

# Evidence and Insight Horizon Scan (Oct 2021 – Mar 2022)

## Overview

The Evidence and Insight (E&I) Horizon Scan reviews published academic studies and other research reports relevant to the Mayor's 2022-2025 Police and Crime Plan (PCP) priorities for London. This latest version of the Scan examines publications from the period October 2021 to March 2022.

## Method

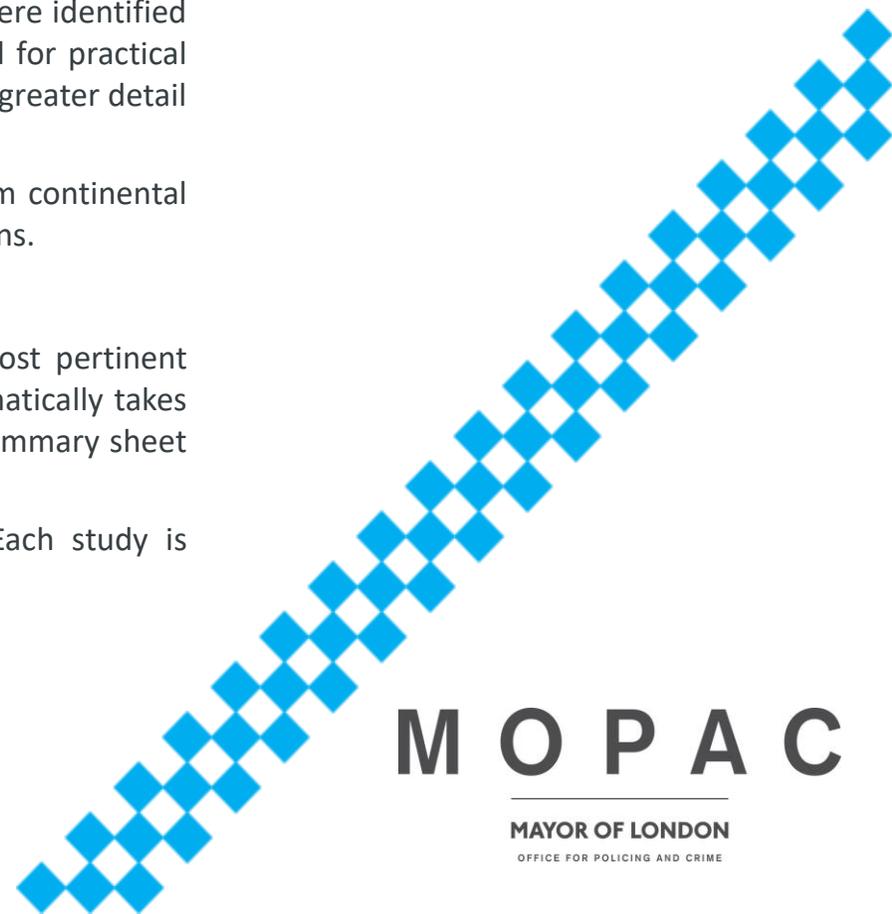
A scan of published research was undertaken using key search terms to reflect PCP priority areas. *CrimPapers* weekly bulletins were the primary source used to highlight relevant publications in the reporting period. Studies were identified based on title and abstract relevance to the PCP, methodological quality, empirical findings, and potential for practical learning and application. The initial searches identified a 'long list' of articles, which were then examined in greater detail to produce a final shortlist of 66. Abstracts for these are included in the appendices (page 3 onwards).

Of the 66 studies in the shortlist, 25 are from the UK, 24 from the USA/Canada,, 4 from Australia, 3 from continental Europe, and one from Africa, whilst 9 are either systematic reviews or combine results from multiple locations.

## Using the Horizon Scan

The Horizon Scan document includes a headlines page (page 2) which provides key findings for the most pertinent studies. Each of the studies in this summary are individually numbered - clicking on these numbers automatically takes you to the relevant abstract in the appendices. For ease of identification, the studies that appear in the summary sheet are shaded in grey in the appendices.

The references section at the end of this document lists full publication details for all 66 studies. Each study is hyperlinked to the relevant journal page or organisational website where it was originally published.



M O P A C

MAYOR OF LONDON  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## Reducing and preventing violence

### 1 Public health approach advocated for potential perpetrators of CSA

A scoping review exploring the interventions being delivered to those at risk of perpetrating CSA identifies the barriers to delivery, economic benefits of prevention, and **recommends the adoption of a public health approach** overall.

### 2 Sports programmes help reduce delinquency

A systematic review of participation in sports programmes found **beneficial effects** both in crime-related & psychological outcomes.



### 3 Predictors of weapon carrying

Analysis of weapon-carrying by 10-25 year olds in England & Wales suggests that **weapon-carrying is indicative of a pattern of experience of violence** rather than a self-defence response to threat or concern about victimisation.

### 4 Ineffectiveness of fear-based knife crime campaigns

Two UK experimental studies exploring the effects of exposure to fear-based knife crime campaigns on young people's intentions to engage in knife-carrying behaviour, found there was **no effect on willingness to carry a knife**.



### 5 School dropout leads to violent victimisation

An American study of serious adolescent offenders shows that **dropping out of school leads to the continuation of violent victimisation**, concluding it is beneficial for serious offenders to continue their school education.

### 6 Benefits of offenders attending multiple interventions

A study in the US found that **offenders who had taken part in several programmes** (education, vocational training and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)) had a lower propensity to reoffend than those who have taken part in only one type of programme.



## Increasing trust and confidence

### 7 Barriers and facilitators to Problem Oriented Policing

A UK study found **5 key barriers and facilitators to problem oriented policing**: leadership and governance, staff capacity, organisational structures and infrastructure, partnership working, and organisational culture.



## Better supporting victims

### 8 Benefits of specialised child sex trafficking courts

A systematic review of specialty courts in the US for adolescents who experience child sex trafficking found the **victims benefitted from an increase in linkage to specialised services**, improved residential placement stability, and a reduction in recidivism.

### 9 Impact of IDVAs /ISVAs on engagement in criminal prosecutions

A UK multi-agency programme where IDVAs & ISVAs worked with police officers in a patrol capacity, conducting joint responses to domestic abuse incidents, **found significant increases in repeat victims' engagement with criminal prosecutions**.

### 10 Impact of IDVAs' presence in specialist abuse courts

Analysis of trials in a specialist abuse court found that **trials where IDVAs were present were less likely to result in a conviction** and had a much higher risk of being followed by a repeat domestic abuse incident in the 18 months after trial.



### 11 Victimization against SGM immigrants

A review of sexual and gender minority (SGM) migrants' experiences of violence and abuse found that the **migrants are extremely vulnerable to victimisation** - violence and abuse began in childhood and continued in the host country.

## Protecting people from being exploited or harmed

### 12 Lack of definitional clarity of contact CSE



A systematic review of UK contact CSE found that a **lack of definitional clarity of contact CSE delayed professional responses and impeded prosecutions**. It also meant that victims failed to recognise that they were in an exploitative relationship.

### 13 UK CSE data 'confused & confusing'

The UK's Independent Inquiry into child sexual abuse found data (criminal justice and social care) on CSE was **'confused and confusing'**. Inconsistencies in definitions and data collection made it difficult to create a reliable picture of prevalence or understanding of the crime.



### 14 Exploitation of young women and girls in county lines gangs

Research with criminal justice and social service professionals suggest **gangs have recognised that young women and girls are less visible in terms of crime and justice and are recruiting them into criminal enterprise** to exploit this.

#### Important note:

This summary provides headline findings from a selection of recent academic studies (published October 2021 – March 2022). If you have any queries about this summary or the Horizon Scan more generally, please email the Evidence and Insight Unit: [evidenceandinsight@mopac.london.gov.uk](mailto:evidenceandinsight@mopac.london.gov.uk)

You can also find out more about our work here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/academic-research>

# Reducing and preventing violence

## Preventing violence with a public health approach

1. Preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) often focuses on primary or tertiary interventions, with little attention given to secondary interventions aimed at identifying those at risk of perpetrating CSA. To overcome this issue, Kewley *et al.* (2021) carried out a scoping review aimed at exploring the types of secondary prevention interventions currently being delivered, their effectiveness, as well as any related problems and obstacles. A sample of 43 suitable sources were identified (from between January 2000 and February 2021). Thematic analysis of the sources revealed five key themes relevant to the study's aims, ranging from barriers preventing the development and implementation of secondary prevention programmes, to the economic benefits of preventing abuse from occurring in the first place. The researchers assert that a public health approach involving programmes targeting individuals at risk of engaging in CSA should be prioritised and conclude this can only be achieved by a commitment from policymakers combined with long-term funding from central government.

2. Sports programmes are often employed to help reduce and prevent delinquency and violent behaviour, being especially popular in Western societies. However, little research has examined the effectiveness of such programmes. Jugl *et al.* (2021) conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of international research (up to June 2021) on studies evaluating sports programmes designed to prevent delinquency. 24 studies met the inclusion criteria for the systematic review, with 13 of these subsequently included in the meta-analysis. Results revealed a positive beneficial effect of participation in sports programmes on several crime-related outcomes such as reconviction/reoffending, aggressiveness and anti-social behaviour, as well as psychological outcomes such as stress, self-esteem and depression. The researchers conclude that sports programmes appear to reduce crime-related behaviours and thus assist in preventing crime and delinquency and reduce re-offending.

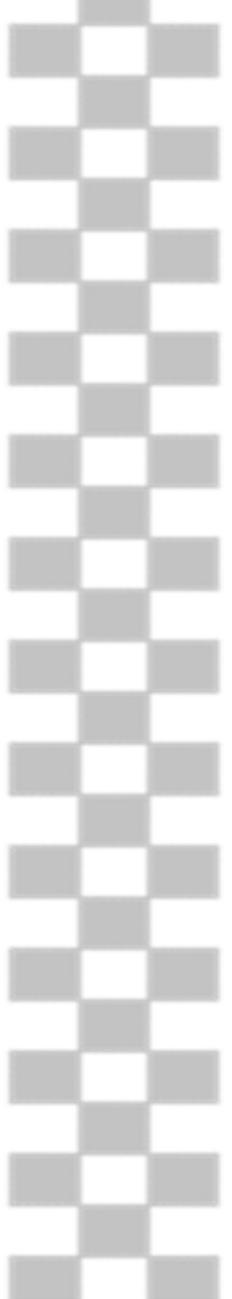
## Preventing and reducing violence affecting young people

3. Brennan (2021) identifies predictors of weapon-carrying in a sample of 4,234 10-25 year olds in England and Wales, developing earlier cross-sectional social-ecologically-informed models of weapon carrying by adding a longitudinal component to the evidence. The study shows that while worry about victimisation does not predict future weapon-carrying, experience of violence, peer criminality and low trust in the police are

predictive of weapon-carrying one year later. The results therefore suggest that weapon-carrying is more indicative of a pattern of experience of violence than a self-defence response to threat or concern about victimisation. These findings have implications for policy makers and those engaged in violence prevention activities, suggesting that early intervention with those at risk of involvement in violence is more likely to have success than later interventions with weapon-carriers. The influence of peers in the emergence of weapon-carrying is an urgent topic for further investigation and potentially a valuable route to the prevention of serious violence.

4. In the UK, media campaigns are often used by the police and anti-knife crime organisations to discourage young people from carrying a weapon. Many focus on the potentially devastating consequences of knife carrying with the aim of provoking fear and acting as a deterrent, yet TMT (terror management theory) suggests exposure to fear-based media campaigns could have the opposite effect. Hobson *et al.* (2022) present findings from two experimental studies exploring the effects of exposure to fear-based knife crime campaigns on young people's intentions to engage in knife-carrying behaviour. Both studies found that exposure to knife-related campaign imagery increased mortality salience (triggering respondents to think more about death), but there was no effect on willingness to carry a knife or on perceived benefits of knife-carrying. Results indicate that negative messaging may be ineffective when disseminated in an untargeted manner and the authors suggest consideration of alternatives to fear-based campaigns.

Limited research has examined the extent to which adolescent delinquency predicts healthcare usage in young adulthood, including emergency department (ED) visits. This US study using a nationally representative sample of 3,310 adolescents examined whether adolescent delinquency at Wave I predicted ED visits at Wave III, using sibling fixed effects models to adjust estimates for within-family unobserved heterogeneity. Increased violent, but not nonviolent, delinquency predicted a higher number of ED visits in early adulthood in the sibling fixed effects models. Portnoy & Schwartz (2021) suggest this is the first study to examine the relationship between delinquency and ED usage using a sibling fixed effects design. Findings demonstrate that violent adolescent delinquency may increase healthcare usage and point to the prevention of violent adolescent delinquency as a means of both improving health and reducing financial healthcare burdens.



# Reducing and preventing violence

Ashton *et al.* (2021) investigated historical risk assessment forms for a sample of 173 males with a history of violent offending under supervision by Merseyside Youth Offending Services (YOS), along with subsequent arrest records, to understand the relationship between social and psychological risk factors to offending behaviour. The study found that Assault was associated with solo expressive (reactive / impulsive) offending, a history of domestic violence, low school attendance and an inability to control impulsivity and aggression. Robbery was associated with instrumental (proactive / premeditated) and escalated violent offending, psychological disorders and deviant groups, including family criminal involvement. Two profiles of violent offender emerged from the study; solo offenders committing expressive, violent offences including the carrying of knives and group offenders associated with an escalation of instrumental violence. The findings suggest that targeted interventions should distinguish between these two categories of violent offending.

5. In the United States, despite a recent decrease in both school dropout and victimization rates, many harsh and exclusionary school policies continue to push school-aged adolescents out of school. Na (2021) investigates if dropping out of school increases the chance of violent victimization. Drawing on longitudinal panel data collected from a sample of 1,354 serious adolescent offenders and fixed-effects models which enhance the causal validity of the findings by using the same individuals as their own counterfactuals over time. The study shows that dropping out of school leads to the perpetuation of violent victimization, primarily due to a change in the opportunity structure associated with risky lifestyles and routine activities. Accordingly, it is beneficial even for serious offenders to continue their education within schools.

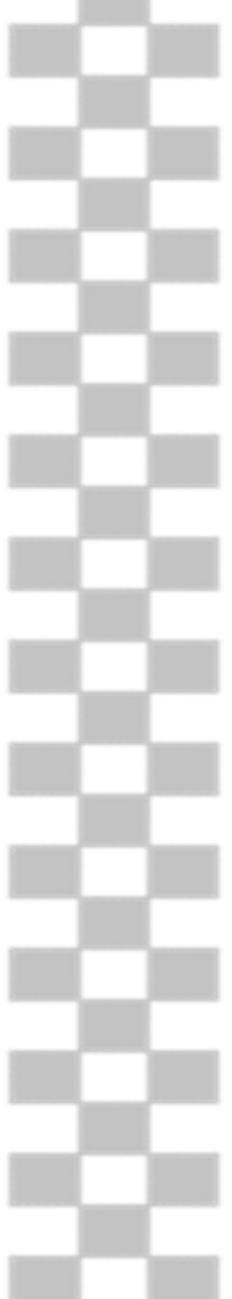
Lawler *et al.* (2021) examine the contribution of alcohol use to violence perpetration among young adults in the Australian community, accounting for the influence of sociodemographic, early life, trait, and well-being influences. Cross-sectional, self-report data was collected from 507 young adults aged 18-20 years in the Australian general community via an online survey. Sequential logistic regressions examined the relative and independent contribution of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), impulsivity, psychological distress, and hazardous alcohol use to past-year violent behaviour. After controlling for other risk factors, the number of ACEs reported and hazardous alcohol use were independently and positively associated with increased odds of reporting violent behaviour in young adulthood. This evidence suggests it is important that interventions delivered during adolescence target proximal causes such as hazardous alcohol use.

## *Addressing the harm caused by drugs*

Research into interpersonal trauma experienced by people with opioid use disorder receiving medication in Virginia, USA, recommends a sex and gender informed approach to treatment. Martin *et al.*'s study (2021) collected data via a survey from 135 patients who were receiving buprenorphine in an outpatient substance-use clinic and found that 40% of women and 36% of men had experienced recent interpersonal trauma. In the majority Black ethnicity sample, women reporting recent interpersonal trauma were also more likely to report recent homelessness, unsafe housing and discrimination in a healthcare setting than women not reporting interpersonal trauma. Physical violence was the most common type of interpersonal trauma that both men and women patients reported, and perpetrators included intimate partners, communities and family members. Sexual violence was more commonly reported by women than men. The study highlights gendered differences in interpersonal trauma and the impact it can have on opioid use disorder treatment.

On a similar note, Wojciechowski's study (2022) found that post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) predicted significantly greater odds of 'opioid use initiation' for imprisoned young offenders in the USA. Witnessing violence was also somewhat associated with opioid use following imprisonment, although this was dependant on the type of exposure. Conversely (and contrary to previous research), direct victimisation decreased the risk of opioid use.

Sandøy *et al.* (2022) analysed recidivism in young drug offenders in Norway and found that diversion programmes could have more effect on reducing reoffending than monetary fines or minimal interventions. The study used criminal charge data for all 15- to 17-year-olds charged with drug offences between 2000 and 2015 and focused on the timing of recidivism rather than reoffending as a single event. They found that around half (52%) of all the young people had reoffended within 5 years of the first criminal offence, and the average number of reoffences was 4.9. Committing a second offence was significantly reduced for young people who received a 'CWP' (conditional waiver of prosecution) with trial period and conditions attached when compared to those who were fined. This effect was also observed in a reduction of recidivism but was not statistically significant. In Norway, the age of criminal responsibility is 15, and those who were aged 15 were found to be at significantly higher risk of recidivism than those aged 16 or 17.



# Reducing and preventing violence

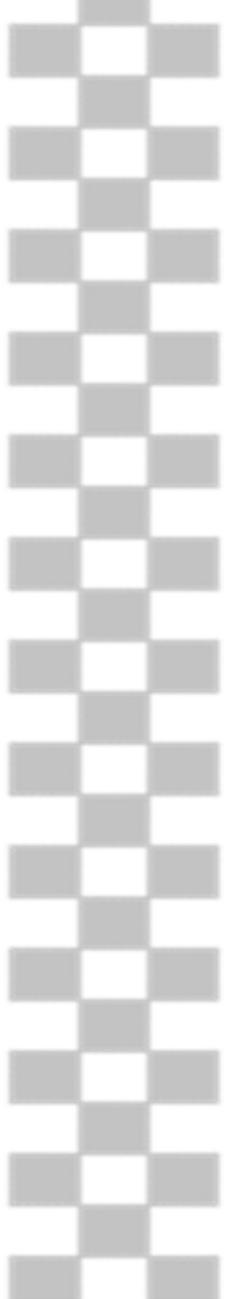
Berlusconi's (2022) analysis of criminal collaboration patterns identifies social processes that facilitate drug trafficking network adaptation after a significant network member is arrested. Focusing on a 2 year long criminal investigation of a criminal network trafficking drugs from Colombia and Morocco into Italy, coding and quantitative analysis of the drivers of criminal collaboration showed that after the arrest of a key player in the network, it became decentralised with fewer, local groups. This suggests a stronger network focus on security than efficiency following law enforcement intervention. Sharing kinship or formal organisation ties was associated with criminal collaboration before and after the arrest of the key player, suggesting a need to reduce uncertainty and increase trust and also contributed to the adaptability of the network. The study concludes that law enforcement interventions may not be as effective as expected based on the flexibility, resilience and adaptability of drug trafficking networks and that more research is required on the impact of repressive policies on the structure of criminal networks.

## *Reducing offending behaviour*

Evaluative studies of men who have attended domestic violence perpetrator programmes have largely paid attention to the question of what they are expected to desist from, the question of what they are expected to achieve, or 'become', is less clearly articulated. Based on interviews with men who had completed perpetrator programmes, Morran (2022) suggests that their abusive behaviour was underpinned by fears about how to 'perform masculinity' satisfactorily in the past. Consequentially, the programme experience was perceived as threatening or as 'feminising'. Post participation, those interviewed framed their desistance from abuse and violence as part of their re-negotiated masculine identities – performing masculinity through non-violence by showing 'manly' courage or control, part of a heroic struggle to reform. This research highlights the need for perpetrator programmes to consider masculinity and identity formation, which takes time and requires necessary support and resources.

Docherty *et al.* (2022) explored the link between the development of emotional and cognitive skills and reoffending among 599 young people at a young offenders institution in Washington, USA. The study found that improved levels of emotional regulation skills between young peoples entry into custody and release was statistically significantly related to reduced reoffending after one year (measured by any felony charge within 12 months of release). This suggests that interventions for young people which aim to improve their emotional regulation skills may contribute towards reduced reoffending. Interestingly, the reverse was found for cognitive regulation – here an improvement in cognitive regulation between entry and release was associated with either an increased likelihood of reoffending after 12 months, or no statistically significant relationship was found, depending on the model used. Drawing from previous research, the authors suggested this may be due to the interaction between cognitive and emotional skills, which is an area for future research. This research contributes to the small but growing body of literature which finds an association between personal skills such as impulse control and aggression control and decreased problematic behaviours such as reoffending.

Implemented in San Francisco, California in 2017, the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program offered police officers an alternative to arrest for drug users and/or sex workers. Perrone *et al.* (2021) conducted a mixed-method evaluation of LEAD, including a non-randomised control trial, comparing reoffending outcomes of those diverted to LEAD to a comparison group. The authors find that LEAD significantly reduced the likelihood of future arrests, 12 months post-treatment. Felony arrests were 2.5 times lower and misdemeanour arrests were 6 times lower among LEAD participants, compared to those in the comparison group. Qualitative data collection conducted with practitioners indicated the mechanisms behind these reductions, which were threefold: 1) collaboration among LEAD partners, 2) warm transitions between law enforcement and LEAD case managers and 3) LEAD's harm reduction principles. This study supports the growing body of evidence around the benefits of harm reduction policing in diverting certain groups of offenders from the criminal justice system, improving wellbeing, and reducing reoffending outcomes.



# Reducing and preventing violence

6. Typically, evaluations of interventions for offenders in custody which seek to address offenders' potential for reoffending behaviour consider the intervention in isolation, however, oftentimes an individual will receive multiple interventions during their time in custody. Hsieh *et al.* (2021) employ a quasi-experimental design to consider the effect of *multiple* programming upon reoffending outcomes, by comparing reoffending outcomes of offenders in Washington who have taken part in several programmes (education, vocational training and cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)) with those who have taken part in one programme. The authors find that offenders who take part in all three types of interventions have a lower propensity to reoffend than those who have taken part in only one type of programme. In particular, taking part in CBT in addition to education programming was found to significantly reduce reoffending rates. The authors argue these positive joint effects may be due to interventions mutually reinforcing each other, addressing individuals' complex issues to achieve positive behavioural change. The findings support previous research that suggests multiple interventions within custody may offer offenders the greatest chance of developing a pro-social identity and reintegrating into communities, and desist from reoffending.

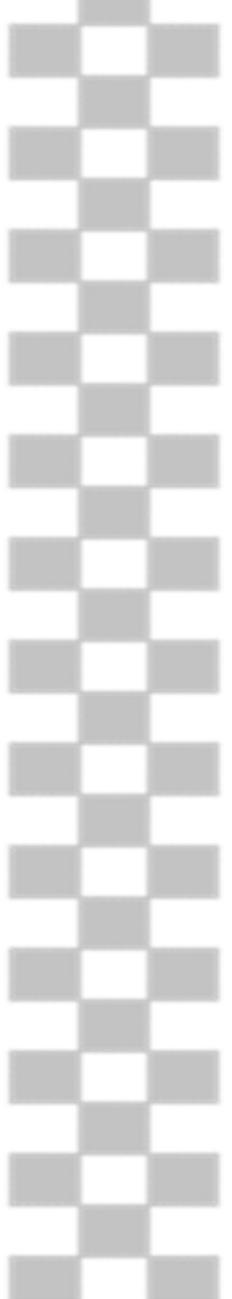
While it is largely accepted in the literature that a gender-responsive approach to supporting women and girls in the criminal justice system is important, little is known about the effectiveness of gender-responsive programming for girls in custody. Belisle *et al.* (2021) seek to fill this gap with their outcome evaluation of the Girls... Moving On (GMO) program, which sought to support the social, emotional and behavioural development of girls aged 12-21 in custody in the Midwest, USA. Employing a quasi-experimental design, the authors used juvenile court data to construct a comparison group to compare reoffending outcomes for GMO participants against non-participants. No statistically significant difference in reoffending rates after three years was found. The authors highlight that this lack of impact may be due to some implementation issues, suggesting that, as demonstrated in other studies, only well implemented programmes are likely to influence reoffending outcomes. The study also compared outcomes between those who started but did not complete GMO and those who completed it. Again, no statistically significant impact was found on reoffending rates, but improved outcomes in terms of risk and self-efficacy was found among those who completed the project.

A growing body of research demonstrates the effectiveness of the risk, need and responsivity (RNR) model as a strategy for criminal justice practitioners in reducing reoffending. Borseth (2021) focuses on the role of case planning in reoffending outcomes, in particular the adherence of the need principle within case plan development, previously ignored by the literature. The author coded case plans of 859 halfway house residents in midwestern USA, on the bases of need principle adherence in nine areas. If a need was marked as high, e.g. drug and alcohol, but there was no corresponding drug and alcohol objective, this need would be considered as not complied with in the case plan. Regression analysis examined the impact of case plan adherence on reoffending after two years. While no statistically significant relationship was found, the author argues that further research should be conducted on case planning practices, acknowledging the limitations in her methodological approach in coding case plans.

## *Making London a city in which women and girls are safe and feel safer*

Not much is known around honour based abuse with victims being reluctant to report the crime. In a UK study, Aplin (2021) examines the potential limitations of 'ethnic matching' South Asian police officers to victims of honour based abuse. Semi structured interviews were carried out on 15 police officers in one police force in the UK finding that there was a lack of cultural competence with non South Asian officers which impacts on the officers' ability to identify crime patters, mis constructing victim perspectives. The study also found that although there were benefits to 'ethnic matching' in terms of cultural competence, it was also seen to detrimentally effect the victims best interest which is supported by other research into ethnic matching.

There is very little research currently looking into sexual coercion and birth control sabotage. In a UK study Wakeman & Worthington (2021) recruited 237 participants to read four vignettes relating to BCS, where perpetrator gender and function of sabotage (motive) were manipulated. Pearson's correlations conducted on the relationship between machiavellianism, psychopathy and narcissism on victim blame found no significance correlation. However perpetrator gender and functionality of birth control sabotage had a significant effect on victim blaming and perceptions of criminality and victim impact.



# Reducing and preventing violence

Sexual assault centres and SARCs offer multidisciplinary services to those who have experienced sexual offences. A study by Mattison *et al.* examined the demographics of those individuals who present at a referral centre in the UK. From the 128 case notes of clients analysed the researchers found that the majority of self-referred clients were either in full-time employment or full-time education and had no reported additional needs. Self-referred clients were also found to report less information about the alleged assault and perpetrator when compared to police-referred clients. This study suggests that clients who self-refer have different service needs when compared to those who are referred by the police.

## *Working together to prevent terrorism and violent extremism*

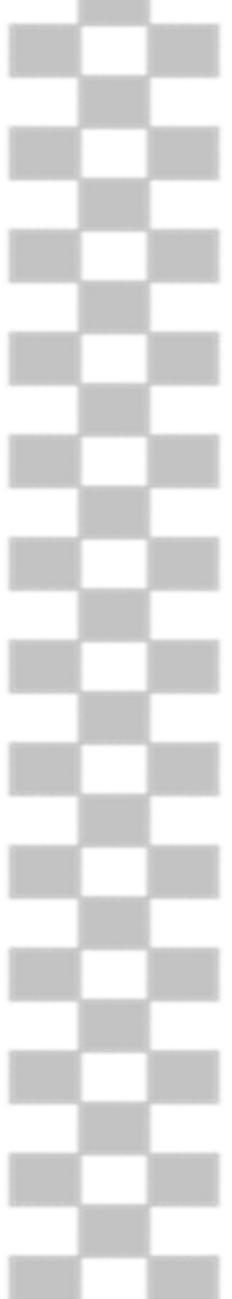
Online radicalisation to terrorism has become a pervasive policy concern over the last decade. Herath and Whittaker (2021) suggest that the concept lacks clarity and empirical support, so have analysed the trajectories of 231 US-based Islamic State terrorists. The authors use cluster analyses to create typologies of individuals' different online and offline antecedent behaviours, including the ways in which they engaged in networks with co-ideologues and how they prepared for their events. The findings suggest four types of pathway within the dataset: 1) The "Integrated" pathway which has high network engagement both online and offline, mostly made up of individuals that plotted as part of a group; 2) The "Encouraged" pathway contains individuals that acted more in the online domain at the expense of offline; 3) Terrorists in the "Isolated" pathway are defined by a lack of interaction across either domain; 4) The "Enclosed" pathway encompassed actors that displayed greater offline network activity, but still utilised the Internet for planning their activity. These typologies help to move beyond the dichotomy of online or offline radicalisation; there remain few individuals that either exclusively use the Internet or do not use it at all. Rather, the authors conceptualise Internet usage on a spectrum in which these four typologies all sit.

Hodwitz & King (2021) examine the effects of counterterrorism policy in Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom between 1997 and 2016, using time series analysis and series hazard models to examine the influence of policy on (a) incidents of terrorist violence and (b) citizen perceptions of the threat of terrorism. Results indicate

that counterterrorism policy is, for the most part, not related to significant changes in Canada but does report significant results for public opinion and terrorist incidents in the United States and the United Kingdom, although these effects are temporally defined.

The adoption of gender mainstreaming strategies has become an increasingly common expectation within countering terrorism and violent extremism policy and programming. Through comparative case study examination of two iterations of a Strengthening Resilience to Violent Extremism programme in Kenya, White (2022) shows that practitioners are often left struggling to design effective and transformative strategies that can overcome practical and conceptual barriers. This is due to several intersecting and compounding elements, including institutional conceptual limitations around gender and gender equality in the security context, a weak evidence base on how and why gender plays a role in violent extremism, and a lack of effective feminist knowledge transfer and co-creation processes between academic and practitioner researchers.

Despite their widespread adoption, little is known about the content and implementation of case-managed programmes targeting individuals at risk of radicalisation and known extremists. Cherney (2022) examined data on one state-based case-managed programme implemented by police in Australia – referred to as Intervention 01. Drawing on case note information for a sample of clients and interviews with intervention staff and clients, data are presented on the radicalisation risk factors amongst programme beneficiaries, client participation and intervention goals, forms of assistance, and family member involvement and support. Five client case studies are described outlining the experiences of programme beneficiaries and lessons are highlighted relating to intervention delivery and the disengagement process. The study provides insights into the practical realities of delivering programmes to counter violent extremism, focusing on factors that influence client change and facilitate and inhibit client progress. Implications for the implementation and evaluation of programmes to assist radicalised individuals are considered.

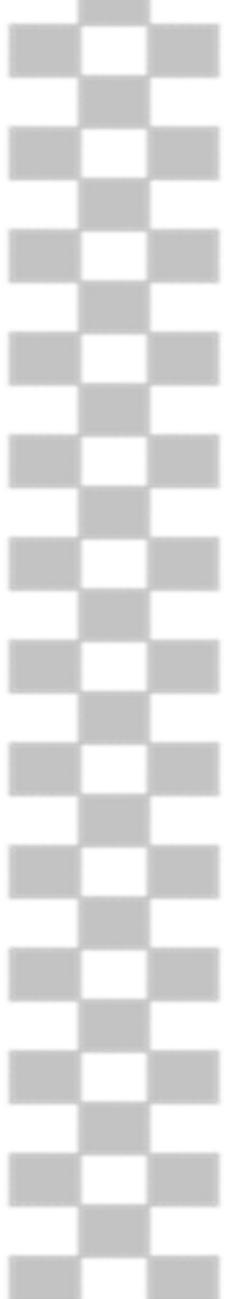


# Reducing and preventing violence

A systematic review by Franc & Pavlovic (2021) sought to synthesize and evaluate the quantitative findings regarding the inequality-radicalization relationship while considering their multidimensionality. The comprehensive search resulted in the screening of more than 5,000 items and the final inclusion of 141 publications. The findings of narrative synthesis suggested that socio-political inequality is more consistently positively related to terrorism/cognitive radicalization than economic inequality, which is more relevant for behavioural radicalization. The findings are discussed in terms of the importance of differentiating between dimensions, indicators, and levels of inequality and radicalization, complex relations, as well as the shortcomings of the existing evidence base and opportunities for improvement.

## *Tackling hate crime*

Woo *et al.* (2021) investigated how racial prejudice influenced a sample of 581 US White college students' perceptions of hate crime. The study was set up in a 2 (race of victim) x 3 (level of assault) factorial design and participants rated their perceptions of three scenarios (i.e., non-racially biased simple assault, racially biased simple assault, and racially biased aggravated assault). Results suggested that higher levels of modern racism were associated with lower perceptions of hate crime and lower willingness to report racially biased simple and aggravated hate crime. When the victim was White, participants with higher levels of racial prejudice were more likely to perceive a hate crime and more willing to report it, and the opposite was true when the victim was Black. The absence of state hate crime laws and race of victim were significant moderators.



# Increasing trust and confidence

## *Increasing public trust in the MPS*

The policing of peaceful public assembly during the Covid-19 pandemic has been one of the most central challenges to police legitimacy. Stott *et al.* (2022) use a case study (the policing operation surrounding a public assembly that took place on Clapham Common in March 2021 in London) to explore the utility of a research and theory-based model for public order policing in pandemics as a framework for understanding the way the event evolved and identifying what lessons could be learnt for policing assemblies, both in future pandemics and more generally. They suggest that ambiguity in the application of emergency powers and the potential for heavy fines to be applied using the legislation created a divergence between stakeholders and culminated in a leadership vacuum among protesters. Moreover, the context of acute political sensitivity led to a highly centralized public order operation that limited the capacity of police to enact dialogue-based solutions when leadership (re)emerged during the event.

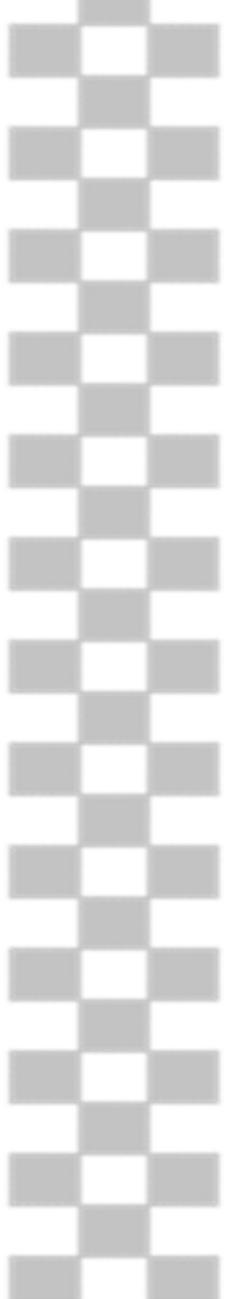
With police facing constant negative publicity, concerns have been raised that officers working the street will draw back on their efforts (the so-called Ferguson or de-policing effect). Gau *et al.* (2022) administered a survey to 552 officers in a large, urban US police department. Results support the existence of a de-policing or Ferguson effect insofar as intense scrutiny from the public and media appear to discourage some officers from initiating proactive stops. Officers who perceived higher levels of negative publicity felt that police were less likely to self-initiate stops, and those who feared being filmed unfairly also reported reluctance among their colleagues. Perceptions of being supported by top management appeared to be a protective factor, with those experiencing strong support from managers reporting less concern about self-initiated enforcement. This indicates that when de-policing occurs, it is likely concentrated among high-discretion, low-visibility decisions.

The Police Foundation (2022) has published a Strategic Review of Policing in England and Wales. It concludes policing is at a 'critical juncture' and calls for organisational reform, a more systemic approach to preventing crime and harm, increased emphasis on neighbourhood policing, and radical reform to police learning and development, with police training tailored to the individual officer. It recommends the adoption of a 'Licence to Practise' for all police officers, renewable every five years.

## *Creating safer, more confident communities*

'Neighbourhood policing' is a UK policing model aimed at reducing crime through improving police-public relationships. However, this model's success is dependent on the ability and willingness of police officers to deliver it. Studies aimed at understanding police officers' attitudes to and perceptions of neighbourhood policing and the factors (cultural, organisational and contextual) that influence these attitudes are essential. Accordingly, Fenn and Bullock (2021) undertook semi-structured interviews with 17 police officers (all with community policing experience) from an urban police force in England. Findings suggested that perceptions of community policing were positive, with officers perceiving the model to be invaluable in controlling crime and making a long-term positive difference to communities. However, community policing was perceived to be of a lower status than other specialisms, whilst its' associated activities were perceived to be undervalued. The researchers state that structural, organisational and wider contextual factors should be considered by police managers to ensure the successful implementation and delivery of community policing.

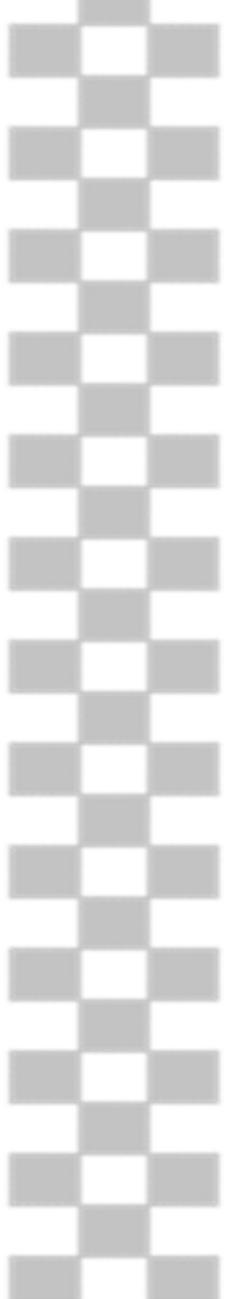
Optimal foraging theory is a frequently used UK predictive policing approach to reducing and preventing crime which helps direct resources to areas predicted as being at high risk of domestic burglary. However, accuracy of these predictions is underpinned by accurate crime linkage. Aimed at improving the accuracy of crime linkage and predictive accuracy, Halford (2021) explored several behavioural and physical characteristics of foraging burglar offenders to ascertain which of these provide the greatest crime linkage accuracy. From 2,916 Lancashire Constabulary recorded crime records, 400 suitable domestic burglary crimes were identified. Categories of behaviours and physical characteristics within these crimes were identified (e.g., inter-crime distance etc.) and analysed using logistic regression and ROC analysis. Results revealed that inter-crime distance was the most accurate indicator of crime linkage, followed by target selection, entry behaviour, property stolen and offender crime scene behaviour. The evidence suggests that foraging domestic burglary offenders exhibit markedly different behaviours compared to other types of offenders (e.g., commuter or marauder). These findings could assist police analysts in identifying the type of burglar from their behaviours and consequently help inform crime linkage and spatial offending predictions.



# Increasing trust and confidence

Few studies examine the relationship between satisfaction with characteristics of an individual's local area and fear of violent crime for oneself and loved ones. Steele *et al.* (2021) carried out research to examine the relationship between these two fear factors and satisfaction with local area characteristics. 651 surveys were collected from households across the midwestern metropolitan area of the United States. Participants rated their fear of violent crime for themselves and their loved ones, as well as their satisfaction with nine local area characteristics (e.g., employment, first responders, housing, leisure, education etc.) on a four-point scale (1 = very satisfied to 4 = very dissatisfied). Following zero-order correlations, results indicated that those more concerned about personal victimisation were less satisfied with leisure activities or first responders, whilst those more concerned about victimisation of loved ones were less satisfied with leisure activities or housing. The researchers suggest that when devising policies aimed at reducing fear of crime, policy makers should consider ways of increasing satisfaction with local area characteristics.

7. In a study examining police perceptions and experiences regarding organisational barriers to and facilitators of the implementation and delivery of problem-oriented policing. Bullock *et al.* (2021) draw on surveys of 4,414 and interviews with 86 police personnel from 19 forces in England and Wales. Five key barriers and facilitators are identified: leadership and governance, capacity, organisational structures and infrastructure, partnership working, and organisational culture. The article generates critical information about the processes that drive change in police organisations and recommendations for managers concerning the implementation or development of problem-oriented policing, as well as proposing a research agenda to address evidence gaps.



# Better supporting victims

## *Improving the service and support that victims receive from the MPS and the CJS*

Geurts *et al.* (2021) conducted a study in the Netherlands exploring the utility of unstructured police information for the prediction of repeat victimisation. Following the Victim Directive, Dutch police officers are required to assess a victim's vulnerability to repeat victimisation. When victims are considered vulnerable (to repeat victimisation) protection measures can be applied. In this study, police records over a period of 6 years were retrieved for a sample of 116,680 victims. Unstructured information was transformed into numeric features using count-vector and TF/IDF methods. Classification models were built using decision tree and random forest models. AUC values indicated that a combination of structured and unstructured police information could be used to correctly classify a majority of repeat and non-repeat victims.

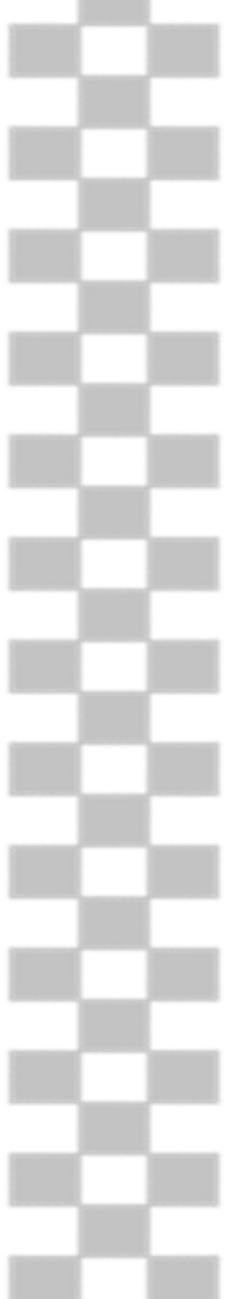
Interviews of sexual offence victims by police officers have previously been found to be lacking in overall quality, with some interviewers finding them difficult to conduct and some victims feeling disbelieved, unsafe and/or uncomfortable. A study by Webster & Oxburgh (2021) provides insight into the personal experiences of five UK female adult rape/sexual assault victims regarding their police interviews and the aspects that encouraged them to cooperate and engage. Following semi-structured interviews, interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) was used to identify three key themes: (i) heading into the unknown, (ii) difficulty of talking about the crime and (iii) helpful and unhelpful interviewer approaches. These themes highlight areas of good practice (e.g. a humane approach demonstration of genuine commitment to cases) and areas that require improvement (e.g. providing clarity about what to expect and understanding how to minimise the likelihood of secondary revictimization). The authors recognise the limitation of the sample, but suggest the findings illustrate the complexity of interview interactions with sexual assault victims and that future research should further explore the themes identified.

Wood *et al.* (2021) conducted a study that explored how chat and text services are provided in one intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexual assault (SA) focused community organisation in the US. The researchers analysed 392 chat and text transcripts, using content analysis, from a large multiservice agency and also conducted interviews with 11 advocates who provide chat and text services through the agency hotline. The results indicated that chat/text services provide a space for connection, resource provision, education and access to resource gain in a timely, concise and survivor-centred way.

8. Godoy *et al.* (2022) conducted a systematic review of literature examining the emerging specialty courts in the US for adolescents who experience child sex trafficking. The review aimed to identify key characteristics of programming, profiles of adolescents serviced, and effectiveness of these courts. The review included articles published after 2004, 39 articles on 21 specialty courts were identified for the review, including seven courts with an evaluation or outcome data. Findings showed that across specialty courts, adolescents were found to benefit from an increase in linkage to specialised services, improved residential placement stability, and a reduction in recidivism.

9. Evaluation by Halford and Smith (2022) of a UK multi-agency programme implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic where independent domestic abuse advocates (IDVAs) and independent sexual violence advocates (ISVAs) worked side by side with police officers in a patrol capacity, conducting joint incident response to reports of domestic abuse found significant increases in engagement with criminal prosecutions. Levels of engagement with repeat victims regarding safeguarding and investigation also increased. Findings indicate that improved victim support at an earlier state improves likelihood of agencies protecting, preventing and reducing cases affecting victims of intimate partner violence.

10. Ross *et al.* (2022) conducted analysis of all 559 trials in one specialist abuse (SDA) court from June 2016 to December 2018 to establish whether cases heard on days when Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) were present resulted in more convictions, or less frequency or severity of repeat victimisation. The study found that IPA trials in the IDVA treatment group were 12% less likely than those in the comparison group to result in a conviction and had a 96% higher risk of being followed by a repeat domestic abuse incident in the 18 months after trial. Treatment group victims experienced a mean harm score for repeat victimisation in the 18 months post-trial eight times higher than the comparison group. While there is clearly a correlation between the opportunity for an IDVA and worse outcomes, that does not mean the opportunity for an IDVA causes those outcomes. The authors emphasise a need for consideration of precisely what outcomes the IDVA service should deliver and how these should be evaluated and suggest further research with RCT-level rigour to thoroughly evaluate the effect IDVA services have for victims, so that causation as well as correlation can be determined.



# Better supporting victims

*Victims receiving a better policing and criminal justice response and outcome in their cases*

The implementation of police officer body worn cameras in New York City for the purpose of establishing more lawful and civil police-citizen encounters is evaluated by Braga, MacDonald and McCabe (2021), using a cluster randomized controlled trial involving 3,889 officers. Relative to control officers, citizen complaints against treatment officers were reduced by 21 percent, and treatment officers also filed 39 percent more stop reports. Results suggest that body-worn cameras improved officer compliance with mandates to document all stops and could be used to address unlawful policing through better detection of problematic police–citizen encounters.

Using a vignette-based cluster randomised control trial, Demir (2021) examined the effects of awareness and notification of body worn cameras (BWC) on encounter-based citizen perceptions including procedural justice, police lawfulness, compliance with police and others in the US. Participants viewed a video of a real traffic stop in which officer used BWC. Compared to control, perceptions were significantly improved for participants in three experimental conditions (unawareness of BWC, awareness of BWC and notification of BWC). Compared to unawareness of BWC, notification of BWC significantly improved perceptions of procedural justice and police lawfulness, while awareness of BWC significantly improved perceptions of police lawfulness.

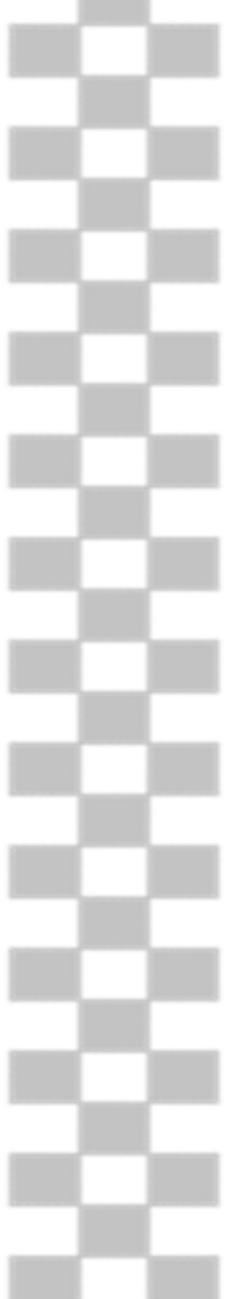
In a qualitative study exploring perspectives from 24 US female survivors of intimate partner violence on the process of police intervention, specifically how variations in initiation, quality of engagement, and arrest influence their safety, Nnawulezi *et al.* (2021) report that survivors describe a range of ongoing strategic violence requiring intervention, yet the complex nature of the violence often extends beyond police capacity, and survivors actively engaged in strategies outside formal systems to protect themselves. Study results imply that police intervention may be ill-suited to support survivors' safety goals and highlight a need for alternative interventions focused on de-escalation and prevention.

McPhee *et al.* (2021) subjected 400 reported domestic abuse offences involving intimate partners from two police forces in England & Wales to quantitative analysis to determine the factors that may influence their progress through the criminal justice system. The authors found that certain 'inequality' factors such as victim gender, vulnerability (including mental health) and incident type impact on the progression of cases.

Studies examining sexual assault case attrition have focused on key decision points, including police officers' decisions about whether a crime has occurred, arrest suspects, and prosecutors' charging decisions. Few have examined specific investigative actions. Jurek *et al.* (2021) argue that understanding these actions will shed light on case attrition. Utilising a sample of 493 US sexual assault case files to measure the investigative actions taken, information gathering activities from people and physical evidence was quantified and relationships between those activities and case characteristics were examined. Results show that suspects are not investigated in over half of cases, and that various victim-based case characteristics were associated with several investigative actions.

In a qualitative study involving Canadian criminal justice professionals as participants Regeher *et al.* (2021) examine video evidence and the rights of victims of sexual violence crimes whose images are captured in such images. They argue that loss of control over personal images and narratives can re-traumatize survivors of sexual violence creating a cycle each time that the images are used/viewed. They further argue that consistent policy and procedure currently lacking is needed for the handling of video evidence and for ameliorating the impact of the digital records on victims.

A systematic review of research assessing rape myth acceptance (RMA) interventions within institutional settings was conducted by Hudspith *et al.* (2021). The aim of this review was to inform the development of an educational intervention for jurors in rape trials that addresses rape myths, given previous evidence that RMA can affect decision-making and verdicts. 12 databases were searched, filtered to return peer-reviewed journals, published from 1980 to 2020, written in English. Research studies were included in the review if they assessed the impact of a naturalistic intervention on RMA within an institutional setting. Studies that did not compare an experimental condition to a control condition or did not randomly allocate participants to conditions were excluded. RMA interventions that are successful include those containing RM information; an empathy component; and bystander programmes. Implications for policy and practice, and recommendations for future research, are discussed.



# Better supporting victims

Salerno-Ferraro and Jung (2021) explore the relevance of rape myths in Canadian police officers' decisions to press charges in sexual assault cases, using a random selection of 300 sexual assault cases reported to and cleared by police. Using logistic regression, they examine the impact of variables associated with erroneous notions of 'real rape' and 'real rape victims' on police decisions to press charges. The results showed that several variables associated with stereotypic representations of rape predicted police processing of sexual assault cases, suggesting that rape myths may play a role in police charging practices.

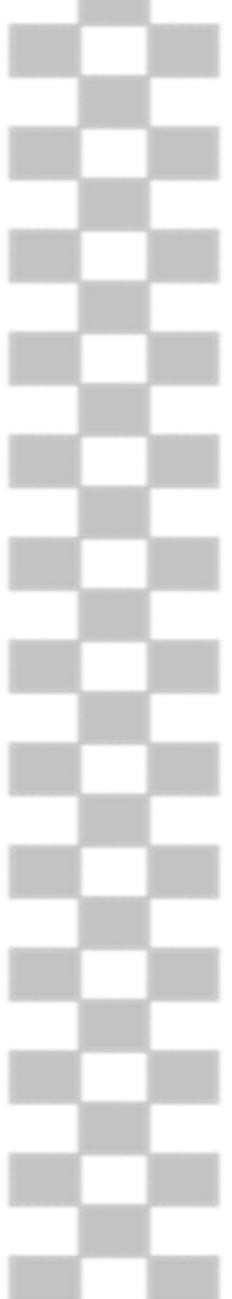
While the severity, certainty and celerity (swiftness) of punishment are theorised to influence offending through deterrence, celerity is rarely included in empirical studies and the three factors have never previously been analysed in one empirical model. Abromovaite *et al.* (2022) use variables capturing these three variables of theorised deterrence in an analysis of a panel of recorded theft, burglary and violence against the person data from 41 Police Forces in England and Wales. They find that increased detection by the police (certainty) is associated with reduced theft and burglary but not violence, and that variation in the celerity of sanction has a significant impact on theft offences but not on burglary or violence offences. Increased average prison sentences (severity) reduced burglary only.

## *Reducing the number of repeat victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking*

Hayes & Kopp (2021) examine the duration of stalking episodes among a nationally representative sample in the United States using National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey data. They explore whether the victim–perpetrator relationship and other types of victimization experienced were associated with (a) the stalking episode lasting over a year and (b) the length of stalking episodes, to determine if stalking episodes were longer for respondents whose perpetrators engaged in physical violence, psychological aggression, or coercive control. Findings indicate coercive control was associated with higher odds of the stalking episode lasting over a year and increased the length of episodes lasting <1 year. Coercive control was therefore a significant predictor of stalking and the duration of stalking episodes.

Research suggests that stalking inflicts great psychological and financial costs on victims, yet costs of victimisation are notoriously difficult to estimate and include as intangible costs in cost–benefit analysis. Tompson *et al.* (2021) report on an innovative cost–benefit analysis for a stalking prevention intervention piloted across three Police areas in England (The Multi-Agency Stalking Intervention Programme), using focus groups with multi-agency teams to collect detailed data on operational resources used to manage stalking cases. This 'deep dive' approach focused on two case studies from each of the three sites and best-and worst-case counterfactual scenarios were generated using the risk assessment scores and practitioner expertise. While the authors acknowledge the limitation that the cases selected were not representative of practitioner caseloads, the findings suggest that intervening in high-risk stalking cases was cost-beneficial to the state in all the case studies analysed and was often cost-beneficial to the victims too. The authors believe this method might prove useful in other public sector interventions where a victim or client centred approach is fundamental.

A paper by Banks & Waters (2022) explores the interrelationship between disordered gambling and intimate partner violence. Qualitative data were derived from interviews with 26 female research participants located across the UK and respondents' narratives indicated that coercive and controlling practices were employed by the intimate partner with a gambling disorder to (a) access money for gambling; (b) hide their gambling behaviour from others; (c) assuage their guilt and apportion blame to the female partner for their disordered gambling and abusive behaviour. The research highlights how gambling disorders can both precipitate and exacerbate IPV and underpin coercive and controlling behaviours. Such findings have implications for victim support, gambling support and criminal justice agencies. The authors highlight the importance of raising awareness that gambling disorders may be implicated in IPV and improving recognition of early warning signs that women (and their families) are at risk of or are experiencing violence as a consequence of a partner's gambling.



# Better supporting victims

11. Violence against sexual and gender minority (SGM) individuals has continued to proliferate globally. Yet, less is known about victimization among subgroups of SGM individuals, especially SGM immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. There has been a steady increase in this vulnerable group of migrants and emerging evidence has pointed to their heightened risk of victimization. In a scoping review Alessi *et al.* (2021) examined the existing empirical peer-reviewed literature on SGM migrants' experiences of violence and abuse and subsequent mental health impacts. Findings indicate that SGM migrants are extremely vulnerable to victimization and showed that violence and abuse began in childhood and continued in the host country, where migrants faced discrimination while managing posttraumatic stress disorder and depression. There is an immediate need for policies to protect SGM individuals worldwide and for affirmative, culturally informed practices. This review provides a strong foundation for improving practices and policies and for influencing future research in this area, which should explore how subgroups of SGM migrants, including lesbian, bisexual, and transgender male migrants, experience violence and abuse.

Using survey data collected from a sample of 243 police officers in one jurisdiction in Australia, Islam & Mazerolle (2022) investigate the influence of police attitudes toward domestic and family violence (DFV) on their decision-making in relation to providing support services, taking proactive actions, and seeking domestic violence protection order (DVO) applications. The study further examines whether the receipt of DFV training as well as confidence in handling aspects of DFV moderate police response. Based on multivariate logistic regression adjusted models, police officers who had proactive attitudes (e.g. pro-arrest attitudes) were more willing to provide support services and take other actions, whereas those who possessed reactive attitudes (e.g. minimum police involvement attitudes) were less likely to seek DVO applications and take other actions. Moreover, the likelihoods of making DVO applications, taking other actions, and providing support services are significantly higher among officers who have received DFV training and have confidence in handling cases. These findings reinforce the importance of increasing access to training for DFV and strengthening officers' confidence in responding.

Loney-Howes *et al.* (2021) analysed the content of 483 reports of sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse and various forms of sexual harassment, made to a digital reporting tool (DRT) developed by a rape crisis centre in Melbourne, Australia. These reports were made in a confidential and informal capacity, with all de-identified reports distributed to relevant policing jurisdictions to support intelligence gathering. Based on the analysis, the DRT functioned as an important gateway in connecting survivors with appropriate support and had a demonstrable capacity to provide the police with information for intelligence gathering. There was also scope for survivors to make formal reports should they wish to do so. The authors suggest future informal tools for reporting sexual violence need to be developed collaboratively, connecting reporters with a range of support services, and ensuring accessibility, safety, and privacy for reporters from diverse backgrounds.



# Protecting people from being exploited or harmed

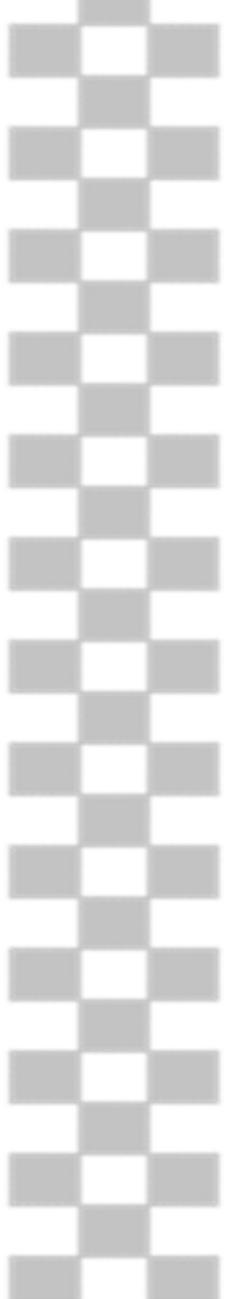
*Reducing the number of young people and adults being criminally exploited*

12. Mooney's (2021) systematic review aims to clarify what is known about contact child sexual exploitation (CSE) (i.e., direct physical contact, offline). The review found that a lack of definitional clarity of contact CSE delayed professional responses and impeded prosecutions and that victims failed to recognise that they were in an exploitative relationship with safeguarding implications. In addition, overlap with categorisations being used to describe CSE crimes resulted in data recording issues that make CSE difficult to analyse. There were generally few effective systems for flagging, monitoring and tracking perpetration of CSE through the criminal justice system, therefore true prevalence of CSE remained unknown. Studies that investigated methods of exploitation found that where perpetration began online, initial approaches were sexually direct and involved highly sexualised discourse – contrary to the stereotypical 'grooming' stage. In other contexts, instigation was more likely to involve normalising techniques and suggested that focus should be on "risky sites", particularly within night-time economies. Perpetrators of contact CSE tended to justify their behaviour, blaming victims and were likely to have previous adverse experiences, poor mental health, low self-esteem and attachment difficulties. Programmes aimed at recidivism were considered ineffective and failed to address specific elements of this type of offending.

13. The Independent Inquiry into child sexual abuse (2022) published an investigation into child sexual exploitation by organised networks, focusing on 6 areas in England with an intention to get an accurate picture of current practice. A key finding was that data on CSE was 'confused and confusing', with inconsistencies in definitions and in data collection making it difficult to create a reliable picture of prevalence or an understanding of the crime. The investigation found significant difficulties in identifying abusive networks due to police forces not being able to provide any evidence, despite there being cases of CSE by networks in each area. As a result, the Inquiry recommends that any denial of the scale of CSE nationally or locally must be challenged and investigated. Another key finding was that children had not received support because they were not categorised as having experienced CSE or because of thresholds applied to victims and/or cases. Going missing from home and school featured in almost every case examined and subsequent police inquiries were often inadequate. Disability featured in

more than one third of the cases examined in the investigation, and poor data collection on ethnicity made it impossible to tell whether there was any ethnic disproportionality in victims or perpetrators. Recommendations from the Inquiry were that the criminal justice response to CSE be strengthened by amending the Sentencing Act 2020, that the Dept for Education should ban the semi-independent and independent placement settings for 16 and 17 year olds who have experienced or are at risk of CSE and that police forces and local authorities should improve their data collection.

Rudolph *et al.* (2022) investigated the attitudes of 248 parents in Australia and the UK of children aged between 6 and 11 years to child sexual abuse (CSA) and protective practices using an online survey (2016). They found that parents were least likely to discuss sexual abuse, puberty, conception (including abortions) and pornography and least comfortable discussing domestic violence, death or suicide, sexual abuse and pornography. While almost all parents reported that they would agree with providing their children with education about CSA, only half reported that they had discussed CSA with them. While parents reported high levels of behaviours that research suggests may keep children safe (knowing parents of their children's friends, checking in with the child after play dates, limiting the amount of time a child was left unsupervised), some areas of concern emerged in a minority of the sample. 1 in 5 parents left their child at home without an adult 'sometimes', and 1 in 10 parents did not know where their child was 'sometimes' or 'about half the time'. 1 in 7 parents monitored their child's time with other adults 'never', 'sometimes' or 'about half the time' and a minority of parents monitored their child's internet history, with 1 in 4 children 'never' having their devices checked. The research highlights a need to better equip parents with tools to both discuss CSA with children and also monitor children's activity online.



# Protecting people from being exploited or harmed

14. Havard's (2021) research explores gendered exploitation of young women and girls in county lines gangs and drug sales in the UK. Using a multi-method approach including interviews with practitioners from a variety of sectors, the study found that young women and girls are being actively targeted by gang males. Male gang members use abusive tactics to recruit force young women into crime and as threats to keep them subservient. Gangs have recognised that young women and girls are less visible in terms of crime and justice and are recruiting them into criminal enterprise to exploit this; it provides an opportunity to move across county lines mostly undetected. Young women and girls involved in gangs stay silent because they are fearful of physical and sexual violence, economic abuse (debt bondage) and being exposed on social media for being promiscuous. With recent changes to relevant legislation (Modern Slavery Act 2015 and Domestic Abuse Act 2021), there is an opportunity to protect young women in gangs aged 16 and over by acknowledging these particular modes of coercive control outside of intimate or familial relationships.

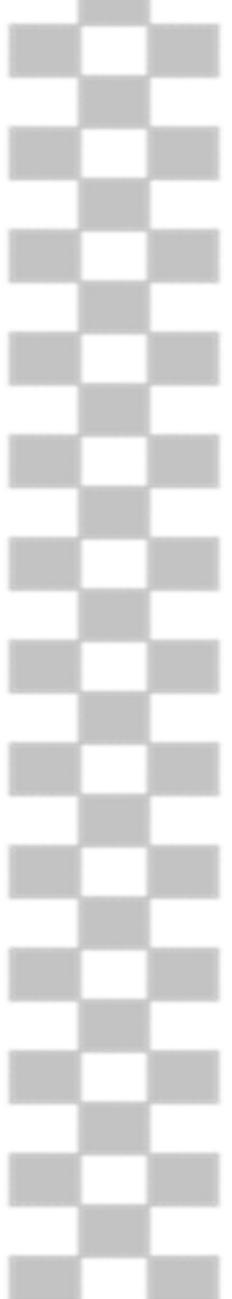
Villacampa *et al.* (2022) examined the institutional response to human trafficking in Spain, with a focus on victim detection, protection and support. Research findings indicate that organisations that considered themselves specialised in human trafficking, and those that had had specific training, were the most effective in detecting victims. Of the organisations that detected victims, they had mostly done so by undertaking proactive action or victims had been referred by other organisations. A smaller proportion of cases were detected by the victim seeking help, and very few cases were detected by people around the victim reporting what was happening. In terms of protection measures taken by organisations, legal assistance, medical and psychological assistance and accommodation were most common. Organisations applied protective measures almost exclusively to women, less than 10% of organisations protected both men and women. This is supported in other research, as well as by the percentage of known trafficking victims being mainly female and the apparent institutional bias in Spain which focuses its human trafficking response on sexual exploitation of undocumented migrants. This likely results in many victims being invisible and limits the institutional response to emergency assistance. Researchers argue that longer-term support would be helpful, with a focus on detecting and protecting all victims of trafficking (for example, labour exploitation victims who are mostly male). They argue that the institutional response should be victim-centred and not conditional on victim cooperation with law enforcement or immigration authorities.

## *Reducing the number of young people and adults being harmed*

The Covid pandemic and the restrictions that took place also had an effect on policing across the UK. O'Brien *et al.* (2021) examine reports from six UK police forces to determine the effect the pandemic had on missing persons reports. Results showed that during the lockdown period there was a 35% and 36% decrease in missing persons reports for children and adults respectively when compared to the previous year. Analysis found that during lockdown more adults were classified as high risk of harm. There was also a greater proportion of low risk children living in residential setting from a non white British background.

Responding to missing persons is resource intensive. O'Brien *et al.* (2021) examine the spatial behaviour of missing persons to identify any patterns which would affect future search strategies. Solved missing persons cases between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018 from two UK police forces were examined using ordinal regressions to look at the relationship between missing and found locations. Behaviour variables such as vulnerability of the missing person and whether there was any planning involved were also examined. It was found that children who were identified at high or medium risk of coming to harm were more likely to be found further away. However, if they were a victim of a violent attack then they would be found much closer to their missing location. The study also found that adults who went missing were more likely to be found further away if planning behaviours were involved. However if the adult was above the age of 65 years or suffering from abuse then they were found closer.

The majority of missing person cases in the UK involve children and young people. Lopez *et al.* (2021) examined the reasons and frequency of missing person cases under the age of 17. The study found a statistically significant relationship between gender, whether the child was in care and the frequency of missing episodes. Of those children who went missing over 10 times, 74% were female and 51% were identified as being in care. The study also identified that a small group of children who repeatedly went missing accounted for most of the incidents examined in the study and that the likelihood of a child going missing again increases around the weeks that followed on from a missing incident.



# Protecting people from being exploited or harmed

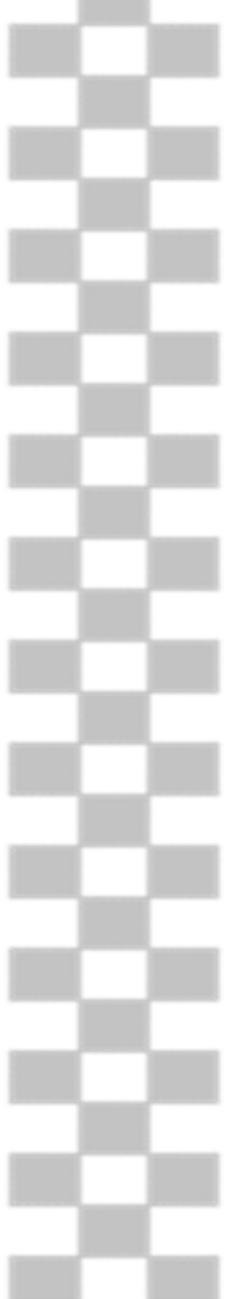
## *Supporting young and vulnerable people in the justice system and keeping them safe*

Although victimisation is prevalent against incarcerated women, there is a lack of literature investigating specific factors and characteristics of residents which are associated with an increased risk of physical and sexual harm whilst incarcerated. This in turn, limits the successful prevention and intervention related to violence against incarcerated women. Against this backdrop, Wolff and colleagues (2021) used self-reported survey data from a sample of 564 incarcerated women in a US prison. In order to explore which factors were linked with victimisation in prisons, a series of logistic regression models were estimated. According to the study results, victimisation in prisons was reported by over 25% of women, whereas childhood harm in over 50%. Importantly, childhood abuse (sexual and physical) was found to be a significant predictor of resident-on-resident sexual victimisation in prisons. The results of the study point to the importance of practically targeting these specific risk factors to prevent victimisation of women in prisons.

According to prior literature, individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may experience increased interactions with the criminal justice system and are more likely to be victims of crime. To date, there is limited information available related to the causes or outcomes of such interactions. Taking into consideration this literature gap, Koffer Miller *et al.* (2021) sought to explore the experiences of US individuals with ASD (N = 1,527) and their caregivers (N=6713) related to the justice system by employing a mixed-methods methodology. According to the findings, 39% of individuals with ASD reported having previous contact with the justice system. One of the most frequently cited type of interaction included the police being called either by the individual with ASD or someone else, predominantly due to safety concerns. Individuals self-identifying as 'Other' for ethnicity were four times more likely to be arrested or charged and three times more likely to experience victimisation. In line with the results, the authors advocate the use and expansion of programs which include a co-responder model. The findings of the research may provide useful guidance to policy makers.

## *Keeping people safe online*

Recent research has indicated that COVID-19 pandemic has been linked with changes in crime. Specifically, property and violent crime decreased after the first lockdown, but online crime showed an upward trend. However, little research has explored the association between multiple lockdowns and crime in the medium and long-term. Buil-Gil *et al.* (2021) used interrupted time-series analysis to investigate the effects on online and offline crime of three lockdowns in Northern Ireland using police data recorded between April 2015 and May 2021. The results indicated that whilst offline crime decreased after the lockdowns, followed by returning to pre-pandemic levels, cyber-related crime increased and continued to remain elevated. Stay-at-home order was linked with the most impact on crime. The authors argue that the COVID-19 pandemic may have spurred a rise in the long-term levels of online crime which may be due to rapid adaptation of 'motivated offenders' and that cyber-crime is unlikely to return to pre-existing levels.



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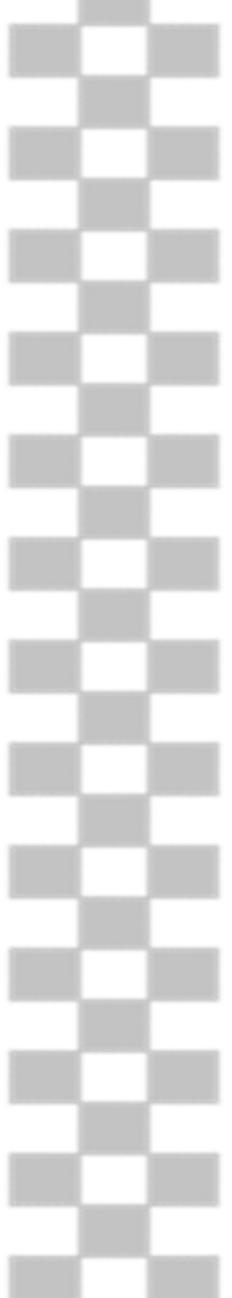
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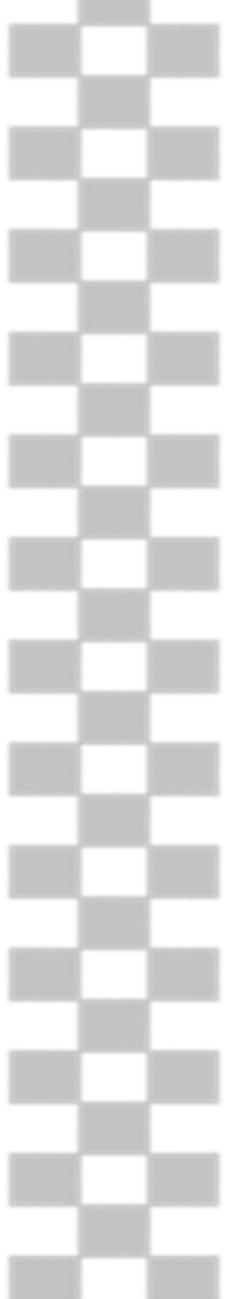
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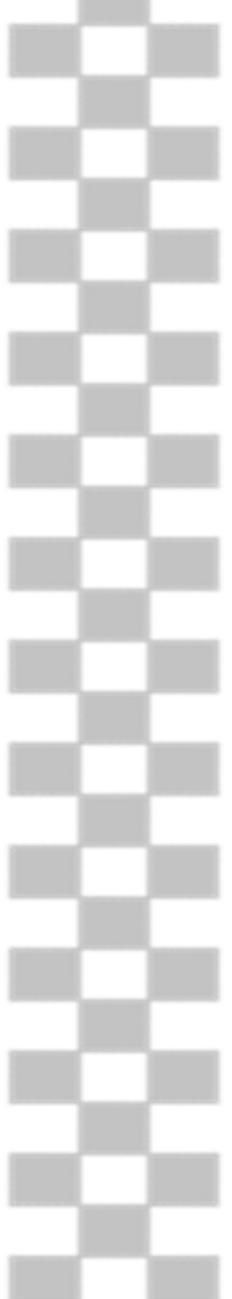
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