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What is the problem-solving evidence base?

Levin Wheller

Research and Analysis Standards Manager

Knowledge, Research and Practice Unit

College of Policing

Problem-solving in summary

1. POP is an approach to developing targeted interventions, not an intervention in itself
2. There is robust empirical evidence that problem-solving approaches using the SARA model reduce crime
3. POP is especially effective in hot spots, where a diffusion of benefits is more likely than a displacement of crime
4. Common barriers to implementation include the availability of sufficient resources, taking on too many/ too big problems, lack of officer commitment to the intervention, and poor partnerships with other agencies or the community
5. The most successful POP interventions develop a detailed understanding of the problem being addressed and offer a tailored response

Enforcement vs. problem solving

Taylor et al (2011) assessed the impact of saturation patrol vs. POP across 83 violence hot spots in Jacksonville – both compared to control sites

Saturation/ directed patrol

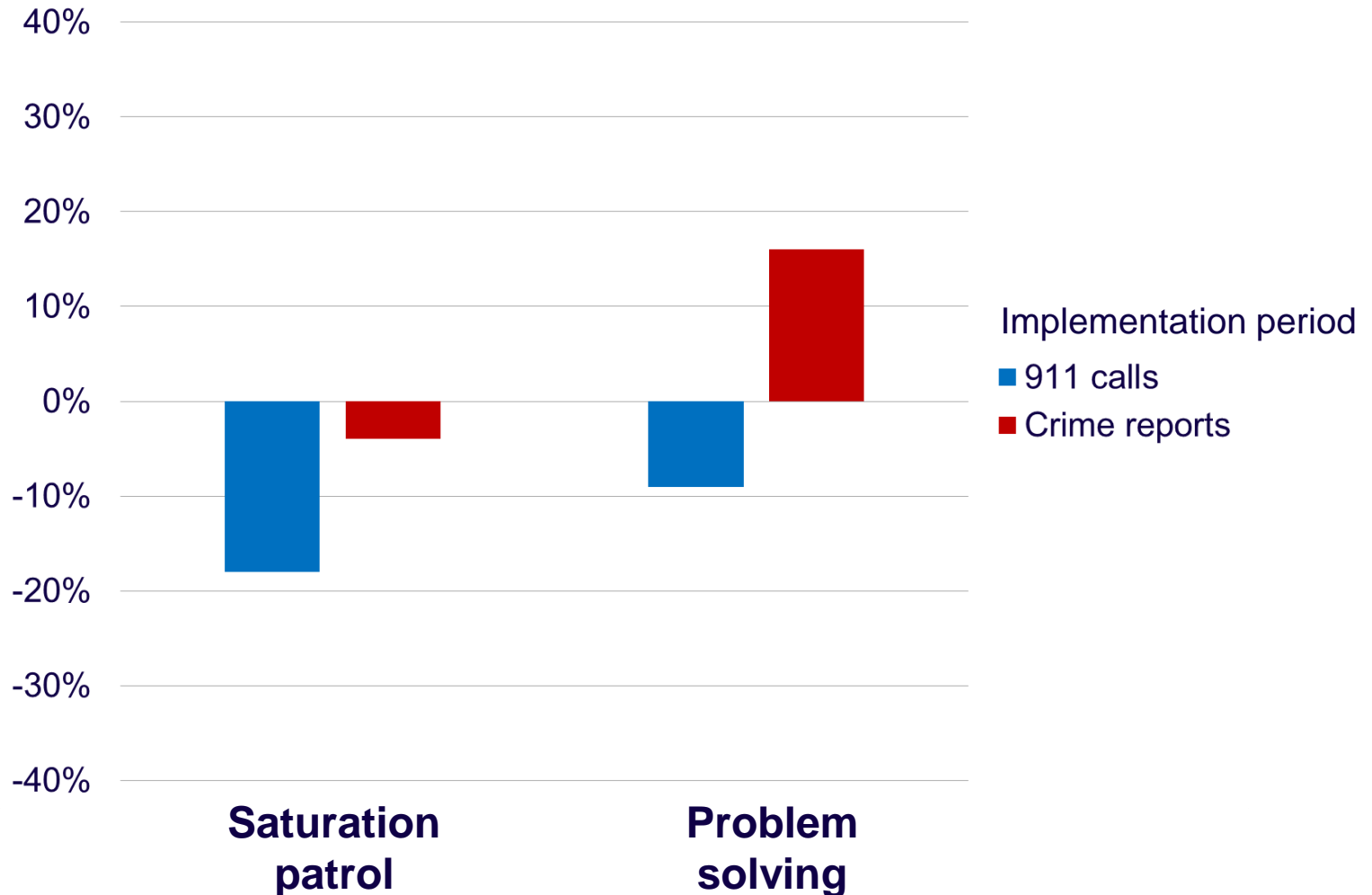
- Officers assigned to intensive patrol at specific times and places
- Pairs of officers worked 1-3 hot spots at a time
- Sergeant assigned to oversee saturation patrol approach

Problem-oriented policing (POP)

- Officers work in small teams with crime analysts
- Encouraged to explore the 'root cause' of violence (SARA)
- Focus differed by location – some focussed on offenders, some on environmental factors.

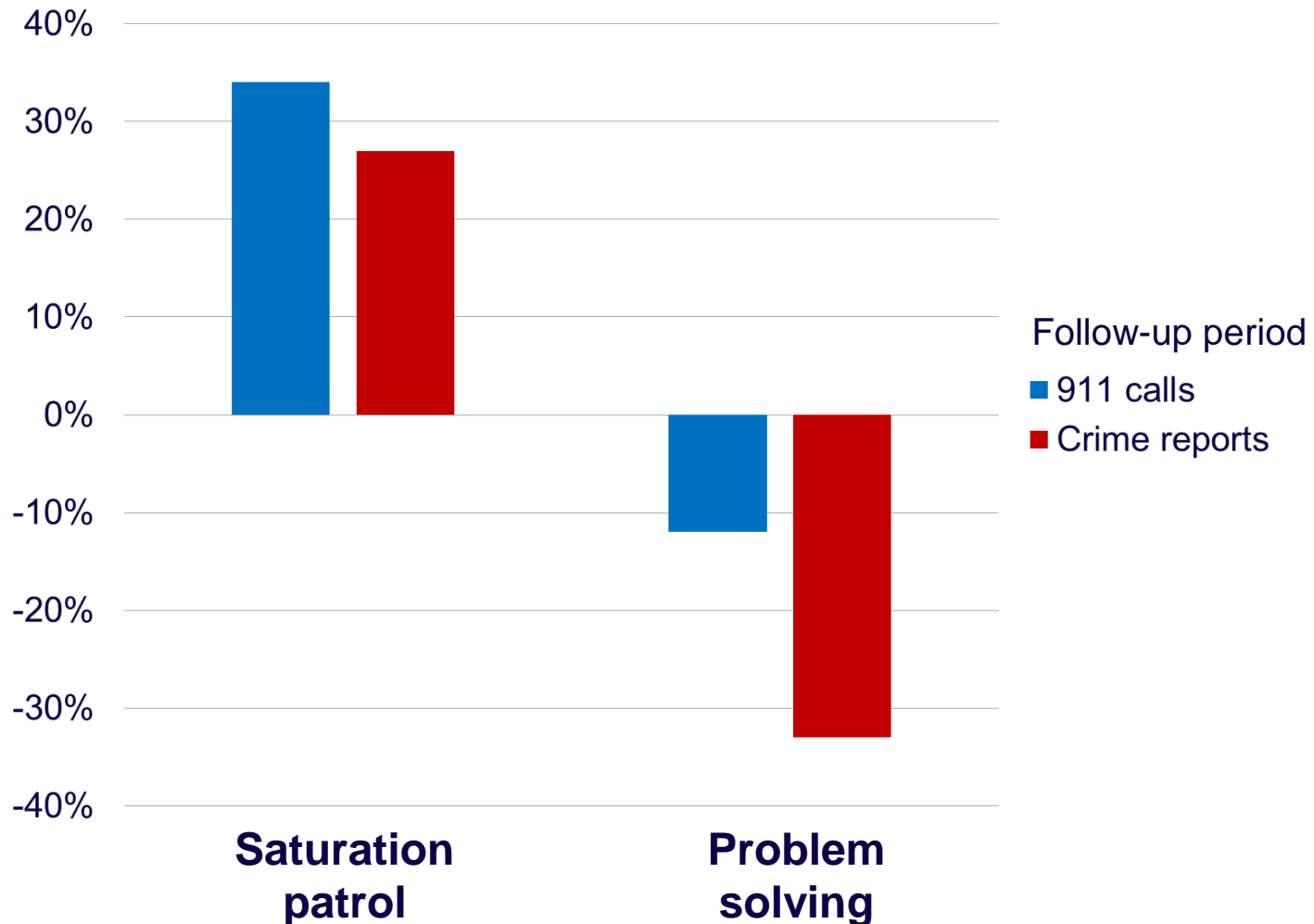
The Jacksonville policing strategies experiment

Non-Domestic violence declined in saturation hot-spots in the 90 day intervention period



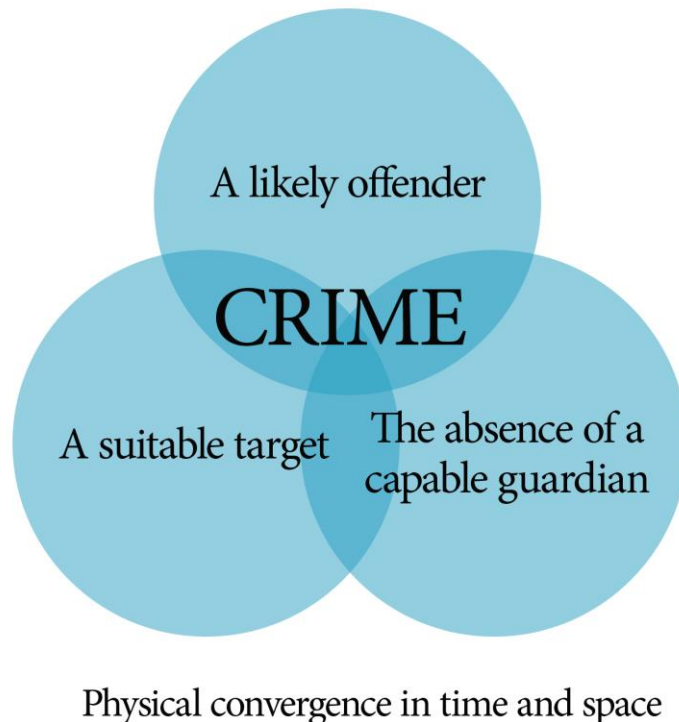
The Jacksonville policing strategies experiment

Non-Domestic violence declined in POP hot-spots in the 90 day follow-up period



The importance of place: Hot Spots...

ROUTINE ACTIVITY THEORY



- Specific addresses, intersections, street sections or clusters of sections where crime is concentrated.
- Typically half of crime occurs at 5% or less of a city's addresses and intersections (Weisburd, 2015)
- Small and longstanding concentrations
- Hot spots are “places that bring together motivated offenders, suitable targets, and an absence of capable guardians”

The policing matrix

79% of successful interventions were delivered in micro-places or neighborhoods

64% of successful interventions were focused or tailored strategies

80% of successful interventions were proactive or highly proactive

53% of interventions that showed no effect or significant backfire focused on targeting individual(s)

How not to solve a problem

S A R A

Ignore the problem

S A **R** A

Try to respond, but don't
define or analyse the problem

S A **R** A

Define the problem, but don't
analyse it

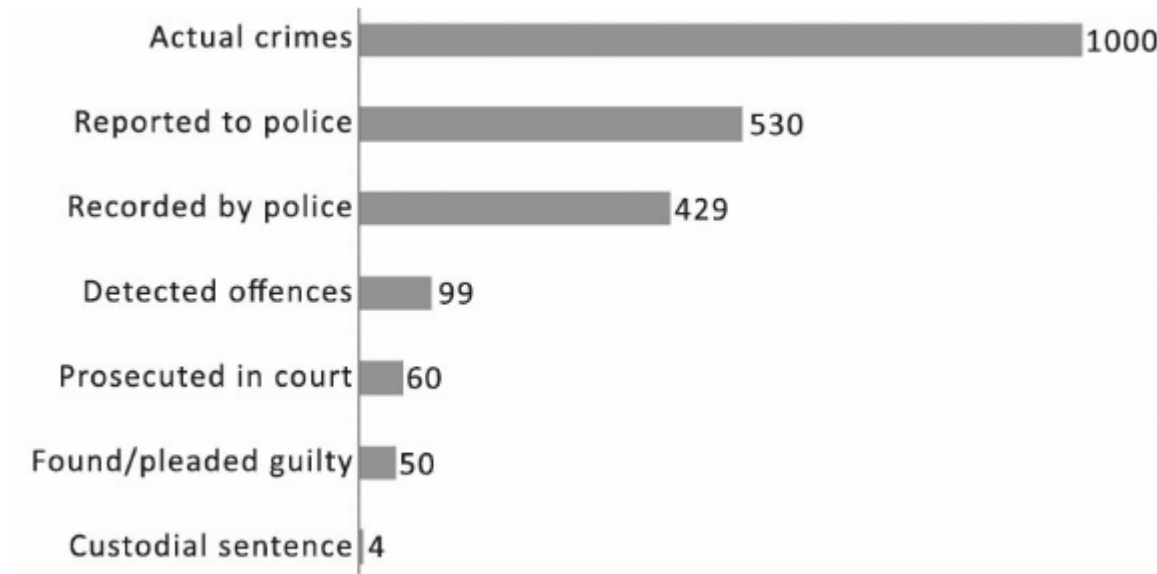
S **A** **R** A

Don't assess whether or not
the problem has been solved

The 'crime funnel'

If you take a random selection of crimes actually suffered by the public

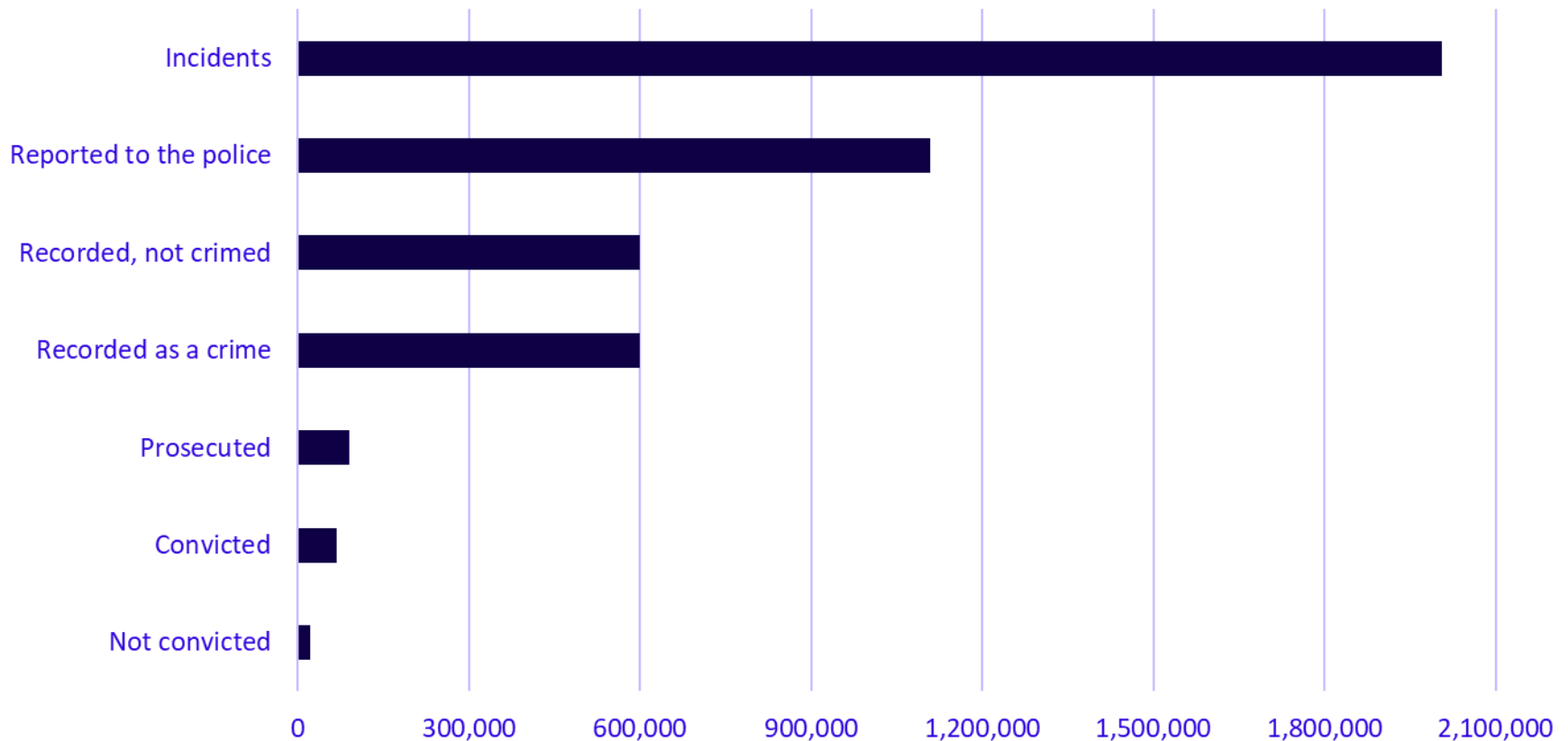
1. How many are reported to the police?
2. How many offences are detected?
3. How many result in custodial sentences?



Source: **British Crime Survey Data** reported in Ratcliffe, J.H. (2016) *Intelligence-Led Policing* (2nd edition), pg. 66. Routledge: London. See also: <http://www.jratcliffe.net/blog/policing-explained-in-a-few-graphs/>

Understanding domestic abuse

Domestic abuse data across the CJ system – year ending March 2018



Source: **Office for National Statistics, Domestic Abuse Bulletin**

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2018>

From the 3R's to 'Triple T'



Reference: Sherman, L.W. (2013). *The rise of evidence-based policing: targeting, testing, and tracking*. *Crime and Justice* 42(1):377–451.

Vulnerability and Violent Crime Programme

1. Op Divan

(N. Yorkshire/Met)

- Knives / weapons
- Young people <18s
- School or home visits
- Education and support

2. DIVERT

(Met)

- Diversion
- Young people 18-25
- Police custody
- Custody intervention coaches
- Aim - national rollout

3. CIRV

(Northamptonshire)

- Gang violence
- Young people <25s
- Community initiative to reduce violence
- Tailored support
- Disruption

4. Neglect

(Hampshire)

- At risk children ≤16s
- PCs & social workers
- Family safety plans
- Early intervention

5. ACEs / TAWs

(Hampshire)

- At risk children <18s
- ACEs awareness
- Partner agencies
- Trusted adult workers
- Support for 9-12 months

6. Think Family Early Intervention

(Avon & Somerset)

- Families
- Inter-generational cycle of offending
- PCSO support for 6-12 months

7. SARA/SAM

(Cumbria/ Lancs/ W.Mids)

- Adults
- Pilot
- Domestic abuse
- Stalking
- Effectiveness of tools

8. High Harm Perpetrators Unit

(Surrey)

- Adults
- ViSOR & IOM units
- Algorithm
- Highest harm offenders

Key takeaways

1. Most crime is concentrated in a small number of areas, many are longstanding hot spots & generate a lot of demand
2. Geographically focussed, tailored & proactive approaches tend to be the most effective
3. Adopt problem-oriented approaches in clearly defined hotspots
 - Use the SARA approach and the problem analysis triangle
 - Partnership work is critical – other agencies control problem locations or may be able to offer capable guardianship
 - Implementation has common pitfalls – don't bite off too much at once!
4. Procedural justice builds confidence and public satisfaction
5. There are gaps in the evidence base, particularly in relation to vulnerability and violent crime – you can help identify effective practice through robust evaluation.

Building capability and capacity

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Pilots



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development
events



Online tools
& guidance



POLKA



Embedding
EBP in the
EQF

