Policing with Falling Crime and Fiscal Austerity

The Economics of Policing

Ottawa, 16-17 January 2013

Dr. Graham Farrell

Professor
Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies
& School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University

Peelers Bobbies

ICURS at SFU

- Includes
  - Brantinghams
  - Senior police fellows
  - Secure data lab
    - Canadian Govt (RCMP) TRA
  - MoUs with the BC Ministry of Justice and RCMP 'E' Division
    - Tripartite collaboration
  - A model of good practice

A 30 Year Analysis of Police Service Delivery and Costing: 'E' Division

- 2005 study
- Change in cost and capacity of policing
  - Demand increased more than resources
  - Court decisions increased workload
  - Administrative time

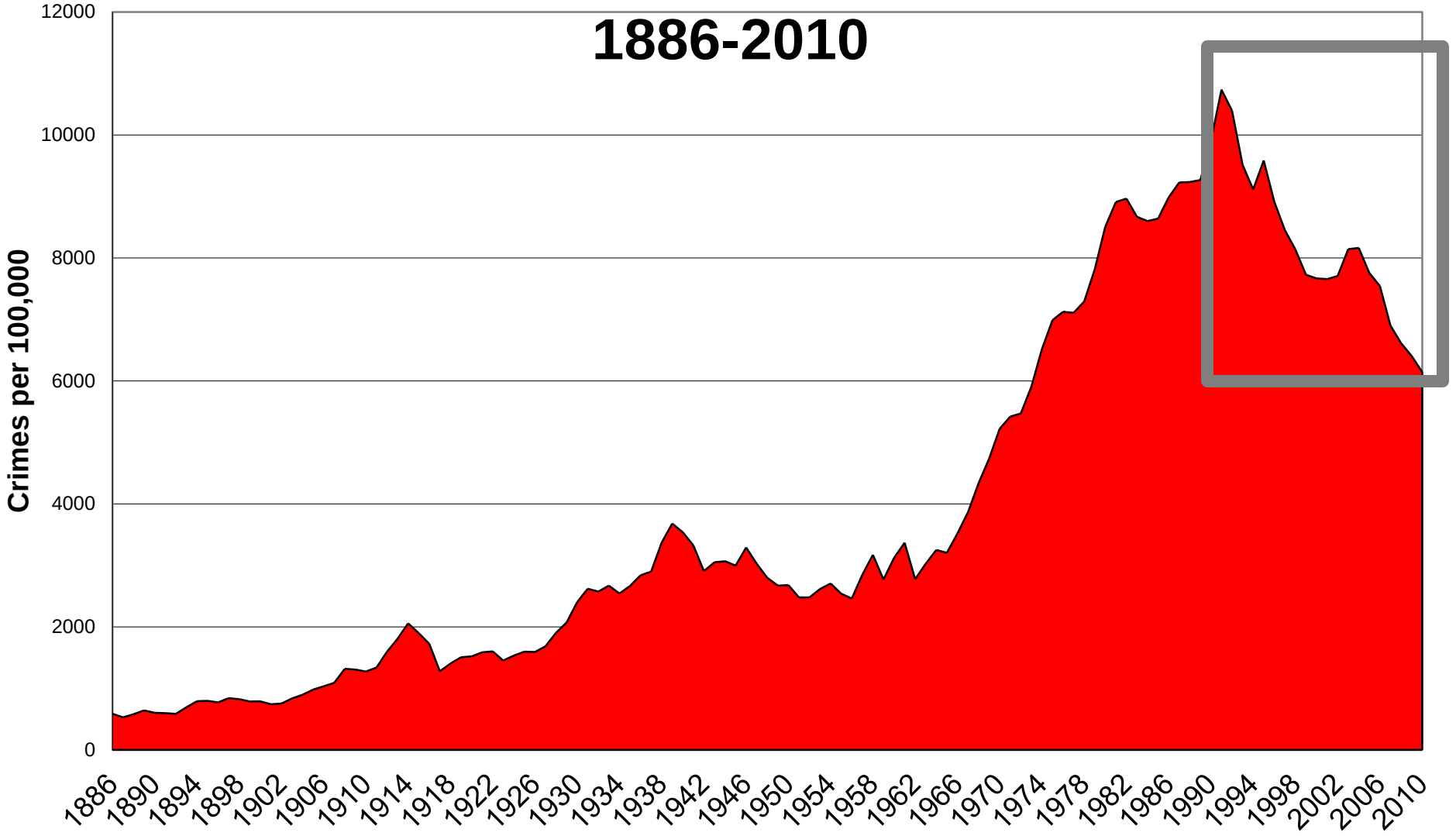
- Replication and extension - 2013

Overview

- The crime drop
- Why did crime drop?
- Crime reduction

The crime drop

Estimated Canadian Crime Rates 1886-2010



ICURS Institute for Canadian Urban Research Studies

SFU SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY BURNABY

Story begins in North America

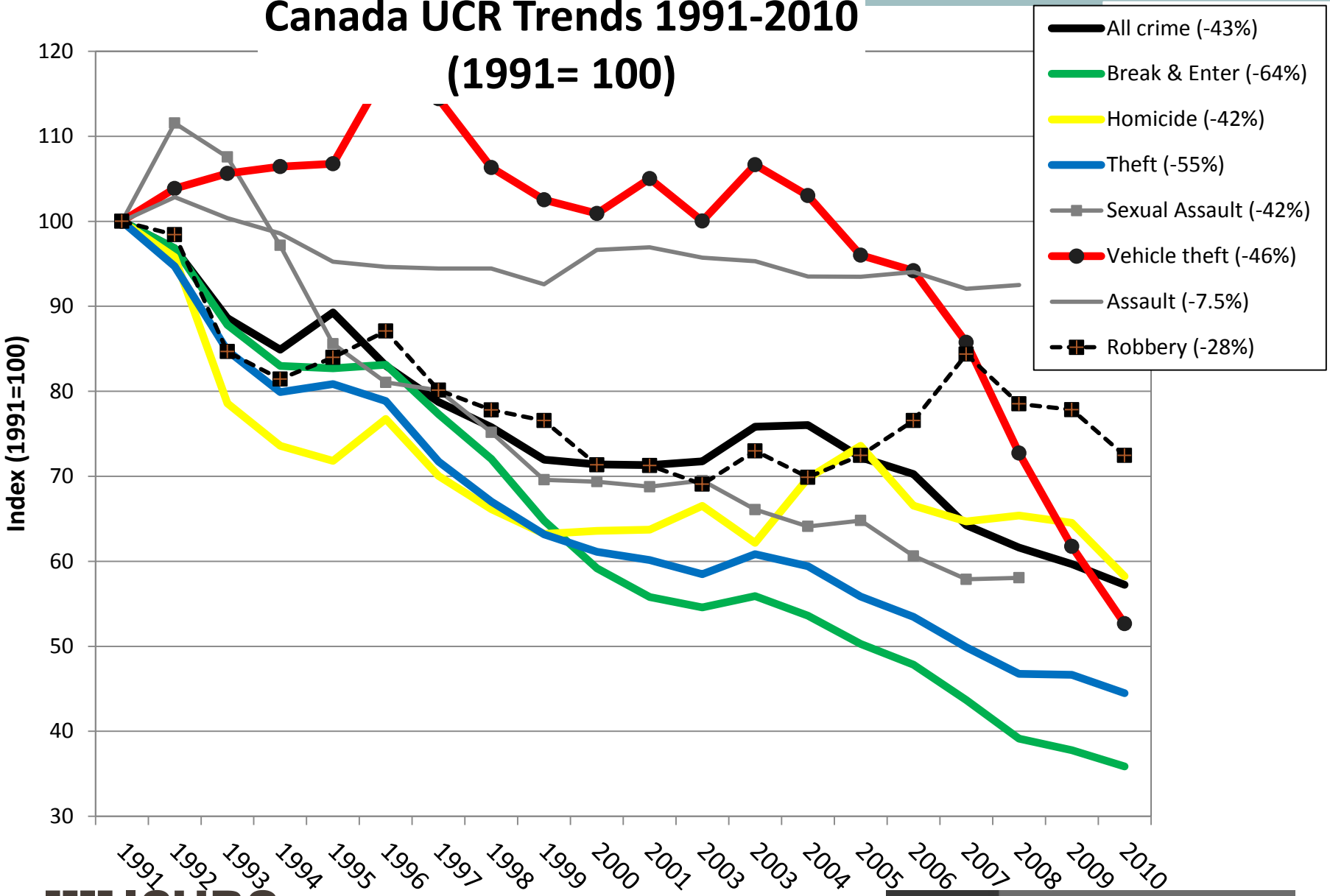
- Early 1990s – headline news - 40 percent reduction in US violence including homicide
  - 43 percent reduction in homicide 1991-2001
  - violent crime down 35 percent
  - Giuliani and Bratton etc.

- Blumstein and Wallman (2000)
  - Focus on violence

International crime drop

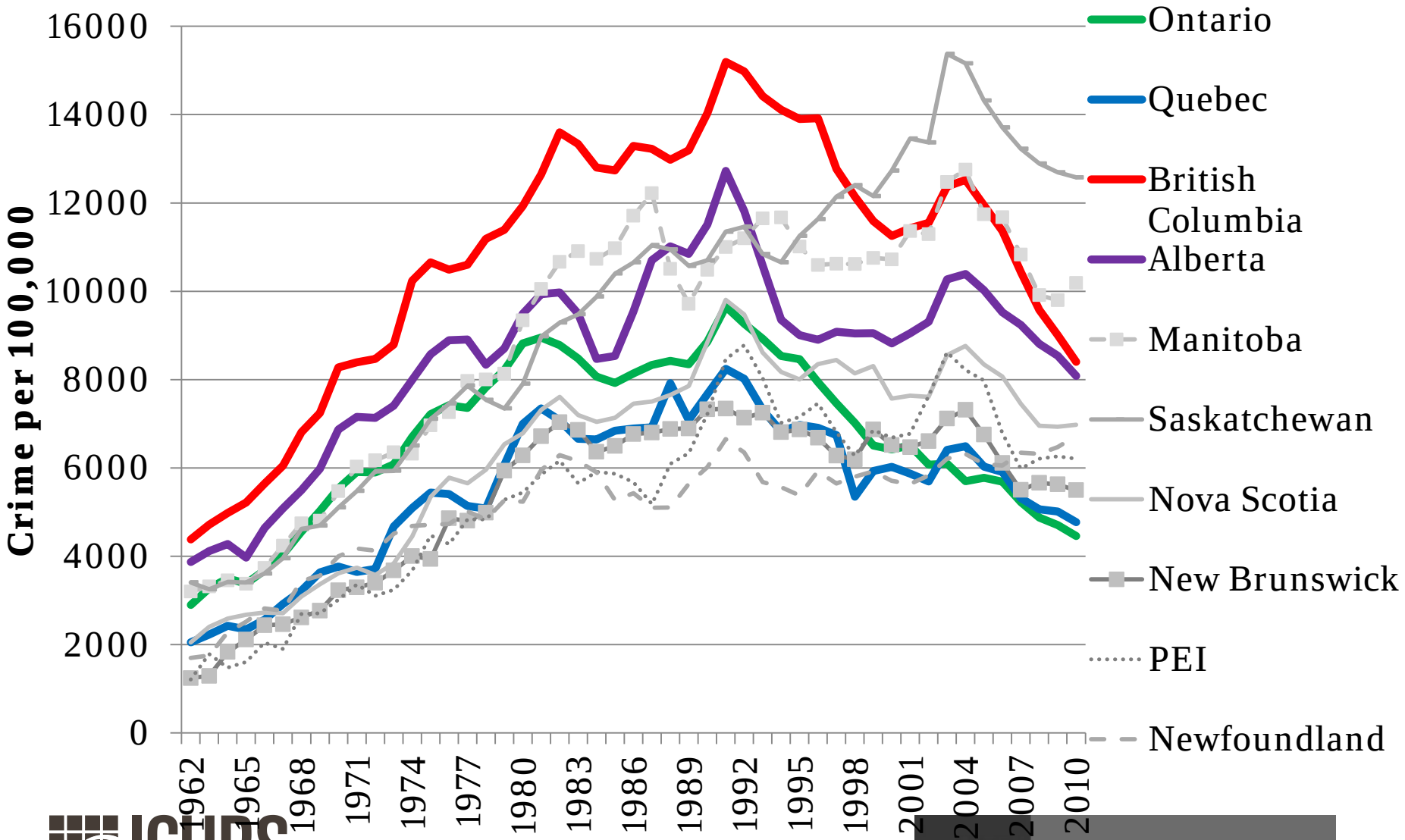
- "significant declines in crime across .. European countries [using ICVS] ..."
- "..England and Wales, violent crime fell 49 percent, burglary 59 percent, and vehicle theft 65 percent between 1995 and 2007 (BCS)."
- "Significant falls in crime ... in other countries including Australia, Canada, and Japan and elsewhere ..."

Canada UCR Trends 1991-2010
(1991= 100)

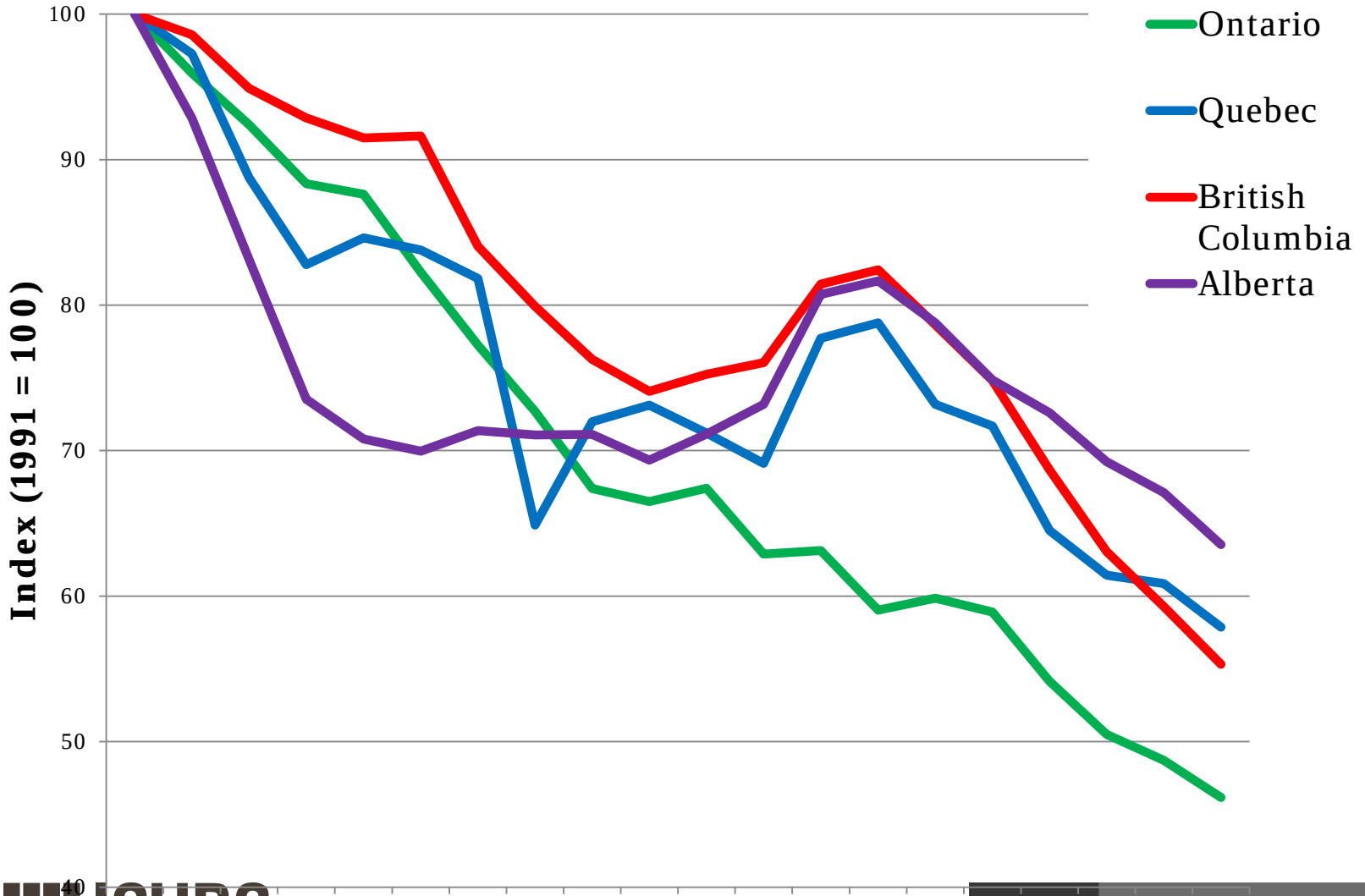


Provincial Crime Rates

UCR 1962-2010



Four Provinces 1991-2010 (1991=100)



Is it reporting changes? …. No

- Canadian victimization survey (GSS)
  - Contradicted by
    - Homicide trend
    - Car theft insurance data
    - Crime drop remains if UCR adjusted
    - ICVS shows crime drop
      - stable reporting
    - US and UK surveys support police data
      - US reporting stable
- "Either the GSS is wrong or the rest of world is wrong"
  - StatCan are revamping 2014 victimization survey

Why did crime drop?

Last week it was lead poisoning! . again

theguardian

News | Sport | Comment | Culture | Business | M

Comment is free

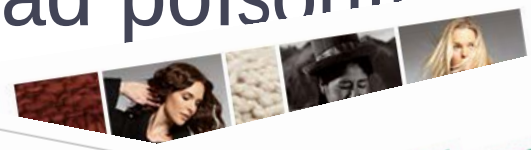
Yes, lead poisor
cause of vi

It seems craz
crimes that hav
crime?

George Mol
The Guardia
Jump to co

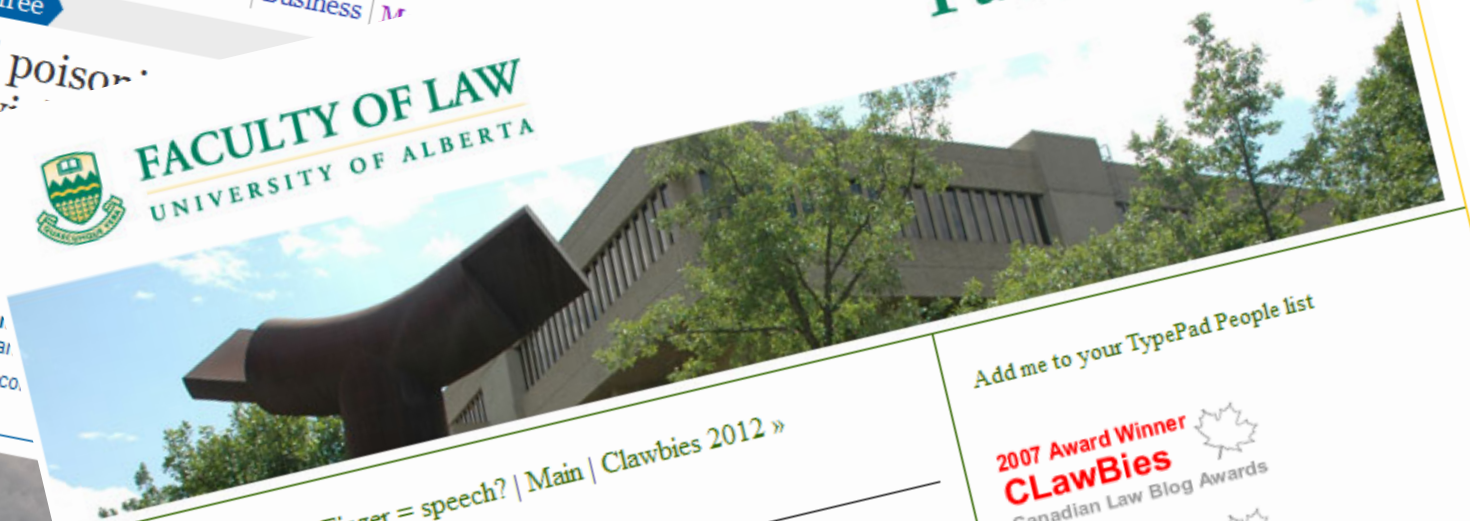
The Innospec factory at Ellesmere Port, in Cheshire, Manchester Ship Canal. Photograph:

At first it



FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Faculty Blog



« Middle Finger = speech? | Main | Clawbies 2012 »

January 05, 2013

Less lead = less crime?

Sociologists and economists have long struggled to explain the decline in crime in America, especially NYC. From more efficient policing to demographics, every explanation under the roof has been put forward.

It turns out removing lead from gasoline was the real reason!

by Moin A Yahya on January 05, 2013 at 12:46 AM in Criminal Law & Procedure |

Add me to your TypePad People list

2007 Award Winner
CLawBies
Canadian Law Blog Awards

2008 Finalist
CLawBies
Canadian Law Blog Awards

2009 Award Winner
CLawBies
Canadian Law Blog Awards

2010 Finalist
CLawBies

UNIVERSITY

Why did crime drop?

10. Lead-free gasoline
9. Abortion
8. Imprisonment
7. Police strategy
6. Policing numbers
5. Demographics
4. Illegal drug markets
3. Improved economy
2. Gun control (or concealment!)

Problems - either

- Either
  - Disproven empirically
  - Apply only to US
  - Offender-focused – so all crimes should drop!
    - Phone theft? Cybercrime?
  - Incompatible with pre-90s crime increase
    - e.g. economy

Demographics – 2008 review found

"during the sharp crime drop of the 1990s, age composition changes were trending in the wrong direction: the number of 18-year-olds in the U.S. population was increasing while crime rates were declining for other reasons"

".... changing age composition is not likely to provide a substantial influence on crime rates for the next 20 years."

(Blumstein and Rosenfeld 2008)

Leaves #1: The security hypothesis

"*In fact, the one thing in common amongst all these countries, including the United States, is that they have all made a huge investment in security during the past 25 years, affecting almost every aspect of everyday life.*"

(Clarke and Newman 2006:220)

Studies of auto theft and security

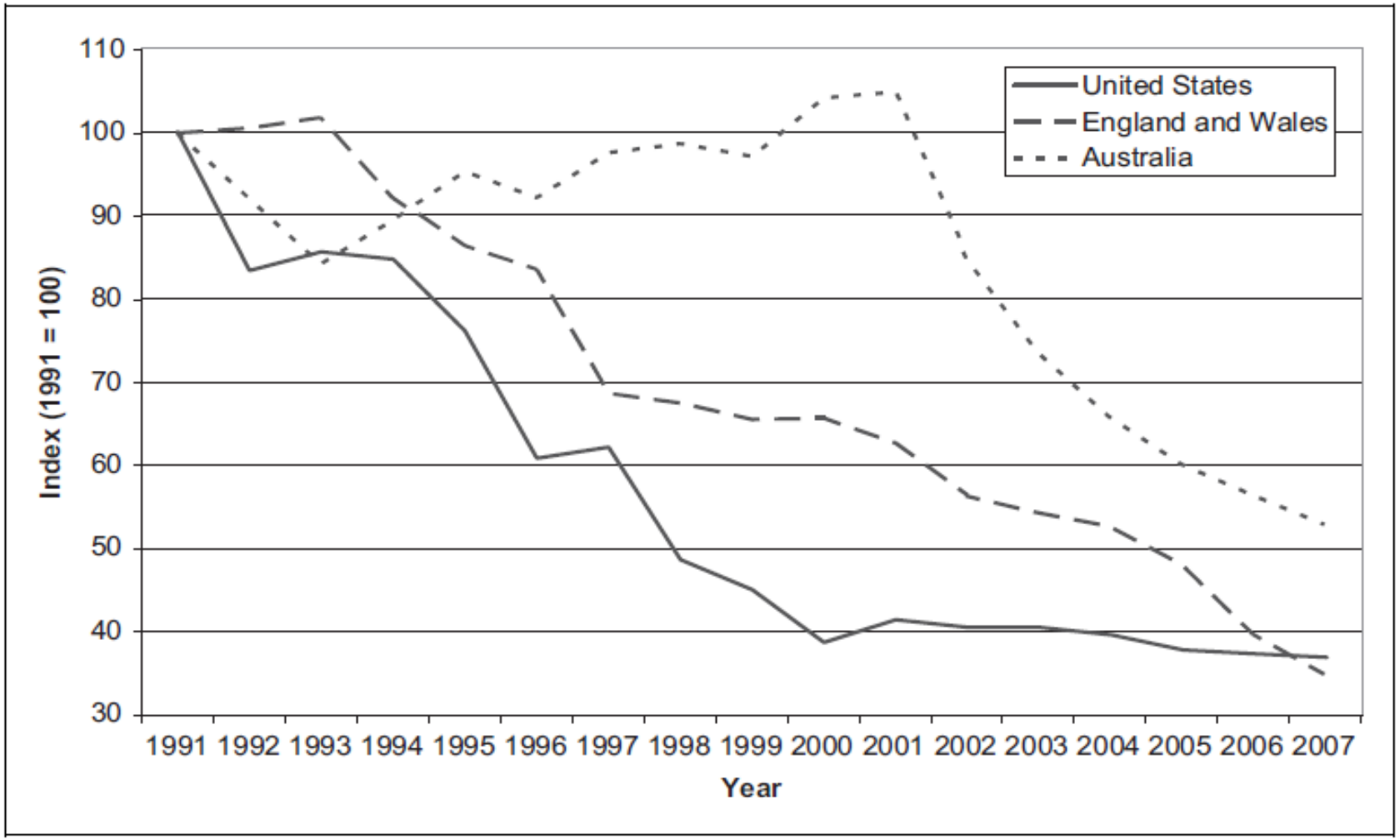


Figure 1. Motor vehicle theft in the United States, England and Wales, and Australia.

How do we know it was auto security?

- Electronic immobilisers, central locking
  - alarms, trackers
- Triangulation of evidence
  - Timing of security increases & crime decrease
    - For each country
  - Key data signatures
    - Aging stolen vehicles
    - Permanent v temporary theft
    - Changed entry methods
  - Analysis of devices' contributions (SPFs)
    - Trackers recently
  - No or little displacement
  - Offender anecdotes; robustness testing
  - Replication and extension of findings

So what?

- means it wasn't something else
- means crime opportunities are fundamental
- Situational crime prevention works
  - Links to POP
  - Policing focused on opportunities
  - … but how to implement it?

Crime as Pollution

Environmental pollution

- Noise and air pollution – externalities
  - A cost to society that polluter does not pay
  - Make the polluter pay or internalise cost!
- Policy measures
  - Fines
  - Market-based incentives
    - Tax breaks, tradeable permits, naming and shaming
    - Encourage better designs and safe practice
- Fire regs; Child safety; Food safety; Consumer safety

Crime as pollution – who pollutes?

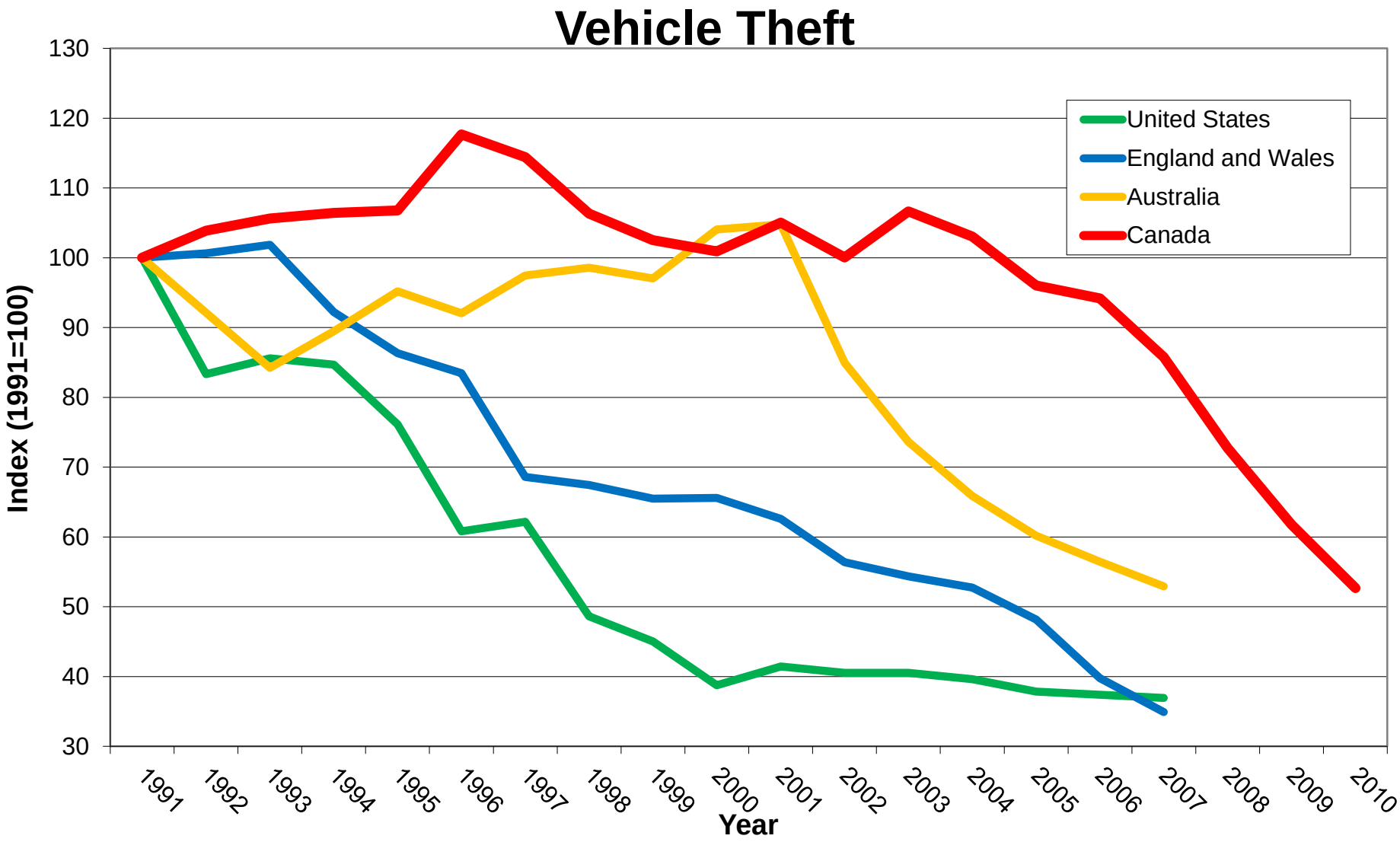
- Eck and Eck (2012) in *Criminology and Public Policy*
  - Business owners
    - Shoplifting can be reduced by design
  - Place managers
    - Bar policies
    - Unmanaged apartment blocks with drug dealing
- Tilley (2012) in *Criminology and Public Policy*
  - Manufacturers
    - Used to be cars
    - Now it's phones, laptops etc.

Auto security – the flagship?

- Manufacturers nudged by car theft index
- And threat of regulation

- Indices are performance indicators
  - They stimulate crime reduction

- Identifying where market incentives needed
  - Key role for policing


Vehicle Theft
Index (1991=100)
130
120
110
100
90
80
70
60
50
40
30
United States
England and Wales
Australia
Canada
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
Year

Increasing responsibility through policing – how?

- Crime analysis identifies polluters
  - Who benefits? Who saves? Who cuts costs?
    - e.g. Phone manufacturers and networks
      - Blacklisting from Sept 2013. Be careful!
- National, provincial, municipal agencies?
- An economical form of policing
  - Encouraging the public, which includes the private sector, to become the police