

Welcome to the first edition of **The Evidence Brief** for 2023, 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 Felicity Soper the Network Lead from Southland and we farewell Simon Williams, the Director of EBPC.

You will find out if an improved police bail notice will encourage people to show up to court, a study Led by Lance Tebbutt, EBPC and Behavioural Science Aotearoa who took on the task of evaluating the new notice in a larger nationwide trial, using a Stepped Wedge Trial design.

You will also read about the EBP network leads and how they teamed up with Prevention Development Practice Lead; Dr Emma Ashcroft to deliver Evidence-Based Problem Orientated Policing training and workshops in districts. The first one was with Counties Manukau East and West areas.

The Publications pages has really good recently released reports on various topics within New Zealand, and on what is happening internationally.

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**Edition 1**  
**March 2023**


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## People – EBPC Teams


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

**Data Science**  
*Hamish Hull*




**Research Insights & Performance**  
*Dr Jess Dent*

- Performance
- Research Insights




**Implementation & Evaluation**  
*Inspector Simon Welsh*


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



**Director**  
*Simon Williams*



**Delivery & Improvements**  
*Inspector Karen Smith*



### **Network Leads Southern— Felicity Soper**



Felicity is currently the Network Lead for the Southern area until November 2023.

Felicity has worked for New Zealand Police for two years and has worked as a Performance Analyst with Intel in the Southern District, based in Invercargill. She is looking forward to learning more about implementing evidence-based policing in the Southern District.

### **Simon Williams—Director of Evidence -Based Policing Centre**



Simon Williams leaves us on Friday 24 March. He will be taking up a fixed term role with the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) based in Australia.

Simon started with NZ Police in May 2019, and has been the Director of Evidence Based Policing since 2021. During this time, Simon has contributed significantly to EBP in NZ, and a number of programmes of work, including the ART, TRM, LUMI evaluations, the development of the Operational Performance Framework, and supporting NZP with compliance reporting through the national CV19 lockdowns.

Simon has been recognised globally for his contribution to Evidence Based Policing and his research into “policing hotspots”. His knowledge and experience will be missed, but it’s great to see that he will still be in the Southern Hemisphere contributing to policing, and still working with NZP through ANZPAA.



Any questions?  
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## Projects

Spotlight on current and completed initiatives

### Can an improved police bail notice encourage people to show up at court?

*Authors: Helen Glenny (Behavioural Science Aotearoa) and Lance Tebbutt (Evidenced Based Policing Centre)*

Historically, about one in every seven people released on police bail fail to attend court. When this happens, their court case is delayed and a warrant for their arrest is issued. This uses police resources, risks the person having to go into custody, and worsens a defendant's experience of the justice system.

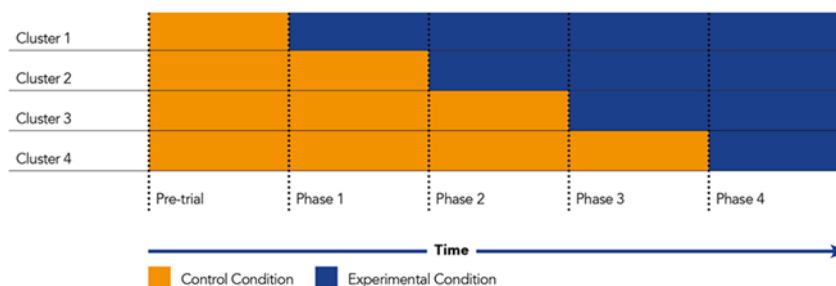
In 2018, EBPC commissioned the [Behavioural Insights Team](#) (BIT) to investigate why defendants fail to appear in court. They recommended improving the bail notice, as the existing notice used jargon and didn't emphasise key information such as the date and time of the court appointment. BIT created a new police bail notice, by removing unnecessary legal jargon and putting the most important information at the top of the notice. They also reduced the reading age required to understand the notice by three years, from 12 years old to nine years old. In 2020, [the new notice was tested across six police custody units](#). It resulted in an increase in court attendance from 84% to 88% ( $p < 0.1$ ).

Led by Lance Tebbutt, EBPC and Behavioural Science Aotearoa then took on the task of evaluating the new notice in a larger nationwide trial, using a Stepped Wedge Trial design - a type of cluster randomised control trial.

With this design, the whole country starts using the old version of the notice. Every two weeks, a new police area switches to using the new notice. By the end of the trial, the whole country will be using the new notice. We then calculate the probability of a person failing to appear in court, controlling for the area they're in and any underlying changes in failures to appear over time. These trial designs are often used for rolling out healthcare interventions where it would be unacceptable to withhold the new treatment from certain clinics. This way, everyone ends up getting the intervention, even if it takes longer for some areas to get the treatment than others.

The last few police areas will transition to using the new notice in February 2023, and we're looking forward to sharing results at the end of the trial.

Example of stepped wedge trial design:



### Photos from the EBPOP Workshop in Tamaki Makarau



Prevention teams apply their learnings to understand the underlying drivers of Area problems



Dr Claire Phipps discusses the importance of co-design and partnership with Iwi in the problem solving process



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## Projects

Spotlight on current and completed initiatives

### Collaboration the key to Evidence-Based Problem-Oriented Policing

Area Prevention and Intel teams from Counties Manukau East and West areas gathered recently to work alongside the Evidence Based Policing Network Leads and Prevention Development Group to expand their knowledge of Problem-Oriented Policing. While both EBP and Prevention Development have delivered POP training separately, the recent workshops marked the start of a new collaborative approach.

Insp Chris Scott - "We really appreciate the support from EBPC and Prevention and it is really helping us build our capability in our prevention teams and Area Intel. The Counties Manukau West team really enjoyed collaborating with different workgroups who each brought their own expertise, whether it be community policing in Areas, relationships or academic skills and research. The Network Leads have a real knack for bringing the academic world and frontline policing world together in an engaging way which our Area teams can then apply in practice."

Problem-orientated Policing encourages us as Police to look at why crime patterns occur so that we can respond to the underlying causes rather than what we see on the surface. Doing so will make impact of the strategies and tactics we employ more effective and sustainable for the community.

The workshops covered two models commonly used in EBPOP – SARA (**S**can, **A**nalyse, **R**espond, **A**ssess) and PANDA (**P**roblem scan, **A**nalyse problem, **N**ominate strategy, **D**eploy strategy, **A**ssess outcomes).

These models help to guide Police staff through the process, encouraging them to first gather as much information about the problem(s) as possible. From there, they can start to think about why the problem(s) are occurring so that they can select and implement a response in an evidence-based way. The final piece of the puzzle is to assess what worked and how, so that others in Aotearoa and beyond can think about how different responses might work for them.

The EBP network leads have teamed up with Prevention Development Practice Lead; Dr Emma Ashcroft to deliver Evidence-Based Problem Orientated Policing training and workshops in districts. "We (Prevention and EBP) are keen to work with districts to help support them in taking a problem-solving approach to policing. This moves beyond solving problems reactively and in isolation of the broader context to more sustainable solutions that involve partnering with the very communities we are serving" says Emma.

The leads from both work groups will be working closely with District Prevention Teams to support them throughout the different stages of the problem-solving models and implement initiatives to prevent crime and harm and build the New Zealand evidence-based policing research on "what works".

The small Network lead team have over 100 years of diverse policing experience between them including, frontline, CIB, Community, Youth, tactical groups etc, mixed with academic members delivering a unique learning experience that district staff can then apply practically.

If areas or districts are interested in group training, resources, or more one-on-one support for teams, they should contact Dr Emma Ashcroft - the Practice Lead Prevention Development and/or your [EBP network lead](#).



Snr Sgt Lance Tebbutt (Retired) leads a procedurally just exercise and Sgt Brian Williamson discusses how Procedural Justice fits into Police legitimacy and Policing by Consent



Sgt Brian Williamson introduces Evidence-Based Problem Orientated Policing and the importance of understanding the underlying causes and drivers of problems



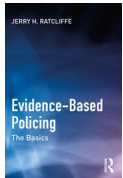
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# Publications

International EBP Literature Books

## **Evidence-Based Policing: The Basics**

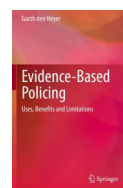


**Jerry Ratcliffe**

*London: Routledge, 2023*

What is evidence-based policing and how is it done? This book provides an answer to both questions, offering an introduction for undergraduate students and a hands-on guide for police officers wanting to know how to put principles into practice. It serves as a gentle introduction to the terminology, ideas, and scientific methods associated with evidence-based policy, and outlines some of the existing policing applications. A couple of introductory chapters summarize evidence-based policy and its goals and origins. The core of the book eases the reader through a range of practical chapters that answer questions many people have about evidence-based practice in policing. What does good science look like? How do I find reliable research? How do I evaluate research? What is a hypothesis? How do randomized experiments work? These chapters not only provide a practical guide to reading and using existing research, but also a roadmap for readers wanting to start their own research project. The final chapters outline different ways to publish research, discuss concerns around evidence-based policing, and ask what is in the future for this emerging field. Annotated with the author's own experiences as a police officer and researcher, and filled with simple aids, flowcharts, and figures, this practical guide is the most accessible introduction to evidence-based policing available. It is essential reading for policing students and police professionals alike.

## **Evidence-Based Policing: Uses, Benefits and Limitations**

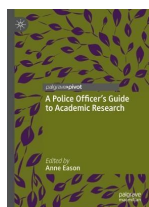


**Garth Den Heyer**

*Cham: Springer, 2022*

The volume aims to increase knowledge and understanding of how evidence-based policing is being adopted and implemented by police agencies in the United States and whether it is affecting the agencies' processes, strategies, community relationships and delivery of community-oriented policing services. This exploration is based on data drawn from the literature, interviews and extensive field research that resulted in the case studies presented and discussed in the book. The goal of this text will be to provide the reader with a thorough analysis of the concepts, arguments and challenges facing evidence-based policing. The history of evidence-based policing, how evidence-based practices are used in the health and social sectors, and in the United Kingdom will be examined. In addition, reasonable options for improving the use of evidence-based policing will be proposed. Overall, very practical policy implications will be outlined by a highly recognized professional who has considerable experience in policing and related research.

## **A Police Officer's Guide to Academic Research**



**Edited by Anne Eason**

*Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023*

This book highlights how the practical skills of the police officer can be transferred into the realm of academic research and support them in becoming part of the evidence-based policing movement. It starts by exploring the professionalisation of the police service through higher education accreditation and the different methodologies of social research practice. Using operational comparisons and a little humour, it guides the reader through the swamp of concepts and processes, such as ethical approval, research paradigms and data gathering and analysis. It then takes them on a journey of reflection and reflexivity, challenging their own perspective on policing and working within the wider criminal justice sector and how they can make a valuable contribution to the development of policing practice.



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# Articles

International EBP Literature Articles

## [Unpacking the police patrol shift: observations and complications of “electronically” riding along with police](#)

**Rylan Simpson & Nick Bell**

*Crime Science*, 12 December 2022

As frontline responders, patrol officers exist at the core of policing. Little remains known, however, about the specific and nuanced work of contemporary patrol officers and their shift characteristics. Drawing upon computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data for a random sample of 60 patrol shifts, we empirically analyse the activities of patrol officers working in a Canadian police agency. Our analyses reveal several interesting findings regarding the activities of patrol officers, the nature and prevalence of calls for service attended by such officers, and the temporal patterns of different patrol shifts. We discuss our results with respect to both criminological research as well as policing practice. We also highlight the complications and implications of using electronic police records to empirically study officer activity.

## [Developing and Sustaining Police–Researcher Partnerships](#)

**Darrel W. Stephens (2022)**

*Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 16(3): 344–354

Developing and sustaining partnerships between the police and researchers has long been a challenge. There have been national federal grant programmes aimed at developing these partnerships and they have been helpful. In most cases, the partnerships lapsed when the funds are expended. Nevertheless, progress has been made over the years and there are examples of police–researcher partnerships but relatively few are sustained long-term relationships. These partnerships have become increasingly important as community advocates make demands for police reforms; many of which are not evidence based. This article identifies and discusses some of the challenges the police face and various reform proposals. It also identifies several long-term successful partnerships and includes a more detailed description of two of them—University of Cincinnati/Cincinnati Police and Arizona State University/Phoenix Police. The article discusses the author’s experience with police–researcher partnerships as a police chief and researcher over his 53-year career in policing. Finally, the article encourages police and researchers to think more deeply about three areas: funding, community engagement, and communications strategy. Funding is fundamental to sustaining the partnerships and supporting them without a total reliance on external resources is crucial. Transparency has become an essential part of establishing public trust and researchers must begin engaging the community in the process. Finally, a communications strategy as a part of the study would enhance the understanding of findings and reinforce the value of investing in research.

## [Embedding Evidence-Based Policing \(EBP\): A UK case study exploring organisational challenges](#)

**Helen Selby-Fell & Andrew Newton**

*The Police Journal*, 31 October 2022

This paper explores organisational challenges of embedding ‘Evidence-Based Policing’ (EBP) using a mixed methods design sampled across a range of ranks/roles, in a case study UK police force. Key organisational constraints identified include limited awareness of/access to research evidence, lack of resources, capability concerns, and challenges related to organisational culture and leadership. Organisational constraints were disproportionately experienced by lower ranking officers and staff, and senior officers were not fully cognisant of these challenges. There is a need to better equip officers and staff of all ranks to engage with EBP and address the identified organisational challenges.

## [Evidence-based policing for crime prevention in England and Wales: perception and use by new police recruits](#)

**Colin Rogers, Ian K. Pepper & Louise Skilling (2022)**

*Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, 24: 328–341

Evidence-based policing is an integral part of the police approach to crime prevention work being closely associated with the problem solving approach as developed by Goldstein (Problem-oriented policing, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1990) This research explores the effect of the new initial police entry programmes, co-delivered in partnerships between higher education and police forces, on the application of evidence-based policing (EBP) in the workplace. It also considers the impact of team leaders and supervisors on this adoption. The study utilised a survey of new student police constables undergoing the new higher education qualifications programme from five different police forces in England and Wales. Findings suggest that EBP appears to be applied in the workplace, and that the combination of higher education and work-based practice will continue to influence the adoption of EBP by new police constables. In particular is the role of police leaders in this aspect. This in turn may embed it into practice despite any cultural resistance, thus enhancing the crime prevention role of the police.



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