

Seven Principles of Quality Crime Prevention

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This Talk

- **Projects**
- **Not capacity or programs**
- **Not situational crime prevention or problem-oriented policing**
- **Not problem solving process (SARA or “5 Is”)**

Seven Principles

1. Be clear about your objectives
2. Focus on very specific problems
3. Understand your problem
4. Be skeptical about displacement
5. Consider a variety of solutions
6. Anticipate implementation difficulties
7. Evaluate your results

Have Clear Objectives

- **Focus on crime reduction**
 - Not partnerships
 - Not social programs
 - Not reducing fear
 - Not showing concern
- **Fight “goal drift”**
- **Quantify crime reduction targets**

Be Crime Specific

- **Official crime categories too broad**
- **Not “car thefts” – but juvenile joyriding, theft for export, theft for spare parts, etc**
- **Solutions must be closely tailored to the problem**

Residential Burglary (Poyner)

- **City center**
 - Offenders on foot/cash and jewelry
- **Suburban**
 - Offenders with cars/TVs; electronics
- **Different preventive implications:**
 - City center - Prevent access at front
 - Suburbs - Reduce rear access; footpaths; market reduction approach

Understand Your Problem

- **Identify crime concentrations**
- **Adopt the offender's perspective**
- **Use the crime triangle**
- **Analyze how the crime is committed**
- **Develop hypotheses**

Identify Crime Concentrations

- **80/20 rule**
- **Grease to the squeak/bang for the buck**
- **Assists analysis**
- **Guides solutions**
- **Illustrate this later – concepts first**

Crime Concentration Concepts

- Repeat offenders
- Hot spots
- Repeat victimization
- Hot products
- Risky facilities

Hot Spots

- **6% of addresses in Minneapolis accounted for 60% of calls for police service (Sherman et al)**
- **Crime generators**
- **Crime attractors**

Repeat Victimization

- 4.3% of people experience 43.5% of victimizations (BCS, 1992)
- Two main explanations (Pease)
 - “Flag” accounts
 - “Boost” accounts
- “Olympic” response model

Hot Products

- **Cash - “mother’s milk” of crime**
- **BCS shows cash, jewelry, electronics targeted in burglary**
- **Shoplifted items in US: tobacco, liquor, sneakers, brand name jeans, CD/cassettes and cosmetics**
- **Some cars 30+ more at risk**

Lorries Stolen UK, 1994

| | Number Stolen | Theft Rate per 1000 |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Livestock Carrier | 156 | 56 |
| Drop-side Lorry | 582 | 27 |
| Flat-bed Lorry | 565 | 14 |
| Garbage Truck | 10 | 1 |

Garbage Truck



Horse Box



Drop Side Lorry



Flat Bed Lorry



Hot Products CRAVED by Thieves

- **Concealable**
- **Removable**
- **Available**
- **Valuable**
- **Enjoyable**
- **Disposable**

Risky Facilities

- 1. USA Convenience stores: 6.5% have 65% of robberies**
- 2. UK Banks: 4% have robbery rates 4-6 times higher than other banks**
- 3. Stockholm schools: 8% suffered 50% of violent crimes in 1993/4 school year**
- 4. Liverpool bus stop shelters: 9% experience 40% of vandalism**

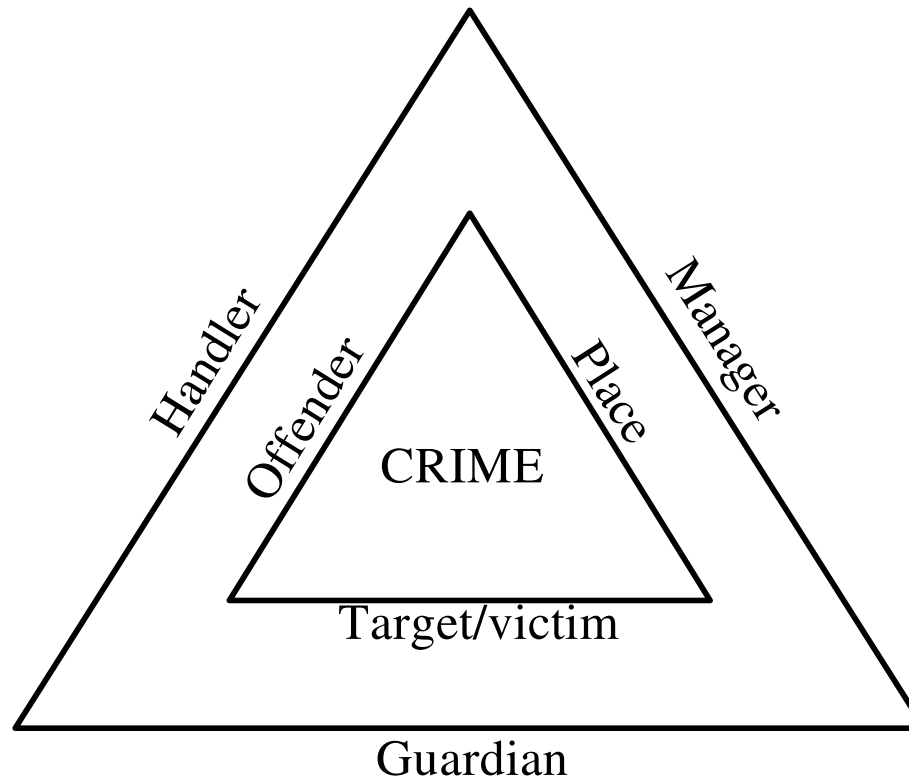
Risky Facilities

- **Analysis – compare worst with best**
- **Sometimes layout and design problems**
- **Often management problems**
 - **Certification programs**
 - **Voluntary codes of practice**
 - **Performance bonds**

Offender's Perspective

- “Think thief” (Ekblom)
- Interview offenders
- Understand the motive
- Study modus operandi:
 - How are targets selected?
 - Victims subdued?
 - Police avoided?
 - Goods disposed of?

The Crime Triangle



The Crime Triangle

- **Three main elements of crime:**
 - Offender
 - Victim
 - Place
- **Three “controls”:**
 - Handler
 - Guardian
 - Place manager

Develop Hypotheses About the Problem

- **These help you:**
 - **Decide which data to collect**
 - **Interpret analysis results**
 - **Think about solutions**

Be Skeptical About Displacement

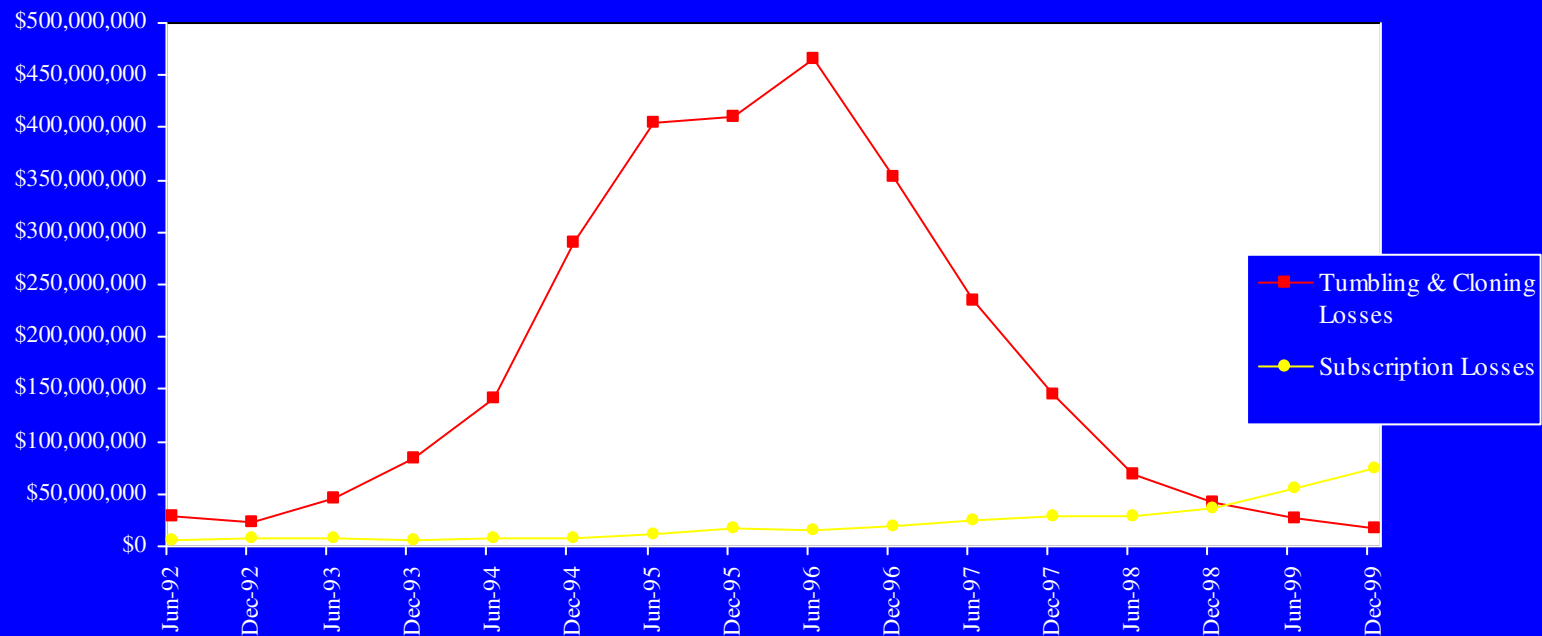
- **Dispositional assumptions**
 - **Shoplifting/mugging**
 - **Speeding**
- **Opportunities create crime**
- **Research finds little displacement**
- **Diffusion of benefits**

Hesseling's (1994) Study

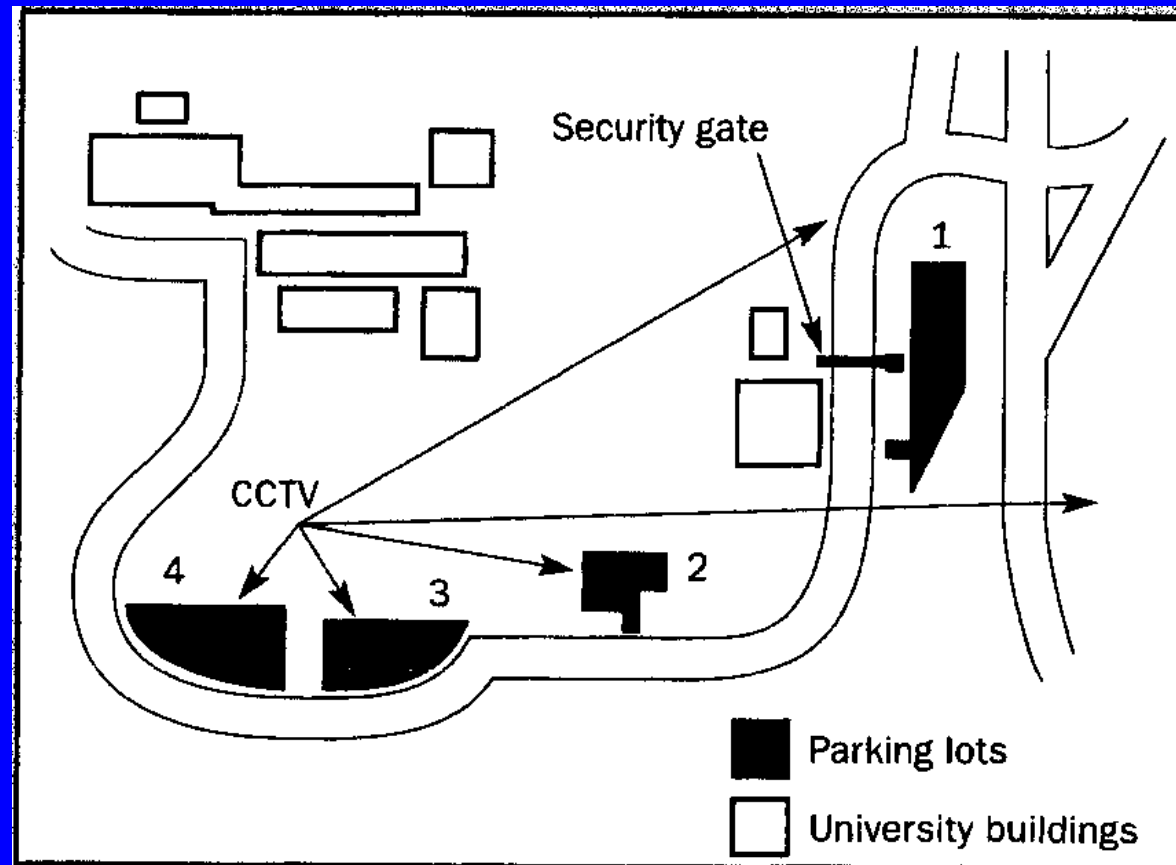
- 55 studies reviewed for the Dutch government
- No displacement in 22 studies
- Some displacement in 33 studies
- Always more crime prevented than displaced
- Same results in recent studies

Mobile Phone Frauds in USA

Dollar Losses
June 1992 - December 1999



Diffusion of Benefits



Diffusion – More Examples

- Red light cameras in Scotland
- Employee theft in NJ electronics store
- Street lighting and alley-gates in England
- Vehicle tracking systems in USA
- Library thefts in University of Wisconsin

Consider Many Solutions

- **Focus on near causes**
 - More certain impact
 - More immediate impact
 - Easier to prove impact
- **Use 25 techniques of situational prevention**

The 25 Techniques

- **5 techniques for each of following (see handout):**
 - Increase effort
 - Increase risks
 - Reduce rewards
 - Reduce provocations
 - Remove excuses

Compare Costs

- 1. Economic costs**
- 2. Social costs (keep an open mind)**
 - Inconvenience
 - Intrusiveness
 - Aesthetics
 - Exclusion
- 3. Difficulty of implementation**

Anticipate Implementation Difficulties

- **Choose partners carefully**
 - After analysis not before
 - Only those who can contribute
- **Appoint a project coordinator**
- **Watch for danger signs**

Expect Difficulties

When a Solution...

...needs coordination among agencies

...takes a long time

...requires a series of steps

...is implemented by staff with little understanding

...lacks a champion among the project team

...lacks the support of top administrators

Expect Difficulties

**When the solution is implemented by
an agency...**

...outside the partnership

...that is poorly resourced

...that is in turmoil

...that gains little direct benefit

Evaluate Your Results

- **Plan evaluation at outset**
- **Set quantifiable targets**
- **Make comparisons**
 - **Before and after**
 - **With control areas**
- **Get expert help when needed**
- **Communicate your findings**

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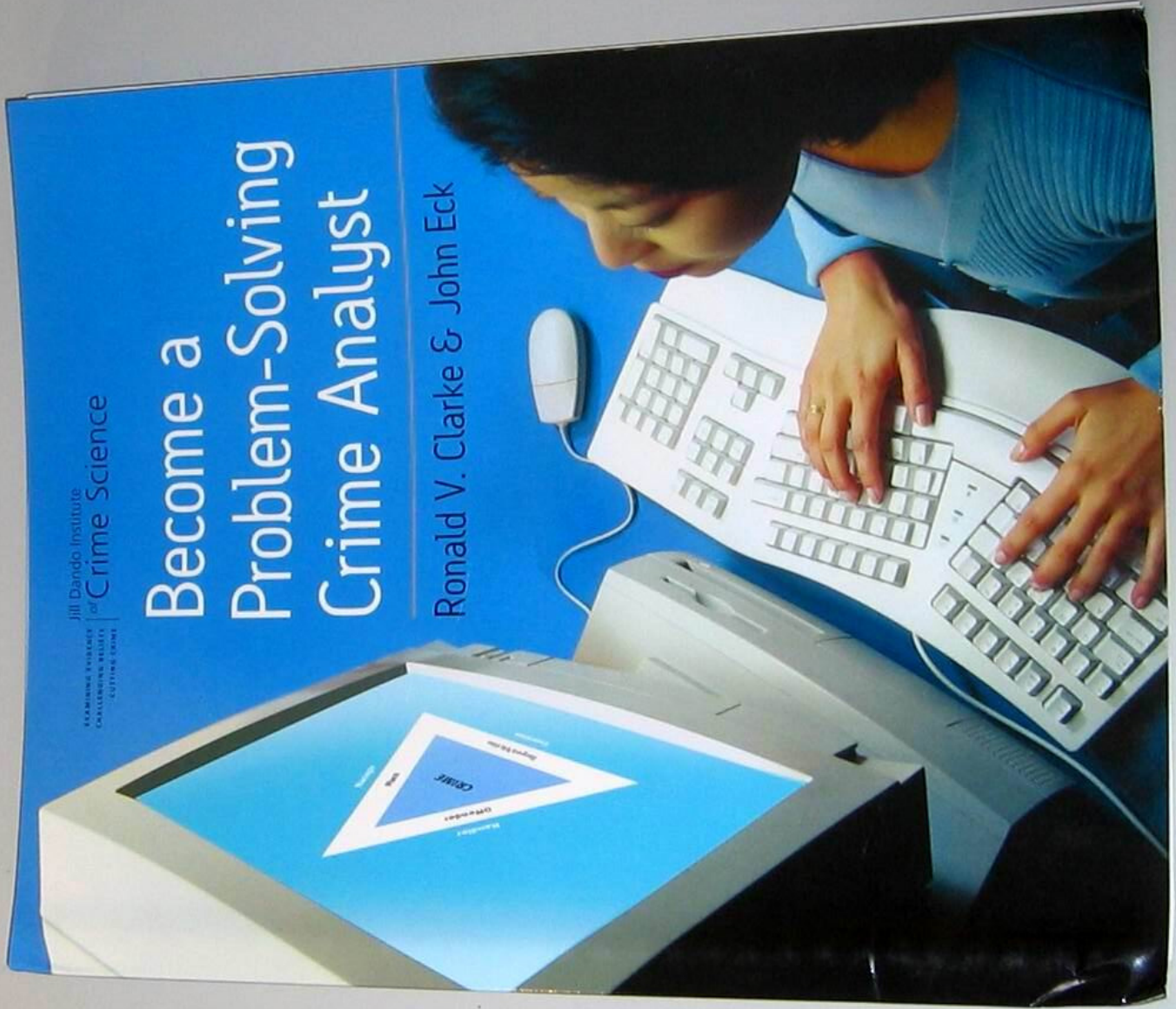
HEARINGS TODAY
CHALLENGING BELIEFS
CUTTING EDGES

Jill Dando Institute

of Crime Science

Become a Problem-Solving Crime Analyst

Ronald V. Clarke & John Eck



What works to reduce crime and safety problems?

Get **FREE** on-line information and resources here...

The screenshot shows the website for the Center for Problem-Oriented Policing (COPS). The navigation menu includes Home, Problems, Responses, Tools, Library, About POP Center, and Learning Center. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- POP Guides:**
 - Problem-Specific Guides:**
 - Acquaintance Rape of College Students
 - Assaults in and Around Bars
 - Bullying in Schools
 - Burglary of Retail Establishments
 - Burglary of Single-Family Houses
 - Counterfeit Drug Labels
 - Check and Card Fraud
 - More...
 - Response Guides:**
 - Police Crackdowns
 - Guides in preparation:**
 - Street Closures
 - Problem-Solving Tool Guides:**
 - Assessing Responses to Problems
 - In preparation:**
 - Interviewing Offenders
 - Repeat Victimization
- Comments and Suggestions:** (input field)
- Annual POP Conference Charlotte, NC Register Now!**
- Goldstein POP Awards** (Click for application details)
- What is Problem-Oriented Policing?**
 - Problem-oriented policing is designed to identify and remove the causes of recurring crime and disorder problems that harm communities.
 - Read more:
 - What is POP?
 - Problem Analysis Triangle
 - 25 techniques of crime prevention
- The Problem Analysis Triangle:** A diagram showing a triangle with vertices labeled "Manager", "Offender", and "Victim". The center of the triangle is labeled "PROBLEM". The sides are labeled "Targeting", "Opportunity", and "Motivation".
- Search:** Search box with "Go" button and "Search, Links, and Options" link.
- New and Notable:**
 - POP Center Guides:**
 - PRESCRIPTION FRAUD:** New Guide tells how to make a dent in the illegal drug market worth upwards of \$25 billion
 - Future Guides | Conferences | Books, Articles, Reports**
 - Library:**
 - POP Projects and Reports
 - Recommended Readings
 - Glossary
 - Links
 - More...
 - Learning Center:**
 - Plan a POP project on Street Prostitution
 - About a 30 minute exercise

Footer: Home | Problems | Responses | Tools | Library | About POP Center | Learning Center | Privacy Policy | Copyright © 2004 Center for Problem-Oriented Policing

www.popcenter.org
For the information you need to reduce crime.

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Office of Community Oriented Policing Services



COPS

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Problem-Oriented Guides for Police Series

No. 11

Shoplifting

by
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