



Univerza v Mariboru

Fakulteta za varnostne vede



**arrs**

JAVNA AGENCIJA ZA RAZISKOVALNO DEJAVNOST  
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE



UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE  
**PRAVNI FAKULTET**



# Police officers' perspectives on environmental crime

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# Environmental crime

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- Consistent appearance of environmental issues in international headlines;
- Subject of intellectual, political and public debates;
- One of the fastest growing areas of international law;
- Criminal worth of 18 – 25 billion €/year.

# Definition

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Illegal activities harming the environment and aimed at benefitting individuals, groups or companies from the exploitation of, damage to, trade or theft of natural resources, including, but not limited to serious crimes and transnational organized crime.

# Forms of environmental crime

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- Illegal logging;
- Illegal wildlife exports;
- Illegal fishing;
- Illegal dumping;
- Illegal polluting (air and water).

# Negative impacts of environmental crime

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- Environmental – loss of species;
- Economic – loss of income to legitimate businesses;
- Social – health impacts.

# EFFACE description of the impact of environmental crime

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- Qualitatively – description without figures;
- Quantitatively – figures referring to the scale of impact;
- Financial or monetary impact – figures express direct financial impacts (loss of trade for legitimate business).

# Sample: Police officers' perspectives on environmental crime in different sized police stations

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- Secondary analysis of previously collected data
- Study on safety and security in local communities in Slovenia

# Factor analysis: Police officers' perspectives on environmental crime

Security threat in the police precinct – Environmental crime	F.L.*	M	S.D.**	Median	Mode
(M = 2.89; S.D. = 0.77; $\alpha$ = 0.68; KMO = 0.61; var. = 61.01%) <sup>a</sup>					
Garbage accumulation in the public space.	0.70	2.74	1.00	3.00	3
Defunct and neglected residential and commercial buildings.	0.78	3.12	0.98	3.00	3
Natural environment contamination.	0.86	2.81	0.97	3.00	3

Principal component factoring; rotation Varimax.

\* F.L. – Factor loading.

\*\* S.D. – Standard deviation.

<sup>a</sup> Scale: from 1 – No problem at all to 5 – Very big problem.



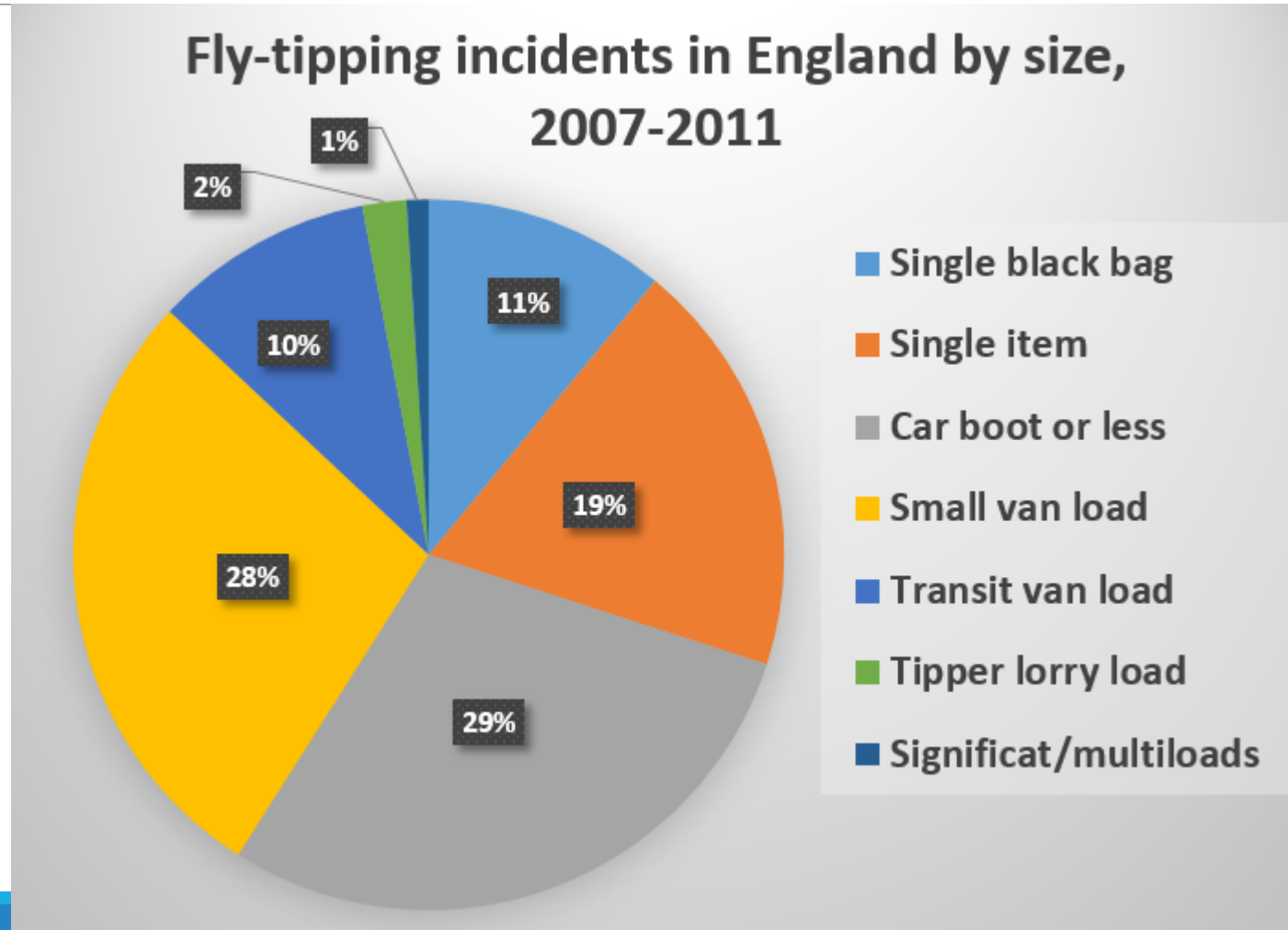
# Discriminant analysis: Police officers' perspectives on environmental crime in different sized police stations

Variable	Small police station n = 161		Medium police station n = 114		Large police station n = 243		Wilks' Lambda	F
	M	S.D.	M	S.D.	M	S.D.		
Environmental crime.	2.94	0.71	2.59	0.83	3.00	0.74	0.96	11.83***
Natural environment contamination.	2.86	0.93	2.49	0.95	2.93	0.97	0.97	8.53***
Defunct and neglected residential and commercial buildings.	3.18	0.90	2.78	1.09	3.23	0.95	0.97	8.82***
Garbage accumulation in the public space.	2.77	1.01	2.50	0.95	2.82	1.00	0.98	4.24*
Wilks's Lambda	0.96***							

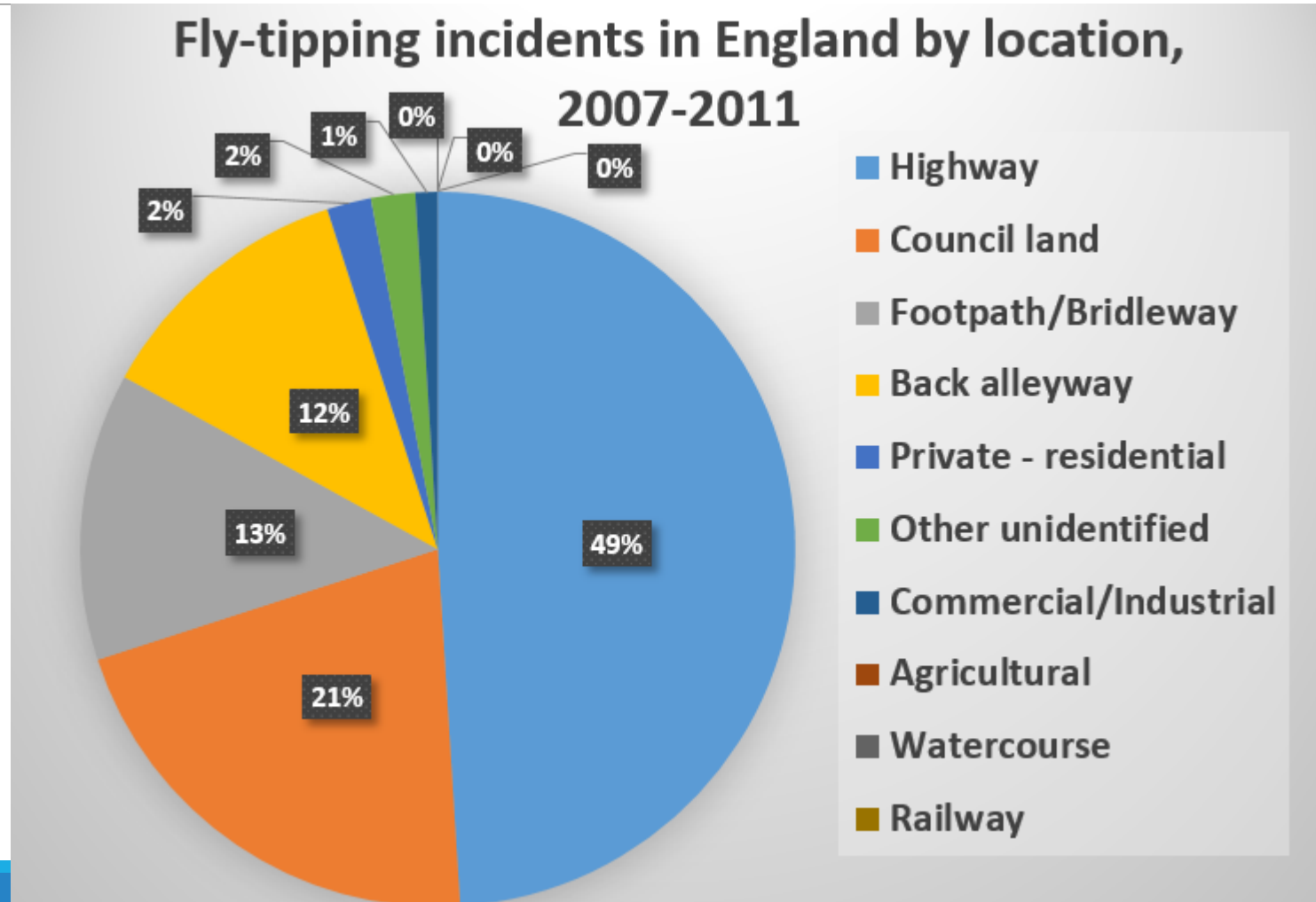
\* p < 0.05, \*\* p < 0.01, \*\*\* p < 0.001.

# EFFACE: A case study on illegal localized pollution incidents in the EU (1/2)

EFFACE – European Union Action to Fight Environmental Crime (40-month EU funded research project)



# EFFACE: A case study on illegal localized pollution incidents in the EU (2/2)



# Conclusion

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- Police officers in Slovenia perceive the security threats of garbage accumulation in the public space, defunct and neglected residential and commercial buildings and natural environmental contamination to pose a moderate threat to the society.
- There are statistically significant differences in the perspectives on environmental crime in different sized police stations.

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Thank you for your  
attention!