

SMF

Social Market
Foundation

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ECONOMIC
& SOCIAL
RESEARCH
COUNCIL

Chalk + Talk with Professor Gloria Laycock: What really makes crime go down?

Speakers:

Professor Gloria Laycock, Professor of Crime Science, University College London

Chair:

Nida Broughton, Social Market Foundation

Wi-Fi

Network: **SMF**

Password: **SMF2014Market!**



#SMFChalkTalk

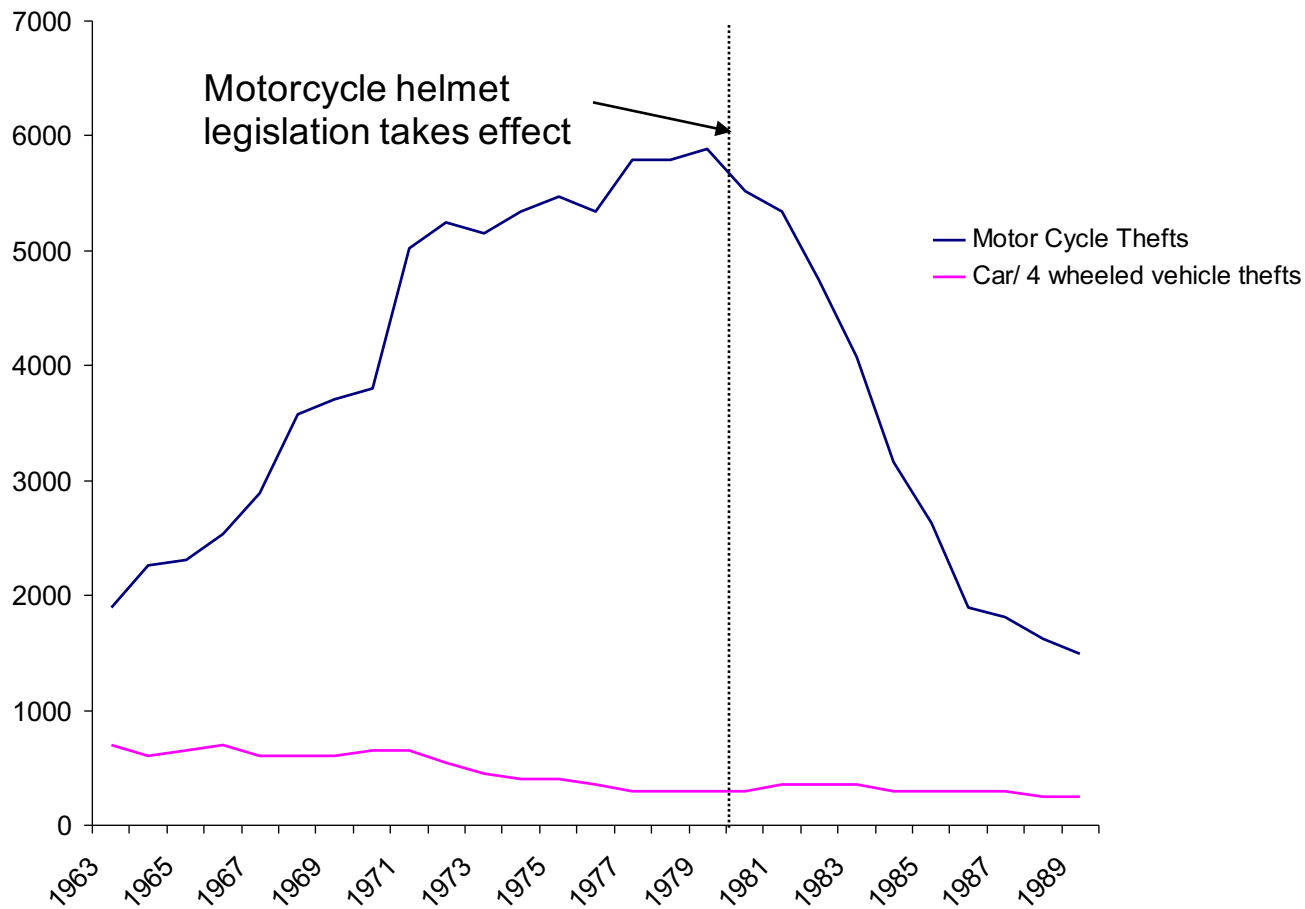
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Fact 1:
Opportunity Makes a Thief

Sir Francis Bacon 1600s

Effect of Motorcycle Helmets

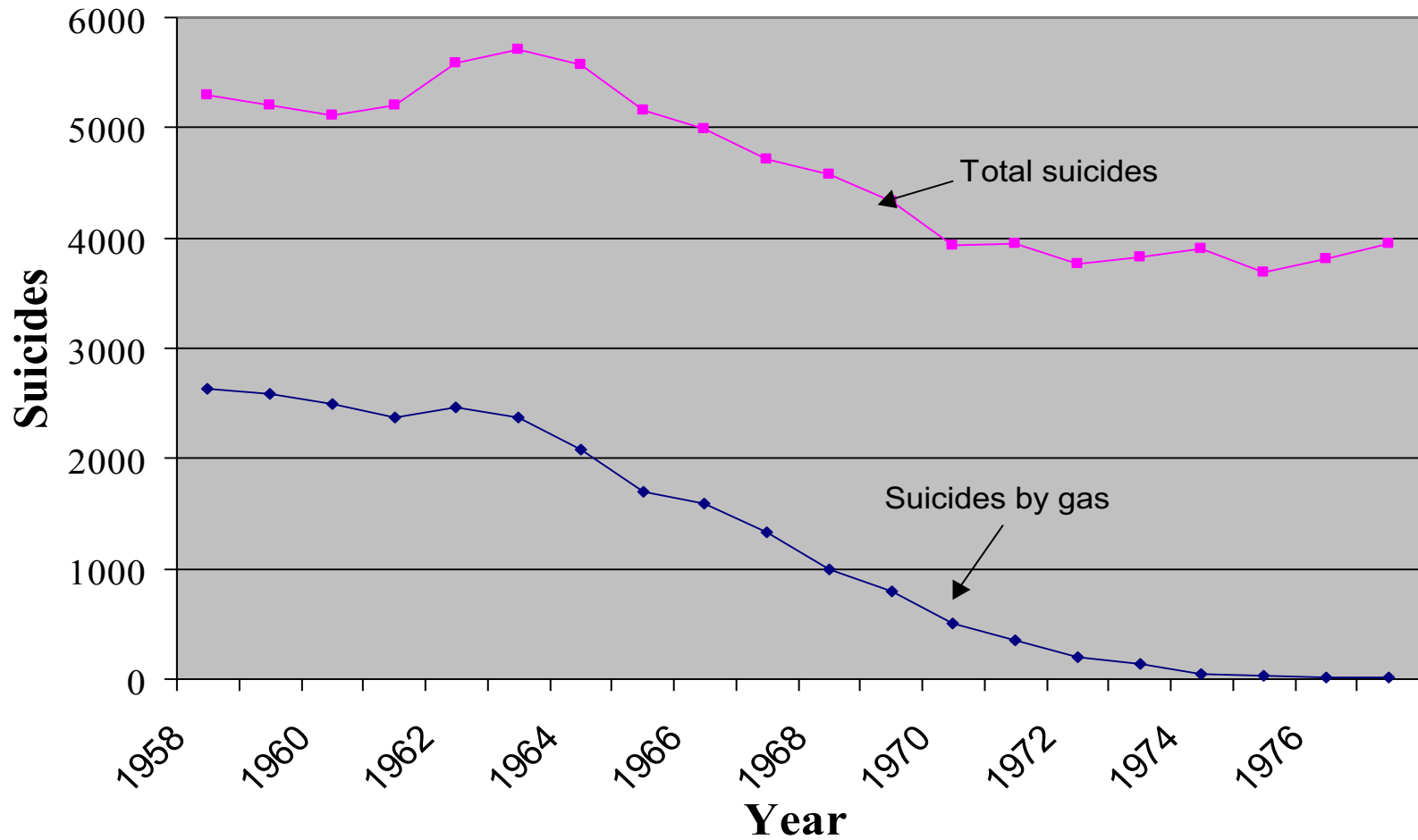
Thefts per 100,000 Registered Vehicles (Germany)



Fact 2:

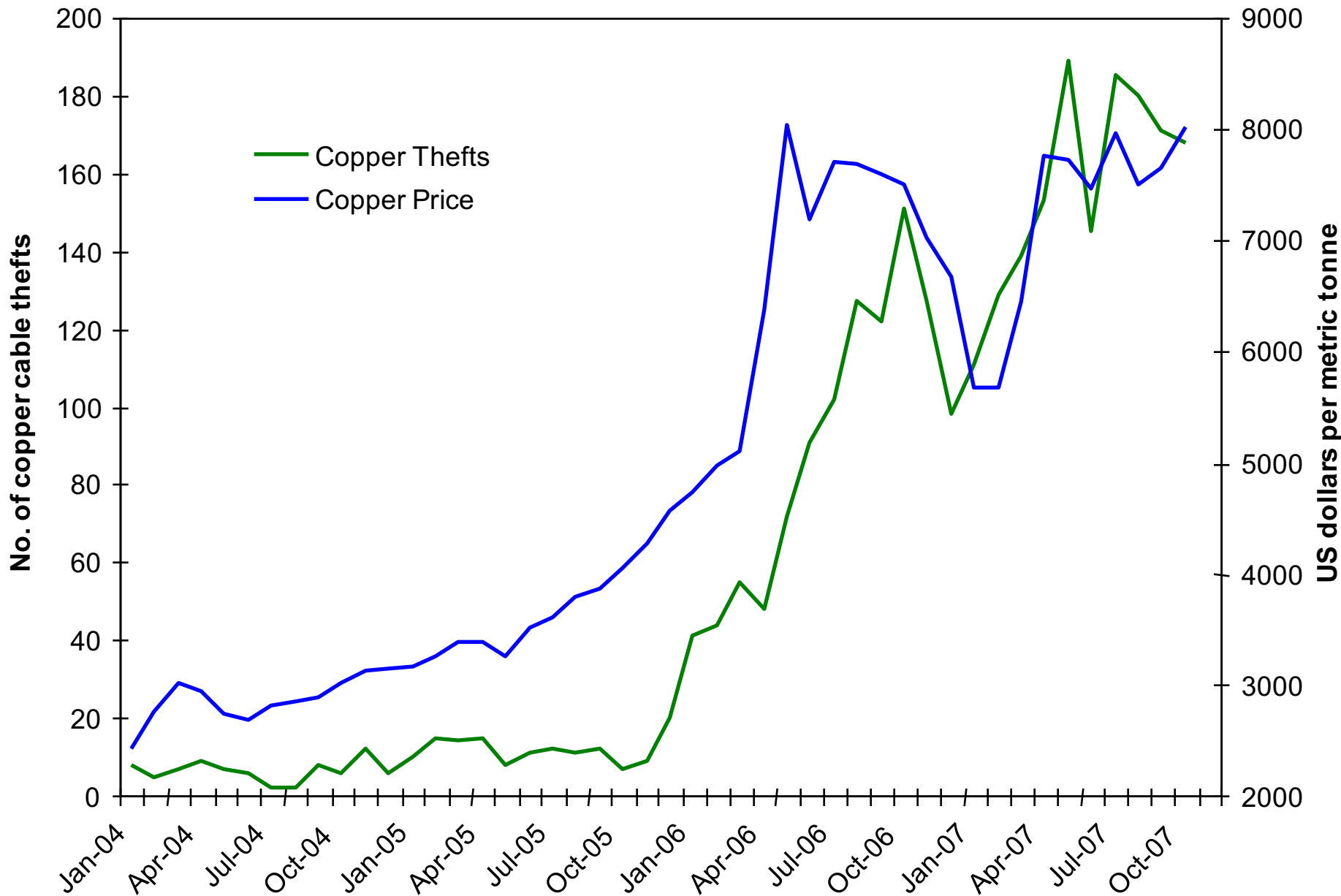
Displacement is not inevitable

Suicides by British Gas, England and Wales 1958-77

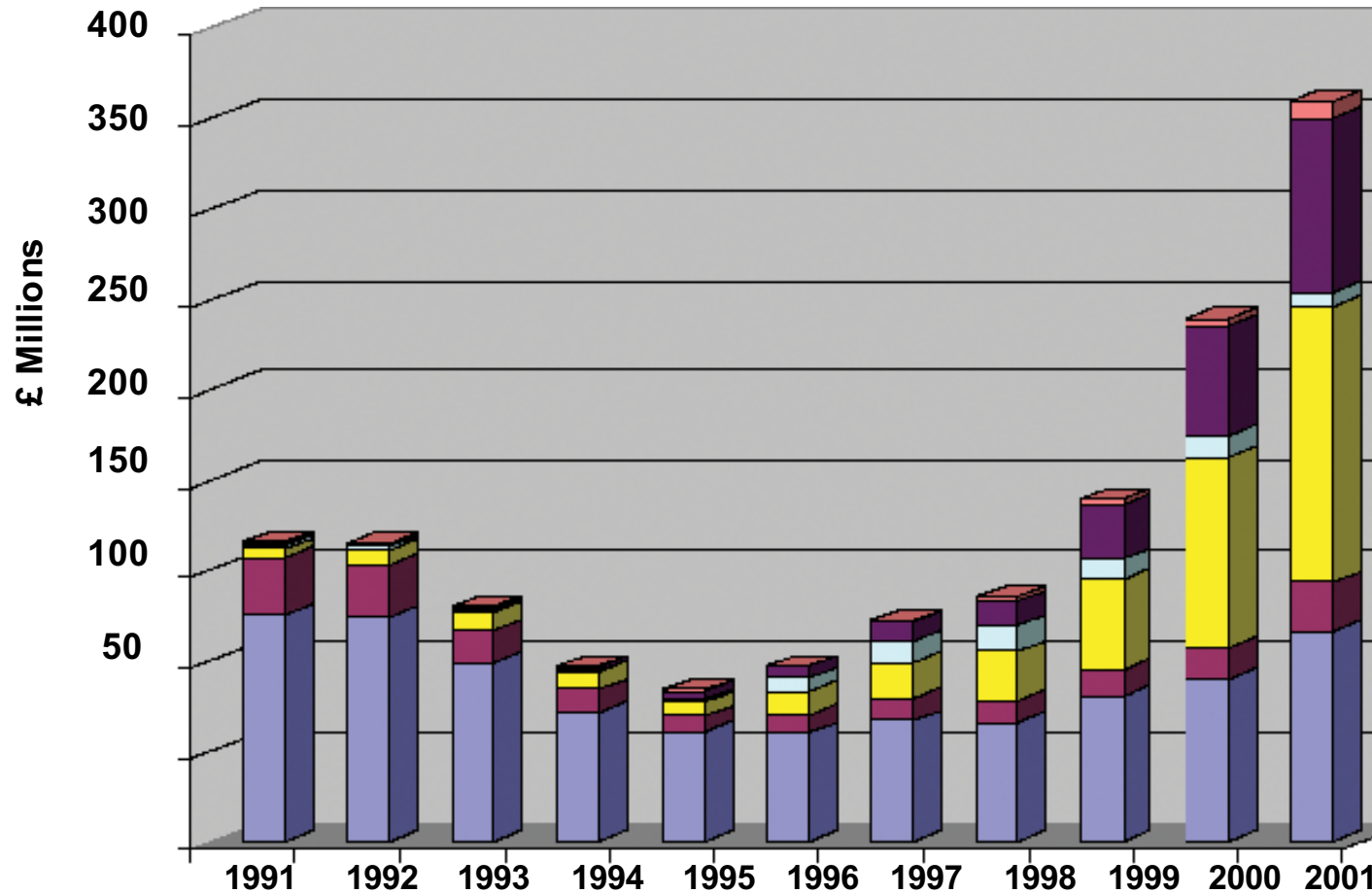


**Fact 3:
Offenders adapt**

Number of Copper Cable Thefts (n = 2, 870) and Mean LME Price of Copper, Jan 04 – Oct 07



UK Plastic Fraud Losses by Fraud Type: problems can change over time



Lost & stolen

Mail not received

Counterfeit of card details

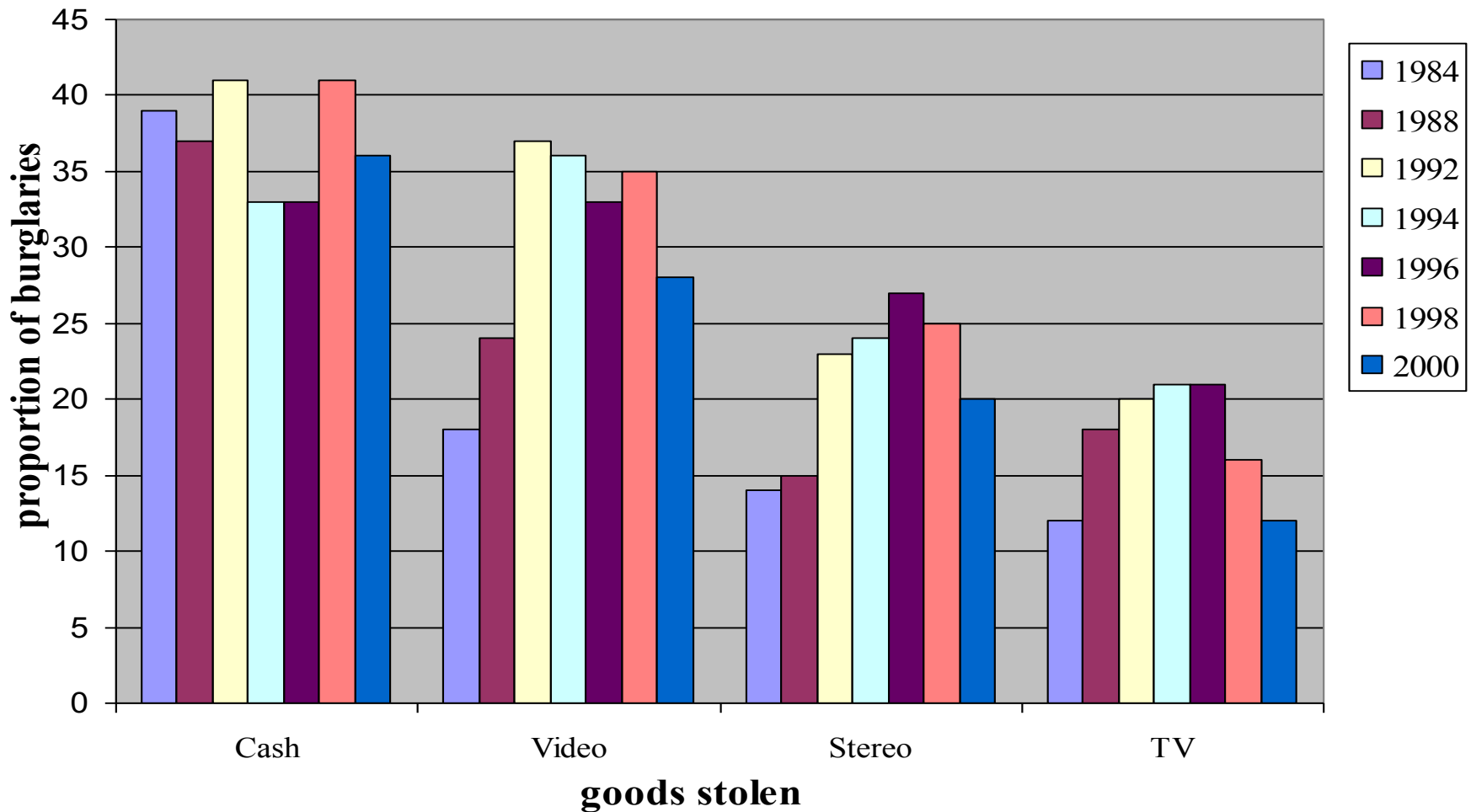
Application fraud

Fraudulent possession

Other

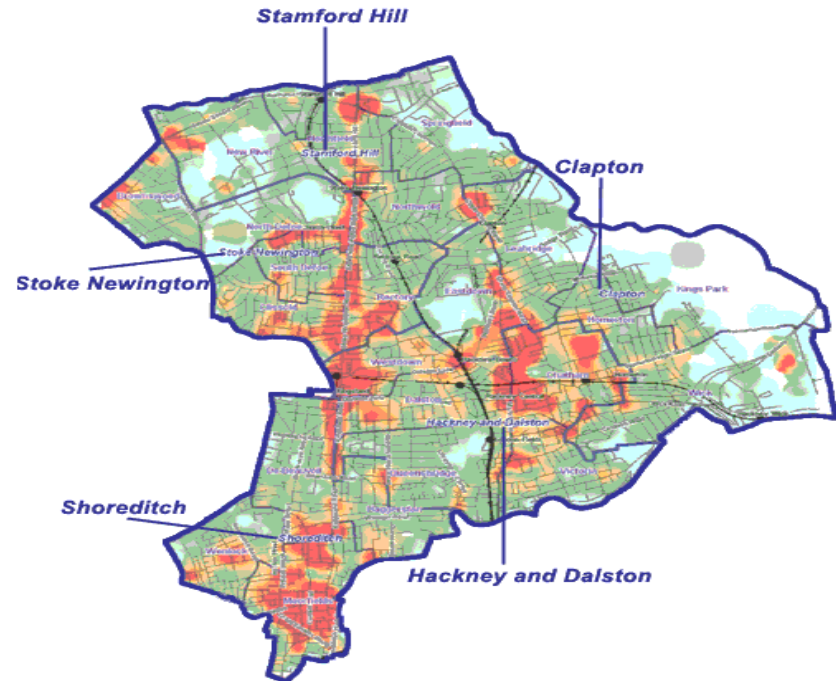
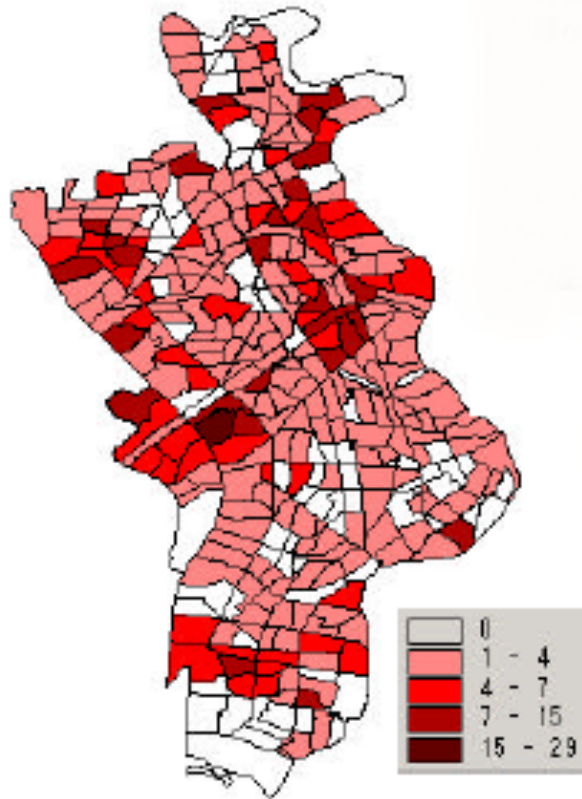


Trends in Items Stolen: BCS 1984-2000



Fact 4:
Crime is concentrated

Hotspots of Crime



London Borough of Hackney
All Notifiable Crime
April 2000 - March 2001

The map shows ward and neighbourhood boundaries labelled by name

The distribution of crime relates to the number of allegations recorded within 150m of the point of interest

Hot Products

- Hot Products (those likely to be stolen) are ‘CRAVED’ (Clarke 1999)
 - **C**oncealable
 - **R**emovable
 - **A**vailable
 - **V**aluable
 - **E**njoyable
 - **D**isposable

Hot offenders

- The most persistent 5% of offenders are responsible for 50% of all crime

But.....

- 35% of males will have a conviction by the age of 46
 - half are convicted only once
 - just over half have a career of less than one year
 - nearly half convicted of theft or handling stolen goods

Two kinds of offender

- ‘Opportunistic’ offenders: easily deterred but many of them
- ‘Proper’ or ‘professional’ offenders: not easily deterred but far fewer of them

Hot victims

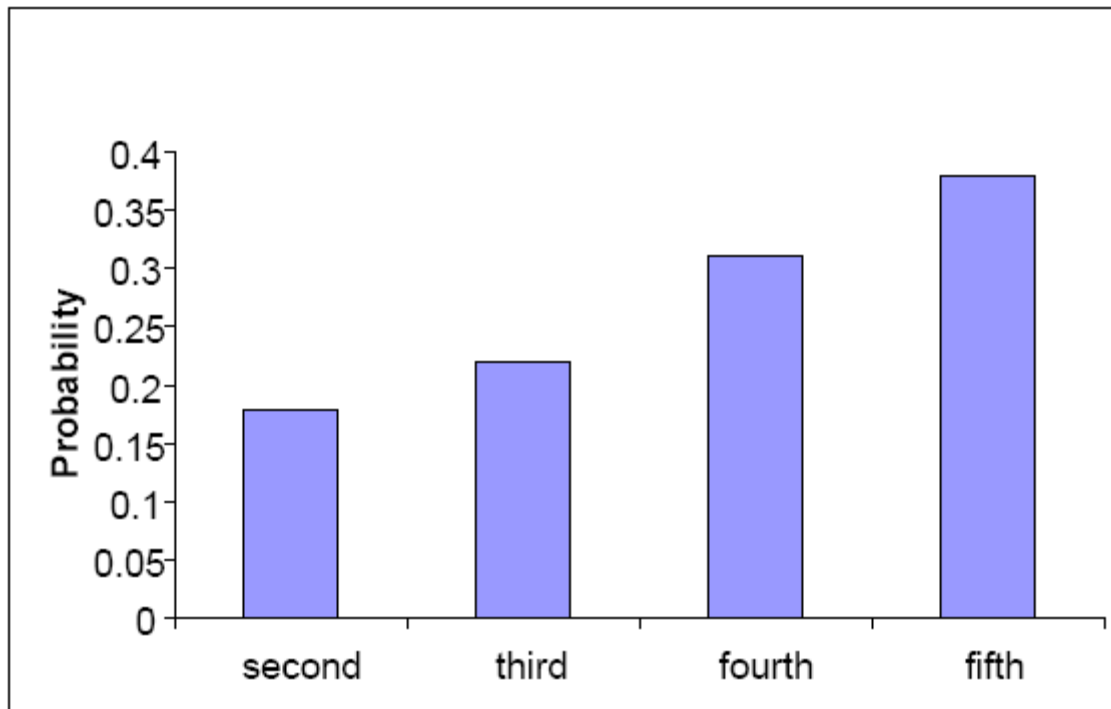
About 4% of people experience about 40% of all crimes

Crimes reported	Per cent of respondents	Per cent of incidents
0	59.5	0.0
1	20.3	18.7
2	9.0	16.5
3	4.5	12.4
4	2.4	8.8
5+	4.3	43.5

Source: British Crime Survey, 1992 all offences

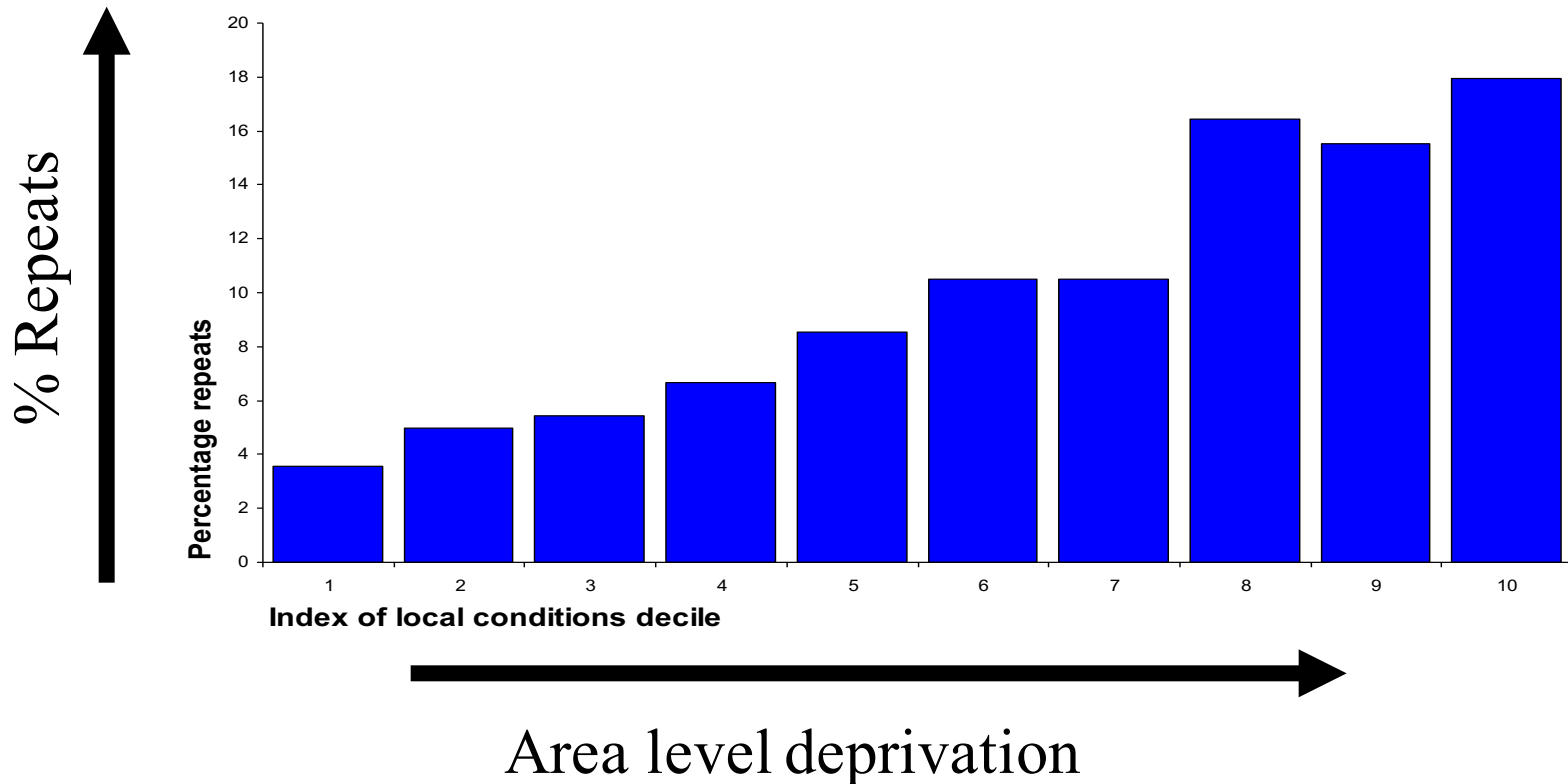
Key Findings

Victimisation predicts future risk



Repeat Victimization – Some Key Findings

Re-victimisation (burglary dwelling) and deprivation



Detections and offender accounts

Kleemans (2001) – Of solved repeat burglaries, 63% were cleared to the same offender.

Ericsson (1995) – 76% of those interviewed returned to a number of houses to burgled them 2-5 times!

Why return to the same place?

- “the house was associated with low risk, they were familiar with the features of the house, to get things left behind or replaced goods”

Ericsson (1995)

- “once you’ ve been in a place it’ s easier to burgle because you are familiar with the layout, and you can get out much quicker”

Ashton et al. (1998)

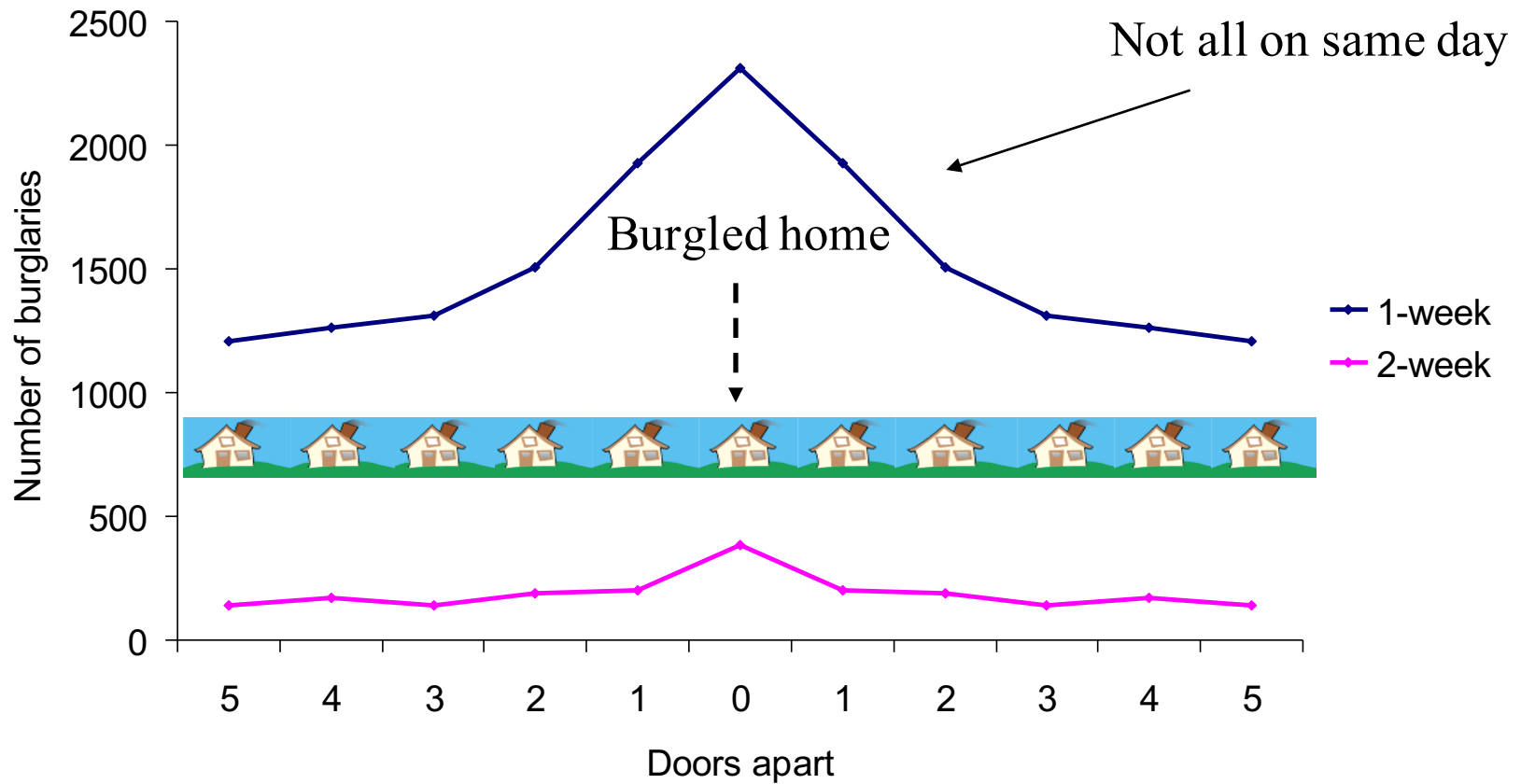
How do burglars select targets? An analogy with disease communicability?

- Communicability - inferred from closeness in space and time of manifestations of the disease in different people.



- Does crime exhibit these features?

Neighbour effects for all housing



Fact 5:

Bad guys do little bad things as well as big bad things

Offender 'Self Selection'

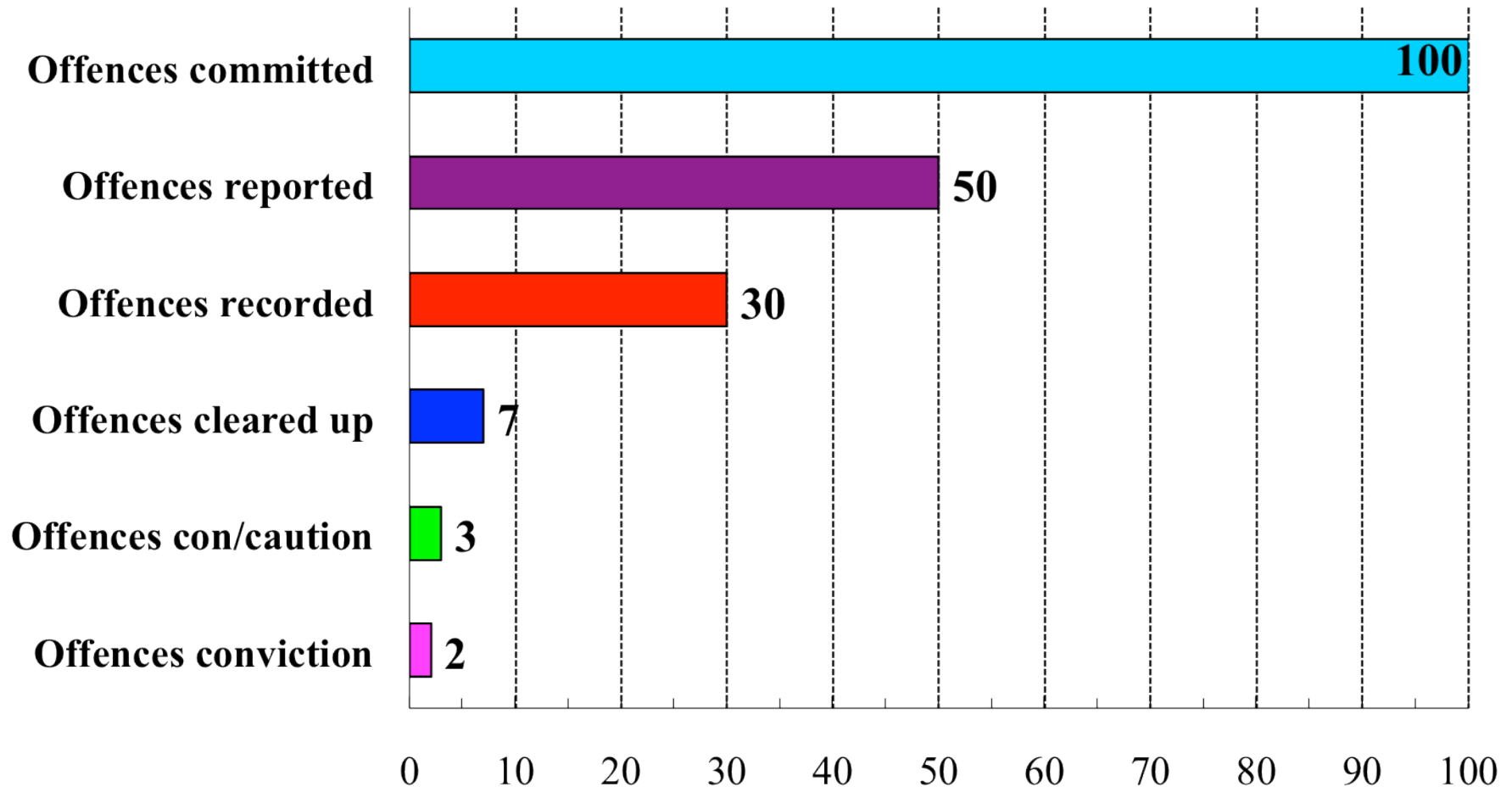
	<i>Immediate police interest (%)</i>	<i>Other (%)</i>
<i>Illegally in disabled space</i>	21	79
<i>Legally parked nearby</i>	2	98

Table 1. Parking in disabled space by 'immediate police interest' (n = 178) (Chenery et al. 1999)

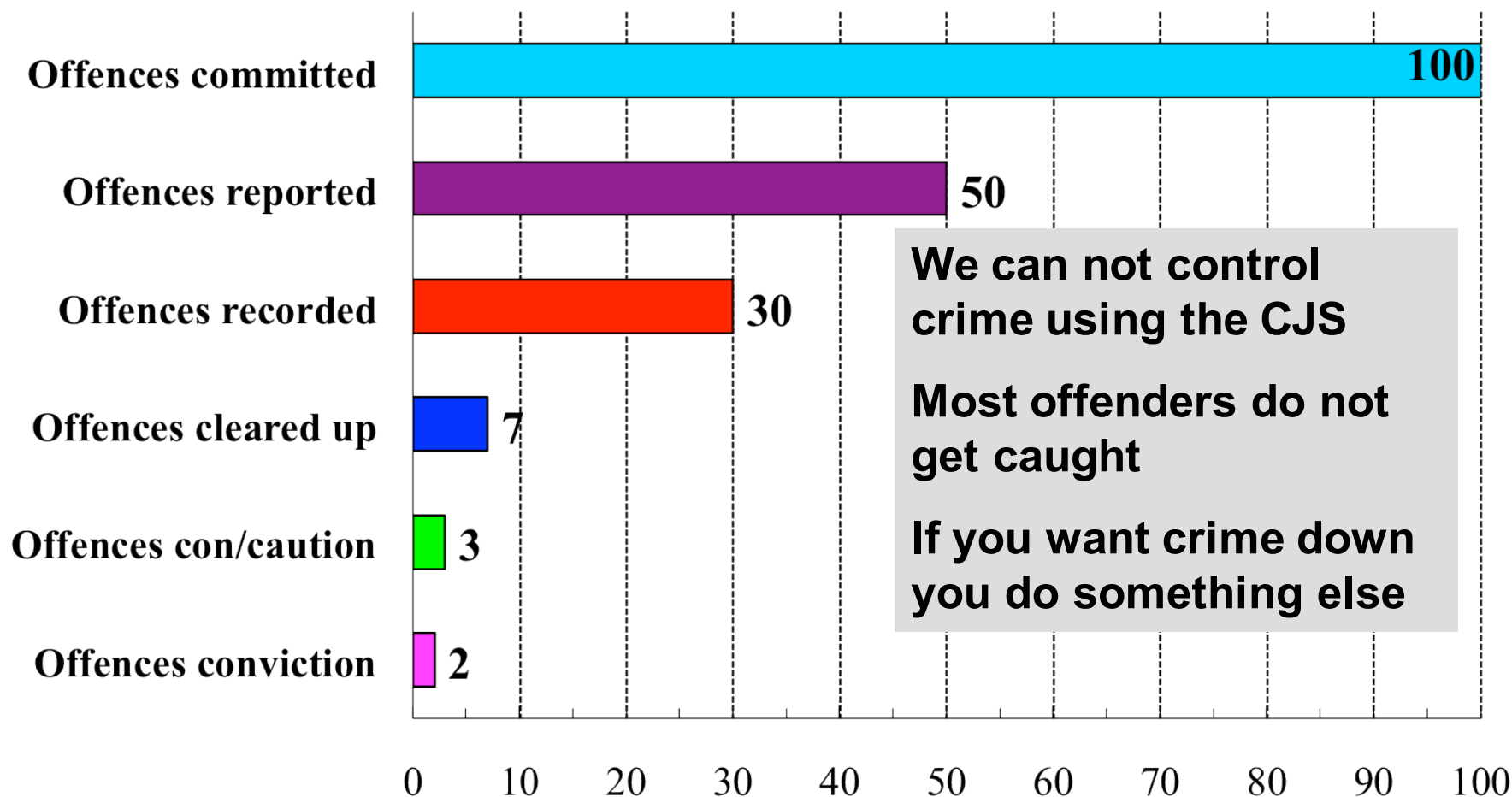
Fact 6:

The criminal Justice System doesn't reduce crime

Attrition through the CJS



The limits of conventional policing

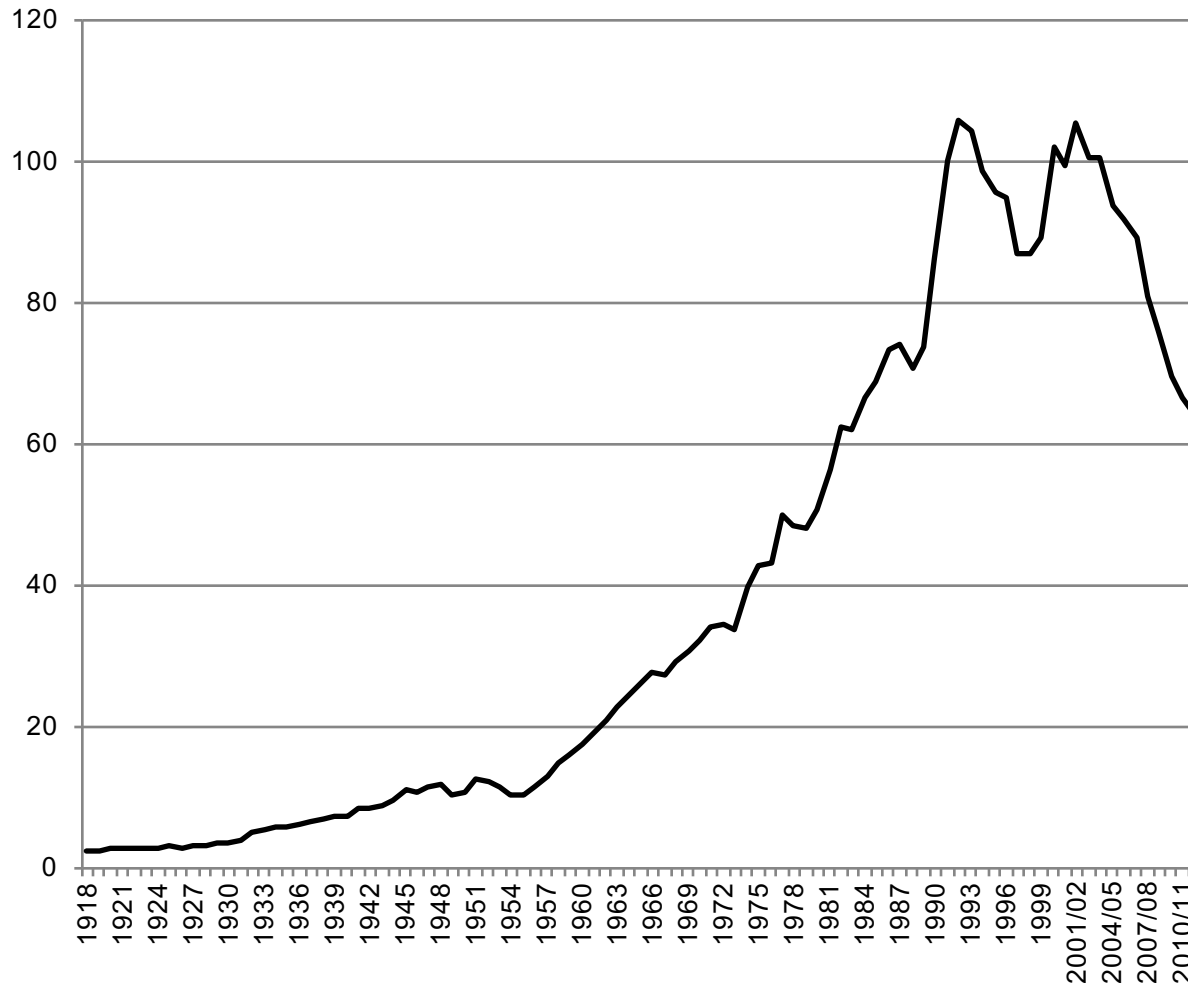


Fact 7:

Crime has been dropping for over 20 years

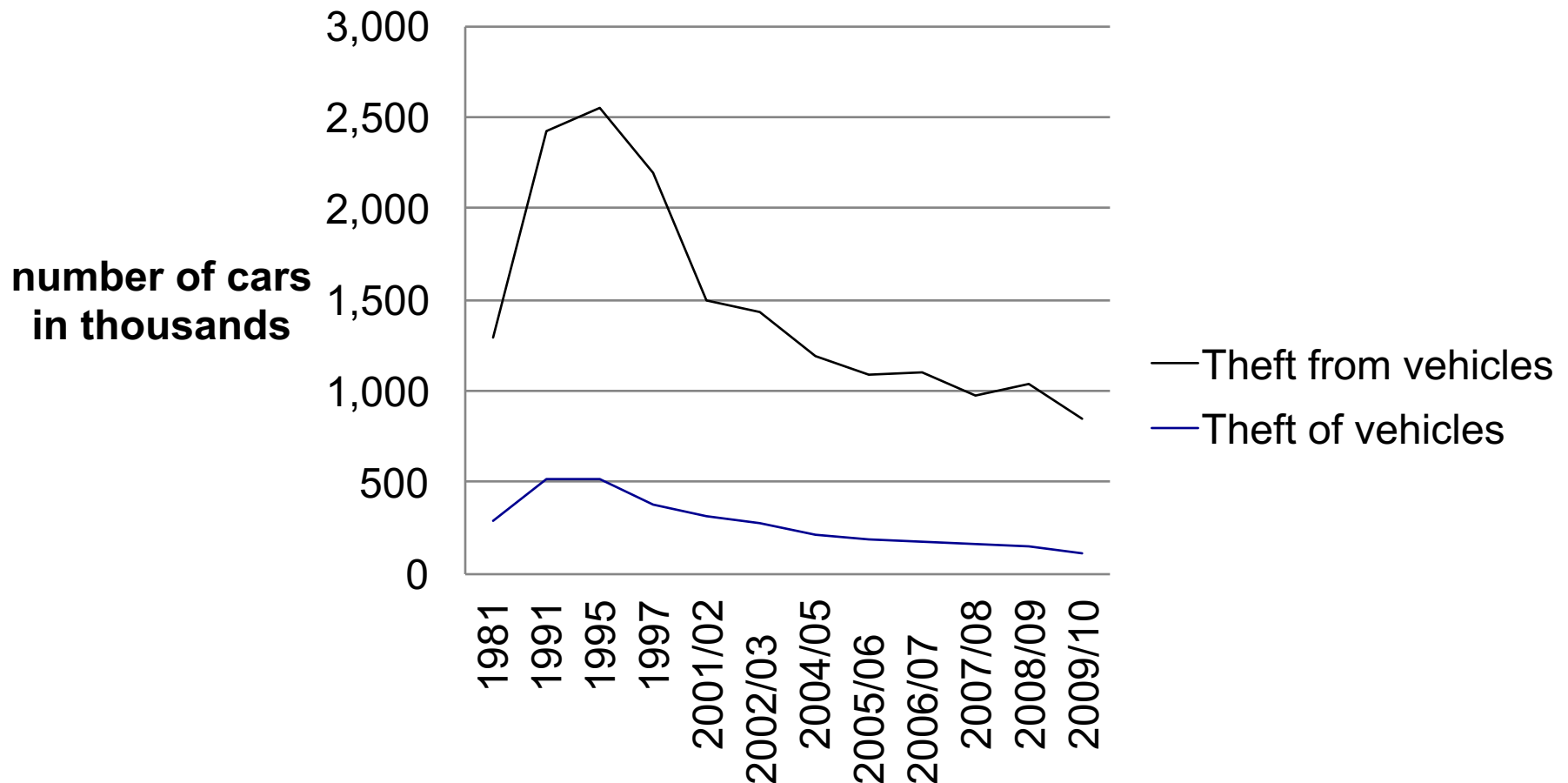
Crime in England and Wales: 1918-2012

Rate per 1,000 population



Vehicle crime

Theft of and from vehicles UK 1981 - 2009/10



Action Against Crime in the UK

- 88% reduction in theft of vehicles
- 60% reduction in house burglary
- 53% reduction in credit card fraud losses
- 29% reduction in personal robbery

Why did crime go down?

Because committing crime was made more difficult -
the opportunities to commit crime were reduced

There are five ways to make crime go down

- Increase the effort
- Increase the risk
- Reduce rewards
- Reduce provocation
- Remove excuses

Set clear rules Valparaiso, Chile

What's this?



Make sure you get the legislation drafted properly!

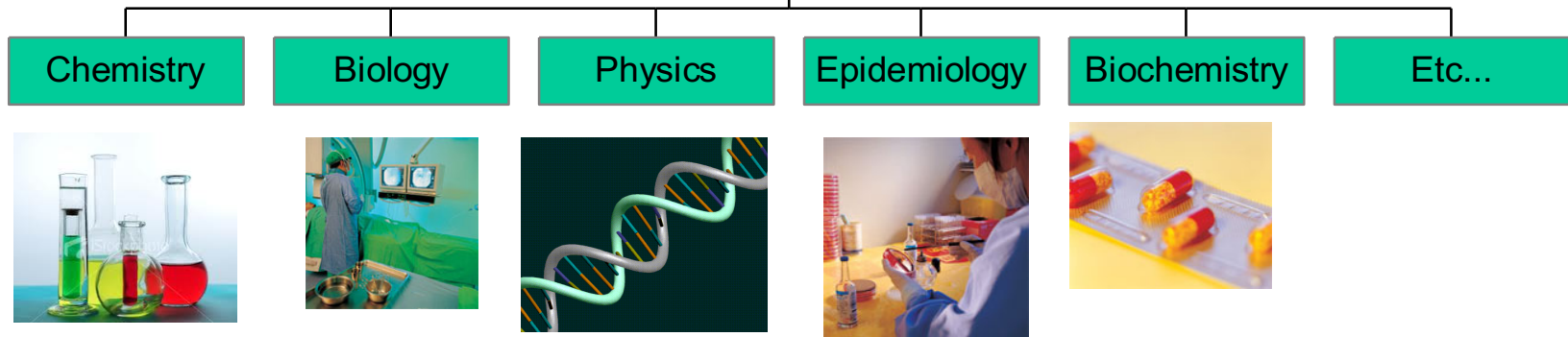


what do we need to do to reduce crime?

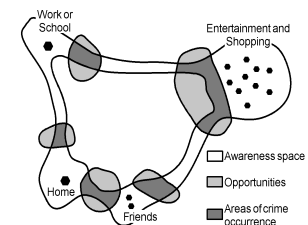
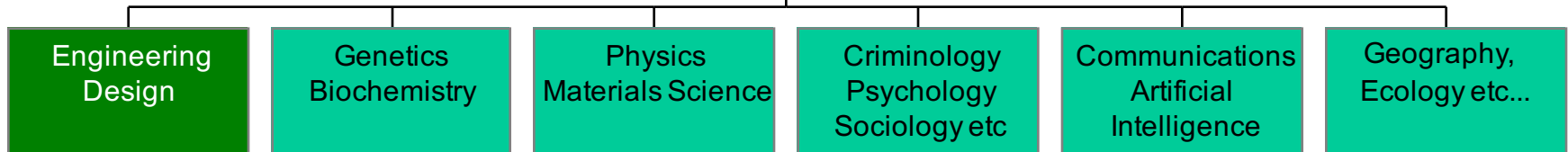
- Need to behave in a more **objective and scientific manner**
 - Understand the power of context: Accept that the situation in which we find ourselves is a major determinant of what we do
 - Prioritise prevention
 - Be clear on the problem
 - Experiment on ways of dealing with the problem
 - Establish a reliable and valid evidence base
 - Involve a wide range of scientific and engineering disciplines in the process

Medical Science and Crime Science

Medical Science



Crime Science



Jill Dando Institute  *of* Crime Science

EXAMINING EVIDENCE
CHALLENGING BELIEFS
CUTTING CRIME

Thank you