

Crime and blackouts:

Wikipedia has a piece about a NE USA black out in 2003 -

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_Blackout_of_2003

Please note that the comment about crime is moderated as "dubious"!

Can any help add to the commentary.

Was crime rife in the darkness of 2003?

If not, why not and where is the evidence?

Graham Cliff.

When the outage knocked out air conditioning, buildings became hot, leading to dissatisfied residents. However, there was not the surge in crime that had been feared by many, including law enforcement agencies.^{^[/dubious]}

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Disputed_statement> -- discuss

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Northeast_Blackout_of_2003#Dubious>/]

^{^[/citation needed]}

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed>/]

As a point of information please read this text - Blackouts and Crime --

On March 8, 1998 an Associated Press article appeared in many major U.S. newspapers about a power blackout that had been affecting New Zealand's largest city, Auckland, since February 20th.

"Even criminals have deserted the darkened streets of downtown Auckland, where two weeks of power blackouts have made elevators risky, spoiled food and frustrated residents. 'It's been almost a crime free zone,' Inspector John Mitchell said 'The normal level of muggings, violence, fights, burglary and robbery have just not happened.' The URL for this text is http://home.att.net/~icole/crime_ref_guide.html

<http://home.att.net/%7Eicole/crime_ref_guide.html>

Detroit Michigan, a city with one of the highest crime rates in the nation experienced less police calls than normal - during the power failure of August 2003, which lasted through the whole night. If outdoor lighting is a major crime reducer, wouldn't a place like Detroit have a crime free for all during a power failure? That was not the case. See the attached Detroit News article "Detroit's finest hour" which states "Police had fewer calls within the city of Detroit than an average day, even with the blackout."

The actual article is at

<http://www.detnews.com/2003/editorial/0308/19/a08-248014.htm>.

Although the blackout described at the following URL is stale in news terms, its message remains current: reducing artificial light at night does not increase actual crime, but just the fear of crime. But I suppose we all know that now, anyway, even if we have been indoctrinated from childhood to think otherwise.

<http://www.inform.umd.edu/News/Diamondback/archives/2003/09/22/news10.html>

Well, that was an experience the police had in Brussels, Belgium too. After a black out in Brussels during a night the boss of the police told on TV that they never had so a quiet night as that night. I believe that they had a similar experience in Amsterdam.

Something similar from a Flemish city Kortrijk were the police put there crime number near the an inquire about the places in the city were the people feel them most save or less save. The result was that the place where people feel most save were highest crime numbers and opposite the places where people feel less save at night were the less number of crime. The reason that bring forward for that was that the places where people feel more save came more people then

places were people not feel save at night and so the last place was less interesting for crime at night. This was not about burgling at night...

Regard,

Friedel

I was out of the City for the 2003 blackout. However, this report from the NYTimes indicates there was no great crime epidemic:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/15/nyregion/15SECU.html>

I also missed the 1977 blackout. There was indeed racial turmoil during that one, but that was not the experience in NYC in 1965.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/15/nyregion/15HIST.html>

I was here for the 1965 one, and it really gave you a good feeling about the basic decency of your fellow New Yorkers.