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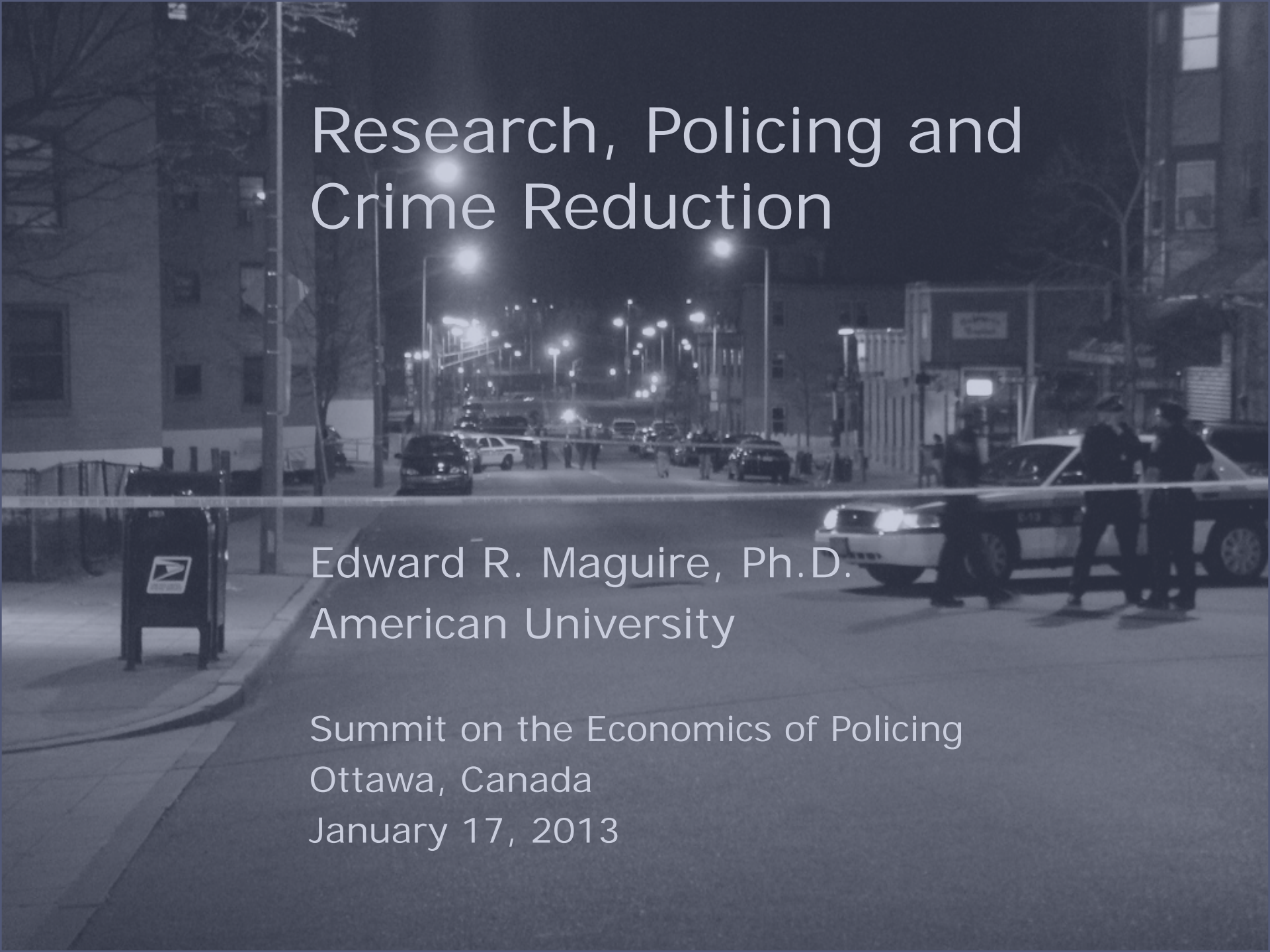
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Research, Policing and Crime Reduction

Edward R. Maguire, Ph.D.
American University

Summit on the Economics of Policing
Ottawa, Canada
January 17, 2013

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>

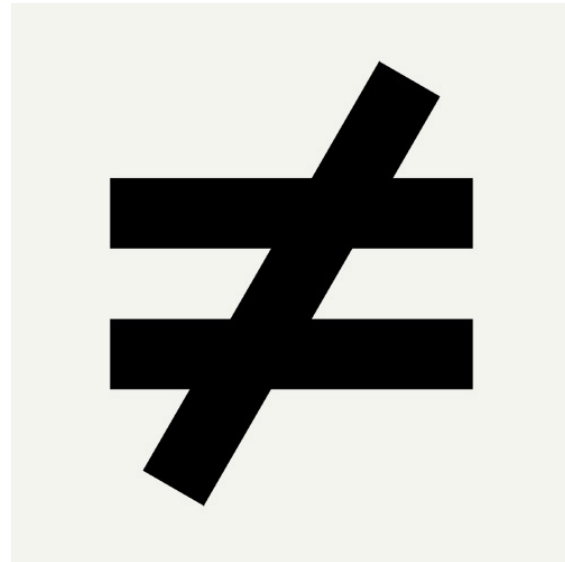
Cures that Harm

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

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
National Institute of Justice



National Institute of Justice

Research in Brief

Jeremy Travis, Director July 1998

Issues and Findings

Discussed in this Brief: A congressionally mandated evaluation of State and local crime prevention programs funded by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Key issues: What works to prevent crime, especially youth violence? Out of all the hundreds of different strategies used in communities, families, schools, labor markets, places, police, and criminal justice, which ones succeed, and to what extent? What does the scientific evidence suggest about the effectiveness of federally funded crime prevention?

Key findings: Very few operational crime prevention programs have been evaluated using scientifically recognized standards and methodologies, including repeated tests under similar and different social settings. Based on a review of more than 500 prevention program evaluations meeting minimum scientific standards, the report concludes that there is minimally adequate evidence to establish a provisional list of what works, what doesn't, and what's promising. The evidence is current as of late 1996 when the literature

continued...

Preventing Crime: What Works, What Doesn't, What's Promising

by Lawrence W. Sherman, Denise G. Gottfredson, Denis L. MacKenzie, John Eck, Peter Reuter, and Shawn D. Bushway

Many crime prevention programs work. Others don't. Most programs have not yet been evaluated with enough scientific evidence to draw conclusions. Enough evidence is available, however, to create provisional lists of what works, what doesn't, and what's promising. Those lists will grow more quickly if the Nation invests more resources in scientific evaluations to hold all crime prevention programs accountable for their results.

These are the major conclusions of a 1997 report to Congress, which was based on a systematic review of more than 500 scientific evaluations of crime prevention practices. This Research in Brief summarizes the research methods and conclusions found in that report.

In 1996, a Federal law required the U.S. Attorney General to provide Congress with an independent review of the

What Works?

- **For infants:** Frequent home visits by nurses and other professionals.
- **For preschoolers:** Classes with weekly home visits by preschool teachers.
- **For delinquent and at-risk preadolescents:** Family therapy and parent training.
- **For schools:**
 - Organizational development for innovation.
 - Communication and reinforcement of clear, consistent norms.
 - Teaching of social competency skills.
 - Coaching of high-risk youth in "thinking skills."
- **For older male ex-offenders:** Vocational training.
- **For rental housing with drug dealing:** Nuisance abatement action on landlords.
- **For high-crime hot spots:** Extra police patrols.
- **For high-risk repeat offenders:**
 - Monitoring by specialized police units.
 - Incarceration.
- **For domestic abusers who are employed:** On-scene arrests.
- **For convicted offenders:** Rehabilitation programs with risk-focused treatments.
- **For drug-using offenders in prison:** Therapeutic community treatment programs.

3. The Campbell Collaboration

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Campbell Collaboration website. At the top, there is a blue header with the Campbell Collaboration logo (a globe with 'C2' inside) and the text 'THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION' in large yellow letters, followed by the tagline 'What helps? What harms? Based on what evidence?'. Below the header, the page is divided into three main sections: a left sidebar, a central 'News' section, and a right 'Spotlight Event' section. The sidebar contains a 'The Campbell Library' menu with links to 'Season's Greetings', 'C2 Home', 'News', 'Review News', 'Newsletters', 'Selected presentations', 'About Us', 'What is a systematic review?', 'Our Annual Colloquium', 'Coordinating Groups', 'Resource Center', and 'Contact Us'. Below the menu is a search bar. The 'News' section features three articles: 'Legitimacy in Policing' with a photo of a police car, 'Call for 2013 award nominations' with the C2 logo, and 'Campbell Colloquium 2013' with the C2 logo and 'THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION' text. The 'Spotlight Event' section features a photo of the Chicago skyline and text announcing the 'Next Campbell Colloquium' in Chicago, USA in May 2013, and in Belfast, UK in the spring of 2014.

THE CAMPBELL COLLABORATION
What helps? What harms? Based on what evidence?

The Campbell Library

- Season's Greetings
- C2 Home
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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

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... 

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

4. CrimeSolutions.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of CrimeSolutions.gov. At the top left is the logo "Crime SOLUTIONS .gov". To the right of the logo is the tagline "RELIABLE RESEARCH. REAL RESULTS." and a navigation menu with links for "Home", "Help", "Contact Us", "Site Map", and "Glossary". Below the logo is a search bar with a "Go" button and a link to "Advanced Search". A green navigation bar contains the following menu items: "TOPICS", "All Programs", "About CrimeSolutions.gov", "Resources", "FAQs", and "Nominate a Program". On the left side, there is a "Topics A-Z" menu with links to various categories such as "Corrections & Reentry", "Courts", "Crime & Crime Prevention", "Drugs & Substance Abuse", "Juvéniles", "Law Enforcement", "Technology & Forensics", and "Victims & Victimization". The main content area features a large banner with the heading "Use the Ratings" and the text "Review tips on using the information in this site." Below this is a "Learn More" link and a row of five small thumbnail images. To the right of the banner is a photograph of a police officer in a car using a laptop. Below the banner, there are three tabs: "About CrimeSolutions.gov", "Announcements", and "Recently Posted Programs". The "About CrimeSolutions.gov" tab is active, showing a paragraph about the site's purpose and a list of findings. To the right of the text is the CrimeSolutions.gov logo. At the bottom right, there is 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". Above this list are icons for printing, email, social media, and RSS, along with font size controls.

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

Juvéniles

Law Enforcement

Technology & Forensics

Victims & Victimization

Use the Ratings

Review tips on using the information in this site.

[Learn More](#)

Announcements | Recently Posted Programs

About CrimeSolutions.gov

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](#)
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- [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!



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