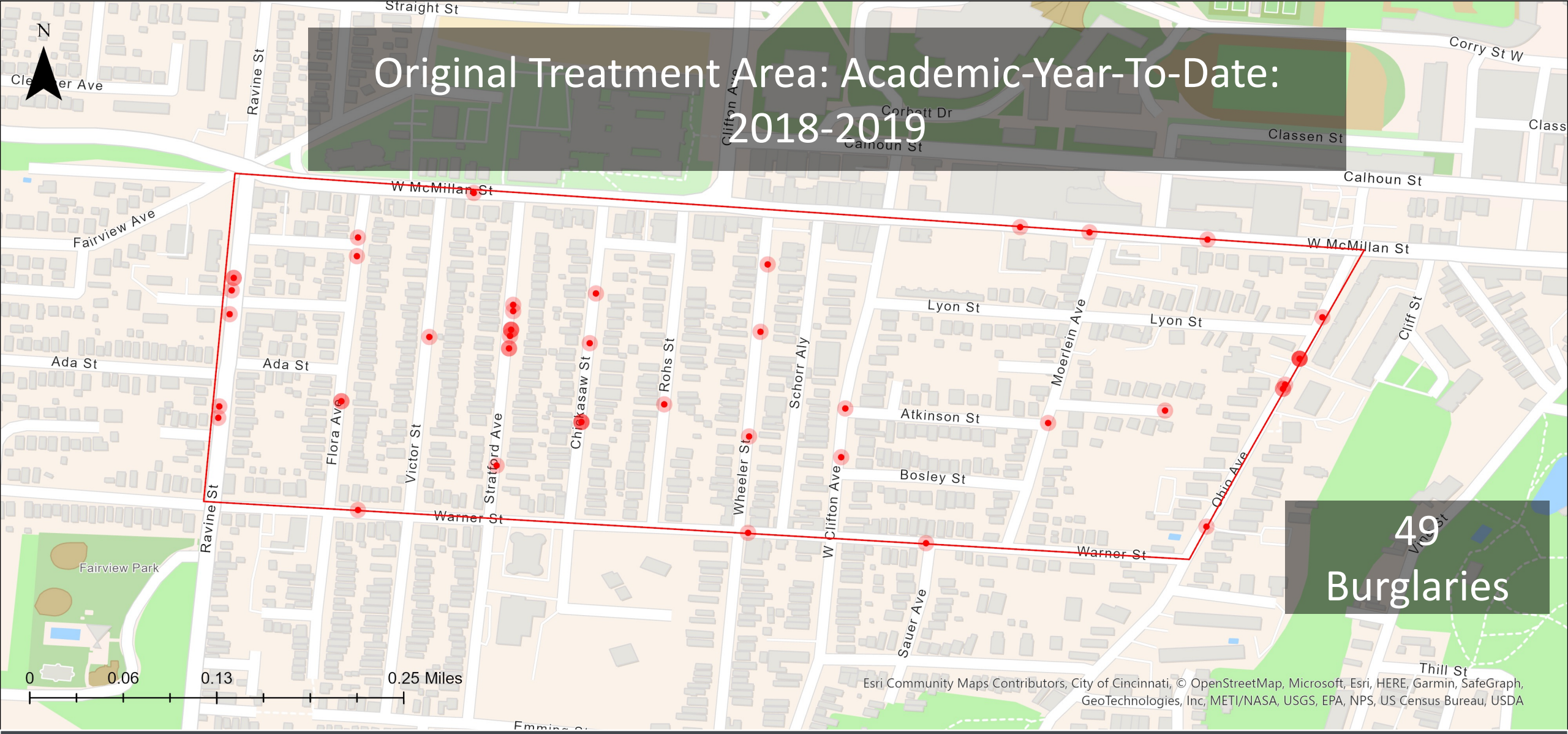
- Residence Halls and Block Leases Returned
- UCPD Continued High-Risk Period Directed Patrols and Student/Landlord Engagement

Comparison of Burglary Over Academic Years



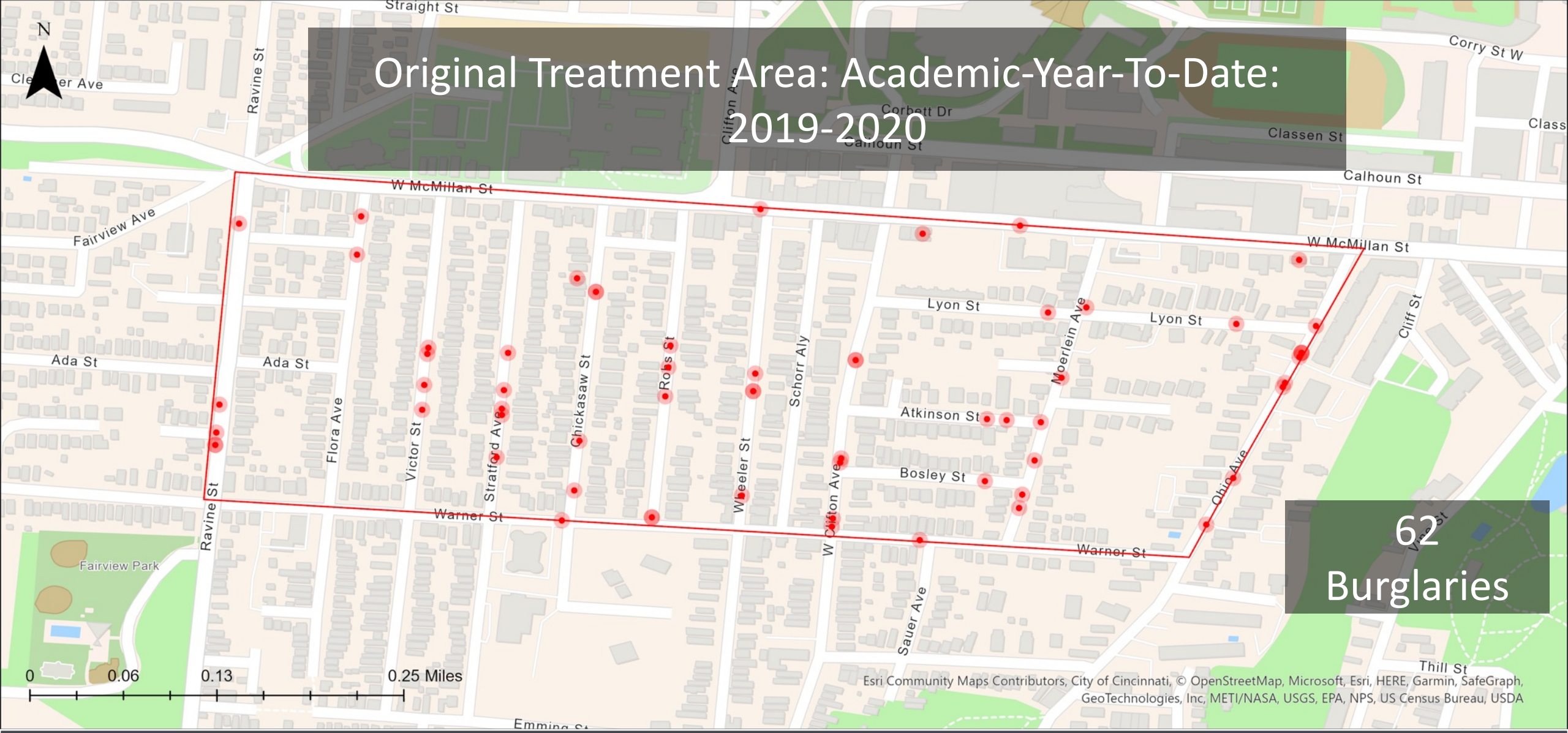
S A R Assessment

Original Treatment Area: Academic-Year-To-Date: 2018-2019

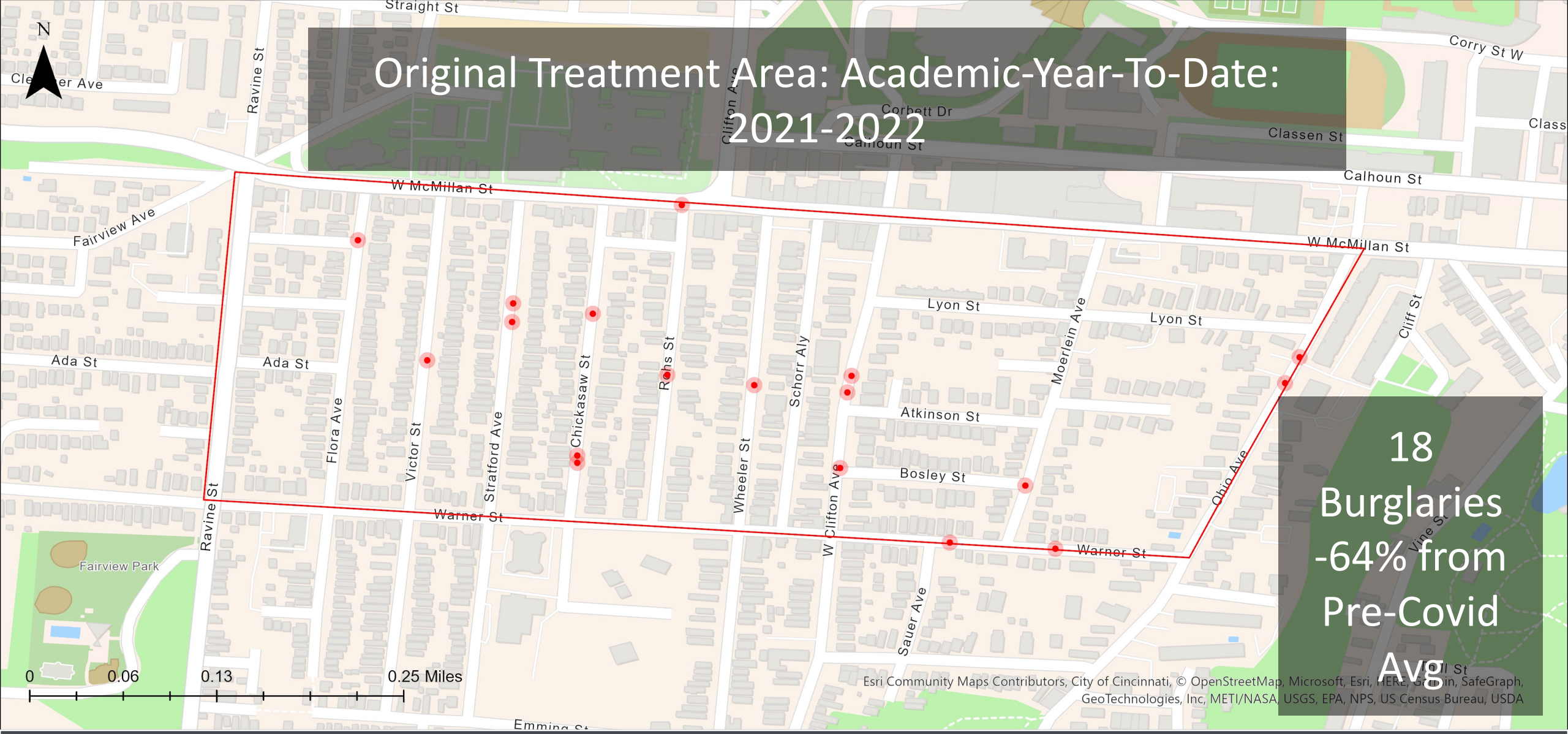


49 Burglaries

S A R Assessment



SAR Assessment



SAR Assessment

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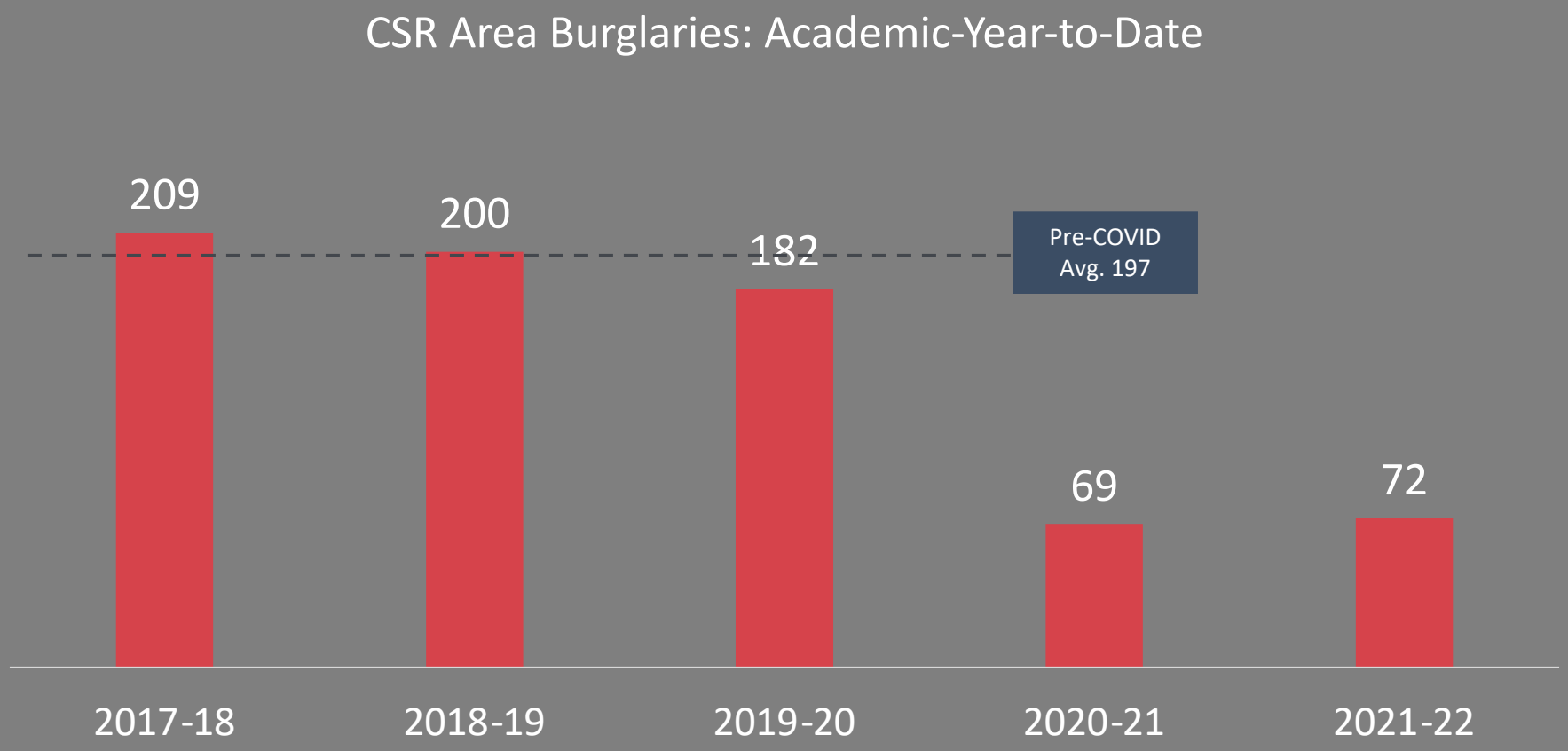
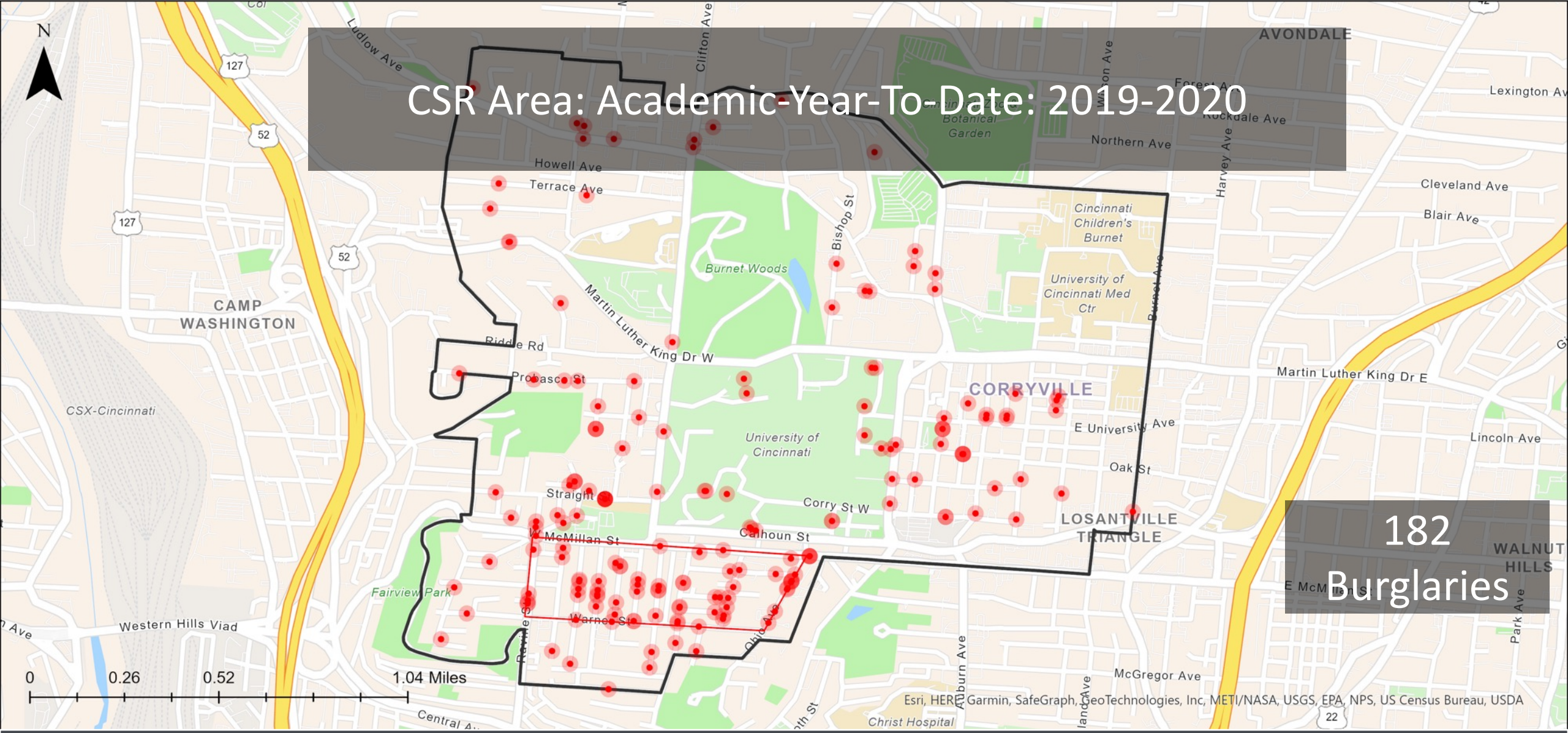
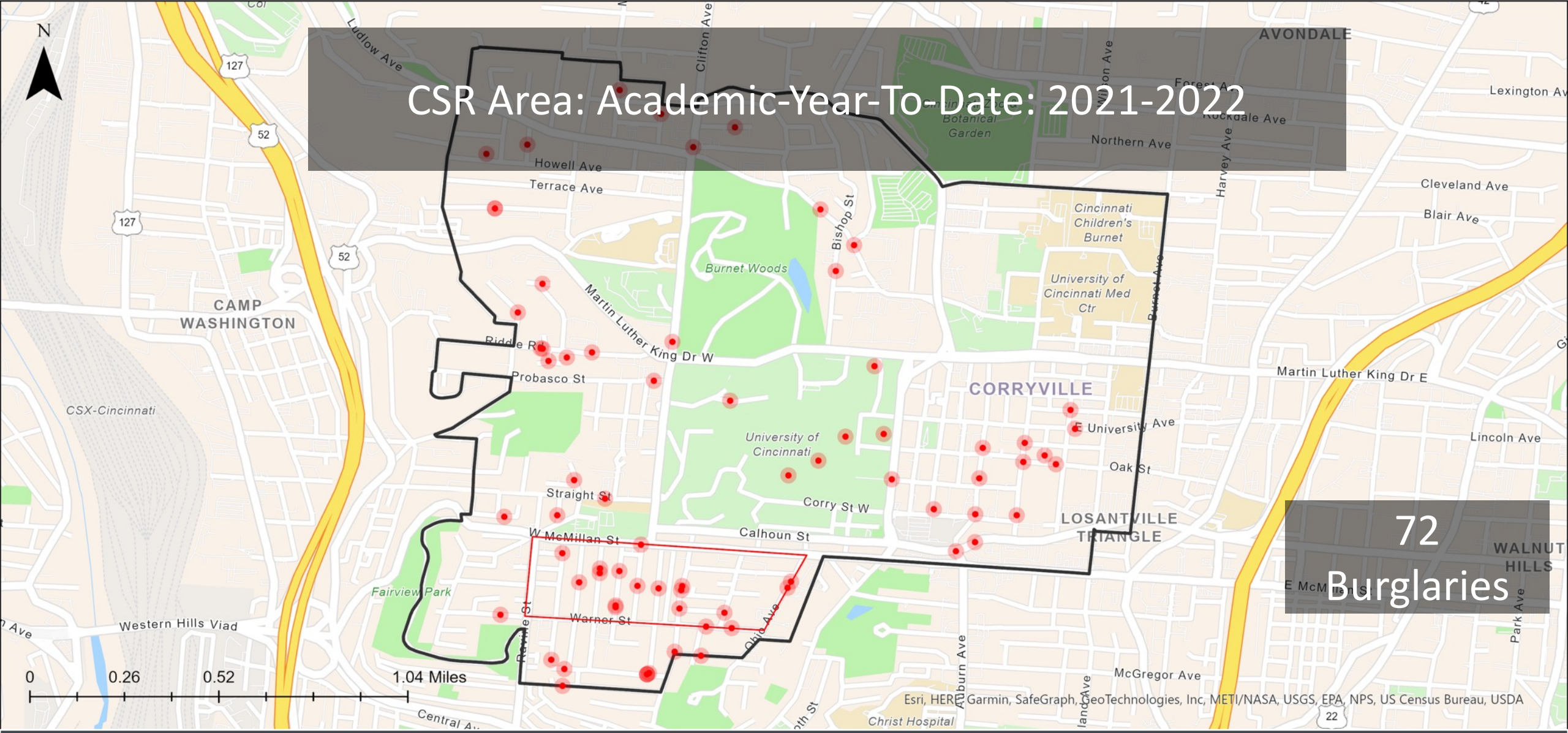


S A R Assessment



S A R **Assessment**

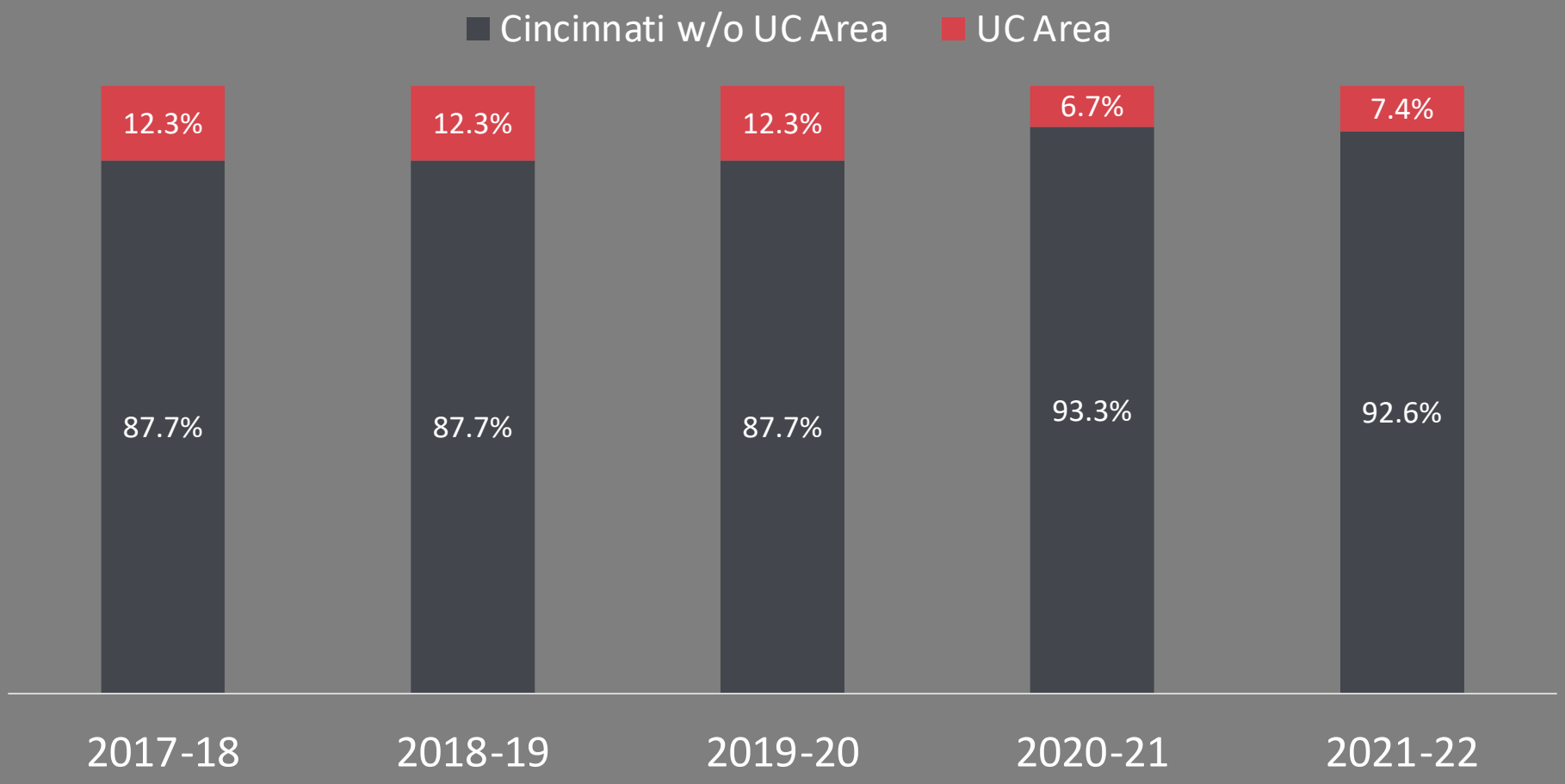
CSR Area: Academic-Year-To-Date: 2021-2022



72 Burglaries

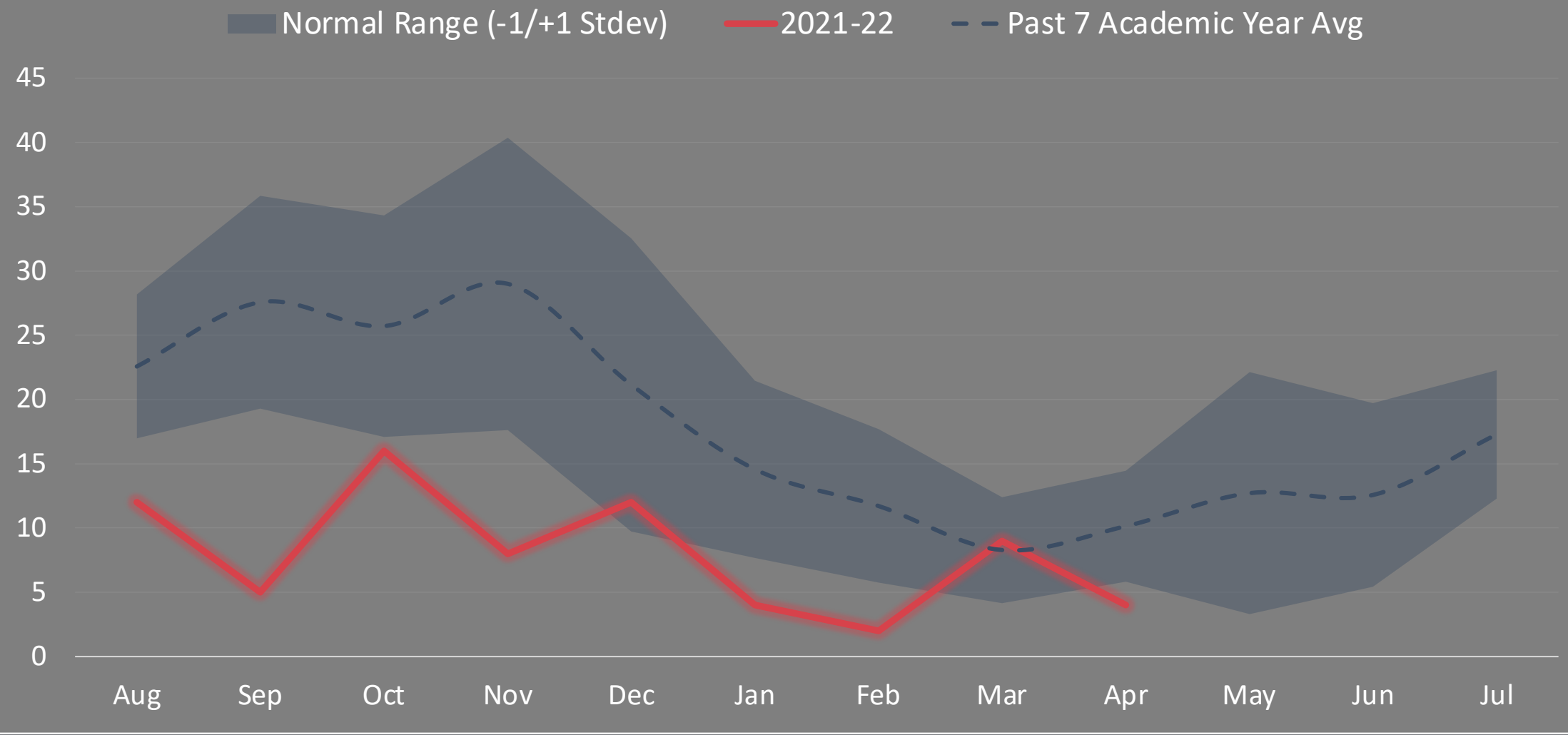
S A R **A**ssessment

UC Area Burglary Representation: Academic-Year-To-Date



S A R **A**ssessment

2021-2022 CSR Burglary: Historical Context



S A R **A**ssessment

Thank you!

Project Personnel

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SARA problem-solving