

# Crime Prevention

---

**Criminal Justice Series**

*Forensic Mental Health*, by Mary McMurran, Najat Khalifa and  
Simon Gibbon

*Crime Prevention*, by Nick Tilley

# Crime Prevention

---

**Nick Tilley**



**WILLAN  
PUBLISHING**

Published by

Willan Publishing  
Culmcott House  
Mill Street, Uffculme  
Cullompton, Devon  
EX15 3AT, UK  
Tel: +44(0)1884 840337  
Fax: +44(0)1884 840251  
e-mail: [info@willanpublishing.co.uk](mailto:info@willanpublishing.co.uk)  
Website: [www.willanpublishing.co.uk](http://www.willanpublishing.co.uk)

Published simultaneously in the USA and Canada by

Willan Publishing  
c/o ISBS, 920 NE 58th Ave, Suite 300,  
Portland, Oregon 97213-3786, USA  
Tel: +001(0)503 287 3093  
Fax: +001(0)503 280 8832  
e-mail: [info@isbs.com](mailto:info@isbs.com)  
Website: [www.isbs.com](http://www.isbs.com)

© Nick Tilley 2009

The right of Nick Tilley to be identified as the author of this book have been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act of 1988.

All rights reserved; no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of the Publishers or a licence permitting copying in the UK issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, Saffron House, 6–10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS.

First published 2009

ISBN 978-1-84392-394-7 paperback  
978-1-84392-395-4 hardback

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library



Project managed by Deer Park Productions, Tavistock, Devon  
Typeset by Kestrel Data, Exeter, Devon  
Printed and bound by T.J. International, Padstow, Cornwall

**To Jenny**



# Contents

---

<i>List of figures and tables</i>	ix
<i>Preface</i>	xi
<b>1 Introduction: what's to be done?</b>	<b>1</b>
Why does crime prevention need theory?	2
The term 'crime prevention'	6
Outline of the book	6
Crime patterns for crime prevention	8
Conclusion	21
Exercises	23
Further reading	23
Websites	24
Notes	24
<b>2 Criminal justice measures and mechanisms</b>	<b>26</b>
Direct crime prevention	27
Indirect mechanisms	44
Roles and responsibilities	48
Conclusion	49
Exercises	50
Further reading	50
<b>3 Individual measures and mechanisms</b>	<b>52</b>
Risk factors and crime reduction	53
The logic of risk factors and intervention targeting	56
Trajectories and turning points	65
Cognitive-behavioural treatment	70
Drug treatment	73
Ethical issues	76
Conclusion	77
Exercises	78
Further reading	78
Notes	79
	vii

## Crime Prevention

<b>4</b>	<b>Social measures and mechanisms</b>	<b>80</b>
	Community crime prevention	85
	Conclusion	101
	Exercises	101
	Further reading	102
	Notes	102
<b>5</b>	<b>Situational measures and mechanisms</b>	<b>103</b>
	Background	103
	Definition	105
	Theory	107
	Links to other crime prevention approaches	125
	Methodology/practice	126
	Assessment	131
	Conclusion	135
	Exercises	136
	Further reading	137
	Notes	137
<b>6</b>	<b>Implementation</b>	<b>138</b>
	Competency and responsibility	139
	Delivery	146
	Why are implementation weaknesses the norm?	155
	Conclusion	158
	Exercises	159
	Further reading	159
	Notes	159
<b>7</b>	<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>160</b>
	General problems in evaluation	161
	Options in evaluation	166
	Systematic review	175
	Action research	178
	Economic evaluation	179
	Conclusion	181
	Exercises	181
	Further reading	182
	Notes	182
<b>8</b>	<b>Conclusion: what's to be done to improve crime prevention?</b>	<b>183</b>
	Exercises	186
	Annex: Norman Storey (1946–2008)	187
	<i>References</i>	192
	<i>Index</i>	205



## List of figures and tables

---

### Figures

1.1	BCS comparator recorded crime rates per 1,000 population for 372 Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership areas England and Wales 2006–7	9
1.2	Rates of recorded burglary per 1,000 population by ward in Nottingham 2006–7	11
1.3	Census superoutput area variations in burglary per 1,000 population in the five highest burglary rate wards in Nottingham in 2006–7	11
1.4	Times of street robberies and snatch thefts in Nottingham, October 1999–September 2002	13
1.5	Days between repeat commercial burglaries in Hartlepool, January 1990–December 1991	14
1.6	Changes in crime patterns	22
2.1	Changes in numbers of youth homicide victims associated with Operation Ceasefire in Boston, US	33
2.2	Personal and commercial robbery in England and Wales 1998–2007	34
2.3	Crackdown and consolidation strategy	45
3.1	Dealing with the many potential and few actual prolific offenders	54
3.2	The PPO Framework	55
3.3	Markers for and underlying causes of criminality	57
3.4	Targeting, true positives, false positives and false negatives in risk-based criminality reduction interventions	61

## Crime Prevention

4.1	Circle of increasing social cohesion	100
5.1	Trends in suicides in England and Wales 1958–77	105
5.2	Ekblom's preventive process	127
5.3	The problem analysis triangle (PAT)	128
7.1	Campbell Collaboration Review findings about scared straight	176

## Tables

1.1	Overall annual ten-crime prevalence rates by country and major city 2004/5	9
1.2	Hartlepool recorded business burglary repeat patterns January 1990–December 1991	14
1.3	Household types with high rates of domestic burglary, 2006/7 BCS	16
1.4	BCS findings on items stolen in domestic burglary 2006/7	18
2.1	Types of crackdown: context, mechanisms and outcomes	36
2.2	A typology of disruption mechanisms	41
3.1	Risk factors for male and female persistent youth offending	58
3.2	Risk factors and crime careers	59
3.3	Evaluated promising programmes in the UK addressing family risk factors	66
3.4	Drug test results for arrestees in England and Wales	74
5.1	Steering wheel locks and car thefts in London	108
5.2	Script for temporary use of stolen vehicle for driving fast for fun	112
5.3	Twelve techniques of situational crime prevention	113
5.4	Twenty-five techniques of situational prevention	116
5.5	System redesign and vehicle crime	130
6.1	Major patterns of responsibility and competency for crime prevention	140
6.2	Kirkholt and its intended replications	151
6.3	West Yorkshire Killingbeck mainstreaming model	152
6.4	Systematic sources of recurrent implementation failure	157
7.1	Threats to internal validity	164
7.2	Threats to external validity	165
7.3	Realist hypotheses relating to mandatory arrest for relatively low injury domestic violence	174
7.4	Sample findings for dealing with theft of and from cars in parking facilities, using an approach consistent with realism	177

x

## Preface

---

If you find this book browsing in a bookshop, or library, and are wondering whether or not to buy or borrow it, please do so! I hope you enjoy it, or at least are stimulated by it. If you have to read it for a course, I hope it is not too much of a chore. In either case, here's a reader's guide.

You should be able to read and understand each chapter as a self-contained unit without having read the earlier ones. There are, however, cross references and the later chapters do build on the earlier ones. You will, therefore, get more from the book if you read it all. It's quite short so not too much patience is needed. The most difficult chapter is probably Chapter 7. This is also liable to be the least interesting for the general reader. It talks about evaluation: an important and worthy issue that some of us are passionate about, but it may put others to sleep. The last chapter attempts some conclusions. Do have a look before investing in the whole book. Beware, though, that you may want to draw other conclusions, so you will need to read the rest and, unless you are a very fast reader, that will mean spending a little time and, perhaps, money to make a purchase.

You will see that at the end of each chapter there are exercises and suggested further reading. With luck some will want to look further afield and the readings will merely be a starting point. The exercises are presented as if the reader is part of a group. They have been designed to complement the text in a variety of ways, for example by looking things up, reflecting on your own experience, or doing some observations. I imagine most solitary readers will skip these.

## Crime Prevention

Some of the points will, though, become more vivid if you pause to think about the exercises and in particular if you have a chance to talk to others about them too.

I should also issue you with a health warning. This book will contain errors. Smart readers will spot flaws. This is my first effort to write a textbook and will probably be my last. It's not, I have to say, been much fun, though it has been salutary. It has involved straying from familiar research territory, giving page space to views about which I had learnt to be sceptical, and leaving undeveloped sets of ideas that are presented only in embryonic form. I am reasonably content with what is presented here, at least for now, and hope it is read with more pleasure than was got in its writing. But I also hope that others will do better at what is attempted here and also that I do better in future too, if I am asked to and agree to go to a second edition. Kind readers will send me polite notes putting me right. Nasty ones will be more brutal, or sneer at the arguments in the privacy of their own back yards.

I should issue a few thank-yous to others who have, knowingly or otherwise, helped me with this work.

I wrote this at the invitation of my publisher, Brian Willan, and I think my thanks to him marginally outweigh my curses on him for getting me to do it. Thanks are certainly due for his patience as a series of deadlines for the text came and went.

You will not find a single mention of Karl Popper in the following chapters. He died in 1994, and I never met him. Yet Popper's influence has been profound. It even reaches into this preface! Popper advocated 'piecemeal social engineering'. This involves efforts to reduce specific harms, informed by social science, learning as we go through experimentation to make sure that we are being effective and not inadvertently causing harm. Popper was also a 'fallibilist': he stressed that we could all be mistaken in our thinking, and that one of the main tasks of science is to root out error through criticism. Yet he also emphasised the importance of imagination: the creation of those bold ideas that will almost certainly turn out to be mistaken, even if they are better than their predecessors. Popper explains my interest in crime prevention as an effort to deal with specific harms, my conviction that some of the material in this book will be seriously flawed despite my best endeavours, and my hope that improvements will be made in the future either by myself or others, including you.

Although this book includes a tricky chapter about evaluation,

evaluation is not the main topic. However, the influence of my long-time collaborator in writing on evaluation issues, Ray Pawson, will be clear to all who know our previous work. The motif that is returned to again and again, matching contexts, measures and mechanisms in the generation of outcomes, echoes Pawsonian themes.

I have worked with Gloria Laycock on and off for close to twenty years. During this time we have gently mocked one another's home discipline and habits of thought while collaborating on a variety of projects. We have also jointly taught bemused students, who are unaccustomed to seeing their teachers squabble in front of them. In spite of myself I've learned a lot from Gloria, which will doubtless be reflected in this book. She also kindly read it from start to finish and saved me from many errors of style and substance.

I am grateful to a number of colleagues and sometime PhD students who I bullied into reading and commenting on differing sections of the book. These include Jyoti Belur (Chapter 2), Karen Bullock (Chapters 6 and 7), Aiden Sidebottom (Chapters 1 and 5 to 8) and Gill Westhorp (Chapters 1 to 5 and 8). My daughter Alice, and her partner Cath Willis, who are both psychologists, read and commented (out of family duty) on Chapter 3. My wife, Jenny, read the whole manuscript from cover to cover – twice – to help me try to eliminate as many glitches as possible: what a star!

Finally, over more than two decades of work on crime prevention I have learned much from conversations with a wide range of practitioners, policy-makers and fellow academics. Among the most significant have been Mike Barton, Kate Bowers, Steve Brookes, Rick Brown, Karen Bullock, John Burrows, Sylvia Chenery, Pauline Clare, Ron Clarke, John Eck, Adam Edwards, Paul Ekblom, Graham Farrell, Marcus Felson, Herman Goldstein, Mick Gregson, Niall Hamilton Smith, Sarah Hodgkinson, Peter Homel, Ross Homel, Matt Hopkins, Mike Hough, Shane Johnson, Stuart Kirby, Johannes Knutsson, Gloria Laycock, Roger Matthews, Kate Painter, Ken Pease, Tim Read, Jackie Schneider, Mike Scott, Wes Skogan, Mike Sutton, Machi Tseloni, Barry Webb, Janice Webb, and the late Tom Williamson.

As ever, as author sadly I carry the can for all errors and misconceptions that remain. I'm pretty sure none of those acknowledged here would agree with all that is contained within this book, any more, dear reader, than you will.

Nick Tilley  
Whitby