



Research, Policing and Crime Reduction

Edward R. Maguire, Ph.D.
American University

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The Police Research Industry

Consists of many scholars, think tanks, research institutes, and professional associations all working to increase knowledge and improve policing.

Different Types of “Evidence”

- Evidence used in criminal cases
- Evidence used to determine what programs, practices and policies are effective



Sources of Evidence



- Training
- Experience
- Intuition
- Peers
- Professional associations
- Scientific evidence

Why Rely on Scientific Evidence?

- To put in place more effective policies, programs, and practices
- To use public funds more efficiently and more judiciously
- To avoid iatrogenic effects or “cures that harm”

Cures that Harm

Example 1: "Scared Straight"

" Programs like 'Scared Straight' are likely to have a harmful effect and increase delinquency relative to doing nothing at all to the same youths."

Source: <http://campbellcollaboration.org/lib/project/3>

Cures that Harm

Example 2: Juvenile Justice Processing

“ Juvenile system processing... across all measures appears to increase delinquency. Given the additional financial costs... and the lack of evidence for any public safety benefit, jurisdictions should review their policies regarding the handling of juveniles.”

Source: <http://campbellcollaboration.org/lib/project/81>

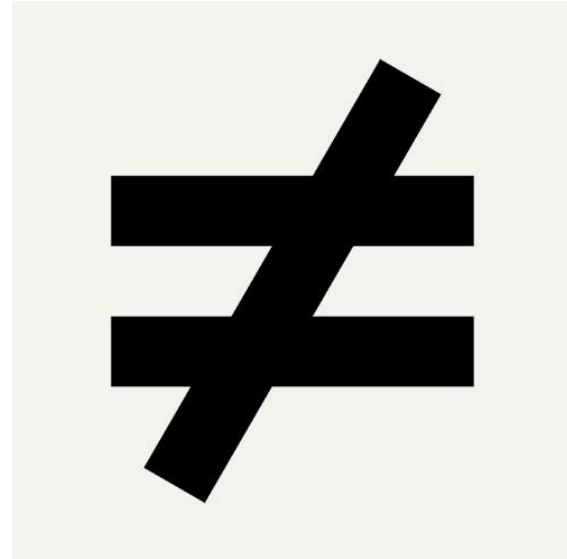
Cures that Harm

Example 3: Police Interventions

- When police behave in a procedurally unjust manner, they undermine the perceived legitimacy of their institution, as well as the legitimacy of law more generally.
- Similarly, when police treat gangs in a manner that is procedurally unjust, they may increase the level of gang cohesion, which increases crime and violence.

Quality of Evidence

Not all
evidence is
created
equal



Quality of Evidence

- “ Our findings... suggest that design does matter and that its effect in criminal justice study is systematic. The weaker a design, as indicated by internal validity, the more likely was a study to report a result in favor of treatment and the less likely it was to report a harmful effect of treatment.”

Source: Weisburd, D., A. Petrosino, & C. Lum (2003). "Assessing Systematic Evidence in Crime and Justice: Methodological Concerns and Empirical Outcomes." Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences 578: 50-70.

Scientific evidence
is like a puzzle.



We need to put the
pieces together.



Synthesizing the Evidence

- Locating the evidence
 - Including the “fugitive” literature to avoid publication bias.
- Accounting for differences in findings
 - It is common for studies of the same topic to generate different findings.
- Accounting for differences in quality
 - What do we do with lower quality studies? Exclude them? Give them less weight?

Four Milestones in Evidence-Based Policing

1. Sherman's "Evidence-Based Policing" report
2. The University of Maryland's "What Works" report
3. The Campbell Collaboration
4. CrimeSolutions.gov

1. Sherman's "Evidence-Based Policing Report"

"Of all the ideas in policing, one stands out as the most powerful force for change: police practices should be based on scientific evidence about what works best."



Evidence-Based Policing

By Lawrence W. Sherman

Abstract

The new paradigm of "evidence-based medicine" holds important implications for policing. It suggests that just doing research is not enough and that proactive efforts are required to push accumulated research evidence into practice through national and community guidelines. These guidelines can then focus in-house evaluations of what works best across agencies, units, victims, and officers. Statistical adjustments for the risk factors shaping crime can provide fair comparisons across police units, including national rankings of police agencies by their crime prevention effectiveness. The example of domestic violence, for which accumulated National Institute of Justice research could lead to evidence-based guidelines, illustrates the way in which agency-based outcomes research could further reduce violence against victims. National pressure to adopt this paradigm could come from agency-ranking studies, but police agency capacity to adopt it will require new data systems creating "medical charts" for crime victims, annual audits of crime reporting systems, and in-house "evidence cops" who document the ongoing patterns and effects of police practices in light of published and in-house research. These analyses can then be integrated into the NYPD Compstat feedback model for management accountability and continuous quality improvement.

Most of us have thought of the statistician's work as that of measuring and predicting... but few of us have thought it the statistician's duty to try to bring about changes in the things that he [or she] measures.

—W. Edwards Deming

Ideas in American Policing presents commentary and insight from leading criminologists on issues of interest to scholars, practitioners, and policymakers. The papers published in this series are from the Police Foundation lecture series of the same name. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Police Foundation.

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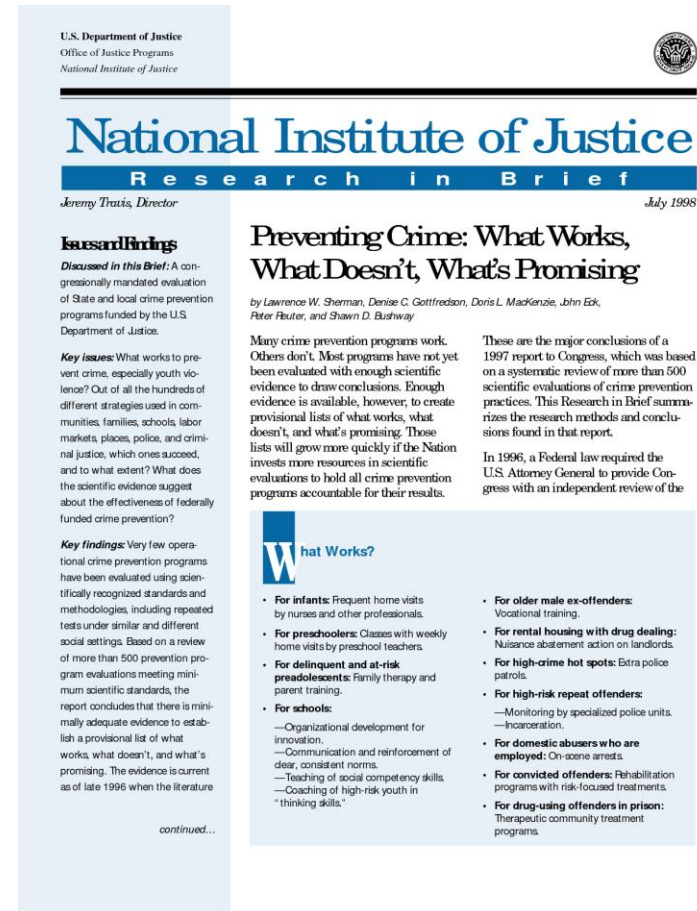
Lawrence W. Sherman is professor and chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland at College Park. He was the Police Foundation's director of research from 1979 to 1985.

Source: <http://www.policefoundation.org/content/evidence-based-policing>

2. The “*What Works*” Report

“ A much larger part of the national crime prevention portfolio must be invested in rigorous testing of innovative programs, in order to identify the active ingredients of locally successful programs that can be recommended for adoption... nation-wide.”

Source: www.ncjrs.gov/works/index.htm



3. The Campbell Collaboration



THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION

What helps? What harms? Based on what evidence?

The Campbell Library

- Season's Greetings
- C2 Home
- News
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News

Legitimacy in Policing

The key feature of a legitimate police force is that people feel obliged to voluntarily comply with or obey the police. Police require such voluntary cooperation from the general public to be effective in controlling crime and maintaining order. What is the impact of police efforts that seek to enhance citizen perceptions of police legitimacy?



[Read more...](#)

Call for 2013 award nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 Mosteller Award and the 2013 Boruch Award. The deadline has been extended until 15 January 2013.

[Read more...](#)

Campbell Colloquium 2013

The annual C2 Colloquium will be back May 21st - 23rd, 2013! Our venue this year is in beautiful, downtown Chicago just one block from the Magnificent Mile at Loyola University Chicago. Come enjoy the sights and sounds of the big city while engaging with reviewers from around the globe!

[Read more...](#)



THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION

Spotlight Event



The Next Campbell Colloquium

will be in Chicago, USA
in May 21-23, 2013,

and

in Belfast, UK
in the spring of 2014,

Source: <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org>

3. The Campbell Collaboration

News

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Read more...

Source: <http://www.campbellcollaboration.org>

4. CrimeSolutions.gov

The screenshot shows the CrimeSolutions.gov website. The header features the logo "Crime SOLUTIONS .gov" and the tagline "RELIABLE RESEARCH. REAL RESULTS." Navigation links include Home, Help, Contact Us, Site Map, and Glossary. A search bar with a "Go" button and an "Advanced Search" link is present. A green navigation bar contains links for TOPICS, All Programs, About CrimeSolutions.gov, Resources, FAQs, and Nominate a Program. A sidebar on the left lists topics from A-Z, including Corrections & Reentry, Courts, Crime & Crime Prevention, Drugs & Substance Abuse, Juveniles, Law Enforcement, Technology & Forensics, and Victims & Victimization. The main content area has a section titled "Use the Ratings" with a sub-header "Review tips on using the information in this site." and a "Learn More" link. Below this is a row of five small images representing different program categories. To the right of the "Use the Ratings" section is a large image of a police officer in a car using a laptop. At the bottom, there are sections for "About CrimeSolutions.gov" (describing the site's purpose and what users will find), "Announcements", "Recently Posted Programs", and a "I would like to:" section with a list of links: "Learn how programs are rated", "Understand how to use this information", "Search for a program", "View a list of all programs", "Find out who rates programs", and "Recommend a program".

Crime SOLUTIONS .gov

Home | Help | Contact Us | Site Map | Glossary

RELIABLE RESEARCH. REAL RESULTS.

Search [Advanced Search](#)

TOPICS | All Programs | About CrimeSolutions.gov | Resources | FAQs | Nominate a Program

Topics A-Z

Corrections & Reentry

Courts

Crime & Crime Prevention

Drugs & Substance Abuse

Juveniles

Law Enforcement

Technology & Forensics

Victims & Victimization

Use the Ratings

Review tips on using the information in this site.

[Learn More](#)

ABOUT CRIME SOLUTIONS .GOV

Announcements

Recently Posted Programs

The Office of Justice Programs' CrimeSolutions.gov uses rigorous research to determine **what works** in criminal justice, juvenile justice, and crime victim services.

On CrimeSolutions.gov you will find:

- Research on program effectiveness reviewed and rated by Expert Reviewers
- Easily understandable ratings based on the evidence that indicates whether a program achieves its goals: ([Program Review and Rating from Start to Finish](#))

Crime SOLUTIONS .gov

RELIABLE RESEARCH. REAL RESULTS.

I would like to:

- [Learn how programs are rated](#)
- [Understand how to use this information](#)
- [Search for a program](#)
- [View a list of all programs](#)
- [Find out who rates programs](#)
- [Recommend a program](#)

Source: <http://www.crimesolutions.gov>






4. CrimeSolutions.gov



Overview of the
review process in
CrimeSolutions.gov

Source: <http://www.crimesolutions.gov>

4. CrimeSolutions.gov

| Evidence Rating | Icon* | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | One Study | More than One Study |
| Effective |  |  |
| Promising |  |  |
| No Effects |  |  |

Overview of the ratings in CrimeSolutions.gov

Source: <http://www.crimesolutions.gov>

Evidence-Based Practices in Policing

THREE EXAMPLES

Problem-Oriented Policing

- Source: A systematic review of 10 rigorous scientific studies from the U.S. & U.K. that examined the effects of POP on crime and disorder.
- Findings: 8 of 10 studies found that POP reduced crime or disorder. POP “is associated with a statistically significant decline in crime and disorder ”

“Pulling Levers” Strategies

- These focused deterrence strategies use POP principles in specific ways to disrupt group-based violence.
- A systematic review found that “focused deterrence strategies are associated with an overall statistically-significant, medium-sized crime reduction effect.”

Hot Spots Policing

The evidence shows that hot spots policing is an effective crime prevention strategy.

The research also suggests that “focusing police efforts on high-activity crime places does not inevitably lead to crime displacement, and crime control benefits may diffuse into the areas immediately surrounding the targeted locations.”

Ongoing Challenges with Evidence-Based Policing

- Accumulating and synthesizing the evidence
- Communicating and translating the evidence
- Adopting evidence-based solutions and overcoming the implementation gap
- Updating the evidence

Thank you!



Ed Maguire

maguire@american.edu

www.edmaguire.net

Cover photo source: Nick Sherman (www.flickr.com/photos/nicksherman/2424046493)