

What Works in Crime Prevention?

Overview of research in the Finnish crime prevention evaluation database (FINPREV), 2016-2024

Background and study inclusion

- The Finnish crime prevention evaluation database (FINPREV) was created and is operated by the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy (KRIMO), University of Helsinki, in cooperation with the Research and Education Division of the National Crime Prevention Council.
- Crime prevention methods developed and tested in one context are not necessarily effective elsewhere. It is therefore necessary to conduct and replicate evaluations locally.
- Launched in 2016, the FINPREV database compiles studies that empirically assess the effectiveness of crime prevention measures *implemented in Finland*. The database includes projects/measures that aim to reduce crime. All types of interventions are included, from situational prevention to psycho-social treatment, social policy and criminal justice sanctions.
- The database includes empirical research studies published as articles as well as so-called grey literature (published government and institute reports, and so forth). Of the current original publications included in the database, 23% are in English, while the rest are in Finnish.
- The inclusion of studies is based on the willingness of researchers to include their studies in the database, using a structured online questionnaire developed for this purpose. The database thus *standardises* the results of studies but does not offer a systematic review of them due to the self-selection of studies.

Findings

- The database currently includes 35 evaluated measures, 27 of which are effects assessments of specific measures. Twenty-two of the effects evaluations used research designs at a Maryland 3 level or higher; this report is based on those evaluations, with occasional references to studies using weaker designs.
- Four measures have been found to be effective in preventing **youth crime**: (1) the *KiVa Koulu* bullying prevention programme, (2) the *Anchor* multiprofessional conferencing teams, targeting offenders under 18 years of age, (3) targeted police supervision of concentrations of high-risk youth engaged in leisure-time activities and (4) participation in secondary education (typically from 15 to 18 years of age).
- **Other** effective measures include: (1) opioid replacement treatment, (2) conditional prison terms and (3) unconditional prison terms. Regarding fines, the studies indicate ambivalent effects: they seem to reduce traffic crimes but may be ineffective or counterproductive more generally. Note that the studies assessing such ‘other measures’ did not specify age groups beyond the age of criminal culpability (15); their effects in the wider youth category of 15- to 29-year-olds is therefore not known.

Preliminary conclusions

- The effective crime prevention methods range from primary to secondary and tertiary measures; based on the included studies, it is not possible to prioritise any of the levels of intervention.
- More effects evaluation research is needed to assess the effects of crime prevention measures in specific national settings. In Finland, we still lack research on all types of interventions. Little research has been done especially on social policy actions, community sanctions and situational crime prevention.
- Very few of the included studies incorporated estimates of the costs of the intervention: only 26 per cent of all the studies in the database and only 36 per cent of the studies included in this report. Only one of them included numeric estimation, whereas the majority only contained personal reflections on the matter. Estimates of the costs should be better covered in future research.

- This report only included research studies on specific methods applied in Finland. Systematic reviews will be evaluated separately later.

Reflections on the FINPREV database

- The report concludes by discussing the strengths and problems of the self-administered, standardised research database. Its strengths include: studies being conducted in the relevant country; the inclusion of grey literature; the inclusion of native-language publications; fast updating; standardised description of results; information on the level of evidence based on the research design; and the low cost of compiling the results. Its challenges include: self-selection as the criterion for inclusion; self-assessment of the research design; the criteria used to define ‘promising’ research and the relationship between significance and effect size.
- A major problem of many systematic reviews and compilations of crime prevention evaluation research is that the information is limited to the English language, with most studies being conducted in the USA. Local databases, such as the FINPREV, can contribute a more contextualised viewpoint by including studies conducted outside the Anglo-American sphere, studies published in other/local languages and grey literature. As a feasibility assessment, this report serves as a way to further develop and improve the database.

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Research studies included^a in the Finnish Crime Prevention Evaluation Database.

Bolded text indicates that the original article is in English.

	Research^b	Evaluation conducted by	Function	Objective	Type	Survey design^c	Effectiveness	Cost estimate
35	Kaila 2024	University of Helsinki, Faculty of Social Sciences / VATT Institute for Economic Research	Impact of the size of income-based fines on recidivism	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	4	Positive impact	No
34	Halén et al. 2023	Krimo (UH)	Juvenile punishment and conditional discharge with supervision	Crime reduction	Process evaluation	..	..	No
33	Huttunen et al. 2023	Aalto University	Secondary education	Non-crime related	Impact evaluation	4	Positive impact	No
32	Huttunen et al. 2023	Aalto University / University of Helsinki	Impact of imprisonment on recidivism	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	4	Positive impact	No
31	Huttunen et al. 2023	Aalto University / University of Helsinki	The impact of conditional discharge on recidivism	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	4	Positive impact	No
30	Huttunen et al. 2023	Aalto University / University of Helsinki	The impact of fines on recidivism	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	4	Negative impact	No
29	Taponen & Aaltonen 2023	University of Helsinki	Association of policing with spatially limited violent crime and disorderly behaviour in Helsinki	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	3	No impact observed	No
28	Taponen & Danielsson 2022	University of Helsinki	Transitional and beneficial effects beyond the area targeted by police measures	Crime reduction	Systematic review	..	Positive impact / diffusion of benefits more common than displacement of crime (statistically significant)	No
27	Kaakinen et al. 2022	Krimo / VN (UH)	Police multi-professional preventive Anchor work model	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	4	Positive impact (statistically significant)	No

	Research ^b	Evaluation conducted by	Function	Objective	Type	Survey design ^c	Effectiveness	Cost estimate
26	Taponen 2022	University of Helsinki	Police supervision / control approaches	Crime reduction	Systematic review	..	Positive impact (statistically significant)	No
25	Laine 2021*	University of Helsinki	Criminal sanctions	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	3	Positive impact (statistically significant)	No
24	Taponen 2021	University of Helsinki	Effects of intensified police alcohol control on young people's alcohol behaviour and prevalence of violence during end of school weekends in Helsinki	Crime reduction	Impact evaluation	3	Positive impact (statistically significant)	No
23	Virtanen et al. 2020	Krimo (UH)	Prison education	Reduction of recidivism	Impact evaluation	4	Promising	No
22	Sutela 2019	Helsinki Police Department, Police Traffic Safety Centre	Relationship between police automatic traffic control and driving speed at different times and road accidents on Kehä I (ring road)	Reduction of speeding	Impact evaluation	3	Promising	No
21	Antikainen 2019*	Laurea University of Applied Sciences	Project to develop the OmaPoliisi ('MyPolice') model	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	2	Promising	Contains reflection
20	Carling 2019*	University of Helsinki	Process evaluation of the Aggredi programme	Reduction of violence outside the home	Process evaluation	..	..	No
19	Konttila et al. 2018	Krimo (UH)	OMA programme	Reduction of recidivism in violent crime	Impact evaluation	4	No impact observed	Contains reflection
18	Aaltonen & Virtanen 2017b	Krimo / VN (UH)	Impact of the increase in speeding fines on speeding and average speed in road transport, part 2	Reduction of speeding	Impact evaluation	4	Promising	No
17	Aaltonen & Virtanen 2017a	Krimo / VN (UH)	Impact of the increase in speeding fines on speeding and average speed in road transport, part 1	Reduction of speeding	Impact evaluation	2	Promising	No

	Research^b	Evaluation conducted by	Function	Objective	Type	Survey design^c	Effectiveness	Cost estimate
16	Fagerlund 2016	Police University College	Extending formal prosecution to intimate partner violence control	Reducing intimate partner and domestic violence	Process evaluation	..	..	Contains reflection
15	Eskelinen & Leander 2015	Tampere University (Pori)	Less violence in Pori (VäkVä, community action)	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	0	Promising	No
14	Laaksonen & Tyni 2015	RISE (Prison and Probation Service of Finland)	Cognitive-behavioural STOP programme for sex offenders in prisons	Reduction of sexual violence	Impact evaluation	4	Promising	No
13	Leander & Eskelinen 2014	Tampere University (Pori)	Lasta lyömätön Satakunta ('no child beaten in Satakunta region') (networking & portal)	Reducing intimate partner and domestic violence	Process evaluation	..	..	No
12	Korander et al. 2014	Police University College and University of Turku	Enhanced surveillance of public space	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	2	Promising	Numeric
11	Tyni et al. 2014	RISE (Prison and Probation Service of Finland)	General Cognitive Skills® programme for prisoners	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	4	No impact observed	Contains reflection
10	Aaltonen & Hinkkanen 2014	Krimo (UH)	Aggredi street violence work (HelsinkiMissio)	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	4	Promising	Contains reflection
9	Kärnä et al. 2013	University of Turku	Anti-bullying KiVa Koulu programme (grades 1-3 and 7-9)	Reduction of other types of violent crime	Impact evaluation	5	Promising	No
8	Vorma et al. 2013	HUS, THL, Krimo (UH), University of Nebraska	Opioid substitution treatment	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	5	Impactful	No
7	Tyni & Blomster 2012	RISE (Prison and Probation Service of Finland)	Prison services	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	4	No impact observed	Contains reflection

	Research^b	Evaluation conducted by	Function	Objective	Type	Survey design^c	Effectiveness	Cost estimate
6	Danielsson & Mäkipää 2012	Krimo (UH)	Electronic surveillance	..	Systematic review	..	Promising	Contains reflection
5	Konttila & Tyni 2011	RISE (Prison and Probation Service of Finland)	OMA programme (for prisoners)	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	3	Promising	Contains reflection
4	Kärnä et al. 2011	University of Turku	Anti-bullying KiVa Koulu programme	Reduction of other types of violent crime	Impact evaluation	5	Positive impact (statistically significant)	No
3	Honka et al. 2006	RISE (Prison and Probation Service of Finland)	General Cognitive Skills® programme for prisoners	Reduction of other types of violence	Impact evaluation	4	Promising	No
2	Keisala 2006	Krimo (UH)	Espoo's Lyömätön Linja service; individual and group therapy for violent men	Reducing intimate partner and domestic violence	Process evaluation	..	..	No
1	Haapasalo 2001	City of Kokkola	Näppis project	Reduction of property crime (under 15)	Impact evaluation	2	No impact observed	No

a The Database is maintained by the Council for Crime Prevention and the Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy at the University of Helsinki (data from 30.8.2024). Data are filled in by the researchers.

b For full bibliographic details, see list below.

c Display level of the survey design on the Maryland scale.

d Fixed effects model, Maryland level changed to level 4.

* Unpublished (accepted) master's or bachelor's thesis, not included in the report.

Studies (in chronological order of the table)

Bolded text indicates that the original article is in English.

35 Kaila, Martti. 2024. How Do People React to Income-Based Fines? Evidence from Speeding Tickets Discontinuities. CESifo Working Paper No. 11064, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4803851> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4803851>

34 Halén, Anna., Tuomala, Saila., Tyni, Sasu., Laurila, Tuomas. 2024. Juvenile punishment and supervised conditional imprisonment as forms of punishment for minors and young people [Nuorisorangaistus ja valvonnalla tehostettu ehdollinen vankeusrangaistus alaikäisten ja nuorten seuraamuslajeina]. University of Helsinki, Institute of Criminology and Legal Policy. *Katsauksia* 56/2023.

33 Huttunen, K., Pekkarinen, T., Uusitalo, R., & Virtanen, H. 2023. Lost boys? Secondary education and crime. *Journal of Public Economics*, 218, 104804- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2022.104804>

32 Huttunen, K., Kaila, M., Nix, Emily. 2021. The Punishment Ladder: Estimating the Impact of Different Punishments on Defendant Outcomes. Part of Martti Kaila's doctoral thesis *Essays on Crime, Punishments and Inequality*.

31 Huttunen, K., Kaila, M., Nix, Emily. 2021. The Punishment Ladder: Estimating the Impact of Different Punishments on Defendant Outcomes. Part of Martti Kaila's doctoral thesis *Essays on Crime, Punishments and Inequality*.

30 Huttunen, K., Kaila, M., Nix, Emily. 2021. The Punishment Ladder: Estimating the Impact of Different Punishments on Defendant Outcomes. Part of Martti Kaila's doctoral thesis *Essays on Crime, Punishments and Inequality*.

29 Taponen, Jari & Aaltonen, Mikko. 2022. The link between police surveillance and the prevalence of violence in localised areas [Poliisin yleisvalvonnan yhteys väkivallan esiintyvyyteen alueeltaan rajatuissa kohteissa]. *Kriminologia* 2(1): 1-21.

28 Taponen, Jari & Danielsson, Petri. 2022. Study on the impact of police measures beyond the target [Tutkimus poliisitoimenpiteiden kohdetta laajemmista vaikutuksista]. *Oikeus* 51(3): 341-360.

27 Kaakinen, M., Vauhkonen, T., Tanskanen, M., & Hoikkala, T. 2022. The effectiveness of the Anchor programme [Ankkuritoiminnan vaikuttavuus]. *Valtioneuvoston selvitys- ja tutkimustoiminnan julkaisusarja* 2022:40. Available in Finnish: https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/164154/VNTEAS_2022_40.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

26 Taponen, Jari. 2022. Study on the impact of the police on crime between 1970 and 2020 [Tutkimus poliisin vaikutuksista rikollisuuteen vuosina 1970–2020]. *Lakimies* 1/2022: 118–142.

25 Laine, Riku. 2021. Association of criminal sanctions with mortality and causes of death among substance abuse treatment clients [Rikosseuraamusten yhteys päihdehoidon asiakkaiden kuolleisuuteen ja kuolinsyyhin]. Master's thesis.

24 Taponen, Jari. 2021. The effects of police alcohol enforcement on violent crime among young people during school holiday weekends. Comparative evaluation study for the years 2010–2016 [Poliisin alkoholivalvonnan vaikutukset nuorten väkivaltarikollisuuteen koulujen päättäjäisviikonloppuina. Vertaileva arviointitutkimus vuosilta 2010–2016]. *Yhteiskuntapolitiikka* 86(5/6): 509–519

23 Virtanen, Miialiila & Aaltonen, Mikko & Tyni, Sasu & Kivivuori, Janne. 2020. Impact of prison education on recidivism and post-release employment [Vankilakoulutuksen vaikutus uusintarikollisuuteen ja vapautumisen jälkeiseen työssäkäyntiin]. *Edilex* 3/2020.

22 Sutela, Mika. 2019. Automatic traffic control and road safety on the Kehä I - Report on the evolution of driving speeds and traffic accidents [Kehä I:n automaattinen liikennevalvonta ja liikenneturvallisuus – Raportti ajonopeuksien ja liikenneonnettomuuksien kehityksestä]. Helsinki Police Department, Police Traffic Safety Centre.

21 Antikainen, Jutta. 2019. Shut up, my MyPolice is calling. Impact study on the Helsinki Police Department's Youth Group's OmaPoliisi operating model [Turpa kiinni, mun OmaPoliisi soittaa. Vaikuttavuustutkimus Helsingin poliisilaitoksen Nuorisoryhmän OmaPoliisi-toimintamallista].

20 Carling, Chris. 2019. Aggredi work with violence and the end of criminal careers: a criminological process evaluation [Aggredin väkivaltatyö ja rikosuran päätyminen: kriminologinen prosessiarviointi]. University of Helsinki, Faculty of Social Sciences.

19 Konttila, Arja, Aaltonen, Mikko & Tyni, Sasu. 2018. Evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of the OMA programme for violent offenders from a recidivism perspective: an analysis of recidivism among violent offenders who completed and dropped out of the OMA programme [Väkivaltarikollisten OMA-ohjelman tehokkuuden ja vaikuttavuuden arviointi uusintarikollisuuden näkökulmasta: Analyysi OMA-ohjelman suorittaneiden ja keskeyttäneiden väkivaltarikollisten uusintarikollisuudesta]. Edilex Edita Publishing Oy, Helsinki.

18 Aaltonen, Mikko & Virtanen, Miialiila. 2017b. Speeding and average speeding after the increase in speeding fines [Yli- ja keskinopeudet rikesakkojen korotuksen jälkeen]. Sub-report 2. Publication series of the Finnish Government's study and research activities 58/2017. Helsinki: Prime Minister's Office

17 Aaltonen, Mikko & Virtanen, Miialiila. 2017a. Speeding and average speeding after the increase in speeding fines [Yli- ja keskinopeudet rikesakkojen korotuksen jälkeen]. Sub-report 1. Publication series of the Finnish Government's study and research activities 58/2017. Helsinki: Prime Minister's Office

16 Fagerlund, Monica. 2016. Intimate partner violence in police domestic violence units [Lähisuhdeväkivalta poliisin perheväkivaltatehtävillä]. Police University College Reports 123. Tampere: Police University College.

15 Eskelinen, Ossi & Leander, Anu. 2015. Less violence in Pori - Reducing violence in Pori through violence prevalence mapping and community action - project final report [Vähemmän väkivaltaa Porissa - Väkivallan vähentäminen Porissa väkivallan tihentymäkartoituksen ja yhteisöllisten toimien avulla - hankkeen loppuraportointi].

14 Laaksonen, Toni & Tyni, Sasu. 2015. The effectiveness of a cognitive-behavioural STOP rehabilitation programme in Finnish sex offenders [Kognitiivis-behavioraalisen STOP-kuntoutusohjelman vaikuttavuudesta suomalaisilla seksuaalirikosvangeilla]. *Sosiaalilääketiede* 2015: Vol 52, Nro 4.

13 Leander Anu, Eskelinen Ossi. 2014. A cooperation network for the prevention of domestic violence against children. Evaluation of the "Child-Free Satakunta" project, parts I and II [Yhteistyöverkosto lapsiin kohdistuvan perheväkivallan ehkäisytyössä. Lasta lyömätön Satakunta -hankkeen arviointi osat I ja II]. Pori: Tampere University. (Publications of the Pori Unit of the Tampere University 6).

12 Korander, Timo. 2014. Zero tolerance for broken windows. A study of the New York neoconservative model of crime prevention in Finland [Rikot-tujen ikkunoiden nollatoleranssi. Tutkimus New Yorkin rikosentorjun-nan uuskonservatiivi-mallista Suomessa]. University of Turku publication series. *Annales Universitatis Turkuensis C* 390. NOTE: The dissertation is an article dissertation, whose original articles from 1998-2005 include numerous articles written on the evaluation of the crime prevention project discussed here.

11 Tyni, Sasu, Keinänen, Anssi & Kipinoinen, Kristian. 2014. The impact of the Cognitive Skills programme on prisoners' thinking, motivation and recidivism: results, problems and opportunities [Cognitive Skills -ohjelman vaikutukset vankien ajatteluun, motivaatioon ja uusintarikollisuuteen: tulokset, ongelmat ja mahdollisuudet]. 10 June 2014 in *Edilex* 2014:13, 1–24.

10 Aaltonen, Mikko & Hinkkanen, Ville. 2014. The effectiveness of street violence work: an evaluation of the HelsinkiMission Aggredi programme [Katuväkivaltatyön vaikuttavuus: HelsinkiMission Aggredi-ohjelman arviointi]. Online Reports 40/2014. Helsinki: National Research Institute of Legal Policy.

9 Kärnä, A., Voeten, M., Little, T., Alanen, E., Poskiparta, E., & Salmivalli, C. 2013. Effectiveness of the KiVa antibullying program: Grades 1-3 and 7-9. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 105, 535-551.

8 Vormaa, Helena & Sokeri, Petteri & Aaltonen, Mikko & Turtiainen, Saija & Hughes, Lorine A. & Savolainen, Jukka. 2013. Participation in opioid substitution treatment reduces the rate of criminal convictions: Evidence from a community study. *Addictive Behaviors* 38(7): 2313–2316.

7 Tyni, Sasu & Blomster, Peter. 2012. Do prison policies reduce re-offending [Vähentävätkö vankitoiminnot uusintarikollisuutta?]. *Yhteiskuntapolitiikka*, 77: 621–639.

6 Danielsson, Petri & Mäkipää, Leena. 2012. Systematic literature review on the effectiveness of e-surveillance [Systemaattinen kirjallisuuskatsaus sähköisen valvonnan vaikuttavuuteen]. National Research Institute of Legal Policy Research Communications 114. Helsinki: National Research Institute of Legal Policy. <http://hdl.handle.net/10138/152499>.

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2 Keisala, Hertta. 2006. Intimate partner violence as a focus for multi-disciplinary work. Evaluation study on the work of the Espoo Cooperation Network and the No Strike Line to end intimate partner violence [Parisuhdeväkivalta moniammatillisen työn kohteena. Arviointitutkimus Espoon yhteistyöverkoston ja Lyömättömän linjan toiminnasta parisuhdeväkivallan lopettamiseksi]. National Research Institute of Legal Policy Research Communications 68. National Research Institute of Legal Policy, Helsinki.

1 Haapasalo, Jaana. 2001. Evaluation of the Finger project. Evaluation study of the early intervention approach implemented by the police and social services in Kokkola in 1999-2000 [Näppis-projektin arviointi. Poliisin ja sosiaalitoimen Kokkolassa v. 1999–2000 toteuttaman varhaisen puuttumisen toimintamallin arviointitutkimus]. Publications of the Kokkola City Welfare Centre 2.