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**

Household burglaries in Queensland out of control as police struggle to cope

JASON TIN   THE SUNDAY MAIL (QLD)   FEBRUARY 12, 2012 12:00AM

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VICTIMS: Mark and Marcelle Small with daughter Elleisha, 3, and dog Shelby - victims of a frightening break-in. Pic: Luke Marsden.

- *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

CONTROL
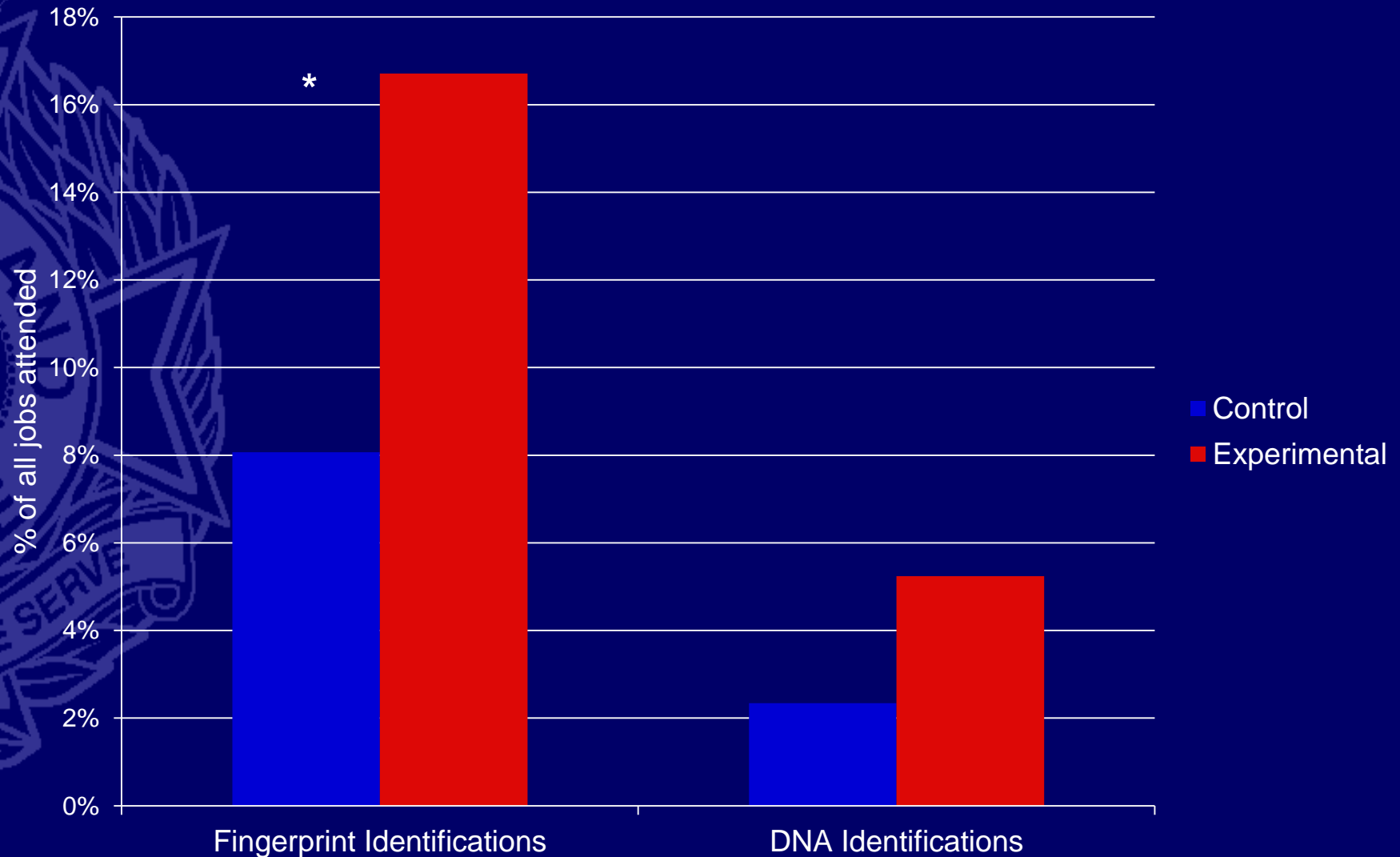
N = 36 officers

N = 36 officers

Experiment in Action

Results - General

	Control	Experimental
Number of Cases Assigned	549 (56%)	429 (44%)
Number of Cases Attended	471 (54%)	401 (46%)
Number of Cases Not Attended	78 (14%)	28 (6%)
Average Cases per Officer	13.08	11.46
Average Time per job	48min	82min
Fingerprint collection	215 (46%)	242 (60%)
DNA collection	76 (16%)	212 (53%)

Results – Forensic Data

■ **Scenes with print/dna suspect identifications**

Results – Crime Data

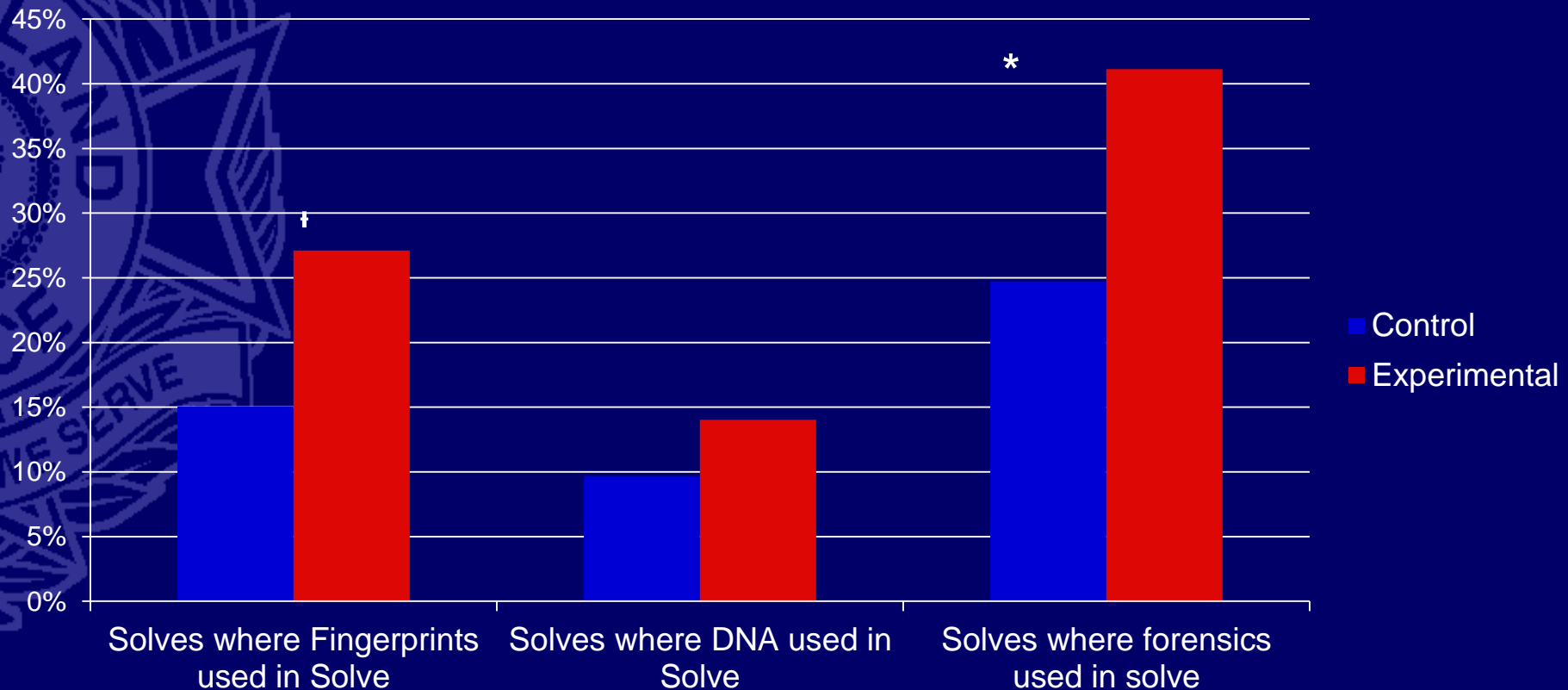- **Solved – Total = 213 (21.8%)**
  - **Experimental = 25.9%**
  - **Control = 18.6%**

What can we learn from this?

FUTURE?