

Garvin, E. C., C. C. Cannuscio, et al. (2013). "Greening Vacant Lots to Reduce Violent Crime: A Randomised Controlled Trial." *Injury Prevention* 19(3): 198-203.

- There is some evidence that greening vacant lots is associated with reductions in violent crime.
- The authors performed a randomized control trial of vacant lot greening to test the impact of this intervention on police reported crime and residents' perceptions of safety and disorder.
- Greening consisted of cleaning the lots, planting grass and trees, and building a wooden fence around the perimeter.
- The authors randomly allocated two vacant lot clusters to the greening intervention or to the control status (no intervention).
- Administrative data were used to determine crime rates, and local resident interviews at baseline (n=29) and at follow-up (n=21) were used to assess perceptions of safety and disorder.
- The results showed a non-significant decrease in the number of total crimes and gun assaults around greened vacant lots compared with control.
- People around the intervention vacant lots reported feeling significantly safer after greening compared with those living around control vacant lots
- Conclusion: In this study, greening was associated with reductions in certain gun crimes and improvements in residents' perceptions of safety.

MacDonald, J., R. J. Stokes, et al. (2013). "The Privatization of Public Safety in Urban Neighborhoods: Do Business Improvement Districts Reduce Violent Crime among Adolescents?" *Law & Society Review* 47(3): 621-652.

- The business improvement district (BID) is a popular economic development and urban revitalization model in which local property and business owners must pay an assessment tax that funds supplementary services, including private security.
- This study examines whether BIDs provide tangible benefits beyond their immediate boundaries to local residents in the form of reduced violence among adolescents.
- The analysis compares violent victimization among youths living in BID neighborhoods with those in similarly situated non-BID neighborhoods.
- The authors found no effect of BIDs on violence.
- However, they did find that youth violence was strongly correlated with neighborhood collective efficacy and family-related attributes of social control.
- Conclusion: the authors argue that BIDs may be an agent of crime reduction, but this benefit is likely concentrated only in their immediate boundaries and does not extend to youths living in surrounding neighborhoods.

Lattimore, P. K., K. Barrick, et al. (2012). *Prisoner Reentry Services: What Worked for SVORI Evaluation Participants?* Washington, DC, RTI International/NIJ-Sponsored.¹

- Many of the specific services had no effect on housing, employment, substance use, or recidivism outcomes and in some cases the effect was actually deleterious rather than beneficial.

¹ <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/238214.pdf>

- There were significant effects of SVORI program participation on arrests following release, with SVORI program participation associated with a 14% reduction in arrests for the adult men, 48% reduction for the adult females, and 25% reduction for the juvenile males over the fixed follow-up periods.
- The results suggest the need for additional research into the sequencing and effects of specific and combinations of reentry services, with an understanding that some programs may be harmful if delivered at the wrong time or in the wrong way.
- The results also suggest that follow-up periods longer than 2 years may be necessary to observe positive effects on criminal behavior and criminal justice system interaction, as the strong effects observed at 56 months were not observed at 24 months after release when non-significant positive effects were observed.
- Observation for the longer follow-up periods may be particularly important for high-risk populations such as the populations studied here who had substantial criminal histories and who may have greater difficulty disengaging from past behaviors at release.

Khoury-Kassabri, M., R. Sharvet, et al. (2010). "An Evaluation of a Group Treatment Program with Youth Referred to the Juvenile Probation Service Because of Violent Crime." *Research on Social Work Practice* 20(4): 403-409.

- This study assesses the outcomes of group intervention program with violent juveniles.
- The intervention is based on the ecological approach of Edleson and Tolman (1992).
- Forty-eight juveniles referred to the juvenile probation service because of violent crime completed the 16 sessions of the intervention.
- The results show significant reductions in juveniles' endorsement of violent behavior and in violence toward others.
- These reductions remained significant among the 27 juveniles who completed the 6-month follow-up.

Lattimore, P. K. and C. A. Visher (2009). *The Multi-Site Evaluation of SVORI: Summary and Synthesis*. Research Triangle Park, NC, RTI International/NIJ-Sponsored.²

- The report provides evidence that SVORI program participation increased receipt of services and programming for the adults.
- Program participants were significantly more likely, for example, to have reentry plans, although levels of provision for most services fell short of 100% and declined substantially after release.
- The juvenile males received higher levels of service pre-release than the adults, but there were few differences between the SVORI and non-SVORI groups.
- The results suggest modest improvements in outcomes for the adult SVORI participants and few differences between the juvenile SVORI and non-SVORI participants.
- SVORI programs appear to have reduced substance use rates among program participants, although overall drug use increased over time for all groups and exceeded 50% at 15 months post release.
- For the adult men, there were no differences in arrest and reincarceration rates at 24 months (about 70% and 40%, respectively).
- Women SVORI participants were significantly less likely to have an arrest and more likely to have been re-incarcerated.

² <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/230421.pdf>

Listwan, S. J. (2009). "Reentry for Serious and Violent Offenders." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 20(2): 154-169.

- The current study builds on the previous research by examining factors associated with program failure for both the institutional and community phases of a SVORI-funded reentry program.
- The results indicate that those individuals who were unemployed, who did not reside with family members, and who were higher risk were significantly more likely to fail the program during the community reentry phase.

Lipsey, M., N. A. Landenberger, et al. (2007). *Effects of Cognitive-Behavioral Programs for Criminal Offenders: A Systematic Review*. Nashville, TN, Campell Collaboration.³

- Much research on the subject shows that cognitive-behavioral therapy effectively reduces the recidivism of offenders after serving their sentences.
- There is, however, a significant difference in how effective the different treatment programs that use this form of therapy are, but further research is required to identify what sets them apart from each other.
- This is the question to which this Campbell review seeks an answer in its comparison of the studies of 58 different cognitive-behavioral therapy treatment programs.
- The aim is to identify the factors that make some programs more effective than others.
- The finding is that well-trained providers, a well-implemented course of treatment and focus on training in anger and conflict management increase the effect of the therapy.

Bouffard, J. A. and L. E. Bergeron (2006). "Reentry Works: The Implementation and Effectiveness of a Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative." *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 44(2/3): 1-29.

- The current study examines the implementation and effectiveness of a small SVORI program in the upper-Midwest, comparing inmates receiving enhanced reentry services to a sample of similar prisoners receiving only traditional prison/parole services.
- Results reveal that the reentry program successfully reached its target population of serious and violent offenders, provided more referrals to community-based services, and increased drug testing frequency during parole. Reentry participants were also less likely to test positive for drug use while on parole, had similar parole revocation rates and a 60% lower likelihood of post-parole re-arrest relative to the comparison sample.

Chermak, S. (2006). *Reducing Violent Crime and Firearms Violence: The Indianapolis Lever-Pulling Experiment*. Washington, DC, National Institute of Justice.⁴

- This report presents the methodology and findings of a program ("lever-pulling") in Indianapolis intended to reduce violence in general and firearms violence in particular.
- Evaluation findings show that "lever-pulling" as implemented in Indianapolis had little effect on the probationers involved.
- Meetings held with individuals at risk for violence in order to communicate to them the intent of law enforcement officers and the courts to focus on and punish (lever-pulling) violent behavior was effective in disrupting their perceptions of risk related to being apprehended and punished severely for violent crimes.

³ <http://campbellcollaboration.org/lib/download/143/>

⁴ <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221077.pdf>

- The treatment probationers (probationers exposed to the meetings) and control probationers (those not exposed to the meetings) committed similar types of offenses after the program was implemented.
- Specifically, there were no significant differences in self-reported gun activities between the treatment and control groups.
- Further, the number and type of probation technical violations following the meeting were not different between the treatment and control groups.
- In addition, the treatment probationers were not more likely to take advantage of community programming following the meeting, but they were less likely to miss meetings with their probation officers.
- Finally, there was little evidence that a consistent range of "levers" (sanctions) were "pulled" after the meeting.

Eck, J. E. and E. R. Maguire (2006). Have Changes in Policing Reduced Violent Crime? An Assessment of the Evidence. The Crime Drop in America. New York, Cambridge U Press.

- This document explores the impact of changes in policing on the reduction of violent crime in the US.
- Attention is given to two levels of changes: 1) generic changes implemented across the nation to improve police response to such general problems as crime, disorder, fear, & quality of life; & 2) specific changes that focus on a particular geographic area, time, or offense type.
- Generic changes include increasing the number of police; the initiation of community policing; & zero-tolerance policing.
- Specific changes include a police focus on repeat offenders; small areas of high concentrations of crime; gun-detection patrols; retail drug enforcement; & problem-oriented policing.
- An assessment of the impact of each type of change in policing on violence crime indicates that there is little evidence that generic changes are responsible for reduction in violent crime.
- Conversely, there is evidence to suggest that focused policing strategies have contributed to the drop in violent crime; however, the degree of the effectiveness of these strategies is uncertain. Lessons learned from these findings are discussed.

Eddy, J. M., R. B. Whaley, et al. (2004). "The Prevention of Violent Behavior by Chronic and Serious Male Juvenile Offenders: A 2-Year Follow-up of a Randomized Clinical Trial." Journal of Emotional & Behavioral Disorders 12(1): 2-8.

- In this study, the authors examine the ability of multidimensional treatment foster care (MTFC) to prevent subsequent violent offending relative to services-as-usual group home care (GC).
- Data on offending were collected every 6 months for a 2-year period following entry into the study.
- Results indicate that MTFC youth were significantly less likely to commit violent offenses than youth placed in services-as-usual group care.
- The group effect held even after control variables, including age at placement, age at first arrest, official and self-reported prior offenses, and time since baseline, were introduced into the model.
- Twenty-four percent of GC youth had two or more criminal referrals for violent offenses in the 2 years following baseline versus only 5% of MTFC youth.
- The rates of self-reported violent offending for MTFC youth were in the normative range following baseline, whereas rates for GC youth were 4 to 9 times higher.
- MTFC youth were also significantly less likely to report incidents of common violence, such as hitting.

Ezell, M. E., L. E. Cohen, et al. (2002). Can a Leopard Change Its Spots? Continuity and Change in Criminal Offending Patterns among Three Samples of Serious Chronic Offenders Washington, DC, National Institute of Justice.⁵

- This study examined patterns of stability (continuity) and change (discontinuity) across the life courses of serious young offenders in California.
- Overall, the results for all three samples under examination indicated a significant change in the nature of criminal offending patterns across age as well as across latent classes.
- Both stability and change were shown to be necessary for explaining the pattern of criminal offending across the life course.
- The findings suggest that the failure to accurately capture the age effects within a sample will cause a severe overestimation of the estimated state dependence effect.
- The findings also favor a mixed position in which the general importance of both population heterogeneity and state dependence processes on the criminal trajectory were acknowledged.
- Policy implications are discussed and the authors observed that no evidence has been produced to indicate that policies that have increased the probability of arrest, punishment severity, and average length of sentence have significantly deterred the likelihood of subsequent criminal behavior.

⁵ <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/213005.pdf>