Improving Forensic Responses to Volume Crime: The Unlawful Entry Experiment

Superintendent Andrew Pilotto
What is the Policing issue?

- Burglaries a volume crime > 100 per week in Brisbane

**Question**: How can the forensic police improve their response to burglaries
4 key Challenges
Study Design

All Forensic Officers
(N = 72)

Officers randomly assigned to Exp./Control conditions

EXPERIMENTAL

N = 36 officers

CONTROL

N = 36 officers
Experiment in Action
## Results - General

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Control</th>
<th>Experimental</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Cases Assigned</strong></td>
<td>549 (56%)</td>
<td>429 (44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Cases Attended</strong></td>
<td>471 (54%)</td>
<td>401 (46%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Cases Not Attended</strong></td>
<td>78 (14%)</td>
<td>28 (6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Cases per Officer</strong></td>
<td>13.08</td>
<td>11.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Time per job</strong></td>
<td>48min</td>
<td>82min</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fingerprint collection</strong></td>
<td>215 (46%)</td>
<td>242 (60%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DNA collection</strong></td>
<td>76 (16%)</td>
<td>212 (53%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results – Forensic Data

- Scenes with print/dna suspect identifications

![Bar chart showing the percentage of all jobs attended by fingerprint and DNA identifications with control and experimental groups.]

- % of all jobs attended
  - Fingerprint Identifications
    - Control: 8%
    - Experimental: 18% (* indicates significant difference)
  - DNA Identifications
    - Control: 2%
    - Experimental: 10%

Legend:
- Control
- Experimental
Results – Crime Data

- **Solved – Total = 213 (21.8%)**
  - Experimental = 25.9%
  - Control = 18.6%
What can we learn from this?
FUTURE?