

Understanding the tipping point of urban conflict:

The case of Patna, India

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Patna as a counterfactual

- Case study explores the reversal of a tipping point, and focusing on the factors and processes that led to violence in the city declining.
- Counterfactuals are useful to demonstrate the contingency of assumptions that underpin particular theoretical constructs, and facilitate “imaginative leaps in theory and hypothesis formation” (Lebow, 2010: 5)

Crime and rates of crime in Patna 2003 & 2009

Categories	2003	Crime Rate per 100000	2009	Crime Rate per 100000
Total cognizable crime	6545	383.4	8806	515.9
Murder	260	15.2	137	8
Dacoity	59	3.5	16	0.9
Robbery	594	34.8	179	10.5
Arson	31	1.8	4	0.2
Violence against SCs	NR	NR	NR	NR
Burglary	377	22.1	537	31.5
Theft	1367	80.1	2247	131.6

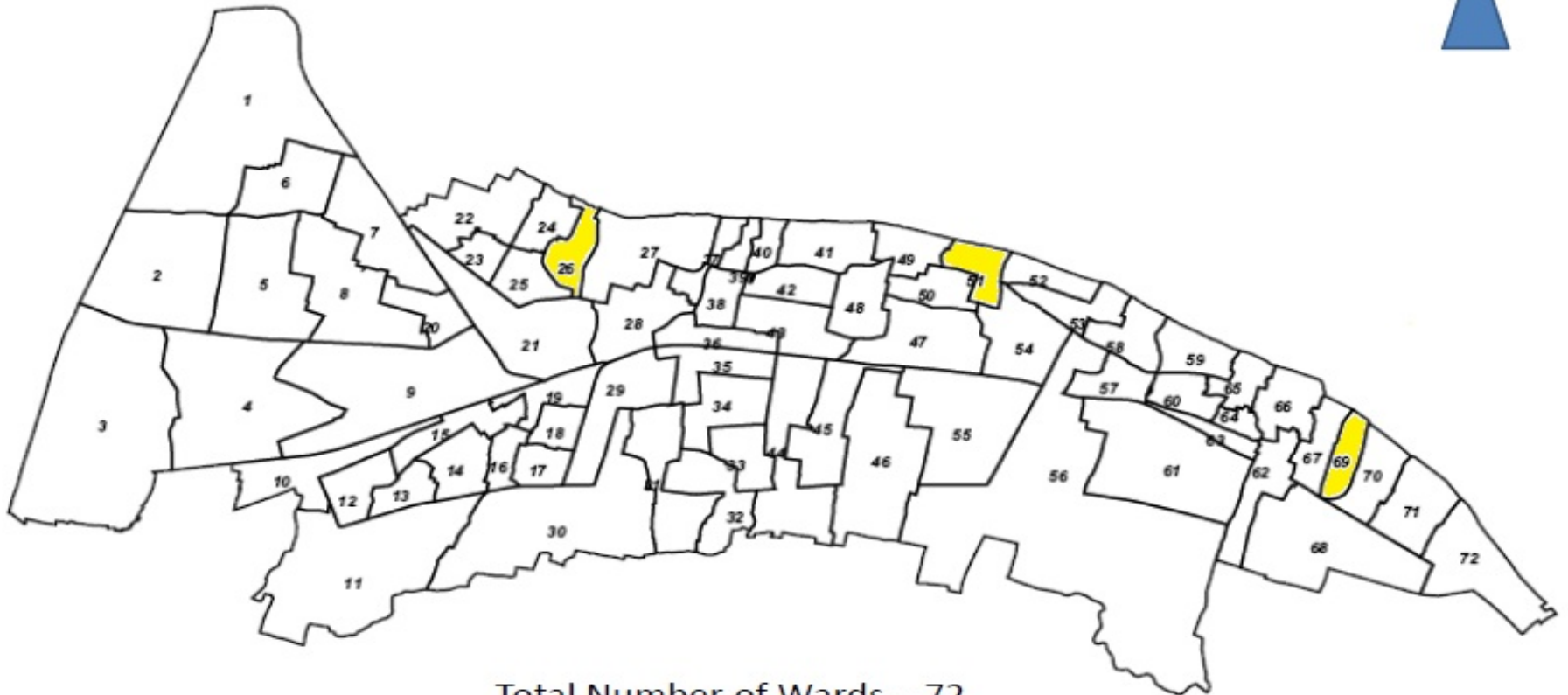
Source: NCRB
(<http://ncrb.nic.in/>)

Disaggregated Patna crime 2003 & 2009

Police Jurisdiction	Murder		Theft	
	2003	2009	2003	2009
Buddha Colony	6	4	73	44
Patrakar Nagar	3	2	37	45
Jakkanpur	18	5	31	34
Phulwarisharif	8	9	57	30
Sultanganj	27	6	27	10
Agamkuan	13	5	34	36
Malsalami	4	11	10	23
Didarganj	2	4	14	18

Source: Patna Police

Patna wards (2011)



Total Number of Wards – 72

Total Area – 103 Sq Km



Patna slum survey

	No. of households	No. of households surveyed	Coverage
Buddha Colony slum	12	12	100%
North Mandiri slum	42	39	93%
Mansoorganj slum	100	90	90%
<u>Sultanganj slum area</u>			
<i>Dom Khana slum</i>	17	15	88%
<i>Musahartoli slum</i>	14	12	86%
<i>New Ambedkar Colony slum</i>	303	253	83%
Sultanganj slum area total	334	280	84%
<u>Sultanganj surrounding slums</u>			
<i>Abdul Bari Colony slum</i>	73	67	92%
<i>Old Ambedkar Colony Mehtartoli slum</i>	210	176	84%
Total households surveyed	771	664	86%









Conclusions

- Violence-reduction campaign has had unintentional consequences – rise of domestic violence in slums
- Mundane conflicts can become polarized along more deep-rooted fault-lines
- Containment of violence = spatial bias
- Distribution of violence is critical to understanding the tipping point of urban conflict
- Need for more inclusive planning

Policy recommendations

	Policy
1	Institutionalise access to hand pumps in Police stations for slum-dwelling women
2	Regulate illegal alcohol sales (increase tariffs on alcohol more generally)
3	Ensure women's affairs officer in every Police station & provide with separate budget and authority OR put together mobile women's officer units to visit slums on a rotating basis
4	Infrastructural improvements
	a) Build more toilets, water pumps in slums (BUT must include regular monitoring of good functioning AND prevention of "privatization")
	b) More inclusive city-wide planning (introduce participatory planning processes – which will involve building of community halls)
5	Violence containment strategy needs to be less exclusive (introduce participatory security processes)
6	Regularising land tenure and ownership