

## Merry Christmas

This is the last **The Evidence Brief** for 2023.

It's an opportunity for the Evidence Based Policing Centre to keep you updated with everything happening nationally and internationally in the world of Police Science.

In this edition we meet Charlotte Chambers—the new Director of Evidence-Based Policing Centre.

You will read about the Evidence-Based Problem-Oriented Policing Awards which were held online via MS Teams on 22 November and find out who took out the Supreme Award. See who the five finalists were from the 29 impressive submissions received this year.

There is an impressive project that started in 2022 about opportunities to reduce failure to appear at court. This project was a combined effort of Behaviour Science Aotearoa, Ministry of Justice and Evidence-Based Policing Centre.

The Publications pages have some great books and articles worth reading. The articles can be found online.

There are also some photos also of those who were involved with making the Awards day possible.

Mark Evans has been interviewed by Policing TV in a three-part series providing insights into the world of problem solving. You can view the first video [here](#).

Finally, Dr Claire Phipps and Sergeant Brian Williamson joined Constable Bryan on his latest 'Coppuccino' Podcast. They spoke about EBP and how it helps police officers on the street and they also discuss how EBP looks now and what it might look like in the future. You can listen now on [Spotify](#).

From everyone at the Evidence-Based Policing Centre, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to hearing and receiving more stories of the good work that is being done in the Evidence-Based policing space.

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**Edition 6**  
**December 2023**

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## People – EBPC Teams

In each issue we will profile several EBPC teams and team leaders

### Manager Implementation & Evaluation

*Inspector Simon Welsh*

- Checkpoint
- Evaluation
- Knowledge & Information Services
- Network Leads
- Service Design



### Manager Network Leads

*Dr Deane Searle*



### Director

*Charlotte Chambers*



### Manager Service Design

*Jon Stevenson*



### Acting Manager Research Insights

*Kate Mora*

- Research Insights
- Research Panel



### Acting Team Manager Research Insights

*Sarah Czarnomski*



### Charlotte (Charlie) Chambers Director Evidence Based Policing Centre



Towards the end of October, Charlie Chambers started as the new Director of EBPC. She comes to EBPC from the Ministry of Justice where she managed the Research and Evaluation team. Prior to that, Charlie was the director of research and policy at the Association of Salaried Medical Specialists, and many years before this, she was lecturing in human geography and environmental management at the University of Otago. Charlie is a mother to two amazing children, Harry (12) and Xanthe (10). She also has the dubious pleasure of owning an incorrigible springer spaniel called Io pronounced Eye-oh).

## The Crime Data Handbook

Sarah Czarnomski, Lisa Tompson and Sophie Curtis-Ham wrote the introduction to police crime data as a resource for analysts and researchers both within and external to New Zealand Police. It is the opening chapter in [The Crime Data Handbook](#), coming out in 2024, and they recently released a preprint online: [Forewarned is forearmed: the hidden curriculum of working with police crime data · CrimRxiv](#). It draws on their crime analysis and research experiences in NZ and the UK, to forewarn those new to police crime data of its many 'traps for new players' and to forewarn them with tips and tricks for obtaining and working with this data.



Any questions?  
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## Evidence-Based Problem-Oriented Policing Awards 2023

A transformational programme tackling offending among children won the Supreme Award at the 2023 Evidence-Based Problem-Oriented Policing (EBPOP) Awards.

Kotahi Te Whakaaro brings Police in Counties Manukau District together with other agencies – government, NGOs and iwi and Pasifika providers – at a daily triage meeting to discuss the offending of the previous 24 hours.

This allows a fast response to the youngsters of greatest concern and their whānau with some stunning results – nearly 80 percent of the young people have not reoffended.

An original 29 entries for the 2023 EBPOP Awards competition were whittled down during regional heats to five finalists, competing for three category awards and the Supreme Award.

Kotahi te Whakaaro also won the award for Excellence in working with other stakeholders to solve problems, in what became a clean sweep for Counties.

The award for Excellence in generating, applying and developing evidence went to a project to reduce crime and fear of crime at a Kāinga Ora complex in Māngere; and the award for Commitment to problem solving went to an initiative to reduce vehicle crime at Middlemore Hospital.

The other finalists were the Tactical Response Model, and Whāriki Haumarū, an Eastern District project to address the problem of offenders failing to appear in court.

The final was held on Wednesday 22 November, hosted virtually from the Evidence-Based Policing Centre in Wellington. The district-based contestants, keynote speaker Deputy Commissioner Tania Kura, guest presenters and some of the judging panel connected in via Teams.

The whole event was livestreamed and available to watch via MS Teams.

On the judging panel from Police were Mark Evans Executive Lead: Future Policing; Dr Mel Smith, Manager Prevention – Development; and Deputy Commissioner Chris de Wattignar.

The external judges were crime scientist Dr Lisa Thompson; criminologist, gang authority and recent Police recruit wing Patron Dr Jarrod Gilbert; and Dr Paul Eme, Senior Research and Evaluation Advisor at the Ministry of Primary Industry.

After all the presentations, there was a tense wait for the presentations as the judges' deliberations lasted longer than anticipated.

*"This was as difficult as any judging panel I've been involved in," said Mark, chair of the panel, announcing the Supreme award winner.*

He said comparing projects with, variously, zero or substantial investment, or national significance with some of purely local impact, had been a particular challenge.

"Congratulations to you for the award," he said to the Kotahi Te Whakaaro team, who had presented from a room at Counties Manukau District HQ. "It's well-deserved. Thanks for the work you're doing for the community in Counties Manukau.

"I understand that the initiative is already being rolled out in other districts so that was quite an important factor in consideration of sustainability and scalability."

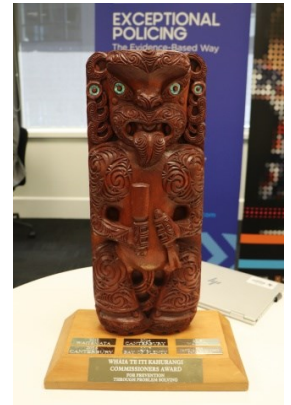
This is the eighth iteration of the awards, which began in 2013 as the POP awards and were rebooted as EBPOP awards in 2017.

They seek to highlight policing which identifies and analyses an issue and plans and executes a response with measurable outcomes using the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Response, Assessment) or PANDA (Problem, Analyse, Nominate, Deploy, Assess) problem-solving models.

"This for me is about sending a signal that problem-solving is a thing - it works when you do it well and we should be doing more of it," said Mark, closing the day's proceedings.

Source: Ten One—NZ Police Intranet

see pages 8 and 9 for photos from the Awards



# Evidence-Based Problem-Oriented Policing Awards 2023

## The finalists

### *Tactical Response Model (EBPC/PNHQ)*

The TRM is an integrated system that has been designed to raise Police's overall capability to both prevent and respond to high-risk and critical incidents and intends to achieve the following three outcomes:

1. Frontline staff feel safer and more confident in their day-to-day duties;
2. Frontline staff are safer in their day-to-day duties; and
3. Communities are safer.

### *Kotahi Te Whakaaro (Counties Manukau District)*

In 2021, youth offending rates surged, especially among child offenders, despite an overall decrease in youth offender numbers. Vehicle theft and retail burglary (including ram raid and similar offences) saw significant increases in Tāmaki Makaurau, causing substantial tangible harm, and triggering extensive concerns, media attention and political discussions throughout New Zealand. This ongoing surge, persistent pattern, and escalation to more serious offending underscored the imperative for a reorientation of resources, and a new way of working.

### *Chronic Vehicle Crime at Middlemore Hospital: A problem-solving approach (Counties Manukau District)*

High stolen car rates present a significant challenge for the New Zealand public. Auckland's Middlemore Hospital was identified as a chronic hot spot for such offending, presenting also with high rates of unlawful interference and theft of items from cars. The sub-Area Prevention Team applied a problem-solving process to identify the causative factors at influencing the crime-scape at this location.

The initial problem scan had delivered an incorrect hypothesis as to why the offending was happening; however, offenders helped the team understand the problem through Intelligence Interviews, which were further reinforced by location observation. Well-founded knowledge has enabled research to be gleaned from the literature, to create evidence-based environmental change opportunities that will be implemented with partners.

This project is well on the way to deliver enduring solutions to a substantial chronic problem.

### *Whāriki Haumaru (Eastern Police District)*

'Administrative offences' constitutes one of the-big-four enduring offence types in Eastern District.

Accounting for somewhere between 1600-2500 police officer hours a year, that burden is substantial.

Similarly, the courts with an already burgeoning workload are increasingly negatively impacted having to spend limited time and resources creating new court events costing approximately \$1.5m per annum nationally. On further comparison, the average failing-to-appear rate across the country sits at around 9% while in Eastern it sits at a whopping 20%.

### *The Kāinga Ora Complex at Bari Lane, Māngere (Counties Manukau District)*

Bari Lane is a Kāinga Ora Complex that was completed in July 2021. It has a total of 77 residences. A problem-solving approach unravelled the complexity of crime and fear of crime at the location. In-depth surveys with residents, conducted with a partner agency, provided a community voice to understand the problem.

The solution was integrated engagement with this community to provide feelings of safety and other critical needs, such as medical care and social support. The preliminary results to date are state and non-state agency engagement with a community in need; social cohesion among a diverse community; and the community developing their own solutions to building a better Bari Lane.



Any questions?

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## Projects

Spotlight on current and completed initiatives

### Criminal Process Improvement Programme Workstream 8: Reducing Failures to Appear

*Behavioural Science Aotearoa*

*Wellington: Behavioural Science Aotearoa / Ministry of Justice / Evidence Based Policing Centre, 2022*

Defendants do not appear when required in approximately 10% of court events, a figure that has steadily increased since 2016. When this happens, a new charge is laid, creating additional court events, further burden on participants and their families, and more strain on the criminal justice system.

In response, Behavioural Science Aotearoa (BSA) was tasked with exploring opportunities to reduce failures to appear (FTA) at court. Based on extensive exploratory research, we heard several reasons why defendants might not attend, including physical and psychological barriers, unawareness/forgetting, and low motivation. In response, building on insights from defendants, stakeholders, and international research, we identified and developed three interventions to reduce FTA.

1. Court Summons: Improving the Court Summons document and interaction between Road Police officers and defendants to encourage attendance at first appearance, including offering a choice of court dates;
2. Court Notice of Bail: Improving the Court Notice of Bail and the process of and resources for serving bail to improve defendant comprehension and memory recall of conditions; and
3. SMS reminders: Improving uptake to the court SMS (text message) reminder system.

We piloted the court-based solutions at Christchurch, Hamilton and Gisborne District Courts and Police-led solutions in corresponding Police Districts (Canterbury, Waikato and Eastern Police Districts). We then evaluated the impact of these interventions on FTA between December 2021 and November 2022 using Warrants to Arrest (WTA) as a proxy measure of attendance. This proxy measure was used as attendance data is not reliably captured in the courts' case management system (CMS).

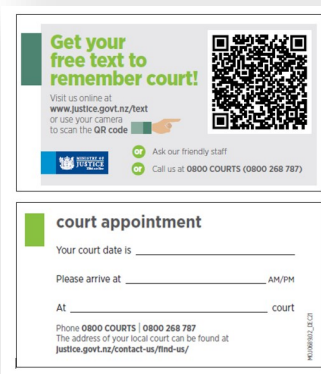
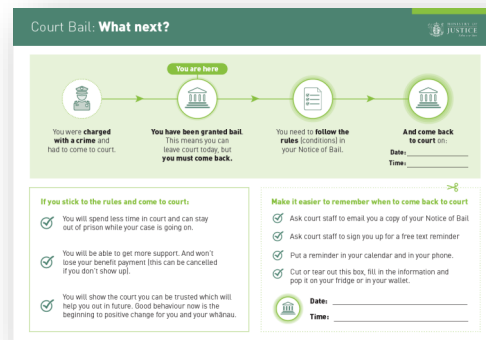


We found that although the pilot court bail notice and resources had no significant impact on WTA, there was a statistically significant 13.1% decrease in bail breach rate at pilot courts in comparison with control courts. This indicates that the pilot bail notice increased compliance with bail conditions. We also saw increased sign-ups for the SMS reminder system in pilot courts, and that being signed up to an SMS reminder in the last 90 days reduced the probability of a WTA being issued by 25%.

However, the combined effect of all these interventions had no statistically significant impact on WTA across the pilot courts. There was also no statistically significant impact of the pilot Court Summons form and offering a choice in court dates on WTA. Despite

these findings, some police officers reported perceived improvements in defendants' understanding. There were no reported adverse reactions from defendants or reports that comprehension declined due to the intervention.

On the basis of these findings, we recommended rolling out the pilot Court Notice of Bail nationally with guidance on how to best serve bail (planning for this roll out is ongoing). In addition, we recommended that the efforts to increase the uptake of the SMS reminder service are rolled out nationally, and that defendant-focused improvements from the pilot Court Summons are incorporated into future versions of the form. Through our evaluation, we also gained insight about ways to improve the implementation of these interventions; those insights will inform the wider roll outs.



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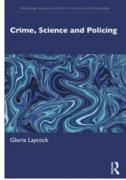


## Publications

International and National EBP Literature and Articles

### ***Crime, Science and Policing—Gloria Laycock***

*London: Routledge, 2023*



This book offers an introduction to crime science; it is specifically for police and security professionals. Written by one of the founders of crime science and an expert in crime reduction, it considers the unique characteristics of the approach, its applicability to the control of crime, disorder and terrorism, and the importance of experimentation and the testing of new ideas to build a knowledge base for ethical policing. Core content includes: The basics of crime science in concept, theory and practice; Methods of research and assessment used by crime scientists; Crime science and policing, including its application to volume crimes, serious crimes and investigation; Legitimacy and public compliance; Policing, science, and future crimes.

### ***The Future of Evidence-Based Policing—Edited by David Weisburd et al.***

*Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023*



Evidence-based policing (EBP) has become a key perspective for practitioners and researchers concerned with the future of policing. This volume provides both a review of where evidence-based policing stands today and a consideration of emerging trends and ideas likely to be important in the future. It includes comparative and international contributions, as well as researcher and practitioner perspectives. While emphasizing traditional evidence-based methods and approaches, the book also identifies barriers to the advancement of evidence-based policing and expands the vision of evidence-based policing by critically examining ethical and moral concerns and questions. The book's main focus is not on what has to happen in police agencies to advance EBP, but rather on an issue that has received far less attention - the science that is necessary to produce for EBP to be successfully integrated into policing.

### ***Introduction to Policing Research : Taking lessons from practice (2nd edition) - Edited by Denise Martin and Stephen Tong.***

*London: Routledge, 2023*



This book offers a first-hand insight into the work of policing scholars and the research that they undertake. Bringing together a range of leading scholars and drawing on a range of pressing topics, it introduces the diverse nature of policing research, and the ethical and practical challenges faced by policing researchers. Each chapter brings clarity to the concept of empirical research within policing, introduces readers to the theoretical explanations and assumptions that underpin the rational of research design in policing, as well as considering the limitations of research. Topics include: Research methods in police research; Police professionalisation; Police and diversity; Police leadership; Undercover policing; Police and vulnerability; Activist research; Social media and policing. This revised and expanded new edition includes more focus on the role of research in policing, police and academic partnerships and practitioners as researchers, as well as a brand new section offering international perspectives on policing research.

### ***Do crashed drivers need more drug testing? A retrospective analysis of blood samples from hospitalised post-crash drivers in New Zealand***

**Laura Alexandrescu, Helen Poulsen, Rachael Mason, Nils van Lamoen**

*Accident Analysis and Prevention Journal*

*Published online: 4 December 2023*

Driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs is a prominent safety concern in New Zealand and across the world. While alcohol testing is routinely performed for drivers involved in hospitalisation crashes, testing for other drugs is often not undertaken. The present study refers to 530 traffic crashes that occurred from October 2019 to January 2020 on New Zealand roads. The blood samples from 550 drivers who were injured in a crash and were admitted to a hospital (66% of all drivers involved in these crashes), previously tested for drugs and/or alcohol, were retested for a wider range of drugs.



**Any questions?**

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# Publications

International EBP Literature Articles

## [Is it time for the use of pair-matching in all randomized controlled trials of crime and violence prevention? A review of the research](#)

**Heather Paterson & Brandon C. Welsh**

*Aggression and violent behavior.*

*Published online: 19 October 2023*

Pair-matching in randomized controlled trials (RCTs) has received increased attention in criminology, the social sciences more generally, and medicine and public health, with a growing body of research demonstrating the design's benefits over "simple" RCTs. We carry out a review of matched-pair RCTs compared with simple RCTs to address a somewhat provocative yet fair question for evaluation research on crime and violence prevention interventions: Is it time for the use of pair-matching in all RCTs? At the heart of this question is the ability of the design to most efficiently and robustly compare like with like, thereby, improving confidence in observed effects of intervention trials. Several key findings emerge from the review. First, it is inadequate to examine or discuss RCTs as a single, uniform evaluation design. Here, the key organizing construct is the unit of allocation: individuals; groups of individuals (or clusters); and geographical places. Second, the advantages vastly outweigh the disadvantages for the use of matched-pair RCTs compared to simple RCTs, and most of the advantages hold for all three units of allocation. Third, pair-matching can be used with rather small samples ( $\geq 6$  units) in cluster-based trials without compromising statistical power or degrees of freedom; less is known about individual- and place-based trials. Fourth, pair-matching cannot be used with some types of RCTs (e.g., cross-over) and is less amenable in other contexts (e.g., RCTs that enrol and randomize individuals on a rolling basis). Implications for evaluation research and public policy are discussed.

## [Partnership approaches in policing: An analysis of different types of partnerships and how they work to reduce crime and disorder](#)

**Lorraine Mazerolle**

*Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*

*Published online: 27 November 2023*

Partnerships in policing are commonplace approaches to reduce crime and disorder problems across most parts of the world. Police forge partnerships with businesses, government agencies, and communities to co-produce public safety, usually cooperatively but sometimes using coercion. The co-production approach to crime control permeates all levels of law enforcement from tackling complex corporate crimes to reducing the flow of drugs to street-level markets. In this paper, I draw from the Global Policing Database (GPD) and the final stage of the search and screening from a systematic review of third-party policing (TPP) interventions to analyse 29 unique TPP interventions in 36 studies described across 45 documents. Each of the 29 unique TPP interventions depicts different types of partnerships and how they work to reduce crime and disorder. Partnerships are grouped along two continuums: the number and complexity of partners involved and the level and type of engagement. Some partnerships in policing are extremely complex involving multiple agencies, whereas others are dyadic. The type of engagement between partners also varies: some partnerships are collaborative, guided by memorandums of understanding, and motivated by mutual need for crime control solutions. Other partnerships are more coercive and dictated through legislated mandates and forceful measures. In this paper, I examine the range of partnerships evident within the review and offer insights into how those partnerships work to tackle different types of problems.

## [Recalling Responses: A RCT on Police Learning and Knowledge Retention](#)

**Timothy Bonadies et al.**

*Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*

*Published online: 21 August 2023*

Public and policy demands to address police training are prominent in modern policing. While existing research has highlighted the gaps of inclusive topics and content dosage to meet reasonable expectations of knowledge or competency, there is a significant gap in policing research on evidence-based training methods. Specifically, the evaluation of police recruit training methods and the impact to student knowledge gain, retention, and application of concepts. This study is designed as two, randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of 152 police recruit participants. These participants are divided into control and treatment groups for in-person and online instructional methods and again into subgroups for traditional and integrated learning. These four groups are defined as: Group 1: In-Person Traditional; Group 2: Online Traditional; Group 3: In-Person Integrated; and Group 4: Online-Integrated. For all participants, four tests were administered to measure changes in knowledge gain and retention. Panel data within a weighted stratification model evaluated changes within groups and differences among groups. Integrated learning groups performed best overall for knowledge gain and longer retention of content. In-person Integrated (Group 3) had highest scoring for immediate knowledge gain and continued retention throughout the experiment. Knowledge retention decreased immediately for in-person traditional (Group 1) participants. These findings have direct impacts to the current practices of traditional police training during basic academies. Furthermore, additional details on student engagement during the experiment indicate additional expectations of recruit learners. Outcomes from this RCT inform practitioners how to deliver critical topics (e.g., communication skills) and measure officer knowledge and retention. The outcomes inform agencies on training development practices for future in-service and/or field training programming that reinforces concepts and critical skills.







Dr Deane Searle, Alpa Modi, Mark Evans, Dr Melissa Smith, Dr Paul Eme

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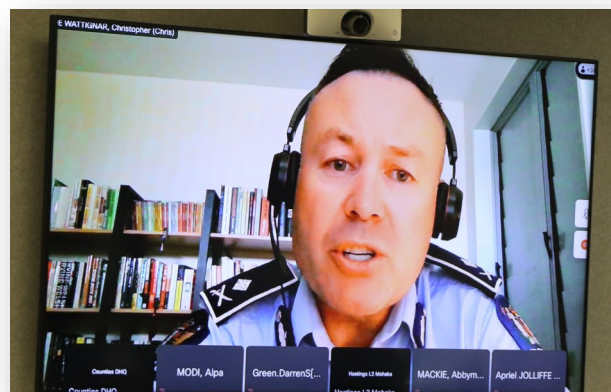
Judges: Mark Evans, Dr Melissa Smith and Dr Paul Eme

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Online Judge: Dr Lisa Tompson

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Online Judge: Deputy Commissioner—  
Chris de Wattignar

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