

This paper provides an overview of using pareto curves to identify "the few" as a sampling strategy for highly efficient experimental designs, from the Sherman Minneapolis 'hot spots' experiments to David Olds' home-visiting nurses (recently attacked for being limited to the few) to the new strategy the University of Pennsylvania is developing for community supervision in Philadelphia. The paper will present the relevant distributions of human suffering, then discuss the implications for the values, philosophy and politics of such a strategy