

National Policing
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What works and why?

Tips for using evidence to make key decisions

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Being 'evidence savvy'

Being able to get behind the headlines and question received wisdoms may change the decisions you make....

- 'Contact with the police reduces public confidence'
- 'Police crackdown on crime simply moves the problem round the corner'
- 'Detections are critical to victim satisfaction'
- 'Back office re-engineering saves force £3.1 million'

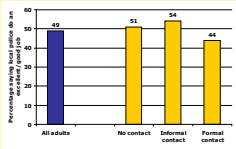
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Contact is linked to confidence – but doesn't decrease it

5 percentage points **higher** confidence for those with informal contact...



... 5 points **lower** for those with formal contact as a victim or suspect

Controlling for other factors:

- satisfactory contact linked to **higher** confidence
- unsatisfactory contact linked to **lower** confidence


In summary

	Associated with higher (↑) or lower (↓) confidence
Informal	↑
Satisfied with contact	↑
Formal	↓
Dissatisfied with contact	↓

...neighbourhood policing increases informal contact

Source: British Crime Survey analysis

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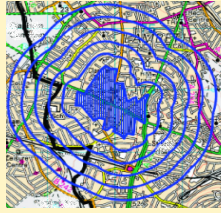
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Crime doesn't move around the corner – findings on displacement



Systematic review - Latest evidence on hot spot policing

- Emerging findings from a recent review show no evidence of a displacement effect ...
- ...in fact, there are signs that diffusion of benefits is more likely than displacement



Source: McLennan, D and Wilkovich, A (2008) Displacement of Crime at Districts of Fearful: Evidence from the New Deal for Communities Programme

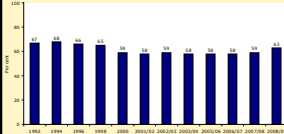
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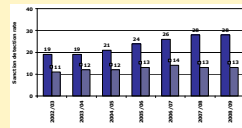
Detections are not critical to victim satisfaction



- Victim satisfaction as measured by the BCS fell in the '90s, then remained stable for nearly 10 years. A shift appeared in 2007/08 and satisfaction is now five percentage points higher than in 2001/02.



- Overall detections which result in a sanction have increased since 2002/03 but not for all crimes – burglary detection increased slightly but has stuck at 13%



- Analysis suggests victims are more likely to be satisfied when they:
 - Feel police showed enough interest;
 - Feels they were kept well informed;
 - Have their expectations met

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Back office re-engineering saves force £3.1 million?????



- How can we be sure?
- Do the figures stack up?
- What should we learn to look for?
 - Common pitfalls/Hallmarks of robust analysis
 - Questions to ask
 - Have a go....

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Initial analysis of the problem



Weak analysis of problem often characterised by:

- ✗ Rush to diagnose and get on with 'fixing it'
- ✗ Limited data, single sources or limited samples
- ✗ Tendency to apply generic template
- ✗ Little attempt to understand force specific issues
- ✗ Little attempt to ask those doing the job

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Biased samples to test impact



Real world time constraints and rigidity of force data systems mean that bespoke dip sampling is common – you should look out for:

- ✓ Random sampling over reasonable time periods
- ✓ Same data/sampling methods used before and after
- ✓ Acknowledgement of limitations (e.g. seasonal variation)
- ✓ Cross referencing with other sources of info (e.g. people)
- ✗ Meaningless statistical language (e.g. statistically valid)

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How findings can be 'sexed up'



- ✗ Assessment of impact is made very soon after the change (poor test of sustainability and may be subject to 'Hawthorne effect')
- ✗ Projected savings are presented as single figures rather than estimates within a range (e.g. £452,150 instead of between £425,000 – £475,000)
- ✗ Distinctions between cashable and non-cashable savings are blurred
- ✗ The full costs of the change are not included

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