



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

OVER 15 YEARS OF RESEARCHING THE ELECTRONIC MONITORING OF OFFENDERS: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

Professor Anthea Hucklesby

Centre for Criminal Justice Studies,
University of Leeds, UK

A.L.Hucklesby@leeds.ac.uk

INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Increasing amount of research in different jurisdictions
- ❖ Evidence base does not match ambitions for EM
- ❖ Recurring themes in EM research spanning over 15 years
- ❖ We need to work with the evidence which already exists as well as uncovering new evidence
 - Findings about how it (RF) works and impact on defendants/offenders remarkably consistent across jurisdictions
- ❖ Gathering the evidence base is challenging because of the diverse uses of EM and the involvement of most criminal justice agencies

DATA

- ❖ Lack of published (official) data
- ❖ Reliance on the private sector for access to data
- ❖ What data are collected by whom and how?
- ❖ Collating data from different criminal justice agencies/institutions

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS?

- ❖ Narrow focus of research questions
- ❖ Effectiveness research
- ❖ Pilots
- ❖ Researching implementation not operation
- ❖ Unclear objectives of EM
- ❖ 'Rigorous' methodologies?
 - Randomised Control Trials
 - Systematic Reviews
 - Low take up
 - Don't answer the 'how' question
- ❖ Context is important – pitfalls of comparative research

OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

❖ Opportunities

- Large banks for data ripe for use of big data techniques
- Machine learning/prediction techniques
- Private sector involvement

❖ Threats

- Political sensitivities/nervousness
- Private sector involvement
- Contracts
- Research element is an add-on and researcher involvement is post-implementation
- Investment in research

EVIDENCED-BASED POLICY AND PRACTICE?

- ❖ Research programme
 - Identifying knowledge gaps
 - Adequate time and resources – good research requires investment
- ❖ Access
- ❖ Strategic overview of what data are available followed by a data requirement plan with a clear distinction between monitoring and evaluation
- ❖ The publication of statistics and information matters for research and the legitimacy of EM
- ❖ Diversity - EM has many different uses for many different populations