

Crime Reduction – A Strategic Focus

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What is Crime Reduction?

Objectives:

1. Achieve and sustain significant reductions in rate of a range of crimes
2. Reduce fear of crime amongst the public





What is crime reduction?

o Key principles:

- **Evidence** – measurable, knowledge-based standards for our work
 - Re-examine “sacred cows” and demand rigour
 - What are the measurable impacts of our programs?
- **Accountability** – Performance targets
- **Partnerships** – no agency or profession has a controlling interest; many can contribute





Why change?

- 46% Canadians expressed confidence in the criminal justice system overall (2004)
- Otherwise excellent programs often lack:
 - Clear, measurable (falsifiable) objectives
 - Evidence-based choices
 - True criminal justice partnerships





What is crime reduction?

o Where did it come from?

● External examples:

- United Kingdom: CJS performance measurement
- “Wraparound” prolific offender management
- Substantial & sustained impact

● Local initiative

- Multi-agency projects
- VPD Chronic Offender Program
- Mental Health courts in Seattle





Why integrated offender management?

- A strategic focus on prolific offenders
 - Resources follow risk!
- What do we know?
 - Small number of offenders typically account for large proportion of crime
 - E.g. Comox Valley ... 4.5% of offenders (20) committed 23% of known property crime (summer 2006)
 - Top 9/443 offenders committed 16%





Why integrated offender management?

- High costs, ineffective system response
 - Much recidivism assoc. to remediable issues
 - E.g. antisocial cognitions & associations, substance dependency, homelessness
 - Most serve trivial time (55% of male sentences <30 days, 85% <6 months)
 - Remand = x2 time, little intervention
 - Few get treatment in a timely manner
 - Lack of information sharing, even to benefit of offenders = poor outcomes





Positive outcomes from initial steps

- Significant gains, esp. re property crimes; year-on-year drops of 10–40% in targeted crimes in pilot areas
- 2004-06 change in property crime rates:
 - Canada: -10%
 - “E” Division: -15%
 - Pilot sites: -27%
- Strong support from client base for strategic focus, difficult choices.





Offender Focused - Local Implementation

- Top 5% of offenders
- What do we know about them?
- Better Information = Better Outcomes





Examples – Offender Based

- o Coquitlam/Surrey Bail Templates

- o Kamloops Bulletin Boards





Beyond a Pure Enforcement Approach - Integration

- It is not solely a policing problem!
- Smaller communities have been doing this for years.
- What can other agencies offer?
- Impact on their services/common clients





Integration Examples

- o Mental Health nurses
- o AA and Narcotics Anonymous
- o Bylaw and Business Licence Reviews





Intelligence

- o Recent criminal activity
- o Analysis - Hot Spots





Intelligence - Examples

- Lifestyle interviews
- Increased street checks in hot spots
- Release date charts
- Discussing hot spot causation factors with local government





Detachment Operations

- A team effort
- In discussion with communities
examine how we deliver service
- Evidence based programs





Operations - Examples

- Call Manager – Comox Valley
- Nanaimo/North Vancouver – School Liaison/Youth Intervention Teams





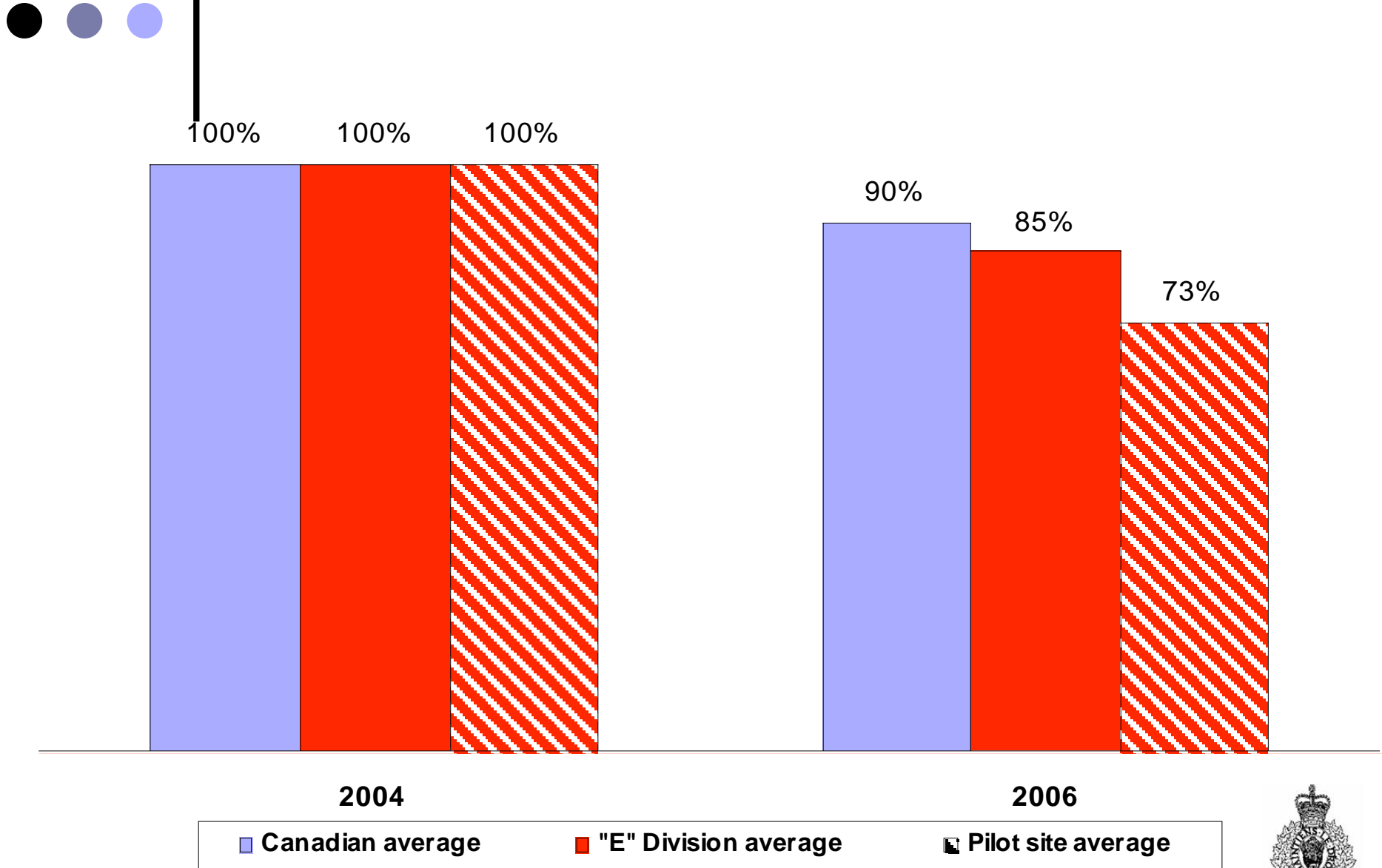
Penticton Detachment

- Break and Enter from 600 in 2003 to 254 in 2007.
- Overall reported criminal code down 16% over last year.
- Property offences down 19%
- Theft of motor vehicle down 26%
- Prisoners down almost 400 from 2628 to 2248 year to year



2004-2006 Crime Reduction Initiative Pilot Sites

Relative performance re property crime rates (2004 = 100%)





CR: further steps

- Substantial engagement with research on crime drivers, applied to practice
 - In what ways does policing best contribute to crime prevention?
 - How can partnerships with other agencies enable key service providers and timely interventions?
- Continued application of CR principles throughout police operations





Thank you

Questions?

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