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Presentation title: Connecting science and police practice: an example from the city of Basel, Switzerland

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The city of Basel in the canton Basel-Stadt heads on top in the infamous ranking of violent crimes in Switzerland. In order to find explanations to this tendency, the Police of Basel-City chose to supplement its existing methods of analysis by a scientific approach. Thus a project was launched by the “Fachreferat”, a specialist unit which serves as a scientific competence center. The project's aim is to develop an evidence-based action plan to combat violence and the application of interdisciplinary perspectives into the police managements' strategic decision-making processes. Within said project, a situational examination and analysis of the causes of the occurring violence as well as the measures enforced to prevent it, is carried out in close collaboration with internal and external stakeholders. To gain a comprehensive understanding of violent crimes in Basel, the situational examination is covering different aspects: After an analysis of different crime indicators (also beyond officially registered delinquencies) findings indicate for example, that the complex phenomena of violence require a holistic and interlaced approach both regarding prevention as well as intervention. Additionally, Basel-specific statistical data and studies in the field show the importance of comprehensive and coherent criteria for obtaining an appropriate data basis. Additional insight into both, context and comparability, can be gained by examining reported violence within an urban space, in the sense of a cross-border perspective beyond canton and municipality. Lastly, the subjective perception of safety is examined, given that the population's reporting habits greatly influence the data on delinquency. Combined, the findings of this situational examination give first impulses for the ensuing analysis of the causes and measures. By applying this multi-perspective and interdisciplinary scientific approach, the Police of Basel-Stadt contributes not only to a better understanding of violence phenomena in the city of Basel, but also to the implementation of effective remedies.