



EUCPN
EUROPEAN CRIME PREVENTION NETWORK

Busting myths in crime prevention

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Myths in crime prevention

ideas, beliefs, assumptions which influence crime prevention actions, but for which there is insufficient proof or evidence that they are true

Case A: theft from vehicles

a neighbourhood somewhat on the outskirts of town

significant trading activity: lots of stores, big and small

lots of parking space

marked rise of thefts from vehicles

city council wants to initiate an awareness campaign to make shoppers aware of the issue

Awareness/information campaigns

Properties of a good campaign?



Case A: theft from vehicles

Ideas for a campaign?



Case A: theft from vehicles

How does it work?



Two main assumptions

Giving information = raising awareness

Raised awareness -> behaviour change

How behaviour is made

Rational choice

(Subjective) knowledge

Social norms

Emotions and state of mind (incl. psychology)

Group dynamics (peer pressure, group identity)

Planning

Ideological/cultural beliefs

Choice infrastructure, changing default

Informing people

Changing social norms

Emotive messages; mental health

Belonging; healthy socialisation



Please DO NOT
leave any
Valuables in your
car



LIKE THE CHIEF

Awareness doesn't work

An exploratory study of cyber hygiene behaviors and knowledge

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ARTICLE

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Age

Understanding the Relationship between Human Behavior and Susceptibility to Cyber Attacks: A Data-Driven Approach

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Despite growing speculation about the role of human behavior in cyber attacks, data-driven analysis and evidence have been lacking. Using a large-scale, data-driven study of 1.6 million machines over an 8-month period, we analyzed user behavior and cyber attacks against their personal computers, servers, professionals, software developers, and others, plus a set of 7 features that act as proxies for human behavior. In a series of experiments (times 7 features), we studied the relationship between these variables, namely the number of attempted malware

Interventions for Children, Youth, and Parents to Prevent and Reduce Cyber Abuse

Faye Mishna, Charlene Cook, Michael Saini, Meng-Jia Wu, Robert MacFadden

Changing choice infrastructure works



Dutch safe home police certification:
Awareness + financial incentive + obligation

Case B: adolescent drug use

Drugs and alcohol use abuse have negative consequences
(crime, health, traffic)

Onset during adolescence

law enforcement teach young people a lesson



Case B: adolescent drug use

How is it supposed to work?



Case B: adolescent drug use

Why is it a myth?



Fear doesn't work

100 YEARS OF “JUST SAY NO” VERSUS “JUST SAY KNOW”

Reevaluating
for

Center

Can scare tactics and fear-based messages help deter substance misuse: a systematic review of recent (2005–2017) research

Josh Esrick^a, Raanan G. Kagan^a, John T. Carnevale^a, Maria Valenti^b, Gisela Rots^b and Kim Dash^b

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Historically, substance sages. However, these messages were harmful. This review sought to deter

Methods: We conducted a literature gorising results as showing clear evidence of effectiveness. Research on baseline and research on related the

Results: We identified 17 studies that alcohol use, one targeting marijuana found that these messages were m positive emotion prevention message four (4) studies found no evidence of

Discussion: Though not conclusive, than previously shown. However, ma lar, historical messages. Organization differences.

“Scared Straight” and Other Juvenile Awareness Programs for Preventing Juvenile Delinquency

Anthony Petrosino, Carolyn Turpin Petrosino, John Buehler

Fear doesn't work

“We conclude that programs like 'Scared Straight' are likely to have a harmful effect and increase delinquency relative to doing nothing at all to the same youths. Given these results, we cannot recommend this program as a crime prevention strategy. Agencies that permit such programs, however, must rigorously evaluate them not only to ensure that they are doing what they purport to do (prevent crime) - but at the very least they do not cause more harm than good to the very citizens they pledge to protect.”

(Petrosino et al., 2004, p.8)

EUCPN Mythbuster papers

1. Awareness-raising
2. Deterrence
3. Local prevention of serious and organised crime
4. Benefit-cost of crime prevention
5. Waterbed effect



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