

#### Crime, Science and Policing

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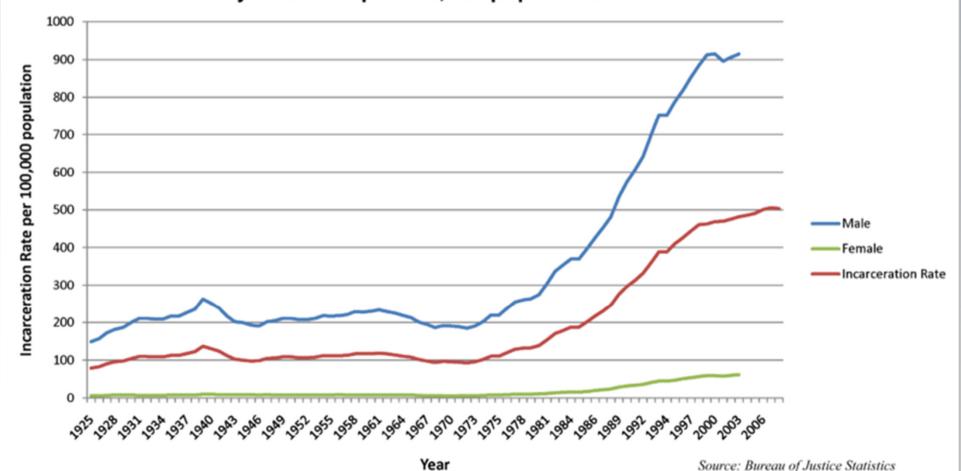
#### Agenda

- 1. Explain why I think there are problems with the way we control crime at present
- 2. Provide a suggested alternative crime science
- 3. Describe it
- 4. Briefly mention a new UK initiative which will develop the approach further



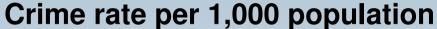
#### The prison population in the USA

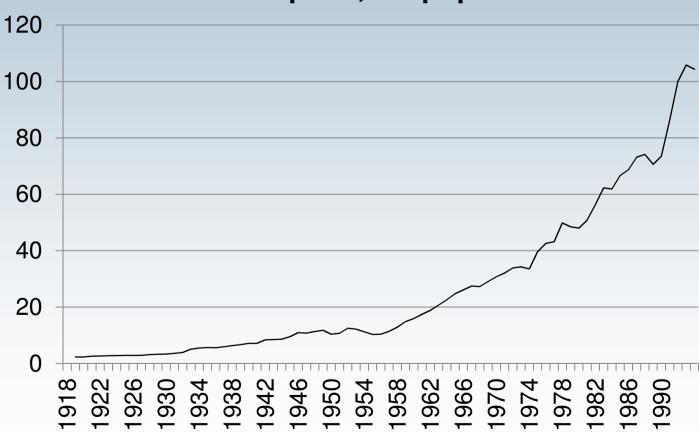
Incarceration rate of inmates incarcerated under state and federal jurisdiction per 100,000 population 1925-2008





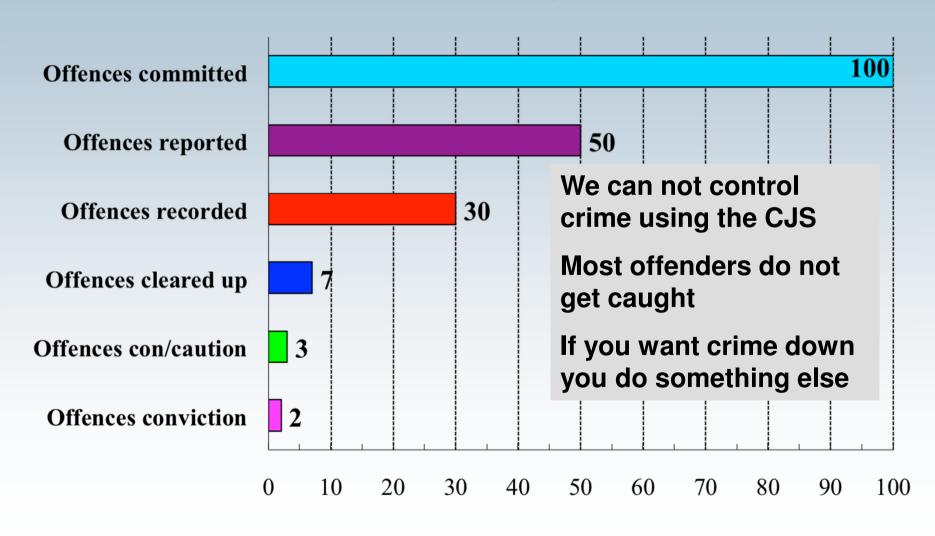
# Crime in England and Wales: 1918-1994







### The limits of conventional policing





#### what do we need to do to reduce crime?

- Need to behave in a more objective and scientific manner
  - We need to prevent as many offences as possible in the first place
  - We need to catch offenders more effectively and more reliably, and deal with them efficiently once caught
  - We need to avoid overestimating the importance of individuals character traits and not underestimate the importance of situation and context
- OK, so how do we do it?
- ANSWER: WE USE SCIENCE



#### The Role of Science

data

logic

evidence

rationality

testing hypotheses

establishing knowledge



#### The Role of Science in Crime

- Improving our understanding of crime and its causes
- Making crimes more difficult to commit
- Catching offenders more quickly and bringing them to justice
- Thinking scientifically

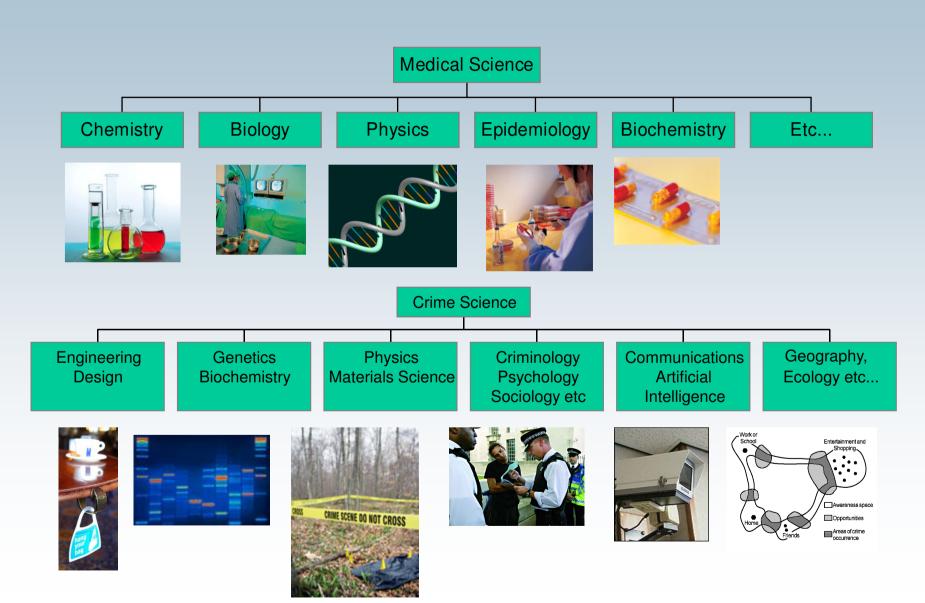


# Thinking scientifically

- Using scientific methods
  - Scanning
  - Analysis
  - Response
  - Assessment
- Testing hypotheses
- Establishing knowledge



#### **Medical Science and Crime Science**

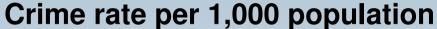


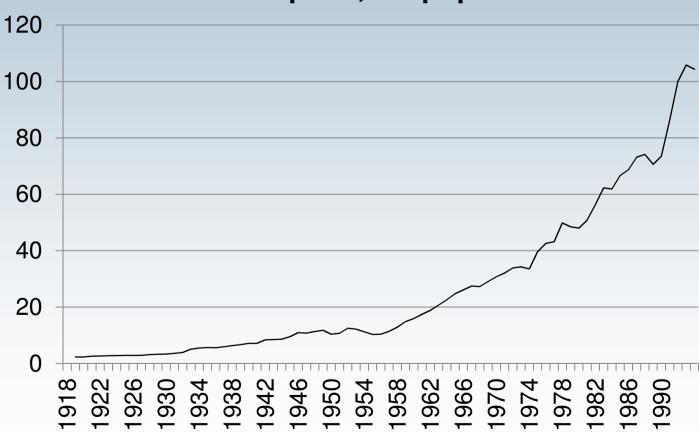


#### Does this work?



# Crime in England and Wales: 1918-1994







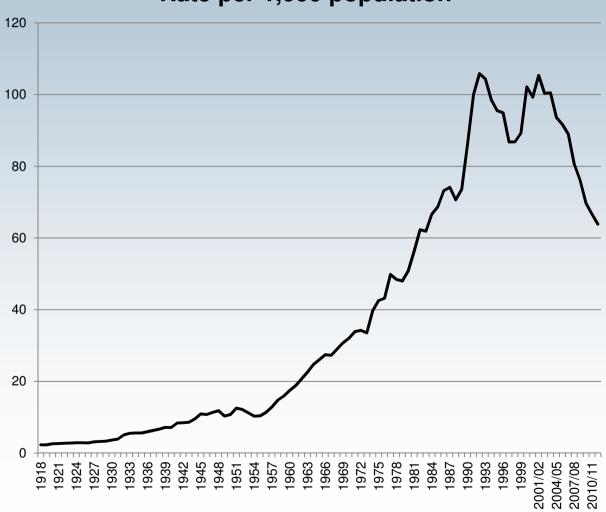
#### Two kinds of offender

- 'Opportunistic' offenders: easily deterred but many of them
- 'Proper' or 'professional' offenders: not easily deterred but much fewer of them



## Crime in England and Wales:1918-2012

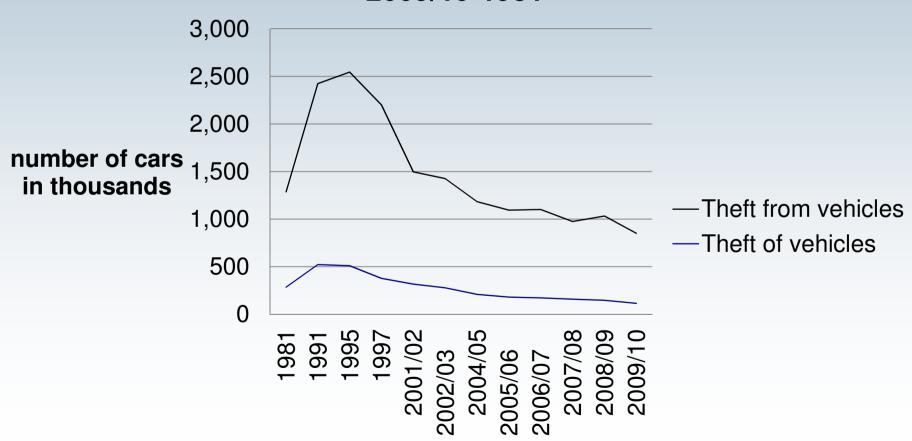






#### This works:

Theft of and from vehicles UK 1981 - 2009/10 2009/10-1981





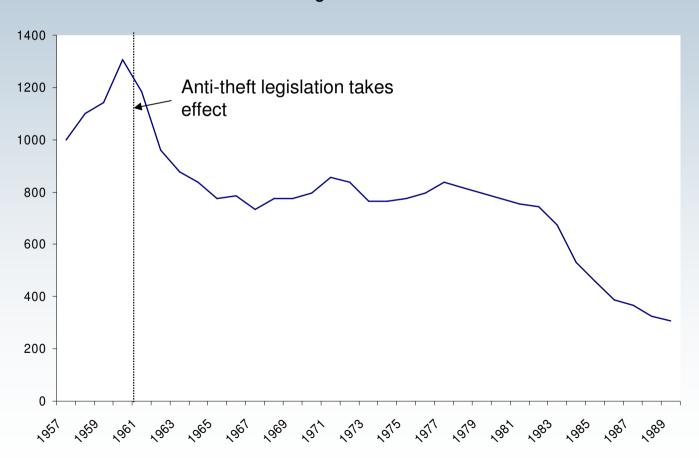
# Central Government Action Against Crime in the UK

- 65% reduction in vehicle crime
- 53% reduction in credit card fraud losses
- 29% reduction in personal robbery
- 60% reduction in house burglary



# **Effect of Steering column locks**

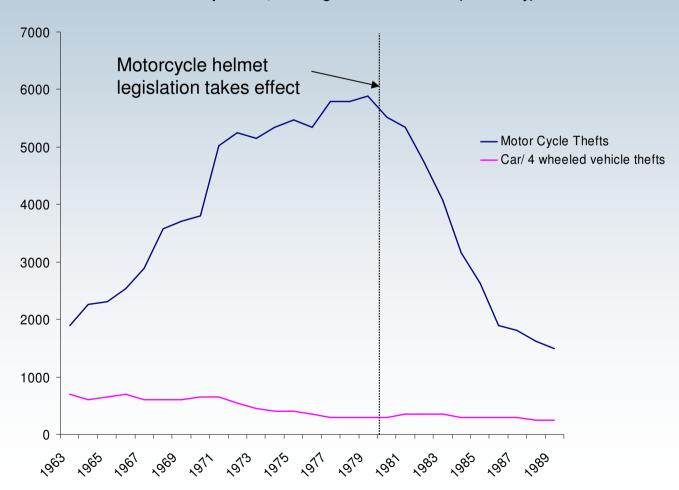
Rate of Theft of Motor Vehicles in Germany Per 10,000 Vehicle Registrations





# **Effect of Motorcycle Helmets**

Thefts per 100,000 Registered Vehicles (Germany)



# **UCL**

### Summary: The case for change

- We have a crime problem
- We need the CJS but it is not sufficient to control crime
- Science can help we need to behave like scientists
- Formulate and test hypotheses aimed to reduce crime
- We do this using scientific method SARA

#### Twenty-five techniques of situational crime prevention

#### **Increase the effort**

- 1. Harden targets
- 2. Control access to facilities
- 3. Screen exits
- 4. Deflect offenders
- 5. Control tools/weapons

#### Increase the risks

- 6. Extend guardianship
- 7. Assist natural surveillance
- 8. Reduce anonymity
- 9. Utilise place managers
- 10. Strengthen formal surveillance

#### Reduce the rewards

- 11. Conceal targets
- 12. Remove targets
- 13. Identify property
- 14. Disrupt markets
- 15. Deny benefits

#### **Reduce Provocations**

- 16. Reduce frustrations and stress
- 17. Avoid disputes
- 18. Reduce emotional arousal
- 19. Neutralise peer pressure
- 20. Discourage imitation

#### Remove excuses

- 21. Set rules
- 22. Post instructions
- 23. Alert conscience
- 24. Assist compliance
- 25. Control drugs and alcohol



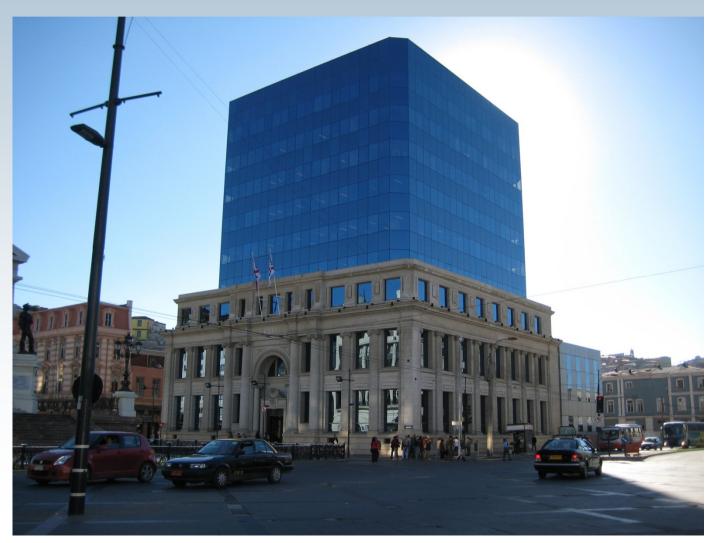
# **Set clear rules Valparaiso, Chile**

What's this?





Make sure you get the legislation drafted properly!



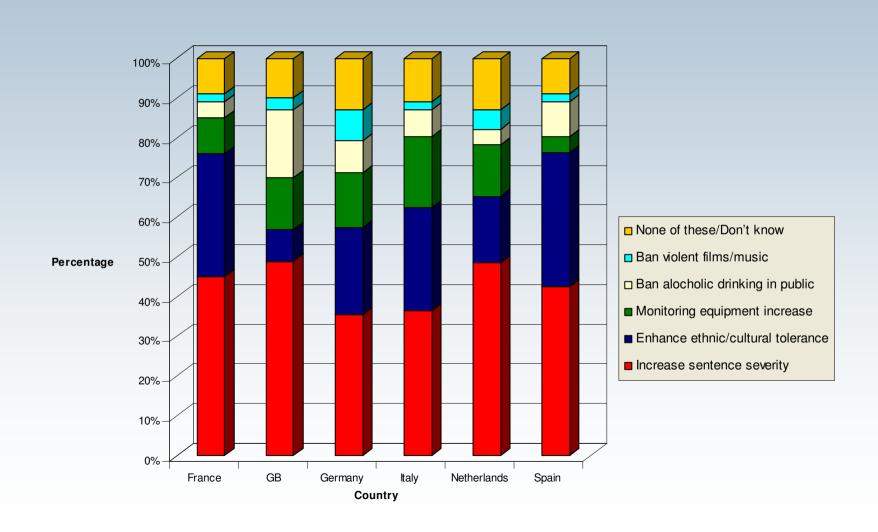


# Car Parks in Basingstoke: how do you interpret this table?

	Car park A	Car park B
Theft of cars	25%	68%
Theft from cars	70%	20%
Other	5%	12%



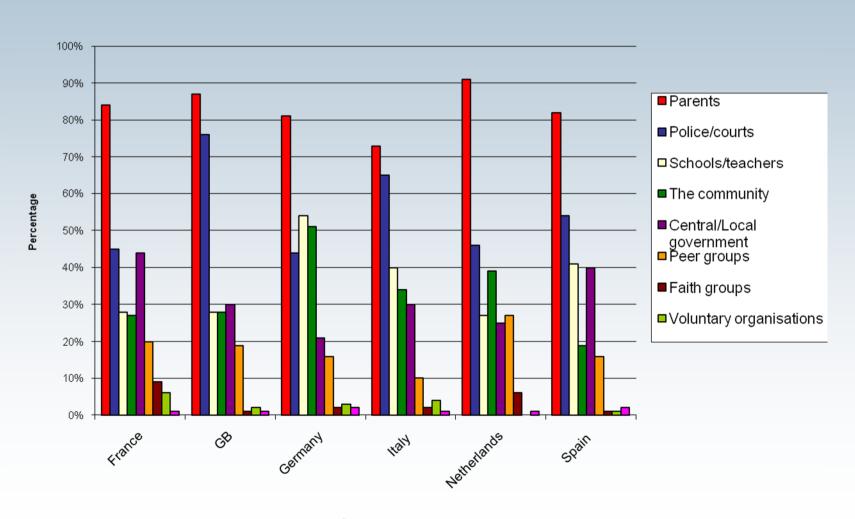
# How can we reduce ASB?





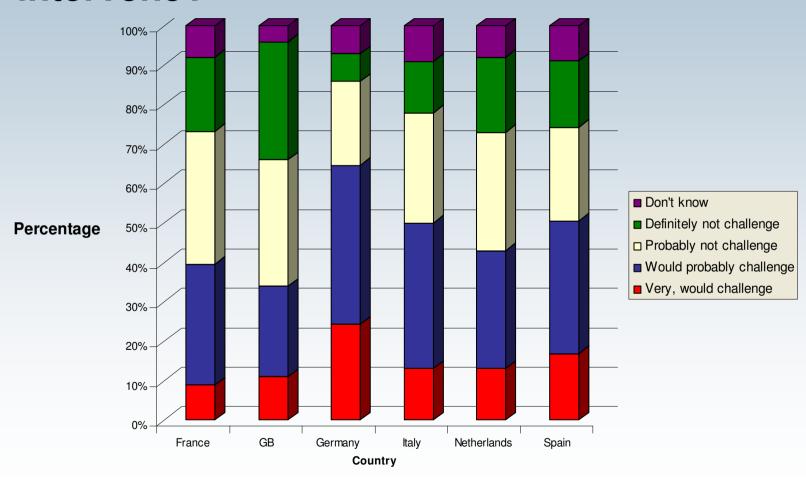
# Who's responsible for controlling ASB?

**Question 5** 





# If you saw a small group of 14 year old boys vandalising a bus shelter, would you intervene?





#### How should we interpret this?

- If I intervene:
  - I may get attacked by the kids
  - Their parents may attack me
  - I may not be supported by the community/ other nearby adults
  - The police may arrest me
  - People will think I am an interfering spoil sport
  - It's just not my problem ....



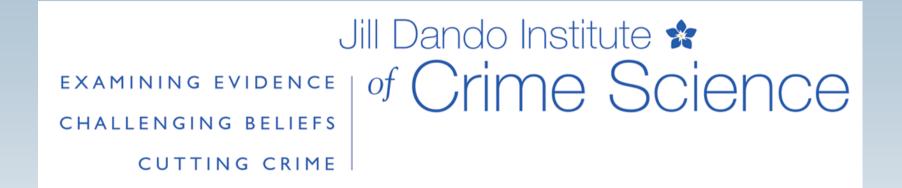
# Лефортовотоннель смерти

## **UCL**

#### What works in Crime Reduction?

- Science can assist in determining what works
- UK College of Policing and a major UK Research Council are funding a programme work (£3.2m)
- It will take three years and will provide
  - An extensive review of what we already know works
  - 12 new reviews to fill gaps in the knowledge base
  - A pilot training programme for the police and others
  - A research project in a totally new area
  - An independent evaluation of the programme

**UCL** 



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