

Trawling the research base for the Crime Reduction online toolkit

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Overview

- Systematically assembling the evidence base



- Where does the evidence come from?
- What do practitioners need from the evidence base?
- How fit for purpose is this evidence?

Structuring our research question



MISSION:

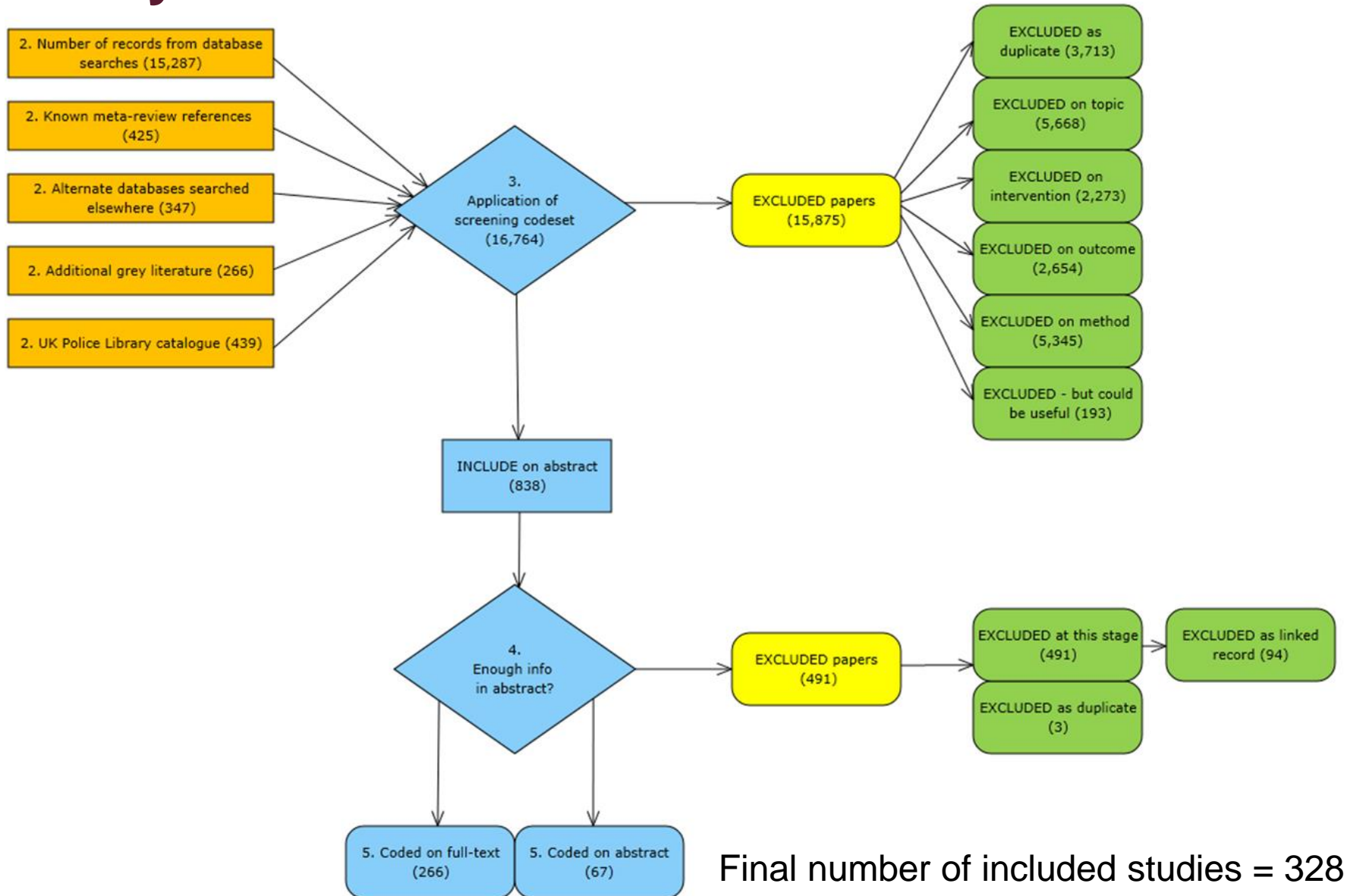
*“to identify the **best available evidence** on **approaches to reducing crime** (and the potential savings to the police service, their crime reduction partners and the public)”*

→ Findings from systematic review or meta-analyses

→ Broadly defined ‘crime prevention’

Overall aim was to search for evaluations of interventions in all relevant fields that might have a crime prevention outcome

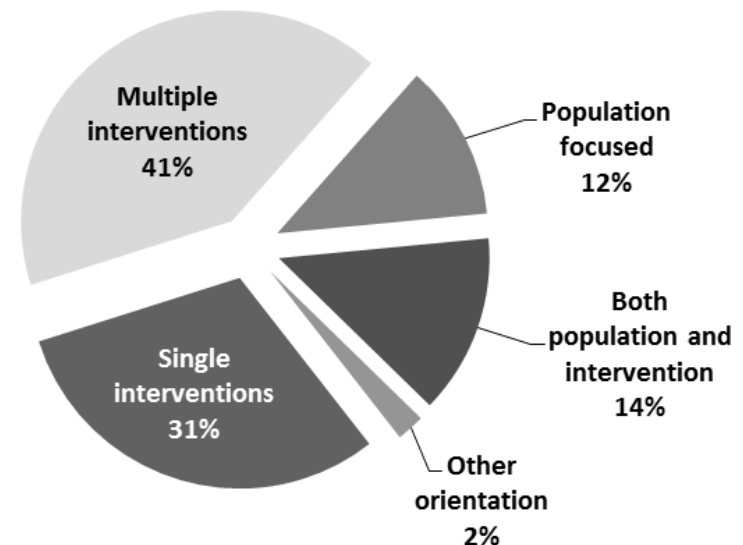
Our systematic search flowchart



The crime prevention evidence base

- Commissioned by a variety of stakeholders who frame the research question in many different ways

- By intervention
- By problem
- By population
- By context
- By policing strategy
- By outcome
- By stakeholder

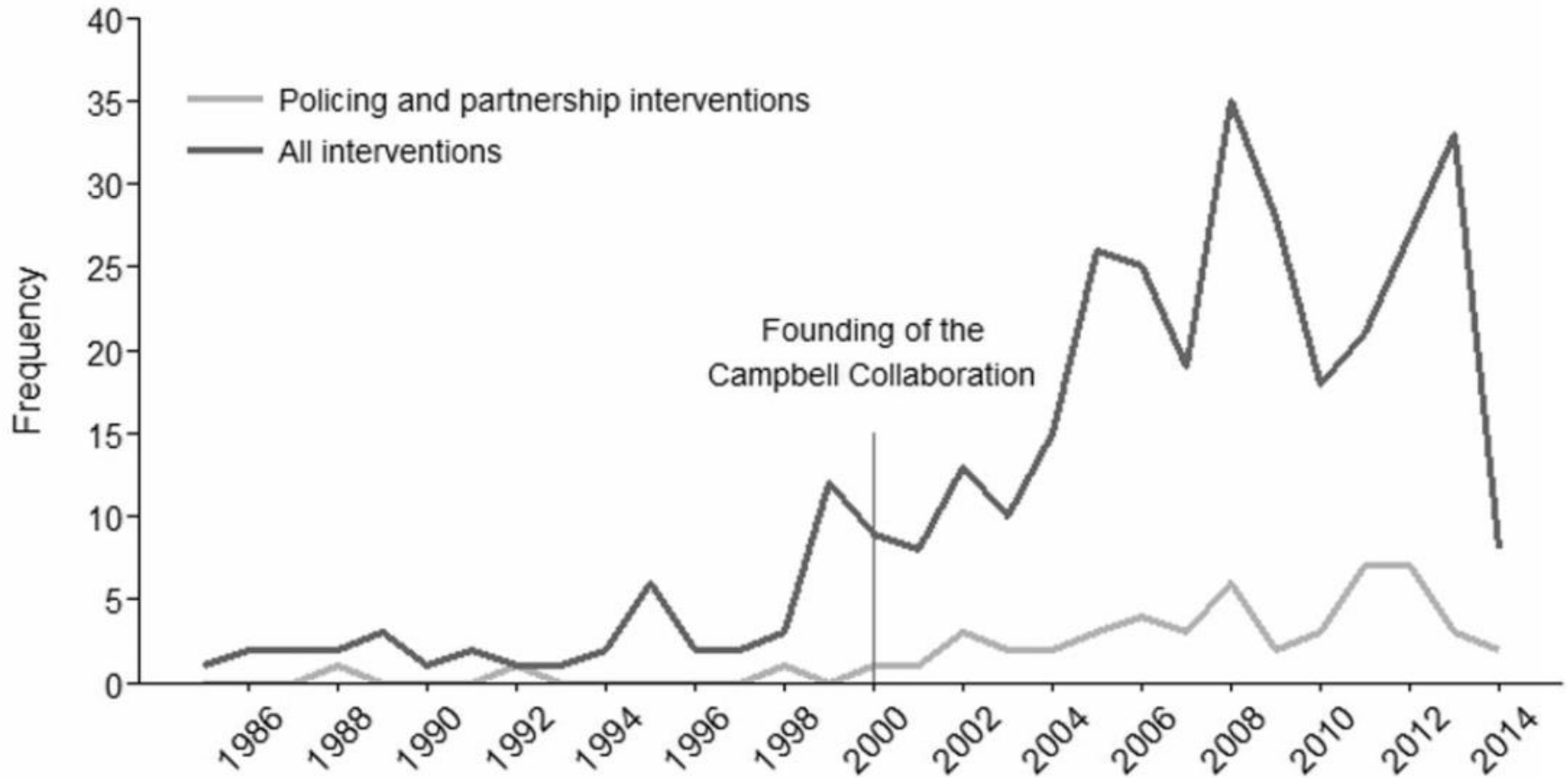


- Implies that all these foci are relevant to practitioner sub-groups

Type of intervention

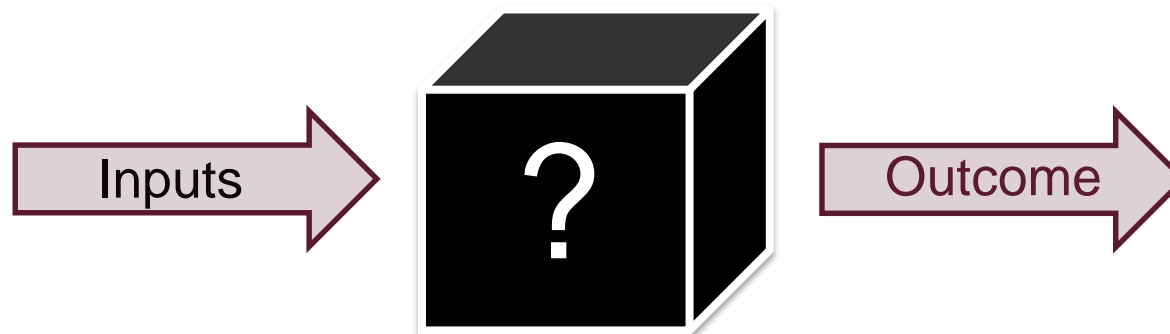
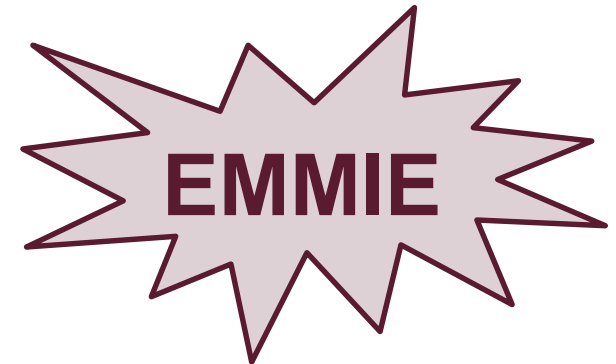
Intervention type	<i>N</i>	Percentage of coded reviews citing intervention
Correctional interventions	156	47
Sentencing and deterrence	93	28
Educational interventions	79	23
Others	79	23
Community interventions	50	15
Policing and partnership	52	16
Developmental and social prevention	47	14
Drug treatment interventions	48	14
Situational prevention	34	10
Restorative Justice	12	3
Publicity	7	2
Total	657	

Timeline of evidence syntheses publication



What do practitioners need to know?

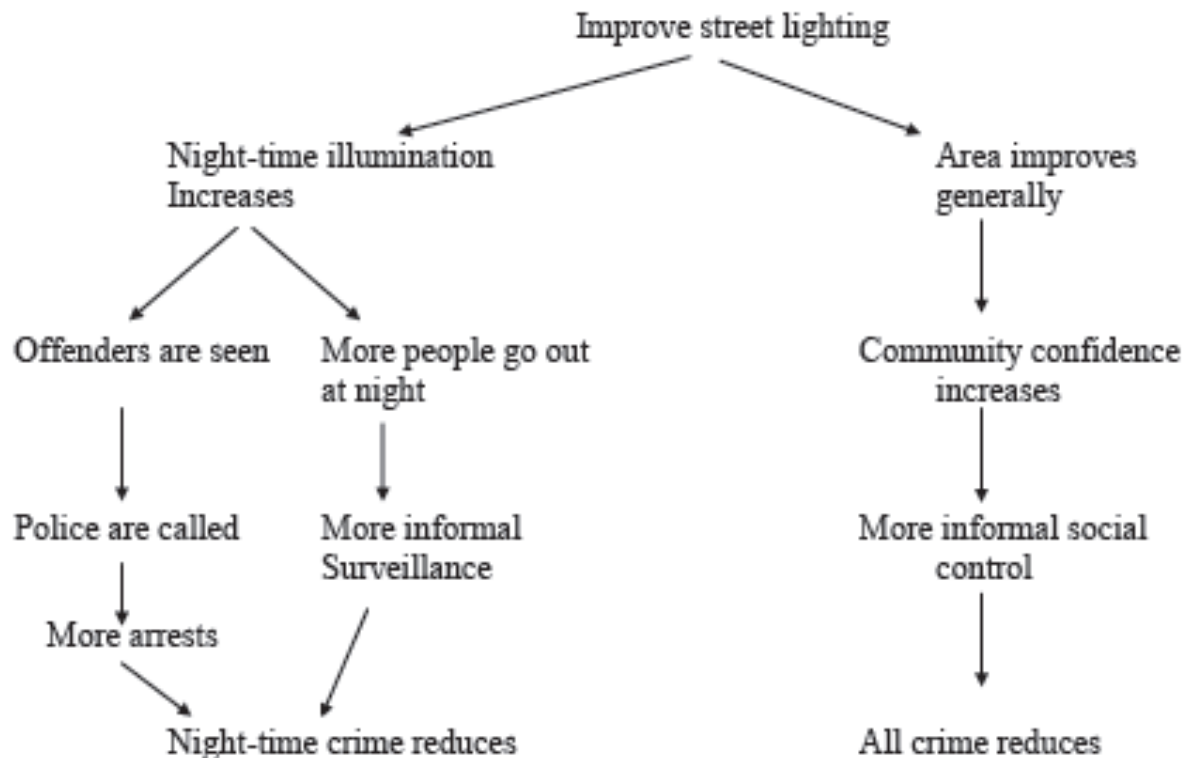
- Not just ‘what works’
 - How it works (mechanism)
 - Under what conditions it works (moderators)
 - How to get it to work (implementation)
 - How much it costs (economics)



- E.g. mandatory arrest of domestic violence offenders
 - Works for middle-class victims/offenders
 - Doesn't work for economically disadvantaged victims/offenders

Street lighting example

Mechanisms linking street lighting improvements to crime reduction



Making the evidence base accessible

[ABOUT US](#)
[RESEARCH](#)
[CRIME REDUCTION TOOLKIT](#)
[RESEARCH MAP](#)
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Home / Crime Reduction Toolkit

Our effect scale

Our quality scale

About the Crime Reduction Toolkit

Key

Quality of evidence

- No information
- Limited quality
- Moderate quality
- Strong quality
- Very strong quality

Filters

Impact on Crime
(select a range using the markers below)

Search term... Go

- Violent Crime Off On
- Property Crime Off On
- Offender Based Off On
- Victim Based Off On
- Location Based Off On

Crime Reduction Toolkit

Intervention	Impact on crime	How it works	Where it works	How to do it	What it costs
	Effect	Mechanism	Moderator	Implementation	Economic cost
Alcohol ignition interlock					
Alcohol tax and price policies					
CCTV					
NEW					
Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) for Domestic Violence					
Correctional boot camps					
NEW					
Criminal sanctions to prevent domestic violence					
Drink driving (DWI) courts					
Educational interventions to prevent relationship violence in young people					

How fit for purpose is the evidence?

- Most reviews don't consider the active ingredients for why an intervention might work
- The evidence is generally weak on effect, and often on other dimensions
 - But need to remember that reviews rely on primary study evidence
- BUT, weak evidence on effect doesn't undermine other dimensions
 - I.e. reviews can be strong on moderators or implementation

Advancing the evidence base

- Need to encourage narrow systematic review topics
 - E.g. CBT for domestic violence offenders
 - E.g. Property marking for reducing burglary
- Data collection in primary reviews should speak to the aspects of an intervention that practitioners need to know
 - Moderator analysis is crucial in unpicking what may be effective for different sub-groups
- Commissioners of primary research need to know this!

Thank you

Bowers, K., Tompson, L. & Johnson, S. (2014) Implementing information science in policing: mapping the evidence base. *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*.

Tompson, L. and Belur, J. (2015) Information retrieval in systematic reviews; A case study of the crime prevention literature. *Journal of Experimental Criminology*.

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