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# Eliminating Crime: The 7 Essential Principles of Police-Based Crime Reduction

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## INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

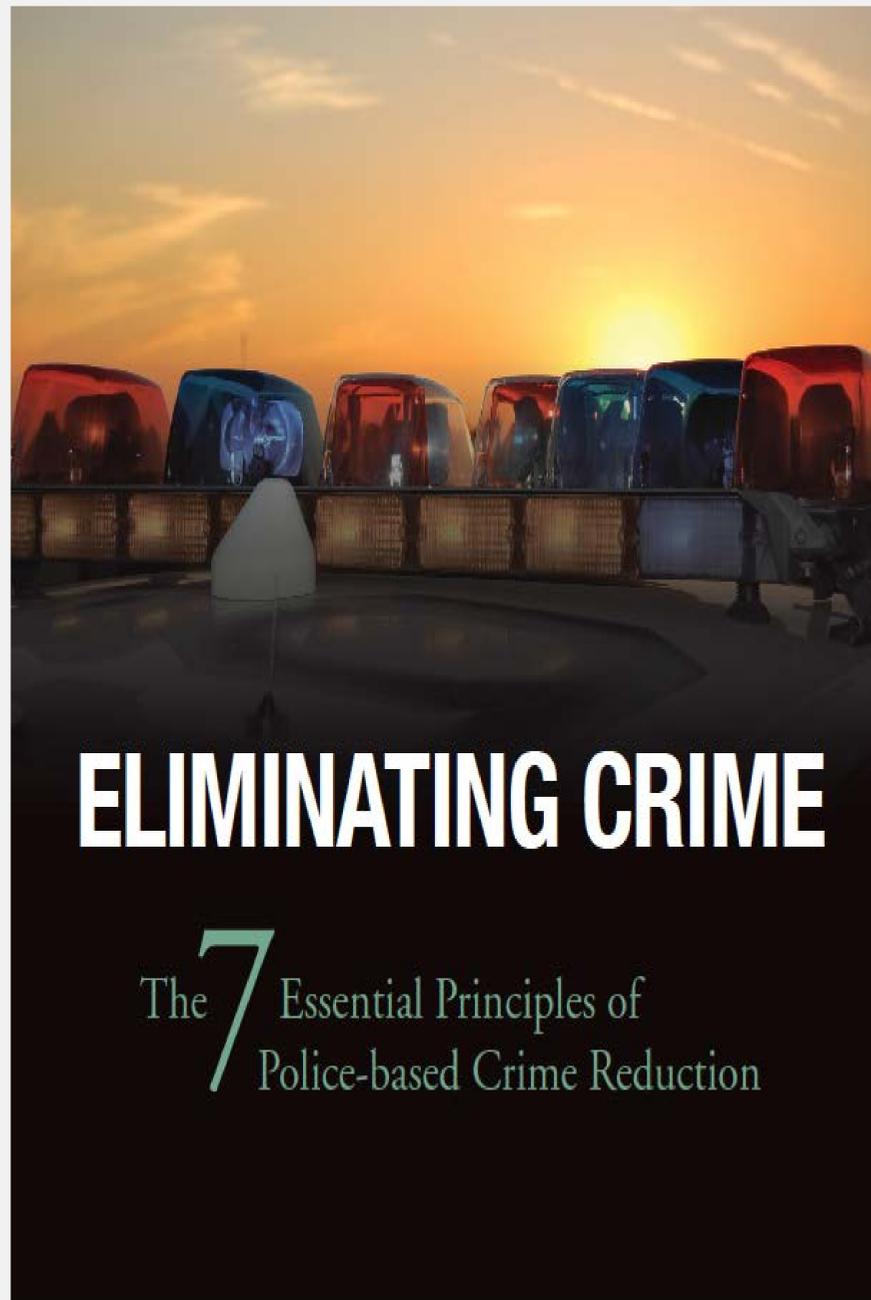
In the early 2000s, it was becoming increasingly obvious that British Columbia was in the midst of an emerging serious and violent crime problem. The City of Vancouver was labeled the property crime capital of Canada, the City of Surrey was identified as the auto theft crime capital of the world, and the City of Abbotsford was experiencing such serious gang problems that it was eventually recognized as the murder capital of Canada. An explosion in illicit drug production, particularly marijuana and synthetic drugs, was fueling many of these problems, and it was clear that the police did not have the capacity to respond effectively. Although general crime rates were in decline in the province, the concern was the police's growing inability to prevent and respond to serious and violent crime associated to gangs and prolific offenders.

Even with some police and government leaders acting as champions for the widespread implementation of crime reduction in British Columbia, one specific challenge was that acceptance of crime reduction required a significant cultural shift within policing. In effect, the shift required police to move away from being a reactive force to a proactive agency, it required a move away from a focus on crimes to a focus on offenders, it required a move away from a belief that one can arrest one's way out of crime trends to focusing on rooting out the primary causes of crime in a community, it required a move towards partnering meaningfully with other stakeholders. It required no longer relying on traditional approaches of crime control, but relying on evidence-based practices, and it required moving away from using statistics on police activities as a measure of success to being more accountable for achieving defined crime reduction outcomes.

The result was that, while some Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachments and municipal police departments embraced some of these principles, there were very few police agencies that accepted, implemented, and integrated all of them.

## PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

The purpose of this book is to present the seven essential principles that police agencies must do to be effective and efficient at consistently reducing crime. While some police agencies have adopted some of the principles mentioned above, there are very few, if any, that have fully adopted and integrated all of them into their everyday business rules. In order for crime reduction and police agencies to have the greatest success, it is necessary for all seven principles to be integrated together, rather than be viewed and applied as seven distinct foci.



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## THE 7 ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES OF POLICE-BASED CRIME REDUCTION

Each chapter of the book focuses on one of the seven essential principles of police-based crime reduction. These seven essential principles are:

1. Be Information-led
2. Be Intelligence-led
3. Focus on Offenders
4. Focus on Problems
5. Develop Meaningful Partnerships
6. Be Preemptive
7. Be Performance-based

Each chapter provides a number of real world examples to demonstrate the principle, provides the theories and research to support the principles, recommendations for how police organizations and agencies can implement the principles, ways to evaluate the degree to which the principles have been integrated into the organization, and a reference list.

The book is available for free download at [www.cjr.ufv.ca](http://www.cjr.ufv.ca)

## CONCLUSION

This book provides a road map for successfully implementing crime reduction strategies in any jurisdiction. It demonstrates that police must have knowledge of and access to many more tools and options beyond apprehending, arresting, charging, and processing offenders; it means that police must have access to and can integrate much more data and that police activity is evidence-based; it means that police have developed policies, strategies, and tactics based on data and analysis to predict, identify, target, manage, and intervene with their most problematic population and preempt the issues that contribute most to crime and disorder; it means that police recognize which problems are best resolved in cooperation with partners; and it means that police hold everyone and everything that the police organization does, accountable for their actions and their initiatives.

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