

A field study of police use of street identification

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Thanks go to.....

- Metropolitan Police
 - Hackney, Acton
- Hertfordshire Police
- Northumbria Police
- West Midlands Police

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Field data on street ID

- How frequently is a street ID used?
- How many result in a positive ID?
- How many suspects identified in a street ID are charged or cautioned?
- Do many witnesses take part in multiple ID procedures (e.g. street ID followed by video ID)?

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Three research components

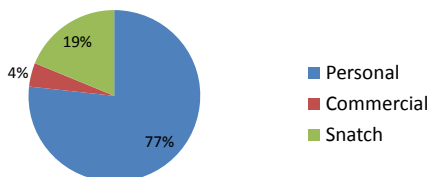
- Component 1
 - Data of all cases of one type of street crime within a set time period
 - Diary study of robbery squad officers
 - Breakdown of police identification procedures and their outcome
- Component 2
 - Area search monitoring data with or without the witness in the vehicle
- Component 3
 - Data of cases referred to video ID suites following a positive street identification

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Component 1: Robberies

– England & Wales
– Police recorded data: approx 100,000 robberies p.a.

– Nuffield Foundation project: 701 cases



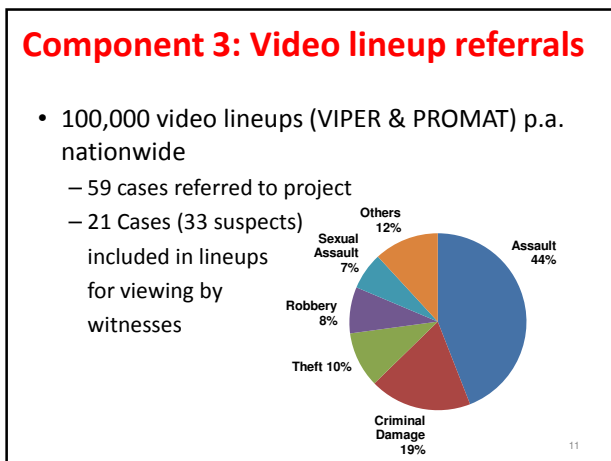
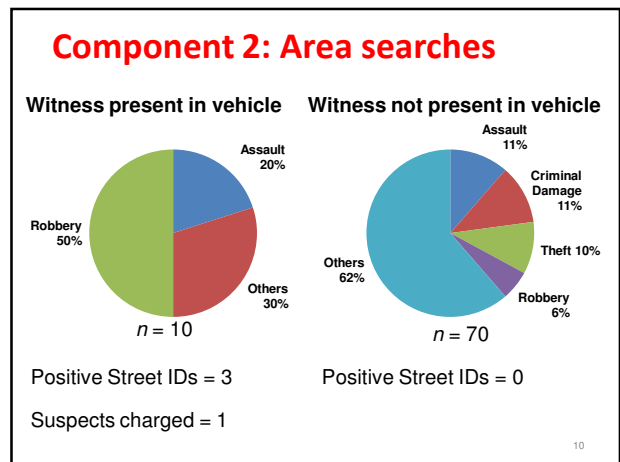
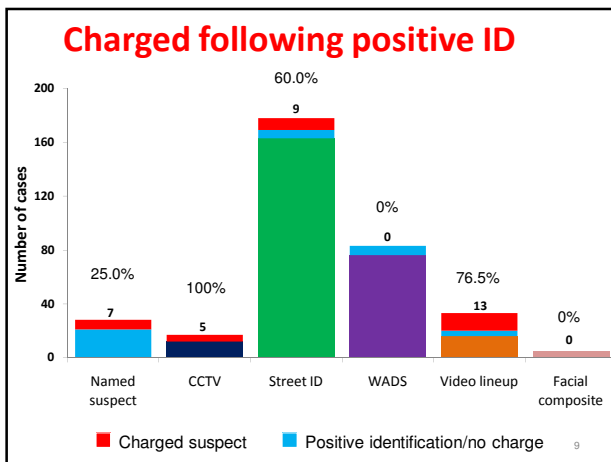
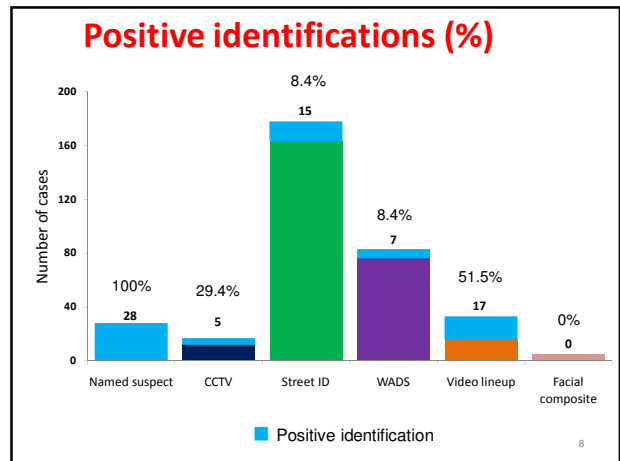
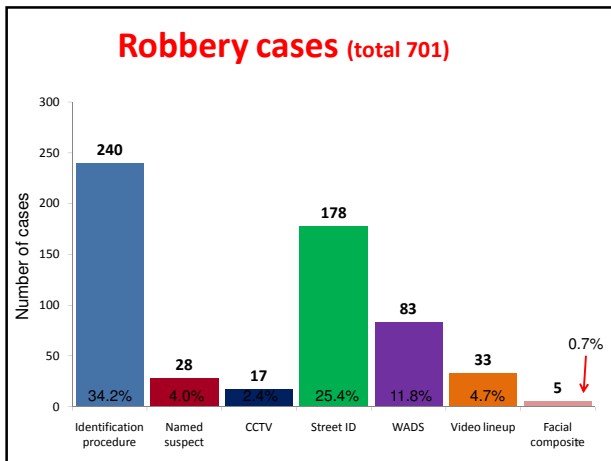
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Visual identification procedures

- Named suspect
- Positive CCTV evidence
- Street identification attempts
- WADS (Witness-Assist Directed Suspects)
- Video lineups
- Facial composites
- Note: In some cases there were multiple identification procedures and/or multiple witnesses

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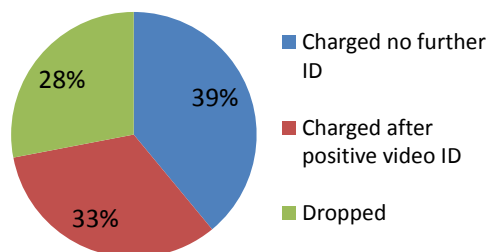
Video lineup requests

- Component 1
 - 97% requested by police
- Component 3
 - 38% suspects
 - 35% police
 - 26% CPS

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Combined data

Positive street ID (104 suspects)



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Reasons for not conducting a street ID

- 51.6% Late report
- 20.2% Witness/victim unwilling/unable to assist
- 4.3% Other satisfactory reason
- 21.6% No explanation
- 2.3% *Should* have been attempted

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Compliance with PACE

- **Descriptions**
 - Cases in which no prior description collected
 - 44% No time to interview
 - 41% No satisfactory explanation
 - 15% Confirmed procedural errors
- **Separation of suspects**
 - 5 cases – multiple witnesses in one vehicle

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Types of description (167 cases)

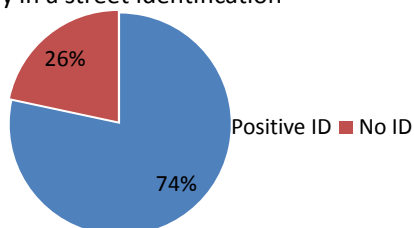
- Gender 96%
- Ethnicity 88%
- Age 80%
- Top 78%
- Height 77%
- Complexion 68%
- Build 62%
- Hair colour, style < 30%

© In 63% cases robber wore hoodie/hat

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Combined data

- Witnesses requested to view video lineups containing the same suspect ($n = 37$) identified previously in a street identification



All positive charged. However, normal rate = 50%

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Time after street ID

- Suspect ID's in lineup
 - $n = 29$
 - Min = 0 days
 - Max = 112 days
 - $M = 25.0$ ($SD = 40.3$)
- Suspect not identified in lineup
 - $n = 8$
 - Min = 1 day
 - Max = 11 days
 - $M = 4.4$ ($SD = 3.9$)

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Case outcomes

- 571 robbery cases
 - 8.8% one or more suspects charged
- Of those eventually charged (primary evidence)
 - Positive street ID 20%
 - Named suspect 8%
 - Video lineup 24%
 - CCTV 6%
 - Non visual ID 42%

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Highly speculative estimates

- Approx 96,000 robberies PA
 - Component 1 and 2 data (750)
 - 24.4% Street identification attempt
 - 12% positive ID of one or more suspects
 - » 39% charged with no further evidence
- Up to 23,400 street identification attempts in England and Wales for **ROBBERY** alone
 - 2,800 positive
 - 1,090 suspects charged with no other ID

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Highly speculative estimates II

- Other crimes
 - Component 3 (robbery 8.5% of street IDs)
 - 32,900 positive street IDs in England & Wales PA
 - $(2,800 * 100 / 8.5)$
- 100,000 video lineups PA
 - Component 3
 - 558 Lineups conducted in ID suite
 - Project data 33 (5.9%)
 - 5,900 Street ID leading to video lineup

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Summary

- Only realistic way to solve some crimes
 - A rapid deployment of officers to conduct a drive round with witness present enhances likelihood of detection
 - Memory strongest, motivation highest
- Success relatively rare
- Identified suspects likely to be prosecuted
- Most conducted under PACE codes
- Efficient way of eliminating innocent suspects?
- If witness makes positive street ID, majority make positive video lineup ID
 - Waste of police resources?

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