

# Evidence and Insight Horizon Scan (Oct-Dec 2019)

## 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 ***October to December 2019***.

## Method

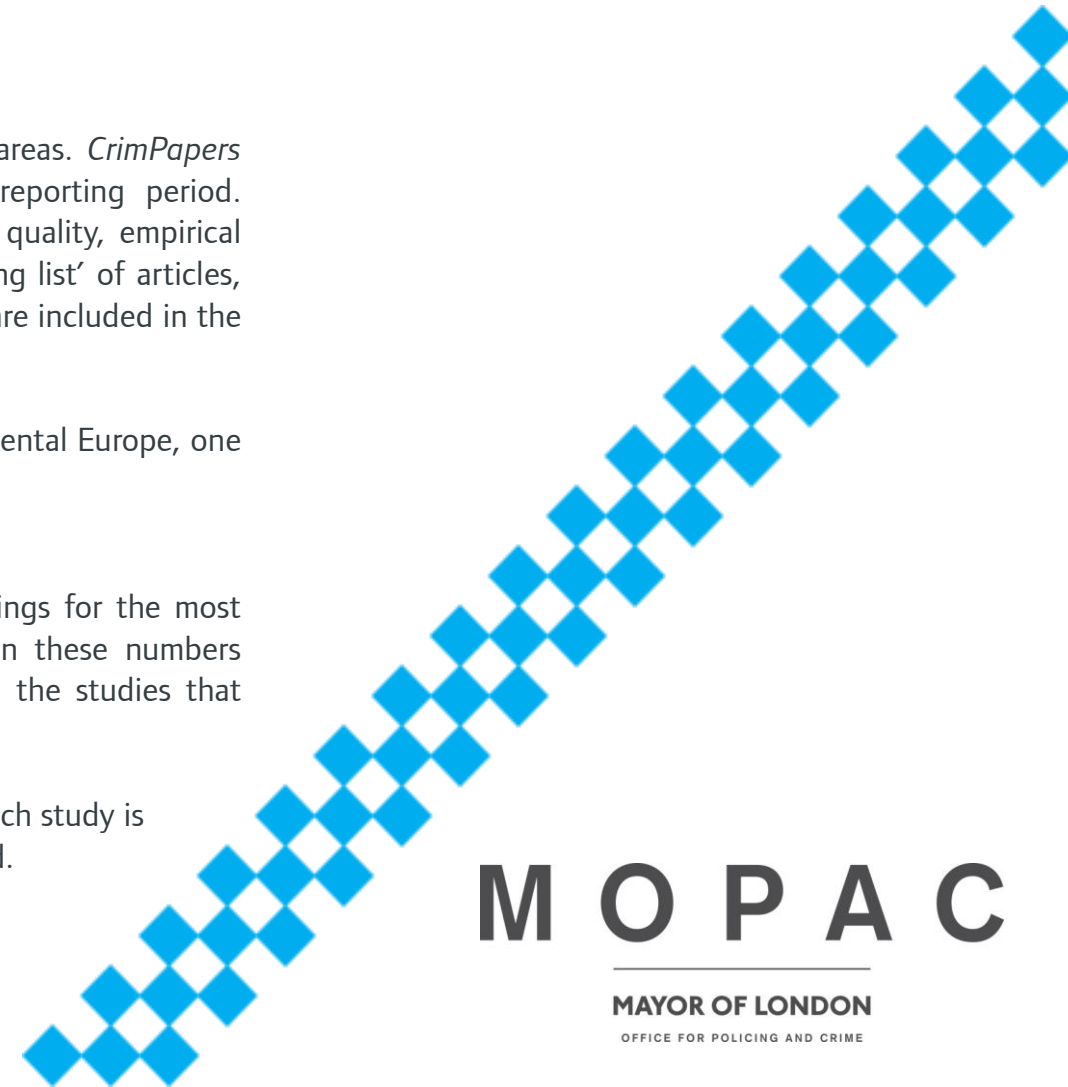
A scan of published research was undertaken using key search terms to reflect PCP priority areas. *CrimPapers* weekly bulletins were the primary source used to highlight relevant publications in the reporting period. Publications were identified based on title and abstract relevance to the PCP, methodological 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 55. Abstracts for these are included in the appendices (page 3 onwards).

Of the 55 studies in the shortlist, 23 are from the USA, 12 the UK, 7 from Australia, 4 from continental Europe, one from China, while 8 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 55 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



## A Better Police Service for London

### 1 Hot-spot police patrols

A randomised test of **hot-spot police patrols** on high-crime platforms across **London Underground** resulted in:

- **Reduced police calls**
- **Lasting deterrence**



### 2 Micro Analysis

Analysis of US citizen surveys found that hot spots of **dissatisfaction with police** align closely with hot spots of crime.



'**Micro-places**' should be used to measure police satisfaction.

Four articles examined the **role of BWV** in **police- public** interactions.

### 3 Police Legitimacy

Survey analysis of Australian residents highlighted the significance of **police effectiveness** on perceptions of **police legitimacy** for **minority individuals**.



Multiple articles confirmed the links between **police legitimacy** in relation to **public confidence** and officer perceptions of **fair treatment**.

### 4 Deterrent Effects of BWV

A US study has suggested that **partial BWV adoption** may be cost effective as it generates a positive spill over deterrent effect for citizens.



### 5 Police Discretion

Results from a US based RCT suggest that **BWV** may result in reduced police engagement with **proactive activities** that are highly discretionary and that could lead to community hostility.

### 6 Offender Decision Making

Over 200 adult offenders were interviewed in response to crime prevention measures – when encountering these, offenders favoured **crime displacement (i.e., offend elsewhere)**.



### 7 Gun Carrying Behaviour

A US study found a sample of **drug-dealing** young males were more likely to **gun carry just before and during the dealing period**.



The link strengthened as **harder drugs** were dealt.

## Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls

### 8 Sexual Assault Case Outcomes

15 years of US sexual assault police data highlight the influence of **victim, officer, and assault characteristics** in case outcomes.



Rape myth acceptance and wider issues (victim drinking) impacted strongly on outcome.

A number of studies have explored the **response to VAWG** from a range of perspectives including **police, the charity sector, prison, mental health**, and from the **survivor** themselves.

### 9 Solving Sexual Offence Cases

An Australian study of 524 sex offences established two case types:

#### Unsolved cases

- Minimal force
- Victim outdoors



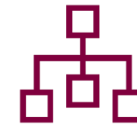
#### Solved cases

- Intoxicated offender
- Bystander presence
- Vehicle use



### 10 Prostitution

An exploration of prostitution across England & Wales identified a **range of purposes for selling sex**. The authors argue that prostitution should be considered **beyond individual choice** – as part of a wider structural, economic and social context.



### 11 IPV Exposure Intervention



A meta-analysis exploring evaluations of **child IPV exposure interventions** showed positive emotional & behavioural outcomes.

To improve, interventions should be tailored to meet individual child need.

A few studies have examined **cyber-crime** in relation to **type, opportunity** and **victim need**.

## Hatred, Intolerance and Extremism

### 12 Lone Actor Terrorism

Two studies explore the **antecedent behaviour** of lone actor terrorists. Mental health, stressors and perceived grievances are included.

### 13 Modelling Radicalisation

A **systematic review** of 57 publications outlined risk and protective factors for radicalization.



**Low self-control, thrill-seeking, and attitudinal factors** had the greatest effect on radicalization.

#### Important note:

This summary provides headline findings from a selection of recent academic studies (published Oct-Dec 2019). If you have any queries about this summary or the Horizon Scan more generally, please email the Evidence and Insight Unit: [evidenceandinsight@mopac.london.gov.uk](mailto:evidenceandinsight@mopac.london.gov.uk)  
You can also find out more about our work here: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/academic-research>

# A Better Police Service for London

## *Policing when and where you need it – in your community*

1. Ariel *et al.* (2019) describe the results of a randomized test of hot-spots police patrols on the previously never-patrolled, track-level platforms of the London Underground (LU). In a pretest–posttest, control-group design, 57 of the LU's 115 highest crime platforms were randomly assigned to receive foot patrol by officers in 15-minute doses, 4 times per day, during 8-hour shifts on 4 days a week for 6 months. The effect of 23,272 police arrivals at the treatment hot spots over 26 weeks was to reduce public calls for service by 21 percent on treated platforms relative to controls, primarily when police were absent (97 percent of the measured effect) with strong evidence of residual deterrence and no evidence of local displacement. This effect was six times larger than the mean standardized effect size found in the leading systematic review.

Kurland & Johnson (2019) explore whether the presence of “micro-” (e.g., pubs and fast-food restaurants) and “super-facilities” (e.g., football stadia), and their influence on the flow of people through neighbourhoods on match days, affects crime. Crime, street network, and points of interest data were obtained for the areas around five UK football stadia. Counts of crime were computed for small areal units and the spatial distribution of crime examined for match and non-match days. Mixed support was found for the influence of neighbourhood social composition on crime for both match and non-match days. Considering the influence of facilities, a selective pattern emerged with crime being elevated in those neighbourhoods closest to stadia on match but not non-match days. Micro-facilities too were found to influence crime levels. Particularly clear was the finding that the influence of pubs and fast-food restaurants on estimated movement flows to and from stadia on match (but not non-match) days was associated with area level crime.

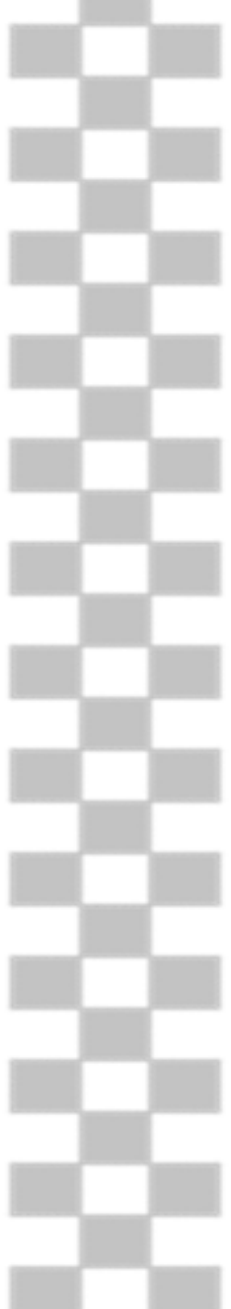
2. Wheeler *et al.* (2019) examined satisfaction with the police at micro places using data from citizen surveys conducted in 2001, 2009 and 2014 in a mid-sized city (population under 250,000 but over 50,000) in the north-eastern United States. The authors illustrate the utility of this approach by comparing micro- and meso-level aggregations of policing attitudes, as well as by predicting views about the police from crime data at micro places. In each survey, respondents provided the nearest intersection to their address. They show that hot spots of dissatisfaction with police do not conform to census tract boundaries, but rather align closely with hot spots of crime. Models predicting satisfaction with police show that local counts of violent crime are a strong predictor of attitudes towards police,

even above individual level predictors of race and age. Thus, asking survey respondents to provide the nearest intersection to where they live is a simple approach to mapping attitudes towards police at micro places, providing advantages beyond those of using traditional neighbourhood boundaries.

## *Public access & engagement*

The issue of police legitimacy has become widely discussed, particularly in the United States, as is demonstrated by the 3 articles below, which look at the drivers of, and efforts to encourage police legitimacy via procedural justice approaches. Kearns *et al.* (2019) examine how the American public conceptualizes legitimacy and trust in police, how public conceptualizations relate to academic debate on these terms, and how public views differ between and within racial groups using data from online, national samples of White (N=650), Black (N=624), and Hispanic (N=626) adults in the United States that are approximately representative of each racial group on key demographics. Participants were asked to define legitimacy and trust and to indicate whether they viewed the terms as synonymous. The authors found numerous between-race and within-race differences in citizen-driven conceptualizations of legitimacy and trust, suggesting the terms mean different things to different groups of people.

3. The invariance thesis of police legitimacy argues that, regardless of individual differences, the more citizens perceive police as procedurally just and effective, the more they will see the police as a legitimate authority. Research primarily undertaken in the USA shows support for the invariance thesis with some nuanced findings for victims and those with prior police contact. Zahnow *et al.* (2019) tested this thesis in Australia, comparing the effects of citizen perceptions of procedural justice (PJ) and police effectiveness (PE) on perceptions of police legitimacy across individual characteristics. Using a survey of 4,167 residents across 148 communities, the authors found the effects of PJ perceptions on police legitimacy were largely invariant across individual differences, but, contrary to previous research, the impact of PE perceptions was not invariant and particularly mattered for people with visible minority status.



# A Better Police Service for London

President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing sought to foster US police legitimacy through procedurally just policing practices. One of its recommendations to police departments to strengthen their policing practices through the principles of procedural justice – and thereby increasing their external legitimacy – was to promote legitimacy internally by applying those same procedural justice principles within the organization. Part of the reasoning behind this thinking is that officers will be more likely to treat citizens in procedurally just ways if they themselves are treated in procedurally just ways within their organization's decision-making processes. To test this assertion, Donner *et al.* (2019) analysed survey data from 113 officers from the Rockford (IL) Police Department. Multivariate regression results suggest that officers, who perceive fair treatment in their own organization, are more likely to indicate that they employ the same fairness when interacting with citizens.

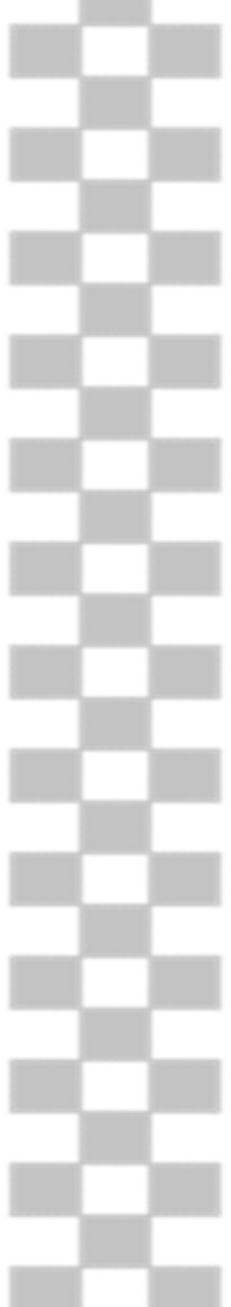
How do public expectations of police use-of-force align with the strict professional and legal guidelines under which police officers train and operate? This is a largely unexamined but salient question in the use-of-force literature and is important given the ongoing public discourse regarding police use-of-force, community standards, and perceived gaps between the two. In an American study Mourtgos & Adams (2019) focused on two main research questions: Are substantial portions of the public predisposed to disapprove of legally reasonable police use-of-force? If so, what are the principal correlates of those disapproving attitudes? They analysed responses (n = 19,972) to General Social Survey (GSS) questions from 1990 through 2018 entailing police use-of-force scenarios that are *prima facie* legally reasonable (the GSS provides a nationally representative sample survey of U.S. households conducted on a biennial basis). They found a substantial proportion of GSS respondents expressed their disapproval of legally reasonable, justifiable police uses-of-force over the entire period, and such disapproval had increased over time.

Though de-escalation has become popular in policing, there is very little research on the topic. White *et al.* (2019) surveyed over 100 officers in the Tempe (Arizona) Police Department regarding their perceptions (overall, as well as by officer race/ethnicity and sex) of de-escalation, including tactics used to peacefully resolve potentially violent encounters, the frequency of use, and their perceptions of de-escalation training. Findings suggest that officers view de-escalation through a lens defined by their authority and officer safety. Officers are open to de-escalation training but are sceptical about its impact on citizen encounters. Lastly, minority and female officers use certain tactics more often than white male officers.

The presence of civilian witnesses and victims in court is central to the effective operation of the criminal justice system. However, there is evidence of significant non-attendance which can result in ineffective and cracked trials. To address this, West Midlands Police Witness Care Unit and the Behavioural Insights Team designed an intervention using behavioural insight principles consisting of (1) a new conversation guide for Witness Care Officers (WCOs); (2) a redesigned 'Warning Letter' confirming details of the proceedings; and (3) a new reminder call and SMS. Monnington-Taylor, E *et al.* (2019) evaluated the impact of the new approach through a randomised controlled trial in which 36 WCOs were randomly assigned to either "business as usual" (control) or treatment. Subgroup analysis was undertaken to explore whether differential effects were seen for domestic violence cases or between those that were victims and witnesses. Results indicated that the treatment approach was directionally positive in all cases, but that the increase in attendance was not statistically significant

## Strategic policing

7. An American study (Docherty *et al.* 2019) aimed to examine whether periods of marijuana and other illicit drug dealing were associated with changes in young male offenders' gun carrying behaviour using data from a sample of 479 serious juvenile male offenders who were assessed every 6 months for 3 years and then annually for 4 years. At each assessment, participants reported on engagement in illicit behaviours, including drug dealing and gun carrying, in each month since the prior interview. The study used fixed effects models to assess within-individual changes in participants' gun carrying immediately before, during, and right after a dealing spell, while controlling for relevant time varying confounds (e.g., gang involvement, exposure to violence). The results showed there was a slight increase in gun carrying right before a drug dealing spell, then a more pronounced increase in gun carrying during the months of a drug dealing spell. Immediately after a dealing spell ended, youths' gun carrying dropped dramatically, but remained significantly elevated relative to their baseline levels. The association between drug dealing spells and increases in gun carrying was stronger when participants dealt hard drugs (e.g., cocaine, heroin) relative to marijuana. These results suggest that designing and implementing programmes to prevent the initiation of drug dealing and decrease involvement in drug dealing may help to substantially reduce illegal gun carrying and firearm violence among delinquent males.



# A Better Police Service for London

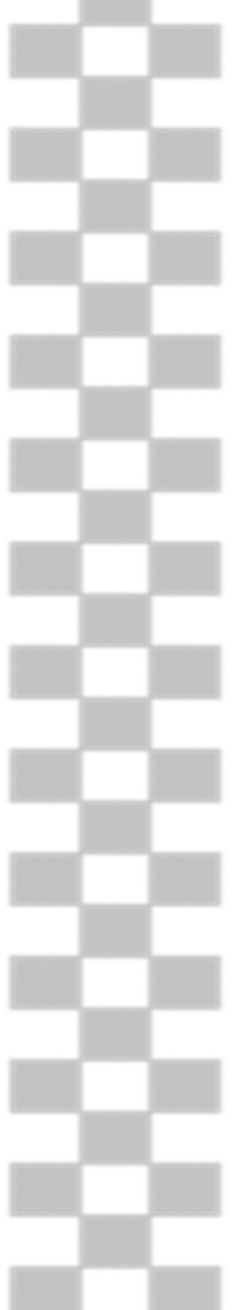
*Transforming the Metropolitan Police Service*

4. There have been several randomised control trial studies looking at body worn cameras' (BWCs) impact on police performance and citizens' reactions to it. A study by Braga *et al.* (2019) explicitly tested for direct and spill-over effects of BWCs on the civility of police-citizen encounters and police work activities (measured by looking at citizen complaints, police use of force, and police proactivity and discretion) during a 1-year randomized controlled trial in the Boston Police Department. The study also investigated whether BWC deployment results in spill-over effects onto control officers in treated districts as compared to comparison officers in untreated districts. Findings indicated that the use of BWCs reduces citizen complaints and police use of force but has no appreciable impact on officer activity or discretion. Furthermore, results indicated significant spill-over reductions in citizen complaints for control officers in treated districts. The results suggest that a limited BWC adoption may generate spill-over deterrent impacts as officers and citizens perceive an increased threat that inappropriate and illegal behaviours will be captured on video even when BWCs are not actually present during an encounter leading the authors to conclude that partial BWC implementation may be a cost-effective alternative to full implementation.

Clare *et al.* (2019) report the results of a 6-month randomized controlled trial of police BWCs by the Western Australia Police Force, with a sample of officers (N = 498) acting as their own controls with camera use ("treatment") randomly allocated across shifts. A range of parametric and non-parametric tests were conducted to explore the influence of BWC on interview efficiency, rate/timing of guilty pleas, conviction rates, sanction rates, police use-of-force, assaults against police, and citizen complaints against police. The trial generated mixed results: BWC recordings did result in evidence-gathering benefits by producing cost/time efficiencies when taking field interviews. BWC footage had limited impact on court processes/outcomes, with indication that camera evidence encouraged earlier guilty pleas but no corresponding increase in the rate of guilty pleas or convictions. BWC did influence police operational decision-making, with increased sanction rates and use-of-force on treatment days. The extent to which officers engaged with the trial compounded these patterns. In contrast to the study above, there was no evidence that BWC prevents problem behaviour, with citizens' complaints increasing on treatment days and no influence of BWC on rates of assaults against police.

5. Lawrence & Peterson (2019) examined how the amount and makeup of police-initiated activities changed after the introduction of BWCs. From May 21 to November 22, 2016, patrol officers and sergeants from the Milwaukee Police Department were involved in a randomized controlled trial of proactive activities, which included a total count of self-initiated events, as well as traffic stops, business checks, subject stops, and park and walks. Through a stratified random sampling procedure, half the officers (n = 252) were assigned BWCs, while officers from the control group (n = 252) continued business as usual. The research found that BWCs had no impact on the total amount of officer-initiated activities, traffic stops, or business checks. Officers with BWCs conducted approximately 8% fewer subject stops and 23% more park and walks than those in the control group. Results suggest that BWC-wearing officers may be less likely to engage in proactive activities that are highly discretionary and that could potentially lead to confrontations with community members.

Blaskovits & Bennell (2019) review existing literature that relates to how BWCs might influence an officer's memory of their interactions with the public, namely those that involve the use of force. Notably, most of this research does not come from the policing field but focuses on the impact of camera technology in other settings. Much of the available research supports the commonly held view that BWCs could be used to enhance memory for these interactions, particularly interactions that are complex or stressful. However, contrary to what people might expect, research also exists that suggests body worn cameras may have a detrimental effect on officer memory. Three major potential detriments: cognitive offloading, retrieval-induced forgetting and misinformation-type effects are highlighted.



# A Better Police Service for London

In 2017, the New South Wales Police Force in Australia embarked on a new social media strategy, harnessing humorous Internet memes and cute images of police animals to increase 'user engagement' with their posts. This self-described 'meme-strategy' generated a surge of new followers for the organisation's social media accounts, with NSW Police's Facebook page reaching one million followers in August 2017. Wood (2020) used social media engagement data ('reaction', 'share' and 'comment' counts) scraped from the organisation's Facebook page for the seven months leading up to the introduction of the strategy and the first 17 months of its operation (June 2016–May 2018) to examine the social media logics underpinning NSW's strategy and similar police PR strategies that have employed humour and cute content to increase social media engagement. The article critically examines this approach to police public relations, focusing on its weaponisation of cute content to generate engagement.

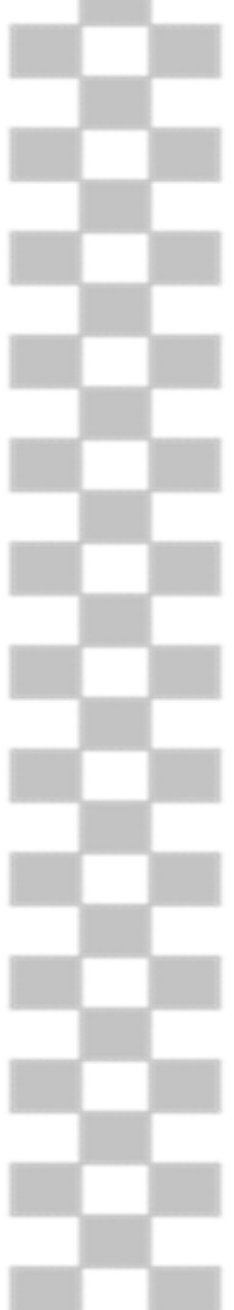
The use of recreational drones has only recently become a possibility for the general public. However, with the addition of this new technology comes the potential for misuse. Using a nation-wide opt-in survey from July 2019 restricted to those aged 18 years or older and living within the United States (N = 535), a study by Graham *et al.* (2019) explored the prevalence of victimization by recreational drones as well as beliefs and responses to deviant drones and their pilots. 30.8% of the sample had experienced some form of drone misconduct. Females and those with higher antisocial propensities were more likely to be victims of the more invasive drone behaviours, such as a drone peeking through a window of a home. In addition, most respondents viewed deviant drones as an issue requiring a police response but were a bit more sceptical in the ability of the police to apprehend the errant drone pilots engaging in this behaviour. Furthermore, most respondents believed that drone misconduct should be criminalized. Although it remains to be seen how prevalent drone deviance will become, the potential for victimization exists and should be examined by practitioners and researchers alike.

The nature of crime is changing, estimates suggest that at least half of all crime is now committed online. The increase in connectivity of everyday objects (e.g. televisions, baby monitors, door locks - referred to as the Internet of Things (IoT)) has the potential to transform society, but may generate new crime opportunities. Blythe & Johnson (2019) conducted a systematic review to inform understanding of these risks, looking at papers published between 2007 and 2017. The initial database search yielded a total of 3506 published articles. After removing duplicates and review of the texts, 114 studies were included in the final study. The research identified several high-level mechanisms through

which offenders may exploit the consumer IoT including profiling, physical access control and the control of device audio/visual outputs. The types of crimes identified that could be facilitated by the IoT were wide ranging and included burglary, stalking, and sex crimes through to state level crimes. The review suggests that the IoT presents substantial new opportunities for offending and intervention is needed now to prevent an IoT crime harvest.

Miró-Llinares & Moneva (2019) have produced a paper challenging Farrell and Birks' assertion that the emergence of cybercrime is an invalid explanation for the crime drop. They propose two (non-exclusive) hypotheses that highlight the essential role of cyberspace as an environment that has shifted criminal opportunities from physical to virtual space, which impact on crime trends. The first suggests that the more time spent at home by many young people due to video games and online leisure activities, for example, could have had an impact on the juvenile crime drop. The second states that there has been a shift in opportunities from physical space to cyberspace which has led to an increase in property-related criminal activity connected to the Internet to the detriment of physical crime which would not be reflected in the statistics. Both premises are supported by empirical evidence taken from a variety of sources (mainly from the UK and USA).

In a similar vein, in a Dutch study Rutger Leukfeldt *et al.* (2020) examine to what extent and how the needs of victims of cybercrime deviate from the needs of victims of traditional offline offenses. In total, 19 victims and 22 experts were interviewed. The study shows that victims of online offenses have the same needs as victims of traditional offenses: ranging from emotional or financial needs to information needs. However, victims' needs are often not met. Victims state that in most cases, they are not acknowledged as a victim, that no statement is recorded by the police, or no investigation is started.



# A Better Police Service for London

## Investigation

Individuals with a mental illness may be particularly vulnerable during police interviews. Assessing fitness for police interview is vital for ensuring procedural fairness. Clugston *et al.* (2019) report the findings of a retrospective review of 31 police interviews of mentally ill persons charged with murder (n = 18) or attempted murder (n = 13) who appeared before the Queensland Mental Health Court. Police interviews were conducted for all murder and 50% of attempted murder cases. Possible or overt mental illness symptoms were present in all interviews. Symptoms of mental illness were pervasive in 36.7% of interviews, intermittent in 43.3% of interviews and seldom in 20% of interviews. Support persons were present for 9.7% of interviews, and legal representation was not present for any interview. The authors highlight the need to enhance access to support persons during interviews.

## Crime prevention

6. Rational choice approaches to offender decision-making typically focus on the choice to offend or not. In a mixed-method study, Rossmo & Summers (2019) explored how offenders respond to crime control and prevention measures using a framework incorporating displacement options. Semi-structured interviews of 200 adult offenders convicted of burglary, robbery, or theft were conducted in Texas, USA. Subjects first described experiences in which they wanted to offend but chose not to do so due to a control measure. They then evaluated a list of control measures and indicated whether they led to desistance or displacement. Finally, they were given situational crime vignettes involving a prevention measure, followed by five displacement choices and a desistance option. Responses often favoured crime displacement, highlighting the need to go beyond a dichotomized offend/desist choice, and suggesting displacement is more prevalent than previously thought.

Vandeviver & Bernasco (2019) combined data on 679 burglaries by 577 burglars committed between 2005 and 2014 with data on approximately 138,000 residences in 193 residential neighbourhoods in Ghent, Belgium to test whether offenders consider environmental features at multiple spatial scales when selecting a target and examine the simultaneous effect of neighbourhood-level and residence-level attributes on residential burglars' choice of residence to burglarize. Their results suggest that burglars prefer burglarizing residences in neighbourhoods with lower residential density, detached residences, residences in single-unit buildings, and renter-occupied residences.

Furthermore, burglars are more likely to target residences in neighbourhoods that they previously and recently targeted for burglary, and residences nearby their home. Overall the authors found both area-level and target-level attributes are found to affect burglars' target choices.

Important aspects of the school context include the presence of physical security measures, especially those that focus on the monitoring and control of students such as security guards and security cameras, and social school environment factors, such as adult support and perceived fairness. Using data from the US Census Bureau's 2015 National Crime Victimization Survey – School Crime Supplement (SCS), Nguyen *et al.* (2020) explored the relationships between school security measures in schools, school social environment factors, and student fear of crime and avoidance behaviour. The sample for the study consisted of 3,780 students. The results indicate that the school security measures, and school social environment are associated with students' fear of crime and avoidance and suggest that schools need to reconsider the use of security measures and to focus on fair development and implementation of school rules instead.

Based on daily bus pickpocketing numbers provided by Beijing Municipal Public Safety Bureau from 2014 for 357 days a Chinese study, Ding & Zhai (2019), found that while temperature and season were not clearly correlated with bus pickpocketing, air-quality was. The worse the air quality, the more bus pickpocketing occurred (largely because, in hazy conditions the buses were slower, and consequently victims were on the bus for longer, and it was more difficult for victims to identify suspects). Then two empirical investigations were carried out to verify that crime pattern theory and rational choice theory can be used to explain the impact of air quality on bus pickpocketing crime. Furthermore, the authors were able to predict daily bus pickpocketing crime risk with an accuracy rate of 81%, potentially providing early warnings of urban bus pickpocketing and assisting police to reduce crimes.

# A Better Criminal Justice Service for London

## Supporting female offenders

Being pregnant while under community supervision after conviction for a criminal offence can be a highly stressful experience, and pregnant women under community supervision are at an elevated risk for substance use, yet there is very sparse literature about this potentially very vulnerable group. Ellis *et al.* (2019) used data from the US National Survey on Drug Use and Health aggregated for the years 2008–2016 to test for relationships between psychological distress and use of tobacco, alcohol, or marijuana during the month prior to a research assessment among pregnant women under community supervision, controlling for demographic characteristics. The pregnant women under community supervision (n=271) reported higher rates of past-month substance use of each kind and of psychological distress than pregnant women not under community supervision (n=6,694). Past-month serious psychological distress, but not remitted psychological distress, corresponded strongly with past-month alcohol use even when controlling for demographic characteristics and other substance use.

## Reducing reoffending

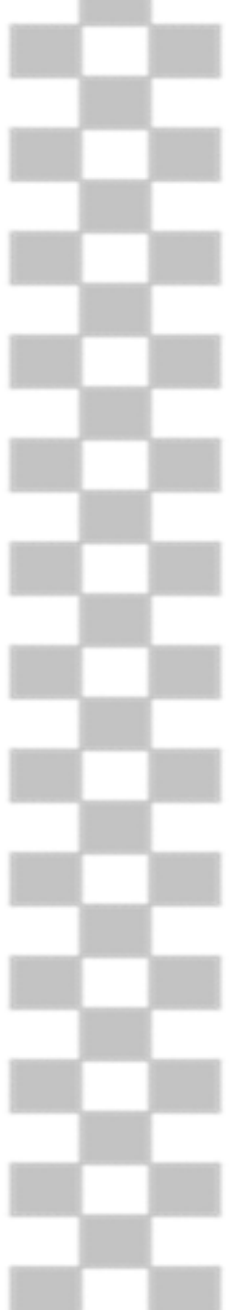
Emerging research has shown that the parole officer, much like friends and family, can be an important source of social support for returning persons. Bares *et al.* (2019) used panel data from the federally funded US Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (n=1,697) to demonstrate that greater levels of parole officer support are associated with decreased odds of reincarceration. Furthermore, parole officer professional support (e.g., providing correct information) exerts a more robust effect than interpersonal support (e.g., listening and caring). Findings suggest policy makers should consider programming to strengthen the professional relationship between the parole officer and returning person.

An article by Stafford (2019) examined the post-sanction offending behaviour of individuals who received a warning or exclusion from a Business Crime Reduction Partnership in Gloucester, England using data comprising 4,935 offences committed by 2,080 individual offenders at 115 locations occurring between September 2014 and August 2018. Noteworthy desistance occurred following the receipt of the warning (76%) and the exclusion (37%). Displacement of offending was observed, with most of those who continued to offend doing so only at business premises away from where they received their initial sanction. Higher rates of recidivism were observed among male offenders and those committing abuse offences, higher rates of displacement among

those who committed theft offences, and the most varied and unpredictable offending among those who continued to offend post-exclusion.

Kelley *et al.* (2019) investigated the efficacy of intensive three principles correctional counselling (3PCC) for improving the mental health of people in an English prison. Compared with the control group, participants (n=175) receiving intensive 3PCC showed a significant increase in three principles understanding, mental wellbeing, and purpose in life, and a significant decrease in depression, anxiety, and anger. At five-month follow-up each benefit shown at post-test was either maintained or significantly improved.

Barry, M. (2019) examines parole decision making and management within the UK from the perspectives of both high-risk offenders on licence and parole professionals based on two recent studies, one in England and the other in Scotland. The English study involved interviews with 26 high risk (i.e. levels 2 and 3) MAPPA offenders on post-release supervision in early 2013, alongside interviews with 26 parole professionals. The Scottish study included interviews during 2013 and 2014 with 69 ex-prisoners or currently recalled prisoners convicted of serious violent or sexual offences, and 125 professionals. The research discusses two key drivers to burgeoning recall rates: the stringency of licence conditions and the propensity of professionals to recall in the name of risk elimination rather than risk reduction. The article concludes that the effectiveness of parole is in question, not least in enabling re-entry and reintegration of high-risk prisoners. The future sustainability of parole itself is deemed to be under threat.





# Keeping Children & Young People safe

CSE/CSA

Banton and West (2019) sought to explore the effect of offender, victim and observer gender on the perceived seriousness of child sex abuse. Using a 2 (offender gender: male vs female) × 2 (victim gender: male vs female) × 2 (observer gender: male vs female) between-participants experimental design, researchers presented members of the British public ( $N = 213$ ) with a vignette describing a hypothetical interaction between an offender and victim. Participants were asked about how serious they thought the offense was. Results showed that offences committed by males were considered more serious than offences committed by females. Additionally, women who observed an incident of child sex abuse rated it as more serious than a male who observed the same incident. However, there was no effect of victim gender. Notably, a novel three-way interaction, whereby female offenders abusing male victims were judged as having committed more serious offenses by female observers, was evident. Results indicate that when both genders are subject to investigation, assessments of sexual crimes become more complicated than may have previously been assumed.

## *Preventing young people from getting involved in crime*

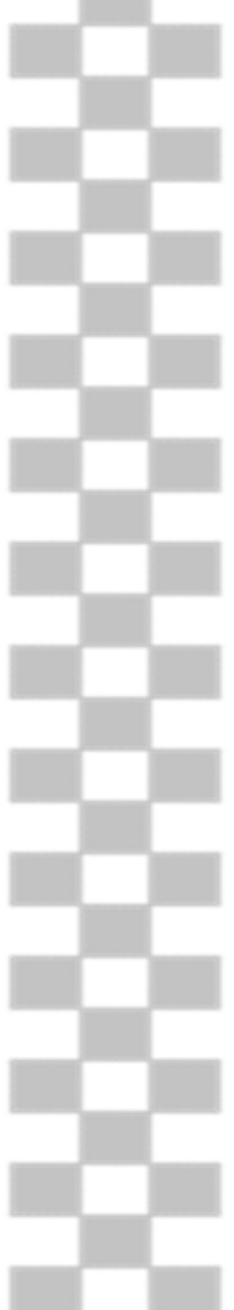
Examining the environmental correlates of deviant behaviour is a large area of interest that continues to promote much research in criminology. Recent attention has been given to understanding the effects of an elevated concentration of offenders on an individual's likelihood of recidivism. A study by Powell *et al.* (2019) explored whether an elevated delinquent youth concentration negatively affects the recidivism of a juvenile population. Using data from a large number of adjudicated delinquents on community supervision from the state of Florida ( $n=22,840$ ), mixed effects logistic regression analyses indicate that increases in delinquent youth concentration contribute to an increased risk of reoffending for younger, but not older, juvenile offenders.

de Jong *et al.* (2019) assessed whether adolescents were most likely to use substances while they are involved in unstructured activities, in the presence of peers and in the absence of authority figures. A random sample of 40 secondary schools was drawn in The Hague and its suburbs, of which ten schools agreed to participate. The data was a panel study collected in two waves – the first wave (2008/2009) comprised 868 first graders (age 12/13) and fourth graders (age 15/16) the second wave (2010/2011) comprised 616 people. The findings showed that adolescents' substance use did take place during unstructured activities, when peers were present, and when authority figures were absent, supporting the routine activity theory of deviance. However, in contrast to what

the theory proposes, these factors function independently, and need not all be present simultaneously for deviant behaviour to occur.

A growing body of research has evoked the life-course perspective to understand how experiences in school relate to a wide range of longer-term life outcomes, typified by the notion of the school-to-prison pipeline. Applying a life-course perspective and leveraging 15 waves of data from the US National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 ( $n=8,984$ ), a study by Hemez *et al.* (2019) examined how school suspensions influence the odds of imprisonment during young adulthood. Analysis demonstrates that receiving a suspension serves as a key turning point toward increased odds of incarceration, even after accounting for key covariates including levels of criminal offending. However, results show that repeated suspensions do not appear to confer additional risk of incarceration.

An article by Irwin-Rogers (2019) explored young people's involvement in illicit drug markets in England, focusing on why young people become involved in illicit drug distribution, the extent to which their involvement is predicated on adults' use of threats and violence, and how young people frame the morality of drug dealing. The article's findings are based on a unique dataset generated by a six-month period of online social media platform analysis, alongside additional data drawn from periods of observation, focus groups and interviews with young people and professionals. Irwin-Rogers argues that drug prohibition, consumer capitalism, severe levels of inequality, and emerging problems associated with the rise of online social media are leading to the involvement, through coercion and exploitation, of increasing numbers of young people into street-level drug dealing.



# Violence Against Women and Girls

## Type/ Prevalence of VAWG

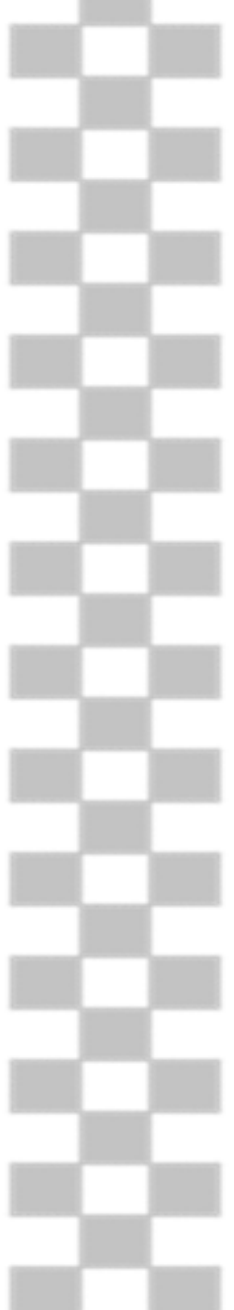
In a UK study, Radcliffe *et al.* (2019) sought to examine intimate partner violence (IPV) in relationships where one or both partners were in treatment for substance use. Researchers conducted thematic and narrative analysis of the accounts of 14 men recruited from substance use services and 14 women who were their current or former intimate partners. Violence was reported to be primed and entangled with sexual jealousy, with perceptions of female impropriety and with women's opposition to male authority. Both partners reported adversities and psychological vulnerabilities that they considered relevant to conflict and abuse. Male participants were more likely to describe IPV as uncharacteristic isolated events that arose from specific substance related disputes, whereas women described enduring patterns of abusive behaviour often linked to intoxication, craving and withdrawal. Where both partners used substances, men described the need to protect their partners from addiction and from unscrupulous others while women described highly controlling behaviour. Notably, women who were not dependent substance users reported the combined effects of psychological and financial abuse often linked to recurring patterns of substance use and relapse. These findings highlight the challenges for practitioners to engage with the ways in which abused women's hesitance to leave male abusers can be complicated by shared drug dependency.

Overlien *et al.* (2019) sought to explore dynamics of violence and abuse by investigating the contextual, situational, and relational aspects of IPV among young women. Semi-structured interviews were performed with 33 young women from Norway and Sweden, who had all experienced some form of IPV in a heterosexual relationship. Following thematic and narrative analysis, results showed that victimisation was characterised by six overarching themes: control, humiliation, fear, sexual coercion, secrecy, and resistance. Meanings attributed to the violence include relating it to the couple's youth and the male partner's personal issues. Digital media played a central role in the victimisation, but also in the women's resistance and protection. Thus, this article suggests that IPV manifests itself in various ways in the lives of its victims.

## Response to VAWG

8. Using police data of sexual assault case files from 1999 to 2014 ( $N = 23,525$ ), Venema *et al.* (2019) examined the assault, victim, and detective characteristics that contribute to case outcomes. 15 years of reported sexual assault data from one large US police department found that elements corresponding with rape myth acceptance were predictive of unfounded, cleared, and exceptionally cleared case decisions, providing further indication that officers consider evidentiary but also extralegal factors (such as victim sex, age, and race), in decision making. Incident characteristics, including victim drinking, victim injury, use of a weapon, presence of a witness, and relationship between the suspect and victim, appeared most predictive of various case outcomes, even though detective and victim characteristics explained some differences in the likelihood of various case outcomes. This study highlights the importance of victim, officer, and assault characteristics in case processing and reiterates that sexual assault victims face additional barriers to receiving legal justice.

Rape crisis centres largely rely on volunteers for delivering emergency room advocacy to survivors of sexual assault. Mihelicova *et al.* (2019) conducted a qualitative study to identify stressors that volunteer advocates face, stressors unique to survivors who advocate, and the effects of stressors on advocates. Semi structured interviews were conducted with 18 current volunteer advocates, 11 of whom identified as survivors, from three US rape crisis centres. Findings demonstrated stressors associated with self-evaluation; rules or expectations of the role (including the crisis nature of the role); witnessing lack of client support; helplessness around sexual assault as a systems issue; identifying with the client; witnessing the physical and emotional impact on clients; and being reminded of their own assault. Notably, survivors exclusively described being reminded of past trauma within advocacy work. Findings have implications for supporting advocate well-being by better understanding the stressors that may lead to negative outcomes and informing individual coping, training, and overall organisational support of advocates.



# Violence Against Women and Girls

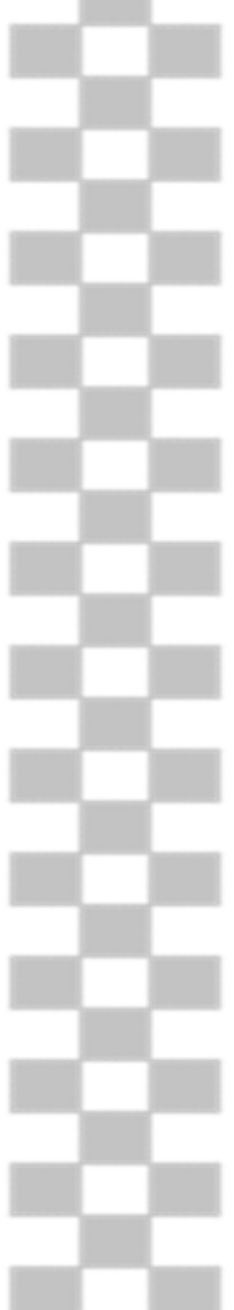
Despite increasing interest in programming for perpetrators of intimate partner violence (IPV), the literature provides weak support for the effectiveness of these interventions. A study by McNeeley (2019) uses a quasi-experimental design to evaluate the effectiveness of a prison-based implementation of a popular IPV intervention – the Minnesota Domestic Violence Intervention Pilot Program based on the Duluth Model – in reducing general and offence-specific recidivism among 169 men released from state prison in 2017. No significant differences in any type of recidivism were found between the comparison group and those who participated in treatment, regardless of whether the participant completed or failed to complete the program. The findings suggest that the intervention is no more successful when offered within prisons than when offered in the community.

Kurdyla *et al.* (2019) explored help-seeking attitudes and behaviours in relation to IPV across a convenience sample of 92 transgender adults and 325 cisgender sexual minority adults in the United States. Results from an online questionnaire indicated that, among the subsample experiencing IPV ( $n = 187$ ), help-seeking rates were significantly higher among transgender survivors than cisgender sexual minority survivors. In addition, transgender survivors most commonly sought help from friends, followed by mental health care providers and family, whereas formal help giving resources (HGRs) such as police, IPV telephone hotlines, and survivor shelters had low utilisation rates. Among all transgender participants, IPV survivors were significantly less likely than non-survivors to perceive family, medical doctors, and survivor hotlines as helpful HGRs for other survivors in general. Finally, transgender survivors were significantly less likely than non-survivors to self-report a willingness to disclose any future IPV to family. Findings suggest that friends often represent the primary line of defence for transgender survivors seeking help, and thus bystander intervention training and education should be adapted to address not just cisgender but also transgender IPV.

9. Drawing from perspectives emphasising environmental crime event components, Chiu and Leclerc (2019) identified the predictors and contexts of unsolved and solved sexual offenses against women by strangers. Police data were obtained from 542 cases in Queensland and hierarchical logistical regression was adopted to analyse variables relating to situational, contextual, and offender–victim interaction elements. Findings showed that cases were significantly likely to remain unsolved if the offender used minimal force, or if the victim was walking outside at the time of initial contact. Conversely, solved cases were significantly associated with offender prior consumption of alcohol/drugs, bystander presence, and vehicle use. Crimes with higher criminal “effectiveness” and lower levels of victim interaction tended to be associated with unsolved sexual offenses.

Using a fight/flight/freeze theoretical framework, Pinciotti *et al.* (2019) sought to examine how forceful, nonforceful, and freeze responding to sexual assault influenced victim reporting and the extent to which reported assaults were pursued and investigated by law enforcement. Using data from the US National Crime Victimization Survey between 2010 and 2016, 632 individuals were identified as having experienced sexual assault within the respective year. Logistic regression analysis indicated that victims were significantly less likely to report to law enforcement if they froze during the attack. Although engagement in forceful resistance increased victims’ likelihood of reporting to law enforcement, physical injury (e.g., bruises, cuts, broken bones) was the only predictor of law enforcement response to sexual assault allegations. Findings suggest that whereas fight and freeze responses to sexual victimisation influence victims’ willingness to report to law enforcement, resistance is not uniquely predictive of law enforcement response once physical injury is considered.

In a US study, Dardis *et al.* (2019) examined factors that could inhibit the development of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms in response to sexual violence in women. Perceived coping self-efficacy (CSE) is a cognitive appraisal ability utilised to regulate internal and external stressors that arise from traumatic events. This study investigated CSE as a potential protective factor against trauma-related psychopathology in 375 female undergraduates who reported at least one non-consensual sexual experience. Results showed that CSE indirectly affected the relationship between sexual violence and PTSD symptom severity. Furthermore, this evidence suggests that CSE may be an important protective factor given women’s increased risk of developing PTSD symptoms following sexual violence, and that programs targeting the development of CSE may prevent or lessen risk of PTSD symptoms following sexual violence.



# Violence Against Women and Girls

Civil law protection orders (POs) have been the primary legal response to domestic violence internationally for several decades. Cordier *et al.* (2019) conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of POs in reducing violation rates of domestic violence, compare violation rates reported by victims and police reports, and identify factors that influence violation and re-offending. 24 US-based studies and 1 Swedish study were included. Violation rates were found to be higher for victim reports compared with police reports. Violation rates were reduced when POs were used in combination with arrests. PO violation rates were lower among perpetrators without histories of arrest for committing violence, perpetrators not engaging in stalking, and where couples have had medium to high incomes. There is no consensus among the studies about what the most appropriate methodology is to measure PO effectiveness.

To date, there has been almost no empirical evaluation of the operationalisation of controlling or coercive behaviour: the new English and Welsh offence that came into effect in 2015. McGorry and McMahon (2019) conducted an analysis of media reports relating to 107 individuals convicted of controlling or coercive behaviour, providing a profile of offenders and victims (gender and age), the types of abusive behaviours offenders engaged in and how the cases progressed through the criminal justice system (manner of conviction, sentencing outcomes). Results suggest that the offence is (appropriately) operationalised in a highly-gendered manner, that it has captured a diverse range of behaviours that would not previously have been considered criminal, and that media reports of this form of domestic violence have not demonstrated the negativity towards victims identified in previous studies. Further research of primary data is required to confirm these findings.

## Human trafficking

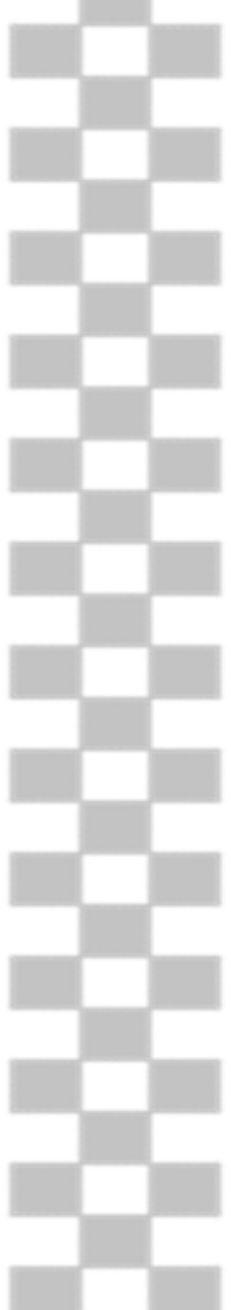
Based on a systematic literature review (82 studies included) in addition to interviews with convicted offenders (n=3) and anti-trafficking practitioners (n=13) in Belgium, Raets and Janssens (2019) present an overview of the various ways in which technology can be leveraged both in the perpetration and the counteraction of human trafficking activities. It is argued that digital communication technologies may be employed at each phase of the trafficking process, and that technological resources can play a meaningful role at all stages of a criminal investigation. However, the adoption of technology is neither universal nor complete. Above all, technological developments have expanded the trafficker's repertoire in a manner that is seemingly unprecedented. However, modern

technologies have not replaced classic methods of operating in trafficking enterprises; instead, old and new systems are applied flexibly, with both strategies regularly working in parallel. As a result, technology-facilitated human trafficking appears to be tied to a pattern of sophistication and diversification, rather than escalation.

## Stalking

Stalking is dynamic, influenced by targets' reactions and stalkers' circumstances. Consequently, the risk of violence in stalking cases is likely dynamic. Thus, Thompson *et al.* (2020) investigated key established stalking violence risk factors alongside new dynamic contextual factors in a content analysis of 43 stalking court transcripts from Queensland, Australia. Findings suggest that relying on individual factors in isolation leads to moderate rates of error. Combining risk factors provides a more sophisticated understanding of stalking violence, with dynamic contextual factors playing a pivotal role in understanding changes in risk, including when stalkers with historical and/or static contextual factors pose a higher risk of violence. Findings emphasise the need to look beyond traditional dispositional, historical, and static factors toward new dynamic contextual factors and highlight the importance of contextual factors for violence assessment and prevention strategies.

There is a dearth of research focused on how experiences of stalking may differ for men compared to women. In a US study, Logan (2019) examined a range of factors on stalking-related fear and mental health outcomes for men (n = 218) and women (n = 478) stalked by (ex)partners (n = 285) and non-partners (n = 411) within the past 5 years. Results showed that women experienced higher stalking-related-fear; but they were also more likely to be targeted by male (ex)partner stalkers than men. Even so, men who were stalked by males had higher stalking-related fear, than men who were stalked by women. Further, (ex)partner stalkers were more threatening, interfering, and assaultive than non-partner stalkers and the perceived capability in handling a threatening situation played a key role in mental health outcomes for both men and women stalking victims. Notably, one-third of stalking victims, regardless of stalker type, also experienced proxy stalking (harassing others connected with the individual). Thus, results suggest that characteristics of the stalking situation impact fear and mental health outcomes, and that assessment and safety planning should consider both features of the stalking experience and safety efficacy of victims.



# Violence Against Women and Girls

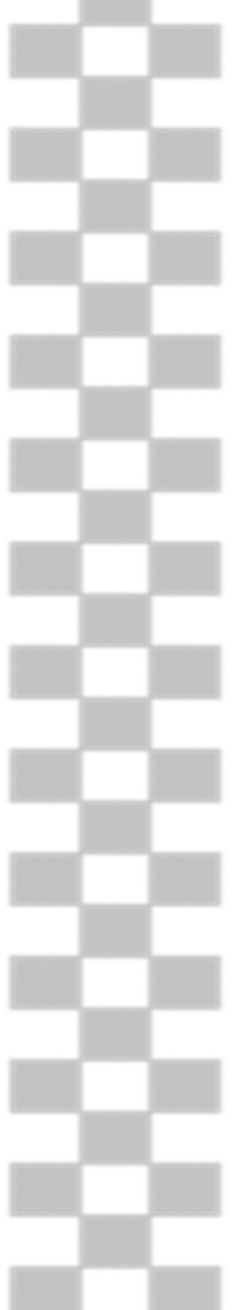
## Prostitution/ sex work

10. Researchers at the University of Bristol (Hester *et al.*, 2019) aimed to determine the current 'nature' and 'prevalence' of prostitution in England and Wales. Professionals across statutory, academic and non-governmental organisations were engaged with the research, in addition to over 500 individuals currently or formerly involved in sex work or prostitution. A combined methodological approach was taken including: a systematic review, online surveys, email questionnaires, and extensive email, group and face to face consultation. Overall, the data demonstrates the complexity and diversity in how sex is sold in England and Wales today. As recognised by the researchers, although many individuals in prostitution are subject to acute exploitation and serious and sustained harm, some identify selling sex as a pleasurable and lucrative career choice, or as a therapeutic vocation. The paper concludes that a substantial proportion of individuals (mainly women and trans women) are selling sex to get by financially, given different constraints in their lives around caring responsibilities, physical and mental health, lack of access to social security benefits and support services, workplace discrimination, or other reasons. Their situation is compounded by stigma and managing safety, and many find that the longer they sell sex, the harder it can be to leave completely. This moves beyond individual choice and recognised the structural economic and social context in which choices are narrowed: or in the case of those coerced in to selling sex, choices removed.

## Child exposure to IPV

11. Weegar *et al.* (2019) conducted a meta-analysis to explore child emotional and behavioural outcomes following exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV). This meta-analysis included 21 evaluation studies of child IPV exposure interventions across 12 English published reviews between 2000 and 2019. Results indicated an overall pre- to post-intervention medium effect size, ranging from small to large depending on the specific outcome. There were greater intervention effects when treatment was not exclusively trauma specific. It appeared that IPV exposure interventions are generally effective for improving children's emotional and behavioural well-being, although interventions may benefit from greater tailoring to children's specific needs. Interventions may also benefit from incorporating various content areas (both trauma-specific and non-trauma-specific) and from greater focus on ensuring the maintenance of treatment gains.

Sharman *et al.* (2019) explored the situational factors associated with children's exposure to IPV incidents. To examine whether these factors were unique to child witnesses' presence at IPV incidents, factors associated with children's exposure to family violence (FV) and other family member witnesses' exposure to IPV incidents were determined. Participants responded to an online panel survey investigating the role of alcohol and other drugs in family and domestic violence incidents in Australia. Nine hundred fifty-two respondents reported an IPV incident and 299 reported an FV incident. Results showed that child witnesses were more likely to be present during IPV incidents if the incident took place at home, if a similar incident had occurred previously, if drugs were involved and if a police report was made. There was some overlap with the other witness and violence combinations: the presence of a police report also predicted child witnesses' presence at FV incidents, and a home location also predicted other family member witnesses' presence at IPV incidents. Thus, although these results enhance our understanding of the situations in which children might witness IPV incidents, future research is needed to judge risk.



# Hatred, Intolerance and Extremism

## Countering Violent Extremism

12. The lone-actor terrorist population can be extremely heterogeneous and difficult to detect. Intelligence is vital to countering this threat. Based on the use of cluster analysis and a risk analysis framework (RAF) to identify relations among three components: propensity, situation, and network on a database of 125 individuals who carried out their offences in the US, Europe and Australia between 1990 and 2015, compiled from open-sources, Clemmow *et al.* (2019) have devised a typology of person-exposure patterns (PEPs) they suggest could serve as a framework for intelligence gathering and threat assessment. Their analysis reveals four PEPs: solitary, susceptible, situational, and selection. The solitary PEP lacks common indicators of a propensity to pursue terrorist action. The susceptible PEP reveals cognitive susceptibility, manifesting as mental illness, to be a key factor in the emergence of a terrorist propensity. The situational PEP demonstrates how situational stressors may act as warnings of acceleration toward violent action. Lastly, the selection PEP demonstrates higher frequencies of leakage and antecedent violent behaviours. In contrast to existing frameworks which are predominantly focused on mobilization indicators, the authors suggest using the PEP typology to inform decisions about the emergence of the motivation to commit an attack and expanding data collection to include propensity and situational indicators.

12. Gill *et al.* (2019) investigate the antecedent behaviours of 49 individuals who engaged in or planned to engage in lone-actor terrorism within the United Kingdom between the years of 1995 and 2015. The variables included in the analysis span socio-demographic information (age, gender, occupation, family characteristics, relationship status, occupation, employment, etc.), antecedent event behaviours (aspects of the individual's behaviours toward others and within their day-to-day routines), event-specific behaviours (attack methods, who was targeted) and post-event behaviours and experiences (claims of responsibility, arrest/conviction details, etc.) The research found that there were no uniform variables that characterized all, or even most of the lone-actor terrorists in terms of their demographic characteristics. Thus, no clear profile emerged from the data, validating previous research. However, in the time leading up to most lone-actor terrorist events, other people generally knew about the offender's grievance, extremist ideology, views and/or intent to engage in violence. The results suggest that prior to their attack or arrest most lone-actor terrorists each demonstrated elements concerning (a) their grievance (the authors identified 8 relevant factors), (b) an escalation in their intent to act (also 8), (c) gaining capability—both psychologically and technically (9) and (d) attack planning (7).

13. A systematic review by Wolfowicz *et al.* (2019) sought to collate and synthesize the risk and protective factors for different outcomes of radicalization with the goal of developing a rank-order of factors based on their pooled estimates to gain a better understanding of which factors may be most important, and the differential effects on the different outcomes. Searches in English, German and Dutch resulted in the screening of more than 10,000 items, and a final inclusion of 57 publications published between 2007 and 2018 from which 62 individual level factors were identified across three radicalization outcomes: attitudes, intentions, and actions (effect sizes ranged from  $z = -0.621$  to  $0.572$ ). The smallest estimates were found for sociodemographic factors, while the largest effect sizes were found for traditional criminogenic and criminotrophic factors such as low self-control, thrill-seeking, and attitudinal factors, with radical attitudes having the largest effect on radical intentions and behaviours. The most commonly researched factors, sociodemographic factors, were found to have exceptionally small effects. The finding regarding the effects of radical attitudes on intentions and actions provide empirical support for existing theoretical frameworks. The consistency among the clustering of familiar criminogenic factors within the rank-order could have implications for the development of a more evidence-based approach to risk assessment and counter violent extremism policies.

Guarrieri & Meisel (2019) examined the individual-level characteristics of extremists' pursuit of chemical/biological (CB) agents, sampling two US databases (non-CB radicalized extremists were drawn from the Profiles of Individual Radicalization in the United States (PIRUS) dataset, individuals who pursued CB from the Chemical and Biological Non-state Adversaries Database (CABNSAD)) providing 34 CB and 146 non-CB individuals in total. They identify 3 key findings. First, older extremists are more likely to pursue CB than younger extremists. Second, extremists who are jobless or students are more likely to pursue CB than employed extremists. Third, Islamist, far right, and far left extremists are less likely to pursue CB than single issue extremists. They did not find any evidence that gender or education had an effect on whether an extremist will pursue CB agents.

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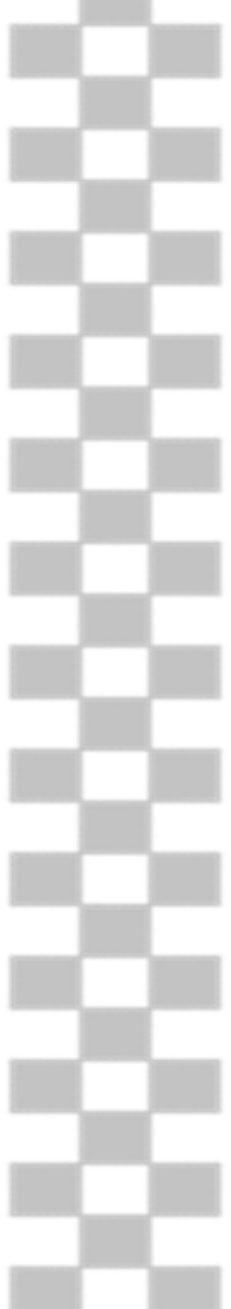
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