



Abstracts from the First European Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health, Umea 2023

Editors: Nick Crofts & Jonas Hansson

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Resilient Communities; the Role of Community Organisations in Preventing and Mitigating Adversity	1
<i>Dr Samia Addis, Joanne C. Hopkins,</i>	<i>1</i>
What Works to Prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence?	2
<i>Dr Samia Addis, Laura Snowdon</i>	<i>2</i>
Preventing doping in gyms	3
<i>Felicia Alonzo, Philip Olander, Leila Baksi, Tobias Elgán, Stina Olofsson</i>	<i>3</i>
Public Safety Personnel COVID-19 Mental Health Related Risk Factors: Implications for Police	4
<i>Gregory Anderson, S. Wagner, P. Di Nota, D. Groll</i>	<i>4</i>
Enhancing Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights, Protection and Law Enforcement for a better Resilient Community.	5
<i>Mengee Antoinette Kai, Joe W. Thomas</i>	<i>5</i>
Project IGOR	6
<i>Markus Antonsson.....</i>	<i>6</i>
Policing challenges for proposed drug checking services in Scotland	7
<i>Elizabeth Aston, D. Falzon, H. Carver, W. Masterton, T. Parkes.....</i>	<i>7</i>
Understanding and Preventing County Lines ‘Cuckooing’ Victimisation	8
<i>Dr Laura Bainbridge</i>	<i>8</i>
Lived experience advocates in the classroom: to what extent can they help with LEPH education?	9
<i>Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron.....</i>	<i>9</i>
Violence Intelligence for Prevention (VIP) Hub	10
<i>Emma Barton, Alex Walker, Lara Snowdon, Bryony Parry</i>	<i>10</i>
Reducing speeding through the use of a procedurally just flyer: The Queensland Speeding Engagement Trial (QSET)	11
<i>Lyndel Bates, Sarah Bennet, Claire Irvine, Emma Antrobus, John Gilmour</i>	<i>11</i>
Clubs against drugs	12
<i>Gisella Bjurhäll, Johanna Gripenberg, Jennica Jonsson</i>	<i>12</i>
Intervening against sexual harassment in the police: Efforts and results	13
<i>Tatanya Valland, Brita Bjørkelo, Celine Pedersen</i>	<i>13</i>
Does POLKON create the conditions for a good work environment for the individual police officer?	14
<i>Erik Borglund, Jonas Hansson.....</i>	<i>14</i>

Interventions to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviours in people who have had contact with the criminal justice system: A rapid review check for Australia’s National Suicide Prevention Taskforce	15
<i>Rohan Borschmann, Annie Carter, Amanda Butler, Louise Southalan, Melissa Willoughby, Emilia Janca, Stuart A. Kinner.....</i>	<i>15</i>
Harm Reduction and Law Enforcement Engagement	16
<i>Orisha Bowers, Tiffany Sevier.....</i>	<i>16</i>
Challenges for the police to meet gender-based violence in Sámi communities.....	17
<i>Jennie Brandén</i>	<i>17</i>
Views on Public Service Responses to Vulnerability: A Q Methods Approach	18
<i>Kate Brown.....</i>	<i>18</i>
Tackling Stress with Wearable Technology	19
<i>Dr. Carol Cox, Dr. Amanda Farrell, Dr. Freya O’Brian, Moya Ward.....</i>	<i>19</i>
A Place-based Approach to Analysing Policing Vulnerabilities 2: Qualitative Insights	20
<i>Adam Crawford, Larissa Engelmann</i>	<i>20</i>
The ESRC Centre’s Research and Engagement Ambitions	21
<i>Adam Crawford, Prof. Charlie Lloyd, Dr. Kate Brown.....</i>	<i>21</i>
Holistic Evaluation to Decrease Gun Violence.....	22
<i>Yacov Crawford, Lin Zhu, Marsha Zibalese-Crawford.....</i>	<i>22</i>
The remote trials, the COVID pandemic and the European Human Rights Law: How does the Finnish judicial practice respond?	23
<i>Nasiya Daminova, Anu Mutanen</i>	<i>23</i>
Co-creation of educational tools on vaccination for prison staff	24
<i>Jemima Chantal D’Arcy, Dr Alicia Roselló, Dr Emma Plugge</i>	<i>24</i>
Public health and Law enforcement: Vulnerability among male police officers, impact on the self and public health and wellbeing initiatives.	25
<i>C.J. Dando, D. Ridge, C. Gautier, J. Oliffe, A. Broom, S. Linceviciute.....</i>	<i>25</i>
After a missing person with dementia is found: Return interviews to prevent future incidents	26
<i>Christine Helene Daum, Lauren McLennan, Elyse Letts, Cathy Conway, Lili Liu</i>	<i>26</i>
Community engagement to create dementia-friendly resources for police.....	27
<i>Christine Helene Daum, Cathy Conway, Isabella Chawrun, Hector Perez, Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Lili Liu.....</i>	<i>27</i>

Understanding missing incidents involving persons living with dementia in Canada through analysis of hotline call data	28
<i>Christine Helene Daum, Emily Rutledge, Vanessa Vahedi, Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Lili Liu</i>	<i>28</i>
Developing Police Custody and Forensic Examination Nursing: Trauma, addiction, violence, mental health and recovery, A future model	29
<i>Jessica Davidson, Inga Heyman.....</i>	<i>29</i>
The hidden population in a market driven health care system: Integrated insight into the vulnerable populations reported to various police and care coordination points in Amsterdam.	30
<i>Matty de Wit, Menno Segeren, Marcel Buster, Thijs Faessert</i>	<i>30</i>
County Lines Policing and Exploitation of Vulnerable People: A National Survey	31
<i>Chris Devany, Dr Tobias Kammergaard</i>	<i>31</i>
Pandemics management by the LEAs: The example of STAMINA research project.....	32
<i>Jose L. Diego, STAMINA researchers team</i>	<i>32</i>
Impact of Childhood Adversity and mental health on young person suicide: the CHASE study.....	33
<i>Nadine Dougall, Inga Heyman</i>	<i>33</i>
Police-related triage interventions for mental health: a rapid systematic review of recent evidence	34
<i>Nadine Dougall, Stephen MacGillivray, Inga Heyman & Jennifer Murray.....</i>	<i>34</i>
Minor drug offenses and the use of coercive measures towards youth – who is subjected and on what grounds?	35
<i>Susanne Egnell</i>	<i>35</i>
Studying rapport and empathy training for investigative interviewing	36
<i>Sarah Ericsson, Tova Stenlund, Markus Nyström, Lisa Öman Ekervhén, Martin Carlsson, Paul Davis.....</i>	<i>36</i>
Building Resilience Training into Degree Apprenticeship Programmes: Working Towards Prevention and Culture Change in Policing in England and Wales.....	37
<i>Dr Amanda L. Farell, Dr Timothy J. Ainger, Moya Ward, Dr Carol Cox.....</i>	<i>37</i>
Training for nightlife staff and stakeholders	38
<i>Kristin Feltman, Mattias Brunn</i>	<i>38</i>
Proactive global collaboration on Law Enforcement Suicide: More than just talk	39
<i>Dr Amanda Forrell, J. A. Christopher Scallon, Dr Timothy J. Ainger, Dr C. Gabrielle Salfati.</i>	<i>39</i>

The role of Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) and the follow-up process in Spain towards the UNODC LEO guiding document “Defining the role of law enforcement in substance use prevention within schools”	40
<i>Joseba Zabala Galán</i>	<i>40</i>
Stress and well-being among patrolling police officers	41
<i>Mehdi Ghazinour, Mojgan Padyab, Jonas Hansson, Elin Granholm Valmari, Ann Östman, Mikael Emsing, Hans Löfgren, Arian Rostami</i>	<i>41</i>
Response to Crowd Violence: Identifying Physiological and Psychological Traumas.....	42
<i>Glenn R. Gordon</i>	<i>42</i>
Life balance among police officers.....	43
<i>Elin Granholm Valmari</i>	<i>43</i>
Police officers’ challenges to and resources for health and sustainability	44
<i>Elin Granholm Valmari, Ulla Nygren, Mehdi Ghazinour, Kajsa Gilenstam</i>	<i>44</i>
Evaluation findings of the Bucks County, Pennsylvania (USA) Human Services Co-responder program.....	45
<i>Patricia Griffin</i>	<i>45</i>
A safer environment for both nightlife staff and patrons.....	46
<i>Johanna Gripenberg, Jennica Jonsson, Patrick Widell.....</i>	<i>46</i>
The F.I.T. approach to police mental health and wellbeing.....	47
<i>Dr. Maria (Maki) Haberfeld.....</i>	<i>47</i>
Street-Based Sex Work, Procedural Justice, and Policing in Washington, DC	48
<i>Katie Hail-Jares, Sharon Oselin.....</i>	<i>48</i>
Police work in socio-economically vulnerable areas	49
<i>Jonas Hansson</i>	<i>49</i>
CRIMINALISING CYBERBULLYING: EXPLORING PERCEIVED PUNISHMENT FROM POLICE OFFICERS.....	50
<i>Nazirah Hassan, Alang Azizah</i>	<i>50</i>
Utilising capture-recapture methodology to estimate the prevalence of ‘hidden harm’ during the COVID-19 pandemic	51
<i>Dr Gordon Hay, Emma Barton, Dr Alex Walker, Lara Snowdon, Professor Mark Bellis.....</i>	<i>51</i>
Finding common ground in public health and criminal justice undergraduate education..	52
<i>Inga Heyman, Dr Kirstin Anderson</i>	<i>52</i>
Reimagining the role of police: using cross-agency collaboration to divert vulnerable people from the criminal justice system.....	53

<i>Ebba Herrlander Birgersson</i>	53
Migrant minors in detention – what is the best child protection?	54
<i>Mattias Hjertstedt</i>	54
Stuck in a Rut?' - An Investigation into the Suitability of Current Police Logics for Current & Future Challenges	55
<i>Jamie Hobday</i>	55
Early Action Together Programme; a Multi-Agency, Adverse Childhood Experience Informed Approach to Policing	56
<i>Joanne Hopkins, Huw Williams, Emma Sheeran, Joseff Bromwell</i>	56
Towards a Trauma-informed Wales; a Societal Approach	57
<i>Joanne Hopkins, Natalie Blakeborough</i>	57
Risk Assessment Integration Module (RAIMO)	58
<i>Jarmo Houtsonen</i>	58
An investigation of dementia patients and their family carers' experiences with the criminal justice system in Taiwan	59
<i>Lanying Huang, Zi-Jing Lin</i>	59
Working together to reduce child abuse and exploitation in Taiwan	60
<i>Lanying Huang, Yi-Fen Lu, Yi-Chun Yu, Chuen-Jim Sheu</i>	60
The Role of Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Assessing and Responding to Mental Health and Substance Use in the UK: Findings from the National MIMOS Study	61
<i>Elizabeth Hughes, Steven Ariss, Brynmor Lloyd-Evans, Gail Gilchrist, Kylee Trevillion, Karen Tocque and the MIMOS Team</i>	61
Increased police presence in complex target areas and its impact on citizens perceptions in key processes	62
<i>Miguel Inzunza</i>	62
Mortality among individuals with substance use disorder – impact of violent criminal behaviour in different age groups	63
<i>Martin Joakim Jakobsson</i>	63
Mental health and exercise habits among police students in Sweden: a three-year retrospective study	64
<i>Alexander Jansson, Sandra Krugly, Joakim Ingrell, Daniel Bjärsholm, Jenny Vikman</i>	64
What is the problem represented to be in Swedish police work?	65
<i>Josefina Jarl, Jenny-Ann Brodin Danell, Jonas Hansson</i>	65
Does affected people being detained on the wrong grounds by the police and without receiving the right kind of care	66

<i>Christian Jensen, Anton Molin</i>	66
Where are the Police? - Policing and Harm Reduction	67
<i>Meg Jones, Jason Harwin, Charlie Mack, Darren Nicholas</i>	67
What does good look like in pre-arrest drug diversion programmes	68
<i>Meg Jones, Jason Harwin, Charlie Mack, Darren Nicholas</i>	68
The Cranstoun Model - The Right Intervention at the Right Time	69
<i>Meg Jones, Jason Harwin, Charlie Mack, Darren Nicholas</i>	69
FROM VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO SURVIVOR - AinoAid™ -SERVICES	70
<i>Anna Juusela</i>	70
Dealing with young offenders in Sweden	71
<i>Fredrik Karlsson</i>	71
Innovative tools developed by EU Horizon Research on Domestic Abuse	72
<i>Joachim Kersten, Catharina Vogt, Jarmo Houtsonen, Paul Herbinger</i>	72
Examining the tensions between policing people convicted of sexual offending and promoting the desistance process	73
<i>Stephanie Kewley, Sarah Pemberton</i>	73
Evaluating a peer-led intervention to support clients to vacate warrants following release from prison: a case study from British Columbia, Canada	74
<i>Mo Korchinski, Pamela Young, Cheri McBride, Nelson Luk, Heather Palis, Amanda Slaunwhite</i>	74
Drink Driving - Why We Often Fail to Learn from Best Practice	75
<i>Matej Košir, Sanela Talic</i>	75
The challenges and opportunities of NGO in collaboration with law enforcement officers	76
<i>Matej Košir</i>	76
Enhancing social protection and health for LGBTIQ persons in Liberia	77
<i>Jennifer Kuwa Henshaw, Joe Thomas, Mengee Kai</i>	77
‘HIV ended up in second place’- prioritizing social integration in the shadow of social exclusion: an interview study with migrants living with HIV in Sweden	79
<i>Faustine Kyungu Nkulu Kalengayi, Anna-Karin Hurtig, Anne Adhiambo Ouma</i>	79
Ambiguous Police Pride - Worthy of Great Things	80
<i>Jonna Lappalainen, Bengt Bergman</i>	80
Missing incidents in persons with dementia – What do we know and what do we do?	81
<i>Mikael Larsson, Maria Wolmesjö, Anders Svensson, Rebecca Stenberg</i>	81
Chasing thieves or preventing crime? – Police students’ perception of crime prevention .	82

<i>Mia Lind</i>	82
Judging Recovery: A Qualitative Analysis of ‘Care’ and ‘Control’ in a Scottish Drug Court.	83
<i>Amy Loughery</i>	83
Childhood Adversity, Self-control, and the Risk of Illicit Drug Use: Findings from a Sample of Female Prisoners in Taiwan	84
<i>Yi-Fen Lu, Yi-Chun Yu, Lanying Huang, Chuen- Jim Sheu</i>	84
Self-estimated stress within patrolling police officers	85
<i>Julia Lundén, Emelie Havslilja</i>	85
”Grab’em by the...!” Challenges and resistance to work against sexual harassment within the Swedish police force	86
<i>Silje Lundgren, Malin Wieslander</i>	86
The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Police Officers’ Mental Health	87
<i>Hans O. Löfgren</i>	87
Police work with vulnerable people: A presentation of a police-orientated education of interacting with mentally ill persons.	88
<i>Hans Lövgren, Erik Andersson</i>	88
Whether to degree or not degree is not really the answer to the LEPH question	89
<i>Denise Martin</i>	89
Using Ecological Momentary Assessment design to study the temporal dynamic relations between stress and decision-making performance in patrol police – A study protocol	90
<i>Brian McGuigan, Stefan Holmström, Annika Johansson, Erik Lundkvist</i>	90
When health meets crime: unpacking the conceptual and practical challenges of public health approaches to violence reduction	91
<i>Francesca Menichelli, Sam Weston</i>	91
Harm reduction as an entry point for reducing safety risks of vulnerable population groups.	92
<i>Monique Michal Marks, Michael Wilson</i>	92
Partnership between public health and the police – needed more than ever	93
<i>John Middleton</i>	93
Risk factors associated with missing incidents among persons living with dementia: A retrospective study	94
<i>Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Hector Perez, Emily Rutledge, Christine Daum, Lili Liu.</i>	94
Mystery Shopping Method for Monitoring Underage Alcohol Sales	95
<i>Laura Mišcikiene, Mindaugas Štelemekas, Justina Vaitkeviciute</i>	95

Labeling Segregated Neighborhoods: Assessing the impact of vulnerable area designations on neighborhood level outcomes in Sweden.....	96
<i>Jeffrey Mitchell, Guilherme Kenjy Chihaya Da Silva, Manne Gerell, Juta Kawalerowicz</i>	<i>96</i>
Who gets the blame and who gets the credit? Policing, assistance, and institutional trust among the Roma in Europe.....	97
<i>Jeffrey Mitchell, Daniel La Parra Casado.....</i>	<i>97</i>
Contact Child Sexual Exploitation Victim – Perpetrator Dynamics: Exploring Interpersonal Communicative Patterns.....	98
<i>Vicky Mooney.....</i>	<i>98</i>
Besides Being Scared if I Would Ever Heal, I was Scared Police Could Have Attacked the Shelter”: Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning COVID-19 Adolescents Managed in Protection Shelters in Kampala, Uganda.....	99
<i>Denis Muganga, Aisha Nalwoga, Rehemah Nabbuye, Habibu Byamukama, Quraish Sserwanja.....</i>	<i>99</i>
Does crime prevention work without the participation of the police?	100
<i>Kristofer Nilsson</i>	<i>100</i>
Police and social work partnership education	101
<i>Carina Nyman.....</i>	<i>101</i>
Trust-building in rural areas in Sweden	102
<i>Adam Nyström</i>	<i>102</i>
Elder abuse and neglect: Criminal justice responses in Australia	103
<i>Eileen O'Brien</i>	<i>103</i>
Public health safeguarding! A collaboration between law enforcement and health care professionals in high criminality areas in Sweden.....	104
<i>Stéphanie Paillard-Borg, Robert Ivic Morén</i>	<i>104</i>
Behaviors, Fear and Mistrust of the Police: Understanding Perceptions of Police in Autistic and Autistic-Adjacent Communities	105
<i>Megan M. Parry, Danielle Wallace, Sarah Kaborek</i>	<i>105</i>
Engaging Men and Boys in Sexual Violence Prevention	106
<i>Bryony Parry, Alex Walker, Lara Snowden and Emma Barton.....</i>	<i>106</i>
Improving capabilities of local governments as designer for safe and secure environment	107
<i>Ain Peil, Barbara Haage, Nurmely Mitrahovitš.....</i>	<i>107</i>
Outcomes from a Longitudinal Research Project on Policing Intimate Partner Violence in Rural and Remote Areas in Sweden.....	108

<i>Joakim Petersson, Susanne Strand</i>	108
Where to go from here?: Officer perspectives on the co-responder model in public-safety	109
<i>Linda Phiri</i>	109
The protective role of mentalization in child exploitation investigators: preliminary adaptation and validation of a promising measure	110
<i>Audrey Potz, Julie Maheux, Annie Gendron</i>	110
The role of mentalization in secondary traumatic stress of child abuse investigators: adaptation and validation of a scale	111
<i>Audrey Potz, Julie Maheux, Annie Gendron</i>	111
Challenging and Demanding Work: A study into Stress in the Police	112
<i>Lillis Rabbing, Professor Bjørn Lau, Associate professor Knut Inge Fostervold, Associate professor Eva Langvik, Professor Rita Bjørkelo</i>	112
Reducing criminal recidivism associated with substance misuse: The Set Free Model	113
<i>Ryan Ray, Alli Madison</i>	113
The presence of a dog restores cognitive performance in police officers with post-traumatic stress disorder	114
<i>Charlotte L. Roelofs, M. L. A. Jongma, E. Becker, A. S. Smit</i>	114
Work-related stress in relation to gender-based and sexual harassment among a group of Swedish police officers	115
<i>Arian Rostami, Mehdi Ghazinour, Monica Burman, Jonas Hansson</i>	115
Gender-based and sexual harassment against Swedish police officers	116
<i>Arian Rostami, Mehdi Ghazinour, Monica Burman, Jonas Hansson</i>	116
The Role of Police within the ‘Risk Environment’: Understanding Future Service Users’ Perspectives of an Overdose Prevention Centre in the UK	117
<i>Benjamin Scher, Ma Southwell, Dr Magdalena Harris, Dr Gillian W Shorter</i>	117
Hungarian vs. American mediators and how to make communities more resilient	118
<i>Laura Schmidt</i>	118
Women’s Pathways to Offending; Identifying Opportunities for Prevention and Early Intervention	119
<i>Emma Sheeran, Samia Addis</i>	119
The meaning of private sector in building social sustainable societies	120
<i>Magdalena Sjöberg, Malin Eriksson</i>	120
Emergency preparedness for CBRN incidents – The European Melody project	121

<i>D. Sjöberg, A. Johansson, T Clarijs, L. Trudic, G. Veldhuis, S. Rutjes, S. Stöven</i>	121
Wales Without Violence - Strategic Framework for the Prevention of Youth Violence in Wales	122
<i>Lara Snowdon, Bryony Parry, Alex Walker, Emma Barton</i>	122
Risk factors associated with Burnout amongst Investigators working on Rape and Other Sexual Offence (RAOSO) investigations in England and Wales: Implications for Police Investigations	123
<i>Arun Sondhi, Richard Harding, Emma Williams</i>	123
Collaboration about missing persons – fragmented talk or coordinated learning system?	124
<i>Rebecca Stenberg, Maria Wolmesjö</i>	124
Preventing and combating sexual harassment in Swedish police education	125
<i>Johanna Sundqvist, Erik Jonsson, Erika Ingvarsson</i>	125
Connective professionalism and the four I's framework in designing a sustainable police organization	126
<i>Priit Suve</i>	126
How cross-service collaboration can improve community safety and wellbeing: a case study	127
<i>Andrew Tatnell, Nadine Dougall, Inga Heyman, Andrew Wooff</i>	127
Job analysis of Swedish Police	128
<i>Peter Tedeholm</i>	128
Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers: Exploring the technological solutions that can improve live multiagency information sharing, in order to support those who experience mental health distress	129
<i>Callum Thomson, Inga Heyman, Nadine Dougall, Olivia Sagan</i>	129
Police work with vulnerable people - Narcotics	130
<i>Tommy Töllinoja</i>	130
Changing policing for communities. Law enforcement and public health as an emerging field of practices, concepts and research	131
<i>Auke Van Dijk</i>	131
Plymouth County Outreach (PCO): A case study of a countywide police/treatment partnership approach to the opioids crisis	132
<i>Sean Varano</i>	132
Online Training Platform for Frontline Responders to Manage Domestic Violence	133
<i>Catharina Vogt</i>	133

Bystander Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic	134
<i>Alex Walker, Rachel Fenton, Lara Snowdon, Emma Barton, Bryony Parry, Catherine Donovan and Mark Bellis</i> 134
The Emergency Care Competence Needed for Police Patrol Officers According to the Experts– a National Swedish Delphi Study	135
<i>Kim Wallin, Mats Holmberg, Henrik Andersson, Ola Kronkvist, Anders Svensson</i> 135
Online Child Sexual Exploitation: A Locally-Based Study	136
<i>Christine Weirich, Larissa Engelmann</i> 136
How the duty to report prevents reporting – paradoxes in combating sexual harassment within the Swedish police	137
<i>Malin Wieslander, Silje Lundgren</i> 137
How to increase safety before and during a missing episode? Co-production between eldercare and Police in the process of searching for a person with cognitive impairments	138
<i>Maria Wolmesjö, Rebecca Stenberg</i> 138
Guiding principles of a peer-led intervention to support the transition to community among people released from prison in British Columbia, Canada	139
<i>Pamela Young, Mo Korchinski, Heather Palis, Nelson Luk, Jessica Xavier, Amanda Slaunwhite</i> 139
Physical condition and resilience among patrolling police officers	140
<i>Ann Österman</i> 140

Resilient Communities; the Role of Community Organisations in Preventing and Mitigating Adversity

Dr Samia Addis, Joanne C. Hopkins,

Background:

The literature indicates that community-based interventions can build resilience, support individuals with services and build strong bonds. Self-healing on a community level involves collective engagement as people affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma come together around activities that have the potential to foster individual and community resilience.

Research objectives:

The aim was to identify and map community interventions across Wales which attempt to prevent and mitigate ACEs and adversity. Also, to identify the most effective way to support these projects and to explore the impact they have on communities.

Methods:

This research used mixed methods, including a literature review to identify frameworks and interventions assessed as being effective at preventing ACEs; a survey to identify and map community projects across Wales; focus groups with stakeholders and beneficiaries of services and case studies of community projects.

Results:

The literature review identified a number of successful interventions, with a focus on community-based initiatives which provide a joined-up response to adversity. Projects identified in Wales worked with a range of community groups and addressed a range of adversity. Stakeholders outlined how community organisations could be supported, including funding, supporting staff development and wellbeing and practical support. Finally, beneficiaries of community projects note a range of benefits including wellbeing and parenting support, friendship and advocacy in respect of health, welfare and education services.

Conclusion:

Community projects provide an effective local response to address community need. Supporting these community organisations requires a multifaceted approach encompassing funding, staff support and development and practical assistance. There is also the need for the development of networks which would facilitate mutual support and allow for a more cohesive provision of services.

What Works to Prevent Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence?

Dr Samia Addis, Laura Snowdon

Background:

Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) is a major public health problem, a criminal justice issue, and human rights violation which harms the health of communities, societies, and economies.

Research objectives:

This review identifies effective practice for preventing VAWDASV. It is underpinned by public health principles which provide a framework to understand the causes and consequences of violence and prevention.

Methods:

A database search identified reviews of interventions designed to prevent VAWDASV, published since 2014; a supplementary search identified primary studies published since 2018. Reviews (n=35) and primary studies (n=16) focused on a range of types of violence and interventions. Interventions were mapped using a socio-ecological framework.

Results:

At the individual and relationship level, interventions attempt to transform harmful gender norms, promote healthy relationships, and promote empowerment. In the community, effective interventions were identified in schools, workplaces, and health settings. At the societal level, interventions relate to legislation and alcohol policy. The findings reveal a wealth of literature however, no interventions were identified in relation to the prevention of trafficking, VAWDASV among older age groups or so-called honour-based abuse other than female genital mutilation. Also, while interventions focus on change at the individual and relationship level and within community settings, there is less evidence for societal level prevention.

Conclusion:

VAWDASV prevention is both feasible and effective with the literature pointing to numerous examples of promising practice. Evidence suggests the most effective approach would be a multi-layered approach which creates an 'ecosystem' of interventions across different settings and contexts. There is also a need to invest in prevention programming and high-quality research to continue to guide efforts to prevent VAWDASV.

Preventing doping in gyms

Felicia Alonzo, Philip Olander, Leila Baksi, Tobias Elgán, Stina Olofsson

The use of doping can result in violence both in the streets and within people's home (domestic violence). By engaging the gyms in Stockholm within the method 100 % Pure Hard Training we can make it harder to use doping at the gyms. This presentation will describe how to mobilize the gym business, actions taken from the gym business and the police and some results of the cooperation.

Public Safety Personnel COVID-19 Mental Health Related Risk Factors: Implications for Police

Gregory Anderson, S. Wagner, P. Di Nota, D. Groll

Public Safety Personnel COVID-19 Mental Health Related Risk Factors: Implications for Police GS
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Background:

Public safety personnel (PSP) are known to experience difficult and demanding occupational environments, which has been complicated by the COVID-19 crisis. Firefighters, paramedics, and public safety communicators were among the front-line workers that continued to serve the public throughout the course of the pandemic.

Research Objectives:

The present study considered the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on self-reported symptoms of mental health challenges in Canadian firefighters, paramedics, and public safety communicators.

Methods:

Participants were firefighters (n = 123), paramedics (n = 246), and public safety communicators (n = 48), who completed an online survey between November 2020 and March 2021, including demographics, questions related to COVID-19 exposure and worry at two time points, the Patient Health Questionnaire-9, the Generalized Anxiety Disorder-7, the Social Interaction Phobia Scale, and the Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Checklist-5.

Results:

Increased risk factors for increased mental health symptom reporting were paramedic occupation, self-identified female, younger in age, COVID-19 personal contact, requirement to self-isolate, and self-perception of COVID-19 contraction (without confirmation through testing).

Conclusion:

As COVID exposure potential is similar in both paramedics and police (both requiring public interaction at close proximity and potential transfer), the COVID-19 crisis should be considered a risk factor for increased mental health symptom reporting in PSP. Intervention efforts should be planned accordingly.

Enhancing Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights, Protection and Law Enforcement for a better Resilient Community.

Mengee Antoinette Kai, Joe W. Thomas

Topic:

Enhancing Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights, Protection and Law Enforcement for a better Resilient Community.

Abstract Summary:

Enhancing Sexual Reproductive Health & Rights, Protection and Law Enforcement for a better Resilient Community is placing key emphasis on issues affecting Law Enforcement Officers Women, Adolescent Groups of Police Officers having limited access to information about their Self-Wellbeing, Self-Care, respects of the sexual health rights, and limited level of response to sexual minority groups (LGBTIQA+) by increasing their ability, changes or opportunities in enjoying access to their social health, and ways of rapidly increasing their abilities, commitments to take actions on creating a more collaborative way of public or community police or law enforcement partnerships ending marginalization's, discriminations and stigma using existing local, regional and international legal frame work in advancing SRHR issues as an integrated component to inclusively create a more resilient community leveeing no behind.

Background:

The primary aim of this abstract is to explore and advance the existing experiences of working with Law Enforcement Officers across Liberia for over 10years of expertise in community building, sensitization on Human Rights, available Rights Instruments, training on SOGIE related issues, increasing level of confidentiality amongst public police partnerships with sexual minority groups (LGBTIQA+ persons), over 35 law enforcement officers reached with STI, TB, HIV&AIDs, Malaria prevention and comprehensive care packages, and with volunteerism responding to abuse, violation cases at the community level, as well as representations and participations through networking and collaborations with other community based groups or organization. men who have sex with men (MSM) recently diagnosed with HIV and their partner notification practices.

Method:

Over 35 Law Enforcement Officers trained and structure in Community Watch Teams

Project IGOR

Markus Antonsson

IGOR stands for "In joint organization against relational violence" (focus on men's lethal violence and violence against women) and is an employee-driven and cross-agency pilot project in the City police area. The responsibility for the project lies jointly with both the Södermalm local police area and the Södermalm district administration and is also the project's geographic catchment area. The group currently consists of five (soon) police officers (one of whom is the group leader and project manager) and two social workers (from the relationship violence team) who work together every day. The project carries out a number of different measures against the perpetrators of violence and at the same time offers extended support to victims of violence.

Men's violence against women often occurs without the knowledge of the police or social services, and therefore the project tries to gain knowledge of relationships where partner violence occurs (dark stories) that the authorities are unaware of. The project wants to prevent partner violence and put an end to repeated partner violence. Through several contemporary parallel measures for victims of violence and against perpetrators of violence, as well as through close contact and feedback/follow-up with the various parties, the group hopes to be able to stop or at least counteract/reduce the problem.

The project also tries to create the conditions for more and better investigation measures that create more robust preliminary investigations which in turn lead to more convictions. In addition to the operational work, IGOR (for the local project to function) has implemented and is trying to implement a variety of regional and national development/change issues, e.g:

- Added "Crime in a close relationship" to the scroll list where the public leaves tips on www.polisen.se.
- Pushed through digital door knocking where PKC (Police contact center 11414) will help IGOR (first uniformed officers on a case).

Policing challenges for proposed drug checking services in Scotland

Elizabeth Aston, D. Falzon, H. Carver, W. Masterton, T. Parkes

Background:

There is strong evidence that enforcement-based policing practices in relation to drug possession for personal use can negatively impact upon health outcomes for people who use drugs and reduce engagement with harm reduction services due to fear of criminalisation.

Research Objectives:

This paper seeks to explore police officers' perceptions of the proposed implementation of Drug Checking Services (DCS) in Scotland; what they believe to be the main challenges and best approach in relation to the policing of the surrounding areas; their views on criminalisation of personal possession more generally, and how this relates to DCS.

Methods:

This paper uses semi-structured interviews to explore police officer perceptions of the policing challenges facing proposed DCS. It is drawn from a larger project aiming to inform the implementation of DCS in three Scottish cities.

Results:

Participants were generally supportive of DCS and described this support as part of a wider organisational shift towards public health-oriented policing. Various potential approaches to policing of areas surrounding DCS were discussed. These included formal limits on police presence and or stop and search powers in relation to personal possession in the area; effective decriminalisation of personal possession within a specified boundary around the service; and informal agreements between local divisions and the service outlining expected policing practices. Formal limitations on the capacity of police officers to respond to community concerns were viewed as problematic. Participants also highlighted the potential for frontline officers to utilise discretion in ways that could undermine public health goals. Legislative change, or national strategic guidance from stakeholders, were seen as ways of enabling local divisions to support the operation of DCS.

Conclusions:

Findings indicate a perceived need for careful consideration and discussion of the steps necessary to move towards a more public health approach to the policing of drug possession, one which enables access to vital harm reduction services. We conclude with implications for policy and practice in terms of how to develop approaches to policing that can facilitate the implementation of DCS and access to harm reduction services for people who use drugs.

Understanding and Preventing County Lines ‘Cuckooing’ Victimisation

Dr Laura Bainbridge

Background:

This study seeks to understand ‘cuckooing’ victimisation. ‘Cuckooing’, named after the predatory tactics of cuckoo birds, refers to an exploitative practice in which drug dealers take over vulnerable persons’ homes for the purposes of storing and moving drugs. It is often associated with county lines drug dealing.

Research Objectives or Program Description:

The primary objective of this research is to elicit an understanding of ‘how’ and ‘why’ cuckooing happens and how it can be prevented. The primary output of this research is a tactical plan for police professionals as well as academic outputs which will contribute to the ongoing development of knowledge on modern slavery.

Methods or Activities:

This study draws upon a thorough framework analysis of literature (academic, policy and grey) and qualitative interviews with police personnel, victims, and ‘cuckooing’ perpetrators.

Results or Evaluation:

Findings underscore the lack of a co-ordinated legal or public policy framework to respond to home takeovers of vulnerable persons. It is unclear which agency is primarily responsible for ‘cuckooing’, as policy responses are spread across domains such as the police, housing, social services, and the third sector, with an increase in housing-related enforcement such as evictions and closure orders. Additionally, there is a need to think beyond enforcement and to understand home takeovers beyond county lines parameters.

Conclusions or Implications:

The lack of a co-ordinated legal or public policy framework for ‘cuckooing’ could increase the likelihood of home takeovers going unnoticed and could frustrate attempts to prevent these happening. Moreover, the association with county lines creates an enforcement-focused response which might not reflect victims’ vulnerabilities or needs.

Lived experience advocates in the classroom: to what extent can they help with LEPH education?

Isabelle Bartkowiak-Théron

With the Law Enforcement and Public Health field of scholarship taking off as part of global efforts to establish and sustain LEPH collaborations, police officers are increasingly becoming aware of the intricacies of multidisciplinary partnerships in problem solving. Vulnerable people are often at the centre of these partnerships. Although there have been efforts in terms of consultation, engagement and representation in the design and implementation of these initiatives, vulnerable people remain more on the receiving end of these initiatives. In this presentation, I will argue that cultural competency needs to be introduced early in the career and training police officers, and that introduction to lived experiences shows some promise in familiarising police recruits with vulnerable communities and the support services that can be used towards complex problem-solving. At the same time, and through a systems thinking approach to police education, I will use three educational case studies (focused on alcohol and other drugs, refugees, and indigeneity) to highlight obstacles and difficulties associated with bringing lived experiences in the police classroom, as well as the significant benefits that exist in fostering a true LEPH learning experience for policing students.

Violence Intelligence for Prevention (VIP) Hub

Emma Barton, Alex Walker, Lara Snowdon, Bryony Parry

Background:

One of the main activities of the Wales Violence Prevention Unit (VPU) is to assist partners to profile all forms of violence across Wales. The VPU bring multi-agency data together to provide analysis that will identify patterns, trends and hotspots of violence to enable partners to tackle the issues. The VPU supports this work through establishing a Wales Violence Intelligence for Prevention (VIP) Hub. The VIP hub brings together data from multiple sources including health and police data.

Programme Description:

The VIP hub has the following objectives: provide a holistic representation of the epidemiology of violence at a national and local level in Wales; Profile communities at-risk of violence; Enable localised solutions to violence in Wales.

Activities:

The VIP hub has been developed as a bespoke data hub that 'warehouses' relevant data, providing a digital platform that allows for aggregation and presentation of different data sources on violence using a variety of mediums.

Conclusion:

The VIP Hub is in the pilot stage at time of writing this proposal, with the ambition to fully launch the hub in March 2023. The VIP hub allows for to access multi-agency data to inform their strategic and operational activity.

Reducing speeding through the use of a procedurally just flyer: The Queensland Speeding Engagement Trial (QSET)

Lyndel Bates, Sarah Bennet, Claire Irvine, Emma Antrobus, John Gilmour

Background:

Speeding is a major contributing factor to fatalities and road crashes. Evidence suggests that speed camera programs reduce travelling speeds as well as injuries and fatalities associated with crashes. However, many drivers do not hold positive views of speed cameras and speed enforcement. This project involved the provision of a flyer that was constructed using the principles of procedural justice to individuals who had been issued a camera detected speeding infringement notice. Procedural justice has been found to increase compliance and improve perceptions of police when delivered in face-to-face contexts but there is limited research in alternative types of interactions.

Research objectives:

The objective of this research was to identify if (a) a procedurally just intervention has an effect if it is delivered in a written format and (b) if there is an impact on subsequently detected speeding behaviour.

Methods:

The intervention was trialled using a randomised field experiment design. During the trial period, 16,406 drivers received a camera-detected infringement notice. Batches of these notices were randomly assigned to either the control (business as usual) or experimental (included the procedural justice flyer). Results: Individuals over the age of 25 years who received a procedural justice flyer with their camera detected speeding infringement notice were 11 per cent less likely to receive an additional speeding fine when compared with those who received the standard traffic infringement notice without the additional flyer.

Conclusions and implications:

This project indicates that it is possible for police agencies to engage in procedurally just interactions with individuals in a written format and that these can reduce subsequent offending behaviour. Thus, police agencies should ensure that they incorporate the principles of procedural justice even when the interaction is in a written format.

Clubs against drugs

Gisella Bjurhäll, Johanna Gripenberg, Jennica Jonsson

Clubs Against Drugs is a network in Stockholm where clubs, pubs, hotels and other licensed premises work together with authorities to prevent drug use and drug dealing in and around the entertainment district in the City centre. The police have implemented a collaboration desk to strengthen the relations. The presentation will describe how the network is built up, different stakeholder's activities and how we build relations. We will also show results of the work and the latest media campaign.

Intervening against sexual harassment in the police: Efforts and results

Tatanya Valland, Brita Bjørkelo, Celine Pedersen

“Speak Up!” A practice-oriented research project on the prevention of Sexual Harassment (SUSH, Nielsen et al., 2022) is conducted with working life actors from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. SUSH responds to the call for prevention efforts becoming more aware of “intersecting stigmatized identities” in sexual harassment (SH) (Danna et al., 2020, p. 208), is positioned in the ethical infrastructure tradition (Tenbrunsel et al., 2003, p. 285), and targets bystanders. The main aim in SUSH is to develop and test the effect of theory- and research-based bystander SH interventions.

The Norwegian pilot (1) compiles documentation on existing efforts on prevention and intervention of SH in the NPS and at the NPUC, and (2) will start to culturally adapt a Danish bystander intervention with a focus on the characteristics of the involved persons (e.g., intersectionality) and the organisation (police). Preliminary results show that a number of initiatives from the Norwegian Police Service varying from verbal and written (action plans, posters etc.) information (raising awareness) to dilemma training (exercise) have been made. It also seems like the attention drawn towards SH work is linked to research efforts and cases becoming known to the public. Based on the data we have been able to obtain, it seems that focus is devoted to awareness and training over effects. A professional translation of the Danish “Intervene-SH” into Norwegian as well as the cultural adaptation with a focus on the characteristics of the involved persons and the organization is in progress. Input is gathered from our working life partner, the diversity committee at the Norwegian Police University College, HR in the National Police Directorate, as well as others (e.g., previous students).

Implications are to increase awareness of the negative consequences of passive or colluding bystander behaviour and of risk situations for SH. The long-term aim is providing SH interventions for at work.

Does POLKON create the conditions for a good work environment for the individual police officer?

Erik Borglund, Jonas Hansson

The purpose of this project was to study in a scientific and structured manner whether, regarding the integration of subject areas mental, communicative and tactical, the Swedish Police's conflict-management concept POLKON creates the conditions for a good work environment for individual police officers.

The purpose of the knowledge and skills within POLKON is to increase the police officers' ability to act legally, reduce the risks for both police officers and others and to reduce the risk of violence. The project origin from the increase of police lethal force against people with mental health problems and is part of the ongoing quality assurance of POLKON as a concept in systematic work environment management.

Semi-structured interviews have been conducted with a patrolling and emergency response police officer, an inspector (chief of group), a sergeant (in charge of field operations) and a POLKON instructor in each police region (seven); so, a total of 28 interviews. Findings will be presented and discussed in relation to theories and previous research. Implications for practice will be proposed.

Interventions to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviours in people who have had contact with the criminal justice system: A rapid review check for Australia's National Suicide Prevention Taskforce

Rohan Borschmann, Annie Carter, Amanda Butler, Louise Southalan, Melissa Willoughby, Emilia Janca, Stuart A. Kinner

Background:

Despite a considerable body of evidence documenting an association between contact with the criminal justice system and increased suicide risk, little is known about the effectiveness of interventions to prevent suicide (and reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviours) in criminal justice settings.

Methods:

We conducted a rapid review to identify literature regarding the effectiveness of interventions to reduce suicide and suicide-related behaviours in people who have come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Results:

Our final review included 36 articles: 32 primary research articles, two reviews, and two grey literature reports. The majority of suicide prevention interventions (n = 23; 64%) were set in adult prisons, five (14%) were set in youth detention settings. The overall quality of the evidence supporting the effectiveness of interventions was poor.

Conclusions:

Whilst a considerable number of suicide prevention initiatives and interventions have been conducted in various jurisdictions and at various points along the criminal justice system pathway, the overwhelming majority of these have not been formally evaluated and/or suffer from significant methodological limitations. Contact with the criminal justice system, and imprisonment in particular, provides a rare opportunity to identify (and initiate care for) marginalised and under-served people who may be at increased risk of suicide.

Harm Reduction and Law Enforcement Engagement

Orisha Bowers, Tiffany Sevier

The presentation is a candid discussion on the process, research, and findings of the National Harm Reduction Coalition's HepConnect Initiative: Law Enforcement Engagement Project led by Dr. Orisha Bowers, Executive Director of National Harm Reduction Coalition and former Law Enforcement Engagement Consultant and now Executive Director of Tennessee Harm Reduction Coalition, Tiffany L. Sevier. Sevier and Bowers highlight how they assisted and interviewed HepConnect grantees (Harm Reduction providers) and law enforcement and military personnel on how to build relationships and trust as useful to facilitate harm reduction efforts in five Southeastern United States communities (Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Indiana, and West Virginia).

Tiffany, a member of the armed forces, and is completing her Master's Degree in the field of law and sheds expertise in how to work collaboratively with community leaders and why it's imperative. Bowers, speaks to the need for radical partnership to save lives on both sides of the conversation.

Challenges for the police to meet gender-based violence in Sámi communities

Jennie Brandén

Violence against women is a significant societal and public health problem that negatively affects women's physical and mental health globally as well as in Sweden. Although Sweden often praise itself as the most gender equal nation in the world, the issue of violence against Sámi women remains a blind spot. Up until today, data is lacking on the exposure to various forms of violence among Sámi women and knowledge is scarce regarding how the societal support system meet and prevent gender-based violence within Sámi communities.

Against this backdrop, the ongoing research project "Violence against Sámi women" that is funded by the Sámi parliament in Sweden, aims to address this knowledge gap. A central actor in tackling violence against Sámi women that has been identified within the project is the Swedish Police. Previous research points to specific challenges for identifying and addressing gender-based violence in Sámi communities. There are historical, political, and social factors, related not least to past and present colonial power relations, that could negatively affect trust in the police, accessibility to police services and the competence within the police related to the specific and contextual challenges of this violence.

Drawing on interviews with police officers operating in various parts of Sápmi in Sweden, I will in this presentation focus on the experiences of meeting violence against Sámi women within the police. Based on these interviews I will also discuss what problematizations around this violence that are produced within the police and point to both opportunities and challenges for the police to address violence against Sámi women in a Swedish context.

Views on Public Service Responses to Vulnerability: A Q Methods Approach

Kate Brown

The significance of vulnerability as a governance mechanism continues to grow, with policing now playing a key role in strategic and street-level mobilisation of the concept in UK public services. The small but burgeoning literature on the operationalisation of vulnerability focuses mainly on particular policy domains, with debates about the rise of vulnerability in social support and criminal justice arenas remaining largely disconnected. This paper introduces a study which explores views on the operationalisation of vulnerability across public services in the English city of Bradford, with a particular focus on the Police as operating within a network of linked public service provision that creates and responds to vulnerability. The study uses Q methodology, a mixed method that combines the richness of qualitative data and the rigour of statistical analysis to analyse patterns in human subjectivity. We will outline how the study will explore convergent and divergent views on 'vulnerability' from a relatively small but heterogeneous sample of participants. In bringing together the views of both the providers and receivers of core public services in Bradford, we aim to understand more about how vulnerability governance can be advanced in ways that are most effective for public service provision and most beneficial for vulnerable people.

Tackling Stress with Wearable Technology

Dr. Carol Cox, Dr. Amanda Farrell, Dr. Freya O'Brian, Moya Ward

Policing in the United Kingdom is facing challenges like never before, with the level of demand rising sharply above the numbers of police officers available to meet calls for service. The police officers of today are often the first point of contact for the most vulnerable in society, expected to provide a high level of service to those who need it. It is well documented that crime is changing. Expectations are high, as too is the level of scrutiny that policing has faced. The public confidence in the police service has fallen dramatically, with the latest figures showing an 8% drop compared to recent years. High levels of stress, poor sleep quality and high attrition of new officers have also been reported by national surveys. This trend needs to change, and so Liverpool John Moores University, Oscar Kilo and Whoop have piloted a study with serving Police officers to actively promote individual wellbeing and recovery. It is hoped that this will supplement the support that Occupational Health Units, by providing an opportunity for officers to take positive steps to improve their own welfare. A Whoop band measures strain and stress levels, in addition to sleep, rest, and recovery levels. Whilst doing so, it also provides valuable educational insights designed to inform and empower police officers to make positive choices which maximise their own resilience. The pilot data has shown changes in individual officer biometric data, and the importance of officers trusting the process. The exciting next steps of this study include further exploration around the psychological and social wellbeing of officers wearing the bands and Senior Leaders understanding of the technology.

A Place-based Approach to Analysing Policing Vulnerabilities 2: Qualitative Insights

Adam Crawford, Larissa Engelmann

Complementing (Abstract 139), this presentation explores organisational interactions and outcomes from the perspective of service providers and service users/recipients. It will provide qualitative insights into the narratives of service providers and vulnerable groups to better understand vulnerability conditions and service responses, as well as the compounding and interdependent effects of interactions between vulnerabilities and services. The study is seeking to better understand Bradford's services for vulnerable people in contact with the police. The study has three main objectives, focused on developing an understanding of: (i) the relationships and links between organisations providing services for vulnerable people; (ii) how individuals are referred and processed through different systems (e.g., Health, Social Care, Criminal Justice, third sector) and how individuals, families and groups come to use different services; and (iii) the role of practitioners working at the periphery of different services, bridging the gap and acting as a connector of different services. Particularly, how they manage relationships between organisations and help bring about changes which benefit vulnerable people.

The ESRC Centre's Research and Engagement Ambitions

Adam Crawford, Prof. Charlie Lloyd, Dr. Kate Brown

This presentation will outline the ESRC Centre's aims, approach and programme of research. It will provide an overview of the programme of research, engagement and knowledge exchange. In particular, it will review the Centre's approach to co-production, lived experiences, capacity building, responsible innovation, ethics and research translation, notably with regard to engagement with policy, practice and public.

Holistic Evaluation to Decrease Gun Violence

Yacov Crawford, Lin Zhu, Marsha Zibalese-Crawford

An oral presentation with Q&A would allow for diverse conversation on the implications of evolving the evaluatory efforts to holistic on the streets partnership and transforming the evaluator-evaluated relationship. The Nicetown CDC (NTCDC) created the NTCDC Expansion Program (NiceSpace) as a collaborative effort to bring capacity building and support the most at-risk from engaging in or being victims of gun violence. The target population was black and brown men and boys between the ages of 16-34 years of age, who were formerly incarcerated or have court-ordered community service obligations. Keshar-A-Keshar was brought in to evaluate NiceSpace from its start. Efforts at monitoring the program from inception through the four cohorts has seen an evolution in design. The initial proposal was more traditional. However, due to the needs of both the organization and the participants it became clear that if the wraparound services being offered to the target population were to succeed, the evaluators must pivot and provide wraparound evaluation. Additionally, the toolkit for obtaining the actionable information about the individuals and the community needed to be expanded to include non-traditional sources such as photovoice. This is information that both the community and law enforcement is lacking. Without the evaluators expanding the capacity of the organization and getting involved with the participants and incorporating their individual perspective and lived experience the evidence of success would not be as evident. The data is showing that the holistic efforts by the evaluators has garnered results inclusive of zero participant reoffense, as well as less tangible outcomes such as finding their place in their community and financial independence. The information gathered is informing how NTCDC and others, including local police, are choosing to engage with the community and target population moving forward.

The remote trials, the COVID pandemic and the European Human Rights Law: How does the Finnish judicial practice respond?

Nasiya Daminova, Anu Mutanen

The public health restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic in Finland accelerated the use of digital technology for remote hearings, making them an issue of crucial importance to the national law enforcement. Even though the remote participation in criminal and civil trials was possible before the COVID pandemic under the Finnish Criminal Procedure Act or the Finnish Code of Judicial Procedure since 2019, the National Courts Administration created additional new Guidelines on online hearings (2020). Indeed, the digitalisation of judicial systems due to the COVID-19 restrictions has a great potential to generate substantial benefits in the efficiency and timely processing of criminal and civil cases. At the same time, these novelties also pose significant risks for such crucial procedural rights as the principles of presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and to an effective remedy, the right to a legal assistance and legal aid under Section 21 'Protection under the law' of the Finnish Constitution. Moreover, given that Finland participates both in the Council of Europe and the European Union, the national judicial authorities are also bound by the case-law of the CJEU and of the ECtHR - which adds complexity to the overall situation. The ECtHR (Colozza, Marcello Viola, Grigoryevskikh) and the CJEU (Johnston, DEB, Samba Diouf) prominently developed the proportionality tests (potentially) applicable to the area of remote trials, which underline the need to guarantee the effective participation of the party in the criminal/civil proceedings. Given this background – as well as the feedback received from the Finnish Ministry of Justice, this paper aims to address if and how the (1) new Guidelines on online hearings (2020) and (2) the CJEU/ECtHR balancing tests could affect the practices on remote hearings in Finland, in order to make suggestions for greater coherency in application of the pandemic restrictions within this multilayer legal framework.

Co-creation of educational tools on vaccination for prison staff

Jemima Chantal D'Arcy, Dr Alicia Roselló, Dr Emma Plugge

People living and working in prison are at increased risk of infection compared with the general population (1). These infections include vaccine-preventable diseases. RISE-Vac is a 3-year EU co-funded project looking to increase vaccine literacy and uptake in prison populations across Europe. To achieve this, the project is developing educational materials on vaccination for prison staff, both healthcare and custodial staff. An expert reference group was established to advise the development of these materials. Consultation questionnaires were sent out to prison staff networks in the UK, France, Germany, Austria, Cyprus and Moldova, to determine the most suitable length, delivery and contents of educational materials on vaccination for the target population. Analysis of responses show that prison healthcare and custodial staff are open to learning more about vaccination, particularly about risk factors associated to prison populations for vaccine preventable diseases, and the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.

The format of the course will be an eLearning course, with champions in prison sites who can promote and disseminate the course. The course will comprise an introductory module on how vaccines work, which will be optional for healthcare staff but mandatory for custodial staff. The course will also cover safety of vaccines including clinical trial and approval processes, effectiveness of common vaccines (COVID-19, influenza, HPV, HBV, MMR, polio) and a specific module on prison health, explaining why prison population are at higher risk of vaccine preventable disease outbreaks. It is anticipated that this increased knowledge is translated into influential behaviour by prison staff by encouraging vaccination in their peers and people living in prison. However, the impact of this course will be evaluated to determine whether there is in fact an increase in knowledge on vaccines in prison healthcare and custodial staff.

Public health and Law enforcement: Vulnerability among male police officers, impact on the self and public health and wellbeing initiatives.

C.J. Dando, D. Ridge, C. Gautier, J. Oliffe, A. Broom, S. Linceviciute

Background

Encouraging men to open-up about their feelings is a new cultural directive. Yet little is known about expressions of vulnerability in traditionally male dominated professions in the UK, such as the police service, and how professional wellbeing impacts recognising and managing public health challenges by frontline workers.

Research Objectives

We investigated experiences of male first responders - police; paramedics; firefighters/rescue – and how organisational cultures/structures impact expressions of vulnerability and wellbeing. Of interest was how the provision of specific interventions and care influence what is and isn't possible for frontline workers, specifically the day-to-day professional consequences for police.

Methods

A purposeful sample of 21 UK front line professionals working within first responder services participated in one-to-one interviews. Thematic analysis was used to capture patterns and meanings to understand variations and similarities of experiences

Results

Four themes emerged, i) distress; ii) saviours & law enforcers; iii) expressing vulnerability; iv) managing vulnerability. Contrasts uncovered across professions were remarkable, providing insight into unique experiences of police who reported snowballing workloads, doing more with less, and feeling ill prepared to navigate increased public health demands centred on societal mental health problems .

Conclusions

Police vulnerabilities (e.g., guilt, powerlessness, fear, failure, trauma) often triggered by the public health challenges they regularly and increasingly encountered featured as collateral. Trauma-related outcomes (aggression, alcohol misuse, and distressed intimate partner relationships) were common. Findings provide novel insights into how vulnerability is institutionally regulated, and how the intersection of police (and other front-line professions) and public health will likely remain inadequately understood until police wellbeing is better managed, perhaps

After a missing person with dementia is found: Return interviews to prevent future incidents

Christine Helene Daum, Lauren McLennan, Elyse Letts, Cathy Conway, Lili Liu

Background:

Persons living with dementia who go missing is a growing concern in law enforcement and public health. Return interviews may prevent repeat missing incidents but are seldom used with this population in Canada. In the United Kingdom, interviews with at-risk youth and their families can help identify triggers for previous incidents. Interviews with adults living with dementia who have gone missing may also help identify contributing factors.

Research objective:

To describe current ways to conduct return interviews among persons living with dementia.

Methods:

We conducted one-on-one semi-structured online interviews with 20 police and service providers in Canada and the UK. We used generic qualitative description and conventional content analysis. Iterative data analysis and peer debrief enhanced rigor. Next, we drafted an interview guide to share with police and service providers through four focus groups. We asked participants to comment on the content, suggest improvements, and identify steps to implement return interviews as standard practice in Canada.

Results:

The online interviews revealed that return interviews are conducted by police and service providers, such as social workers, usually in person, within 96 hours of a missing incident. These are predominantly done in the UK and the purposes are to offer support, collect information, and check on the well-being of the returned missing person. Return interviews elicit information on what led to the incident, what happened during the incident, and support needed to prevent future incidents. Approaches varied by provider and were not standardized. Stakeholders are currently reviewing the draft interview guide.

Conclusion:

Return interviews are rare in Canada. Stakeholders in the UK believe these interviews can prevent future missing incidents. A return interview guide in Canada could foster a consistent practice that addresses triggers for missing incidents among the dementia population.

Community engagement to create dementia-friendly resources for police

Christine Helene Daum, Cathy Conway, Isabella Chawrun, Hector Perez, Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Lili Liu

Background:

People with dementia are at risk of going missing. Police services routinely search for missing persons. In Canada, there is a need for education resources that increase their capacity to engage with persons living with dementia implement effective search strategies.

Objective:

To create accessible dementia-friendly resources for police service personnel.

Methods:

A working group provided strategic direction in police training resources. Two community forums with stakeholders (e.g., police officers and other first responders, persons with dementia, caregivers, service providers, dementia advocates, community organizations, policy makers) provided the impetus for a series of videos and a community toolkit. We used a co-design approach and collaborated with working group members to generate a series of videos and printable tip-sheets in the form of a community toolkit is part of dementia-friendly police education materials.

Results:

Nine videos are designed for Canadian police and first responders who work in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. The content includes an introduction to dementia, understanding dementia from Indigenous perspectives, ways to approach persons with dementia, and search methods to locate a missing person with dementia. Videos are accessible and easy to use; they are online, two to three minutes long, available at no cost, and in English, French, and some in Indigenous language. A toolkit comprised of electronic and printable materials provide practical strategies and supports to persons living dementia and families to reduce risks of going missing. Police can distribute materials following a search, linking and referring persons at risk and their families to organizations for support.

Conclusion:

These resources co-created with community stakeholders will enhance capacity of police and communities to prevent missing incidents among persons with dementia.

Understanding missing incidents involving persons living with dementia in Canada through analysis of hotline call data

Christine Helene Daum, Emily Rutledge, Vanessa Vahedi, Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Lili Liu

Background:

The prevalence of persons living with dementia is increasing in Canada and around the world. The risk of getting lost and going missing exists for all persons living with dementia. Missing incidents can have dire consequences for lost persons and caregivers. Such incidents are challenging for police services that experience resource constraints and competing demands. An understanding of missing incidents of persons with dementia would inform resource allocation.

Research objective:

To describe missing incidents involving persons living with dementia and contributing factors.

Methods:

Qualitative description and conventional content analysis were used to analyze data from Medic-Alert? Foundation Canada. Data were summary notes of missing incidents involving persons living with dementia (n=515) from the perspectives of hotline operators who received calls from first responders, Good Samaritans and family members. Iterative data analysis, peer debriefing, and an audit trail were implemented to enhance trustworthiness.

Results:

Data included single- and multiple-call incidents, and repeat missing incidents by a single Medic-Alert subscriber. Circumstances leading up to incidents were expected (e.g., lapses in supervision or exposure to a new environment), as well as unexpected (e.g., intermittent disorientation). Police and Good Samaritans found missing persons travelling on foot in close vicinity to their residence, or contrastingly in distant places that required long-range transportation. Features identified in the analysis were used to generate case scenarios that will be shared in this presentation.

Conclusion:

A detailed understanding of missing incidents can inform police practices and risk reduction strategies for persons living with dementia and their caregivers, thereby help create safer communities. Case scenarios can be an engaging and humanizing way to share key messages. These will be integrated into resources to support police practices.

Developing Police Custody and Forensic Examination Nursing: Trauma, addiction, violence, mental health and recovery, A future model

Jessica Davidson, Inga Heyman

Working in Police custody and forensic examination allows registered nurses to work with some of the most disenfranchised and marginalised people in our communities. By becoming part of that community, the nursing team in Edinburgh and South East Scotland has adopted an assertive outreach engagement programme of harm reduction interventions which are complex, evidence based and have shown to increase engagement from people at the highest risk of accidental DRD. The whole programme is based on the combination of person centred and trauma informed care. Often, people who are connected as accused, convicted or complainers within the Justice System are not initially included in mainstream health strategies such as the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards to combat drug related death in Scotland. Data shows that 25 % of people who succumbed to a DRD had been through Police Custody in the month before their death. The complexity and flow of the patient journey through the Justice system, provides many touch points along the way that allow intervention, treatment and cure but too often there is a problem of disconnect in the agencies funded to support due to a lack of mainstream inclusion. Working in a trauma informed and person centred model of care, has developed the role of nursing in forensic examinations and has accepted that GBV crime is a volume crime that requires nurses to be grounded in understanding complex trauma. The Four Pillars of Health Inequalities is a project undertaken by the author in her Queens Nurse Institute of Scotland development programme and has influenced Police Scotland harm reduction strategy, supported public health interventions in an enforcement and prevention operation in Edinburgh City, built a gender based violence specialist service, delivered accredited education for police custody and forensic nurses, nurses and developed Forensic Skills lab that supports HCPS delivering healthcare in Police settings.

The hidden population in a market driven health care system: Integrated insight into the vulnerable populations reported to various police and care coordination points in Amsterdam.

Matty de Wit, Menno Segeren, Marcel Buster, Thijs Faessert

Sharing data between law enforcement and public health (LEPH) can be the start of improved prevention and community response [1] This was shown for example by the Cardiff project, which was based on the discrepancy between the number of calls made to police reporting violent crimes and hospital visits from persons injured by violence. Still, information exchange in this area is rare and challenging, which is a consequence of several factors [2]. In an effort to explore new starting points for an LEPH-inspired intervention, several parties responsible for the signaling, screening and referral of vulnerable people in Amsterdam joined forces. These are the police, the central acute psychiatric service, the Public Health Service (Coordination Point for Care Interventions and the Agency for Domestic Violence and Child Abuse) and the Municipal Coordination Points for Care and Nuisance.

The aforementioned parties already work together, can ask for each other's assistance, reply in a joint effort, or refer cases to one another. A complex set of agreements exists but in practice the professionals in the field often have their own preferred way of working. Therefore it is not clear which professional sees which citizen at what moment and who responds to what situation with whom. To explore this and to provide an overview, an effort was made to merge all reported cases from 2017-2021 from the different parties into one database, using encrypted identifiers. This database provides insight into the vulnerable population that does not ask for help but is reported by others, because of the worrisome situations they are in or the nuisance that is experienced. The database also provides insight into the cooperation between the different entry-points and involved professionals.

After many judicial and privacy-technical hurdles all parties signed the agreement to share data and the first merge will be realized in January 2023. If this provides valuable insights, the merge will be repeated annually.

In the presentation, the hurdles to this joint effort and ways to overcome them will be presented. Together with the first results of the joint database: the incidence of worrisome person-episodes per year in Amsterdam, the total number of vulnerable people reported and the frequency in which they occur, the cooperation between police and care and trends over the last 5 years.

County Lines Policing and Exploitation of Vulnerable People: A National Survey

Chris Devany, Dr Tobias Kammergaard

County lines is the term given to the practice of drug dealers from urban areas travelling to smaller towns to sell Class A drugs. The gangs involved usually operate across a number of different police force and local authority areas; vulnerable people are often recruited or pressurised into carrying and selling drugs. This presentation will outline the initial findings from a national survey of UK police to provide an overview of approaches to county lines. The survey will inform a second phase of the study which will focus on three to four force areas to provide in-depth knowledge about the types of interventions being employed locally in order to develop 'best practice' in this area of policing. It can be a challenge for the police to categorise and process people who are both exploited and criminally involved. Clear divides between victim and perpetrator may obscure the sometimes more complex circumstances of the person initially groomed, entrapped and then, acting more purposively, whose victim/offender status shifts and evolves over time – particularly when transitioning from youth to adult in the eyes of the law. Hence the study is seeking to develop a better understanding of vulnerability and practical approaches to tackling it, in order to help police, partner agencies and the criminal justice system respond more effectively.

Pandemics management by the LEAs: The example of STAMINA research project

Jose L. Diego, STAMINA researchers team

Pandemics are a big challenge for any society and for its LEA as well. As learnt with Covid-19, a proper preparation to react would have helped LEAs to better response to the crisis. Research on the matter is a good strategy to successfully foresee and plan the operational police reaction to such a challenging situation.

STAMINA is a European research project to face this challenge that was selected for funding by the European Commission before the Covid-19 showed up and ran from September 2020 to February 2022. STAMINA develops an intelligent decision support toolset for pandemic prediction and management and demonstrates its use by practitioners at national and regional levels within and across EU borders. The STAMINA toolset enables national planners and first responders to anticipate and respond to the the “known-unknowns” in their daily effort to enhance health security. Main functionality of the toolset includes:

- Real-time web and social media analytics aiming at public trust monitoring and flagging possible disease outbreaks
- POCT and smart wearable diagnostic devices for first line screening
- Predictive modeling of pandemic outbreak and its impact, along with decision-making support in implementing mitigation strategies,
- Early Warning System
- Crisis management tool defining the roles and actions of key actors during crisis management
- Scenario Generation tool for creation of training scenarios
- Common Operational Picture as the main interface of the solution enabling timely and coordinated response.

The toolset is accompanied by a set of Guidelines on effective implementation of risk communication principles and best practices in cross-organisational preparedness and response plans. The use of the STAMINA toolset will be demonstrated through 12 national and regional small-scale demonstrators and one large-scale cross-border simulation exercise involving all consortium partners.

Impact of Childhood Adversity and mental health on young person suicide: the CHASE study

Nadine Dougall, Inga Heyman

Background:

Suicide rates have been increasing in recent years after a period of decline since the 1990s, with notable increases in those aged 15-24. Childhood adversity is a known risk factor for later suicide.

Research objectives:

We aimed to find out when young people who died by suicide had previously been admitted to hospital for adversity, mental health or self-harm, a time when earlier intervention with suicide prevention activities may help. The underlying causes of adversity were summarised to inform the types of contacts emergency services may encounter.

Methods:

We analysed hospital records belonging to 2,477 people who were born from 1981 onwards. This was a retrospective longitudinal case-control study and we compared these records with 24,777 randomly selected people from the general population.

Results:

We found 8% of young people who died by suicide had a first hospital admission for childhood adversity aged 10-17, compared with 3% of the general population. Of the young men who died (average age 23), most (81%) first episodes were for assault serious enough for admission to general hospital. The odds of dying by suicide after first admission to hospital was 9.2 times higher for mental health problems followed by childhood adversity and 7.7 times higher for childhood adversity followed by mental health. This compared with almost 3.9 times the odds of dying for mental health first admissions only.

Conclusions:

There was strong evidence of an association between first hospital admissions in adolescence for childhood adversity and/ or mental health (either order) and later young person suicide. These data support the need for early suicide prevention activity for those who support children pre-hospital emergency care as well as in-patient activity.

Police-related triage interventions for mental health: a rapid systematic review of recent evidence

Nadine Dougall, Stephen MacGillivray, Inga Heyman & Jennifer Murray

Background

Police Scotland estimate calls for non-crime related mental health/ vulnerability account for as much as 80% of all calls. Such calls are a continuously increasing problem with a 12% increase in such calls recorded in 2020 compared with 2019. The need for evidence-based interventions for policing mental health concerns has never been greater, with the problem labelled a national crisis (HMICFRS). This problem is international and of concern in many countries.

Research objectives

To update a review of international evidence to 2016 (Rogers et al 2019).

Methods

We updated a systematic review published by Rogers et al 2019 on police interventions for mental health. We updated search strategies, adapted protocol, and mapped evidence published since Nov 2016. We scored included studies for methodological quality, relevance, and topic relevance to produce an overall weight of evidence. Studies were collated by themes, with each theme narratively reviewed by range and nature of evidence.

Results

We identified and screened 3,734 reports, of which 3,629 were excluded leaving 105 eligible for inclusion. Following full text retrieval and detailed scrutiny, 30 reports were subsequently excluded, leaving 75 unique study reports. Studies focused on mental health training, police perspectives, partnerships, co-responder evaluations, street triage, amongst others.

Conclusions

The evidence base was sparse and consisted of mostly observational studies. Police perspectives were that response to people with mental health problems is complex and responses influenced by personal, bureaucratic, community and systemic factors. A predominantly medicalised model of unscheduled care, gaps in inter-agency safeguarding policies and legislation, inconsistencies in levels of sobriety to conduct mental health assessment and availability of appropriate safeguarding environments can find people displaced between criminal justice and health services.

Minor drug offenses and the use of coercive measures towards youth – who is subjected and on what grounds?

Susanne Egnell

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Much previous research report overrepresentations of certain groups in relation to detection and arrest for minor drug offenses. As the use of coercive measures such as enforced drug tests directed at youth suspected of minor drug offenses are increasing in a Swedish context, the current project aims at increasing the knowledge about the population subjected to coercive measures (body searches and enforced drug tests) by the police. An additional aim is to explore the grounds for the use of coercive measures and their precision. As a central rationale for the use of enforced drug tests in a Swedish context is the early detection and intervention of drug use, it is vital to improve our knowledge of how the police use the tools available. In order to explore the aims of the project, reported minor drug crimes and related documents were collected over one year in Malmö, Sweden, with suspects between 15 to 20 years of age. Additionally, background variables were collected from SCB (Statistics Sweden) and added to the youth submitted to coercive measures. The material has been analyzed with both qualitative and quantitative methods in order to answer the different research questions. Although the project is yet to be finished, some findings can be mentioned that relates to the context and grounds for police intervention and use of coercive measures towards youth. The documented grounds for the use of enforced drug tests are of a subjective nature, and detail signs of intoxication. Body searches were less often documented, and provided little insight into suspicion formation. About 80 percent of the drug tests produced positive results for illicit substances. The results highlight the need to evaluate the utility and practice of body searches and enforced drug testing focused on youth.

Studying rapport and empathy training for investigative interviewing

Sarah Ericsson, Tova Stenlund, Markus Nyström, Lisa Öman Ekervhén, Martin Carlsson, Paul Davis

A crucial part of the crime investigation process is the investigative interview. Each interview is an instance of law enforcement and the public meeting to exchange information. Interviews thus carry a great deal of weight in both the investigation and public relations. Although the main goal of interviewing is often to get information related to an investigation, interviews are also an opportunity for law enforcement to offer support, give information, gain trust, and connect with individuals in the community. Previous research has found that a humane interviewing style that focuses on building trust, good communication, and remaining objective while listening to the other person's account has advantages such as eliciting more detailed accounts and more truthful information. This style of interviewing has also been shown to be strategically beneficial regardless of if the interviewee is a suspect, witness, or victim. However, researchers are still debating how to implement empathy and rapport-building behaviors in interviews. There is a great need for research on how police officers acquire the core skills needed for good communication, building rapport, and establishing trust during interviews. The aim of this project is to better understand how humane and empathetic interviewing is implemented in Swedish police education in order to achieve a larger emphasis on building and maintaining rapport, empathy, and emotion regulation. This project will use both quantitative and qualitative methods to approach the research questions. The goal is to help the police both in getting as much information as possible, as well as improve the experiences of the interview for both the police and the interviewee. Understanding and implementing a more humane approach to interviewing could help individual officers de-escalate tense situations and navigate their own stress responses, as well as help strengthen community trust in policing when interacting with interviewees.

Building Resilience Training into Degree Apprenticeship Programmes: Working Towards Prevention and Culture Change in Policing in England and Wales

Dr Amanda L. Farrell, Dr Timothy J. Ainger, Moya Ward, Dr Carol Cox

Research in the United Kingdom (UK) suggests that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and officer wellness are critical issues in the police service (Foley & Massey, 2021). These issues impact service provision to communities by not only decreasing productivity, but by engendering negativity and hostility, which can lead to poor interactions with community members, increased absence due to sickness, and loss of investment in an officer when/if they leave policing (Farrell, 2014). Resilience training has been shown to have positive impacts on mental health in police officers (Antony, et. al., 2020); however, there are few studies that comprehensively examine this in police personnel, and fewer which contribute to developing an evidence-based approach that can be a model for other forces. In short, healthy communities require healthy public servants. Given the socio-political landscape, as well as the introduction of the Policing Education Qualifications Framework (PEQF) (College of Policing, 2020), now is the time to intentionally incorporate resilience into training and the police culture. Many officers have been “written off sick” with stress and, especially following the impact of Operation Uplift (Home Office, 2019), there are large cohorts of new officers entering the profession. These individuals represent an influx of new professionals who may be more accepting of and willing to address occupational mental health concerns, providing the optimal intervention point to change the policing workplace culture around mental health and ensure resilience measures are in place. Over the past year, pre- and post-surveys have been administered around evidence-based resilience training provided to degree apprenticeship students across a Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship (PCDA) and a Degree Holder Entry Programme (DHEP). The research is ongoing, but this presentation will discuss preliminary results, indications for best practice.

Training for nightlife staff and stakeholders

Kristin Feltman, Mattias Brunn

It is important to train key persons. In this presentation we will give you an overview of our different ways of training nightlife staff, gym staff, police and municipal inspectors. The training is both online and physical. We will also present the evaluation of the different training programs and discuss key factors to get a satisfied class.

Proactive global collaboration on Law Enforcement Suicide: More than just talk

Dr Amanda Forrell, J. A. Christopher Scallon, Dr Timothy J. Ainger, Dr C. Gabrielle Salfati

Law enforcement suicide: a highly stigmatised issue that is not isolated to a single country or region. It has been discussed in the context of North America (Di Nota, et. al., 2020; First H.E.L.P., 2022; Heyman, Dill, & Douglas, 2018; FBI, 2022; Violanti, Robinson & Shen, 2013; Violanti & Steege, 2020; Wray and Beckford Jarrett, 2019), South America (Maia, et. al. 2007), Africa (Agyemang & Parimah, 2022; Etutu, 2022; Mkhwanazi, 2022; Perkins, 2016; Stoltz, 2022), India (Sanjeev, Sahni, Aiman, & Kler, 2013), Thailand (Gulabutr, 2017), Australia (Australian Police, n.d.; Inman & Lowrey, 2019), Russia (Zhabin, 2019), and Europe (Berg, et. al., 2003; Burke & Mikkelsen, 2007; College of Policing, 2022; Ganley, 2019; Guerrero-Barona, et. al, 2021; Maselli et. a., 2022; Office for National Statistics, 2022; Schmidtke, Fricke & Lester, 1999), with acknowledgement of rates higher than the average citizenry and discussion of either ideation or risk factors (Krishnan, et. al., 2022) to suicide. Yet, internationally comparable data can be scarce and even access to any sort of accounting of suicide among police officers can be a challenge. Additionally, the conversation rarely aims towards a discussion of action, specifically evidence-based best practice for prevention, intervention and postvention police officer suicide strategies. We will highlight initiatives currently underway in the USA and the UK. This presentation will discuss where we are and also explore potential collaborations, with the intent to start a conversation that looks at working together to address law enforcement suicide as the international mental health and workforce issue that it is. The hope is to further destigmatise suicide in the first responder community while also aiming to provide evidence-based, targeted, actionable intervention and support, thus futureproofing the workforce and increasing capacity to build and serve healthy communities.

The role of Law Enforcement Officers (LEO) and the follow-up process in Spain towards the UNODC LEO guiding document “Defining the role of law enforcement in substance use prevention within schools”

Joseba Zabala Galán

The role of law enforcement officers (LEO) in enforcing public health and drug laws in Spain, is conditioned by the characteristics of the autonomous state model, and the existence of different state, regional and local police forces. This means that in several autonomous communities, the National Police and the ‘Guardia Civil’ are dependent on the Ministry of the Interior. These state-level police forces coexist with the autonomous police forces dependent on the Autonomous Communities that have police jurisdiction in their Statute of Autonomy such as the Ertzaintza in the Basque Country, the Mossos d’Escuadra in Catalonia or the Foral Police in Navarra. Throughout this presentation, we will describe the LEO preventive strategies at the population, as well as with minors specially the ones that are at risk of consuming substance in schools. They follow proactive methodologies to anticipate the problem and the crime. Another new line of preventive work is the educational programs, as alternatives to economic sanctions, for minors who have been fined for the use of legal and illegal drugs such as cannabis, and stimulant drugs (Not only at school, but also in recreational and youth leisure environments). Also, we will describe different actions to control the sale, possession, and consumption of legal and illegal drugs by minors. Also, the "environmental prevention", actions to control advertising, promotion and sale of legal and illicit drugs, aimed at achieving drug-free educational environments where educational work can be carried out in favorable condition. Other actions, carried out by many local police forces in Spain, include the Tutor Agent Program, which acts on prevention against alcohol and drug use by minors, controls absenteeism, as well as bullying, cyberbullying and violence. The National Plan on drugs through the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, offers technical and training support to these preventive actions developed by the different police forces. The UNODC guiding document will provide an overview of the thinking process for the LEO (either frontliners or their management) that are involved in substance use prevention in schools. This guiding document has the potential to support LEO to be strategic about their practices, if they are evidence-based or not. This will be a reinforcement of public health and it will help LEO to avoid of low effective and counter-preventive malpractices. Given the development of the UNODC guiding document, the National Plan on Drugs of Spain has promoted the creation of a Working Group for inter-institutional monitoring made up of technicians representing different administrations and police forces together with the National Association of Police Tutors and the Spanish Federation of Municipalities, which has analyzed the different drafts of the process, generating a debate from police science and from evidence in prevention that, in addition to contributing ideas for the guiding document itself, is serving as a forum for the exchange of technical and preventive. The UNODC guiding document will be instrumental to sensitize decision-makers, and LEO management about their preventive role in the schools, as well as a training reference document in police academies.

Stress and well-being among patrolling police officers

Mehdi Ghazinour, Mojgan Padyab, Jonas Hansson, Elin Granholm Valmari, Ann Östman, Mikael Emsing, Hans Löfgren, Arian Rostami

Police research in Sweden is emerging and there is a great need for systematic scientific investigation of the police's everyday life and working environment. The session will particularly focus on simple and complex stress factors among patrolling police officers in European countries and specifically in Sweden. The overall aim with the session is to discuss what we need to know about risk factors among police officers to develop robust resilience programs. The central themes in the session are around a number of police stress and health investigations which have been carried out in the last two years with special focus on life balance, gender and sexual harassment, conflict management, mental health and covid-19. Finally, a new and updated police stress identification questionnaire (PSIQ) will be presented as a tool for construction of resilience program among patrolling police officers. This instrument is based on previous work by Spielberger's instrument on police stress and also Violanti's studies on police stress. PSIQ has been used so far in Sweden and Norway and the results will be presented.

Response to Crowd Violence: Identifying Physiological and Psychological Traumas

Glenn R. Gordon

Background

Civil unrest has become an all-too-common phenomenon. Research associated with contagion, diffusion, and catalysts sparking riotous behavior has gained prominence in academia. However, a significant gap exists; first responders' mental health associated with continuous exposure to violence exacerbated by riots. Hardwired biological and psychological responses often go undiagnosed by leadership or are hidden behind nebulous words like burnt-out or a lack of resilience.

Objectives

This research is two-fold. First, it provides responders fulfilling roles within the tactical, operational, and strategic spheres with a framework for identifying physiological and psychological trauma within themselves and their juniors. Second, the study addresses responders' continuous exposure to crowd violence, follow-on mental health concerns, and the stigma of asking for help.

Research Question:

What are the implications of prolonged exposure to crowd violence and its effects on responders' mental health?

Methodology

Deterrence theory was the most suitable research methodology since it addresses counterriot strategies. Additionally, it can be used to develop approaches aimed at strengthening mental health and reporting, minimizing burnout and self-harm. Qualitative research methods such as pre-existing case study analysis were used to complete this study. A mixed methods design was considered. However, submitting a request to a review board, authoring surveys, interviews, compiling, and quantifying new data would not be conducive to the conference deadline.

Results

Trends will demonstrate that prolonged exposure to crowd violence negatively affects mental health.

Discussion

Riots are unique in fostering and reintroducing unseen post-traumatic syndrome (PTS) through sights, smells, sounds, tastes, and touch. An in-depth look at the effects of memory and how recall stimulates vicarious trauma could be a future avenue of study.

Life balance among police officers

Elin Granholm Valmari

Background

Life balance, the balance of activity patterns in the context of living, contains challenges on different levels and in different environments. What the most challenging activities, roles, and environments are to achieve life balance for uniformed police officers has of today not been concluded.

Research objective

Therefore, we aimed to explore what the crucial areas are for uniformed police officers to achieve life balance, by using two different research methods. **Methods**We conducted a systematic review using narrative synthesis including countries within the European Union, as well as interviewed uniformed police officers in Sweden analyzed with reflexive thematic analysis. **Results**The results summarize crucial areas for living a balanced life, indicating that contexts and environments both in their private life and working life can be supportive as well as hindering. Having encouraging social environments and meaningful social relationships both in private life and at work is important. But also, being aware of own health-related activity patterns is essential, as well as setting boundaries professionally and in private life. Organizing time and energy is vital, including finding healthy activity patterns in a changeable lifestyle. Living a 'normal life', especially when having a family and partner is a specific challenge, where unpredictability contains many facets, both positive and negative. **Implications**The result provides incipient insight into police officers' life balance, and what the challenges and resources are for living sustainably and healthily. The findings may be useful to human resources working with police officers' health.

Police officers' challenges to and resources for health and sustainability

Elin Granholm Valmari, Ulla Nygren, Mehdi Ghazinour, Kajsa Gilenstam

Background

Working life and private life are considered inseparable when investigating people's lifestyles, or patterns of daily activities, for living healthily and sustainably. While, previous research has widely recognized the challenging contexts uniformed police officers face during their working life, little is known regarding their private life. Thus, how everyday life is experienced, remains uncertain.

Research objective

Therefore, we aimed to explore the challenges and resources faced by uniformed police officers in their patterns of daily activities, including both private and working life.

Methods

We interviewed 17 uniformed police officers living in different parts of Sweden and used reflexive thematic analysis to describe patterns.

Results

The results summarize challenges and resources faced in everyday life, focusing on the overarching theme of 'The forgotten self: Adaptability and duty above all'. Where the officers' adaptability is a key element to being flexible and responsive, but where this adaptability at home creates an ongoing balance struggle between the 'self' and being a police officer during their overall patterns of time use. Two themes are presented; 'Police officers' fight for sustainability and health' including the importance of setting boundaries in a limitless profession, as well as being conscious of one's own health-related activity patterns. The other theme is 'Draining and refilling the energy reserves', including the officers' experiences of low energy levels and balancing energy reserves to be able to engage in everyday life.

Implications

The result provides insight into what engages uniformed police officers in everyday life, and how they experience choice and control over their activity patterns. But also, which activities are meaningful to them, how they balance their activities and roles, and what their routines are. The findings may be useful to human resources and researchers working with police officers' health.

Evaluation findings of the Bucks County, Pennsylvania (USA) Human Services Co-responder program

Patricia Griffin

The presentation will discuss a two-year process and outcome evaluation associated with the Bucks County, PA (USA) Human Services Co-responder program. The Bucks County Human Service co-responder program is a law enforcement -human services collaboration. When the co-responder initiative started in December 2020, it had four key objectives, namely to:

1. Decrease the time law enforcement spends in response to a situation involving social service needs.
2. Provide a more effective emergency response through the addition of clinical-informed support and an enhanced community resource knowledge base.
3. Ensure those who outreach for an emergency response and are dispatched to the participant police department receives timely and streamlined connection to resources to address their social service needs.
4. Divert individuals with primary social service needs from further penetration into the criminal justice system.

The program was piloted in December 2020 between the Bensalem Township Police Department and the County Human Services Division. The program has now expanded to include eight township police departments. The one-year evaluation of this pilot program (December 2021) indicated that co-responders were able to reduce the number of calls to police from high utilizers, co-responders were able to optimize where people go to get help in the county, and over time instead of waiting for individuals to call 9-1-1, the co-responding team played a preventative role by connecting individuals at risk with the right resources for their situation. Over this past year, as word of the program became known, the co-responders received direct requests from the Bensalem police, school personnel, parents, and other community members helping people in the community to receive the help they needed. The presentation will identify and offer opportunities to discuss the processes and short-term outcomes associated with the implementation and expansion of this county-level co-resp

A safer environment for both nightlife staff and patrons

Johanna Gripenberg, Jennica Jonsson, Patrick Widell

The nightclub setting is a huge arena for people to connect and have fun. Good food, drinks and dance in combination with lots of people in a small area downtown has a lot of challenges. The STAD-collaboration in Stockholm wants to have a safe entertainment district and has been ongoing for over 25 years. A study showed significant decrease in violence, 29 % by using Responsible Beverage Service. This presentation will discuss in what way lower intoxication among patrons can affect violence and be cost effective. The presentation will explain how collaboration, training and enforcement can be key activities to get a safer environment for both nightlife staff and patrons.

The F.I.T. approach to police mental health and wellbeing

Dr. Maria (Maki) Haberfeld

Over 2 decades ago, this author proposed an innovative response to an in service stress management training for police officers. Under the acronym of F.I.T. – feedback, input and tactics, it was suggested that line officers, exposed to tremendous amounts of stress on a daily basis, will benefit from mandatory, in service, monthly training sessions. These sessions would focus on the feedback from all officers gathered for the training, regarding the daily stressors, receiving input from their colleagues and generating tactics to deal with these stressors in the future. In 2020, an individual who had mental health issues, died in Rochester city, NY after officers put him in a "spit hood" designed to protect the police. The officers involved in this incident were immediately suspended. Although eventually acquitted, this stressful event exemplifies the need for the F.I.T. approach. Implementation of the F.I.T. training will be further discussed during this presentation.

Street-Based Sex Work, Procedural Justice, and Policing in Washington, DC

Katie Hail-Jares, Sharon Oselin

Street-based sex work is criminalised throughout the United States, including in the country's capital city, Washington, DC. Criminalisation of sex work and arrest-heavy policies have both been associated with a greater likelihood of HIV/AIDS, other sexually transmitted infections, and experiences of violence among sex workers globally. Following much of this research, the Metropolitan Police Department has de-prioritised arrests for soliciting, instead turning their focus on buyers. These changes in policing policy, then, have a chance to also inform sex workers' views on policing. In this presentation, we will discuss the findings from interviews with 37 sex workers about their previous experiences with police, their current opinions, and their likelihood of reporting violence to police. Sixty-eight percent of sex workers reported being arrested at least once for prostitution during their lifetime. Slightly more (72%) reported experiencing a "bad date," usually physical assault, sexual assault, or robbery, yet, only a third (33%) indicated that they had reported the experience to police. Surprisingly, sex workers who had been arrested were nine times more likely to indicate they had reported violence to police than those who had not (OR=9.3; 95%CI: 1.0, 83.9). In interviews, sex workers overwhelmingly believed that police did not value their work or their lives, but saw reporting violence as part of a community strategy to reduce future violence on the stroll. Those who had reported were overall happy with the experience and expressed a greater likelihood that they would report again in the future. Trans sex workers also discussed the role of the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU), its role in encouraging reporting, and how the inclusion of GLLU officers within the force had helped to humanise their (sex workers') experiences with transphobia and poverty. The potential implications for working with other stigmatised and criminalised groups will also be discussed.

Police work in socio-economically vulnerable areas

Jonas Hansson

This is a part of a convened session that present the course Police work with vulnerable people. This part of the course deals with police work in socio-economically vulnerable areas. The students learn about crime and insecurity in socio-economically vulnerable areas. The focus is on gaining more knowledge and understanding of what may lie behind the problems with crime and insecurity in these areas in comparison to other areas. The students also learn about actions of the police on a more comprehensive level with the aim of understanding how the work of the police can affect crime and insecurity in socio-economically vulnerable areas. The students study literature and discuss in their study groups. They prepare a presentation based on a course book and a research report. The literature is: a) "To reverse the development - from vulnerability to safety and participation", which has its origins in a research project where researchers from Malmö University cooperate with the Police Authority, municipalities, County administrative board and the Crime Prevention Council; b) the report "Initiativ Mareld: A study of police employees' health, work environment and safety-creating work in particularly vulnerable areas in the Stockholm police region", which took place during the years 2018-2020. The research group that carried out the study are all active at Umeå University and some of them work at the Police Education Unit. The presentation briefly describes the literature, focus on the structure of the students' activities and their improvement in their understanding of the problems with crime and insecurity in socio-economically vulnerable areas.

CRIMINALISING CYBERBULLYING: EXPLORING PERCEIVED PUNISHMENT FROM POLICE OFFICERS

Nazirah Hassan, Alang Azizah

Cyberbullying is becoming a police matter across the globe. The damaging and deadly effects of cyberbullying have urged lawmakers to address cyberbullying perpetration through criminal sanctions. Japan, Canada, United Kingdom and some states in the United States are imposing strong penalties for cyberbullying, in which the bullies can face jail time. Similar to this, in Malaysia, cyberbullies may be jailed for up to a year. It is arguably that harsh punishments and 'zero tolerance' policies are not always effective to deter cyberbullying or to help the victims. The reality is that criminalising cyberbullying can lead to a lot of unfortunate sequela, particularly with respect to young people. This study explores police perspectives on criminalising cyberbullying. It aims to understand the impacts of addressing cyberbullying through criminal sanctions and to identify alternative disciplinary measures to bring the bullies to justice. This is a qualitative research that includes focus group discussions with twenty four police officers in Malaysia aged between 30 to 49 years old. All of them experienced handling both cyberbullying and traditional bullying cases. Majority police officers felt that cyberbullying was a significant issue which required police involvement, and the existing laws i.e. the Communications and Multimedia Act and the Penal Code were sufficient to deal with cyberbullying in Malaysia. They agreed that severe cyberbullying cases (e.g. sexual exploitation, sextortion, online blackmail) can be considered as criminal acts and that should be addressed by criminal legislation. Nonetheless, many of them perceived that cyberbullying conducts such as public humiliation, deception and stalking were fall in a 'grey area', that is, harmful but not yet criminal. Therefore criminal penalties were not the answer. Some highlighted the importance of establishing new cyberbullying law, and some suggested to rule cyberbullying by morals rather than laws.

Utilising capture-recapture methodology to estimate the prevalence of 'hidden harm' during the COVID-19 pandemic

Dr Gordon Hay, Emma Barton, Dr Alex Walker, Lara Snowdon, Professor Mark Bellis

Background:

During the COVID-19 pandemic, public health measures were introduced to contain the virus and minimise the risk of harm to the population. However, evidence suggests that these measures may have impacted on the prevalence of violence, particularly in the home.

Research Objectives/Programme Description:

This work explores the 'hidden' impact of COVID-19 on violence in South Wales using capture-recapture methodology. In doing so, it assesses whether capture-recapture is a reliable analytical tool to use within violence surveillance data sets.

Methods/Activities:

The capture-recapture methodology is a data-science technique that has been used successfully within large data sets to estimate the prevalence of public health-related issues, such as substance misuse. However, it has infrequently been utilised for violence, despite demonstrating aptitude for producing reliable prevalence estimations across large datasets in other fields of study. Victim data for assault-related attendances at ED were linked with police data by patient name, age, date of ED arrival or violence with injury 'crimed date'. The data was analysed using the Chapman estimate to identify the number of 'hidden' assaults.

Results/Evaluation:

The team were able to identify areas that have markedly higher rates of previously unidentified violence. The team were also able to compare time periods from lockdowns, with the same period in previous years, to estimate the impact COVID-19 had on violence.

Conclusion/Implications:

Capture-recapture is an informative methodology to help estimate levels of 'hidden' violence. The findings from the study can be used to inform police, and partners, on the areas they could target resources. The findings also add to the evidence base regarding the impact of COVID-19 on violence; learning that can be used for future emergencies and pandemics.

Finding common ground in public health and criminal justice undergraduate education

Inga Heyman, Dr Kirstin Anderson

Public Service Reform in Scotland is founded on the benefits of working collaboratively and in partnership, across organisational boundaries. Police Scotland and Public Health Scotland have developed new formalised collaborations to address public health and wellbeing in communities. It is unsurprising therefore, that cross-disciplinary public health and criminal justice education has been introduced in a Scottish university undergraduate policing and criminology program. The focus of this 14-week module is on preparing students for contemporary graduate destinations at the intersect of criminal justice and health agencies. An overarching thematic focus is on partnerships, embracing shared and acknowledging differing viewpoints. Criminology and policing students explore complex social issues that influence both health and criminal justice systems, including social and economic inequalities; adverse childhood experiences; vulnerability to violence; mental health crises; substance use and misuse and related harms such as HIV infection; dementia, and commercial sex work and exploitation. The module seeks to draw out synergies and tensions in the disciplinary perspectives of health and criminology, enhancing students' theoretical knowledge whilst exploring the multidimensional character of such issues, comparing public health and criminal justice theory and practice perspectives. Yet, during the development and delivery of this cross-disciplinary module, the educational common ground was at times elusive – mirroring the challenges found in LEPH practice and policy development. This presentation shares learning from two educators, from two different disciplines, who came together to develop this module. We discuss the connection for working across and between disciplines by examining pedagogical approaches and the learning from the transactions that took place between contributing disciplines. Characteristics of cross-disciplinary work are outlined.

Reimagining the role of police: using cross-agency collaboration to divert vulnerable people from the criminal justice system

Ebba Herrlander Birgersson

This presentation describes a PhD project which explores policing approaches to reducing homelessness and crime in Tasmania, Australia. The project raises a challenging yet important question: should police have a frontline role in reducing crime by linking people to housing? National imprisonment and reoffending rates continue to increase, and 59.3% of Tasmanian prisoners released in 2018-19 returned to corrective services within two years. This, coupled with recent Australian research indicating that one-third of the prison population experienced homelessness prior to incarceration, and 54% expected to be homeless upon release, prompt the necessary identification of alternative solutions that facilitate desistance from crime. Experiencing homelessness pre- and post-incarceration increases the likelihood of reconviction upon release, whereas secure - and in particular public - housing can be a 'hook for change' that reduces criminal justice involvement and associated costs. Housing First principles maintain that stable housing is a prerequisite for, and not conditional upon, addressing criminogenic needs. As first responders, police are often the first point of contact for people experiencing homelessness and therefore uniquely placed to connect persons with support services. Drawing on existing literature on deflection, this presentation will propose the methodological and theoretical frameworks for a project gathering data through surveys and interviews with police officers, service providers, and people with lived experience, to explore whether the frontline police role in Tasmania could and should encompass referral work to housing and support services.

Migrant minors in detention – what is the best child protection?

Mattias Hjertstedt

Migrant children are considered to be an especially vulnerable group. To put such children in detention – which often is considered to be one of the most severe forms of coercive measures – can cause them considerable mental damages. Thus, several international organizations are demanding that governmental authorities put an end to immigration-related detention of children. The European Court of Human Rights has not entirely condemned the use of immigration detention of children, but in most cases the European Court has found that such detention constitutes a violation of Articles 3, 5.1 and/or 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. However, some European countries – e.g. Sweden – still detain migrant minors. In a recent investigation, Swedish police interviewees claim that alternatives to detention could be worse for minors than detention itself. For instance, police officers argue that child-friendly detentions of short duration could make deportations of children smooth and dignified. In my presentation, I will problematize how the European Court and police interviewees respectively discuss child protection regarding migrant minors in detention. Are there important discrepancies between legal requirements formulated by the European Court and the needs of the police officials who carry out such detentions in practice? The presentation deals with some aspects of a forthcoming publication in which judgments from the European Court have been studied and Swedish police officers have been interviewed.

Stuck in a Rut?' - An Investigation into the Suitability of Current Police Logics for Current & Future Challenges

Jamie Hobday

Aims:

This study is examining the organisational culture of policing in the UK, particularly in relation to partnership working around harms where vulnerability is key. The aim of this study is to investigate the work of local officers in an urban English police force, seeking to identify any institutional logics or vocabularies of practice in use, and to then consider the potential impact of these on collaborative working and its effectiveness in tackling the harms targeted. Institutional logics are “the socially constructed, historical patterns of cultural symbols and material practices, assumptions, values and beliefs by which individuals produce and reproduce their material subsistence, organize time and space, and provide meaning to their daily activity” (Thornton & Ocasio, 1999). The findings will be compared with forward looking reports produced by the key policing bodies in the UK which attempt to identify future challenges and demands on policing, and suggest what capabilities and capacities are required to perform in this prospective environment. Given that “institutional logics guide the allocation of attention by shaping what problems and issues get attended to and what solutions are likely to be considered in decision making.” (Ocasio, 1997), it is vitally important that policings logics are both fit for current demands but also suitable (or readily adapting) to future demands. Recently policing in the UK has been under sustained public criticism for perceived failings in relation to professional standards, levels of service and ethics (along with many similar agencies in the developed world), which often seek to place much of the responsibility for policing’s ills on its culture and leadership. With no previous detailed research on policing found that takes the institutional logics approach, it is hoped that this study may open a new avenue of research and understanding of policing, and new methods for improving service and outcomes.

Methods/Implementation:

Semi-structured interviews of 20 police officers and partners working together at a local level to tackle issues of exploitation and youth violence in an urban English police force. Thematic analysis is being used to identify key logics, vocabularies and issues.

Early Action Together Programme; a Multi-Agency, Adverse Childhood Experience Informed Approach to Policing

Joanne Hopkins, Huw Williams, Emma Sheeran, Joseff Bromwell

Background:

In April 2018, the Early Action Together (EAT) Programme was launched in Wales, representing a unique collaboration between the four Welsh Police Forces, Police and Crime Commissioners, Public Health Wales, partners in criminal justice, youth justice and third sector organisations. The programme's aim was to facilitate the transformation of policing in Wales towards a multi-agency, Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) informed approach that enabled early intervention and root cause prevention. This was achieved by using evidence on ACEs and trauma to create a shift in attitudes and thinking across policing and the Criminal Justice System (CJS) towards a prevention model and a 24/7 front door response to vulnerability.

Research objectives:

This review will map current practice across the four police forces in Wales as well as HM Police and Probation Service (HMPPS) and evaluate if and how the programme has been sustained. The review will reflect on how current practice supports the objectives of the original programme. Methods: Discussions were undertaken with key stakeholders in each police force in Wales, including vulnerability leads and operational officers, in addition to stakeholders from HMPPS.

Results:

Initial findings indicate that police and partners remain largely committed to the EAT objectives and to delivering ACE and trauma-informed interventions to children and young people. A common theme was a series of local community-based interventions in which organisations work together to provide support to children and young people. An area for development identified by stakeholders was the need for an infrastructure, for example, a formal structure through which organisations could easily share information, thereby making referrals more efficient and avoiding duplication of interventions.

Conclusion:

The learning and examples of good practice will continue to inform the development of an ACE and trauma-informed approach to policing in Wales.

Towards a Trauma-informed Wales; a Societal Approach

Joanne Hopkins, Natalie Blakeborough

Background:

Literature indicates that a trauma-informed approach has positive outcomes for children and adults, also that trauma-informed care can benefit professionals with a personal history of trauma or who have experienced work-related trauma. This Framework provides an all-society approach to support a coherent, consistent approach to developing and implementing trauma-informed practice across Wales.

Objectives:

The Framework aims were to: provide a co-produced, single framework which provides a continuum from universal through to specialist approaches; provide consistency of understanding of a trauma-informed approach; bring together good practice across Wales in a single, accessible framework; make a positive difference through a consistent way of working between services, organisations and sectors; and provide a practice framework that sets out the knowledge and skills needed for each practice level and a repository of resources that support each area.

Methods:

An expert reference group, including people with lived experience, practitioners from a range of sectors, clinical and non-clinical leads and academics, advised and supported the development of the framework. There was also an extensive consultation process which included in-person events across Wales, targeted meetings and discussions with sectors and representative groups and an online event.

Results:

The Framework outlines five practice principles which specify that any approach should be: universal; person centered; relationship-focused; resilience and strengths-focused and inclusive. The Framework also outlines four practice levels which describe different roles within a variety of contexts, these represent a spectrum and include: trauma-aware; trauma skilled; trauma-enhanced and specialist interventions. Together, these four practice levels provide an integrated, trauma-informed practice framework that provides a joined-up way of working within organisations, systems and the community.

Risk Assessment Integration Module (RAIMO)

Jarmo Houtsonen

Our presentation demonstrates the key features of Risk Assessment Integration Module (RAIMO) produced in IMPRODOVA project. The users of RAIMO will become familiar with the domestic violence risk assessment process, risk and vulnerability factors and the purpose of multi-agency cooperation in risk management. RAIMO links various risk assessment procedures and enhance the identification of domestic violence among key agencies (e.g., police officers, social work and healthcare professionals, NGO workers, educators) who come into contact with victim-survivors and perpetrators. This tool demonstrates different risk factors and different approaches to identifying and responding to risk. RAIMO can be used as a training material or a resource for further developing domestic violence risk assessment. <https://training.improdova.eu/en/training-materials-for-the-health-sector/risk-assessment-instruments/>

An investigation of dementia patients and their family carers' experiences with the criminal justice system in Taiwan

Lanying Huang, Zi-Jing Lin

Background:

As a rapidly aging society, it is estimated that one in twelve older citizens suffers from dementia in Taiwan, which is 291,961 people in 2020. A national policy on dementia prevention and caring guideline action plan was initiated in 2014. Nevertheless, public awareness of dementia is yet to be promoted, not to mention the criminal justice practitioners who usually do not view dementia patients as vulnerable groups.

Research Objectives:

In Taiwan, 70% of the dementia population is cared for by their family. Therefore, the first aim of this study is to explore the experiences of family carers when their dementia family member is charged with a criminal offense. Secondly, this study tries to depict the current awareness and responses to offenders with dementia by interviewing criminal justice practitioners.

Methods:

This study first collected and analyzed the court proceeding of offenses by dementia patients during 2020 and 2021. Three family carers are recruited and interviewed about their encounters with the criminal justice practitioners who deal with the offenses. Key informants such as the police, lawyers, and medical practitioners are also interviewed to reflect on their working experiences concerning dementia patients who violate the laws.

Results:

It is found that theft is one of the most common offenses recorded in court proceedings. Two of the family carers shared their criminal justice experience after their dementia family committed theft. Family carers found going through the judicial process stressful, especially when they accompanied the dementia family during the investigation and trial. Going through the criminal justice process added more pressure and financial cost on top of the family carers' daily business of taking care of dementia patients.

Conclusions:

Once dementia patients violate the laws, it is very likely that they will repeat anti-social behaviors and become vulnerable in the criminal justice process.

Working together to reduce child abuse and exploitation in Taiwan

Lanying Huang, Yi-Fen Lu, Yi-Chun Yu, Chuen-Jim Sheu

Background

Child abuse and exploitation have been a great threat to children's health and well-being. The Protection of Children and Youth Welfare and Rights Act 2011 outlined the Taiwanese official policy on Children and Youth Wellness, but the advancement was slow. In November 2014, Taiwan further enacted the Implementation Act of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Article 5 of the above legislation demands those authorities concerning safeguarding children's rights should coordinate and make contact to fulfil their duties.

Research Objectives

The aim of the current paper is to review the last decade's child abuse and exploitation phenomenon and their responses in Taiwan, focusing on the collaboration between law enforcement and public health.

Methods

This study collected legislation, statistics, conference proceedings, and reports to identify the working model between law enforcement and public health. A focus group was conducted to review the initial findings.

Results

We present three cases of LEPH collaborations at the community level: firstly, trauma-informed training for domestic violence networks; secondly, early intervention of child abuse; and finally, the social safety net regular meetings. We then discuss the achievement and challenges of each project.

Conclusions

The cooperation between law enforcement and public health is still in its early days in Taiwan. The current practices may be categorized as information sharing and diversion. In order to deepen the relationships between different authorities, more efforts should be devoted to developing danger assessment tools and response teams.

The Role of Sexual Assault Referral Centres in Assessing and Responding to Mental Health and Substance Use in the UK: Findings from the National MIMOS Study

Elizabeth Hughes, Steven Ariss, Brynmor Lloyd-Evans, Gail Gilchrist, Kylee Trevillion, Karen Tocque and the MIMOS Team

BACKGROUND:

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) were established in UK to provide an integrated service including forensic examination, health interventions and emotional support. Previous research has established that 40% of attendees have pre-existing mental health and/or substance use needs. It is currently unclear how the mental health and substance use needs are being addressed within the SARC.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES:

The MIMOS mixed method study was commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research to understand how mental health and substance use needs are identified and addressed in SARCs.

METHOD: Prevalence study- a set of screening tools were administered to survivors who attended SARCs within a 1 to 6 week window. Case study: focus groups and interviews with 3 groups: SARC staff, survivors, and staff from partner agencies (e.g. mental health, substance use) across 6 SARCs.

FINDINGS:

Prevalence: Participants (n=78) reported high levels of psychological distress after SARC attendance (94% of people had symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder). **Case Study:** Survivors identified how trauma-informed care at the SARC potentially reduced risk of re-traumatisation. SARC staff found having someone with mental health expertise in the team helpful not only in helping plan onward referrals but also in supporting staff. Both SARC staff and survivors highlighted challenges in onward referral, particularly to NHS mental healthcare, including lack of understanding of trauma related to sexual violence, gaps in provision, and long waiting times.

CONCLUSIONS:

People who attend sexual assault centres have significant mental health and substance use needs, however there is variation in practice within SARCs. Access to follow-up support from mental health services needs to be improved (especially for those deemed to have “complex” needs) and there is some indication that co-located psychological therapies provision improves the survivor experience.

Increased police presence in complex target areas and its impact on citizens perceptions in key processes

Miguel Inzunza

The present research investigates how a newly adopted police strategy in the Colombian context influence perceptions of citizens living in complex areas. High crime societies often require different approaches from the police to deal with crime, and it is equally important to consider the citizens perceptions of different processes that may develop. Constructs such as trust in the police, social capital or collective efficacy are theorized to be of importance to reach a long-term change and are valuable in different ways but complex to control due to their dynamic nature. These constructs are also known to be context dependent. Social capital may be a prerequisite for collective efficacy but not sufficient for informal social control by itself. This study gives an insight of how such constructs have been affected after introducing the new targeted strategy in rural and urban areas. The research design included the collection of three waves of data from several micro territories in several cities. The data was analyzed adopting latent variable modeling. Findings are presented on how the targeted police initiative may have an overall impact but that there are specific context dependent differences. These findings are discussed considering the overall aim of the policing strategy and suggestions of adaptations are presented.

Mortality among individuals with substance use disorder – impact of violent criminal behaviour in different age groups

Martin Joakim Jakobsson

Understanding violent criminality and its impact on health and eventually the risk of preterm mortality is important for efficient future interventions. This study aimed to explore the effect violent criminality had on preterm mortality among individuals with substance use disorder (SUD). The cohort was created by identifying all Swedish patients, inpatient- or other specialised care, diagnosed with SUD between the first of January 2013 and last December 2014. Criminal data was obtained from the Swedish National council of crime prevention. The individuals were split into three age-categories in line with the Swedish public health authorities' cut-offs. Substantial differences were found regarding standard mortality rates (SMR) in all age categories compared to the general Swedish population. A difference in SMRs for individuals convicted of violent and non-violent crimes was found for the two younger age categories (Violent: Age 15-29; 33.8, Age 30-44; 23. Non-violent crime: Age 15-29; 29.3, Age 30-44; 19.0. No convictions: Age 15-29; 10.5, Age 30-44; 11.3). The same two age categories, 18-29 and 30-44 filled the proportional hazard assumption. A Cox-regression analysis showed that each conviction of a violent crime increased the hazard ratio (HR) of preterm mortality significantly (Age 15-29; 1.10 (CI 1.04 – 1.17), Age 30-44; 1.06 (CI 1.03 – 1.09)), after correcting for known confounders such as drug use and psychiatric morbidity. However, after correcting for non-violent crimes the increased risk only remained for the youngest group (HR = 1.06 (CI 1.00-1.13)). This study provided new evidence that criminal behaviour increases the risk of preterm mortality among young individuals with SUD even after controlling for confounders. Longitudinal studies, examining time-dependent risks and protective influences, are needed to explain the different pathways and processes leading to the amplified preterm mortality in the groups.

Mental health and exercise habits among police students in Sweden: a three-year retrospective study

Alexander Jansson, Sandra Krugly, Joakim Ingrell, Daniel Bjärsholm, Jenny Vikman

Background

Working as a police officer involves mentally and physically demanding tasks. During the Swedish police education, students should be provided with sufficient conditions to develop and maintain advantageous exercise habits and tools to handle mentally and physically demanding tasks (see Krugly et al., 2022). However, there is a lack of knowledge regarding Swedish police students exercise habits and overall mental- and physical health.

Research Objectives

The aim is to explore police students' mental health and physical activity levels during police education in Sweden.

Methods

The data consisted of police students answers of a self-rated questionnaire about their physical and mental health. The data used in this study was gathered between 2019–2021, and consist of four data collection points, from two police educations in Sweden. The analysis was conducted in two steps. First, exploratory- and confirmatory factor analyses were conducted to create scales for health orientation. Second, these scales were used as outcome variables in t-tests, X2 test and ANOVA. Effect size measurements (Cohens, d, Cramers V and Phi) were calculated and interpreted based on well establish guidelines.

Results

Two scales were developed (i.e. positive health orientation and negative health orientation), and both showed high psychometric support. Based on the scales, two primarily results emerged: 1) results showed that women had a more negative health orientation in general and that positive health orientation, for both genders, decreased between semesters one to four; and 2) more women conducted two hours (or more) per week of physical exercise. Moreover, physical training among men decreased continuously during their education.

Conclusions and Implications

Based on the results, this study questions whether police education in Sweden doing enough to prepare students for a mentally and physically demanding profession.

What is the problem represented to be in Swedish police work?

Josefina Jarl, Jenny-Ann Brodin Danell, Jonas Hansson

Police work is multifaceted and as such carried out in different ways. The many-sided reality of police work is reflected in the varying expectations on what the police are viewed as obligated to manage or solve. The expectations are often high and present in the public debate and governmental steering documents. Moreover, these expectations build upon specific notions of what constitute police work, such as who the police is and what function the police should fill. These notions depend on context and are often taken for granted. However, they serve as frames for how policing is thought about, and as such affect how police work is being carried out and consequently how police work is not carried out. The Swedish Police Authority state that the aim of the authority is to reduce crime and increase human security. How this aim is worked towards is dependent on what the government and the police authority themselves judge constitute areas of importance to prioritize and as such how these areas are problematized. The aim of this paper is to explore how the Swedish police authority problematize their role and mission and how these problematizations affect how certain questions are targeted and conceptualized within the organization. The empirical material for this study consists of policy documents from the Swedish police authority, as well as material from their official website. The analysis has been inspired by Carol Bacchi's WPR-approach. Three overarching problematizations were identified in the analysis: 1. Crime, threat, crisis and violence, 2.) The police organization, 3.) Citizens' perceptions. By understanding how the police view their role and mission, this paper offers insights into how the police view both their own role and mission and how certain problems are constituted as specific types of problems.

Does affected people being detained on the wrong grounds by the police and without receiving the right kind of care

Christian Jensen, Anton Molin

Being taken into custody due to excessive intoxication, abbreviated LOB in Swedish, is a big infringement of one's personal liberty and integrity and takes place without the right to a fair trial. The number of such cases in Sweden average at around 60 000 per year, with purpose to provide a safe space for the intoxicated individual to sober up. In this study, the judicial requirements, internal protocols and guidelines which police are to follow in a case of excessive intoxication are laid out and examined. By closely examining two decisions from the judicial ombudsman (JO) we have identified situations in which police have arrested people on subjective grounds, rather than following the internal guidelines. This survey, including 30 police officers from the local district Gothenburg City, was conducted based on the decisions from the judicial ombudsman (JO). Officers were given two real world case studies to later describe how they would have acted in the situation. In the first case study, 80% of the officers chose to arrest according to LOB, and the remaining officers chose to reject alternatively remove the person according to The Police Act 13 §. In the second case study, where subjective judgement had to be used, 44% chose to arrest according to LOB, 53% chose to follow The Police Act 13 § and 3% answered with answers that were difficult to classify. In the judicial ombudsman (JO) opinion regarding a similar scenario, which was presented in the second case study, there has been critique aimed towards the police officer that decided to arrest the individual for intoxication. To examine if arrests have taken place without legal basis, 71 so called LOB protocols have been looked at, where around 40% of the cases lack a satisfactory reasoning as to why the arrest has taken place. This means that there is a legal pitfall when one doesn't define specifically enough in the LOB protocol why one has made an arrest.

Where are the Police? - Policing and Harm Reduction

Meg Jones, Jason Harwin, Charlie Mack, Darren Nicholas

The intersection of policing and public health is crucial to support people away from the criminal justice system, subsequently reducing harm, reducing crime and reducing cost to society. Drawing on the expertise of developing and delivering services and interventions in the UK, Cranstoun ask 'where are the police' in harm reduction and present what good looks like when working with the police and partners to support people with the right intervention at the right time.

Within the confines of the current legal framework, Cranstoun have sought to deliver a public health and compassionate approach to people who come into contact with the criminal justice. Cranstoun deliver pre-arrest drug diversion, custody based support including support for substance use and domestic abuse and prevention of short term sentences for crime driven by substance use. With the addition of Diamorphine Assisted Treatment and good continuity of care from prison, Cranstoun present a whole system approach that can be used by any police force, anywhere in the world to provide the right intervention at the right time.

What does good look like in pre-arrest drug diversion programmes

Meg Jones, Jason Harwin, Charlie Mack, Darren Nicholas

Cranstoun have been at the forefront of delivering pre-arrest drug diversion programmes since 2016. From expertise of having designed, developed and delivered diversion, Cranstoun share first hand what good looks like, the learning that continues to shape the intervention and the impact from having over 8000 people who have benefitted from the DIVERT™ programme.

Effective diversion and deflection can increase trust and confidence in policing, take steps towards reducing disproportionality by not criminalizing people who come into contact with police and support people with needs that might not currently be addressed. Evaluation in West Midlands found that 40.5% of Afro-Caribbean offenders were charged for simple possession of drugs before scheme introduction (vs. 35% average), dropping to 11.4% afterwards (vs. 11.3% average).

Each use of DIVERT saves at least 4.25 hours of police time. Across 2021-22, Cranstoun's criminal justice interventions averaged 87% successful completions, most of these were voluntary demonstrating effective engagement with the Cranstoun team. DIVERT benefits from the use of technology to reduce barriers to engagement and to ensure simple process for officers to refer.

The Cranstoun Model - The Right Intervention at the Right Time

Meg Jones, Jason Harwin, Charlie Mack, Darren Nicholas

The Cranstoun model of providing the right intervention at the right time will be presented in poster form, visually demonstrating best practice between the intersections of policing and public health. Cranstoun develop and deliver services and support in the areas of criminal justice, substance use, domestic abuse, young people, housing and homelessness. Our model therefore presents multiple exit points from the criminal justice system, working in collaboration with policing colleagues to reduce demand on them and supporting people where they're at. Utilising our principles and expertise of harm reduction, consistently developing non-punitive approaches and working with the whole person.

The Cranstoun model will be presented alongside key statistics of impact, real stories from people who have experienced and benefitted and a look ahead to the future of developing and delivering world class services.

FROM VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO SURVIVOR - AinoAid™ - SERVICES

Anna Juusela

Domestic violence is a persistent global problem and, due to low reporting, remains a hidden epidemic with tremendous harm to individuals and society. In addition to the suffering of the victims and people around them, domestic violence affects lost economic output relating to various costs associated with victims' work status and productivity. The cost of gender-based violence only across the EU is €366 billion a year. It's also loading diverse support functions of both victims and impacted people and organisations around them. However, the consequences are still either ignored or not well understood specifically by private organisations. The resolution of the issue needs a two-fold approach: to communicate the considerable economic potential when reducing violence and demonstrate the impact of digital services providers. We Encourage (WE) has taken the role with diverse partner organisations to build awareness on the scale of the problem, human suffering and loss of economic resources while building the solution to resolve the issue through digital tools, processes and people. AinoAid™ is designed as a first step for victims seeking help. Anonymous chat helps overcome the shame they feel and learn the level of seriousness of their situation for the most suitable action they can take. Usually, the desired services are hard to find and scattered, and it's often difficult to recognise the right services. Further, most of the services address the acute situation, missing the need for long-term support in terms of psycho-social help and guidance for the healing process from victim to survivor. Addressing the growing need and limited capacity for support services, AinoAid™ provides AI, machine learning and NLP -based conversational service to recognise the type of violence and to find the most relevant path to support organisations and services. The design of Aino Aid™ services starts with the people in need and the organisations providing the services. Our pilots have demonstrated that the impact can be delivered through the following principles: - Design with and for the user; - Data-driven; - Value creation with the local ecosystems; - Value capture for all parties.

Dealing with young offenders in Sweden

Fredrik Karlsson

Abstract Missing

Innovative tools developed by EU Horizon Research on Domestic Abuse

Joachim Kersten, Catharina Vogt, Jarmo Houtsonen, Paul Herbinger

The presentation will be a panel consisting of HORIZON IMPRODOVA/IMPROVE researchers from several EU countries and professional backgrounds reporting on the findings of recent multi-disciplinary research on the prevention and mitigation of domestic abuse. In EU member states domestic violence remains under-reported by the victims and under-detected by the frontline agencies. IMPRODOVA and IMPROVE projects have developed tools to increase reporting of domestic violence and for strengthening victims' rights for services and justice. Police Authorities, Civil Society Organizations and other frontline responder organisations have been addressed to enhance their competencies and to utilize innovative solutions. As one part of the research IMPROVE will use AI/IT tools for victims' immediate advice and guidance towards the available service provisions. IMPROVE will also address frontline responders training needs by designing training materials covering sector specific and cross-sector contents supported by innovative teaching and learning methods. The overarching objective of IMPRODOVA research aimed at a decisive improvement of first-line responders' communication and cooperation in cases of high-impact domestic abuse.

Examining the tensions between policing people convicted of sexual offending and promoting the desistance process

Stephanie Kewley, Sarah Pemberton

Comprehensive child protection policies must include strategies that promote the desistance process of those convicted of sexual crimes. This is because, facilitating mechanisms of desistance, in such populations, result in many desirable outcomes, such as, a) the prevention of further harm to victims, b) the reduction of social, economic, and legal costs to society, and c) the opportunity for those who have caused harm to safely contribute to society. Yet, our knowledge of how formal criminal justice structures can 'assist desistance', is limited, particularly when we consider highly stigmatised and marginalised populations such as people convicted of sexual offending.

Our presentation aims to introduce the work of specialist police teams responsible for the Management of Sexual/Violent Offenders (MOSOVOs) across England and Wales. MOSOVOs have a statutory duty to both manage the risk of people convicted of sexual offending, while also helping to foster a process of desistance. However, in a highly politicised public protection context, significant friction exists.

We hope to draw attention to the moral tension's specialist police practitioners face as they work to protect the public, whilst simultaneously helping those with sexual convictions navigate the desistance process in a typically hostile environment. We outline how specialist police practitioners must be willing, able, and fully supported to respond to the unique and diverse needs of the people they manage. To do this, they must help those with sexual convictions develop alternative (non-offending) lifestyles and identities by providing safe, non-stigmatising, and stable interactions. Indeed, we argue that to deliver comprehensive child protection strategies that embrace the notion of assisted desistance, criminal justice structures must embrace 'public health' rather than 'public protection' approaches.

Evaluating a peer-led intervention to support clients to vacate warrants following release from prison: a case study from British Columbia, Canada

Mo Korchinski, Pamela Young, Cheri McBride, Nelson Luk, Heather Palis, Amanda Slaunwhite

Background:

Vacating warrants can be difficult to navigate and affects well-being by limiting access to housing, eligibility for income assistance, and engagement in treatment and recovery programs, overall producing adverse health outcomes; therefore, support for navigating the warrant resolution process is needed.

Objective:

The Unlocking the Gates Services Society's (UTGSS) warrant program seeks to support and follow clients during their court processes of vacating their warrants by establishing Peer Mentors to navigate this process (eg. providing transportation to court, attending court hearings). The goal is to ensure clients do not end up with subsequent warrants. Upon vacating their warrant, UTGSS connects clients with social services such as legal aid, income assistance, safe supply, treatment, food and housing in order to meet their survival needs and improve health outcomes.

Methods:

UTGSS conducted surveys at two time points (intake and follow-up) to monitor progress and determine warrant impact and health outcomes of people seeking to vacate warrants. Two Peer Mentors were trained in the specifics of vacating active warrants. UTGSS also established a relationship with a municipal organization providing social services, Maple Ridge Community Hub, to promote their services in the community.

Results:

The UTGSS warrant program successfully provided warrant resolution for 77 people throughout the study period, exceeding their target of 50 clients. Of the 77 clients with the assistance of UTGSS, 41 connected with a lawyer, 22 accessed treatment, and 17 found safe temporary housing upon warrant resolution, thus meeting their basic needs and improving health outcomes.

Conclusion:

Clients stressed the importance of the UTGSS warrant program as it has made the process less daunting and much easier to vacate warrants. The positive reception of this peer-led program has led to increasing requests to provide this warrant program to the surrounding communities.

Drink Driving - Why We Often Fail to Learn from Best Practice

Matej Košir, Sanela Talic

In Europe, approximately 25% of all traffic accident fatalities are alcohol related. Governments and other responsible authorities have carried out a number of more or less effective and (also) ineffective measures to prevent drink driving. Some policies and measures are proven to be successful (e.g., more frequent random BAC tests for all drivers, zero tolerance for novice and professional drivers, lower BAC levels in general, alcolocks for repeat offenders, structured and long-term campaigns, and educational programmes etc.), but are still not fully included in many legislations and are not consistently implemented in practice. Despite the fact that drivers today are aware of the tragic and financial consequences they can bring to themselves and others while driving drunk, and that the public opinion with regard to drink driving largely changed (most Europeans nowadays openly oppose to drink driving), drunk drivers are still responsible for about a quarter of all fatal accidents in Europe. Therefore, new, better, and more effective measures are urgently needed. The authors will present extensive existing scientific evidence from many studies and research in a structured way and present many good examples from practice as well (e.g., evidence-based interventions). Presentation will be based on the document (guidelines and recommendations) which was published few years ago by author (Košir) and co-author (Talic) in Slovenia and co-sponsored by the Slovenian Traffic Safety Agency and the Ministry of Health.

The challenges and opportunities of NGO in collaboration with law enforcement officers

Matej Košir

The Institute for Research and Development (UTRIP) is a non-profit research institute from Slovenia (Europe) and a global think tank in the field of prevention, health promotion and advocacy. It leads a national network of more than 40 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions called "Prevention platform" (www.preventivna-platforma.si), which is community mobilization initiative in about 40 Slovenian municipalities. The UTRIP collaborates with the Ministry of Interior and Slovenian Police (also partners in Prevention Platform network), especially in purpose to develop and implement effective community-based interventions in collaboration with local law enforcement officers. As a part of the European Union-funded project entitled "Stockholm prevents Alcohol and Drug problems (STAD) in Europe" project (<http://stadineurope.eu/>), a collaboration was established with the law enforcement officers (LEO) in the United Kingdom, Spain, Slovenia, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands and Czech Republic. The purpose is to establish more successful collaboration amongst different local stakeholders, including local LEO, in the field of nightlife prevention (e.g., decreasing alcohol sell to minors and obviously intoxicated persons in nightlife settings). LEO from national level have been actively involved in several education and training courses in recent years conducted by UTRIP (either online or in-person), especially regarding evidence-based prevention policy and practice at national and local level (e.g., Universal Prevention Curriculum (UPC)-Adapt, ASAP-Training, national European Prevention Curriculum (EUPC) training courses and special targeted and practice-oriented courses, developed by UTRIP). One of key pillars of the Prevention Platform programme is also school-based prevention, so this is an opportunity for UTRIP and the Slovenian Police to collaborate again in purpose to disseminate the UNODC LEO guiding document among local LEOs. UTRIP is planning to include this guiding document in its targeted and practice-oriented education and training for diverse stakeholders on how to systematically plan, implement and evaluate evidence-based prevention interventions nationally and globally.

Enhancing social protection and health for LGBTIQ persons in Liberia

Jennifer Kuwa Henshaw, Joe Thomas, Mengee Kai

This Abstract is meant to share with Partners on issue affecting the LGBTIQ community when it comes to Public Health and Protection. Liberia as a nation state that has experienced series of conflicts in the 90s- the early 2003 and in recent years experienced health related conflict (EBOLA) that took away the lives of 4500 persons in 2014-2015. During the EBOLA pandemic, the LGBT Community was highly accused of being the cause of the pandemic in Liberia and received lots of hate crime messages on the media, social media, at religious institutions and in the communities. Liberia, a Country which is a signatory to international declarations, protocols, treaties or conventions, these conventions or treaties to protect the rights of the People have not been of reality. Some of these declarations are yet to be domesticated in Liberia as the result of Constitutional, Religious and Cultural contexts. Liberia is also slow in addressing issues affecting the LGBT community and has instituted policy that discriminates same sex relation and is punishable by law, under the Penal Code, section 14.73, 74, etc. Liberia is Country with diverse group of population and people with sexual orientation and gender identity, issues affecting these people is far from being redress and it is huge, ranging from, discrimination, hate crime, injustice, inequality, limited access to health care services or other social services, blackmailing, neglect, stigma, etc. These issues put members of the LGBT community at the stage of being vulnerable in the Liberian Society. The LGBT community is also faced with the issues of violence, abuse, attacks, lack of basic human rights services and protection as the result of their sexuality. In most cases, when LGBT person's rights have been abused and violated, when the case is taken to the police station, the police officer does not investigate the case with fairness, but rather being very homophobic and at the end point our community members are placed in jail. This situation often puts members of the LGBT community into dangerous position and is often afraid to voice out issues affecting them or to take their case to the nearest police station whenever their rights are being abused or violated at the local or national levels. In 2013, the human right watch launched a report on crime committed against the LGBT community in Liberia. This report shows how the LGBT community is affected by actions from the homophobic society and seeking for an end to those attacks, abuse and violence against the marginalized group. As human rights and protection play an integral part to the survival of members of the LGBT community in the Global Village, it is important to engage governments, donors, stakeholders, policy makers, traditional leaders, religious leaders, key partners, university professors, teachers, campus based organization, youth and women groups in advocating for the rights, protection, access to health care services, justice and other basic human rights services for every human being, regardless of one's sexuality or gender identity at the local and national levels. Methodology: This presentation will be done through power point and video screening where members of the LGBT community in Liberia will explain the sort of abuse, stigma, violation, discrimination, neglect, hate and the lack of access to basic human rights services and other issues which affecting the LGBT community in the Liberian context. This presentation will be done by Jennifer K. Henshaw, Executive Coordinator of the LEGAL.

‘HIV ended up in second place’- prioritizing social integration in the shadow of social exclusion: an interview study with migrants living with HIV in Sweden

Faustine Kyungu Nkulu Kalengayi, Anna-Karin Hurtig, Anne Adhiambo Ouma

Background

Migrants are overrepresented among people living with HIV in Sweden as they often face conditions that increased their risk and vulnerability for HIV/STI infections prior, during or after migration.

Objective

To explore migrants’ experiences of living with HIV in Sweden.

Methods

This is a qualitative study based on interviews with 13 migrants living with HIV in Sweden. Interviews were analysed with thematic analysis using an intersectional perspective to explore the interactions of multiple social identities that shape an individual’s or group’s experiences.

Results

The analysis resulted in a main theme: ‘Prioritizing social integration-HIV ends up in second place’, which is based on four subthemes: ‘Better opportunities in the new country than what the home country could offer’, ‘Better conditions for LGBTQI people than in the home country’, ‘Navigating a new system: linguistic and bureaucratic challenges’ and ‘Feeling like a second-class resident: racism, xenophobia and multiple discrimination’. The results suggest that migrants living with HIV in Sweden experience social integration as a greater challenge than HIV infection. While the new country offers opportunities for better living conditions, many participants described being challenged in their daily life by linguistic and structural barriers and facing multiple discrimination simultaneously as migrants due to their multiple and intersecting identities (e.g. being non-white, foreigners/foreign-born and non-Swedish speakers). These were compounded by HIV status and thus limit their opportunities in the new country and often result in an existence of exclusion.

Conclusions

The study shows that most of the challenges that migrants living with HIV face are related to their status as migrants rather than HIV status, which is often not known by the public or authorities. This emphasizes the importance of both intersectional, intersectoral and multisectoral approaches to address reported issues.

Ambiguous Police Pride - Worthy of Great Things

Jonna Lappalainen, Bengt Bergman

Through history, the work of police officers has involved many encounters with people in the back streets of society. The means of coercion that a police officer can use in these contexts involve a delicate balance between power and humanism. We have also received numerous descriptions of police abuse on society's most vulnerable, perhaps with the good memory of other citizens. In the election campaign in Sweden 2022, a tougher stance against antisocial behavior has permeated many parties' election manifestos. However, contemporary criminological and sociological research states that building sustainable societies is not helped by pure repressive methods against those who disturb the public order. Instead, both researchers and police officers in the field advocate an expanded preventive work to deal with antisocial behavior. Long-term work with mental illness, addiction and poverty instead reduces the pressure on law enforcement, the judiciary and social/health care.

Furthermore, in the aftermath of a market-oriented organization of the welfare sector, researches identify a fragmentation of the welfare system. It has further been argued that this change has eroded the welfare professions and led to deprofessionalization. The tendencies could be described as a loss of professional pride, which can create feelings of meaninglessness and alienation within civil servants.

These implications may lead to that a deeper understanding among police officers regarding the work with society's most vulnerable can be decisive for the building of a solid and ethical police pride. However, when going through literature, pride appears as ambiguous and can be regarded as both strengthening and destructive. We aim to discuss how pride manifest itself in daily police practice and the importance of professional pride among police officers. Maybe the promotion of police pride is an example of how the welfare society can be maintained in these difficult times?

Missing incidents in persons with dementia – What do we know and what do we do?

Mikael Larsson, Maria Wolmesjö, Anders Svensson, Rebecca Stenberg

Background:

Approximately 40-60% of persons with dementia (PWD) will go missing at some point during the course of the disease. PWD who go missing is at high risk of coming to harm or even die. In Sweden it's the Police responsibility to locate missing persons at high risk of coming to harm, like for example PWD. Every year approximately 26000-27000 persons are reported missing to the Swedish police. How many out of these persons, which are reported having dementia is unknown, the Swedish police doesn't keep record on why people go missing. It has been estimated that 25% of all reported missing incidents involves people with dementia, but the estimation might be based on a skewed selection. More research on missing incidents among PWD is needed, as well as on the search and rescue process conducted by the police. The management information system used by the police command centers in Sweden which is going to be analyzed can hopefully shed a light on both of these areas.

Research Objectives:

To identify how many PWD are reported missing to the Swedish Police during 1 year, and identify variables and factors associated with the missing incidents and the search and rescue process.

Methods:

A quantitative descriptive record study in the Swedish police management information system on data associated with missing incidents regarding PWD.

Results:

This research is part of a doctoral thesis and the research program ISOLDE which focuses on safeguarding PWD in risk of going missing. The result will increase the basic knowledge in how many persons who are categorized as a PWD by the Police and reported as missing during a year. It also aspires to identify variables and important factors associated to missing incidents and to the search and rescue process.

Implications for practice:

The research serves as knowledge foundation for, a multi-agency approach to missing incident prevention, and for a more effective search and rescue process concerning PWD gone missing.

Chasing thieves or preventing crime? – Police students' perception of crime prevention

Mia Lind

Submitted by: Mia Lind

Crime is a public health issue, and crime causes feelings of un-safety and a reduced quality of life. Therefore, to prevent crime is to create a community resilience and to improve the life of the citizens. Many society actors are collaborating to prevent crime, and one of these is the police organization. One of the police most important work assignments is to prevent crime, but the crime preventive work within the police has been criticized of having low status, low priority and not be executed as the government intended. A glimpse of hope in improving the police crime preventive work is the new police officers that should be trained in crime prevention thru their education. To this day, the research about police students is focusing on reasons to become a police officer and attitudes of work competences and authority-, autonomy-, and punitive attitudes. Moreover, the research shows that there is a difference in these attitudes between police students and police officers. Is this also true for the perception of crime prevention? To fill the gap in research this presentation will answer the questions: How is Swedish police students perceiving crime prevention? And how are the students perceiving crime prevention in relation to other forms of policing? This research is further investigating a possible reason for the deficits in police crime preventive work, and it will contribute with valuable information for the police organization and the police education. In the prolonging, if crime prevention is improved the citizens safety and quality of life will also be enhanced. A digital survey will be distributed to police students at all five police educations in Sweden. The preliminary results of that survey will be discussed during the presentation.

Judging Recovery: A Qualitative Analysis of ‘Care’ and ‘Control’ in a Scottish Drug Court.

Amy Loughery

Background:

This doctoral study explored professional understandings and interpretations of ‘care’ and ‘control’, and how therapeutic and punitive approaches were combined, in a Drug Court programme in Scotland.

Research Objectives or Program Description:

The primary objective of this research was to elicit qualitative understandings of ‘how’ and ‘why’ Drug Courts combine therapeutic and punitive approaches to reduce substance misuse and drug-related crime and harms, to benefit both programme participants and the wider community.

Methods or Activities:

This study used semi-structured and narrative interviews with 10 Drug Court professionals and drew upon observations of 136 hearings to develop rich qualitative insights on the complex relationship between ‘care’ and ‘control’ in a Scottish Drug Court.

Results or Evaluation:

This study found that ‘control’ was often interpreted as ‘care’ in the Scottish Drug Court as supervisory and punitive interventions, such as regular drug testing and even short custodial sentences, were interpreted as therapeutically beneficial to reduce harms and condition responsibility for recovery; despite the Drug Court’s position as an alternative to custody. There was, however, a prevailing emphasis on harm reduction which engendered a recognition of, and provision of services to mitigate, the impact of structural factors on dependence and recovery.

Conclusions or Implications:

Whilst access to therapeutic interventions was conditional upon participants’ compliance with ‘control’ measures, there was a prevailing emphasis on harm-reduction in the Scottish approach and a recognition of the impact of structural factors on dependence and recovery. This finding has important implications for the development of Drug Courts in the UK and worldwide, which attempt to integrate therapeutic and criminal justice values.

Childhood Adversity, Self-control, and the Risk of Illicit Drug Use: Findings from a Sample of Female Prisoners in Taiwan

Yi-Fen Lu, Yi-Chun Yu, Lanying Huang, Chuen- Jim Sheu

Background:

Violations of the drug act disproportionately account for the incarcerated population in Taiwan, especially among the female inmates. During the past 10 years, almost 70 percent of female inmates were imprisoned because of illicit drug use, sales, or trafficking. Improved understanding of the attributes to their initiation and development of illicit drug involvement is imperative.

Research Objectives:

This study aims to examine the relationship between ACEs and self-control levels and their influences on illicit drug use.

Methods:

A sample of 145 female inmates from a retrospective survey of prisoners conducted from April 2021 and February 2022 in Taiwan were utilized for analysis. Their age ranges from 22 to 66 (as of 2022) with a mean of 43.1. Educational attainment was 6.9% elementary school and below (n=10), 21.4% junior high school (n=31), 53.1% senior high school (n=77), and 18.6% college and above (n=27). A series of logistic regression analyses were performed to test for the interrelationship among ACEs, self-control, and illicit drug use.

Results:

Sixty-three percent of respondents reported at least 1 of the 10 ACEs, and 44% reported 2 or more. Compared with the respondents with 0 ACEs, respondents with some ACEs were 2 to 4 times more likely to report having ever used illicit drugs. In addition, ACEs were strongly associated with decreased self-control. The relationship between ACEs and lifetime use of illicit drug was mediated by self-control.

Conclusions:

Both ACEs and low self-control were connected with illicit drug problems. To be specific, the effect of ACEs on lifetime use of illicit drugs was exerted through self-control development. This is demonstrated again that childhood experiences are important for youth self-control development, which further relating to problematic behaviors. The mechanism of ACEs to prevalence of illicit drug use somewhat has been unlocked among the female inmates in this study.

Self-estimated stress within patrolling police officers

Julia Lundén, Emelie Havslilja

Stress within the Swedish Police Authority has been examined based on patrolling police officers (PPO) experiences in different situations linked to the work as a PPO. PPOs are often first responders to events that typically generate stress. This study was performed as a cross-sectional study examining the PPOs answers to the Police Stress Identification Questionnaire (PSIQ). The aim of this study was to investigate whether the impact of gender and police regions would affect and differ the result within the different items and whether this study would differ in relation to previous research and specifically the study *Initiativ Mareld*. This study was performed as a survey study distributed to PPOs in a city in police region Mit and police region Väst.

The questionnaire consisted of the PSIQ and demographic questions including age, gender and placement of duty. The result was interpreted with students t-test to seek variations between women and men and also between the police regions. Differences were discovered, but not to such extent as predicted based on the theories and preconceived perception. The results were interpreted with caution and the results were to some extent similar to *Initiativ Mareld*. Women and men estimated the stressors quite alike with some differences concerning physical exposure e.g., “being exposed to threats of physical violence”. Similarities with *Initiativ Mareld* were detected and the top three estimated stressors were the same for both studies. This study and its results show tendencies within police stress science. The subject of this study is still relevant and therefore research within the subject will continuously be important.

Themes compatible with this presentation are: Police and first responder mental health and wellbeing, information and data sharing and comparison with an earlier study. My co-author is Emelie Havslilja. Emelie has approved me presenting our study and also for using our abstract.

“Grab’em by the...!” Challenges and resistance to work against sexual harassment within the Swedish police force

Silje Lundgren, Malin Wieslander

This paper will present the research project (Forte 2022-00128, project period 2023-2025) “Grab’em by the...! Challenges and resistance to work against sexual harassment within the Swedish police force” [Swed: “Våga tafs!” Utmaningar och motstånd i arbetet mot sexuella trakasserier inom polisen”]. The point of departure of the project is that sexual harassment is not necessarily considered a problem within the police, despite available testimonies and statistics. Instead, a sexualised jargon is often considered crucial to a professional identity as a police officer. The project does thus not depart from an a priori definition of sexual harassment, but rather explores differing understandings of sexual harassment among different roles within the police (e.g. managers, safety representatives, junior female police officers). The project makes a methodological contribution to a so-called ‘perpetrator perspective’ which has been identified as an important knowledge gap in previous research, i.e. the study of those who harass and factors that enable harassment. Applying analytical tools from theorisation of everyday resistance within organisations, the project explores how cultures of silence, relations of dependence and retaliations affect organisations’ work against sexual harassment. This knowledge may in turn contribute to improving preventive work against sexual harassment within the police.

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Police Officers' Mental Health

Hans O. Löfgren

This study had a twofold objective. First, we aimed to measure the levels of stress symptoms and burnout on the police officers who volunteered for the study. Second, we proposed to examine the effect of COVID-19 exposure and exposure to traumatic experiences in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic on the European officers' mental health. The National Directorate of the Policia de Segurança Pública (Portuguese Public Security Police) fully supported this study and was responsible for distributing information about the study and the link to an online questionnaire among their officers. As expected, the levels of burnout, psychological distress, and posttraumatic stress (PTS) were higher than similar professional populations in non-pandemic conditions. Officers with fewer than 11 years of work experience showed fewer symptoms of PTS compared to those with longer work experience, but at the same time, they reported higher levels of burnout. Women revealed higher scores of burnout-disengagement, but no other differences compared to their male colleagues. Officers who were married or living in a partner relationship obtained lower levels of posttraumatic stress than officers who reported being single, divorced, or widowed. The responsibility of caring for an elderly relative increased psychological distress and PTS levels. In general, exposure to COVID-19 or being at risk of infection had less impact on the officers' mental health than exposure to traumatic experiences. In conclusion, as expected, the pandemic is having a stressful effect on police officers, but it is not homogeneous among different groups.

Police work with vulnerable people: A presentation of a police-orientated education of interacting with mentally ill persons.

Hans Lövgren, Erik Andersson

Background:

The basic training program for police students came from the same information as the health care students, however the health care needs much more detailed knowledge about symptoms, treatments and latest research. The research about mental illness is developing fast, towards more neurological discoveries and better understanding. The police are the societies guardians that, by free will and demands by law, help citizens in despair. As long as the society do not invest in mental health care, economically and by juridical adjustments, the police have to take a raising burden of handling cases of mentally ill persons, even when situation not involving life threats.

The question is if the police education provides the police students with appropriate knowledge to the coming work demands or provides the police students with nonessential health care related details.

Aim:

The goal of Umeå university police education is to provide the students with an understanding regarding the term vulnerability of mentally ill persons, but also the danger of handling cases with severe mentally ill persons. The change of the education is to reduce the health care, therapeutic and neurological details and teach the students on interacting, focus of the mission, communication, controlling ones emotions, and separate the person from the mental illness and not least, security.

Theory:

The theory of police work with mentally ill persons are in the dawn, there are few domestic articles about how police interpret and handle dangerous situation, how psychiatric patients remember and evaluate the interaction with the police, how the best practice police work can be validated. In mean while Umeå university police education takes the first steps towards a more police orientated education of working with mentally ill persons.

Description of the presentation:

This short presentation show the major concepts of the education about; type of mental illness (psychotic vs non-psychotic); the degree of acuteness; how to evaluate the situation; low affective interacting; communication and approach.

Whether to degree or not degree is not really the answer to the LEPH question

Denise Martin

In a recent speech at the National Police Chief Councils in November 2022 in the UK, the Home Secretary announced that Police forces would be obliged to develop new routes for police applicants who do not want or desire a degree. Presently in England and Wales at least, the degree is being used as a scapegoat to blame for the high number of people leaving the service and preventing diversity of recruits desiring a vocation in policing. This false binary of whether to have police as a graduate profession or not ignores the real issues that needs to be addressed. That is that fundamentally policing is having to deal with a range of wicked issues, and we need to equip police officers with the right knowledge, skills and abilities in order for them to adequately do the job and to face the trauma that they often have to police on a daily basis. This does not mean more training but an approach where learning and development is seen as integral to the service, not as a nice to have but embedded in the organisation as a way that supports the individual officer to have the capability to adequately make the decisions they must on the front-line. Drawing from empirical research completed on various projects with police service in the past few years, this paper will argue that enhancing learning and development not only supports officers better and makes them more able to cope with the challenging situations they face it also has additional benefits of increasing the feeling officers have about the organisation and ultimately how they interact with victims, perpetrators and other stakeholders.

Using Ecological Momentary Assessment design to study the temporal dynamic relations between stress and decision-making performance in patrol police – A study protocol

Brian McGuigan, Stefan Holmström, Annika Johansson, Erik Lundkvist

Background

Police are confronted regularly with decision-making in situations that are characterized by a lack of structure, unpredictability, variation, and risk. The long and irregular work hours that police often work in, negatively influence decision-making in situations that are dynamic and stressful (Vila & Samuels, 2011). Perceived stress is negatively related to sleep quality among police officers (Charles et al., 2011). Stress, sleep quality, workload, working memory, and decision-making performance have been shown to influence each other, but the temporal dynamic relationships between them have not been investigated in patrol police over time in an intensive longitudinal design.

Research Objectives

The main aim of this study protocol is to investigate the temporal dynamic relationship between stress, sleep quality, workload, working memory, and self-assessed decision-making performance in patrol police within and between days. A secondary aim is to understand if background information and more stable psychological variables (i.e., emotion regulation, psychological flexibility, decision-making style, and chronic stress) act as moderators and mediators in the temporal relationships.

Methods

This study will use a time-intensive longitudinal design using ecological momentary assessment (EMA) to daily assess patrol police over 3-6 weeks. The measurements will cover daily experiences of stress, sleep quality, workload, working memory, and decision-making performance. The data will be collected with an app on the participants' smartphones.

Implications

The current study will lead to a more detailed understanding of how stress, sleep quality, workload, working memory, and self-assessed decision-making performance are temporally related on an intraindividual level for patrol police. This study will increase research on stress and decision-making in police with a more detailed understanding of the factor of time to help improve patrol police decision-making.

When health meets crime: unpacking the conceptual and practical challenges of public health approaches to violence reduction

Francesca Menichelli, Sam Weston

Public health approaches to violence prevention have gained relevance spurred by the growing recognition of the significant intersection between health and law enforcement, and emerging evidence of their effectiveness in reducing the likelihood of violence. While more established in the US, there is a history of such approaches being developed in the United Kingdom, with the 2011 London riots a catalyst for the development of violence prevention strategies involving health authorities. The increasingly complex challenges facing the police, and the emergence of areas of need revolving around mental health and vulnerability have also facilitated this convergence, with police forces across England and Wales now increasingly working together with health to meet the needs of vulnerable populations and prevent violence. For policymakers, the major appeal of public health and harm reduction frameworks is that they seem to offer clear, evidence-based, practical steps to reduce levels of violence. Yet not much attention has been paid to the conceptual implications of the shift towards public health approaches to violence prevention. This paper identifies some aspects of public health approaches to crime control that are potentially problematic. First, they pay insufficient attention to criminalisation and the politics of risk. They also struggle to answer questions regarding the role of experts in crime control, what to do when fractured communities lack consensus, and how to overcome the gap between problems with systemic roots and the local solutions proposed to address them. In a context marked by growing need and the persistence of low volume high-harm violent crime, our argument is that further research is needed to explore the ramifications of the shift towards public health approaches to crime, and we need to start thinking critically about what the adoption of public health principles means for crime control in general and violence reduction in particular.

Harm reduction as an entry point for reducing safety risks of vulnerable population groups.

Monique Michal Marks, Michael Wilson

Harm reduction services are often viewed as complicating the work of law enforcement officers who see their core mandate as preventing and combatting crime, maintaining social order, and providing intelligence for security generation. Because of this, harm reduction centres are often viewed as threats to these mandates given that the end users are generally active drug users, and many are homeless. Through dialogue sessions between police and the beneficiaries of the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre in Durban South Africa, law enforcement views on 'good policing' has shifted. Police recognise that interventions such as methadone programmes serve to reduce petty crime and loitering while promoting public health and public safety. Having an drop-in-centre at Bellhaven provides a safe space for vulnerable population groupings to congregate, generating social order organically. Most importantly perhaps, police participation in public events at the Bellhaven Harm Reduction Centre has shifted drug users view of the police from antagonistic agents to referral agents. The result is that homeless people who use drugs are now less 'hard to reach' than previously. How this outcome has been achieved will be discussed in this presentation. We will also open the presentation to conference participants who have engaged police as champions of harm reduction, or who still wish to do so.

Partnership between public health and the police – needed more than ever

John Middleton

Joint working between police and public health professionals is essential, for example, in emergency preparedness and response; safeguarding children and vulnerable adults; responses to acute mental health problems, problems of addiction and domestic violence; accident prevention; offender management and rehabilitation; and preventing racial violence. UK community safety partnerships continue to be the overarching bodies representing local authorities, the police, health services and public health, fire services, community and minority representatives and charged with planning to prevent crime and violence at local administrative level. Knowledge of the epidemiology of violence and crime, and evidence-based intervention have increased. There is growing recognition of the impact of adverse childhood experiences and the need for trauma-informed interventions by police and health services.

The development of partnerships between police and public health requires enthusiasm, expertise, mutual respect and commitment by senior officers and officers working at the frontline. Joint training is essential; co-location is beneficial where joint decision making in real time is necessary as in children's safeguarding and mental health responses. Progress in partnerships has been undermined by austerity policies, political indifference, and disruptive service reorganisations. This poster draws on will describe my experiences over 40 years of working with the police at local, national and international levels. The poster covers only working examples of three major areas of work by law enforcement and public health which are concerned with the prevention of ill health and the promotion of safety. These are: drug and alcohol harm reduction; adverse childhood experiences and trauma informed responses and responses to acute mental health problems. More details can be found in the text book of [Law Enforcement and Public Health](#).

In many jurisdictions the role of the police is confined to public order, 'fighting crime' and responding to emergencies. In the age of pandemics and populism, it is more vital than ever that public health and police forces work together and develop effective partnerships, for the safety and health of the communities they serve.

Risk factors associated with missing incidents among persons living with dementia: A retrospective study

Antonio Miguel-Cruz, Hector Perez, Emily Rutledge, Christine Daum, Lili Liu.

Background:

Persons living with dementia are at risk of getting lost and going missing. Risk factors associated with missing incidents in this population are underexplored in Canada.

Research objectives:

To examine the risk factors associated with missing incidents among persons who live with dementia, and persons who do not have dementia.

Methods:

In this retrospective observational study, we examined anonymized data from the MedicAlert® database from January 2011 to July 2021 consisting of 61,708 subscribers. Medic-Alert® service assists first responders to locate individuals who are missing. We conducted a dimensionality reduction procedure (13 variables) by using principal component analysis. Next, we used a logistic regression model with self-reported missing incident as the outcome variable ($p < 0.05$).

Results:

Twenty two percent (13,340/61,708) of cases had dementia. The principal component analysis derived 5 domains including age and dementia, allergies and special needs, ethnic background and language, medications and medical conditions, and geographical area and living arrangement variables. Factors associated with missing incidents included: age (OR 1.05; CI 1.04-1.05, $p < 0.001$), dementia (OR 2.70; CI 2.50-2.90, $p < 0.001$), allergies (OR 0.74; CI 0.69-0.80, $p < 0.001$), special needs (OR 0.69; CI 0.63-0.75, $p < 0.001$), language (OR 0.55; CI 0.47-0.65, $p < 0.001$), medications (OR 0.73; CI 0.66-0.79, $p < 0.001$), geographical location (OR 1.38; CI 1.21-1.57, $p < 0.001$), and living arrangement (OR 0.70; CI 0.64-0.77, $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion:

Numerous risk factors for missing incidents were identified. The most important were geographical location and whether a person had dementia. Medic-Alert® subscribers living with dementia had a 2.50 higher risk of going missing compared to those who were not living with dementia. Our study paves the way for implementing preventative strategies to decrease the risk of going missing due to dementia-related cognitive impairment.

Mystery Shopping Method for Monitoring Underage Alcohol Sales

Laura Miščikiene, Mindaugas Štelemekas, Justina Vaitkeviciute

Background and aims:

According to the Lithuanian law, to prevent the sale of alcohol to customers below the legal minimum purchasing age, young adults below 25 years of age must be asked to show an ID. Currently, in Lithuania, the minimum legal drinking age restrictions may be insufficiently accompanied by enforcement strategies. The aim of this study was to assess whether off-premise alcohol outlets comply with the law and test mystery shopping method, as possibility to enforce the law provisions.

Methods:

In 2022, mystery-shopping study was carried out in a representative sample of off-premise outlets. The mystery shopping involved attempts by young, but legally eligible customers to purchase alcohol, and to observe whether staff requested ID prior to completing the sale. Although the mystery shoppers were of legal age, they should appear to be young enough to trigger a request for ID. Underage mystery shoppers were not recruited to ensure that attempted purchases posed no legal/ethical conflicts. A statistical significance level (p values) of 0.05 was chosen to test the hypotheses. The categorical variables were presented as percentages and compared using Chi-square (?2) and Z tests.

Findings:

In total, in 43.5% of the purchase attempts, the store staff did not ask the mystery shoppers for their IDs. Out of all attempts, 44.8% were considered to be successful. A significant association of ID requests and success of attempts of purchases was observed. And even though more than half attempts were unsuccessful, results create implications of possibility for underage shoppers to purchase alcohol.

Conclusions:

The results indicate an insufficient level of age verification control in country, and that additional action is needed to increase compliance. As only law enforcement has the right to imitate a violation of the law and use underage persons, involving these institutions in enforcement strategies, would help achieve the objectives of the legislation.

Labeling Segregated Neighborhoods: Assessing the impact of vulnerable area designations on neighborhood level outcomes in Sweden

Jeffrey Mitchell, Guilherme Kenjy Chihaya Da Silva, Manne Gerell, Jutta Kawalerowicz

This project aims to examine the effects that receiving a vulnerable area designation (utsattaområden) has on the segregated areas that receive them. The vulnerable area designation was created by the Swedish Police Authority with the intention of alleviating some of the negative effects caused by segregation, however there is very little research on the impact these designations have had on neighborhoods in the 9 years since their creation. We will assess the impact of the vulnerable area designations across a wide set of outcomes which theoretically should have changed as a result of the program: public health, social cohesion, and crime. We outline the possibility that receiving a designation will have both 1) intended consequences through the increase in resources and social programs and 2) unintended consequences through the stigmatizing effects that are associated with receiving the designation. This presentation will discuss a project where we will merge GIS data locating the areas that received the designations, with data from the Swedish registers, longitudinal survey data, and crime data from Statistics Sweden. We analyze the causal effects of receiving a designation with a combination difference-in-difference and spatial regression discontinuity designs, to assess the broad impacts that this type of spatial marking has on segregated neighborhoods.

Who gets the blame and who gets the credit? Policing, assistance, and institutional trust among the Roma in Europe

Jeffrey Mitchell, Daniel La Parra Casado

In many European countries the Roma are the largest minority group, and research often highlights their heightened exposure to discrimination, harassment, and even abuse during interactions with the state. In contrast, many governments have assistance programs targeted to the Roma in an effort to boost integration. However, there is strikingly little systematic quantitative research on how these experiences are related to the trust that the Roma place in institutions. This study addresses this gap by using EU-MIDIS II data from 9 European countries to assess the relationship between institutional trust and the experiences the Roma have with the police and assistance programs. Our analyses show that different experiences relate to trust in institutions differently: interactions with the police, either by being stopped or assaulted are most strongly associated with lower trust in the police and local government. In contrast, those who report having received assistance based on their minority membership are associated with modestly higher levels of trust across institution types. These results are consistent across the countries included in the analysis, and highlight the importance of institutional assistance and procedural justice in fostering or eroding trust amongst minority populations.

Contact Child Sexual Exploitation Victim – Perpetrator Dynamics: Exploring Interpersonal Communicative Patterns

Vicky Mooney

Until recently, empirical evidence exploring Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) has been scarce, particularly in relation to contact exploitation, where the convicted perpetrator seeks direct physical (offline) contact as opposed to solely targeting the victim online. This presentation reports and discusses the results of a study of the interpersonal dynamics that exist between contact CSE perpetrators and their victims, specifically the discourse used by perpetrators when seeking to manipulate their victims into engaging in or maintaining sexual activity, and the victims' discursive responses to such manipulation.

Data for the study consist of victim and perpetrator language (c. 16,000 words) extracted from 41 contact CSE police case files, involving 50 perpetrators (37 lone offenders and 4 group) and 80 victims. These data were examined by computer aided psycho-linguistic software (Language Inquiry Word Count [LIWC] v.2015) and discourse analysis (sequentially conducted to provide context to the LIWC language variables). The combined quantitative and qualitative findings reveal distinct contact CSE linguistic features, including similarities in perpetrator communicative patterns, such as establishing access, use of flattery, assessing risk and making arrangements to maintain contact, consistent with previous online grooming research, in addition to the variations in LIWC language variables between perpetrator and victim demographic categories.

Differing from most previous online CSE findings, specific contact CSE perpetrator communicative patterns emerged from the data, whereby instances of both verbal and non-verbal approaches, categorised under a coercive control heading, were present, ranging from the use of threats and humiliation to subordination and physical force. Furthermore, the data suggests that a more aggressive approach to initiating / maintaining sexual activity is used by perpetrators offending in a group, where the sexual offences are more deviant.

Besides Being Scared if I Would Ever Heal, I was Scared Police Could Have Attacked the Shelter’’: Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning COVID-19 Adolescents Managed in Protection Shelters in Kampala, Uganda

Denis Muganga, Aisha Nalwoga, Rehemah Nabbuye, Habibu Byamukama, Quraish Sserwanja

Background:

The already struggling Ugandan health system was overwhelmed with the high number of COVID-19 patients who needed care and guidelines were amended to allow home based management for mild to moderate cases. African Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) individuals face severe discrimination and death threats due to the homophobic laws and norms which negatively affects their access to social, medical, and economic services/opportunities.

Objective:

We explored the experiences of LGBTQ adolescents that were managed for COVID-19 in protection shelters in Kampala, Uganda.

Methods:

The study used qualitative methodology borrowing upon the phenomenological strategy of inquiry. Study participants were followed with the help of the shelters’ records and contacted for in depth digital interviews. Coding was made using Open Code software version 4.03. Codes and categories were developed.

Results:

Experiences included feelings of fear and anxiety: fear of losing their lives, fear of becoming jobless, fear of being arrested in case the police found out the shelters and fear of losing sexual functioning. Feelings of ending their lives, hopelessness and getting closer to God through increased prayer sessions were also reported. In addition, feelings of personal blame for their sexuality were reported by some who reported that they could not get the strong family support since they had been ignored by their relatives due to their sexuality. Feelings of inadequate medical care were reported since the shelters could only get support from a few volunteers who in most cases were low cadre health workers.

Conclusion:

COVID-19 shelter care was associated with great fear and anxiety, suicidal thoughts loneliness, depression, inadequate care, limited social support and fear of police arrests. Stakeholders should consider various shelter follow up strategies and strengthening counselling of COVID-19 patients at all stages of care.

Does crime prevention work without the participation of the police?

Kristofer Nilsson

In this study, the focus is on the crime preventive method SafeGrowth, and the implementation of SafeGrowth at Drottninghög in Sweden. The objective is to highlight the police perspective on the implementation of SafeGrowth at Drottninghög, a risk area in Helsingborg, Sweden. Contrary to ordinary crime preventive programmes, the police are not the leading actors in the SafeGrowth process, instead they join as an equal party to the residents and other actors in the project. This study is partly result of a process evaluation conducted between August 2021 and October 2022. The data of the study, consisting of a focus group interview and an on-site visit, was constructed in October 2022. In the conducted analysis four themes related to the police perspective were identified: (1) the relationship between SafeGrowth, the areas' crime problem and evidence-based policing; (2) the contribution of SafeGrowth in terms of collective efficacy and (3) problems related to evaluating SafeGrowth within the area. In the result it becomes clear that, from a police perspective, the implementation of SafeGrowth might become quite problematic. The problems can be related both to the selection of areas and to local problems to work with, the conjunction of different descriptions of realities, and to organisation within the project. To fully succeed with SafeGrowth at Drottninghög and similar areas, the method needs to include police perspectives more clearly to facilitate co-operation. Despite these problems, we also identified that a major advantage of the method, was its contribution to collective efficacy in the area. In its turn, this can be helpful to every-day police work at Drottninghög.

Police and social work partnership education

Carina Nyman

Ever since the Police Education at Umeå University started the police students and students at the social worker program have met and had joint teaching to different extents and with different themes. The common elements of collaboration have existed to varying extents and have also changed over time, depending on what has been discussed in society at large but also based on the composition, creativity and ambition of the teaching team. Our experience was that students sometimes, in meeting with each other, got stuck in their future professional roles, which they didn't really know much about yet. It was, for example, that the police students defended to a large extent the actions of professional police officers or that social work students defended the actions of social services. To avoid that kind of stance, the idea was to let both student groups work on a topic that was relatively new and equally difficult for everyone, namely honor-related violence and oppression. Initially, everyone listened to lectures on the subject by PhD. Devin Rexvid. After the lecture, the students gathered in seminar groups consisting of both police and social work students. After the groups got to know each other and gained a little more knowledge about each other and each other's future professions, they had to attack a number of vignettes with a bearing on honor-related violence and oppression. There were difficult and tricky vignettes that did not have clear answers or solutions but gave rise to many and long discussions. One of the most important prerequisites for good cooperation is that there is a will to cooperate as a basis, that all actors are keen that the cooperation should come about. The teaching team has consisted of representatives from both institutions and we feel that what we do is meaningful, interesting and educational. What we, as a team of teachers, demonstrate to the students by working towards a common goal gives rings in the water and legitimacy to the element in their respective educations and future professional work.

Trust-building in rural areas in Sweden

Adam Nyström

In recent years there have been a focus on the levels of crime and decreased feeling of safety in Sweden. Driving factors are gang violence and shootings in suburban areas in bigger cities. Politicians' gamble on which party can give the most police resources and the political slogans focus on "tougher on crime" and "more policemen on the streets". The rural areas in Sweden does not have the same type of crimes, and crimes are less frequent. However, previous studies indicates that the feeling of safety appears to be high in some rural areas in Västerbotten, but that the level of trust for the police don't seem to be as high. A question is if there is a risk that people living in remote areas with low levels of crime, can be excluded when police prioritizations are made, and what can that lead to? Since 2015 Swedish police has a method for increasing feeling of safety, preventing crime, and building trust with the citizens: Citizen promises. Combined ideas of community policing and problem-oriented policing fits in this method and includes identifying local problems by involving members of the local community. A core idea is that cooperation between local communities and the police will increase the trust with so called "medborgardialoger" – dialogues with citizens. Research show that this type of police work can have positive effects on feeling of safety and trust to the police, if done in a proper way. The present study aims at identifying which factors for trust to the police are most important for people in remote areas in Sweden. Challenges such as distance between settlements are considered, and if a structured dialogue with citizens can be a way of gaining trust. Some preliminary results are presented and discussed.

Elder abuse and neglect: Criminal justice responses in Australia

Eileen O'Brien

This presentation outlines the criminal justice system's (perceived) lack of engagement with the abuse and neglect of older Australians. In so doing, it discusses preliminary research findings regarding police investigations of matters in Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia that could be categorised as elder abuse. The research then considers subsequent (if any) prosecutions and the ensuing consequences. There are five recognised categories of elder abuse being: financial abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, and neglect. It is estimated at least one in six older Australians experience one or more forms of abuse although the hidden nature of elder abuse is such that any statistics are likely to be an underestimate (Hill & Katz, 2019). Elder abuse has been the focus of significant exploration recently through an Australian Law Reform Commission report (ALRC, 2017) an ensuing National Plan (Council of Attorneys General, 2019), a national prevalence study (Qu et al, 2021) the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety (2021) and amendment of State and Territory legislation pertinent to elder abuse. Nevertheless, responses to elder abuse remain muted with little appetite for the criminal justice system to become involved in all but the most confronting circumstances. The research suggests that there is a need to improve the criminal justice response, in particular the attitude of some police and prosecutors towards older victims/witnesses, the effectiveness of procedures adopted in suspected instances of elder abuse, and the availability of appropriate assistance so often vulnerable witnesses can engage with the justice system.

Public health safeguarding! A collaboration between law enforcement and health care professionals in high criminality areas in Sweden

Stéphanie Paillard-Borg, Robert Ivic Morén

In Sweden the collaboration between law enforcement and health care is characterized by limited professional interaction which impacts the optimization of a multidisciplinary approach. This is a crucial issue in areas burdened by high crime rates where such professional cooperation is urgently required, to ensure the support of the populations in need of sociomedical as well law enforcement synergized resources. The aim of this study was to describe the professional collaboration between law enforcement and health care in relation to vulnerable populations living in high criminality areas in Sweden. This study examined a selection of peer-reviewed articles and gray literature consisting of academic reports and journalistic articles published between 1st of January 2020 and 31st of December 2022, corresponding to the Covid-19 pandemic. It yielded 21 items, and a keyword search and structured analysis was used to investigate the data. The 21 documents varied significantly in length, format, intended audience and scope. Topic areas covered by these resources included health consequences, access to health care, disease prevention, health promotion, safeguarding, and security. The results show that combined criminal health and public health approaches need to be reinforced to support public policing. Differences in resources, professional priorities, and perspectives negatively impact the general access to health care in these vulnerable areas and cause police discretion to be neither well informed nor protective in many cases, resulting in a worsening of physical, mental, and social health of the population. In conclusion, this study argues that a closer professional relationship needs to be developed between law enforcement and health care students early in their respective careers to create a long term and sustainable expert connection.

Behaviors, Fear and Mistrust of the Police: Understanding Perceptions of Police in Autistic and Autistic-Adjacent Communities

Megan M. Parry, Danielle Wallace, Sarah Kaborek

Background

During a police encounter, autistic individuals may display traits or characteristics inconsistent with police officers' dominant social norms or expectations surrounding individuals' behavior. These responses can arouse unwarranted suspicion by officers or unintentionally provoke uses of force.

Research Objectives

Our research aims to center the voices of autistic and autistic-adjacent (such as close friends and family) communities by focusing on the behaviors and traits autistic individuals report occurring during police encounters and highlight how these behaviors shape perceptions of the police, and concerns and fears about police encounters.

Methods

We do this by combining data from two studies. The first compares the perceptions and fears of police contact from 372 parents and caregivers of autistic loved ones with the behaviors and traits of their loved one. The second centers the perceptions and opinions of 121 autistic adults regarding the police.

Results

Preliminary results indicate that across both samples fears over police misunderstanding occur more frequently when individuals report they or their loved one display communication challenges. Fears of police aggression occur more frequently when they or their loved one display more observable outward behaviors such as sensory sensitivity or self-soothing actions.

Implications

Our study shows what behaviors autistic and autistic-adjacent individuals feel are most concerning for a police encounter, which is critical information for police training surrounding autism. Without within-encounter information and voices from the autistic community, uneven, unpredictable, or unsafe experiences may occur when autistic individuals interact with the police. Further, within these communities, when fear is high and trust in the police low, individuals may be less likely to call for help when needed. This is a particular concern as we know vulnerable communities are at increased risk of victimization.

Engaging Men and Boys in Sexual Violence Prevention

Bryony Parry, Alex Walker, Lara Snowdon and Emma Barton

In April 2021, there was growing concern amongst police forces and partners that, upon re-opening the night-time economy sexual violence and harassment would increase. Whilst alcohol consumption does not cause sexual violence, it is a risk factor for sexual violence perpetration. The 2020 Sexual Harassment Survey found that 38% of people had witnessed sexual harassment, yet only 16% of those had intervened (Government Equality Office, 2020). With funding from the Home Office, Phase 1 of #SafeToSay was developed in response to police and partners' concerns about sexual violence and harassment, and sought to prevent sexual harassment (SH) by encouraging prosocial bystander responses towards perpetrators. Phase 2 of #SafeToSay was delivered as part of a suite of interventions, funded by the Safety of Women at Night Fund, led by the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner's Office. The campaign was adapted to complement operational policing elements delivered as part of the SWAN Fund. Police data was used to confirm the target audience, which focused on peer interventions to establish a cultural shift in attitudes towards SH. Both phases of #SafeToSay ran on social media advertisements, and involved physical advertisements in Cardiff and Swansea. Both phases have been evaluated. Both evaluations consisted of social media analytics, and a survey with members of the public. Members of the public found that the campaigns had increased their awareness of SH within the night time economy, and had provided them with examples of prosocial bystander actions that they could take. Both campaigns found that members of the public wanted training in how to recognise and respond to sexual harassment. Both phases found it difficult to engage men. As such, the VPU has commissioned a behavioural insights company to develop 5 profiles to help shape Phase 3 of #SafeToSay, and ensure that men are active bystanders to SH in Wales.

Improving capabilities of local governments as designer for safe and secure environment

Ain Peil, Barbara Haage, Nurmely Mitrahovitš

In 2017, an administrative reform for municipal governments in Estonia was made. One of the aims was to merge local governments who have a lot in common, like security and safety matters. After the reform, many of newly formed local governments showed instability and other issues related to their increased role on designer for safe and secure environment. In this oral presentation, we explain the Estonian experience, including what were the outcomes of this situation and how we plan to further strengthen the role of the local level as a creator of a safe living environment. The current situation is that: local governments understand security and safety matters in a different way, which leads to erratic planning of actions; when solving root causes of security and safety problems, there is a lack of systemic approach and cooperation, and there is no common goals and responsibility; the approach to cases involving children with serious behavioral problems and referral to services is not sufficient; when planning and implementing prevention activities, there is often a lack of evidence and impact. The plan for upcoming years is to pilot a balanced approach where the central governments role is defining a common understanding of security and prevention and to empower local governments to fulfill their role as designer for safe and secure environment. The activities are to promote a network at the local level, with the help of which local level decision-makers and specialists in the field acquire better skills, tools and methods to help reduce accidents and violations of the law and prevent and risk behavior of children.

Outcomes from a Longitudinal Research Project on Policing Intimate Partner Violence in Rural and Remote Areas in Sweden

Joakim Petersson, Susanne Strand

Background and aim:

In this presentation, we will present the outcomes of a seven-year, prospective longitudinal, research project that was carried out together with the Swedish police. In this project we implemented and evaluated the use of structured violence risk assessments for police officers in rural and remote areas of Sweden, to facilitate their preventive work with intimate partner violence (IPV).

Methods/activities:

Among other things, this project generated more than 800 structured risk assessments conducted by the police using the Brief Spousal Form for the Evaluation of Risk (B-SAFER). These cases were followed-up in various police registries to examine case progression to the criminal justice system (e.g., if the perpetrator was charged/sentenced) and any recidivism/re-victimization.

Results:

We will present the outcomes from this project in terms of the papers that have been published. In relation to rurality and rural differences, this includes findings from papers on topics such as IPV severity, victim vulnerabilities, rates of re-victimization/recidivism, subtypes of perpetrators, and the efficiency of laws aiming to prevent IPV.

Conclusions/implications:

We found that IPV in less sparsely populated areas is characterized as more severe, victims display more vulnerabilities for re-victimization, and laws aiming to protect the victims are not enforced. Additionally, support services (e.g., police and social services) are less accessible and available and generally understaffed. Thus, working with IPV prevention in rural areas is associated with additional difficulties compared to urban settings.

Where to go from here?: Officer perspectives on the co-responder model in public-safety

Linda Phiri

In the wake of 2020, there has been a growing interest in community-police relations and more recently, the co-responder model has been presented as the vehicle for transformation for policing those who are experiencing a mental health issue or crisis. However, both policymakers and scholars alike have mostly focused on evaluating public perceptions and political motives towards change in policing. Few have engaged with the perspectives of those enacting the day-to-day practice of police work - the officers themselves, while organizational scholarship asserts that practitioner buy-in is fundamental. This qualitative study, uses in-depth interviews to address gap, by evaluating what officers believe about co-response and provides implications for both research and practice.

The protective role of mentalization in child exploitation investigators: preliminary adaptation and validation of a promising measure

Audrey Potz, Julie Maheux, Annie Gendron

Background.

Research has found that child exploitation investigators (CEI) are at high risk of developing psychological distress (Fansher et al., 2020) such as Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS), which is defined as the impact of one's secondary exposure to another's stressful experiences (Stamm, 2010). However, research among psychosocial workers has revealed that emotional abilities could play a protective role to reduce distress (Cologon et al., 2017). Mentalization, defined as the process by which we make sense of one and other's mental states, has been found as a competence that could protect mental health workers (Bateman & Fonagy, 2008; Schwarzer et al., 2021). Few measures of mentalization are available, including the Therapist's Mental Activity Scale (Maheux et al., 2016), but none have been applied to the CEI.

Objective.

This presentation aims to present the development and preliminary validation of an in-vivo mentalization measure, the Mental Activity Scale (MAS), applied to CEI.

Methods.

An expert committee adapted the MAS to the context of CEI. Video vignettes were created to reproduce interviews with child victims. A sample of 16 Canadian investigators were asked to watch the vignettes and react spontaneously as if they were in charge. The participant's reactions were coded by two reliable and trained judges with the MAS rating system. Subsequently, participants completed questionnaires to test for convergent validity (emotional regulation) and criterion validity (STS) using Spearman correlation analysis.

Results.

The three modes of mental activity were used by CEI and mentalizing profiles were found. Relationships were found between mentalizing and emotional regulation difficulty $r(14) = -0.52$, $p = .07$ and between mentalizing and STS $r(14) = -0.64$, $p < .01$.

Conclusion.

The MAS appears to measure adequately mentalization in CEI. Our results suggest that the MAS is a promising measure to support CEI training and prevent STS (Brugnera et al., 2021). Further research with a broader sample will be necessary.

The role of mentalization in secondary traumatic stress of child abuse investigators: adaptation and validation of a scale

Audrey Potz, Julie Maheux, Annie Gendron

There is a large body of research which has found that child abuse and sexual investigators (CI) have a high risk for the development of psychological distress (Fansher et al., 2020). Secondary traumatic stress (STS) is defined as the impact of one's secondary exposure to another's stressful experiences (Stamm, 2010). However, research on protective factors has revealed the effect of abilities that help to reduce the adverse effect of their work. Mentalization has been proposed as a mechanism in high-risk helping social workers (Cologon et al., 2017). Mentalizing is close to emotion regulation and is defined as the process of making sense of each other and ourselves in terms of mental states (Bateman & Fonagy, 2008; Schwarzer et al., 2021). Many measures of mentalization have been developed, including the Therapist's Mental Activity Scale (TMAS) (Maheux et al., 2016), but none are specific to the context of CI. The current cross-sectional study of 16 Canadian police participants working in CI aims to adapt and validate a mentalization measure, the TMAS, to their specific work context. The adaptation process allowed the original clinical scenarios to be transposed into scenarios based on interviews with child victims. Participants are asked to tell everything that comes to mind while watching the scenarios and the content was coded to measure mentalization. Subsequently, participants completed questionnaires to test for convergent validity (emotional regulation) and criteria validity (STS) using Spearman correlation analysis. Results highlight relationships between mentalizing and emotional regulation difficulty $r(14) = -0.52$, $p = .07$ and between mentalizing and STS $r(14) = -0.64$, p

Challenging and Demanding Work: A study into Stress in the Police

Lillis Rabbing, Professor Bjørn Lau, Associate professor Knut Inge Fostervold, Associate professor Eva Langvik, Professor Rita Bjørkelo

Background

Despite the systematic finding that organisational more than specific work task factors contribute to employees' perception of work stress, research has mainly emphasised so-called traditional types of police work (e.g., patrolling), and acute types of stress (Kroes, 1976; Larsen et al., 2019; Rabbing et al., 2022). While operational demands only adhere to police employees in some positions, organisational demands affect all police employees.

Research objectives

The aim of this project is to study stress in the police regardless of workplace and work tasks.

Method

This mixed-methods study includes 1, a scoping review outlining measuring challenges of perceived stress among police employees (Rabbing et al., 2022); 2, an exploratory study of associations between musculoskeletal back pain, stress, and organisational work support among investigative interviewers (Rabbing, Langvik & Bjørkelo, resubmitted), and 3, a validation study of the Norwegian version of the Police Stress Questionnaires (McCreary & Thompson, 2006).

Results

The results document how 1, most stress measures applied in the police work rather well and are mostly directed at "traditional" (e.g., patrolling) police work, 2, that other types of police work (e.g., investigative interviewers) are related to musculoskeletal back pain, organisational work support and stress, and 3, well-known measures of stress in the police potentially have unintended consequences if the aim is to describe challenges and demands for all police employees.

Conclusions and implications

The study provides novel insights into research on perceived stress in the police.

Reducing criminal recidivism associated with substance misuse: The Set Free Model

Ryan Ray, Alli Madison

Effectively reducing criminal recidivism associated with substance misuse will have profound social, health, and economic impacts. In Alaska, the U.S. leader in criminal recidivism, thousands of formerly incarcerated individuals continue to commit crimes and abuse drugs and alcohol following their release from incarceration. Within the first two weeks after release, these individuals are 129 times more likely to die of a drug overdose.[1] Should they survive, 66% will be reincarcerated within three years.[2] The annual cost of crimes attributed to substance misuse in Alaska is over \$2.3 billion.[3] Unfortunately, 92% of all individuals returning to incarceration in Alaska still require substance abuse treatment.[2] The Set Free Model is a comprehensive intervention addressing the primary risk factors of ongoing criminal activity and substance misuse within an innovative therapeutic campus model. Grounded in the Criminogenic Needs Theory, the evidence-based model occurs within a four-phase operational framework: Reentry, Recovery, Reintegration, and Restoration. Living on a therapeutic campus for an average of 6-18 months, participants engaged in a suite of services proven to reduce criminal recidivism and substance misuse. The prototype model was evaluated over an 18-month period with a sample population (n=32) of formerly incarcerated adults with addiction disorders. Participants displayed a 21.8% recidivism rate compared to the current rate of 66%. Treatment engagement rates were significantly improved compared to traditional outpatient rates (94.7% vs 66.7%). Employment rates were also remarkable compared to national employment rates at 1-year post-release (100% vs 37%). Validated calculations indicate the sample population may result in \$6.25 million in cost savings and net economic benefits. Results suggest the model possesses significant potential to reduce criminal recidivism associated with substance misuse and should be expanded further.

The presence of a dog restores cognitive performance in police officers with post-traumatic stress disorder

Charlotte L. Roelofs, M. L. A. Jongsma, E. Becker, A. S. Smit

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is a major problem among police officers, and symptoms include impairments in inhibiting and monitoring cognition. The prefrontal cortex (PFC) plays an important role in these cognitive processes. However, in people with PTSD the amygdala is hyperactive, and the PFC needs to suppress enhanced stress responses. Consequently, less capacity of the PFC is left to perform cognitive tasks, especially in stressful situations. Cognitive performance could be restored in police officers with PTSD by providing a stress buffer, for example a dog. For several years, service dogs have been used to alleviate PTSD symptoms in police officers who did not respond to regular treatments. However, experimental research is lacking on the beneficial effects of the presence of a dog on cognitive performance in police officers with PTSD. With the current study, we aim to investigate the effect of the presence of a dog on cognitive performance in police officers with PTSD. We investigated cognitive performance of police officers with PTSD (n=25) and without PTSD (n=24) in the presence and the absence of a dog, by recording the performance and EEG-based ERP responses to a working memory task (1-back task). The group police officers with PTSD showed a decreased working memory performance and a diminished ERP response compared to control group with their dog present. In addition, performance and the ERP response decreased further in the PTSD group when the dog was absent. The results suggest that working memory performance is reduced in police officers with PTSD, but that the presence of a service dog seems to diminish this effect. We propose that a service dog serves as a stress buffer. As a result, resources of the PFC can be used for cognitive functioning instead of being depleted by regulating stress. This experimental finding of a positive effect of the service dog may help to justify the costs of providing service dogs for police officers with PTSD.

Work-related stress in relation to gender-based and sexual harassment among a group of Swedish police officers

Arian Rostami, Mehdi Ghazinour, Monica Burman, Jonas Hansson

In this cross-sectional study, we investigated work-related stress, gender-based and sexual harassment among police officers working in vulnerable areas in Stockholm. Data were collected from 152 police officers using a set of questionnaires. The results indicated that job stress in “impact on significant others” and “operational stress” were reported as the two most highly rated work-related stress among police officers. Female police officers rated higher stress in “impact on significant others” and “operational stress” compared to their male counterparts. Job experience was correlated with two stress subscales only in female officers. Working as patrol officer and more than one shift were negatively associated with some stress subscales among male officers. The male officers who had experience of sexual harassment reported higher “self-image” stress and “operational stress” whereas the female officers had higher “self-image” and “confrontation with death” stress. After controlling for gender and job experience, sexual harassment had a significant relationship with operational stress and self-image stress in police officers.

Gender-based and sexual harassment against Swedish police officers

Arian Rostami, Mehdi Ghazinour, Monica Burman, Jonas Hansson

Sexual and gender-based harassment is one of the important work-related stressors that can negatively affect the mental health and job performance of police officers. The current study is included two sub-studies (quantitative and qualitative studies) aimed to investigate gender-based and sexual harassment among police officers working in vulnerable areas in Stockholm from a gender perspective. In the quantitative part of this study, data were collected from 152 police officers using a set of questionnaires. The results indicated that about 27% of all police officers had experience of gender-based harassment and 47% of them reported sexual harassment during the last 12 months. The younger and less experienced officers reported higher gender-based and sexual harassment. Female police officers stated significantly higher exposure to gender-based harassment than male officers (respectively 40% and 12%). On the other hand, 49% of male and 40% of female police officers reported experiencing sexual harassment but the difference was not statistically significant. Assessing gender-based and sexual harassment by the source of harassment from insiders (colleagues/supervisors) or/and outsiders (citizens) showed female police officers were more likely exposed to gender-based harassment both from insiders (33%) and outsiders (22%) compared to their male counterparts. However, male police officers reported a higher rate of sexual harassment from colleagues and supervisors (21%) compared to female police officers (11%). Both men and women police officers reported almost the same percentage of sexual harassment from the public (respectively 42% and 41%). Through the qualitative part of the study, we are going to discuss our results by applying qualitative findings from interviews with male and female police officers on sexual and gender-based harassment in police work.

The Role of Police within the ‘Risk Environment’: Understanding Future Service Users’ Perspectives of an Overdose Prevention Centre in the UK

Benjamin Scher, Ma Southwell, Dr Magdalena Harris, Dr Gillian W Shorter

Consultation with people who use drugs is an essential part of high-quality drug service design. This study consulted people who use drugs as part of research for the implementation of an Overdose Prevention Centre (OPC) in a city in the UK. We aimed to find out 1) What is the current experience of people who use drugs in street-based settings? 2) What features potential clients consider important for an OPC?; 3) What general barriers would exist for clients accessing an OPC?; 4) What might facilitate or encourage use of an OPC? Between March and June 2022, focus groups and one-on-one interviews with people who use drugs were undertaken. Led by the SCORE Team, a local drug user group, we also conducted photo-ethnographic and traditional ethnographic fieldwork to better understand the contextual characteristics of the local community. In this local UK context, the findings highlight the need for an OPC which would address the ‘risk environment’ of people who use drugs in street based settings. Amongst findings was the desire of people who use drugs in street-based settings to have an independence from policing in and around the OPC underpinned with previous experiences with local law enforcement. Barriers to use identified include an extension of harms experienced by individuals from police being extended to the sanctuary of an OPC, and any otherwise stigmatising practices or potential operation. This study provides insights into the experience of street-based drug use in this UK city and the ways in which an OPC would address harms caused within the street-based ‘risk environment’. These findings will hopefully inform the development and implementation of an OPC that can decrease drug-related deaths, support health and wellbeing, successfully engage potential local service users and engage collaboratively with local, regional and national law enforcement partners.

Hungarian vs. American mediators and how to make communities more resilient

Laura Schmidt

Rather than going through the maze of the criminal justice system, why not resolve criminal offence disputes through restorative justice (RJ) practices? In Hungary, mediation is a form of alternative dispute resolution where a mediator helps the parties reach an agreement following a crime. In Bloomington, Indiana (IN), United States of America (USA), they call the process victim-offender conference (VOC), but the parties present at the conference are the same: the victim, the offender and one or two mediators. The aim of this research project was to compare the RJ practices and the experiences of mediators in the selected counties of Hungary and in Bloomington, IN, USA. Three Hungarian county government offices and one non-profit organisation in Bloomington were selected. Mediators were asked to take part in an online interview. The questions were among other things the legislation, the challenges and difficulties mediators face and the support available to them. The results of the comparison of the two cohorts show that there are differences in how mediation and RJ is defined in Hungary and in the USA and the types of offences where mediation and RJ is used. In Hungary, the legislation would allow more serious offences to be referred to mediation, however, in practice we rarely see this happening. In Bloomington, most RJ cases involve youth offenders and the process acts as an early prevention to try and stop young people from reoffending. However in both countries the processes are based on the same principles that harms and relationships need to be repaired and the best way to achieve that is to have facilitated communication between offenders and victims. In conclusion, despite the many differences between restorative practices in the observed parts of Hungary and the USA, these processes seem very useful in several different types of criminal offence cases and help many victims and offenders come to terms following a crime.

Women's Pathways to Offending; Identifying Opportunities for Prevention and Early Intervention

Emma Sheeran, Samia Addis

Background:

The UK has one of the highest rates of imprisoned women in Western Europe, this carries significant direct and indirect costs to public expenditure. The Women's Pathfinder initiative represents a whole systems approach to supporting women in Wales who offend through a multi-agency response, including a diversion scheme to divert women away from the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to support services.

Research objectives:

The aim of this study was to identify key factors which influence women's risk of coming into contact with the CJS, and the primary prevention and early intervention opportunities to address the identified factors in Wales.

Methods:

A scoping review identified literature which highlighted several themes in women's pathways to offending, followed by a second review which identified opportunities and approaches for primary prevention and early intervention. The study also included individual case studies (n=4) which explored the pathways to offending for women.

Results:

Key factors identified within the literature include the following intersecting themes: poverty; domestic abuse; mental illness and substance use; brain injury; learning disabilities and neurodiversity; and race and ethnicity. Opportunities for primary prevention and early intervention include: improved access to primary care and mental health services for women, including brain injury support; multidisciplinary teams which include a range of experts; and cultural competency training to ensure staff are responsive to the needs and experiences of racial/ethnic minority women.

Conclusion:

Opportunities for primary prevention and early intervention include approaches to address the social determinants of health and improve accessibility to mental health services, support and treatment options. Additionally, a whole systems approach, centred around and led by women-focussed services contribute to preventing women in Wales from re-offending and divert them sustainably from the CJ

The meaning of private sector in building social sustainable societies

Magdalena Sjöberg, Malin Eriksson

This paper builds on a longitudinal survey (2006-2020), which measured social capital and trusts of inhabitants in Umeå's different communities. In this survey one of the districts, stood out with an interesting result. In 2006, District A was a district with low social capital where people had low trusts to their neighbours and little community building activities. But in 2020, the survey shows that District A during 14 years gone from low- to middle high social capital. Districts' with low social capital seldom have positive development with increased social capital, instead they often tend to develop the other way around, and in the long run becomes so-called disadvantaged districts, with social problem, criminality, and gang violence. The result from the survey calls for further explorations and raise the question: what is the reason(s) to the positive development in District A? Umeå is the largest city in Sweden who not yet developed "disadvantage districts", however the local police present alarming reports of Umeå having tendencies to develop disadvantages districts within a few years. Given this background, it is important to study cases such as District A - that not only managed to stop the negative development but also managed to turn it around and create a positive community development. Through ethnography and interviews with different stakeholders we find that the private sectors willingness to build sustainable societies, alongside with a close collaboration between private sector and the municipality were important key factors explaining the relatively fast development of District A. Our results on one hand illustrates that the private sector can contribute to build sustainable societies with high social capital and thus preventing criminality. On the other hand the results illustrate a potential challenge for the municipality to fulfil their democratic political agenda and vision on how sustainable societies should be built.

Emergency preparedness for CBRN incidents – The European Melody project

D. Sjöberg, A. Johansson, T Clarijs, L. Trudic, G. Veldhuis, S. Rutjes, S. Stöven.

A major safety concern for emergency personnel today is the risk of Chemical-Biological-Radiological-Nuclear (CBRN) incidents, including accidents, disease outbreaks, suicides and malicious attacks. Yet, CBRN training is not part of the standard training for emergency personnel. The European project MELODY developed a basic training curriculum on CBRN awareness and preparedness (www.melodytraining.eu). As part of the development process, seven interventions were organized for evaluation purposes. The research objective was to validate the MELODY curriculum, training materials, methods and Trainer Guide in interventions with representatives of the intended end-user groups. In total, 242 emergency staff from 12 EU countries participated. Data was collected through participant observations, self-assessment surveys, interviews, workshops, knowledge tests with multiple-choice questions and pre-/post-vignettes. Descriptive statistical analysis and qualitative content analysis were performed. Overall results show that the end-users regard the MELODY curriculum to fulfil their CBRN training needs and create good opportunities for learning. The multi-disciplinary setting and the mix of training methods were appreciated, and the main learning goals were achieved. Feedback collected during the interventions helped improve several aspects of the curriculum. CBRN awareness and preparedness training contributes to the safety and wellbeing of emergency personnel. The MELODY interventions provide insight into how CBRN training can be implemented in emergency organizations and demonstrate the potential of the MELODY curriculum to improve interagency cooperation in management of CBRN incidents on national and cross-border levels. From a theoretical perspective, the study adds knowledge about how capacity building and crisis management training can be organized on large scale. This complements previous largely policy-focused institutional accounts of transnational crisis management.

Wales Without Violence - Strategic Framework for the Prevention of Youth Violence in Wales

Lara Snowdon, Bryony Parry, Alex Walker, Emma Barton

Background:

Youth violence is a complex, societal issue that has detrimental impacts on the health and wellbeing of children, young people and adults throughout their lives. Through population health research, we know that children and young people are adversely at risk of experiencing violence; and are at higher risk of experiencing multiple forms of violence. However, evidence suggests that prevention approaches are most effective when implemented with children and young people and can have positive health, wellbeing and social impacts across the life-course.

Research Objectives/Programme Description:

The Wales Violence Prevention Unit and Peer Action Collective Cymru have coproduced a strategic multi-agency framework for the prevention of violence among children and young people in Wales. This national framework acts as a guide to strategic action on youth violence prevention, amplifying the voices of children and young people, and providing evidence of 'what works' for prevention.

Methods/Activities:

There isn't one catch-all solution or one agency that has the answers to youth violence prevention. Instead, we need to work together to develop a whole systems approach that will call everyone to action. This evidence-based, coproduced framework utilised an innovative participatory design process to listen to the voices of a diverse range of stakeholders, centring the voices of children and young people.

Results/Evaluation:

The framework proposes nine strategies to prevent youth violence as part of a public health approach to violence prevention. These strategies represent evidence-based approaches which are proven to reduce violence among children and young people, address the risk factors for youth violence, and build individual, community and societal resilience.

Conclusion/Implications:

Youth violence is a public health issue of critical importance which has adverse impacts on the health and wellbeing of our population across the life-course.

Risk factors associated with Burnout amongst Investigators working on Rape and Other Sexual Offence (RAOSO) investigations in England and Wales: Implications for Police Investigations

Arun Sondhi, Richard Harding, Emma Williams

Police investigators involved in rape and other sexual offences (RAOSO) investigations experience heightened operational scrutiny due to increased levels of societal concern whilst also providing a victim-focused service. We modelled the risk factors associated with Maslach's symptoms of burnout (emotional exhaustion [EE], depersonalisation [DP] and lack of personal accomplishment [LPA]) amongst officers involved in RAOSO investigations (n=538) across five police force areas in England and Wales as part of Operation Soteria Bluestone. High stress levels, burnout symptoms and ill health were reported. Excessive job demands encompassing workload, inadequate work-life balance and issues with team cohesion were strongly related to EE and DP. Male officers reported elevated levels of depersonalisation compared to female officers which has been shown to affect the delivery of a victim-orientated service. Job resources related to the learning environment were associated with all three measures of burnout. Organisational health policies also had salience in reducing the symptoms of burnout (EE, LPA). We argue that the levels of stress and burnout symptoms amongst RAOSO police investigators are unsustainable and unethical in public health terms and will erode the willingness and ability of police investigators to improve RAOSO convictions. Public health interventions and broader organisational approaches to address burnout symptoms are discussed.

Collaboration about missing persons – fragmented talk or coordinated learning system?

Rebecca Stenberg, Maria Wolmesjö

"28 percent of the persons missing under life threatening circumstances and found and rescued by the police, would have died if not found. Many, up to 40 % are missing on repeat. The police can repeatedly find and save the person but cannot prevent the person from going missing again. At the same time a municipal social service can be ignorant of the 85 yearly life-threatening disappearances in the municipality resulting in polices search operations. This lack of collaboration leads to both unnecessary suffering and high costs for society.

Research Objectives:

To identify challenges, obstacles, and best practice in collaborative practices between the police and other actors regarding missing persons.

Methods:

This research is based on four different qualitative case studies carried out with participant observation, shadowing document studies and analysed with directed content analysis from an organizational learning perspective.

1. Collaboration training for marine SAR operations
2. A police SAR operation for a missing child
3. Collaboration between the police and the municipal eldercare
4. Collaboration between the police, a rescue service and municipalities.

Results:

All the cases points to difficulties or lack of collaboration due to cutbacks and due to collaborative practices suited for planning and administration, but not for intense and time pressured SAR-operations. Obstacles could also be found in secrecy rules and lack of sufficient training. Best practices acknowledged the importance of a comprehensive view embracing not only a SAR response but prevention and closure as well as that different actors' roles are communicated and coordinated.

Implications for practise:

Collaboration in operations must focus on coordinating already existing resources which rise demands on leadership and communication. Collaboration in evaluation and planning prevention can focus on development, embracing both prevention, operative response, and evaluation into a learning"

Preventing and combating sexual harassment in Swedish police education

Johanna Sundqvist, Erik Jonsson, Erika Ingvarsson

In the beginning of 2021 the Police Education at Umeå University, Sweden, started to implement a comprehensive three-year action plan to prevent and combat sexual and gender-based harassment in the police education. Sexual and gender-based harassment is strongly associated with structures of hierarchies, dependencies, power and gender. Therefore, the vision of the plan is to create a gender equal work and study environment free from sexual and gender-based harassment. An important starting-point is to avoid getting stuck in the legal discourse of harassment. The plan thus emphasizes the need to address the organizational level and work preventive and not – as often is the case – to put the main focus on the individual level and on creating a legally correct process. The preventive ambitions are anchored in research and evidence-based knowledge. From that perspective three important dimensions are targeted: (1) increased knowledge among students, teachers and the management of the Police education, (2) challenging gender norms in the police culture, and (3) counteracting normalization processes and silences. These are important aspects also when the Police Education reviews and develops its policies and guidelines on how to deal with harassments that occurs. In the presentation the steering-group of the action plan will reflect upon the driving forces behind the plan as well as the guiding principles and content of the plan from both management and police teachers' perspectives. Experiences drawn from some of the activities carried through so far will also be discussed.

Connective professionalism and the four I's framework in designing a sustainable police organization.

Priit Suve

Organizational design is crucial in developing professions and preparing an organization to fulfill its purpose. However, the link between an organization and task environment is relational, not dichotomic. Accordingly, organizational design matters in reaching goals, answering the complexity and demands of the world "out there," and acting as a signifier for the society it serves. But how to design a sustainable police organization to answer these demands? In many fields, the profession and purpose are embraced by various pressures and in constant flux. Police organizations are often fed by protective professionalism with a narrow focus on safety. Such traditional ethos limits the potential for the profession's development and to implement appropriate elements of organizational design to deal with current threats like climate change. This research presents a framework for designing a sustainable police organization using principles of connective professionalism and the four I's framework of a sustainable organization.

How cross-service collaboration can improve community safety and wellbeing: a case study

Andrew Tatnell, Nadine Dougall, Inga Heyman, Andrew Wooff

Background

Enhancing community resilience and reducing inequalities was enshrined in the 'Christie Report' in 2011, but to date very few initiatives have meaningfully adopted the Christie principles. One exception is the strategic, cross-service collaborative initiative by services in a socially and economically disadvantaged community of around 2,000 citizens in Scotland. This initiative follows a public health and trauma-informed 'Team around the Community' model.

Research objectives

To conduct an independent evaluation of the initiative Mar-Jun 2022. Methods A case study design was used following methods of Yin et al 2018. In-depth, qualitative interviews were held with strategic, tactical and operational officers across all three services. Data were analysed and provided information on culture, collaborative resource use and efficiencies, and barriers and facilitators to implementation

Results

Analysis revealed buy-in and commitment was clear at all levels from Police Scotland and Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. Police and fire operational officers had transformed traditional practice, moving to a new 'connective approach' of working collaboratively and inter-professionally. Their practice appeared to embody 'radical, new collaborative culture' suggested by Christie. Officers were pro-active in establishing rapport and trust with hard-to-engage individuals, previously unknown to agencies. Officers used their autonomy to 'get things done' for people in crisis, and anecdotally diverted people away from criminal justice and health systems.

Conclusions

The vanguard initiative appeared to be ground-breaking and as Christie envisaged. The buy-in from all service levels strategic to operational was the golden thread. Recommendations were made to address risks and fragility of the initiative. Future robust evidence is needed to assess cost-effectiveness and impact on community and citizens. In future, this initiative could act as a model for roll-out to other sim

Job analysis of Swedish Police

Peter Tedeholm

We report a job analysis of the Swedish Police Authority. Three hundred and ninety-nine police officers rated their job on the U.S. Department of Labor standardized questionnaire - the Occupational Information Network O*NET. The focus of this study was identifying how important job-related abilities, i.e., body strength, perceptual abilities, fluid, and crystallized intelligence, are for Swedish police negotiators, patrol officers, criminal investigators, and intervention police officers for work performance. The goal was to get solid information on what qualities are required for a police officer to succeed. Preliminary results show that abilities important for good work performance differ between the included police jobs. For example, a patrol officer should be smart, in good physical shape, and perceptive. At the same time, a criminal investigator needs to be intelligent, but a high physical capacity is not required. The job analysis supports the development of the personnel selection process for identifying predictors and criteria, which can strengthen the Police Authority for handling future challenging tasks, police health, and diversity for the democratic and safeness of society.

Building Bridges and Breaking Barriers: Exploring the technological solutions that can improve live multiagency information sharing, in order to support those who experience mental health distress.

Callum Thomson, Inga Heyman, Nadine Dougall, Olivia Sagan

For my PhD project, I am exploring how technological solutions can implement new, and improve existing, means of live information sharing between police, healthcare, and third sector agencies, with the aim of better supporting those who experience mental health distress in Scotland. The literature demonstrates that processes of multiagency information sharing and collaboration can be complex and challenging. Within the Scottish context, Dougall et al (2020) have highlighted reactions of shock from those with lived experience of mental health distress, upon learning that information is not being routinely shared between agencies. Furthermore, Murray et al (2020) emphasise the value of exploring the technological dimensions of person-centric information sharing solutions. Collectively, the literature underscores the need for research into the ways that live information sharing can be enhanced via technological means, with the intention of improving the outcomes for those who experience mental health distress. My literature review identified a series of variables that exist across the multiagency nexus. To categorise these thematic variables, the categories of 'agency', 'culture', and 'technology' were created. Agency variables included factors involving shared understandings, cultural variables focused on concepts such as trust between agencies, and finally, technological variables highlighted mechanisms related to technological usability. These were just some of the variables that were identified as having an important role in either obstructing, or facilitating, the fluidity of information sharing and communication between agencies. I am currently navigating my PhD's methodology, as I prepare to conduct my empirical research. As I have not yet conducted my primary forms of research, I do not currently have empirical results for presentation and discussion. Instead, however, I hope to provide insight into the emergent knowledge gaps and my methodological trajectory.

Police work with vulnerable people - Narcotics

Tommy Töllinoja

The course in general deals with basic knowledge about life circumstances for vulnerable people from an individual perspective, as well as group and societal perspectives. Great importance is placed on reflection on the police's encounter with people in these groups and the importance of legally secure, respectful and humble action. The sub-course Narcotics and addiction includes parts such as drugs, signs and symptoms related to drug addiction and doping, and the legal regulations concerning crimes and criminal investigations connected to drugs are discussed. In a parallel sub-course, within the same main area, mental illness is focused more specifically. The content is largely about identifying symptoms of mental illness and assessing the possible need for compulsory care, and the students are given tools regarding what an adequate treatment might look like. Great emphasis is placed on the vulnerability of people who suffer from mental illness and at the same time are in an addiction. There is often this connection between drug abuse and a mental illness in the individual. An important ability will be to be able to reflect on the student's own approach and the importance of the treatment in relation to people in vulnerability. Furthermore, also being able to account for and discuss the vulnerability that drug addiction and mental illness can lead to in the long run. As a final part of the education about mental illness combined with drug abuse, exercises are carried out where the students encounter different scenarios and where they must act together in pairs. Here, communication skills and the importance of carrying out legally secure interventions are trained.

Changing policing for communities. Law enforcement and public health as an emerging field of practices, concepts and research.

Auke Van Dijk

On the basis of articles written with a diverse group of authors, tentative conclusions are drawn regarding two – academic and professional – questions: 1) What characterises the intersection of law enforcement and public health (LEPH) as an emerging field of practices, concepts and research? 2) What is the actual and potential impact of LEPH on (the future of) policing? The common ground of law enforcement and public health – LEPH as an emerging field – is constructed through five consecutive questions: Why LEPH? What is happening? How is it being done? Where is it being done? And, for whom? To summarise, LEPH is about the creation and maintenance of safe and healthy communities through the regulation of human behaviours. This is done by a shared – policing and public health – perspective on how to prevent and mitigate undesirable outcomes. Communities, specifically the protection of vulnerable community members, are the locus of action. With special emphasis on the operational level of frontline professionals and the behaviour of people in their living environment, LEPH takes a broad ‘systems perspective’ related to the root causes of substantive community ill-health, insecurity and crime. In this sense, LEPH is part of a wider universe of public service and governance models, which makes the conventional demarcation between law enforcement and public health domains on the basis of specific sectors and tasks increasingly challenging. What would the future of policing look like from an LEPH perspective? Or, to be more precise, under which conditions can LEPH be a realistic, valid and sustainable inspiration for the future of policing in the context of communities?

Plymouth County Outreach (PCO): A case study of a countywide police/treatment partnership approach to the opioids crisis.

Sean Varano

Plymouth County (Massachusetts, USA) experienced a dramatic increase in both fatal and non-fatal overdoses starting in 2010. The number of fatal opioid-involved overdoses, for example, nearly quadrupled during the 5-year period start in 2012 from 57 to 202 in 2017. This sharp increase demanded policy makers think strategically to implement innovative strategies to reduce the prevalence of overdoses and connect at-risk individuals to treatment. Plymouth County Outreach (PCO) first started as an 'idea' to create linkages between police to both healthcare and treatment providers to get individuals access to treatment. This presentation will provide a case study of PCO, from its infancy stage in 2016 to what has become a comprehensive, countywide approach to the opioids problem.

Online Training Platform for Frontline Responders to Manage Domestic Violence

Catharina Vogt

The epidemic of domestic violence comes along with detrimental consequences for health, wellbeing and socio-economic status of those affected on top of feelings of shame, anxiety and fatigue that keep them from reporting. Frontline responders thus need to be prepared to detect and manage domestic violence in a proper way that empowers victim-survivors to leave abusive relationships. Nonetheless, research and practise regularly discover a lack of knowledge at the side of frontline responders with regard to the phenomenon, its effects on victim-survivors, typical offender tactics to maintain influence, detection, intervention and support networks including interagency cooperation. As a response to these gaps, the project IMPRODOVA produced a training platform for police, medical staff and social workers in English and German. The platform has undergone evaluation during the course of the IMPRODOVA project and its content found access into training of several European police forces and medical students. <https://training.improdova.eu>

Bystander Experiences of Domestic Violence and Abuse during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alex Walker, Rachel Fenton, Lara Snowdon, Emma Barton, Bryony Parry, Catherine Donovan and Mark Bellis

Background:

The COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated conditions for domestic violence and abuse (DVA). During this time, there was a surge in the number of domestic abuse incidents being reported to the police, particularly from third parties, or 'bystanders'.

Research Objectives:

This research sought to explore the behaviours and experiences of bystanders to DVA during the COVID-19 pandemic in Wales. The research questions were; What are bystanders' experiences of DVA during the COVID-19 pandemic? What are the motivations and barriers for bystanders to DVA during the COVID-19 pandemic? What was the impact on bystanders?

Methods:

This mixed methods study used an online quantitative survey and qualitative interviews. Recruitment of participants took place during a national lockdown.

Results:

The survey was completed by 186 bystanders, and 3 took part in interview. Bystanders had predominantly become aware of coercive control since the pandemic began. Only 28% of bystanders reported their concerns to the police. Almost all bystanders reported that their experience had had a negative impact on their wellbeing.

Conclusions:

More work is needed to (1) understand why so few bystanders reported their concerns to the police and (2) explore what can be done to mitigate the negative impact experienced by bystanders.

The Emergency Care Competence Needed for Police Patrol Officers According to the Experts– a National Swedish Delphi Study

Kim Wallin, Mats Holmberg, Henrik Andersson, Ola Kronkvist, Anders Svensson

Police patrol officers (PPOs) face different types of encounters with acutely ill and injured people as first responders. The study aim was to explore and describe the emergency care competence needed for Swedish PPOs. The study had an exploratory design, and the data was collected using the Delphi technique from 43 experts in Sweden: police program educators (n=10), police authority instructors (n=11), and PPOs (n= 22). The results generated an understanding of emergency care competence that is relevant for PPOs. Basic assessment and basic life support measures for traumatic injuries and cardiac arrest (e.g., airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and hemorrhage control) received the highest levels of agreement among the experts, whereas more advanced assessments (taking care of people suffering from mental/medical illness or with drug/alcohol abuse) received lower levels of agreement. These results provide support for educators at the police programs and for the police authority in preparing PPOs to perform relevant out-of-hospital emergency care.

Online Child Sexual Exploitation: A Locally-Based Study

Christine Weirich, Larissa Engelmann

This presentation will outline the initial findings from a study of inter-agency responses to online child sexual exploitation in one northern English Town with implications for community-based responses elsewhere. It will explore links between online and off-line child sexual exploitation as they relate to current preventative efforts from organisations across police, education, health, social care and the voluntary sector in Blackpool. It aims to: (i) understand how the police, charities, voluntary groups and the public – particularly parents and children – identify and address OCSE and the links with vulnerability; (ii) identify how the police can best work with others, including international partners, to anticipate, respond to and prevent OCSV and the harms and vulnerability associated with it; and (iii) co-produce a locality-based online child sexual exploitation quality standards framework that can be applied nationally with scope to develop in an international context. In collaboration with local services as well as parents, children and young people, and community members, a preventative tool is being developed to tackle the local manifestation of the problem. The project will assess how effective the framework is, with the intention that it can be adopted in different areas across the UK and beyond.

How the duty to report prevents reporting – paradoxes in combating sexual harassment within the Swedish police

Malin Wieslander, Silje Lundgren

This paper presents preliminary results from an ongoing research project about sexual harassment within the Swedish police. The data material is based on interviews with police officers who have been sexually harassed by colleagues or supervisors, and testimonies from the metoo call from the Swedish police #nödvärn (Eng: self-defence). In this paper, we show how the duty to report for police officers paradoxically contributes to silence about sexual harassment, as it prevents people in the organisation to address incidents of sexual harassment. The duty to report means that speaking up about experiences of sexual harassment means that a formal report will be filed. This, in turn, frequently has negative consequences, such as retaliations or threats against the harassed, and/or reports of misconduct for failing to file such a report in the first place. Preliminary findings furthermore suggest that there are several key cultural aspects within the police organisation that influence how police officers handle their duty to report. This includes the formal and informal hierarchies within the police, loyalty between co-workers, the status of the harassed and the harasser within the organisation, as well as gender norms. There are also organisational or institutional aspects that influence how police officers handle their duty to report, such as the risk of misconduct if one does not report crimes, the repressive features that are ingrained in the task of the police, as well as window-dressing strategies that have been used when the Police Authority has previously handled publicly disclosed incidents of harassment. In line with Carol Lee Bacchi's work on sexual harassment, this paper argues that the duty to report follows a problem formulation that individualises responsibility for sexual harassment, in that it focuses on grievance procedures. Bacchi instead suggests viewing sexual harassment as an expression of a specific organisational climate that enables harassment in

How to increase safety before and during a missing episode? Co-production between eldercare and Police in the process of searching for a person with cognitive impairments

Maria Wolmesjö, Rebecca Stenberg

One of the largest groups of missing persons in Sweden are persons with dementia/cognitive impairments and persons with psychiatric illnesses. Several persons are reported missing more than one episode. When someone is missing, this will also affect a group of people as relatives (spouses, parents, children, friends) and caring staff members in different positions. In this seminar Maria Wolmesjö, professor in social work at University of Borås, will present ongoing research on Missing Persons from a Swedish perspective. Cross-boundary research on co-production of Missing persons is a new research area in Sweden. Focus in this presentation is a new national document "My Life Story" (Historia Vitae) – for an increased safety before and when someone goes missing. The document has been developed in close collaboration with the Swedish Dementia Center and the Swedish Police. The document consists questions of importance for the Police when someone goes missing and it also gives advise on preventative work and how to develop further co-production between actors involved. The document is going to be tested and evaluated in an ongoing research project. Maria Wolmesjö, PhD, professor in social work, Borås University maria.wolmesjo@hb.se
Rebecca Stenberg, PhD, university lecturer Linköping University rebecca.stenberg@hb.se

Guiding principles of a peer-led intervention to support the transition to community among people released from prison in British Columbia, Canada

Pamela Young, Mo Korchinski, Heather Palis, Nelson Luk, Jessica Xavier, Amanda Slaunwhite

Background:

People who are released from prison face significant challenges in the transition back to community. In British Columbia, Canada, Unlocking the Gates Services Society (UTGSS), a peer-led organization supports people released from prison to connect to health and social services.

Objectives:

To understand the guiding principles of UTGSS staff in their peer-to-peer work with people released from prisons.

Methods:

Focus groups (N=2 groups; 11 participants) and one-on-one interviews (N=3) were conducted with UTGSS staff. Focus groups and interviews were audio recorded and transcribed. Thematic analysis was conducted with an iterative approach, moving between data collection, and analysis and discussion with participants to identify patterns across the transcripts.

Results:

Four themes were identified in relation to the guiding principles of UTGSS staff in their peer-to-peer work: 1) Offering Hope; 2) Meeting clients where they are at; 3) building respectful relationships; 4) Providing consistent support.

Conclusions/Implications:

The shared lived experience of people with lived experience allows for the development of trusting relationships, which create opportunities for connections to health and social services among people released from prison. The guiding principles reported in this study can serve as a model for engagement with people released from prison in other peer-led programs seeking to support this population in their transition to community post-release.

Physical condition and resilience among patrolling police officers.

Ann Österman

Police officers with patrolling duties are exposed to physically demanding situations on a regular basis, which puts a high demand on their physical abilities and condition. Police officers are regularly forced to make quick decisions in complex tactical situations which in some cases mean physical confrontation. Throughout the procedure to become a Swedish Police Officer, there are tests that measure the physical condition of future police officers from the day they are recruited, until they leave the school. Then, however, the testing stops. Therefore, the majority of the physical training throughout the career of a police officer is carried out on their own initiative, and in their spare time. But what do the individual officers think about their physical condition and resilience in relation to everyday work? Studies have shown that police officers who often think about the risk of being injured during interventions or the dangers associated with their work, experience more stress than other police officers. The knowledge on how to increase the safety and security for police officers in situations where violence may occur, which should contribute to greater room for action in situations is scarce. The aim of the present investigation is to increase our understanding, and fill a knowledge gap for the police officers resilience in with regards to physical confrontation on duty within the Swedish Police conflict management training program (POLKON). The investigation is based on a qualitative method using semi-structured interviews among Swedish police officers. The respondents have answered questions regarding their view on physical sustainability in relation to their work. Thematic analysis has been conducted and a number of themes have been generated which will be presented.