

Law Enforcement and Evidence-Based Practices

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Impact of Incarceration on Crime

Incarceration may impact crime in 3 ways

Incapacitation • Specific Deterrence • General Deterrence

- Incapacitation does prevent some crime from occurring
- Harsher sanctions do not reduce recidivism
- Little evidence of a general deterrent effect

Certainty of punishment is a far greater deterrent than severity of punishment – key role of the police

5 Things Law Enforcement Executives Can Do to Make a Difference

- 1. Crime is rarely random; patrols shouldn't be either**
- 2. Quality is more important than speed**
- 3. DNA works for property crimes, too**
- 4. In police work, perceptions matter**
- 5. Make officer safety and wellness a priority**

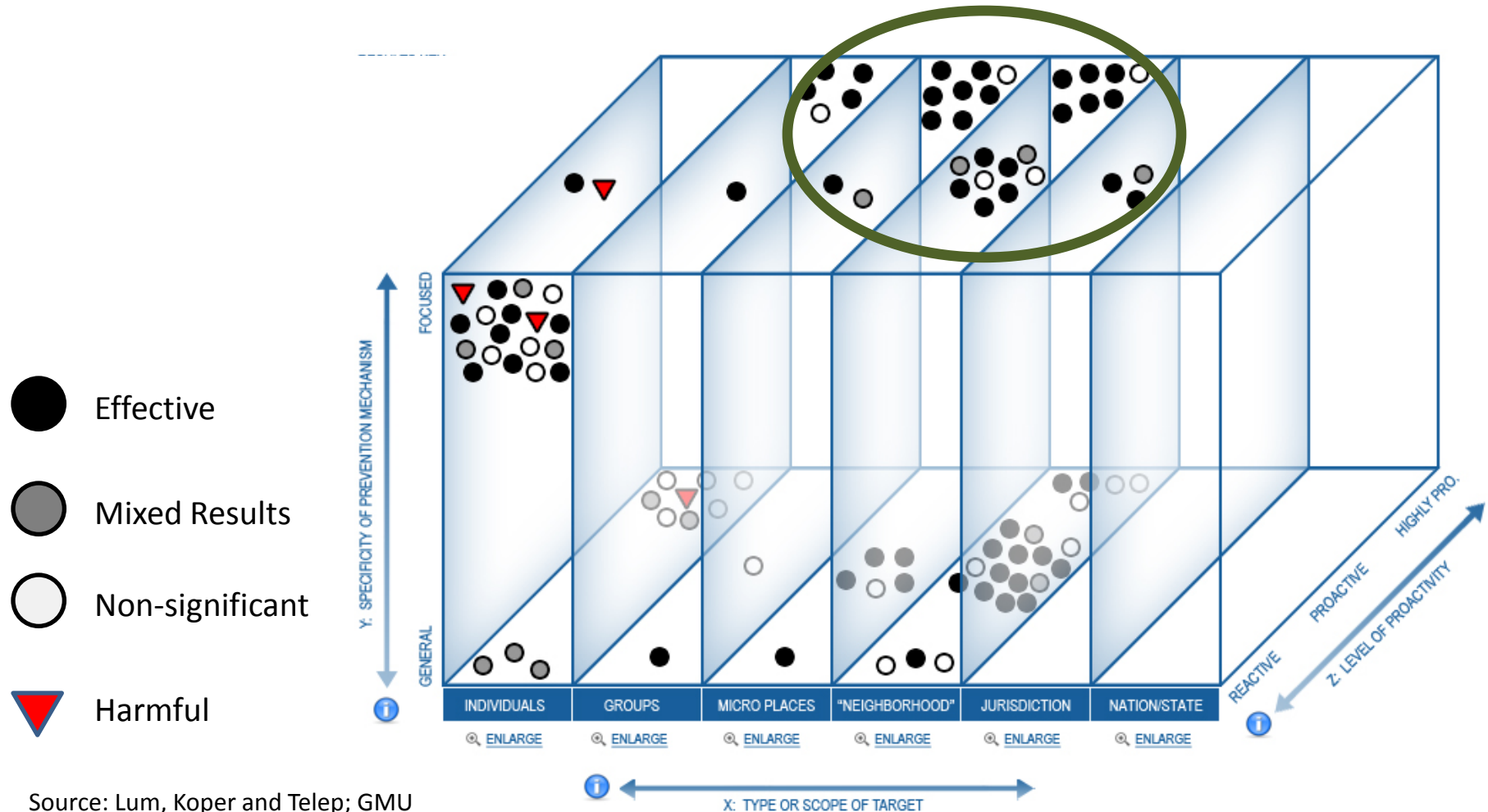
Source: National Institute of Justice, Police Foundation (2013)

Evidence on Policing

- Evidence on the impact of more police officers suggests more police can reduce crime
 - Greater presence, less crime; but key is to increase probability of apprehension
- What the police do matters most (deployment strategies)
 - Proactive, highly-focused deployment strategies are far more effective than reactive strategies

George Mason University Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

Evidence-Based Policing Matrix



Source: Lum, Koper and Telep; GMU Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

Evidence on Policing Strategies

- Little evidence that “broken windows” policing is effective
- Evidence on community policing is inconclusive
 - Does improve relationship with the public
 - Important because lawful behavior is influenced by public perception about the fairness of law enforcement

Evidence on Policing Strategies

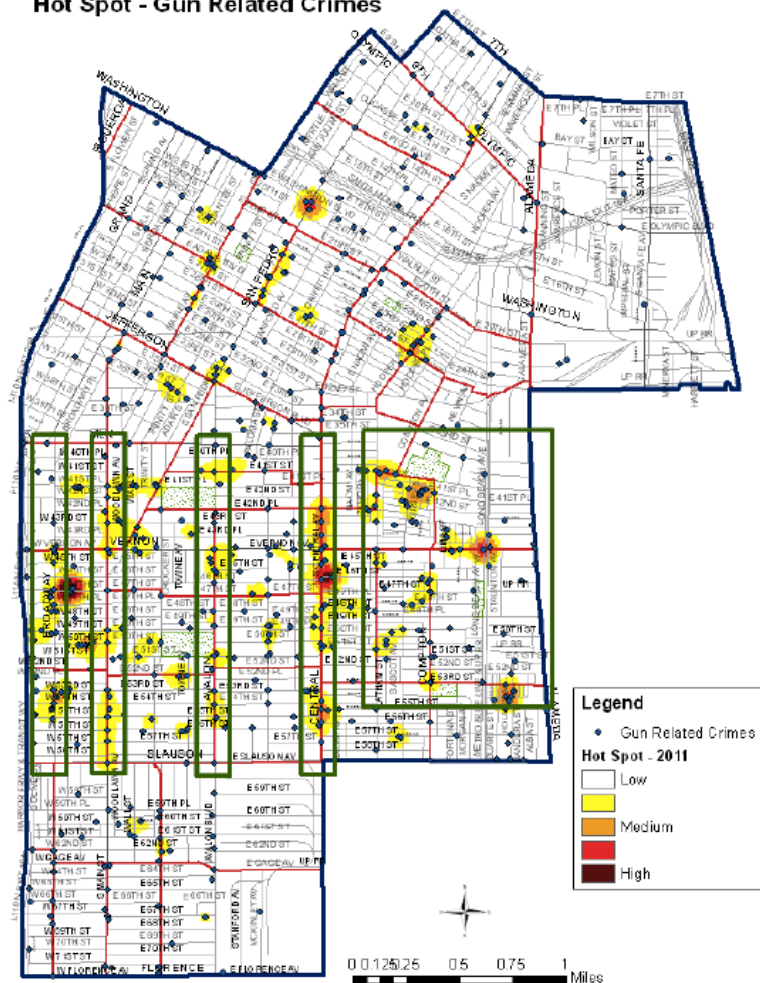
- Problem-oriented policing works
 - Focus on problems and underlying causes rather than on incidents
 - SARA model
- Hot spots policing works
 - Focus on high activity crime places
 - Utilizes crime mapping technology
 - Reductions in violent, property, drug and disorder crimes; diffusion of benefits more likely than displacement
 - Koper curve suggests 12–16 minutes of hot spot policing reduces crime for approximately 2 hours afterward

Evidence on Policing Strategies

- Drug markets can be disrupted with problem-oriented approaches and community partnerships
 - Collaborative partnerships that use tailored approaches (including civil remedies) to address criminogenic conditions
- SMART policing (**Strategically Managed, Analysis and Research driven, Technology-based**)
 - Philadelphia study: offender focus areas successful in reducing violent crime 22% compared to control areas

Examples of SMART Policing Effectiveness

Newton Area - 2011
Gun Related Crimes
Hot Spot - Gun Related Crimes



Los Angeles Operation Laser

- Relies on data and intelligence to target chronic offenders and crime locations
- Uses existing personnel
- Measures dosage and results
- Violent crime down 19%, homicides down 56% (2011-12)

Source: Uchida (2013); presentation at NCJA National Forum

Key Themes in Evidence-Based Policing

- Data-driven analysis and assessment
 - Compstat model: Data-driven problem identification, innovative problem-solving, data-driven assessment for internal and external accountability
- Partnership and collaboration
 - With community as well as other criminal justice and government organizations
- Effective policing requires a range of investigative, analytic and intelligence techniques

Reentry and Law Enforcement

Strategies

- Partnerships
- Enhanced supervision
- Information sharing
- Notification sessions
- Community engagement
- Enforcement *and* support

Benefits

- Public and officer safety
- Decreased offender anonymity
- New or stronger partnerships
- Increased access to information and resources
- Increased trust between the public and police