Evidence and Insight Horizon Scan (April – June 2020)

Overview

The Evidence and Insight (E&I) Horizon Scan reviews published academic studies and other research reports relevant to the Mayor's 2017–21 Police and Crime Plan (PCP) priorities for London. This latest version of the Scan examines publications from the period April to June 2020.

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. In addition, this version of the Horizon Scan contains articles looking at the impact of coronavirus on crime.

Publications 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 84. Abstracts for these are included in the appendices (page 3 onwards).

Of the 84 studies in the shortlist, 43 are from the USA/Canada, 19 from the UK, 9 from continental Europe, 3 from Australia, while 10 are either systematic reviews or combine results from multiple locations.

Using the Horizon Scan

The Horizon Scan document includes a summary sheet (page 2) which provides headline findings for the most pertinent studies. Each of the studies in the summary is 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 reference section at the end of this document lists full publication details for all 84 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

Horizon Scan – April - June 2020
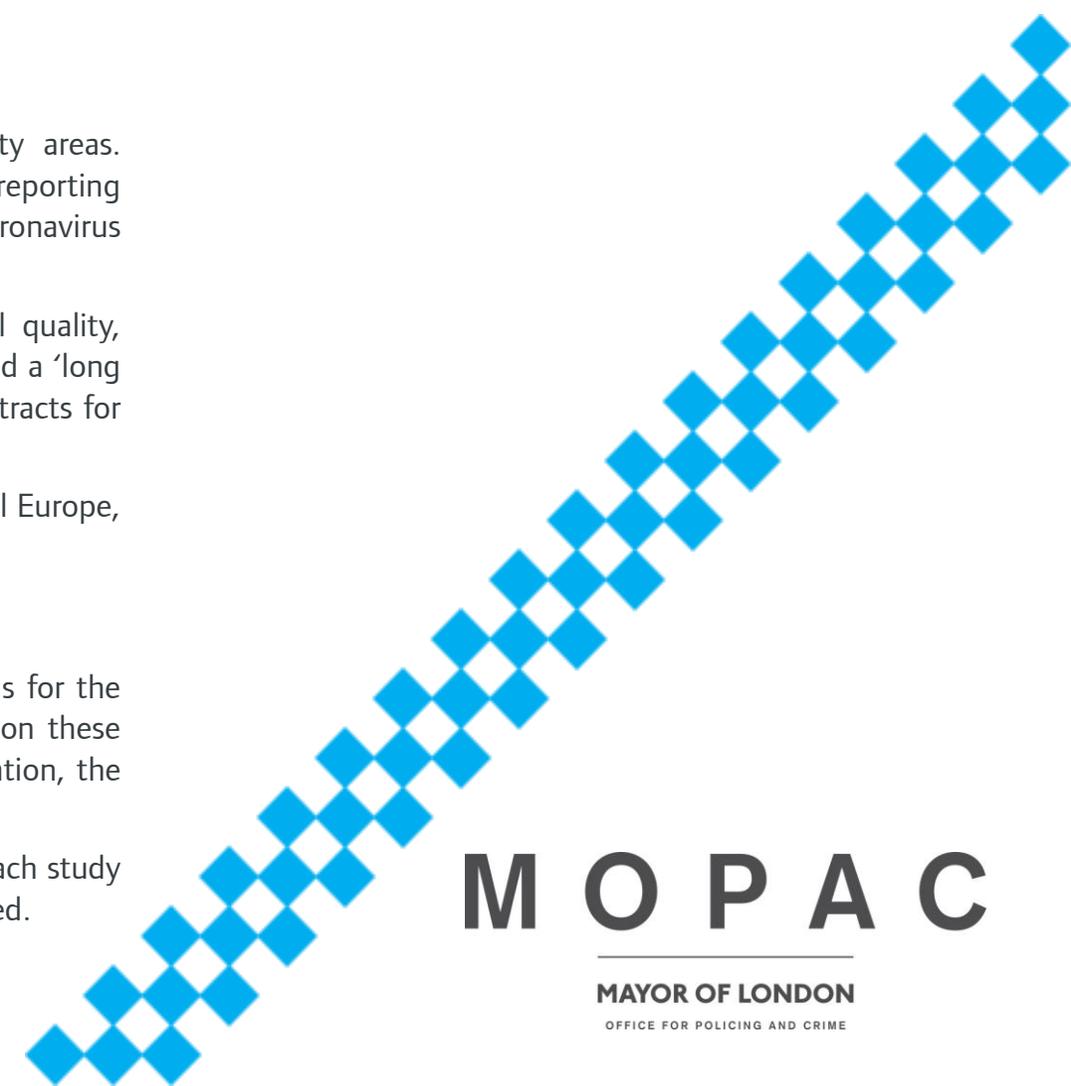
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A Better Police Service for London

1 Police Use of Force

A survey in the USA found Black citizens were over five times more likely to **worry about experiencing police brutality** than White citizens.

> Two studies looked at the use of Twitter in missing-persons investigations.

2 Police Cautions

A literature review found that adults in the CJS may have **difficulty understanding police cautions.** Higher IQ and verbal comprehension predict better understanding.

3 Citizen Education and Trust

1-day **community policing academies** (CPAs) were held to educate citizens about policing. These improved knowledge of police practices, but **did not improve public trust in officers**.

> Several studies looked at the impact of COVID-19 on crime patterns in the USA, in particular on burglary and domestic abuse

Keeping Children & Young People Safe

4 Harms of Organised Crime

Mixed-methods research found that organised crime groups were responsible for a much **wider range of local harms** than expressed in police intelligence mechanisms

> Two studies sought to understand patterns of violent crime victimisation and perpetrators

5 CSEW Violence Trends

Between 1995 and 2013/14 violence (excluding domestic incidents) fell significantly.

The overall fall was driven by a decline in incidents against young, &/or male individuals, **perpetrated by people they knew at least by sight**

6 'Populations at Risk' of Violence

Census data, mobile phone data, and fine-grained temporal/crime data were used to identify an **'exposed population at risk'** of violence, and to use this to understand victimisation trends.

A Better Criminal Justice System for London

7 'Dual Harm' in Prisons

'Dual harm' (**self-harm and violence against others**) is prevalent among men in prison, and is associated with a range of **other risk factors** that contribute disproportionately to the **overall incident burden** in prisons.

8 Offender Management

A review shows the success of **Integrated Offender Management** relies on:
Partnership working,
Locality/offender cohorts
Financial risks/constraints
Workforce characteristics.

Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

9 Barriers to help-seeking

Barriers to support for **intimate partner violence (IPV)** include:
- Low **awareness**
- **Access** challenges
- Lack of **resources**
- **Personal** barriers
- **System** failures
- Consequences of **disclosure**

10 Mental health and IPV

A Canadian survey showed that those with mental health disabilities had more than **three-fold increased odds of IPV victimisation**.

11 IPV in the Justice System

IPV as a victim/perpetrator is **common amongst young men** in the justice system, and is associated with **exposure to violence** during adolescence.

12 Risk markers for IPV

A synthesis of 503 studies published from 1980 - 2018 found 63 **unique risk markers** related to physical IPV perpetration for both men and women, 60 unique risk markers for male perpetration, and 45 unique risk markers for female perpetration.

13 Officer Gender and Domestic Violence Response

Research in Finland showed a **male victim** and **two male police officers**

Is least likely to result in the recording of an offence, arrest, or referral to support.

14 Domestic Abuse Programmes

A **culture-neutral** domestic abuse programme has been shown to **reduce reconviction rates** amongst both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian male perpetrators.

15 Targeting priority perpetrators

Research shows **promising results from UK pilot sites** for the Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool (PPIT) to manage the most harmful domestic abuse perpetrators.

16 Rape Myths in Policing

Rape myth endorsement amongst police officers was associated with sex and impulsivity, alongside lower self-reported **preparedness to respond to sexual assault calls**.

Important note:
This summary provides headline findings from a selection of recent academic studies (published April – June 2020).
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
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
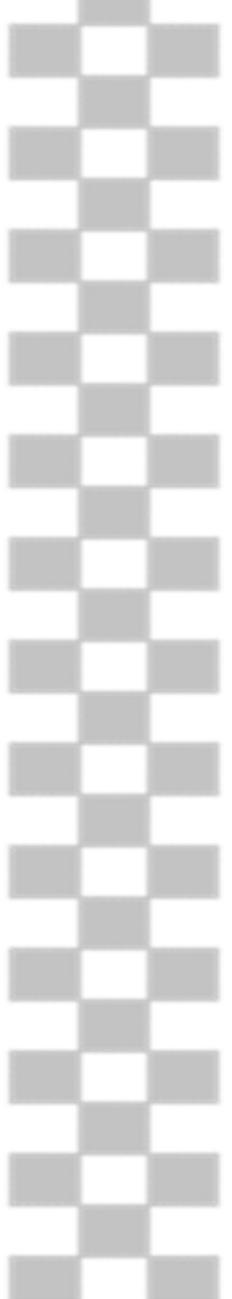
A Better Police Service for London

Greater use of community policing approaches has recently been recommended for U.S. policing agencies, in the wake of a series of high-profile police-involved deaths of predominantly African American citizens. However, there is limited empirical evidence that community policing can influence or impact the use of force by police. An Australian study (McCarthy et al. 2020b) used an online survey (fielded between June and July 2017) of 307 Queensland Police Service police officers to examine whether frequency of community engagement affects officers' attitudes towards coercive and non-coercive policing responses to a vignette, and whether social distance might explain this relationship. Regression analyses demonstrated that community engagement was positively related to endorsement of non-coercive policing responses and negatively related to endorsement of coercive policing responses. Social distance mediated the former relationship, but not the latter. These results suggest that community policing approaches may increase the propensity for non-coercive policing responses, and that a reduction in social distance to the community is one pathway through which this occurs.

Blais et al. (2020) assessed the capability of a mobile crisis intervention team (MCIT) deployed in the city of Sherbrooke (Quebec, Canada) to connect emotionally disturbed people (EDP) with community resources and decrease police use-of-force. The impact of the MCIT was assessed against the following outcomes: (1) EDPs transported to the hospital, (2) EDPs referred to community resources, (3) EDPs managed by their own social network, (4) police use-of-force against EDPs, and (5) EDPs transported to the hospital against their will, with the effect of the MCIT estimated for the first 6 and last 6 months. This strategy was used to determine whether implementation issues could account for inconclusive results regarding the impact of some co-responding police-mental health programmes. In order to have equivalent groups, interventions managed by the MCIT were matched to incidents handled by traditional police officers with similar propensity scores. The treatment group included all interventions conducted by the MCIT between 4 p.m. and midnight on Wednesday and Friday between May 2016 and May 2017. The control group contained interventions handled by regular police officers between 4 p.m. and midnight on Wednesday and Friday between May 2015 and May 2017. Data were available for 399 interventions, 35.8% of which were conducted by the MCIT (n = 143). When average treatment effects were calculated, the MCIT was associated with decreases in police use-of-force, EDP transported to the hospital against their will, and EDP transported to the hospital in general. EDP were more likely to be referred to community resources or managed by their social network when the MCIT was involved in the intervention.

Slothower et al. (2020) conducted interviews with 101 of the 142 crime victims in the sample (completion rate = 71%) drawn in Birmingham, UK, after their prosecution-ready case had entered into a randomized controlled trial comparing a police-led desistance contract (Turning Point) with prosecution in court as usual, with all victims in diverted cases told why the diversion decision had been made. Interviews were also completed with 48 victims (out of 70 attempted, completion rate = 69%) whose case had been diverted to the same programme at an earlier stage of the experiment when there was no consistent victim communication strategy. Responses by interviewed victims were compared by treatment group. An additional comparison was made to responses of victims from cases assigned to Turning Point at the earlier stage of the experiment. Forty-five percent more victims in the Turning Point than in the prosecution sample were satisfied (72.5% vs. 50%; d = .52) with the way their case had been handled. Victims whose case had been prosecuted reported experiencing a more negative impact of the case on their respect for the justice system, compared with those whose case had been diverted (d = .58). In the Turning Point sample from the earlier stage without comprehensive victim communication, only 54% of victims were satisfied with the diversion treatment compared with 72.5% of those who had received a consistent explanation of the reasons for assignment to Turning Point. The authors concluded that while victims can be more satisfied with diversion than with court, communication of the rationale for diversion seems essential.

In a pilot study, Torres & Reling (2020) examine police patrol activity, specifically engagement in under-policing, and investigatory-apprehensiveness toward minorities across White and non-White patrol officers in the context of policing post-Ferguson. Using a sample of unranked, patrol-duty officers in the United States (n = 887) from an online survey, a series of multivariate binary logistic models suggest under-policing and apprehensiveness toward stopping minorities is shaped largely by structural, individual, and societal forces. Agency size, a proxy for geographical area, in particular appears to capture much of the structural nuance explaining these outcomes. Nonetheless individual responses to the job mattered more. This was especially true for White officers who evidenced more individual factors explaining under-policing and apprehensiveness toward stopping minorities than non-White officers. Results suggest the post-Ferguson period appears to have made an impression on patrol officers' behaviours.

A Better Police Service for London

1. Given the historically contentious relationship – including most notably the use of excessive and lethal force – between the police and African Americans, the current project examines the extent to which Blacks in the United States fear police brutality. Graham *et al.* (2020) used a national-level survey (N = 1,000), to measure fear by how much respondents "worry" about experiencing police force. The data supports the racial divide hypothesis, showing that Blacks' worry about such violence is over five times that of Whites. Guided by the racial/ethnic gradient hypothesis, the analyses also assess Hispanic respondents' level of worry. Rather than forming a gradient by falling midway between Blacks and Whites, Hispanics' worry about police brutality more closely reflects those of Blacks at more than four times that of Whites, suggesting a racial/ethnic divide. These findings thus assert that worrying about police brutality is an emotional injury that minorities disproportionately experience and whose pervasiveness remains largely hidden from view.

Research findings show that legal cynicism (scepticism about laws, the legal system, and police) is important in understanding neighbourhood variation in engagement with the police, particularly in racially isolated African American communities. McCarthy *et al.* (2020a) argue that legal cynicism is also useful for understanding neighbourhood variation in complaints about police misconduct. Using data on complaints filed in Chicago between 2012 and 2014, they show that grievances disproportionately came from racially segregated neighbourhoods and that a measure of legal cynicism from the mid-1990s predicts complaints about abuse of police power two decades later. The association between legal cynicism and complaints is net of prior complaints, reported crime, imprisonment, and other structural factors that contribute to the frequency and nature of interactions involving police and residents. Legal cynicism also mediates the influence of racially isolated neighbourhoods on complaints. The mid-1990s is the approximate midpoint of a half-century of police scandals in Chicago. They suggest that contemporary complaints about police misconduct in highly segregated Chicago neighbourhoods are grounded in collectively shared historical memories of police malfeasance.

Bhardwaj & Apel (2020) consider whether societal gender inequality moderates the relationship between gender and peceptions of personal safety. Pooled 1992–2005 rounds of the International Crime Victims Survey, comprising more than 285,000 respondents from 75 countries, are used to estimate multilevel models of safety perceptions, with a cross-level interaction specified between gender and gender inequality. They find that the gender gap in safety perceptions, although statistically significant in all countries, is largest in countries exhibiting high gender equality and smallest in countries with high gender inequality. This is explained entirely by variation in men's safety perceptions; male respondents perceive themselves as safer in a milieu of gender equality, but less safe in a milieu of gender inequality. In contrast, the safety perceptions of female respondents are uncorrelated with societal gender inequality.

2. A review by Rendall & MacMahon (2020) examines the literature exploring comprehension of a verbally presented police caution and the suggested factors influencing this, amongst adults within the criminal justice system. An electronic literature search returned 438 titles, with screening leaving 13 articles considered appropriate for the review question. The majority of these were USA studies, with two UK and two Canadian studies (and heterogeneous study methodologies only permitted a narrative approach to pooling the data). Findings indicate that a considerable proportion of this population have difficulty fully understanding the caution. Higher IQs and verbal comprehension are positively associated with understanding. The studies also indicate that some factors that may appear intuitively related to comprehension, such as prior caution exposure, education, age and mental health, may not be linked to performance.

3. Recent funding has allowed a police department in a large southwestern US city to host 14 one-day community police academies (CPAs) to educate residents about policing topics to enhance trust and improve public perceptions of the department. Perez *et al.* (2020) analysed data collected at CPA events to determine the effects on citizen knowledge of police procedures and the effect of this knowledge on attitudes toward the police. Each event hosted approximately 20–30 community member attendees. The sample consists of 317 participants who completed one of the fourteen CPA events. Using a pretest questionnaire at the beginning of the first session of the CPA, participants were assessed on ten knowledge-based questions. These questions covered the topics that would be discussed over the entirety of the CPA event. These included laws of arrest, training, force options, patrol, officer-involved shooting investigations, and internal affairs. At the conclusion of the CPA, participants were asked the exact same questions on a post-test questionnaire to assess any changes that occurred as a result of participation. Results indicate that while CPAs were effective at educating citizens about practices and improving trust in law enforcement, the increased knowledge was not associated with improvements to public trust. Results instead suggest citizen perceptions of officer honesty, trust, integrity, and accountability may be more emotionally motivated and may not be impacted by added information or education about police procedures. As such, these educational sessions may not be the best tactic to address how the public feel about their local police officers. The knowledge obtained at the CPA was, however, predictive of lower concerns about use of force.
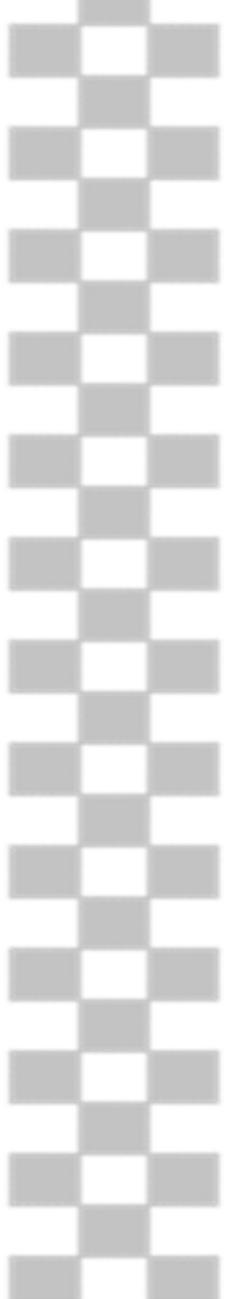
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Police culture

Much research has examined public views about fair treatment of citizens by police, but little is known about officers' perceptions of impartiality and justice within their own occupation. Efforts to improve minority representation in police organizations might be hampered if officers themselves believe that police do not always treat people in neutral, unbiased, and fair ways. Guy & Paoline (2020) analysed American police officers' perceptions of whether their colleagues treat members of the public in ways that display racial impartiality, income impartiality, and procedural justice using survey data collected from officers in a mid-sized, urban department in Florida. At the time of the survey in 2016, there were 271 non-command staff officers, of whom 203 participated. This resulted in a response rate of 99.5% of those present at survey administration, and 74.9% of the official count of sworn personnel in the department. Due to missing data, the regression models in the analysis contain approximately 185 of the 203 participants. Findings indicate that black officers are critical of policing on all three measures; however, controlling for perceived racial and income inequity in a regression model eliminates the race effect for procedural justice. Thus, black officers appear to perceive a greater degree of inequity in how officers treat the public and, in turn, perceived inequity reduces their beliefs that officers consistently engage in procedurally just policing.

Police performance

Desmond *et al.* (2020) examined the productivity and performance of a sample (n=404) of police officers in an American Midwestern police department, beginning in the police academy and through their first 10 years of policing, examining measures of productivity and performance over this time. The research team collected updated officer performance and evaluation information for all members of the cohort sample (annual performance scores, misdemeanour and felony arrest totals, and complaint information) in 2017. Findings indicate that officers' academy performance did not influence officer trajectories, but selected demographic variables were significantly related to performance across the career course. Among these, female and non-White officers were consistently rated lower in their performance evaluations. Overall, results suggest that factors predicting productivity and performance are dynamic, and there is no single combination of characteristics that predicts who will be a "good" officer.

Pre-employment screening to assess for psychological vulnerability is common in trauma-exposed occupations such as policing. However, the ability of such screening to predict those at increased risk of subsequent mental health problems has been questioned. An American study by Marshall *et al.* (2020) sought to investigate the ability of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory-2 (MMPI-2) to predict absenteeism related to psychological injury in police officers. Pre-employment screening data from 1,399 sworn police officers was linked to organizational records. A total of 150 police officers who had taken at least 2 weeks' sick leave with work-related mental health concerns were matched to 150 healthy controls. Conditional logistic regression was used to examine any association between MMPI-2 scales and psychological injury-related absenteeism. The authors found no evidence that elevations in the pre-employment MMPI-2 scores of police recruits were associated with an increased chance of future absenteeism as a result of psychological injury. In addition, there was no evidence of an increased likelihood of psychological injury-related absenteeism among those with a higher number of positive pre-employment risk factors, leading them to conclude that the MMPI-2, if used at pre-employment, is not able to predict later psychological injury-related absenteeism.

Opinion differences between U.S. non-native-born and native-born persons have been shown to be noteworthy in prior studies of citizen behaviours, beliefs, perceptions and attitudes. Using data from the US's General Social Survey (GSS) Simon *et al.* (2020) find that nativity is a powerful explanatory variable and offer empirical support for the 'conflicted conservative' theory. Questions about police use of force and subject nativity are asked of a randomized sub-sample of survey respondents in GSS surveys conducted annually from 1972 to 1993, and biennially since 1994, providing a sample of 7,339 people. The authors found the U.S. vs. non-U.S. place of birth variable to be as powerful as race in predicting citizens' support of police use of force. Non-native-born survey respondents were significantly less likely to support police use of force when compared to native-born survey respondents, likely to be because many non-native-born individuals residing in the United States are influenced in their views on policing by their prior home country experiences. Men were significantly more supportive of police use of force when compared with women. Additionally, individuals with higher levels of education were more supportive of police use of force than individuals with lower reported levels of education. It appears that the residential location of survey respondents does matter. Size of place in which one resides was not statistically significant, but geographic location in the country was shown to be a significant factor.
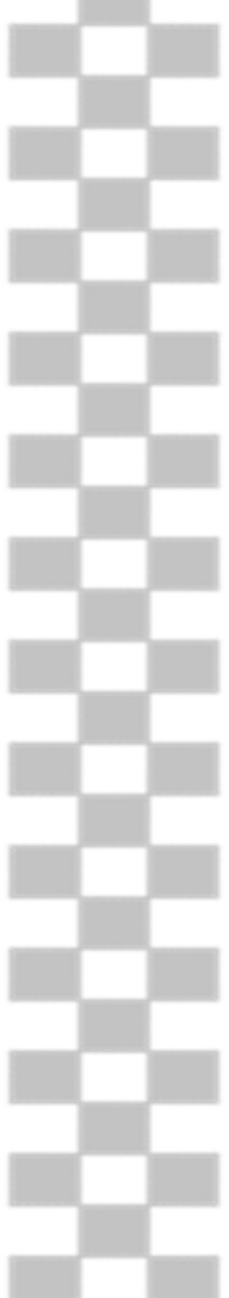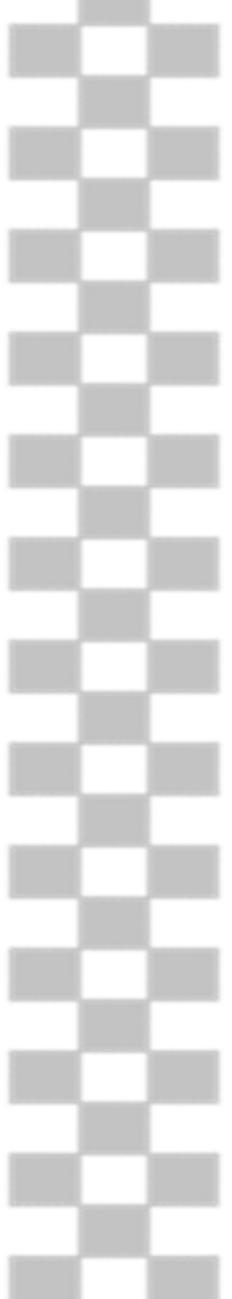
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Demir *et al.* (2020) test the effect of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on stopped drivers' perceptions of complying with police directives, obeying traffic laws, and cooperating with the police using encounters between traffic police officers and highway drivers in Eskisehir province in Turkey. A quasi-randomized controlled trial was conducted with drivers stopped at routine traffic checkpoints. Drivers in the treatment group encountered police officers wearing BWCs, and drivers in the control group encountered police officers without BWCs. Surveys were administered after the stop. A total of 624 motorists participated in the post-stop survey (299 from the treatment, 325 from the control). Findings suggest motorists exposed to BWC officers reported significantly stronger agreement with compliance with police directives, obedience toward traffic laws, and assistance with police duties. Further analysis indicates BWCs generate indirect impacts on specific citizen compliance mediated through improvements in procedural justice, as well as indirect impacts on general compliance and cooperation mediated through improvements in both police legitimacy and procedural justice. The results suggest that BWCs may be an effective means of improving drivers' willingness to comply with directives, follow traffic laws, and assist police. Consistent with a process-based explanation, their effectiveness stems almost entirely from drivers' experience of procedurally just and legitimacy-enhancing treatment by police officers. The findings indicate BWCs provide a form of officer accountability that mere training in procedural justice might be insufficient to achieve.

To examine differences in use of force by police patrol and specialized units, and the impact of body-worn cameras (BWCs) on use of force in these groups Gaub *et al.* (2020) used administrative data from the Tempe (Arizona USA) Police Department collected during a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of BWCs. Tempe has a population of approximately 180,000 permanent residents and is predominantly White (72%) and Latinx (21%), the police department is medium-sized, employing approximately 330 sworn officers. t tests of means and ARIMA models were constructed to analyze unit-level variation in use of force. Administrative data was collected on use of force, calls for service, and weekly assignment rosters for a 48-month period beginning 1 year prior to the BWC RCT (November 1, 2014) and ending October 31, 2018.The research found that Tempe officers in specialized units used substantially more force than patrol officers. BWCs had no impact on use of force among patrol officers but were associated with a significant decline in force among specialty

unit officers who received BWCs in the second phase of the study. Unit-level variations in force can have implications for selection, training, and other areas of police practice. The authors conclude their findings show the necessity of accounting for group variation within departments when assessing the impact of BWCs on outcomes like use of force.

In recent years, many law enforcement agencies have found themselves in legitimacy crises, where police have difficulty winning the support and trust of the communities that they serve. One strategy suggested to improve legitimacy is developing personnel rosters that share demographic characteristics with a jurisdiction's service population. In an American study Nowacki *et al.* (2020) examine how characteristics of police agencies, including existing workforce diversity, predict subsequent success in hiring non-White applicants. They merged applicant and hiring data from 116 agencies reporting to the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) between 2012 -16 with organizational data from the Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLLEA). Results suggest that existing workforce diversity and some measures of organizational complexity influence successful hiring of non-White applicants. Broadly, the authors found that more racially and/or ethnically representative agencies are more likely to hire non-White applicants. Moreover, they found that agencies featuring more specialized units were more likely to hire non-White applicants. These agencies feature more specialization and provide more opportunities for applicants (including non-White applicants) who may be interested in policing, but not necessarily in traditional patrol duties. Thus, this type of organizational complexity may increase diversification. One of their key findings was that more representative agencies were more likely to hire non-White applicants; past success in hiring diversity begets subsequent success. Moreover, they did not find a statistically significant relationship between percentage of non-White applications and non-White hires. It is possible that minority applicants yielded a higher attrition rate than White applicants as the recruitment and selection processes unfolded.

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Investigation

Police agencies globally are seeing an increase in reports of people going missing. These people are often vulnerable, and their safe and early return is a key factor in preventing them from coming to serious harm. One approach to quickly find missing people is to disseminate appeals for information using social media. Two articles, one based in the UK, one in Canada, examine the police use of Twitter in missing persons investigations, and attempt to identify the factors associated with their successful use. Solymosi *et al.* (2020) analysed 1,008 Tweets made by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) between the period of 2011 and 2018 in order to investigate what features of the tweet, the twitter account, and the missing person are associated with levels of retweeting. They found that tweets with different choice of image, wording, sentiment, and hashtags vary in how much they are retweeted. Tweets that use custody images have lower retweets than Tweets with regular photos, while tweets asking the question 'have you seen … ?' and asking explicitly to be retweeted have more engagement in the form of retweets. They suggest their results highlight the need for conscientious, evidence-based crafting of missing appeals, and the need to develop guidance for police forces worldwide. Similarly, Ferguson & Soave (2020) used logistic regression to analyse 373 missing person tweets posted over two years (2017–2019) from 15 Canadian police services on Twitter to estimate which features are likely to increase public engagement (retweets, likes, and comments) with these tweets. As with the GMP study above, their results reveal that there are several features significantly associated with higher engagement, such as images and hashtags, and which increase community outreach and participation, as well as the likelihood of solving these cases.

Fatigue resulting from unpredictable or extended working conditions is a factor that negatively impacts the performance of police officers. Kyriakidou *et al.* (2020) considered how investigative interviewing of children is influenced by interviewer working conditions, examining interviews conducted by Cyprus police: (a) during early duty shift and (b) an hour before the end of an interviewer's duty shift and after the end of a shift. They analysed the quality of 102 police interviews conducted by a range of trained police officers from 2005 to 2018. They identified clues that interviews which commenced during early duty shift had more appropriate approaches than interviews in the other condition. Inappropriate approaches were not significantly affected by interviewer working conditions.

Crime prevention

To evaluate the impact of proactive police response on residential burglary and theft from vehicle in micro-time hot spots as well as whether spatial displacement occurs, Santos & Santos (2020) conducted an experiment with the Port St. Lucie, FL Police Department. Over 2 years, 114 treatment and 103 control micro-time hot spots were assigned to groups using "trickle-flow" randomization. Responses were implemented as part of the police department's established practices, and micro-time hot spots were blocked based on their temporal proximity—sprees or ongoing. The study was blinded and tested proactive patrol versus a no-dosage control condition. The department responded to each micro-time hot spot with, on average, five 20-min responses per day for 19 days. Results show that treatment micro-time hot spots had significantly fewer crimes after 15 days (79%) and 30 days (74%). Treatment effects were greatest in the first 15 days (1.15) followed by days 16–30 (.83). The study examines a real-world strategy institutionalized into the day-today operations of a police department. The largest impact on crime was seen during response. In addition, crime reductions that occurred while micro-time hot spots received response held for 2 months after the responses end with no evidence of spatial displacement.

There is general agreement that the frequency of crime decreases with the distance from the offender's home. By way of exception to this distance decay pattern, the buffer zone hypothesis states that offenders avoid offending very close to home. Bernasco & van Dijke (2020) assessed the validity of the latter hypothesis via a systematic literature review. They initially identified 108 studies on criminal distance decay, from which they selected 33 studies that included sufficient information to assess the existence of the buffer zone. Of the 33 studies, 22 rejected the buffer zone hypothesis and 11 supported it. Across the whole sample, the methodological rigor of the studies was limited, but unrelated to whether the buffer zone hypothesis was supported or rejected. Based on the available evidence the buffer zone hypothesis has gained limited support.
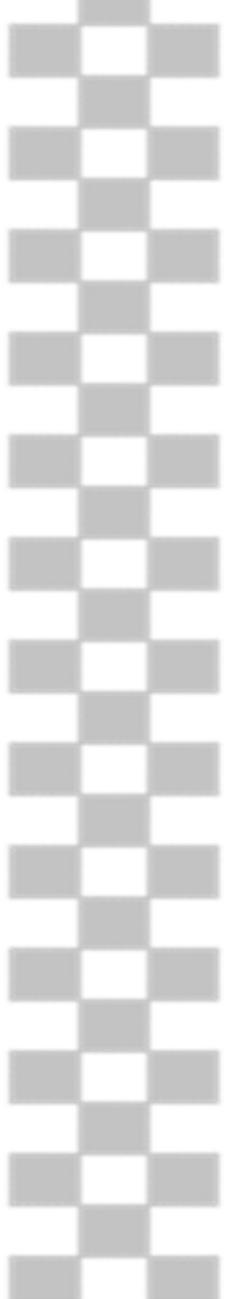
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Future policing/crime developments

While previous synthesis research studies have found income inequality to be the most consistent predictor of crime at the cross-national level, recent comparative research studies in Europe have implied that the magnitudes of income inequality-crime association might be different in cross-national studies depending on sample composition. Employing a systematic review and meta-analysis, Kim *et al.* (2020) aimed to systematically estimate the strength and variability of income inequality-crime association in Europe across multiple published articles and to investigate the intervening role of regions in this relationship. Additional analyses were conducted to detect the regional differences within Europe using the official secondary data of 36 European countries. Income inequality in Europe had a small impact on crime (Mr = .171, k = 10), indicating that income inequality accounts for only 3% of the variance in crime outcomes. While the income inequality-crime association was significant in Eastern/Northern Europe, income inequality had little or no effect on crime in Western/Southern Europe. The small association between income inequality and crime in Europe may be due to the well-developed welfare system, which helps to buffer the adverse effects of being poor.

*Repeat victims/Victimisation/Fear of crime*

Lo *et al.* (2020) used a sample of Americans in early adulthood to determine (1) whether and how victimization shapes future offending among non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Blacks, and Hispanics and to examine (2) whether and how a victimization–offending relationship differs by race/ethnicity. Study data came from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 cohort using a sample numbering 58,783 person-waves covering 2004–2015 (29,972 person-waves for non-Hispanic Whites, 15,936 non-Hispanic Blacks, and 12,875 for Hispanics). Criminal offending was indicated by arrest(s) occurring after a respondent's immediate past intervie, violent victimization by experiencing bullying or by having seen a person suffer a gunshot; each variable was measured once for childhood and once for adolescence. The results showed that an experience of violent victimization in childhood increased the likelihood of crime commission in early adulthood, across all racial/ethnic groups. Yet for each distinct group, the authors also observed a distinct pattern(s) in the victimization–offending relationship. So, while seeing a person gunshot in adolescence increased arrest likelihood for all three racial/ethnic groups, seeing a person gunshot in childhood increased risk of arrest for White and Black respondents only. The effect was not found for Hispanic children, possibly pointing to the Hispanic family structure

as a crucial buffer against victimization's influence on future offending.

Male young adults, regardless of ethnicity, were much more likely than female to engage in criminal offending and to be arrested, although race/ethnicity's gendered effect on arrest likelihood was much stronger among Blacks than Whites. Other findings were that having a high school diploma nearly halved the risk of arrest, while having a college degree reduced it further still for all racial and ethnic groups in the study, and that Black respondents were significantly more likely than respondents in the other groups to report having been arrested in earlier waves (2006, 2007), versus the 2004 reference, offering some support for arguments of disproportionate policing of minorities.

Psychopathy has been linked to a host of negative outcomes including victimization; yet, the mechanisms that may explain this relationship have not been identified. Using data from the Pathways to Desistance study, Daigle *et al.* (2020) undertook a longitudinal study of adolescents adjudicted for serious offenses (N = 1,354) in two American sites (Maricopa County, Arizona, or Philadelphia County, Philadelphia) to examine several mechanisms that may mediate the relationship between psychopathy and violent victimization. They found a 1 SD increase in psychopathy increased the risk of victimization by about 9.3%, net of control variables. Psychopathy is linked to violent victimization through its significant influences on engagement in risky behaviours, moral disengagement, motivations to succeed, and expectations for the future. These findings are striking given that they identify factors such as cognition and engagement in risky behaviour that may be suitable targets for change in prevention or intervention efforts.

The notion that immigrants are more crime prone or increase crime has been largely debunked by criminologists over the last two decades. However, there is a lack of contemporary research on explaining perceptions of immigrant criminality, specifically. McCann & Boateng (2020) examined factors that relate to Americans' belief that immigrants increase crime rates in local communities using data from the PRRI/Brookings 2016 Immigration Survey collected via a probability-based panel survey from 2,607 survey respondents. Using weighted blocked logistic regression analyses, they found that individual factors related to identity (e.g. race, gender, age, religion, etc.) were not significant predictors of the view that immigrants increase crime. Instead, individuals who believe immigrants are a burden to society, already have negative views of immigrants, and are more resistant to societal and cultural change are more likely to believe this falsehood. Economic competition hypotheses received no support.
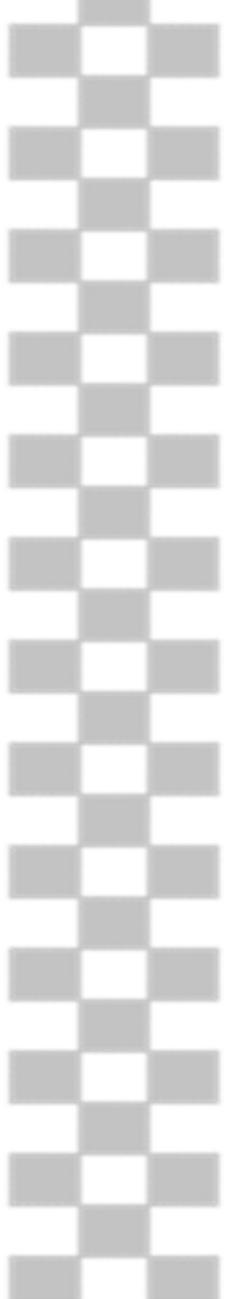
A Better Criminal Justice Service for London

Supporting female offenders

Many of the women who find themselves in the grips of confinement are mothers. Maternity can be central to women's identities, making them reluctant to relinquish mothering roles once they become incarcerated. When women serve custodial sentences, they can no longer be directly responsible for day-to-day caregiving for their young children. Thus, children are often placed in the care of proxy caregivers. Notwithstanding, many women retain their maternal identities and wish to engage as mothers while they are incarcerated. As such, women must manage motherhood with and through their children's caregivers. Using group interviews with 55 mothers in a Midwest United States women's prison, a study by Cunningham Stringer (2020) investigates how maternity is managed from prison with children's caregivers. Findings suggest that incarcerated women, their children and their children's caregivers need access to programmes that: teach and encourage healthy family communication; promote positive co/parenting; and provide opportunities to create healthy and meaningful relationships in difficult circumstances.

Although coercive control has been recognized over the past few decades as a form of intimate partner violence (IPV), researchers have often overlooked the role of coercive control in criminal behaviour. Moreover, little is known about the effects of coercive control in the lives of incarcerated women. Using questionnaire data from the 2014 Oklahoma Study of Incarcerated Women and Their Children (n = 337), a study by Jones (2020) utilises a feminist pathways theoretical framework to explore the relationships between coercive control, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptomology, and the use of physical violence in the pre-prison heterosexual relationships of incarcerated women. Results indicate that coercive control is significantly related to PTSD. Moreover, the relationship between coercive demands and women's use of physical violence was partially mediated by PTSD symptoms suggesting that PTSD may play a significant role in women's pathways to using physical violence in their intimate relationships.

Reducing reoffending

Criminal career duration has not been well investigated. There are very few longitudinal data sets that last long enough and enough subjects to investigate criminal career duration, and especially the characteristics and risk profiles of especially life course persistent offenders. The aim of a study by Ahonen *et al.* (2020) was to describe the predictability of criminal career duration based on both official records and self-reports of offending, and to put the results in the context of the Moffitt theory of "adolescent limited" and "life course persistent" offenders. The Pittsburgh Youth Study is a seminal longitudinal study based on a community sample of high-risk boys from the city of Pittsburgh. Data was used from the oldest sample of boys in the PYS (n = 506). The participants were first assessed on average at age 12, and data was used up until age 36 for self-reported offending, and age 40 for police charges. The analyses were conducted on moderate and serious violence and moderate and serious theft. Career duration was based on self-reports and official charges in combination. The results show the extent to which commonly accepted, and well validated risk factors predict criminal career duration with a special focus on individuals showing high rate/persistent offending in adolescence. Results show more pathways of delinquent development than have previously been described. Results also show that there is limited predictability of delinquency and offending over time. In addition, results show that only a small number of risk factors distinguish high and low rate adolescent offenders who become continuous offenders, for example peer factors.

Research has shown that imprisonment has a criminogenic effect, but few studies have examined why this relationship exists. Drawing on Agnew's General Strain Theory (GST) and survey data from a sample of men and women incarcerated in a large Southern US prison, a study by Cook and Haynes (2020) examined the role of both imprisonment pains and re-entry strains on perceived likelihood of reoffending. The study also examined differences between first-time and repeat prisoners. Results from the overall sample (n = 456) showed that re-entry strains (i.e., low community capital and inability to adjust to life in the community) mattered more than imprisonment pains. The results were similar for repeat prisoners, but both imprisonment pains (i.e., fear for one's safety while in prison) and re-entry strains (i.e., low community capital) mattered for first-time prisoners.

A study by Stansfield *et al.* (2020) examined changes in family conflict and violence among a sample of adult men after release from prison. Using longitudinal panel data on 1,282 men in the Serious and Violent Offender Re-entry Initiative, cross-lagged dynamic fixed-effects panel data models were used to examine factors that relate to family conflict and family violence perpetrated by men after release from prison. Analysis found that increased contact with family members during incarceration, as well as post-release family support, related to decreased family conflict, even after accounting for family conflict during incarceration. Contact was unrelated to post-release family violence. Interestingly, family violence prior to incarceration did not predict within-person changes in violence post-release. Post-release substance use and criminal offending significantly related to post-release family violence.
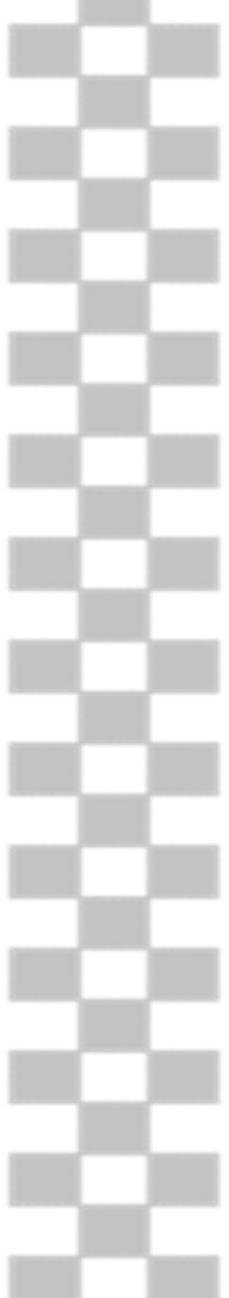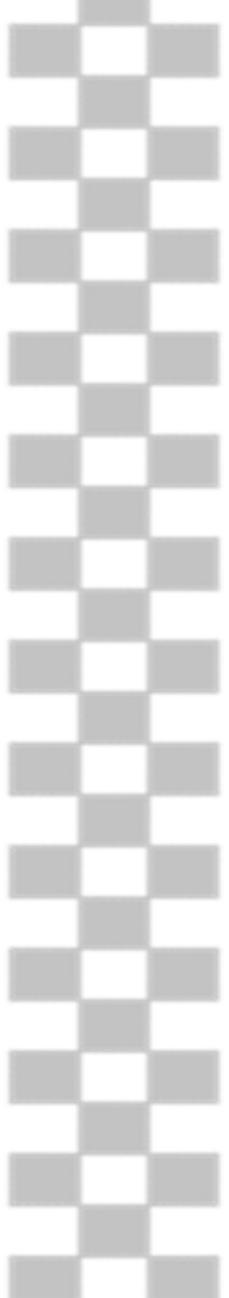
A Better Criminal Justice Service for London

Research suggests that job stability and job quality are vital in enhancing the crime suppression effects of employment. Unfortunately, with the erosion of the manufacturing economy and the increase in the service-dominated economy, offenders who are typically on the margins of society, are pushed towards the informal economy now more than before. A study by Nguyen *et al*. (2020) attends to the relationship between informal work and crime by analysing data from the Pathways to Desistance study, a longitudinal examination of the transition from adolescence to young adulthood in a sample of serious adolescent offenders in the US (n = 1,051). Results from models show that informal work is associated with a higher probability of engaging in expressive crimes (emotionally charged crimes), but not instrumental crimes (crimes for material benefits). Neither informal nor formal work arrangements seem to work as crime suppressants, but informal arrangements appear more criminogenic.

Prior studies of staff-inmate interactions suggest that they are primarily adversarial in nature. However, less is known about the key factors that influence inmate-staff relationships. A study by Logan *et al*. (2020) assessed the impact of various demographic and institutional characteristics on positive and negative perceptions of correctional staff (by inmates) using a sample of formerly incarcerated males in the state of Ohio (n = 1,613). Specifically, ordinary least squares (OLS) regression is employed to examine the variation in perceptions that is accounted for by measures of the inmates' social, demographic, and criminal histories (i.e., imported characteristics) as well as the characteristics of the facilities in which they are housed (i.e., deprivation measures). Analysis found that individual characteristics exert significant effects on inmate perceptions of staff, whereby (1) younger inmates, (2) minority inmates, (3) inmates with higher levels of education, and (4) inmates with more extensive criminal histories were more likely to hold more negative views of correctional staff. Institutional characteristics also significantly influence inmate perceptions of staff, whereby inmates who have (1) experienced victimization, (2) received less social support, and (3) participated in treatment programmes were more likely to hold more negative views of correctional staff. Findings suggest that staff can serve as either agents of change or control for inmates.

Given the large potential of prison-based treatment programmes, it is highly important to empirically evaluate such programmes in various populations in various geographic regions. A study by Bosma *et al*. (2020) focused on the Dutch Prevention of Recidivism Program, a prison-based treatment programme that aims to lower re-offending rates among participants by administering an individualized treatment programme that addresses the criminogenic needs of an individual offender. It aimed to assess the extent to which the programme was effective in reducing the post-release re-offending rates of programme participants. This was studied by analysing official prison data, risk assessment data, and re-offending records of a population-based sample of males incarcerated in The Netherlands (n = 3,835). Study results showed that prisoners who completed a standard treatment programme (which only consisted of phased re-entry), re-offended less in the 24 months post-release, compared to offenders in the control condition. This treatment effect was, however, not found when comparing prisoners who had completed a standard programme plus cognitive skill training or substance abuse treatment, to those who had not. The authors concluded that participation in the prison-based Prevention of Recidivism Program had a positive effect on post-release re-offending, for offenders who had engaged in a standard programme that did not include any behavioural treatment modules.

8. Integrated Offender Management was introduced by the Home Office and Ministry of Justice in 2009. Since its introduction, it has been piloted, developed and implemented across probation and policing areas within England and Wales. The scheme aims to reduce reoffending through the targeting of specific cohorts of offenders within local areas. Understanding its overall effectiveness would therefore be paramount in supporting its ongoing development. An article by Hadfield *et al*. (2020) presents a systematic review of the research regarding the effectiveness of Integrated Offender Management. The findings revealed key areas which impact upon effectiveness: (1) partnership working and the existence (or not) of its associated key mechanisms; (2) locality and offender cohorts, with core IOM nominals primarily including Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs), but there being success with other groups of offenders, together with the need to continually review that offender cohorts, offender needs and offender pathways (via the partnership agencies) are matched together and tailored towards individual needs; (3) financial risks/constraints, with the payment-by-results mechanism potentially leading to a reduced reinvestment in IOM schemes, due to the scheme not being able to demonstrate its successes in terms of reducing reoffending rates within their core IOM nominals, together with the provision of support services from voluntary and community sector organisations being heavily reliant on public funds and reinvestments; and (4) workforce characteristics, related to the changes in the skills and qualifications of operational practitioners with the creation of the community rehabilitation companies and police officers taking on offender management roles.

A Better Criminal Justice Service for London

A US study by Silver *et al.* (2020) examines how academic achievement is associated with prison programming and re-entry, assessing how academic achievement might be directly associated with recidivism and whether this occurs indirectly by moderating the effectiveness of in-prison programmes. Using data from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections on a state-wide subsample of incarcerated individuals (n = 13,536), the results illustrated that academic achievement directly and indirectly affected the likelihood of recidivism. Lower academic achievement was associated with a higher likelihood of recidivism immediately upon re-entry but was also linked to greater effectiveness of prison programmes aimed at reducing recidivism. The reduction in the likelihood of reincarceration associated with programme participation was greater for individuals with lower academic achievement compared with those with higher academic achievement. The results underscore how individual differences can lead to heterogeneous outcomes and emphasize the need to target those individuals most likely to struggle with the practical barriers of re-entry.

Improving prisons

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are strong predictors of poor mental health and wellbeing yet despite high levels of ACEs in offender populations, relatively few studies have explored the relationships between ACEs and prisoners' mental health and wellbeing. Ford *et al.* (2020) conducted an ACE survey with 468 male adult prisoners in a Welsh prison who were not currently considered to be at risk of self-harm and suicide and explored relationships between ACEs, lifetime mental illness diagnosis, self-harm or suicide attempt, and current low mental wellbeing. Most participants (84.2%) had suffered at least one ACE and 45.5% had suffered ≥4 ACEs. Prevalence of lifetime mental illness diagnosis, self-harm or suicide attempt, and current low mental wellbeing increased with exposure to ACEs. For example, 2.7% of those with no ACEs reported lifetime self-harm or suicide attempt in prison compared with 31.0% (self-harm in prison) and 18.3% (suicide attempt in prison) of those with ≥4 ACEs. Compared with participants with no ACEs, those with ≥4 ACEs were four times more likely to report lifetime mental illness diagnosis and suicide attempt, and over 10 times more likely to report lifetime self-harm than those with no ACEs. Independent of lifetime mental illness diagnosis, self-harm or suicide attempt, participants with ≥4 ACEs were almost three times more likely to have current low mental wellbeing than those with no ACEs. In summary, findings show male prisoners that have suffered multiple ACEs are substantially more likely to have lifetime mental illness diagnosis, self-harm or suicide attempt, and to have current low mental wellbeing whilst in prison, suggesting that trauma-informed approaches are needed in prisons to support prisoner mental health and wellbeing.

7. A study by Slade *et al.* (2020) examined the characteristics of men in prison who have a history of both self-harm and violence (known as dual harm) and the extent to which demographic and criminogenic factors, in-prison incidents, and self-harm method could differentiate men who dual harm. Official prison sample data from a local medium secure prison, operating at category B, located in the Midlands were examined for the period April 2010 to November 2017 (n = 965). Regression analysis of all custodial incidents, demographic and offending information, and imprisonment experience, was undertaken. Self-harm was associated with violence in prison, representing a 3.5-fold risk of violence compared with men who did not self-harm, after controlling for time in prison, age, and index offence. 60% of men who harmed themselves also engaged in custodial violence, while 32% who were violent also had a self-harm event. After controlling for age at first incident, 11% of the sample had custodial history of dual harm and they accounted for 56% of all recorded custodial incidents. They had a high probability of property damage and fire setting in prison and spent 40% longer in custody. Men who dual harmed used a greater variety of self-harm methods, with increased use of lethal methods. The authors conclude that dual harm is prevalent, particularly among those who harm themselves in prison. Men who dual harm contribute excessively to the overall incident burden in prison and demonstrate behavioural variability and risk regarding both violence and self-harm. The findings challenge the usual distinctive management responses or that self-harm or violence is solely the responsibility of health or justice, with greater integration required.

Improving the Criminal Justice Service

Involvement in legal proceedings is known to present a potential drain on mental health. A study by Clemente and Padilla-Racero (2020) aimed to assess the psychological effects of being processed by the justice system. The sample consisted of 360 subjects, residents in Spain, who completed a questionnaire on the experience of contact with the justice system, a temporal perspective inventory, locus of control, psychological reactance, coping strategies, health self-efficacy, and psychosomatic symptomology. Results revealed significant differences between plaintiffs and defendants, although it was also confirmed that both parties showed greater pessimism about the future. Plaintiffs were more pessimistic about the future, used poor strategies for protecting their health, and had less empathy. In contrast, coincidentally in some variables, defendants had a more negative outlook on life, and in general more psychosomatic symptomology. The health of the group with the longest exposure to legal proceedings was the most deteriorated.

A Better Criminal Justice Service for London

An article by Marder (2020) reports the findings of an on-going research project attempting to mainstream restorative justice within two English police forces (Durham and Gloucestershire) and examining how the police understood and used restorative justice in practice. One force (Durham Constabulary) trained the majority of frontline officers to facilitate face-to-face dialogue between victims and offenders in the form of restorative conferences and provided at least some restorative justice training to all officers and non-operational staff, at all levels. The second force (Gloucestershire Constabulary), training reached only frontline officers, a minority of whom received instruction in face-to-face conferencing. Despite these differences, both forces expected all trained, frontline officers to facilitate some form of restorative justice within their day-to-day roles. The researcher collected statistics and official documents and conducted 44 semi-structured interviews; 16 trained officers – or 'police facilitators' – and six managers were interviewed at each force. The findings suggest that two institutional priorities – to satisfy victims and manage the demand on the police's time – strongly influenced the interpretation and practice of restorative justice. This created tensions as police officers who facilitated restorative justice processes used their discretion to determine, on a case-by-case basis, how best to balance these institutional goals with the restorative goal of stakeholder empowerment (a process the authors' term 'managed empowerment'). These findings illustrate how the police can implement abstract concepts in a selective, discretionary manner.
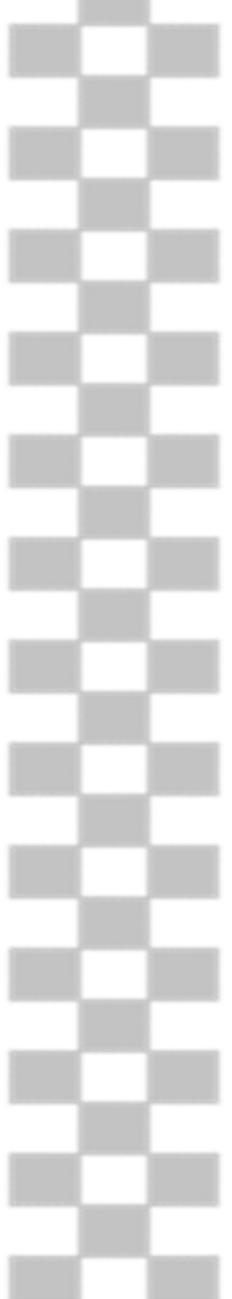
Keeping Children & Young People Safe

Child sexual abuse (CSA)/Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

Childhood trauma contributes to increased risk of drug use, deviance, and offending in adulthood, but less is known about the exact relationship that exists between these phenomena, particularly among men. Ayres (2020) draws on research from the UK to investigate whether severity of childhood trauma and/or type of coping predicted problematic drug use among a group of 149 male drug-using offenders. Results showed that high levels of childhood trauma did not impact on severity of drug use in adulthood or differentiate between offenders who used drugs non-problematically and those who developed more problematic patterns of use. Instead coping strategy predicted severity of drug use and being a problematic drug user. These results highlight the importance of early intervention and education with children to make them more resilient to substance use as well as inculcating coping strategies in trauma informed treatment. This study also contributes to the deficit in the international evidence base underpinning general strain theory and the self-medication model.

Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is a common form of childhood maltreatment. Several studies have shown that CSA adversely affects the physical and mental health. Numerous studies have evaluated the prevalence of CSA among females using various instruments. Pan *et al*. (2020) conducted a meta-analysis to estimate the rate of CSA among women using the short form of the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire for the first time. Four databases (PsycINFO, PubMed, Cochrane Library, and Embase) were systematically searched for studies published as of April 2, 2018. Forty-eight articles (53 groups of samples) covering 22,224 individuals, including women, from 16 countries were selected. Using the random-effects model, the pooled overall rate of CSA was 24% (95% confidence interval [21%, 27%]). On subgroup analyses, the rate of female CSA in people with mental illness was higher than that in the general group; this result showed variability among different geographical regions.

Child maltreatment (CM) is an important public health issue linked to significant physical and mental health complications across the life span. Given the association between CM and health, general practitioners (GPs) and primary care nurses (PNs) are well-placed to identify and respond to this issue and are mandated to report suspected CM in many jurisdictions. Research has found that primary care doctors and nurses need support when responding to CM. As such, this scoping review conducted by Kuruppu *et al*. (20202) sought to answer the following question: What factors influence GPs and PNs decision to report CM when fulfilling their mandatory reporting duty? By exploring these factors, areas where support is needed were pinpointed. A systematic search was run across four databases and articles that reported on studies conducted in a location that had mandatory reporting legislation specific to CM and had a study population sampled from primary care were included in analysis. Thirty-three articles met the inclusion criteria. This review found that four principal factors influenced the decision to report CM: personal threshold of suspicion of abuse, relationship with the family, faith in the child protection system, and education and discussion.

Craig (2020) conducted a literature review to explore how the UK justice system deals with child on child sexual abuse allegations. Sensationalized reporting of sex crimes demonizes offenders and unintentionally hides some perpetrators by not representing that children can cause harm. As such, a freedom of information request to the Metropolitan Police uncovered 5,500 minor sex abuse allegations in England and Wales between 2011 and 2014, including, 4,000 physical assaults and 600 rape allegations. Officials caution these figures only represent a small proportion of known sexual abuse cases, but the full extent of the problem is yet to be seen. Craig (2020) asserts that children are being exposed to explicit imagery far beyond their developmental age causing a blurring of the lines between normal sexual curiosity, harmful behaviour, sexual deviance, and abuse. Evidence suggests societal failings and technological advances have created vulnerabilities from which new and dangerous sexual norms have evolved. Therefore, this paper reviews the justice, welfare, and restorative justice frameworks to explore the efficacy of the justice system in dealing with child on child sexual abuse in the UK.

Martoccio *et al.* (2020) examined the direct and indirect effects of a mother's history of childhood physical and sexual abuse on her child's officially reported victimization. This prospective, longitudinal study followed a US community-based sample of 499 mothers and their children. Mothers (35% White/non-Latina, 34% Black/non-Latina, 23% Latina, and 7% other) were recruited and interviewed during pregnancy, and child protective services records were reviewed for the presence of the participants' target child between birth and age 3.5. Whereas both types of maternal maltreatment history doubled the child's risk of child protective services investigation, mothers' sexual abuse history conferred significantly greater risk. Pathways to child victimization varied by type of maternal maltreatment history. Mothers who had been physically abused later demonstrated interpersonal aggressive response biases, which mediated the path to child victimization. In contrast, the association between maternal history of sexual abuse and child victimization was mediated by mothers' substance use problems. Study implications centre on targeting child maltreatment prevention efforts according to the mother's history and current problems.
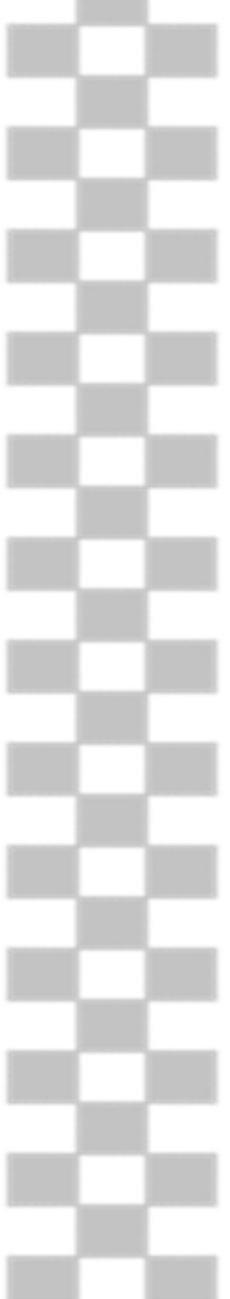
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Cases of online child sexual abuse (OCSA) are increasing dramatically in number, but research on this relatively new type of crime and its psychological consequences is limited, leading to major challenges for the judiciary. A mixed methods study (Joleby *et al.*) investigated 98 legal cases of OCSA (children aged 7–17 years, M = 12.3, SD = 1.92) in Swedish District Courts to see if and how children's experiences and psychological health were described in the written verdicts. The results revealed that the children's psychological health was mentioned in less than half (48.0%) of the cases. Thematic analyses identified several potential vulnerability factors (e.g. poor psychological health, low self-esteem, loneliness) and several potential psychological consequences (e.g. psychological suffering, self-harming and/or suicidal behaviour, internalized self-loathing, impaired relationships) among the children, all of which were similar to what research has shown among victims of offline CSA. The sexual abuse situation was often perceived as threatening, and many children felt that they had no other choice than to comply. In addition, the sexually abusive act was depicted as distressing and sometimes painful. Considering these findings, the authors suggest that OCSA should not be viewed as essentially different or less severe than offline CSA.

Recognizing the potential of classrooms as a context for identifying and addressing child victimization, several U.S. states now mandate the inclusion of child abuse prevention in school curricula. Bright *et al.* (2020) used a randomized control trial (RCT) design to evaluate the knowledge acquisition of children who received the Monique Burr Foundation's Child Safety Matters curriculum, a programme designed to educate kindergarten to Grade 5 children about bullying, cyberbullying, four types of abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect), and digital dangers. Participants included 1,176 students from 72 classrooms in 12 Florida schools across eight counties. Schools were matched in pairs and randomly assigned to receive the programme or be in a wait-list control. Knowledge was assessed with a questionnaire administered prior to the curriculum (T1) as well as approximately 3 weeks (T2) and approximately 7 months (T3) after implementation. Analyses were conducted with class means examining grade, treatment condition, and time. Children who received the curriculum increased their knowledge about potentially risky situations, and this knowledge was sustained over 7 months to the follow-up assessment. Children in the control schools did not have similar gains.

Preventing young people from getting involved in crime

A study by Kerridge *et al.* (2020) compared sociodemographic characteristics, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), and substance use and psychiatric disorders between adolescent-limited (AL), adult-onset (AO), life-course-persistent (LP) and non-offender (NO) groups using a large US general population survey (n = 36,309). The odds of experiencing several ACEs were greater among each offender group relative to NOs. LP offenders experience more ACEs than AL and AO offenders. Each offender group generally experienced greater substance use and psychopathology than NOs, whereas LP offenders experienced more substance use and psychopathology than AO and AL offenders. The results of the study identified several sociodemographic factors, ACEs, and types of psychopathology that differentiate AL, AO, LP, and NO offenders that can help inform prevention and intervention strategies designed to prevent offending and shorten criminal careers.

It has been argued that the predictors of all criminal career features are the same, and that childhood risk factors do not predict life-course-persistent offenders. Little is known about childhood predictors of the duration of criminal careers. Farrington (2020) aimed to investigate childhood (aged 8–10 years) risk factors for criminal career duration, in comparison with childhood risk factors for other criminal career features. The Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development is a prospective longitudinal survey of 411 South London males from age 8, with conviction records up to age 61. Life-course-persistent (LCP) offenders were defined as those with a criminal career lasting at least 20 years. The strongest predictors of LCP offenders were harsh discipline, poor parental supervision, a convicted father and parental conflict. Childhood risk factors for LCP offenders and criminal career duration were different from childhood risk factors for the prevalence of offending (convicted versus un-convicted males).

Van Gelder *et al.* (2020) question the commonly assumed view of a fixed causal ordering between self-control, delinquency, and sanctions and test the hypothesis that experiencing sanctions may reduce levels of self-control, thereby increasing the risk of future delinquent behaviour. Three waves of data from the Zurich Project on the Social Development from Childhood into Adulthood, an ongoing prospective longitudinal study of Swiss urban youth (n = 1,197), and include police contacts and school sanctions as predictors of delinquency are analysed using path analysis and controlling for a series of potential confounders, including prior levels of self-control and earlier delinquency. The results indicate that sanctioning reduces levels of self-control, net of prior levels of self-control, and earlier delinquency and that self-control mediates the relation between sanctioning and subsequent delinquency. The authors conclude that the relation between self-control and crime may be bi- rather than unidirectional with sanctions reducing levels of self-control, which in turn contributes to criminal behaviour.
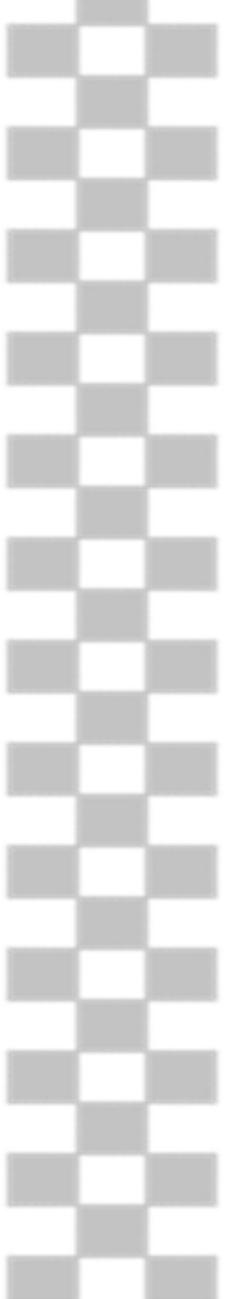
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Despite its increasing recognition and use in U.S. schools, a limited amount of research has evaluated the effect of restorative justice (RJ) for school violence prevention and response. To date, there is no standardized method for RJ implementation. A systematic literature review by Katic *et al.* (2020) investigates peer-reviewed studies on the application of RJ practices in K-12 school settings. Ten articles were included in the review. Results of the review indicate a high degree of variability regarding the implementation and evaluation of RJ practices in schools. However, most studies reported positive outcomes, including improved social relationships and reductions in office discipline referrals.

Research on gang membership is widespread and, as a result, findings from such studies have produced a significant amount of information about gangs and gang members. Historically, most of the gang research has focused on male gang members, but during the past couple of decades a considerable emphasis has been placed on understanding female gang members. At the same time, knowledge on female gang members still lags behind that of male gang members. Against that backdrop, a study by Timchenko *et al.* (2020) sought to add to the existing literature on female gang members by analysing the association between female gang membership and contact with the criminal justice system, involvement in acts of violent crime and delinquency, and experiences with being victimized. To do so, female respondents from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health, a longitudinal and nationally representative sample of American youth who were attending middle or high school in 1994–1995, were analysed. The results of the analyses revealed that 17.2% of females had been part of a gang during their lifetime. Moreover, gang membership was associated with greater involvement in violent crime and delinquency and it was also associated with a greater number of victimization experiences. Gang membership also was associated with an increased risk of being arrested and incarcerated, though these associations were no longer significant after accounting for a number of key control variables (including low self-control and having a criminal parent).

The significant role of the community in the lives of children and youth at-risk has become increasingly clear to social work academics and professionals over the last three decades. Alongside the more traditional individual and family responses, community interventions have been designed to catalyse change in the environment of children and youth at-risk and supply holistic and sustainable responses to their needs. A study by Gross-Manos *et al.* (2020) identified ten such community intervention programmes from the United States, Australia, Canada, and Israel. Most employed the community development model, focused on developing leadership and social capital (improving community networking) and advancing coordination between the organizations and sectors in the field of risk among children and youth. The diverse programmes reviewed focused both on at-risk children and youth in general or specifically on child abuse and neglect. The programmes originated from different health, education, and welfare disciplines and sponsoring authorities. The majority were funded originally by private foundations; however, government involvement was significant, particularly in the adoption and support of initiatives after their development. The authors' analysis of the programmes refers to core issues that arose from the review: professional orientation, main target unit, main initiator, and research and evaluation. Analysis of programme characteristics enables identifying relevant aspects of these programmes for use by policy, governmental, and non-profit sector stakeholders seeking to develop similar programmes. Conclusions and recommendations to advance the field are suggested considering the current context of government cuts in welfare funds.

There are hundreds of thousands of juvenile gang members in the United States who are at heightened risk of criminal offending, violent victimisation, and incarceration. Importantly, however, incarceration in itself is a lifelong risk factor for negative social outcomes. That said, little is known about the effects of gang membership on the sentencing outcomes of juvenile offenders. A study by Walker and Cesar (2020) examined how self-reported gang membership influences the likelihood of incarceration relative to similarly situated non-gang-involved juvenile defendants using data obtained from the Pathways to Desistance study. In a sample of 1,067 serious adolescent offenders, results show that gang affiliation is a significant predictor of incarceration, providing support for a "gang penalty" in juvenile sentencing outcomes.

Current scholarship on gang involvement and behaviour has focused on several individual and environmental factors believed to drive the use of violence, yet limited research has explored the potentially confounding role of behavioural disorders. Using a sample of youth who completed a long-term residential placement within the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (n = 12,596), a study by Wolff *et al.* (2020) examines whether the presence of a conduct disorder or other behavioural disorder renders the effect of gang involvement on recidivism spurious. Using a series of logistic regression models, behavioural disorders were associated with re-arrest, but for males only. Furthermore, behavioural disorders did not render the effect of gang membership on re-arrest or re-adjudication spurious, as the main effect of gang involvement held across all models estimated.
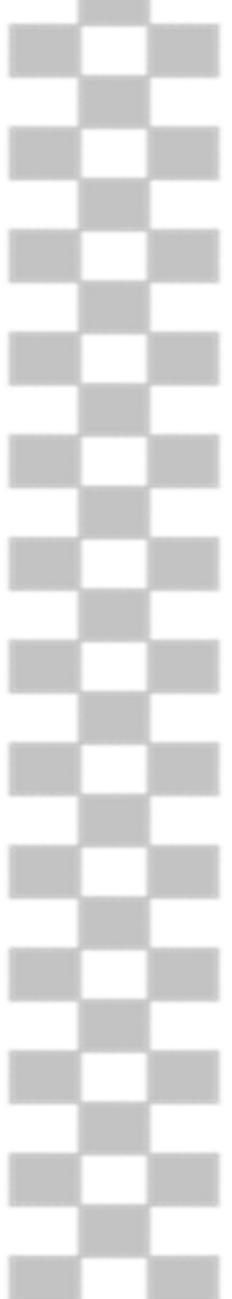
Keeping Children & Young People Safe

Supporting young offenders

Juvenile justice systems in the USA today have various methods to sanction serious, violent, and chronic delinquents. One of these methods is through blended sentencing. Broadly, blended sentencing processes allow for juvenile justice sanctioning first and then, if needed, criminal justice sanctioning – including placement in adult prisons. A study by Trulson *et al.* (2020) examined the recidivism outcomes of blended-sentenced youth transferred to adult prisons following a period of state juvenile incarceration compared with a matched group of blended-sentenced youth that avoided adult prison transfer following state juvenile incarceration. Drawing on data from 905 serious delinquent offenders sentenced between 2005 and 2013 in Texas, the study used propensity score matching and found no post-release recidivism differences between those transferred to adult prison following a period of state juvenile incarceration and those who were released from state juvenile incarceration to the community without experiencing adult prison incarceration.

Recidivism, and the factors related to it, remains a highly significant concern among juvenile justice researchers, practitioners, and policy makers. Recent studies highlight the need to examine multiple measures of recidivism as well as conduct multilevel analyses of this phenomenon. Using data collected in a Juvenile Justice-Translational Research on Interventions for Adolescents in the Legal System (JJ-TRIALS) cooperative agreement, Robertson *et al.* (2020) examined individual- and site-level factors related to 1-year recidivism among probation youth in 20 sites in five US states ($n = 6,771$) to answer research questions related to how recidivism rates differ across sites and the relationships between individual-level variables and a county-level concentrated disadvantage measure and recidivism. The findings of large site differences in recidivism rates, and complex relationships between individual and county-level predictors of recidivism, highlight the need for more nuanced, contextually informed, multilevel approaches in studying recidivism among juveniles

Tackling serious and organised crime

4. At a national level in the UK, the scale and diversity of the threats from organised crime are starting to be understood. Locally, however, police forces remain uncertain how to robustly assess organised crime within their own borders. To address this and contribute to the development of a local 'narrative' of organised crime Skidmore *et al.* (2020) studied two UK neighbourhoods in a single city where organised crime was known to be impacting. The study brings together data from multiple sources that each offer a distinct perspective: the measurable impact of organised crime as represented in recorded crime, the groups, offenders and activities recorded by the police for the purposes of developing intelligence on organised crime, and finally the qualitative impact on communities as described by local practitioners and community representatives. The implications for developing the perspective of practitioners and their approach to tackling organised crime are discussed. In summary, organised crime groups are responsible for a much wider range of harms than that expressed by the national police intelligence mechanism, much of this harm is local, and this needs to be factored in when considering priority and intervention from police and partners.

Adult gang involvement attracts little empirical attention, so little is known about how they compare to nongang violent men in social harms beyond gang contexts. A study by Wood *et al.* (2020), based on national survey data of 1,539 adult British males aged 19 to 34 compared gang members' (embedded in a gang; $n = 108$), affiliates' (less embedded in a gang; $n = 119$), and violent men's (no gang association; $n = 1,312$) perpetration of social harms by assessing their violence-related dispositions and beliefs, victim types, and locations of violence. Results showed that compared with violent men, gang members and affiliates were equally more likely to: cause social harms to a wider range of victims, including family and friends; seek violence; be excited by violence; and carry weapons. Gang members and affiliates were equally more likely than violent men to be violent at home, in friends' homes, and at work; they also thought about hurting people but felt regret for some of their violence. A decreasing gradient was identified in gang members' (highest), affiliates' (next highest) and violent men's (lowest) beliefs in violent retaliation when disrespected, the use of violence instrumentally and when angry, and worry about being violently victimized. Implications of findings are that interventions need to address anger issues across all levels of adult gang membership. Importantly, adult gang members' regrets regarding violence and anxiety about being violently victimized could be key factors that interventions could use to help them relinquish their gang involvement.

Tackling violent crime

A study by Wüllenweber and Burrell (2020) investigated characteristics of robbery offences with a focus on lone versus multiple perpetrator crimes. The main aim was to outline differences between lone, duo, and 3+ perpetrator crimes. Police recorded crime data from West Midlands Police relating to 1,574 personal robberies (including attempts) committed in Birmingham city centre (UK) were used in the analysis. Robbery offences were compared on victim and offender demographics and offence characteristics. The findings showed significant differences between the three group sizes (lone, duo, 3+ offenders) in victim and offender age; approach styles; victim control variables; weapon use; alcohol and violence; injuries; and carjacking.

Keeping Children & Young People Safe

5. According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, violence fell dramatically between 1995 and 2013/14. To improve understanding of the fall in violent crime, a study by Ganpat *et al.* (2020) examined long-term crime trends in England and Wales over the past two decades, by scrutinizing the trends in (a) stranger and acquaintance violence, (b) severity of violence, (c) age groups, and (d) sexes. The study draws on nationally representative, weighted data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, examining prevalence, incidence and crime concentration trends. The overall violence fall was driven by a decline in the victimization of young individuals and/or males perpetrated by acquaintances since 1995. Stranger and acquaintance violence followed different trajectories, with the former beginning to drop post 2003/4. Falls in both stranger and acquaintance violence incidence rates were led by a reduction in victims over time. Counting all incidents reported by the same victim (instead of capping at five incidents) significantly affects trends in stranger violence but not in acquaintance violence. In relation to the distributive justice within the crime drop, the study provides unique evidence of equitable falls in acquaintance violence but inequitable falls in stranger violence. These findings highlight the need to examine violence types separately.

6. The daily rhythms of the city, the ebb and flow of people undertaking routines activities, inform the spatial and temporal patterning of crime. Being able to capture citizen mobility and delineate a crime-specific population denominator is a vital prerequisite of the endeavour to both explain and address crime. A paper by Haleem *et al.* (2020) introduces the concept of an exposed population-at-risk, defined as the mix of residents and non-residents who may play an active role as an offender, victim or guardian in a specific crime type, present in a spatial unit at a given time. This definition is deployed to determine the exposed population-at-risk for violent crime, associated with the night-time economy, in public spaces. Through integrating census data with mobile phone data and utilising fine-grained temporal and spatial violent crime data comprised 17,660 public space violent crimes for the 2013 calendar year, the paper demonstrates the value of deploying an exposed (over an ambient) population-at-risk denominator to determine violent crime in public space hotspots on Saturday nights in Greater Manchester (UK). In doing so, the paper illuminates that as violent crime in public space rises, over the course of a Saturday evening, the exposed population-at-risk falls, implying a shifting propensity of the exposed population-at-risk to perform active roles as offenders, victims and/or guardians.
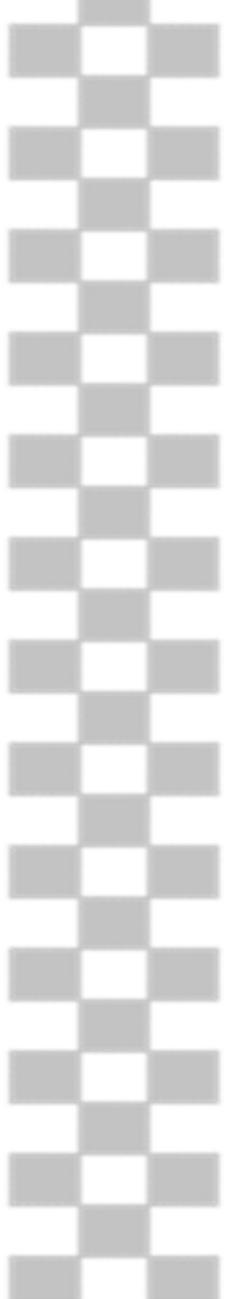
Violence Against Women and Girls

10. In a Canadian study, Brownridge *et al.* (2020) examined the elevated risk of intimate partner violence (IPV) among persons with mental health-related disabilities (MH-RD) and the extent to which known risk factors accounted for this phenomenon. Data were drawn from a nationally representative sample of 33,127 Canadians collected in 2014 as part of Statistics Canada's General Social Survey. Results showed that respondents with MH-RD had more than three-fold increased odds of both overall and severe IPV victimization. Although females were more likely to possess a MH-RD, males and females with MH-RD reported similarly elevated odds of IPV victimization. Risk factors that contributed to a significant reduction in elevated odds of IPV for respondents with MH-RD were child maltreatment (CM), respondents' non-prescription drug abuse, and perpetrators' jealous, monitoring, and socially isolating behaviours.

Few longitudinal studies address how experiences of sexual violence (SV) and co-occurring depression and anxiety symptoms in early young adulthood may contribute to poorer functioning in young adulthood. Using a US sample of 2,416 youth aged 18 to 20 (Time 1), Davis *et al.* (2020) assessed past year SV and co-occurring depression and anxiety symptoms. One year later, when youth were between the ages of 20 and 22 (Time 2), participants indicated their functioning in four domains: physical health and sleep quality, substance use consequences, psychological functioning, and social functioning. Using latent class analyses, we found six participant classes at Time 1 based on SV experiences and co-occurring depression and anxiety symptoms. Classes were variable by participants' reported degree of SV experiences and co-occurring depression and anxiety symptomology. Longitudinal analyses indicated that youth in a class that experienced high levels of both SV and co-occurring depression and anxiety at Time 1 generally reported the poorest functioning in all key domains at Time 2. However, classes where participants reported greater depression and anxiety symptoms—most often in the presence of, but at times in the absence of, SV—were consistently associated with poorer functioning for physical health, psychological functioning, and social health. Classes where participants reported greater SV—in the presence of, but at times in the absence of, depression and anxiety symptoms—were associated with greater alcohol and marijuana consequences. Findings suggest prevention of SV, accessible counselling for those that have experienced SV, and screening to identify and intervene to address depression and anxiety may all be essential to help prevent poorer functioning in young adulthood.

15. International research finds that the majority of harm from crime can be attributed to a small proportion of perpetrators. Accurately identifying these individuals as priorities for intervention can lead to significant harm reduction. A new method, the Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool (PPIT), was implemented in three police force areas of England and Wales. Additional investment, restructuring of units and the development of bespoke policies and protocols were necessary to establish the pilots, which to date have seen the Priority Perpetrator Identification Tool used in nearly 1,500 domestic abuse cases. Mixed-methods research by Robinson, A. L and Clancy (2020) illustrates how the pilots instigated a systematic approach to identify and prioritise perpetrators in order to inform decisions about the scope and type of intervention to be deployed to reduce their offending. The development of these new collaborative arrangements represents a step change in the way the most harmful domestic abuse perpetrators are identified and managed within a multi-agency partnership. The authors argue that the key innovative strength of the three PPIT pilots is their emphasis upon taking a systematic, but also a collaborative approach to working with perpetrators 'up front' as well as 'behind the scenes', stemming from a shared understanding of the need for systematic identification and prioritisation of domestic abuse perpetrators for targeted intervention.

Some groups of women are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence (IPV) due to particular risks and/or experiences: women with disabilities, elderly women, and immigrant women (DEI). Too often, their reality goes unnoticed, especially for those belonging to more than one of these groups. In a literature review of 56 articles, Sasseville *et al.* (2020) documented the similarities and differences in how these women experience IPV, in terms of forms and consequences, as well as related risk factors, explanatory theories, and prevention strategies. Results showed that vulnerability to IPV manifests itself among groups of DEI women through increased risks of experiencing IPV, through forms of violence particular to the context of vulnerability and also through exposure to a variety of barriers that complicate the women's capacity to escape the cycle of violence. Additionally, IPV affects women from developing countries and whose immigration is recent, who have severe disabilities, and who are from 50 to 64 years old, to the greatest extent. The importance to better training social workers and developing policies and programmes that target the social determinants of health to prevent IPV experienced by DEI is also discussed.
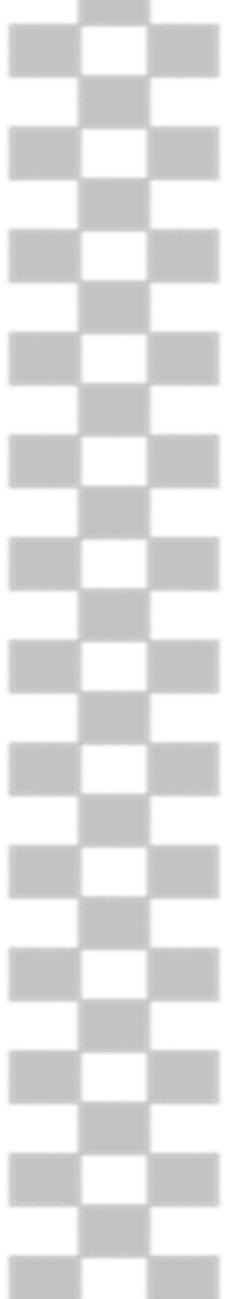
Violence Against Women and Girls

Stefansen *et al.* (2020) describe an ongoing process of transformation in sexual abuse counselling centres in Norway that involves a new classification of groups of victims. These centres have traditionally operated at the grassroots level and outside the statutory system of services for victims and with an open-door policy for all victims. Drawing on field visits and interviews with staff, researchers explore how the centres are now working to secure their place within the expanding organisational field of services engaged in victim support and anti-violence work – and the dilemmas this produces related to some victims. Results show that the centres have adopted ways of thinking and working that stem from the discipline of psychology and the powerful trauma-discourse that has permeated the organisational field they are part of. This 'psychological turn' manifests in different ways in the centres, including an increasing problematisation and marginalisation of the centres' original user group – women who are severely affected by childhood sexual abuse – who no longer are seen as benefitting from the services offered. Hence, it involves a regression from what used to be the centres' purpose and niche, to care for the most vulnerable and marginalised victims.

Robinson, S *et al.* (2020) explore how Australian domestic and family violence (DFV) services understood and operationalized access for women with disabilities. Methods included surveys with service users (n=138), interviews with service managers (*n* = 5), interviews and focus groups with staff (*n* = 31), and interviews and focus groups with women with disabilities in the case study sites (*n* = 34).The contribution of women with disabilities shows that their priorities are feeling encouraged, supported, and welcomed into DFV services; having their particular circumstances understood; having barriers to understanding information lowered; and gaining access to information and services. An important point raised repeatedly by the women in this research was the difficulty in finding DFV services and thus, building cross-sector collaboration with workers supporting women with disabilities in related sectors is crucial. Services can ensure that the priorities of women with disabilities are evident in policy and practice so that services are provided that are *Approachable*—women with disabilities know they exist and feel comfortable approaching them; *Acceptable* and *appropriate*—barriers to communication, housing, and understanding what is offered are removed; and *Affordable* and *Available*.

Responding to VAWG

9. Robinson S. R. *et al.* (2020) conducted a systematic review of the literature to identify barriers to help-seeking from formal services for survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV). Ten electronic databases were searched for key terms related to IPV, help seeking from formal services, and barriers to help seeking. An initial search yielded 1,155 articles and after screening, 29 articles were included in the review. Six barriers to help seeking were identified as follows: (1) lack of awareness, (2) access challenges, (3) consequences of disclosure, (4) lack of material resources, (5) personal barriers, and (6) system failures. These findings demonstrate the need for continued education surrounding available services for IPV as well as the continued development of resources that can mitigate personal barriers that survivors may face. Furthermore, these findings illuminate the necessity to increase the access of services, particularly for non-English speakers, immigrants and refugees, individuals with disabilities, men, and LGBTQIA identified individuals.

13. The gendered profession of police, as well as domestic violence as a societal problem, is central to the discussion surrounding gender and equality and forms a strongly debated foundation of research. Fagerlund (2020) presents empirical findings from the associations between gender and police response to domestic violence in Finland. The data is a rare combination of official police data and survey data from frontline police and includes 410 police emergency callouts. The results indicate that the combination of a male victim and two male police officers is the least likely to result in the recording of an offence, arrest, or referral to support services. Findings are examined in comparison to prior research concerning police response to domestic violence, and implications for policy and practice are discussed. The study raises issues about gender and policing that should also be examined in other countries and jurisdictions in relation to policing domestic violence.

16. Garza and Franklin (2020) used a purposive sample of 517 surveys administered to police officers at one of the five largest and most diverse U.S. cities to assess police adherence to rape myths, while considering demographic, occupational, and neurocognitive predictors. This study also examined rape myth endorsement and self-reported levels of preparedness in responding to sexual assault calls for service. Officer sex and impulsivity were significant predictors of rape myth endorsement. In addition, rape myth endorsement decreased preparedness, whereas prior specialized sexual assault training increased preparedness. Implications for policy, practice, and future research are discussed.
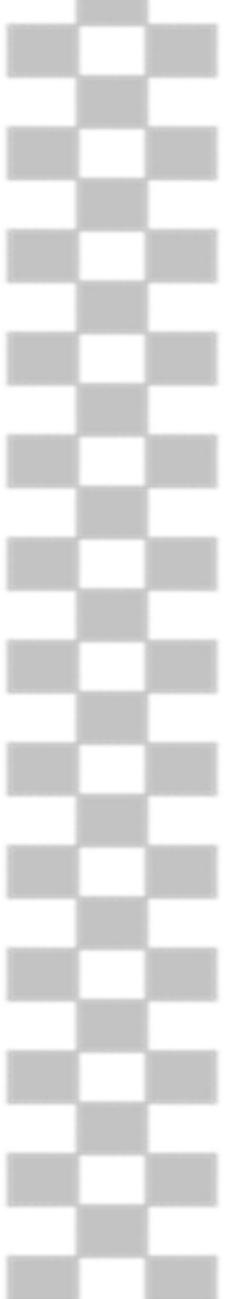
Violence Against Women and Girls

Using a randomised controlled trial, McKee *et al.* (2020) explored Northern Irish police officers from four separate policing roles attitudes towards victims of rape. Two questionnaires, one focused on male victims and one on females, were administered at different points in time. Researchers randomly assigned eligible police officers to treatment and control conditions within each of four groups. Officers in the treatment condition undertook a bespoke training programme, based on an online College of Policing e-learning programme, enhanced with audio and video content, discussion groups and short online webinar sessions delivered by a psychologist specialising in sexual offending. Both groups were surveyed before and after the treatment group was trained. The training programme resulted in positive attitude changes towards male and female rape victims when responses are combined across all four police groups (but not within all groups separately) compared with the attitudes of those who did not undertake the training. Effects were found for both levels of rape myth acceptance and assessment of victim credibility. The effect was largest for the subscales 'S/he lied' and 'it wasn't really rape'. Training had more effect on attitudes towards female victims than towards males and more effect on uniformed response officers than on other categories of officers.

Favero *et al.* (20202) intended to examine rape myth acceptance (RMA) among police officers and its relationship with sociodemographic data, length of service, specific training in the field, and professional experience with victims of rape. To this end, the researchers applied the Sexual Violence Beliefs Scale (ECVS) and controlled for sociodemographic data, as well as professional experience and specific training in the field, through a self-report questionnaire. The sample was composed of 400 police officers from a city in the north of Portugal, aged between 29 and 54 years, and most were men (94.3%). We found that tolerance to overall sexual violence exhibits positive correlations with age and length of service, as well as negative correlations with education levels. Differences were also found regarding gender, with men exhibiting greater tolerance/acceptance of overall sexual violence. It was also found that officers who exhibit higher tolerance/acceptance for sexual violence, overall, are those who do not consider it relevant to receive specific training in the field of sexual violence to perform their duties, who report not having any professional experience with cases of sexual violence and also do not consider it necessary to have specific abilities for these types of cases. Implications for decision-making in legal proceedings are discussed, stressing the need for specific specialization in intervention with victims of sexual assault, with a strong practical component.

Using a nationally representative sample of incidents of IPV from the US National Crime Victimization Survey (2006–2016), Augustyn & Willyard (2020) explore how law enforcement and social service resources in a community are related to police notification and survivor acquisition of a victim service after an incident of IPV, net of incident- and individual-level factors. Logistic regression models indicate that the number of law enforcement personnel per 1,000 residents in a county is positively associated with police notification after an incident of IPV, and it exerts an indirect effect on survivor service acquisition through police notification. Additional analyses reveal that the race/ethnicity of the survivor of IPV is a key demographic in the explanation of this relationship, as incidents of IPV involving White and Hispanic survivors of IPV are more likely to come to the attention of police as the number of law enforcement personnel increases. The reverse is true for incidents involving Black survivors of IPV. No differences across survivor sex emerged. Potential reasons to account for varying effects across race/ethnicity are discussed as well as the importance of additional funding for police and social service agencies to serve survivors of IPV and meet the dual goals of offender accountability and survivor safety and well-being.

11. Early exposure to violence (ETV) has been repeatedly linked to violence in intimate relationships later in life. However, this association has rarely been explored among young men involved in the justice system, a group that is of significant policy concern. Drawing from four waves of Pathways to Desistance Study data collected from 808 young men in the US with histories of serious offending, a study by Wagers *et al.* (2020) examined rates of physical and emotional intimate partner violence (IPV) victimization and perpetration, the rates of IPV victimization-perpetration overlap, and the associations between IPV in young adulthood and ETV in early adolescence. Findings show that victimization and perpetration of emotional IPV are common experiences among the men. 73% of the sample report emotional IPV victimization and 70% report emotional IPV perpetration. Physical IPV is less common than emotional IPV with 44% of young men reporting being victims of physical IPV and 29% reporting perpetration of physical IPV. Strong linkages were observed between IPV victimization and IPV perpetration. Lastly, associations exist between exposure to violence as a witness or a victim and both emotional and physical IPV victimization and perpetration. IPV involvement as a victim and/or perpetrator is more common than not among young men involved in the justice system. Both emotional and physical forms of IPV are associated with witnessing and experiencing violence during adolescence.

Violence Against Women and Girls

There is a lack of exploratory data describing the offences and violent acts of young people with harmful sexual behaviour problems. Such research is necessary to provide realistic insight into the nature of this group and their behaviours; and to help to illustrate and inform practice with them. A study by Balfe *et al.* (2020) involved a thematic analysis of 111 case files of young men all under 18 years of age with sexual behaviour problems collected from nine harmful sexual behaviour services in England and Wales to analyse their violent actions. Seven violence-related themes were identified in the data: offences against children versus offences against adults; where the offences occur; tactics and planning; heartlessness and callousness; motivations for the assault and reactions afterwards; view of self and offence; and non-sexual violence. There was evidence that harmful sexual behaviours could sometimes last for considerable amounts of time before services intervened. As well as harmful sexual behaviours, services need to assess whether self-directed and more general forms of violence need to be targeted.

The Confluence Model of Sexual Aggression is a well-established framework for understanding factors that contribute to men's perpetration of sexual aggression against women, highlighting the roles of hostile masculinity, impersonal sex orientation, and exposure to pornography. A study by Huntington *et al.* (2020) evaluated the Confluence Model as a framework for understanding the perpetration of both contact and noncontact sexual aggression in a sample of 935 heterosexual 10th-grade adolescent boys in public and private schools throughout rural, suburban, and metropolitan areas in the North-eastern United States. Composite scores for hostile masculinity and impersonal sex orientation were generated. Nearly all the variables included in the hostile masculinity and impersonal sex constructs were associated with perpetration. Modelling revealed distinct combinations of salient predictors when the dependent variable was identified as boys' frequency of perpetration, compared with when the dependent variable was defined as any perpetration of sexual aggression. Impersonal sex orientation and violent pornography exposure were associated with perpetrating noncontact sexual aggression in the last 6 months, while violent pornography exposure and the interaction of hostile masculinity and impersonal sex orientation increased the frequency of recent contact sexual aggression. Results suggest that hostile masculinity, impersonal sex orientation, and violent pornography exposure are important factors to address within sexual assault prevention approaches for adolescent boys.

Perpetrators

12. Spencer *et al.* (2020) conducted a metanalysis to synthesize all available data examining risk markers for physical IPV perpetration among men and women between 1980 and 2018. A total of 503 studies, yielding 2,972 unique effect sizes, were included in the analysis. Data from these studies allowed for the examination of 63 unique risk markers related to physical IPV perpetration for both men and women, 60 unique risk markers for male perpetration, and 45 unique risk markers for female perpetration. Lastly, the strength of 44 risk markers for physical IPV perpetration between men and women were compared. Results showed that the strongest risk markers were related to other acts of violence (both perpetration and victimization) as well as relationship dynamics. Thus, this study highlights the potential factors that could be focused on in prevention programming and intervention work. Additionally, it was found that 9 out of 44 risk markers significantly differed in strength for men and women, allowing for additional specificity in intervention work for helping professionals working with either male or female perpetrators of physical IPV.

14. Blatch *et al.* (2020) sought to assess the effectiveness of a culture-neutral domestic abuse programme (DAP) developed for offenders with domestic and family violence histories, when used for Australian Indigenous offenders, serving community-based supervised orders. The study employed a retrospective quasi-experimental research design and intention-to-treat programme definition for 953 DAP-treated men and propensity score–matched controls, from diverse cultural, religious, and racial backgrounds, 19% being Indigenous Australians. Outcomes measured were programme completion, time to first reconviction, and reconviction rates. Indigenous men completed the programme similar to non-Indigenous men (58% vs. 63%; NS), although significantly more dropped out (22% vs. 18%); 63% of Indigenous DAP-treated men, remained reconviction free versus 49% of Indigenous controls. Significant therapeutic benefits required programme completion, 73% Indigenous and 74% of non-Indigenous men remained reconviction free. Indigenous DAP participants, relative to controls, took significantly longer to first reconviction. Survival was associated with prior criminal histories, but not with rural or remote domiciles. Reconviction rates were predicted by Level of Service Inventory–Revised actuarial risk scores and by DAP completion, but not by Indigenous status. Programme effect size was $d = .477$, mean reconvictions for Indigenous DAP enrollees being 50% lower than controls. Generic domestic violence interventions utilising evidence-based theoretical principles can be effective for Indigenous offenders, despite an absence of specific Indigenous cultural, or healing content, and delivery by Indigenous facilitators or Elders.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Stalking

An emerging concern in relation to the importance of technology and social media in everyday life relates to their ability to facilitate online and offline stalking, domestic violence and escalation to homicide. As such, Todd *et al.* (2020) examined the extent to which there was evidence of the role of technology and cyberstalking in domestic homicide cases based on the analysis of 41 Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) documents, made available by the Home Office (UK). Three interviews were also conducted with victims or family members of domestic homicide in the UK. It aimed to develop a deeper understanding of the role of technology in facilitating these forms of victimisation to inform further development of investigative practice, risk assessment and safeguarding procedures. Key themes identified by the thematic analysis undertaken related to behavioural and psychological indicators of cyberstalking, evidence of the role of technology in escalation to homicide and the digital capabilities of law enforcement. Overall, the results indicated that: (1) there was evidence of technology and social media playing a facilitating role in these behaviours, (2) the digital footprints of victims and perpetrators were often overlooked in police investigations and the DHR process and (3) determining the involvement of technology in such cases is important for risk assessment and earlier intervention to prevent escalation of behaviour to domestic homicide. It also indicates the importance of further developing evidence-based approaches to preventing and responding for victims, the police and other practitioners.
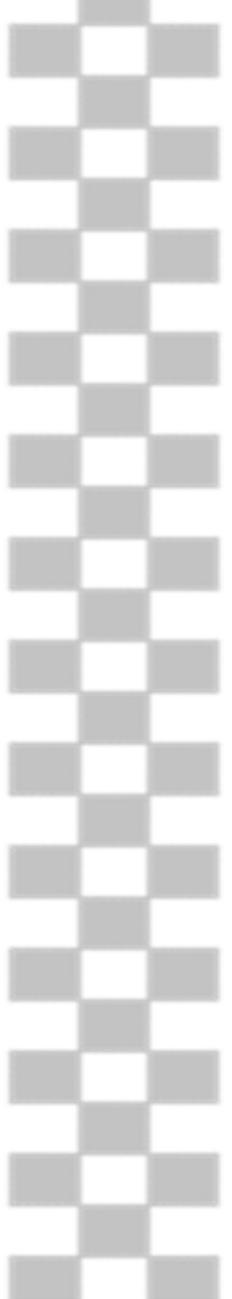
Hatred, Intolerance and Extremism

Countering violent extremism

Schumann *et al.* (2020) investigate whether immigrants who infrequently use ethnic and host country media, a possible indicator or driver of marginalisation, report higher sympathy with terrorism than frequent media users. They also examine if those who prefer ethnic over host country media, which might reflect or facilitate disengagement from the host society, support terrorism more strongly. To address these research questions, using secondary analyses of a public opinion poll of Muslim immigrants resident in the United Kingdom (N = 880). Focusing on immigrants' use of ethnic and host country television channels, latent class analysis identified four groups: Frequent and Infrequent Media Users as well as Ethnic and Host Country Media Users. Overall sympathy with terrorism was low. Contesting the authors' hypothesis, Frequent Media Users supported terrorist action more than Infrequent Media Users. Ethnic Media Users also expressed higher sympathy with terrorism than Host Country Media Users.
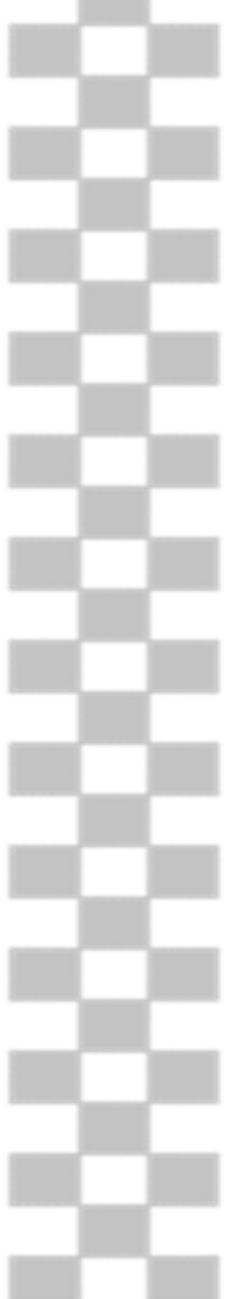
The impact of coronavirus

The coronavirus pandemic poses multiple challenges for policing, including the need to continue responding to calls from the public. Several contingency plans warned police to expect a large and potentially overwhelming increase in demand from the public during a pandemic, but (to the author's knowledge) there is no empirical work on police demand during a major public health emergency. Ashby (2020a) used calls-for-service data from 10 large cities in the USA to analyse how calls for service changed during the early months of the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, compared to forecasts of call volume based on data from previous years. Contrary to previous warnings, overall the number of calls went down during the early weeks of the pandemic. There were substantial reductions in specific call types, such as traffic collisions, and significant increases in others, such as calls to dead bodies. Other types of calls, particularly those relating to crime and order maintenance, continued largely as before. Changes in the frequency of different call types present challenges to law enforcement agencies, particularly since many will themselves be suffering from reduced staffing due to the pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to substantial changes in the daily activities of millions of Americans, with many businesses and schools closed, public events cancelled and states introducing stay-at-home orders. Ashby (2020b) used police-recorded open crime data to understand how the frequency of common types of crime changed in 16 large cities across the United States in the early months of 2020. Seasonal auto-regressive integrated moving average (SARIMA) models of crime in previous years were used to forecast the expected frequency of crime in 2020 in the absence of the pandemic. The forecasts from these models were then compared to the actual frequency of crime during the early months of the pandemic. There were no significant changes in the frequency of serious assaults in public or (contrary to the concerns of policy makers) any change to the frequency of serious assaults in residences. In some cities, there were reductions in residential burglary but little change in non-residential burglary. Thefts of motor vehicles decreased in some cities while there were diverging patterns of thefts from motor vehicles.

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on the lives of persons around the world and social scientists are just beginning to understand its consequences on human behaviour. One policy that public health officials put in place to help stop the spread of the virus were stay-at-home/shelter-in-place lockdown-style orders. While designed to protect people from the coronavirus, one potential and unintended consequence of such orders could be an increase in domestic violence – including abuse of partners, elders or children. Stay-at-home orders result in perpetrators and victims being confined in close quarters for long periods of time. Piquero

et al. (2020) used data from Dallas, Texas USA to examine the extent to which a local order (introduced on March 24th, 2020) was associated with an increase in domestic violence, relying upon incident reports between January 1st, 2020 and April 27th, 2020 (a total of 118 days of incident counts). An index of daily counts of all domestic violence incidents in Dallas was created by summing together misdemeanour, felony, child, elderly, and sexual assault family violence incidents. Their results provide some evidence for a short-term spike in the 2 weeks after the lockdown was instituted but a decrease thereafter. However, the authors note that it is difficult to determine just how much the lockdown was the cause of this increase as the domestic violence trend was increasing prior to the order.

The spread of the coronavirus has led to containment policies in many places, with concomitant shifts in routine activities. Major declines in crime have been reported as a result. However, those declines depend on crime type and may differ by parts of a city and land uses. Felson et al. (2020) examine burglary in Detroit, Michigan USA during the month of March 2020, a period of considerable change in routine activities. They examine 879 block groups, separating those dominated by residential land use from those with more mixed land use and divide the month into three periods: pre-containment, transition period, and post-containment. Burglaries increase in block groups with mixed land use, but not blocks dominated by residential land use.
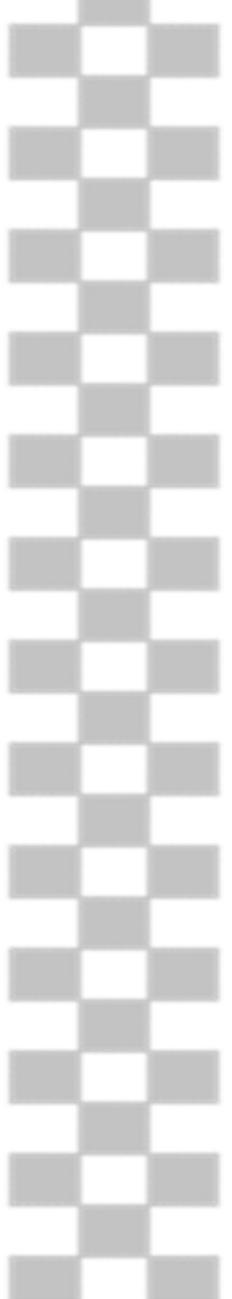
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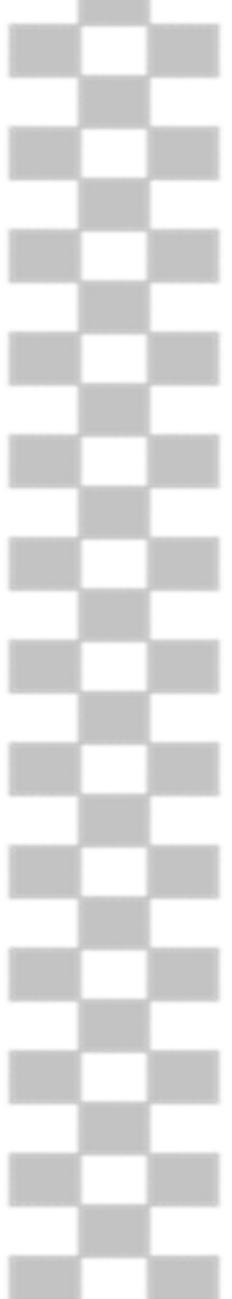
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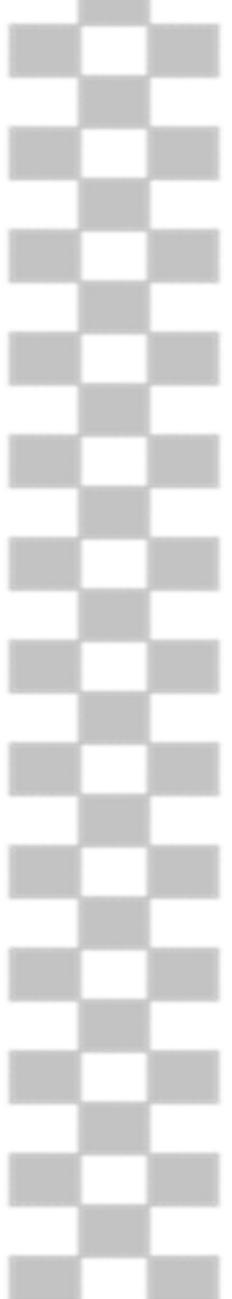
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