CAMBRIDGE CENTRE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING

CAMBRIDGE Police Executive Programme

Evidence-Based Police Reform

Professor Lawrence W. Sherman

University of Cambridge

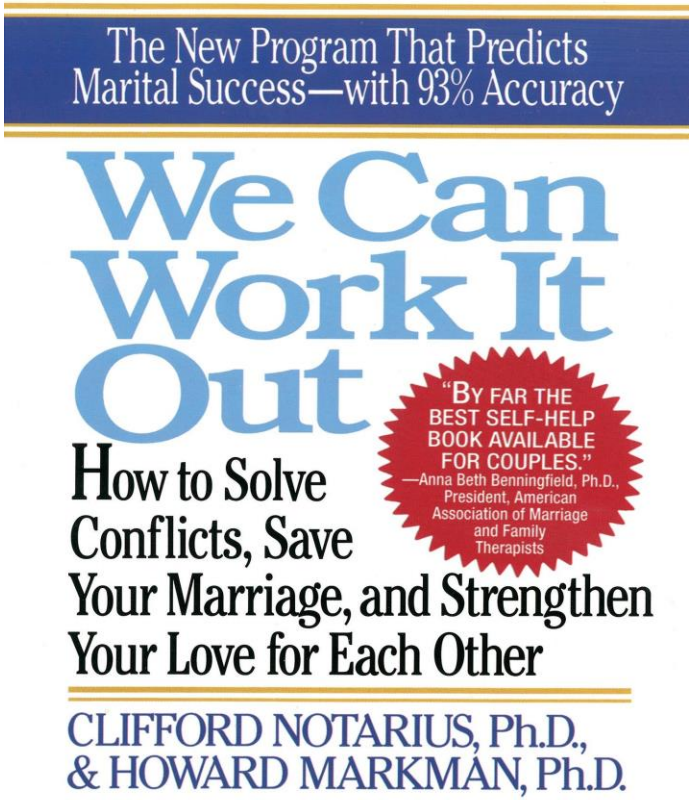
Santiago, October 2021

Societies & Police Institutions

Divorce?

1. No police is crazy
2. *Different* institutions must be built before ending current ones
3. Ex-police are a huge risk

- Or Reconstruction?



The Will and The Way

- Major Police Reform Requires Public Will
- But will Is not enough
- the WAY
- To reform policing is by ***SCIENCE***

Evidence-Based Policing

- Is something police AND SOCIETIES

  can use

- To make decisions
- That can get better

  results

- Than decisions *without* evidence

What makes a result “BETTER”?

LESS

HARM

This applies both ways

- Police protecting citizens from ***each other***

- Police protecting citizens from unlawful ***policing***

Mission of Police in a democracy?

- Keep the ***Peace***
- Protect the ***Rule of Law***
- **Prevent Harm** by the people
- With ***Minimal harm*** by police

HOW?

- Very complex
- Many knock-on effects
- Long-term consequences

No one can hold it all in their head

What Kind of Decisions?

Targeting

Investing time selectively for biggest benefits

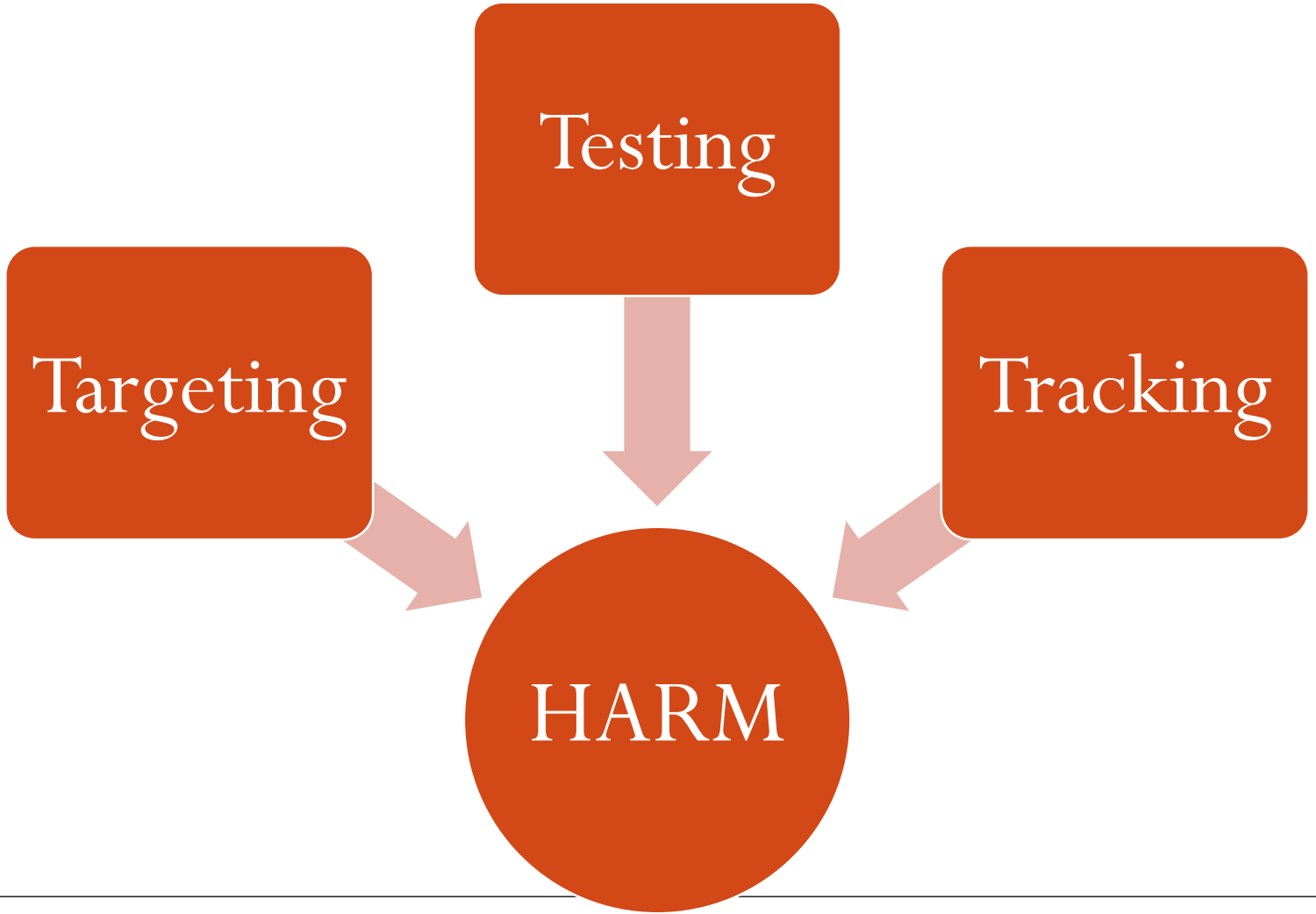
Testing

Deciding what works, what doesn't

Tracking

Making sure that what works gets done

Triple-T Against Harm: EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING



CAMBRIDGE
Police Executive Programme

- England
- Ireland
- Canada
- Denmark
- Sweden
- Australia
- New Zealand
- US
- Ghana
- Trinidad

- Shorter Courses
- Online Courses
- Analysts
- Frontline Field Leaders

Google "Cambridge EBP"

Who Are The Police Who Practice EBP?

- A growing network of professionals, constables to chiefs and Directors-General
- 5000+ strong
- Often led by over 1,000 Cambridge graduates

Three Questions About EBP

1. What Is It?
2. What Are Key Principles?
   - --Targeting
   - --Testing
   - --Tracking
3. How can you master this knowledge?

1. What is it?

(Sherman, 2013, p.377)

Evidence-based policing is a <u>METHOD</u> of making decisions

about "what works" in policing:

for

1. Setting priorities (**Targeting**)
2. Choosing policies (**Testing**)
3. Insuring delivery (**Tracking**)

PRECISION POLICING:

EXACTLY RIGHT DECISIONS

Based on Empirical Research

Targeting

Aiming selectively for biggest impact: places, victims, offenders

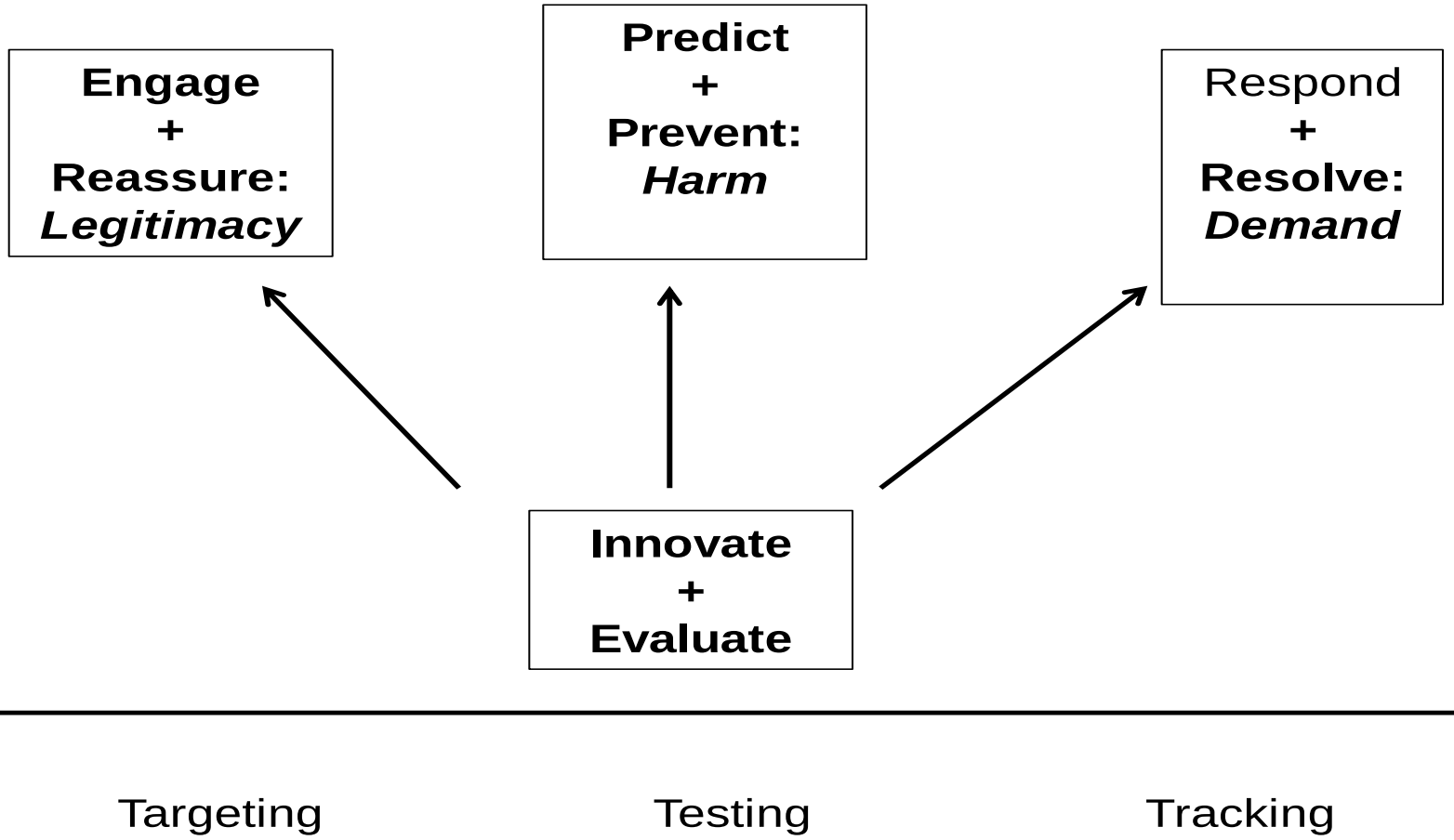
Testing

Deciding what works, what doesn't: RCTs, QE

Tracking

Making sure what works is done—right

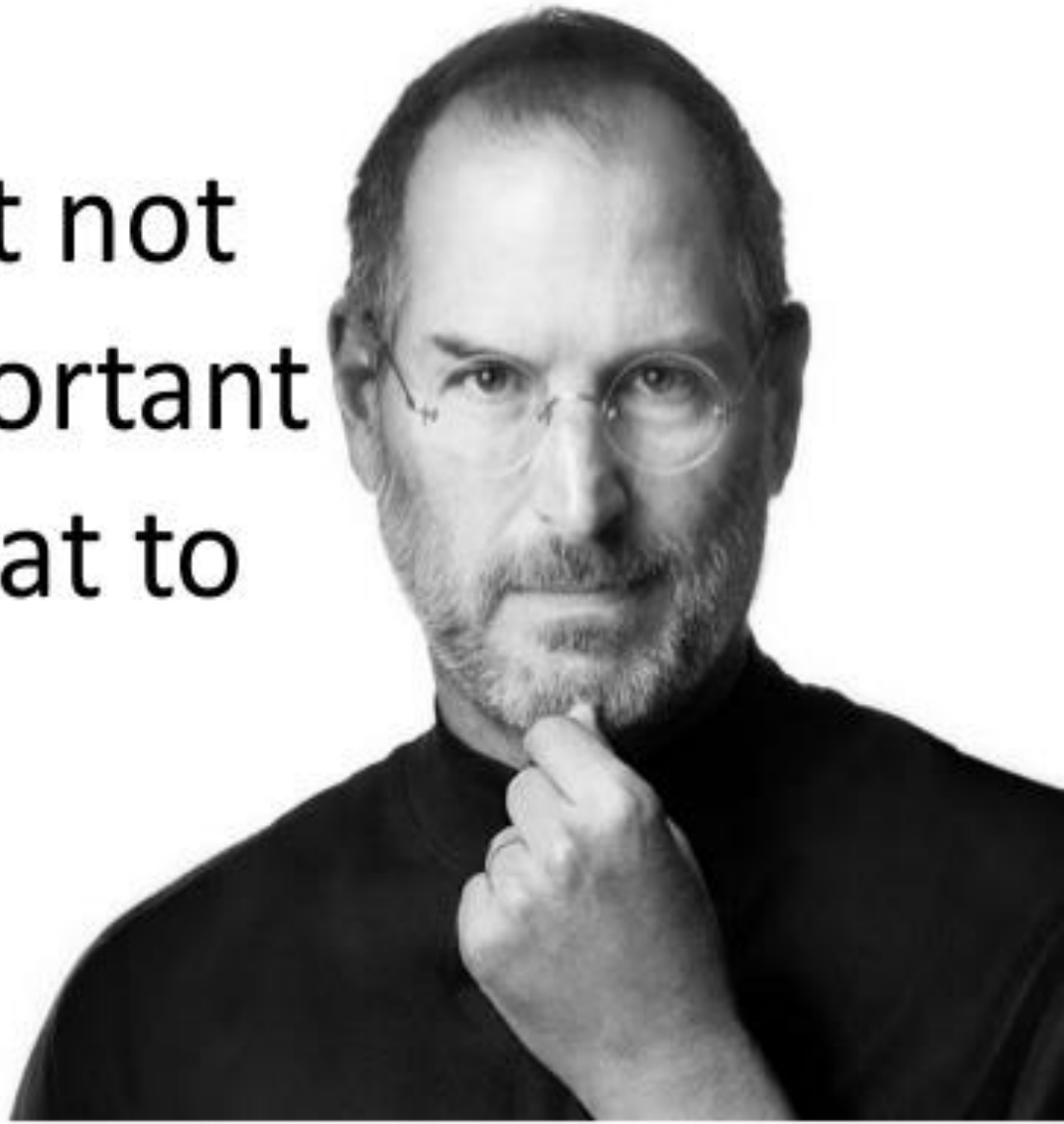
Big Picture of Policing



1. TARGETING

"Deciding what not to do is as important as deciding what to do."

- *Steve Jobs*



TO-DO LIST:
1.
2. EVERYTHING
3.

Are all crimes created equal?

Are all crimes created equal?

- Not in harm

Are all crimes created equal?

- Not in harm
- Not in sentencing

Are all crimes created equal?

- Not in harm
- Not in sentencing
- Not in causing public outrage

Sarah Everard
London 2021

Demand for *PREVENTION*

Not just justice

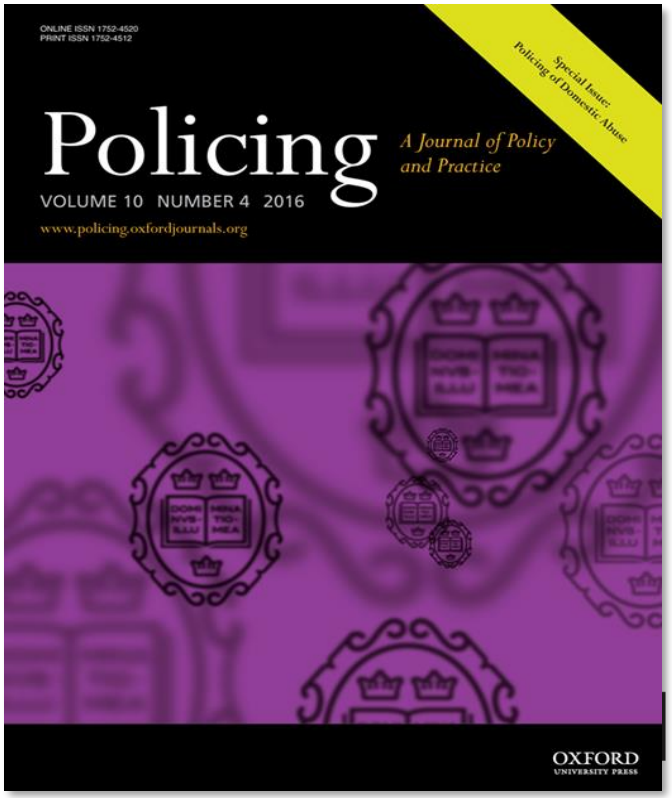
How Can Resources Be Allocated

To Maximize

PREVENTION?

Cambridge Crime Harm Index (CHI)

- Video link at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wmnqsa0O9_I&list=PLZ4blO-3xoKKrUVl8EPL_E4jvqfVJtmyA&index=7



The Cambridge Crime Harm Index: Measuring Total Harm from Crime Based on Sentencing Guidelines

Lawrence Sherman*, Peter William Neyroud** and Eleanor Neyroud***

How does it work?

- Take each crime type
- Identify days of imprisonment for each
- Multiply total crime of each type
- Times the weight for that type
- Then sum up days in prison recommended across all reported crimes (not convictions)

Chilean Crime Harm Index

- Weinborn, C., Ariel, B., Silva, A., Morales, A., Bustamante, C., Mellado, C., Moraga, G. & Muñoz, N., (2020). “Evaluación de impacto de los Patrullajes Preventivos en Áreas Priorizadas”. *Fondo de Evaluación de Impacto DIPRES*. Fundación Paz Ciudadana, Santiago, Chile.
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Days Recommended Jail by Type = A Democratic Measure of ***HARM***

Cambridge Crime Harm Index

- *NOT ALL CRIMES ARE CREATED EQUAL*
- Take each offence Type
- Multiply each crime of that type by
- Number of days in jail the sentence would be
- By national (state) sentencing guidelines
- As "Starting Point"—no priors or circumstance
- Add together all the days across any units of analysis: offenders, places, victims

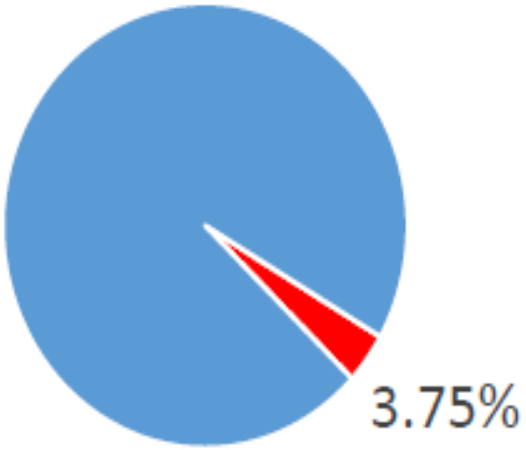
Dr. Peter Neyroud, Former Chief, 2 UK police agencies

- Former member
- Sentencing Council of England & Wales
- Most other members are senior Judges

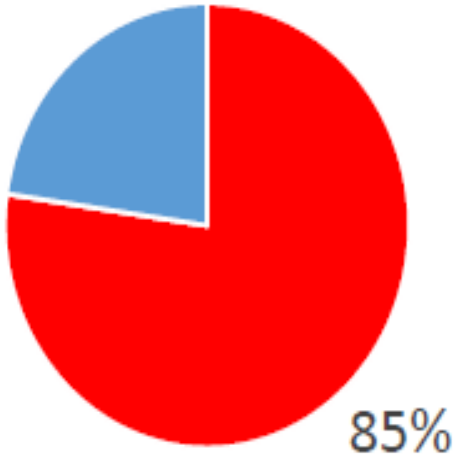
Dr. Peter Neyroud

VICTIMS: Dorset "Power Few" (Gavin Dudfield)

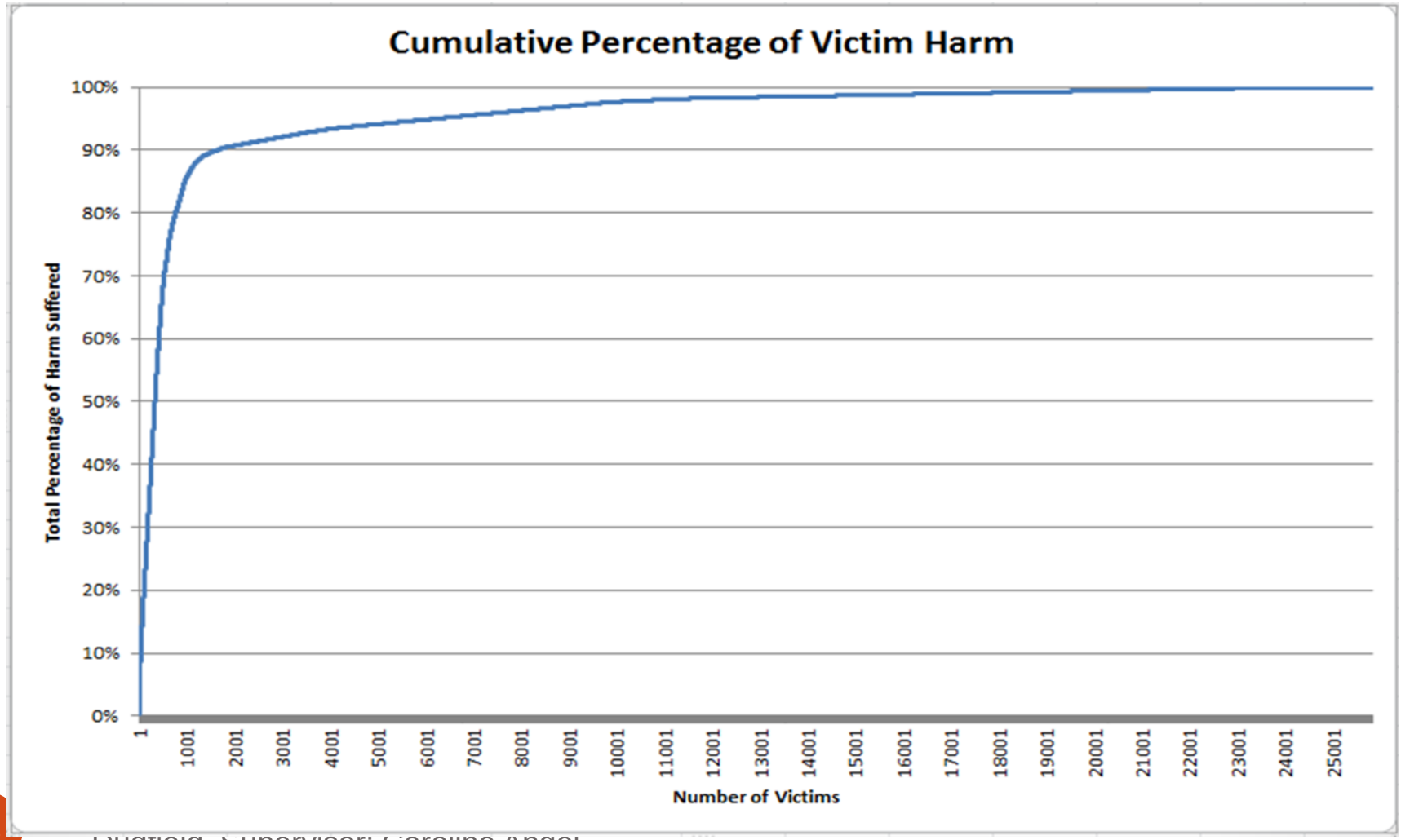
Per cent of all victims



Per cent of all harm



Most Harm 4% victims, ¼ repeats—especially sex crimes



Dudfield. Supervisor: Caroline Angel.

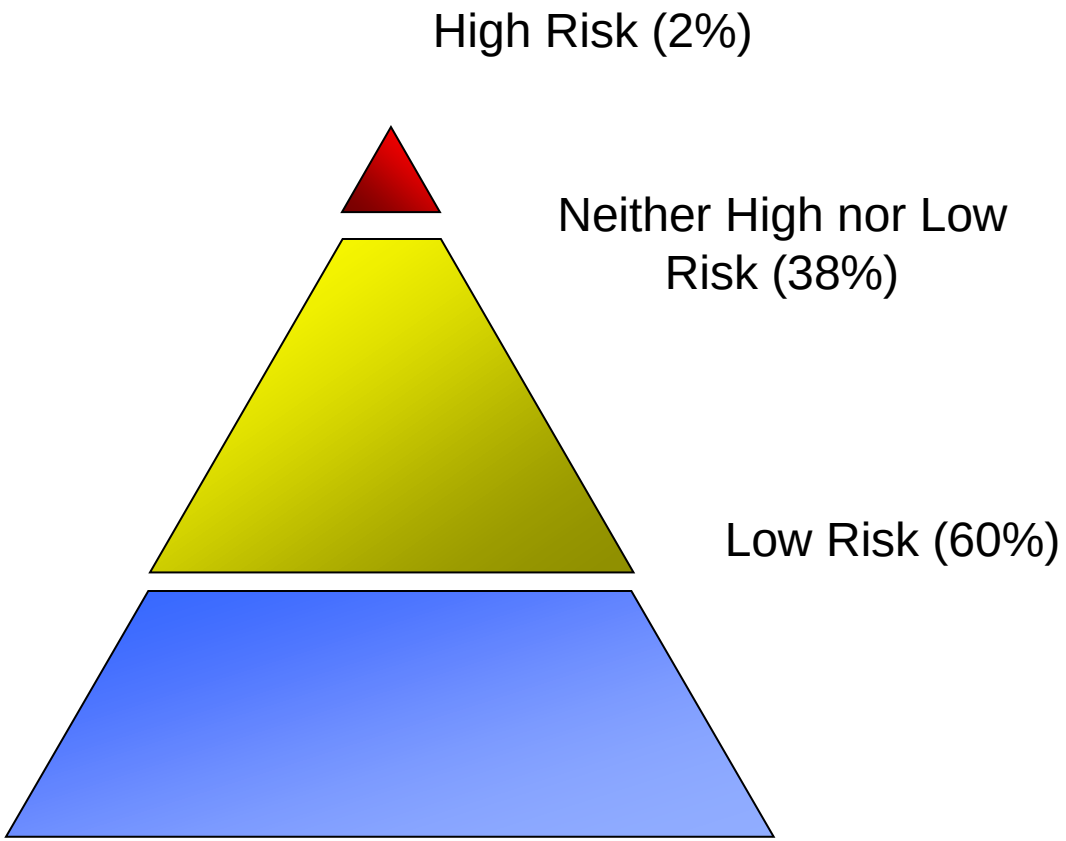
Offenders BIG DATA: HART

Harm Assessment Risk Tool Custody Suites

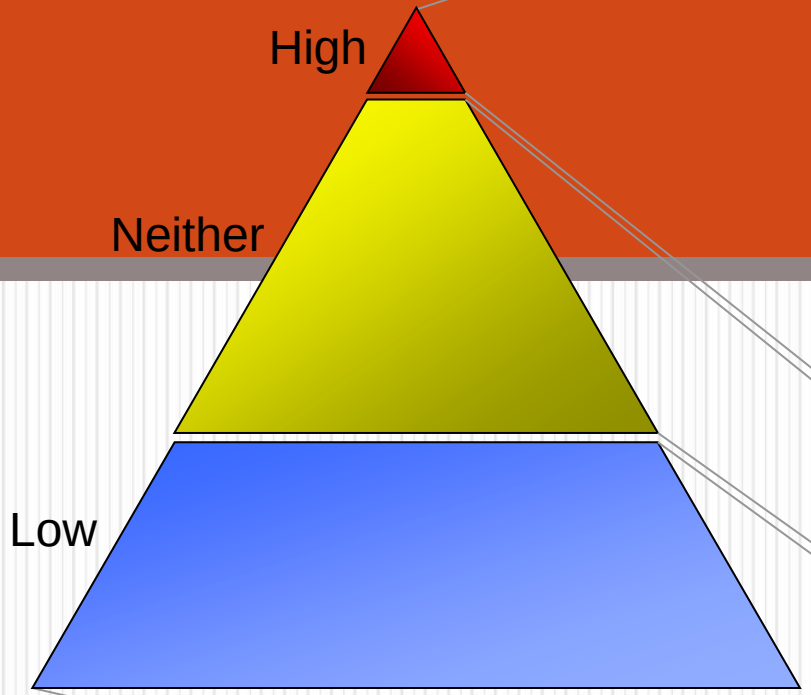
Bail, Caution, Detain?

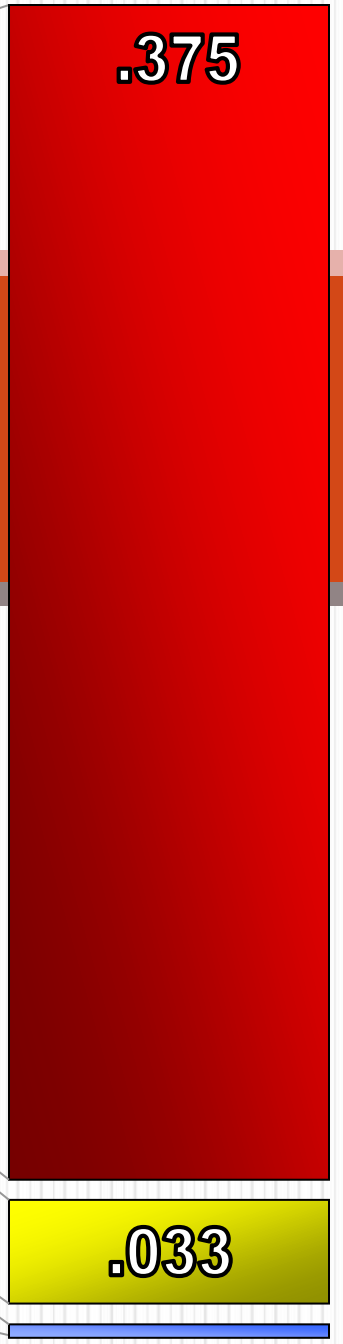
- 100,000 offenders
- 97% Accuracy
- 50% error by Sgts.
- Increased evidence base for release decisions
- Also potential for response officers at scene
- Video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zc8x5P7suuo

Targeting Most Dangerous People: Philadelphia, UK

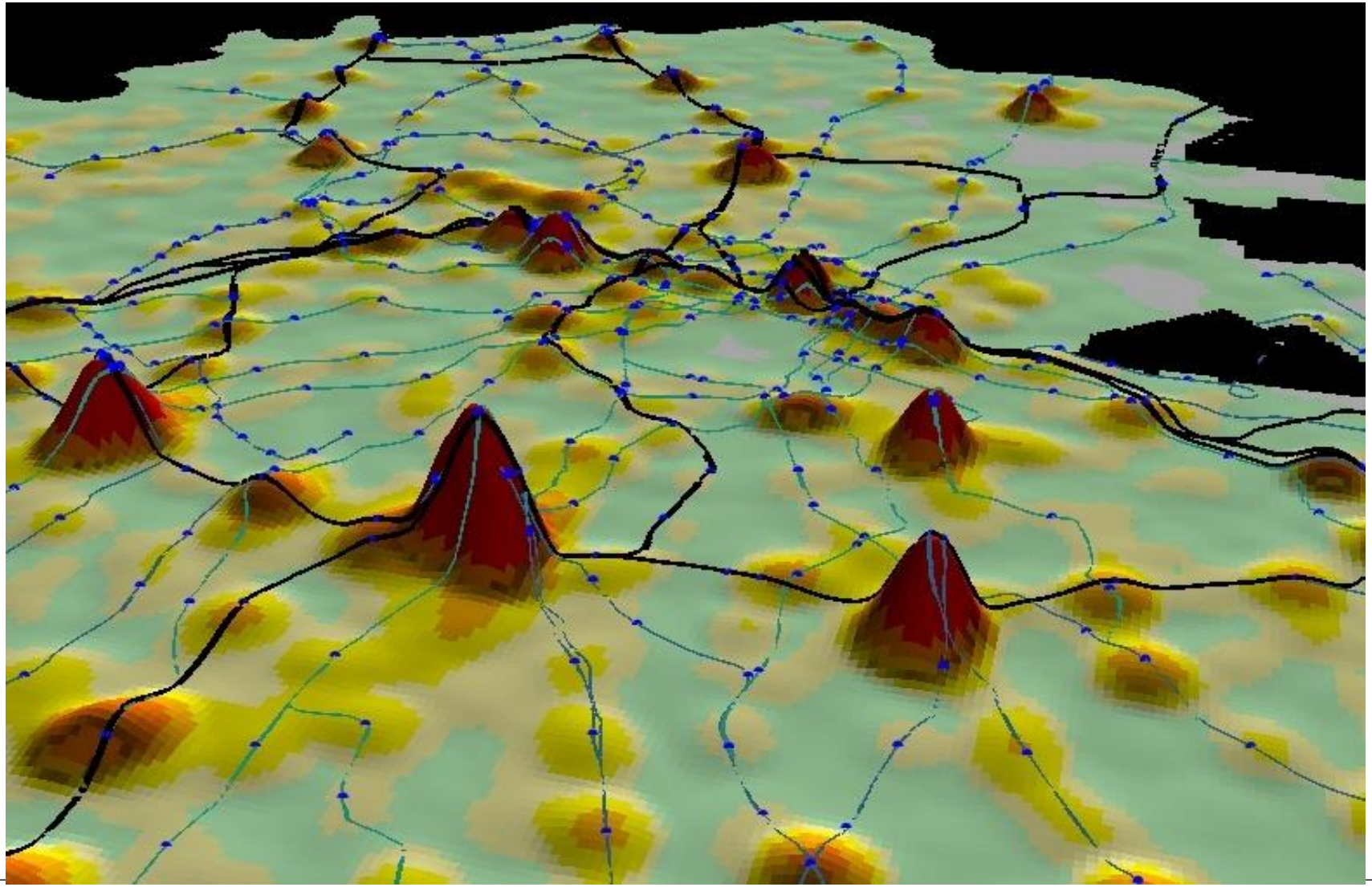


Average Charges for MURDER or Attempted Murder Within Two Years of Probation Start



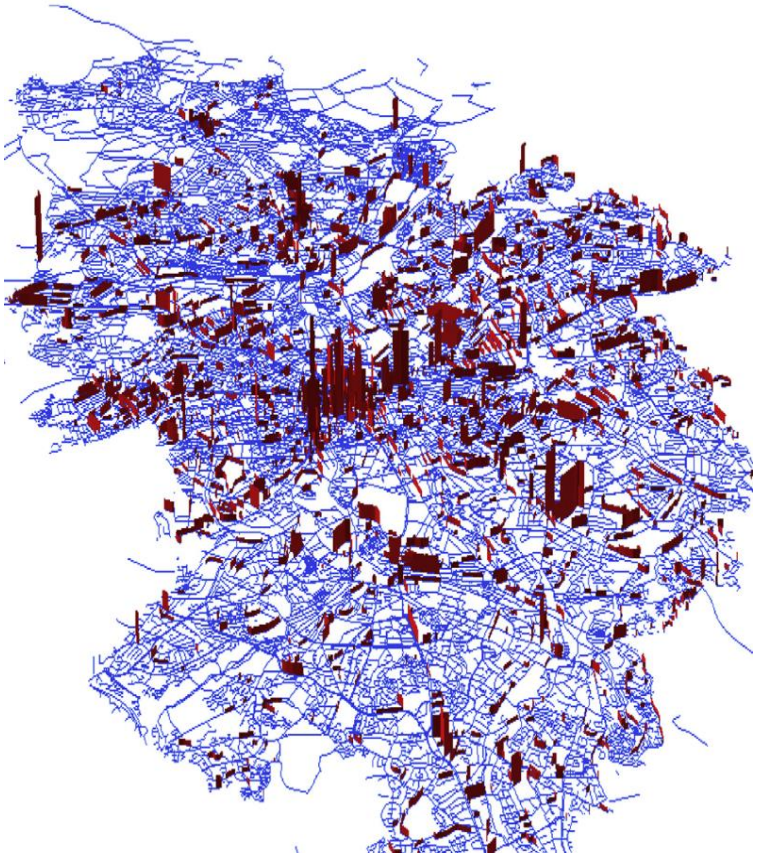


PLACES: Violent Crime Counts in Tokyo 2005

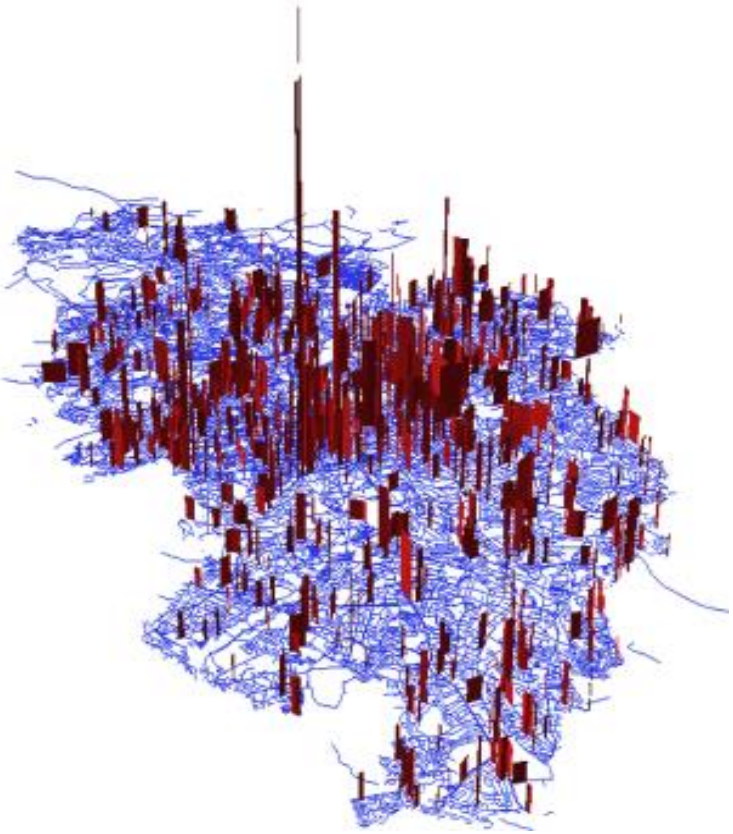


Total Crime Counts vs. CHI Harm Spots: Birmingham UK

- Count Spots



- Harm Spots



Danish Crime Counts—Like UK, US: All Crimes Are Created Equal?

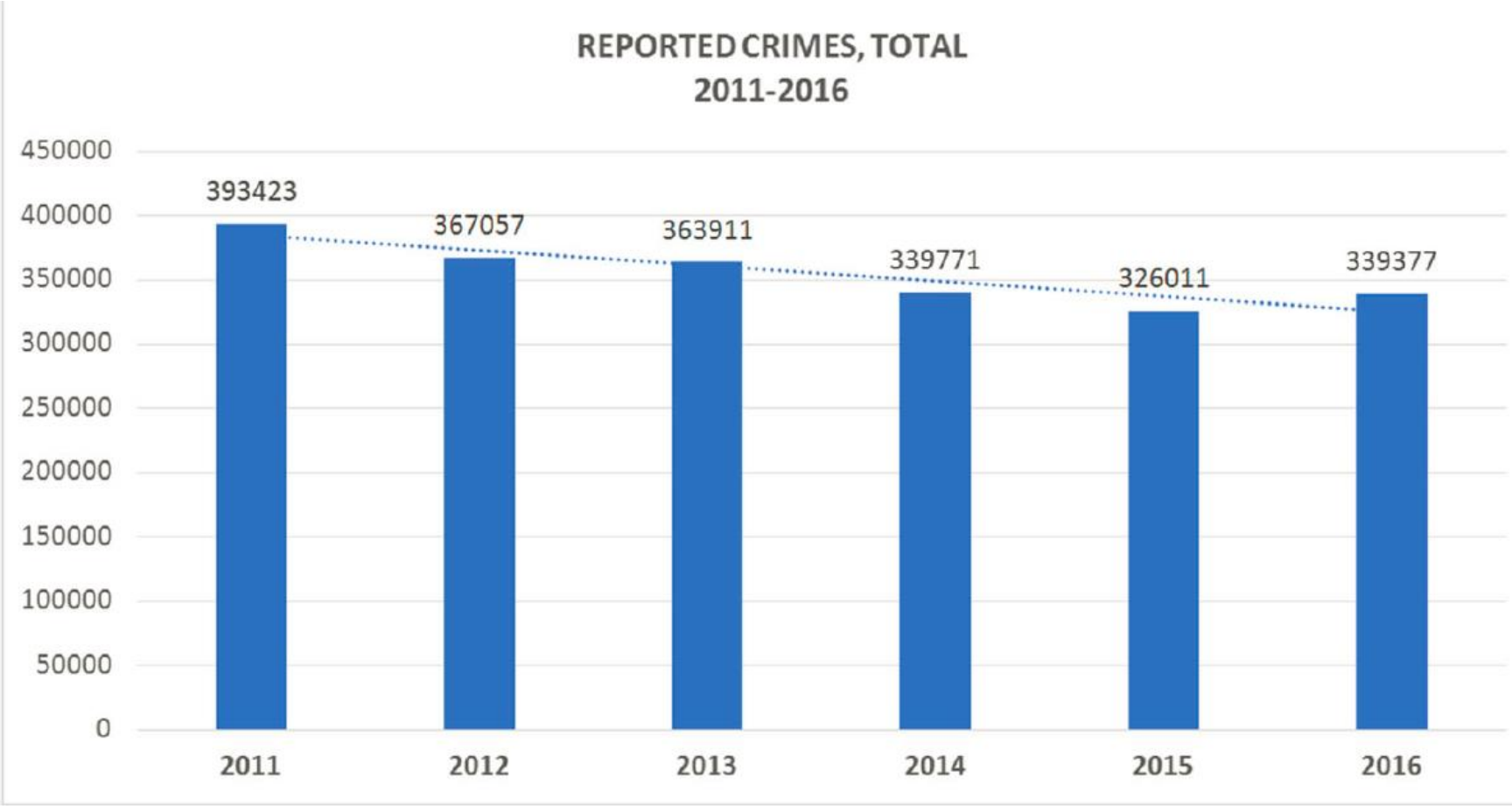


Fig. 1 Annual total of reported crimes, Criminal Code

England & Wales, 2002-2015: base of 2002 Approximate Cambridge CHI

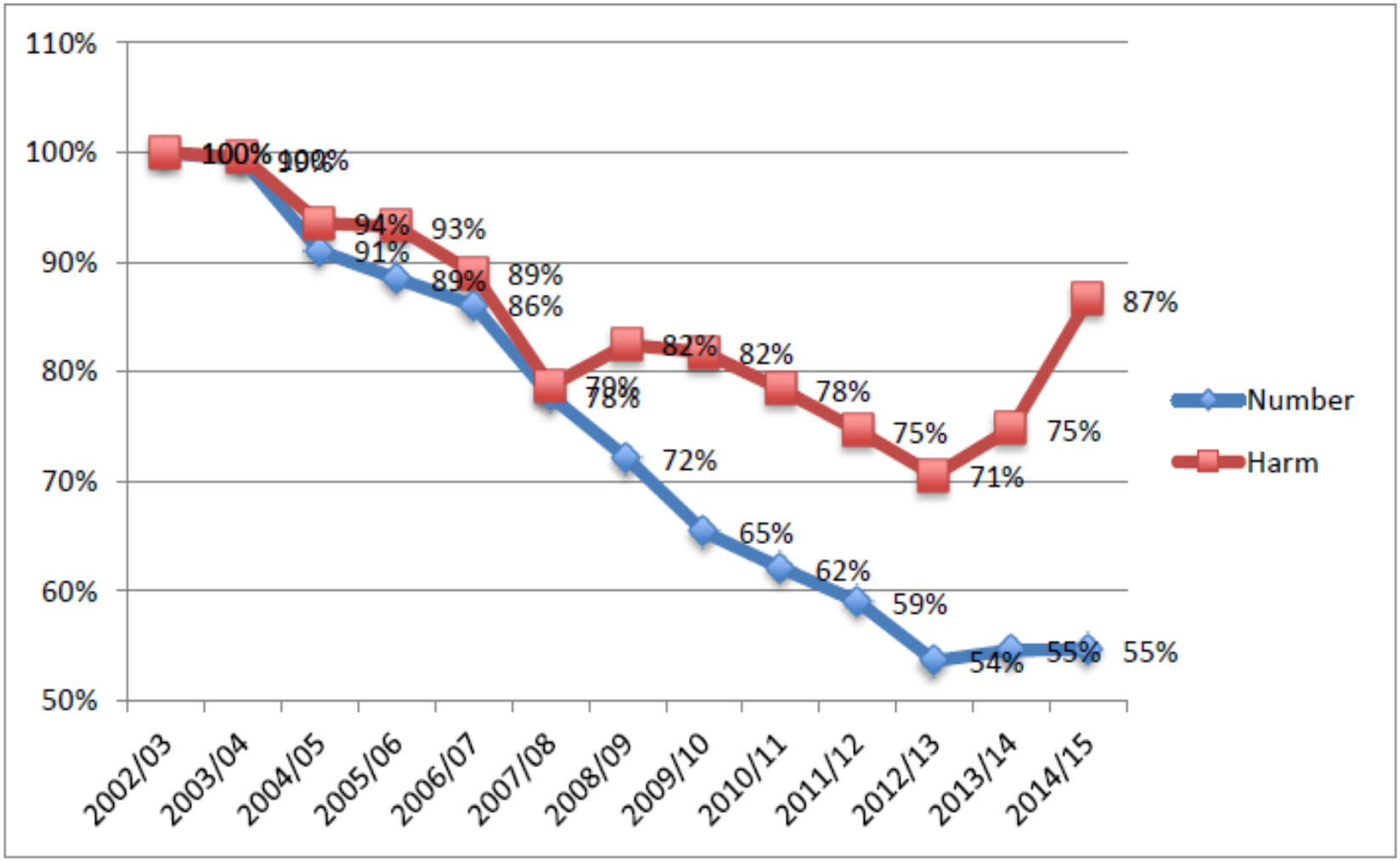
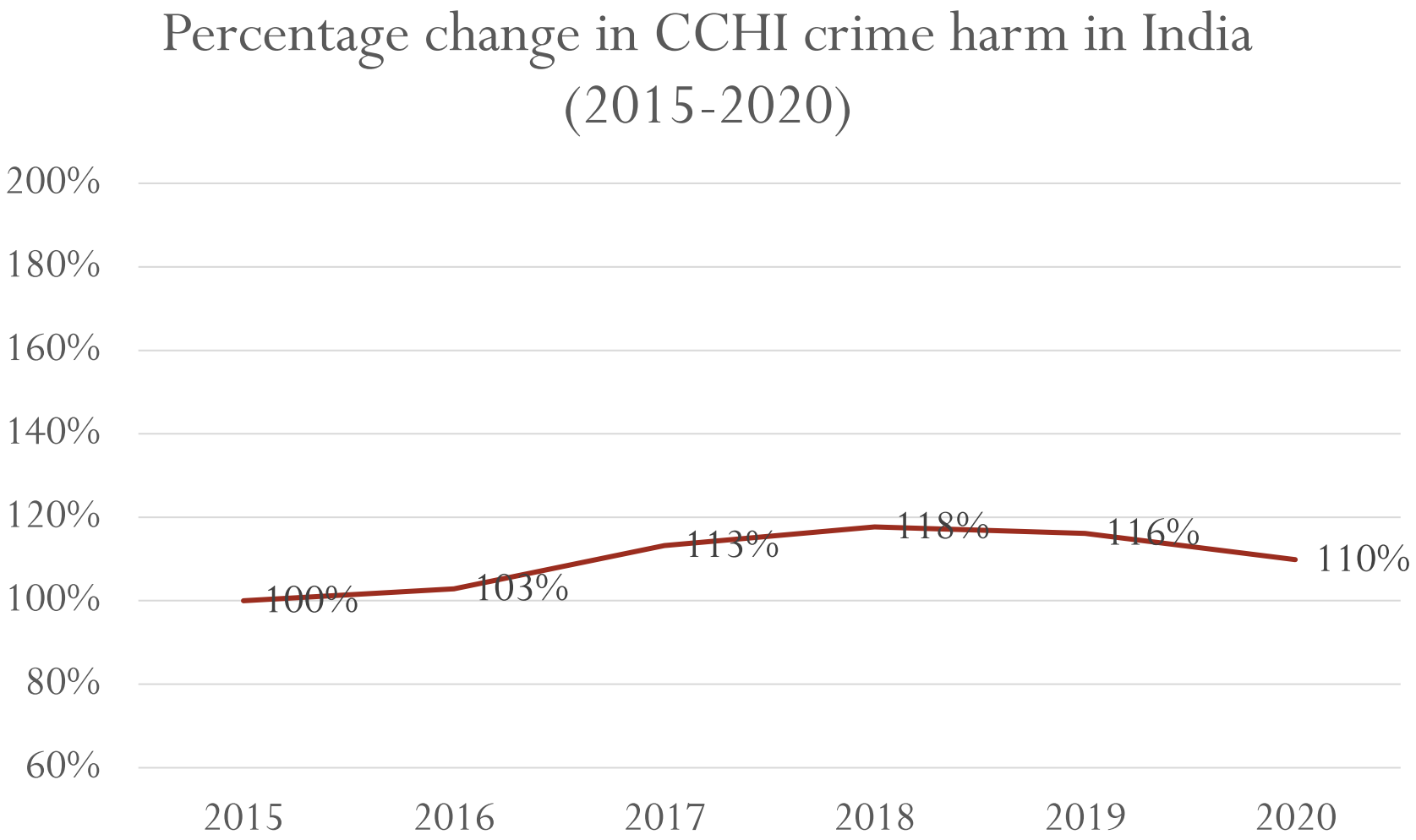


Figure 1. Percentage change in numbers of crimes and CHI for total crime, by year. Data (2016) obtained from Eleanor Neyroud by personal email, July 3, 2018.

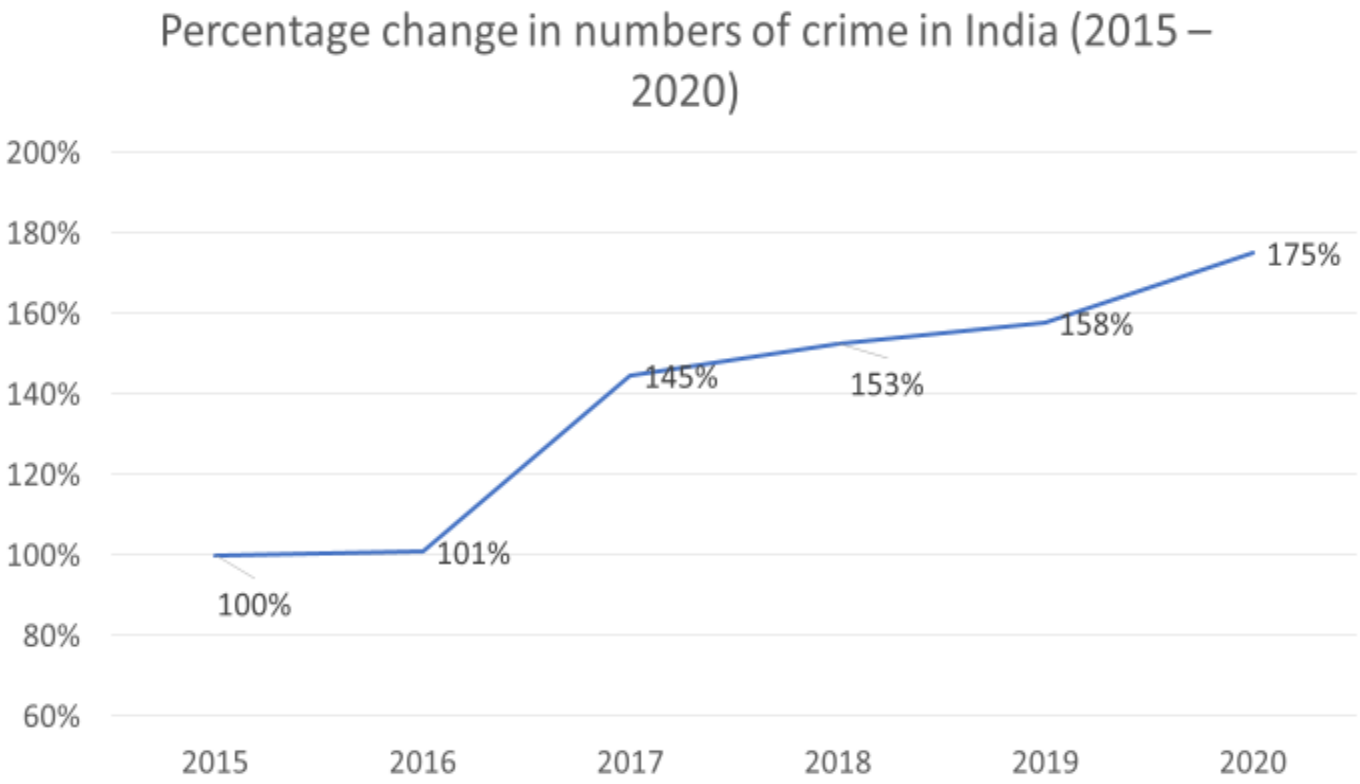
The PM Wanted to Know

(Pune, 2019 DGP Meet)

GOOD NEWS!


Percentage change in CCHI crime harm in India (2015-2020)
200%
180%
160%
140%
120%
100%
80%
60%
100%
103%
113%
118%
116%
110%
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

BUT....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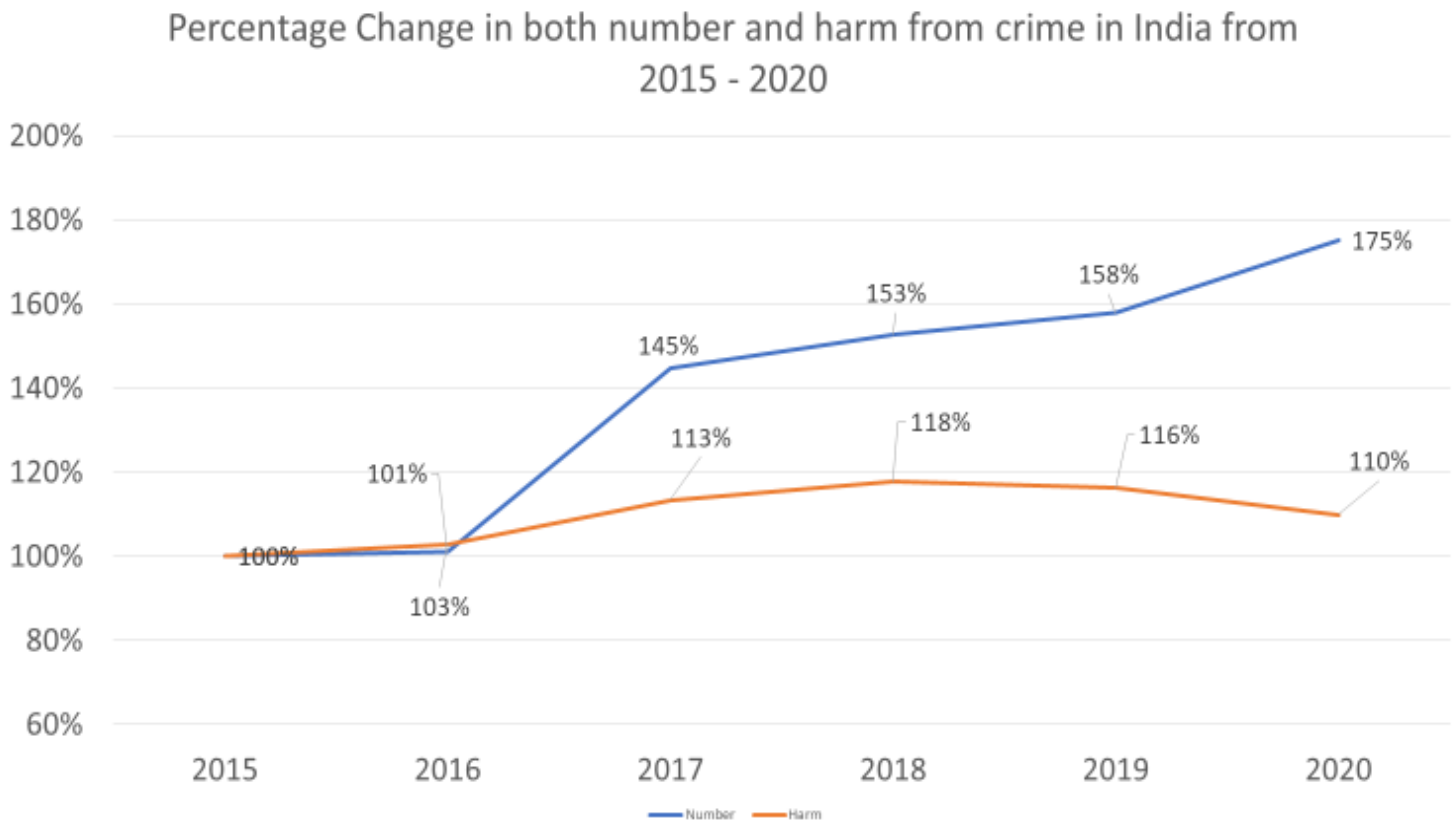
100%
101%
145%
153%
158%
175%
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

Crime Counts Up, ICHI Flat



If the Police Chile Wants

- Will try to reduce total harm
- Relentless focus on prevention
- And prevention of harm from injustice
- Including dismissal of officers causing harm
- Then EBP is the WAY to get this goal

Not that….

Just Google Us

Cambridge EBP