Abstract

AB 109 (Public Safety Realignment) widely changed the way criminal offenders are processed in California, starting 1 October 2011. It is widely purported that AB 109 is affecting crime rates in the State of California. This paper studies the spatial effects of AB 109 on crime rates in San Diego County. Studies have shown Criminal Offenders will likely commit offenses near their place of residence. Recidivism is a complex and serious problem in California, the United States and the World. Regression and hot spot analysis as well as traditional statistics methods were used to analyze crime rates, or crime events per 1000 persons at the census tract level. Five categories of crime were studied: AB 109 categorized offenses or offenses falling under the AB 109 statute, Non AB 109 offenses, Crimes Against Persons, Crimes Against Property and Crimes Against Society. Analyses indicated that crime rates for most categories studied decreased. Property crime rates exhibited a median increase of 0.7 events per 1000 persons at the census tract level. Spatial OLS analysis indicated a correlation between residence locations of AB 109 offenders and a hot spot of property crime rate increase however the model was misspecified. Other category hot spots exhibited no correlation with AB 109 offenders. Variance of the crimes against persons hot spot was explained by different variables. Some other combination of complex variables not listed or tested as part of this study is responsible for the variance of the hot spots of other categories. The implementation of AB 109 appears to have been successful in that offenders are being diverted to County facilities and reducing the State prison populations and is associated with several categories of crime rate decrease in San Diego County. However property crime has exhibited a statistically significant increase in crime rates across San Diego County coinciding with AB 109. However no significant correlation was found between populations of AB 109 offenders and crime rate increase of any categories.