

Lorenc, T., M. Petticrew, et al. (2013). "Environmental interventions to reduce fear of crime: systematic review of effectiveness." *Systematic Reviews* 2: 30-30.¹

- The Fear of crime is associated with negative health and wellbeing outcomes, and may mediate some impacts of the built environment on public health.
- A range of environmental interventions have been hypothesized to reduce the fear of crime.
- This review aimed to synthesize the literature on the effectiveness of interventions in the built environment to reduce the fear of crime.
- A total of 47 studies were included, 22 controlled and 25 uncontrolled, with total sample sizes ranging from n = 52 to approximately n = 23,000. Thirty-six studies were conducted in the UK, ten studies in the USA and one study in the Netherlands.
- The quality of the evidence overall is low. There are some indications that home security improvements and non-crime-related environmental improvements may be effective for some fear of crime outcomes.
- There is little evidence that the following reduce fear of crime:
 - Street lighting improvements
 - Closed-circuit television (CCTV)
 - Multi-component environmental crime prevention programs or regeneration programs
- Conclusions: There is some evidence for the effectiveness of specific environmental interventions in reducing some indicators of fear of crime, but more attention to the context and possible confounders is needed in future evaluations of complex social interventions such as these.

Schafer, J. A., B. M. Huebner, et al. (2006). "Fear of Crime and Criminal Victimization: Gender-Based Contrasts." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 34(3): 285-301.²

- Extant research on the fear of crime & criminal victimization had generally found that women express greater levels of fear than men.
- Using survey data, this study contrasted perceptions of safety & the fear of personal & property victimization among male & female respondents.
- Specifically considered was the relationship between demographic characteristics, fear facilitators, fear inhibitors, neighborhood context, & crime-related fear.
- Results indicated some gender differences in the influence explanatory variables had on fear, although not all achieved statistical significance.
- For both gender groups, respondents' perceptions of their neighborhood as orderly & satisfactory had the largest effect on perceptions.
- Gender-based differences in the outcome of the analyses further supported that males & females experienced fear based upon different factors.

Weisburd, D. and J. E. Eck (2004). "What Can Police Do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear?" *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 593(1): 42-65.³

¹ <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mnh&AN=23663285&site=ehost-live>

² <http://search.proquest.com/docview/57036481?accountid=26333>

- The authors reviewed research on police effectiveness in reducing crime, disorder, and fear in the context of a typology of innovation in police practices.
- That typology emphasized two dimensions: one concerning the diversity of approaches, and the other, the level of focus.
- The authors found that little evidence supported the standard model of policing-low on both of these dimensions.
- In contrast, research evidence did support continued investment in police innovations that call for greater focus and tailoring of police efforts, combined with an expansion of the tool box of policing beyond simple law enforcement.
- The strongest evidence of police effectiveness in reducing crime and disorder was found in the case of geographically focused police practices, such as hot-spots policing.
- Community policing practices were found to reduce fear of crime, but the authors do not find consistent evidence that community policing (when it is implemented without models of problem-oriented policing) affects either crime or disorder.
- More generally, the authors found that many policing practices applied broadly throughout the United States either have not been the subject of systematic research or have been examined in the context of research designs that do not allow practitioners or policy makers to draw very strong conclusions.

Taub, R. P., D. G. Taylor, et al. (1982). Crime, Fear of Crime, and the Deterioration of Urban Neighborhoods - Executive Summary: 63.⁴

- This study examined the relationship of neighborhood change to crime and fear of crime, using telephone interviews and site visits to eight Chicago neighborhoods.
- The neighborhoods were chosen because of their variations on three dimensions: crime rates, racial stability, and real estate appreciation rates.
- The study was based on 3,310 telephone interviews and a questionnaire that elicited responses about victimization experience, fear and perceptions of crime, attitudes toward neighborhood quality and resources, attitudes toward neighborhood investment, and community involvement.
- The field research evaluated residential and shopping area deterioration. The researchers also attended important neighborhood events, visited stores and gathering places, interviewed knowledgeable informants, and reviewed newspapers and other reports.
- Findings indicated that the perception of racial and social class change augments the consequences of fear of crime.
- Succession (movement to the suburbs) resulted in undesirable consequences for older neighborhoods, including crime, undermining of neighborhood appearance and property values, and disinvestment.
- Crime prevention programs were most effective when they were part of community organizations' agendas that also deal with succession-related problems, particularly real estate and school issues.
- Fear of crime alone was not a motivator to long-term collective action.
- Actions aiding community crime prevention and reducing deterioration included interracial police teams and athletic activities for youth.

³ <http://search.proquest.com/docview/811332722?accountid=26333>

⁴ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/Digitization/80748NCJRS.pdf>

- Since open spaces may increase fear in unstable communities, it is suggested that small parks have visible security arrangements.
- The study suggests removing litter and reoccupying vacant buildings.