



Towards a safer Latin America:

A new perspective for crime
prevention and control

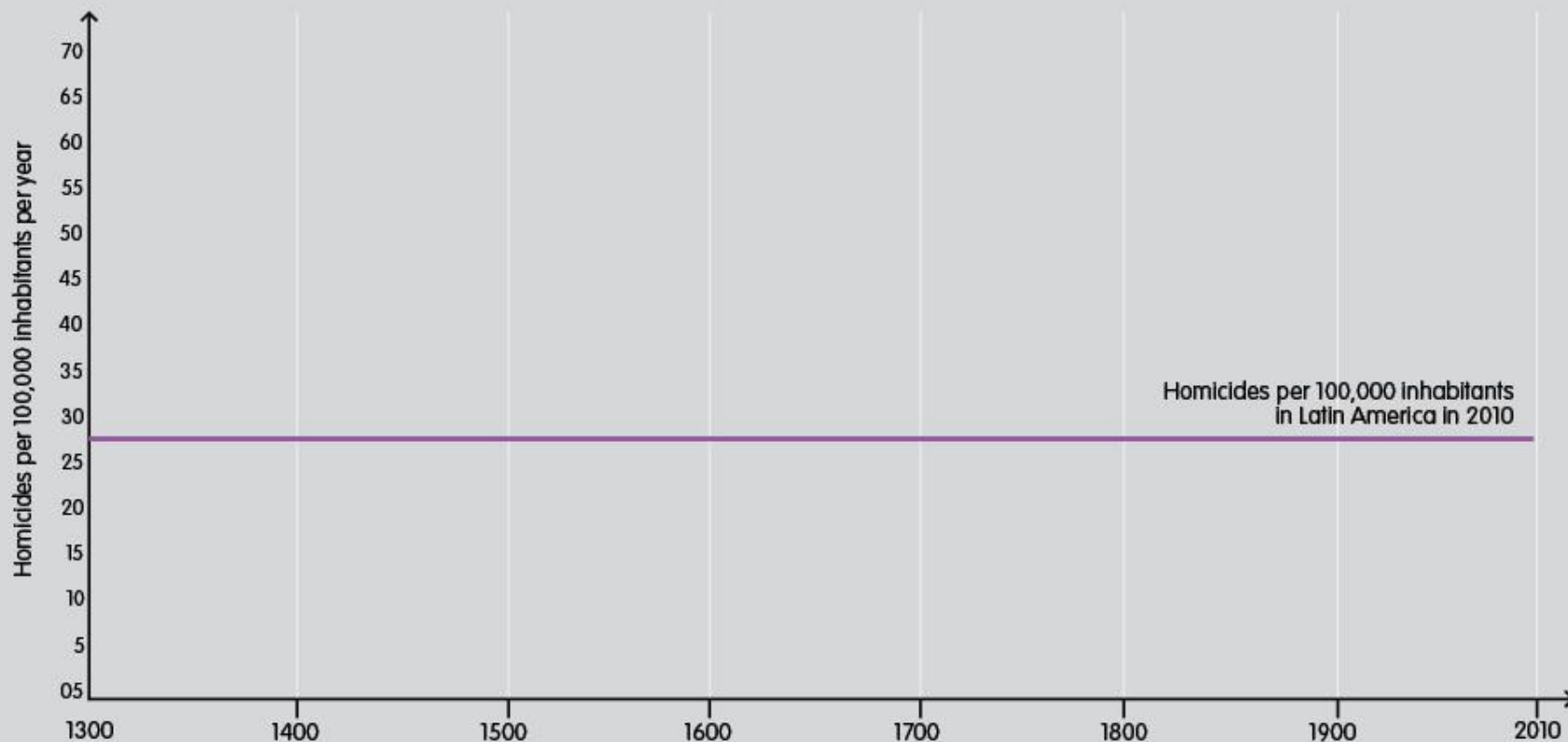
RED 2014 –
CAF Development Bank of Latin America



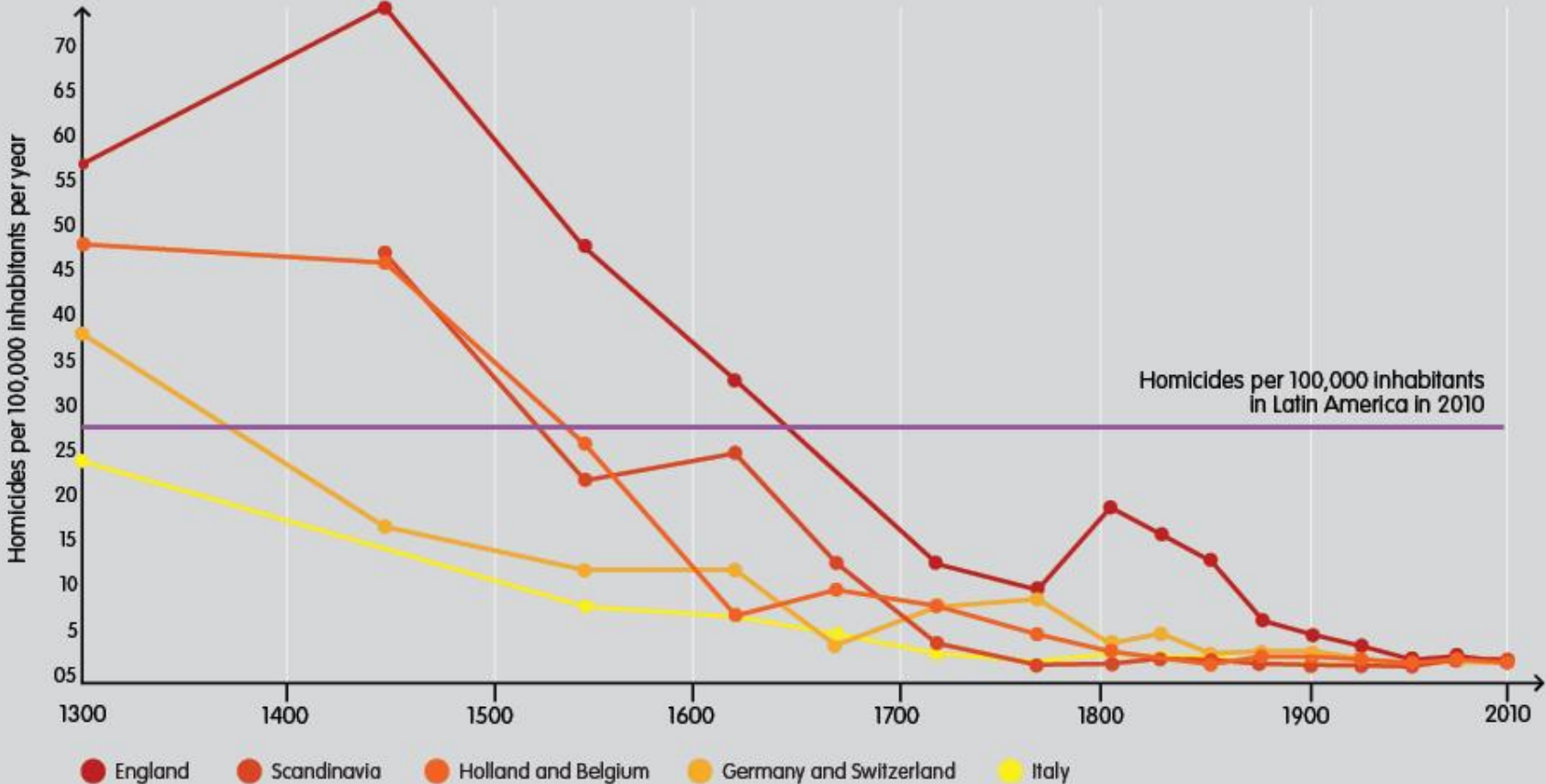
126.456^(*)

*Homicides in Latin America in 2010

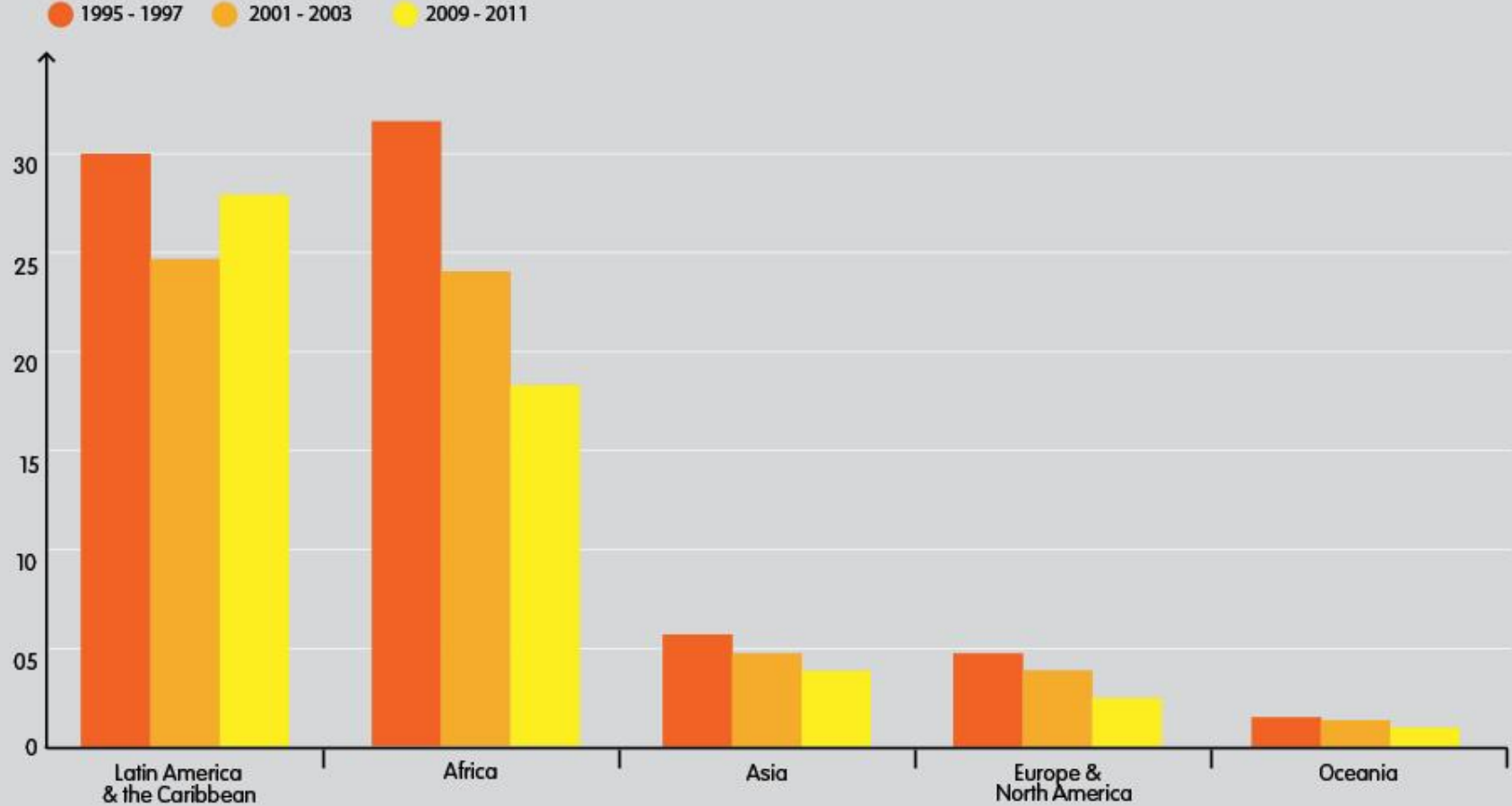
Homicide rate in Latin America versus other countries between 1300 and 2010



Homicide rate in Latin America versus other countries between 1300 and 2010



The average homicide rate in Latin America is 10 times that of the European and North American average in 2009-2011



Insecurity is Latin Americans' top concern

Source: CAF survey 2013





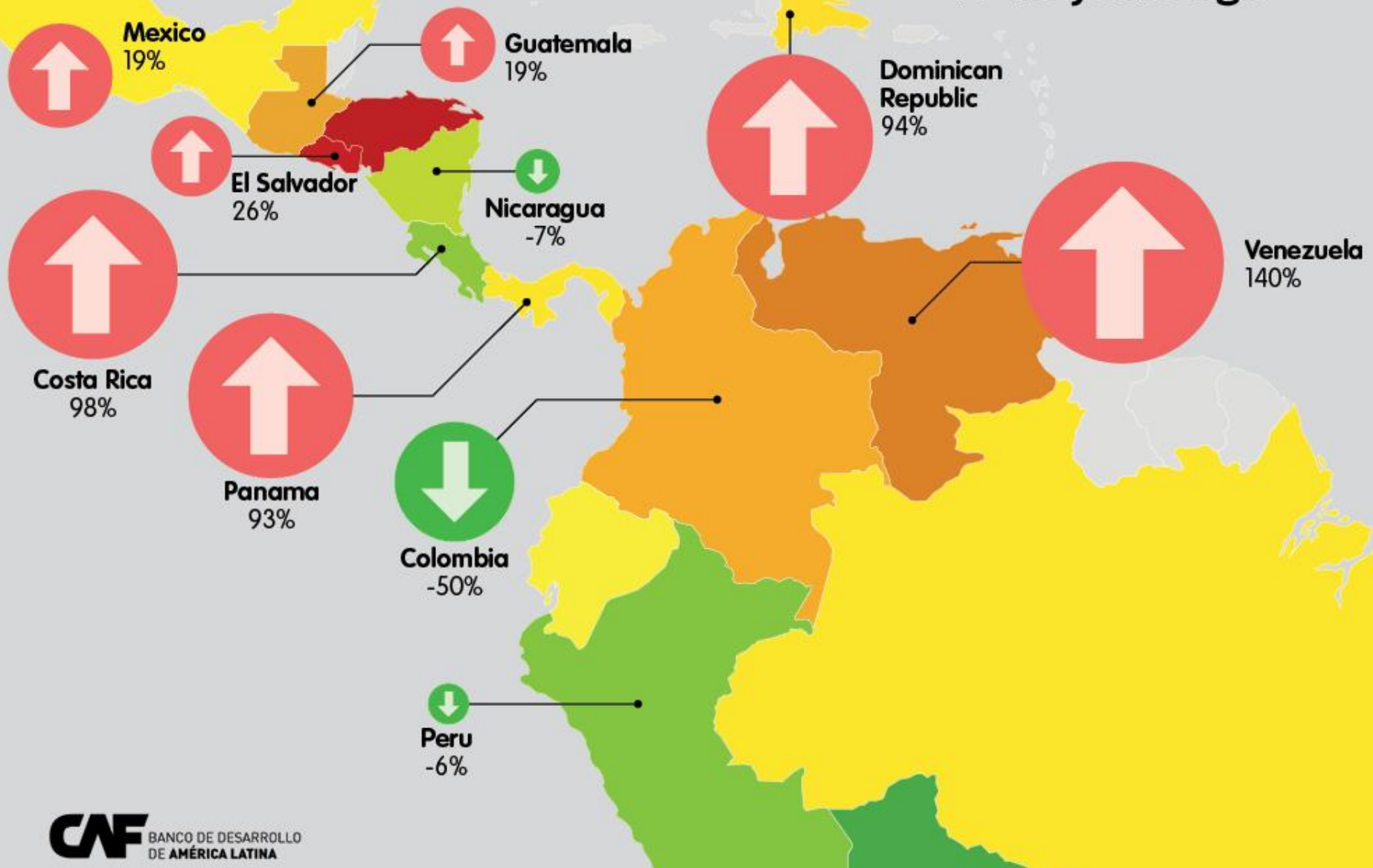
Homicides per 100,000 inhabitants 2009-2011

Chile	3,5
Argentina	5,5
Uruguay	6,2
Bolivia	7,3
Peru	10,3
Costa Rica	10,9
Paraguay	12,2
Nicaragua	13,4
Ecuador	18,3
Mexico	20,6
Brazil	22
Panama	22,2
Dominican Republic	24,7
Colombia	33,7
Guatemala	42,1
Venezuela	48,7
El Salvador	68,6
Honduras	81,5

Change in the homicide rate since 10-15 years ago



Change in the homicide rate since 10-15 years ago





Determinants of the criminal event



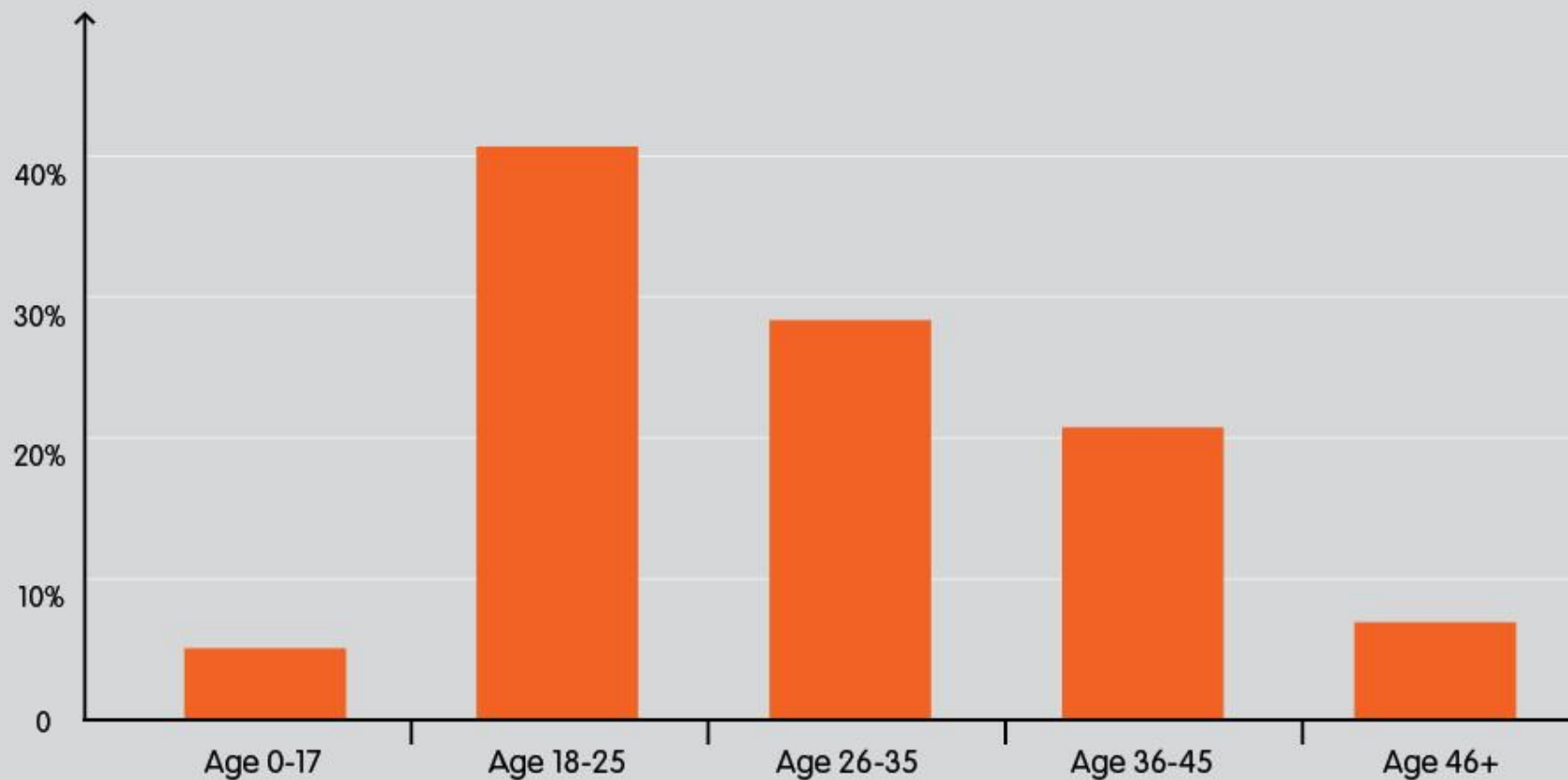
Determinants of the criminal event

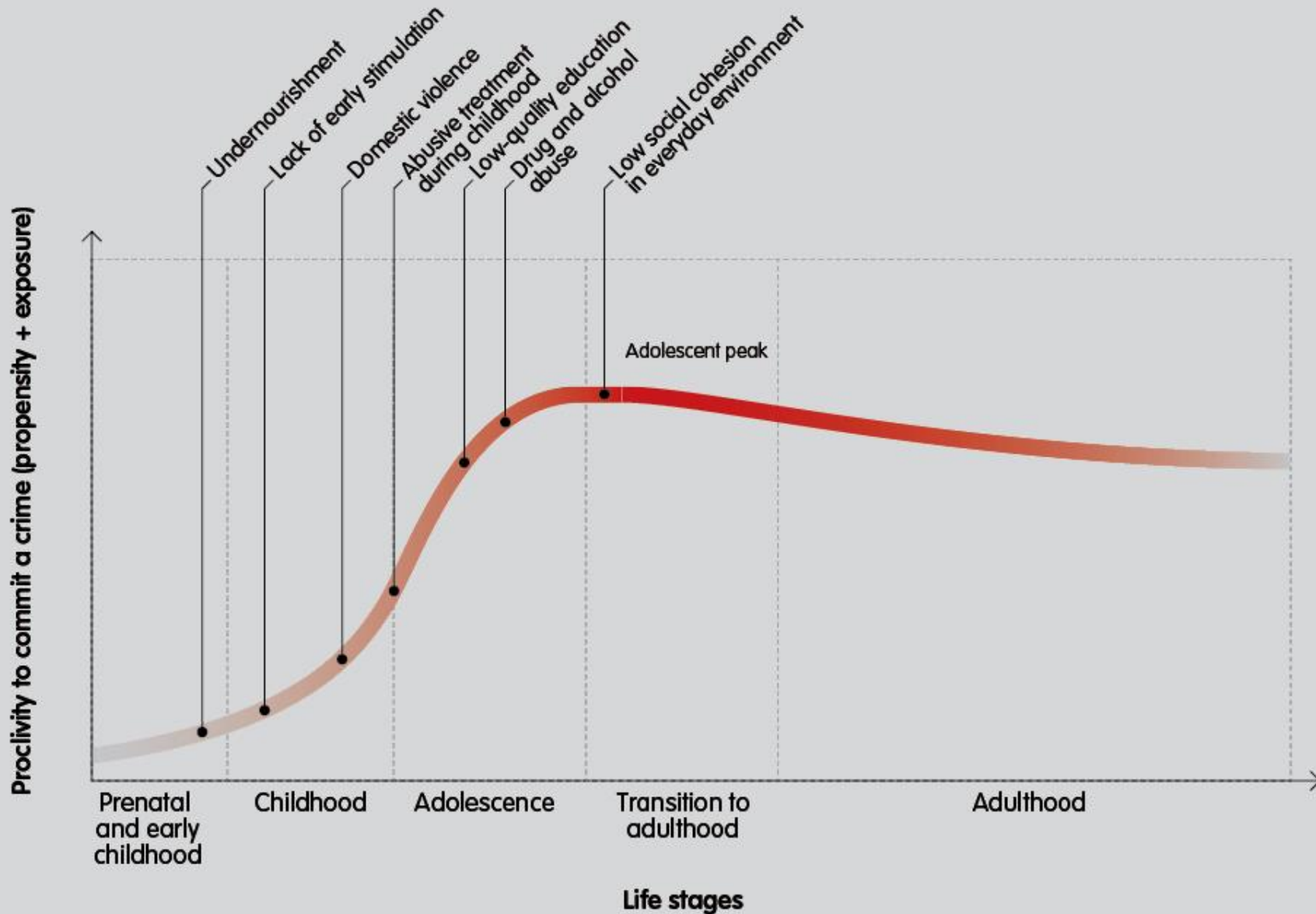


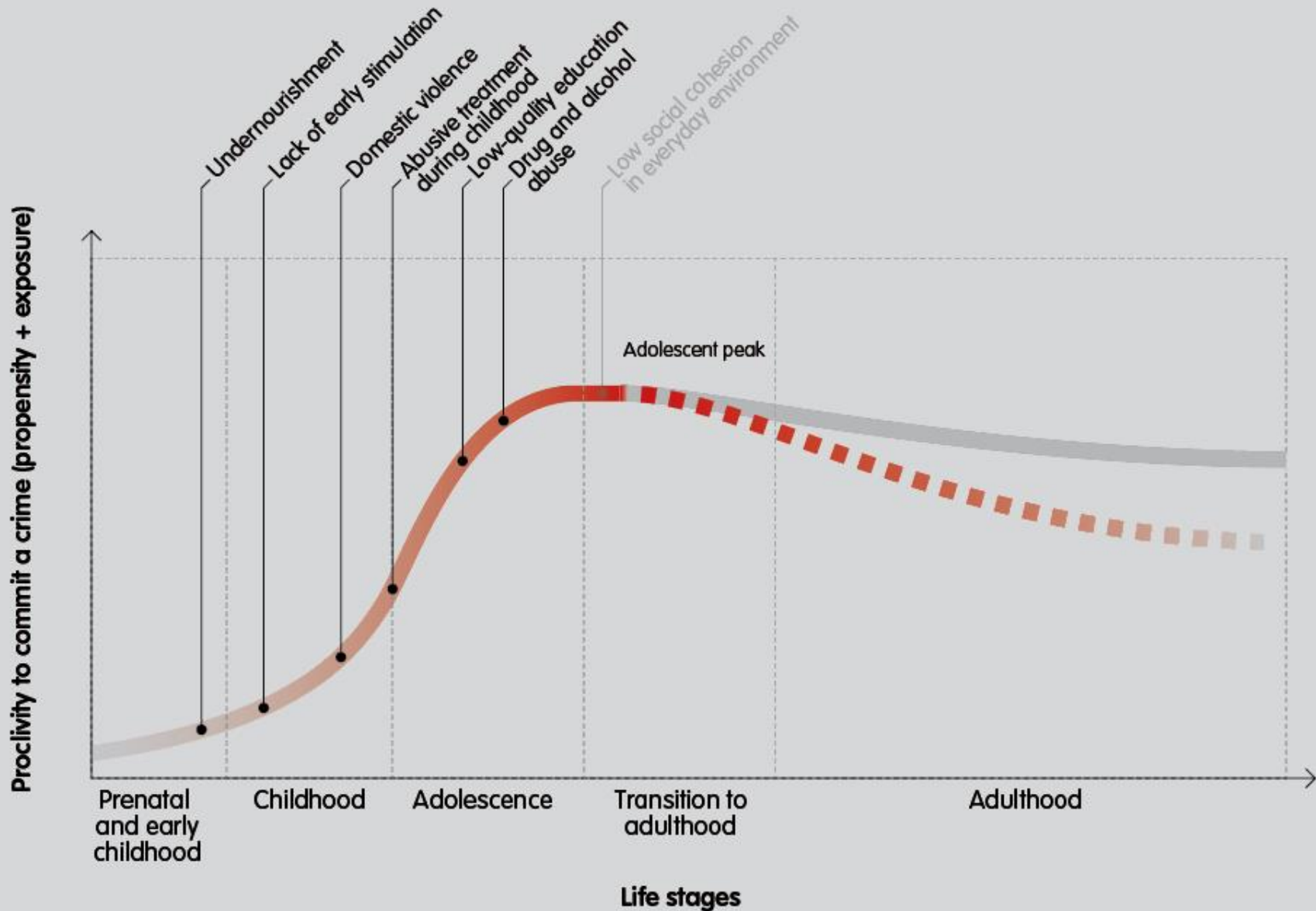
**People's personal
history conditions
the probability that
they commit
a crime**

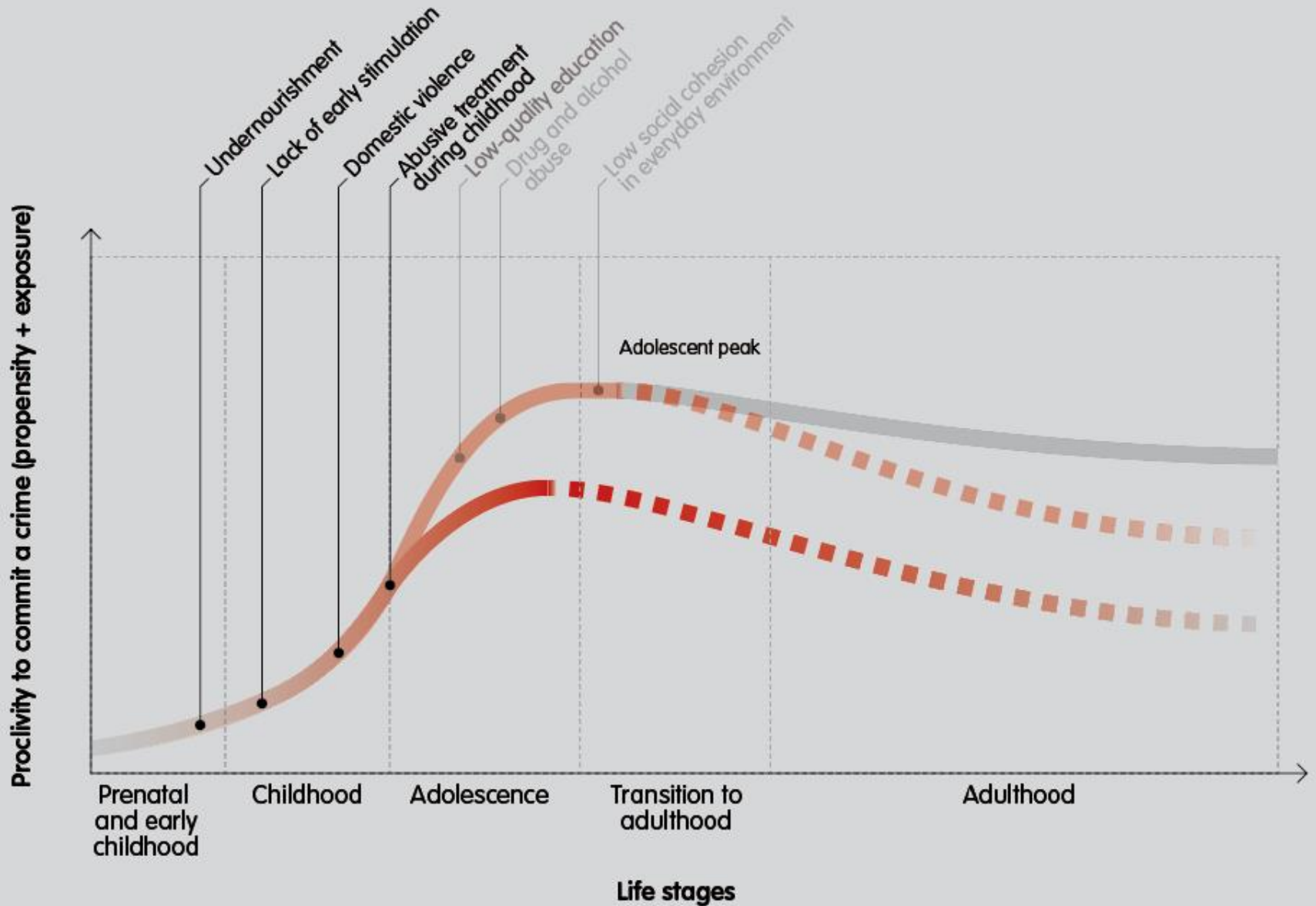
Victims' perception of their offender's age

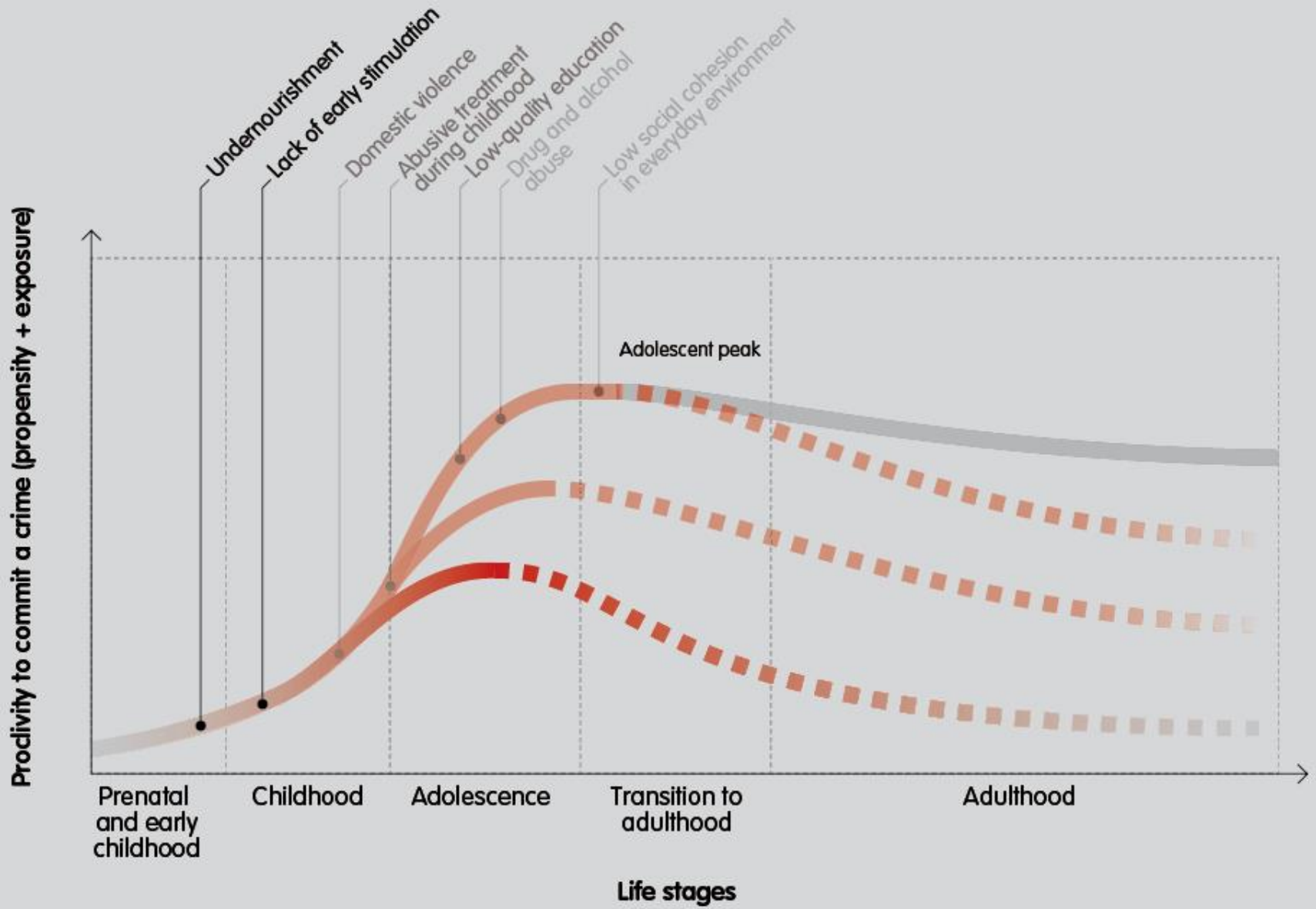
Source: CAF survey 2013



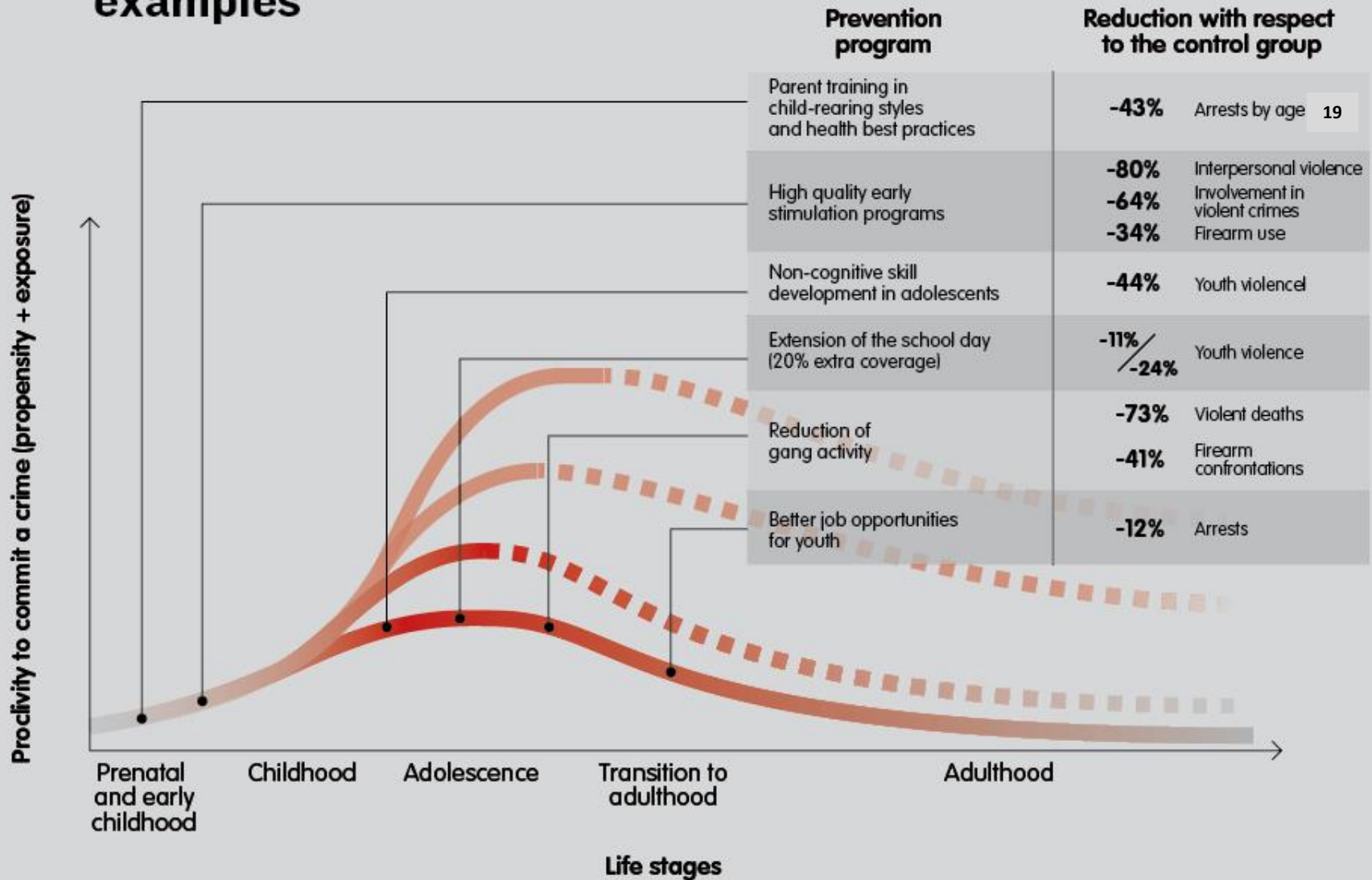




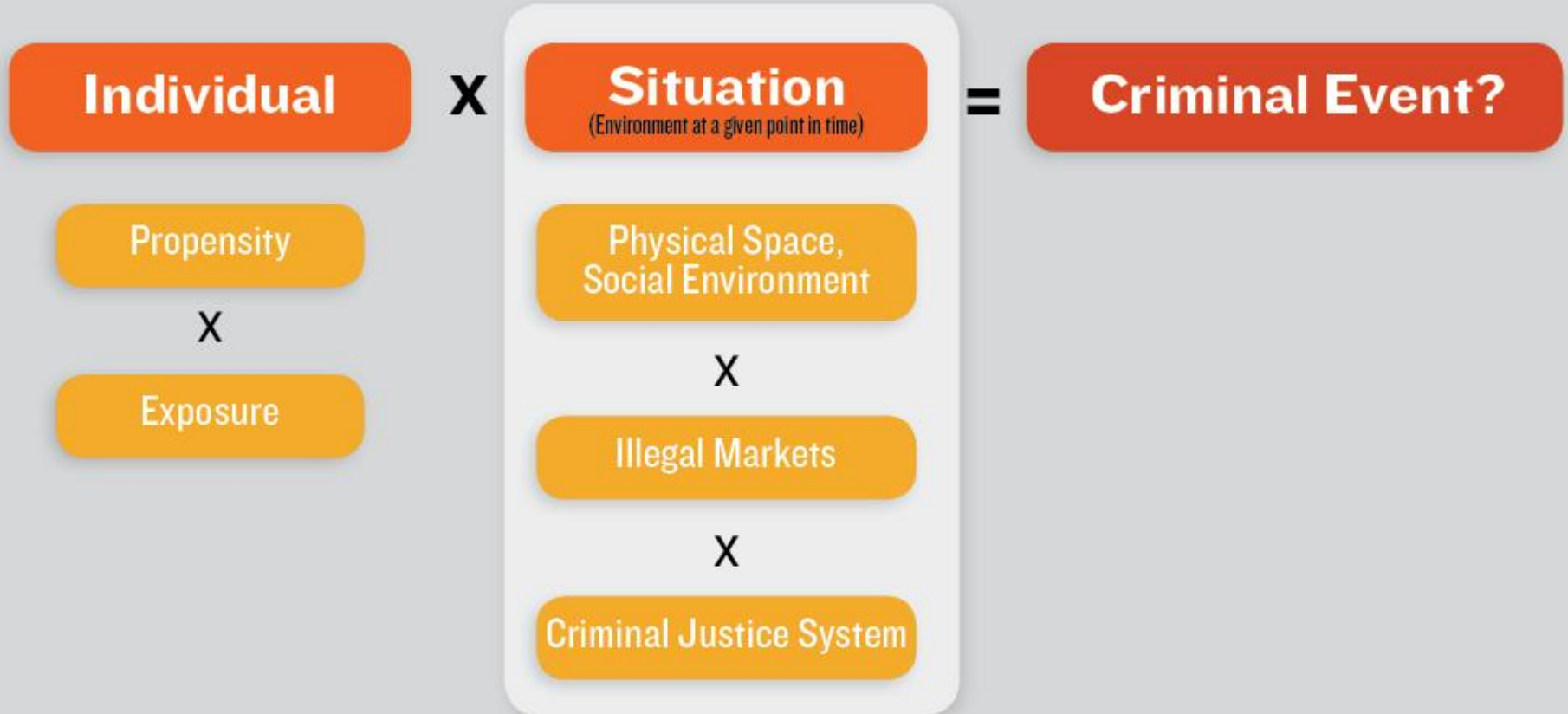




Intervention examples



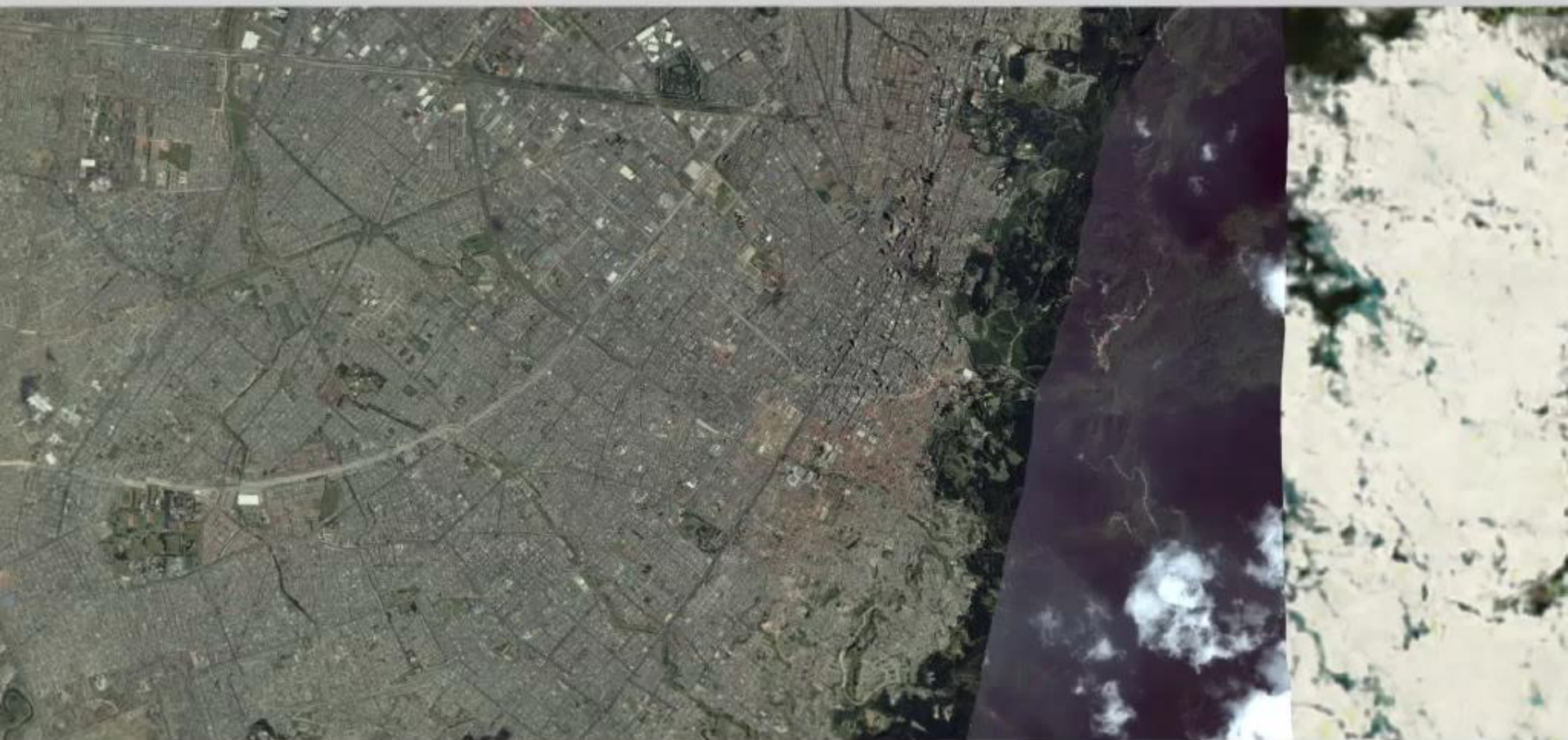
Determinants of the criminal event



A high-angle, black and white photograph of a busy sidewalk. The image is heavily blurred, showing the lower legs and feet of many people walking in various directions. The sidewalk is marked with white painted lines, and the overall scene conveys a sense of constant movement and a crowded public space.

**Crime is highly
concentrated in
time and space**

Concentration of **theft** in time and space: the case of La Capuchina in Bogota

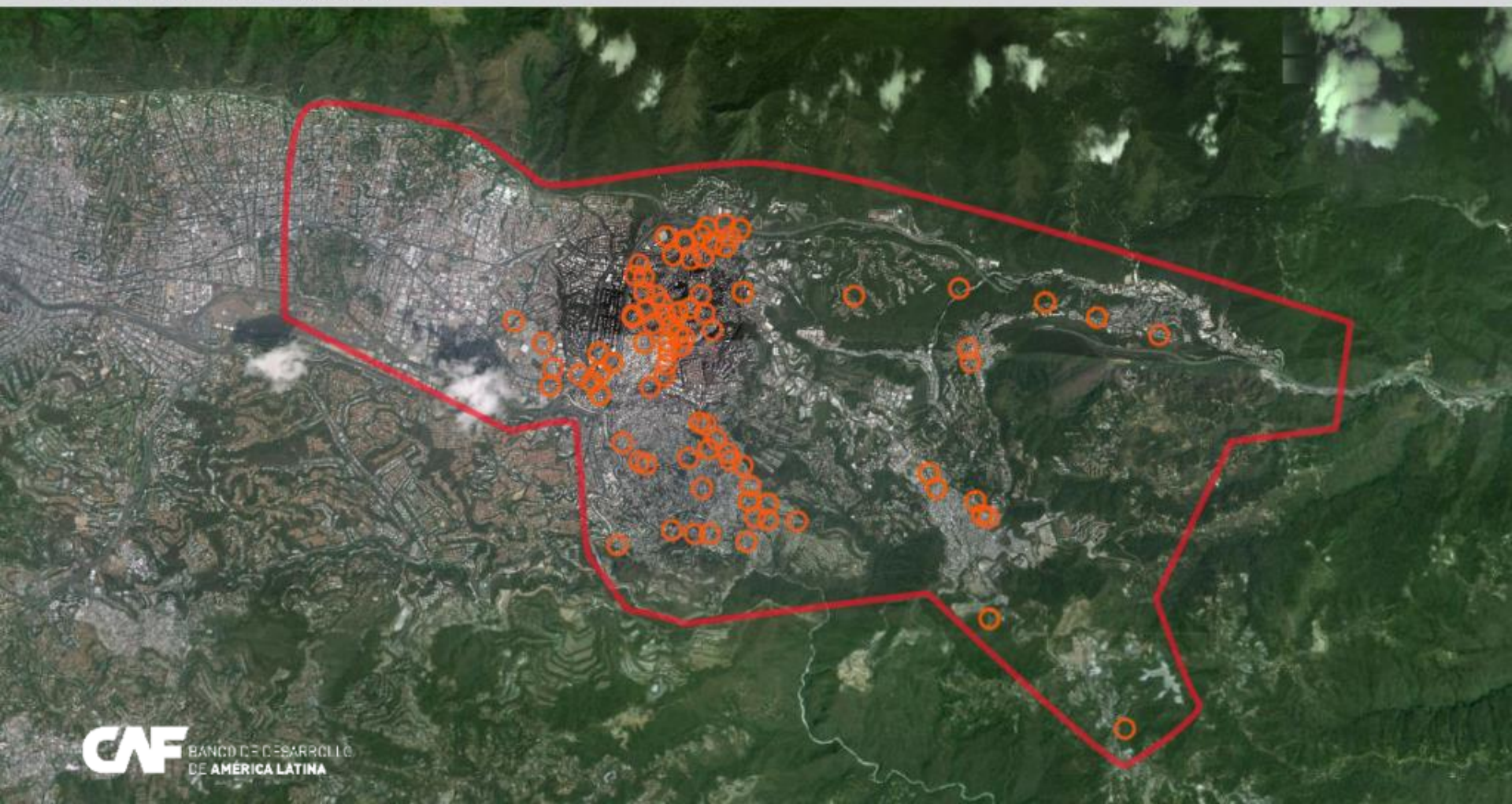


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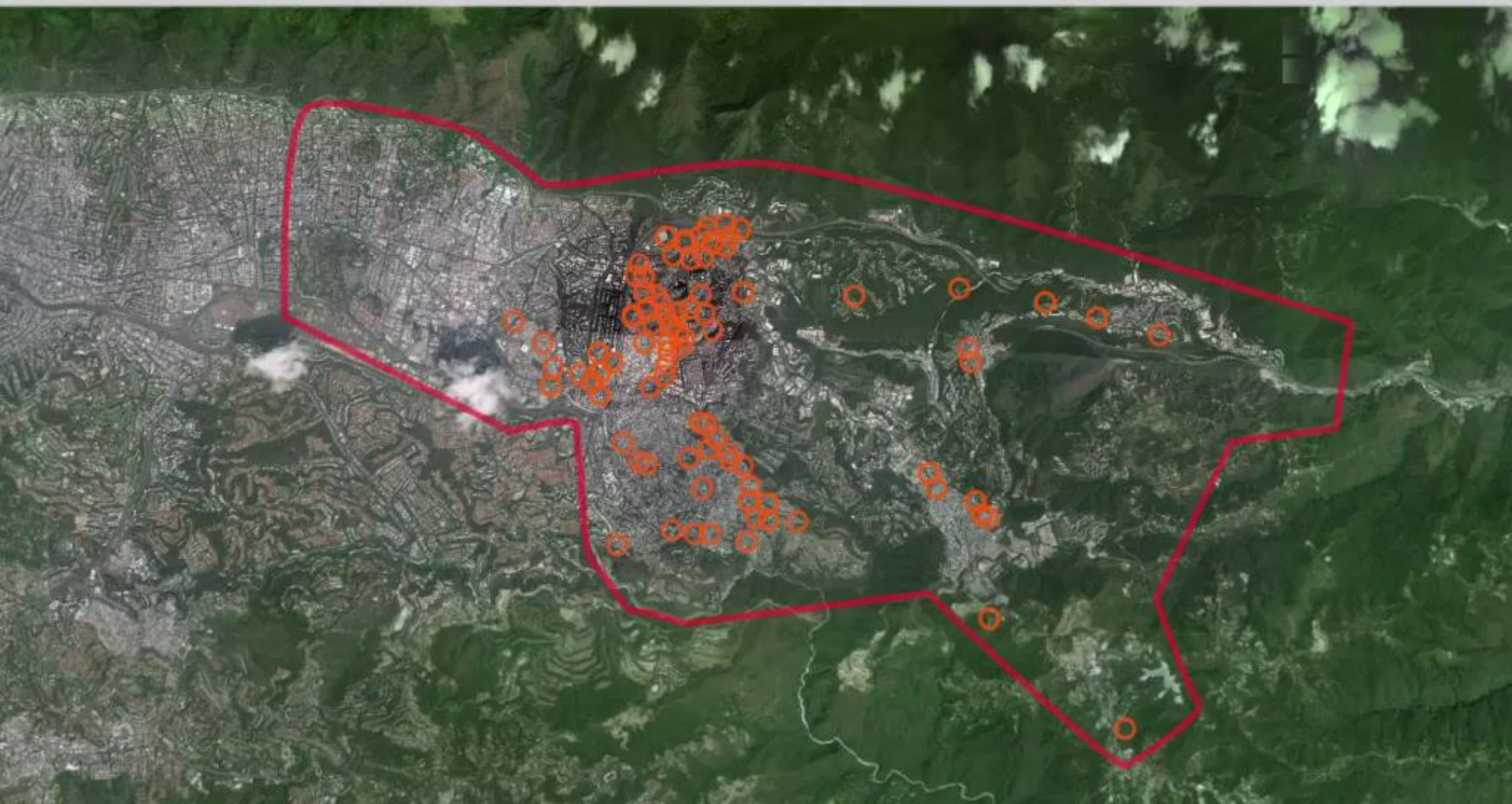
**In the Sucre municipality of
Caracas 100% of homicides
are concentrated in only 9%
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Source: Kronick and Ortega, 2014



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Intervention examples

Hotspot
policing

Example:
**33% reduction in
street violence in
Jacksonville, Florida**

(Taylor et al. 2011.)

Intervention examples

**Hotspot
policing**

**Intervention over
the quality of public
spaces (lighting and
public parks)**

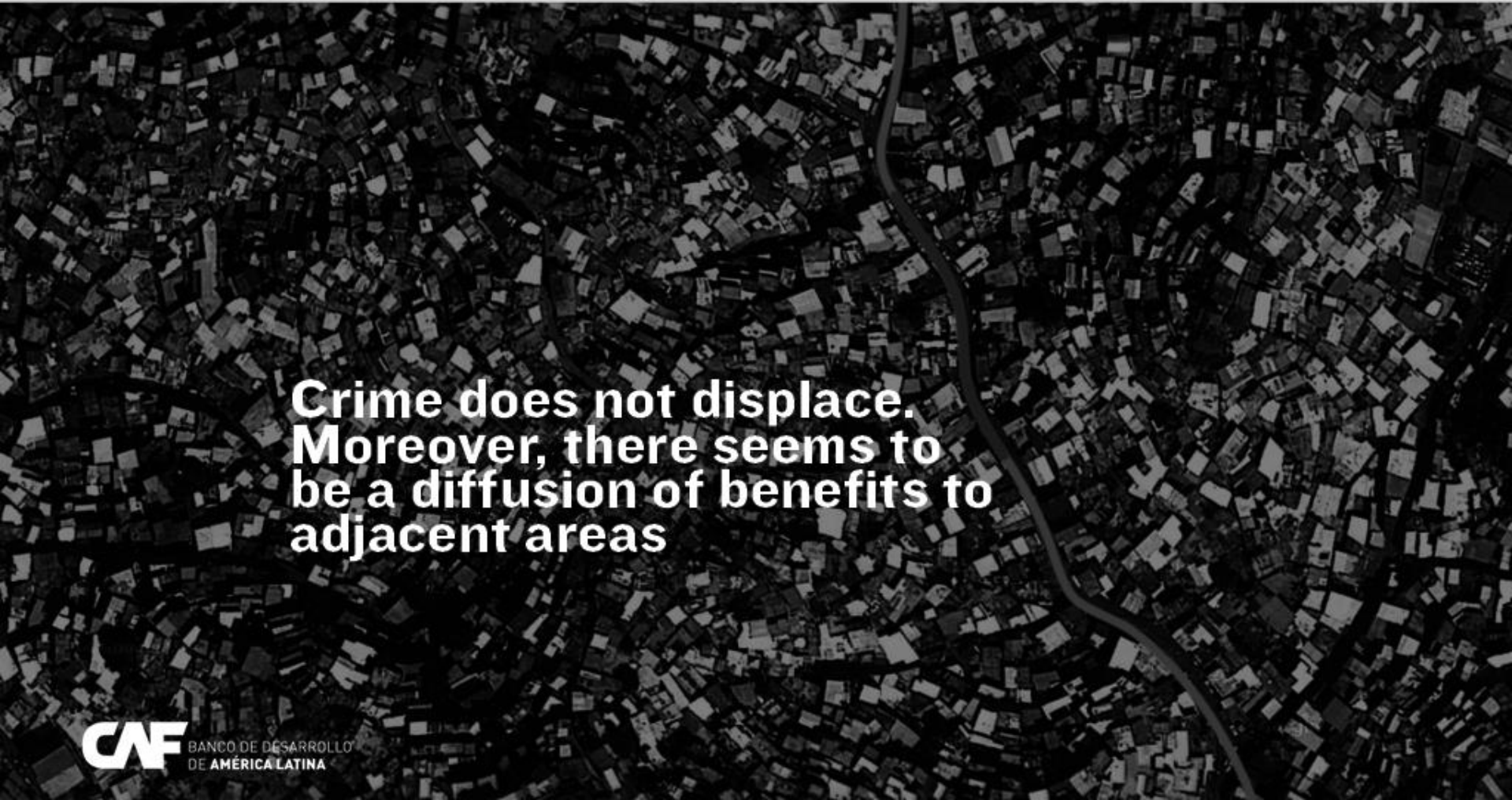
**Example:
33% reduction in
street violence in
Jacksonville, Florida**

(Taylor et al. 2011.)

**Improving lighting
favors a reduction in
crime of up to 21%**

(Welsh and Farrington, 2007)

Intervention examples

An aerial, black and white photograph of a densely packed urban neighborhood. The image shows a complex network of narrow streets and small, rectangular buildings. A prominent, winding road or path cuts through the center of the area. The overall appearance is that of a highly populated, possibly informal settlement or a traditional urban core.

**Crime does not displace.
Moreover, there seems to
be a diffusion of benefits to
adjacent areas**

Determinants of the criminal event



A high-angle, blurred photograph of a crowd of people walking on a paved street with white crosswalk lines. The image is out of focus, showing only the lower legs and feet of the individuals, creating a sense of movement and a busy public space.

Illegal markets are key to the incidence of crime and violence in Latin America

Pharmacological channel

Economic channel

Systemic channel:

Illegal
drug markets



Contract enforcement
through violence

Colombia would have had 25% fewer homicides in 2008 if cocaine production had not increased as it did since 1994

Source: Mejía and Restrepo 2013



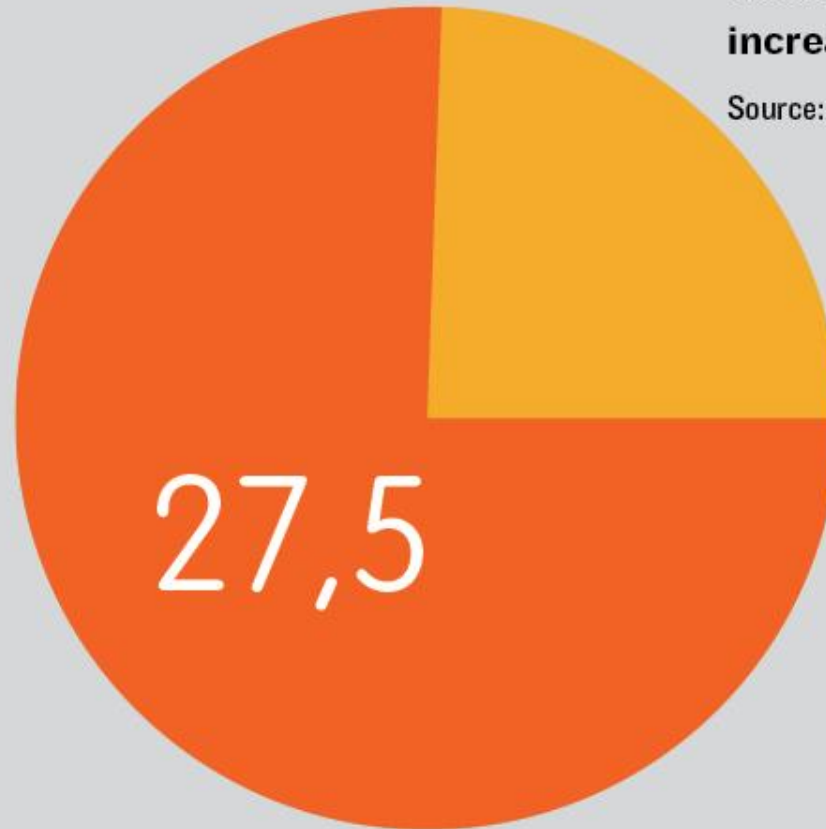
36,3

2008

Homicides per 100,000 inhabitants

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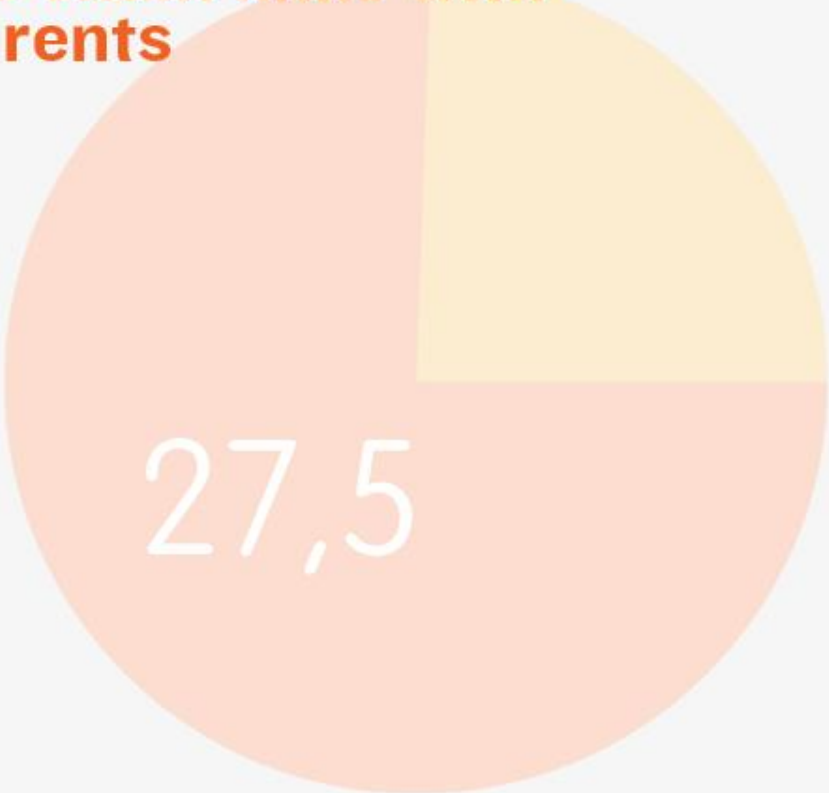
Source: Mejía and Restrepo 2013



2008

Homicides per 100,000 inhabitants

**Selective interventions
against drug trafficking:
attacking the chain links with
the greatest rents**



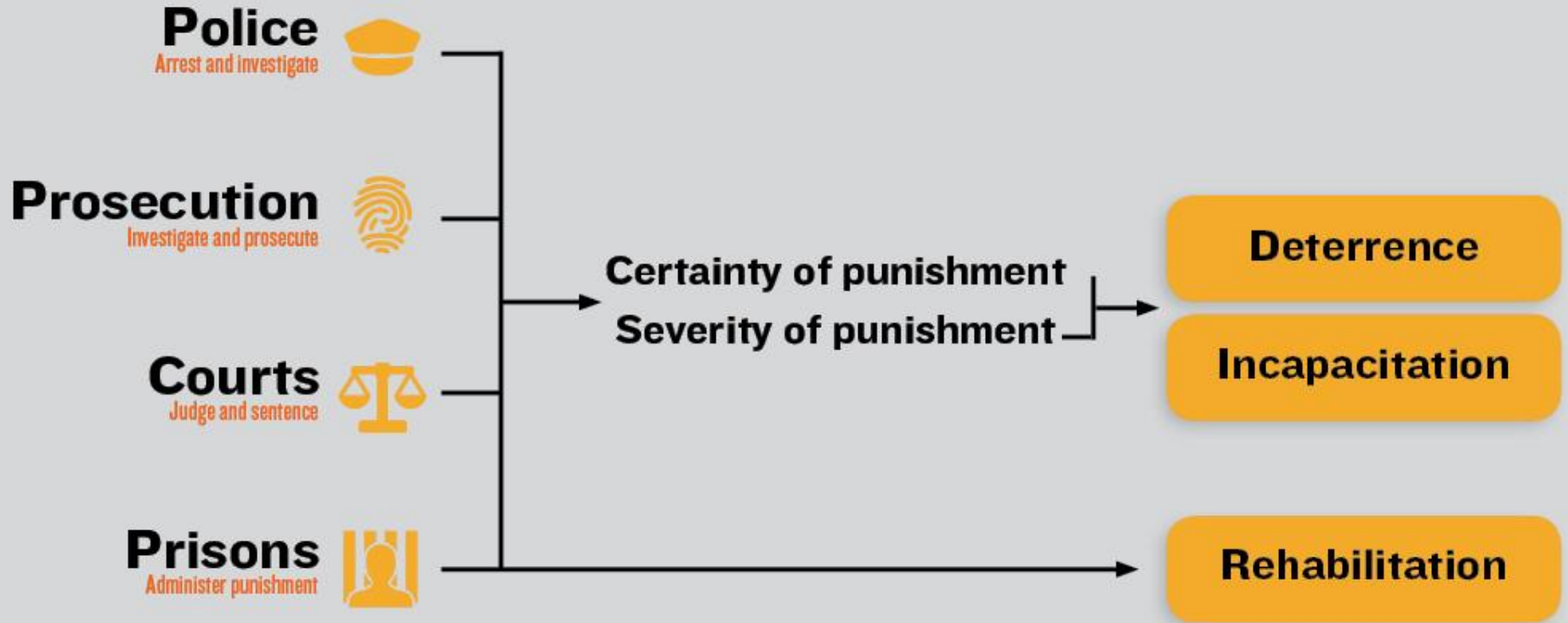
2008

Determinants of the criminal event





**Better to deter
than to punish**



Certainty of punishment: Police officers, prosecutors, courts

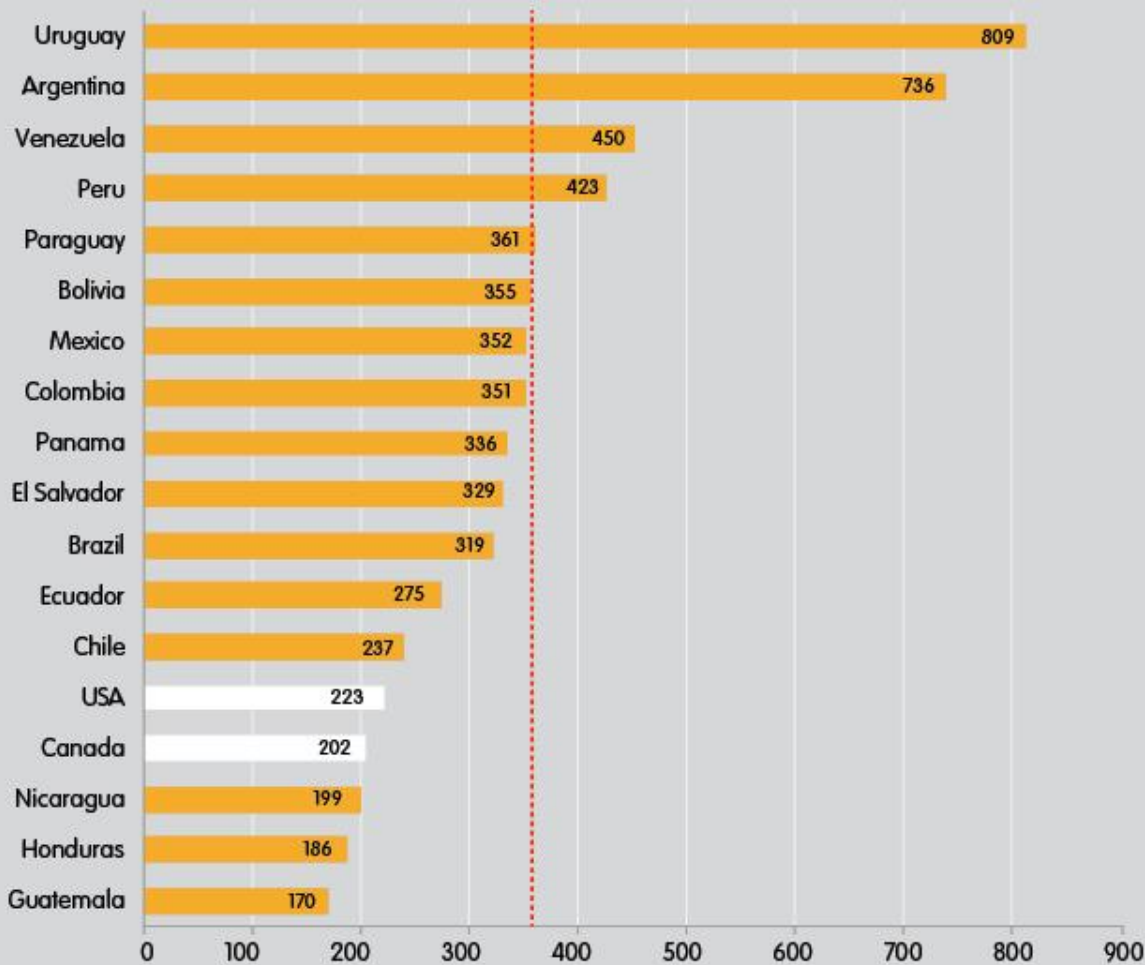
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Certainty of punishment: Police officers, prosecutors, courts

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- The main channel is **deterrence** (and not the greater number of arrests)

Police officers per 100 thousand inhabitants

Source: Kronick (2014) and OEA (2013)



Certainty of punishment: Police officers, prosecutors, courts

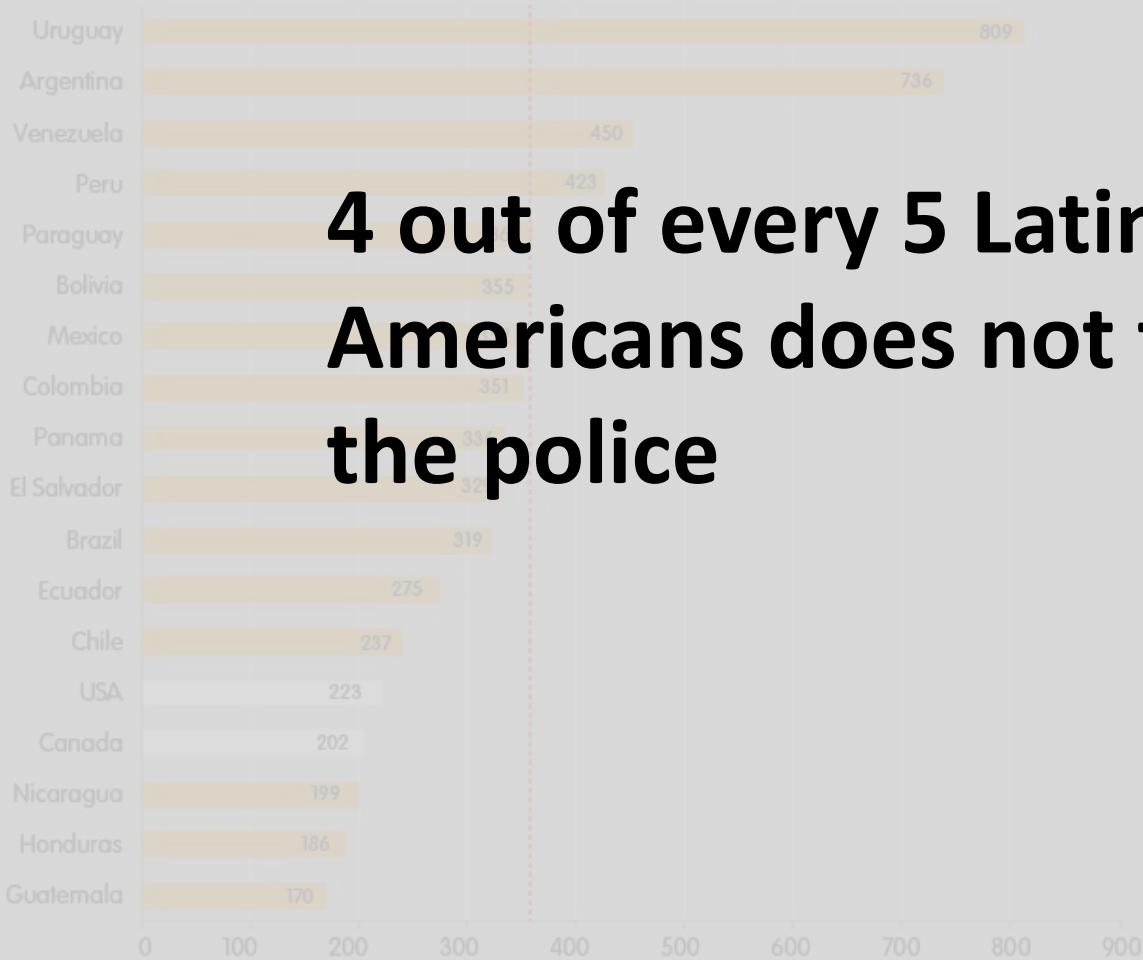
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- Police is not enough. Prosecutors and courts are key. Of every 100 reported crimes in Latin America there are only 4 sentences (versus 9 in North America and 15 in Europe)

Police officers per 100 thousand inhabitants

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4 out of every 5 Latin Americans does not trust the police

Certainty of punishment: Police officers, prosecutors, courts

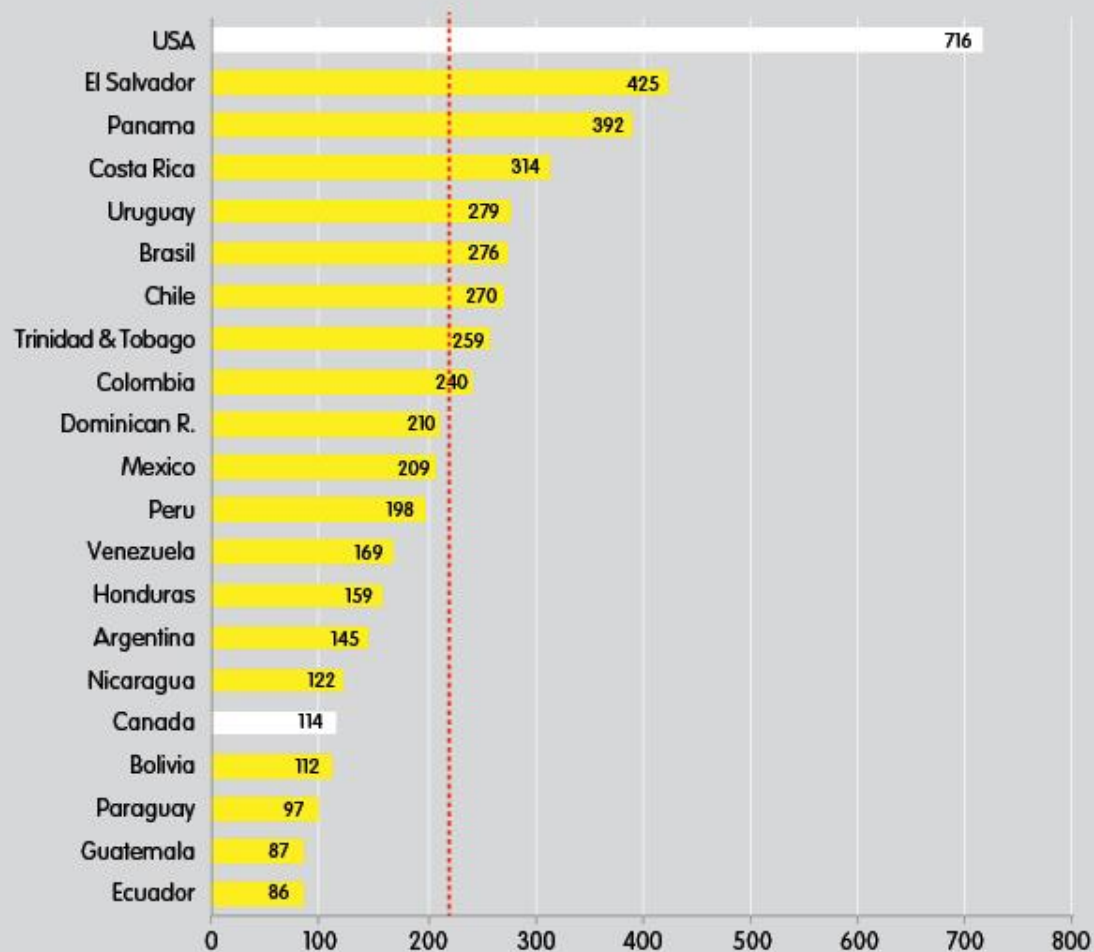
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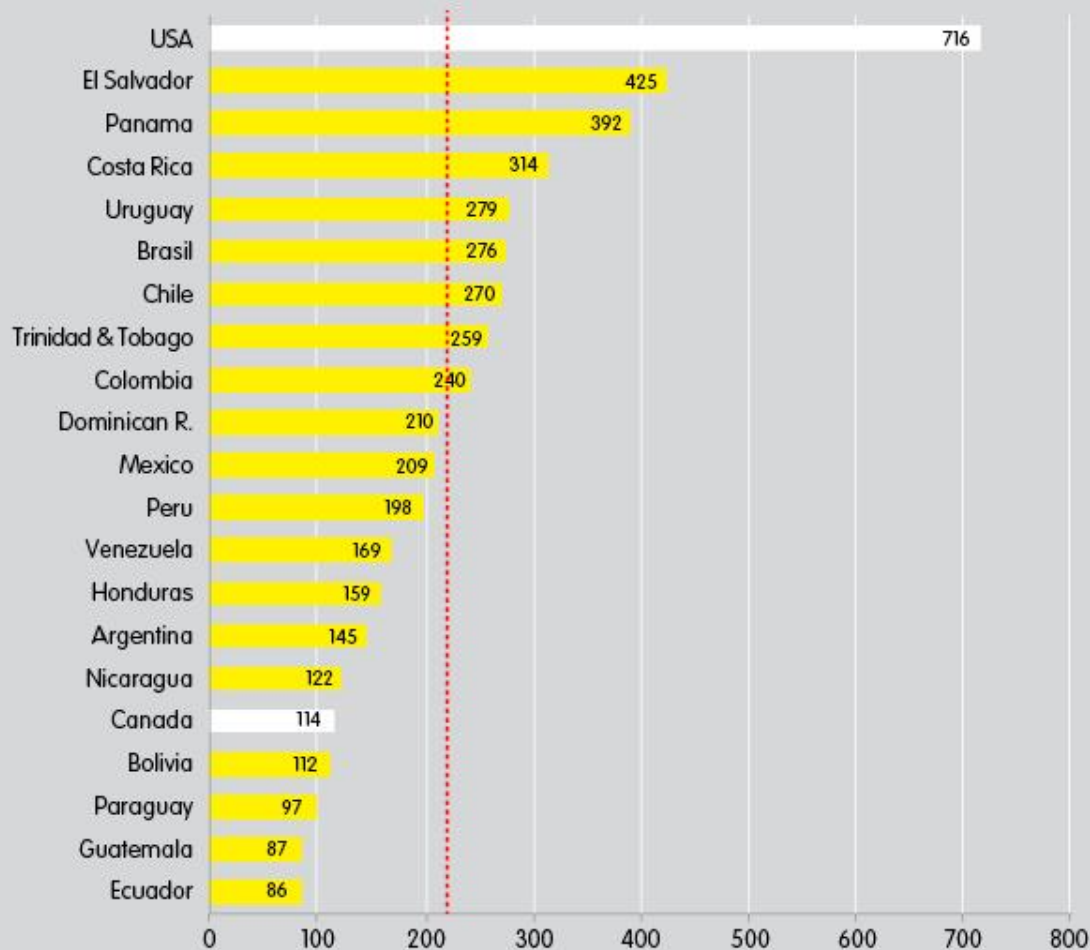
Inmates per 100 thousand inhabitants

Source: ICPS (2014)



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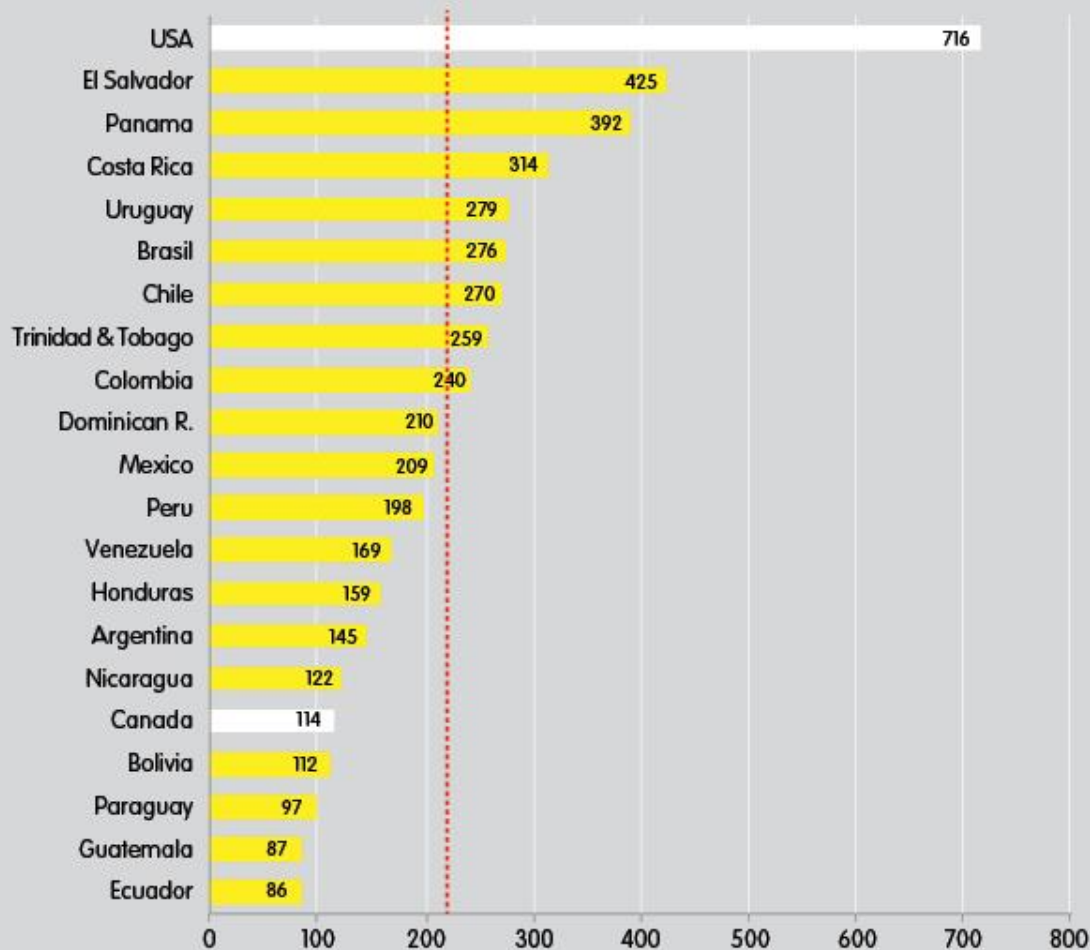


Severity of punishment: sentences and prisons

The prison population increased 163% in the past two decades

Inmates per 100 thousand inhabitants

Source: ICPS (2014)

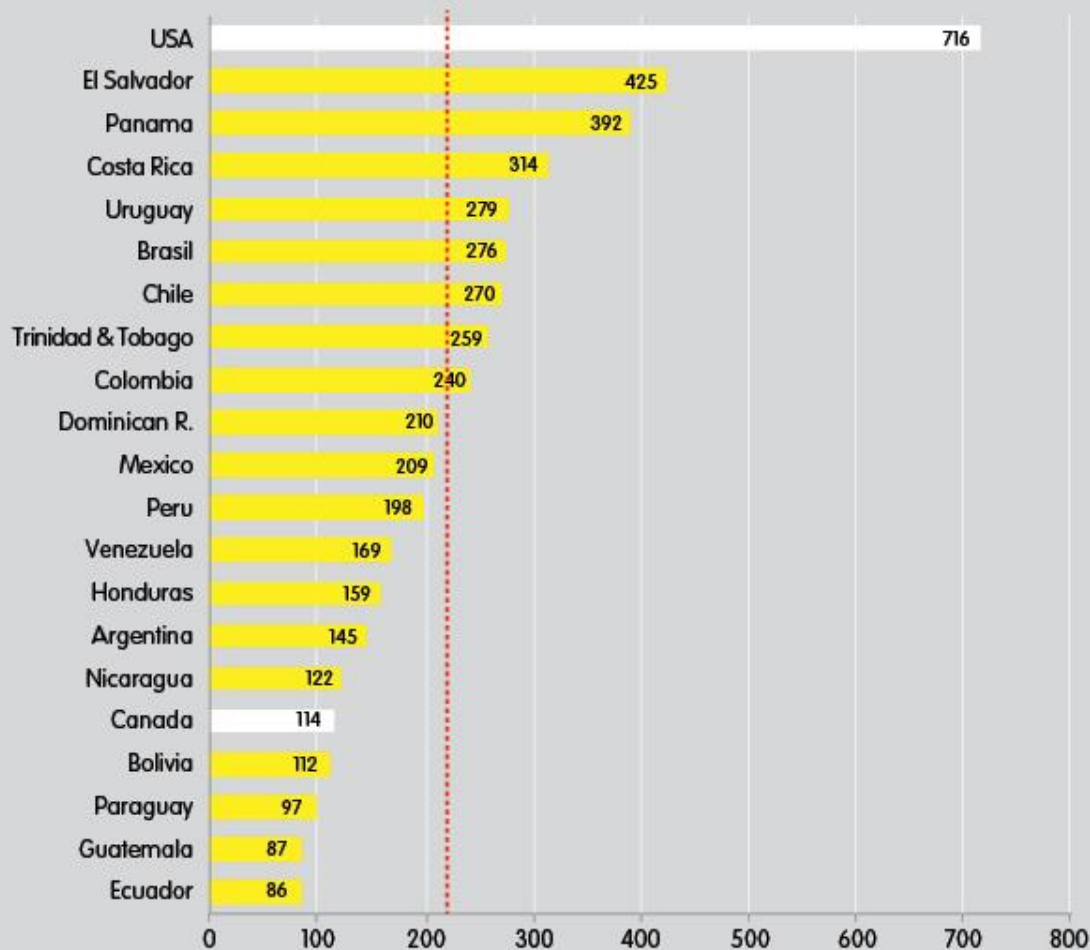


Severity of punishment: sentences and prisons

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- Incapacitation: To put criminals in jail mechanically reduces crime

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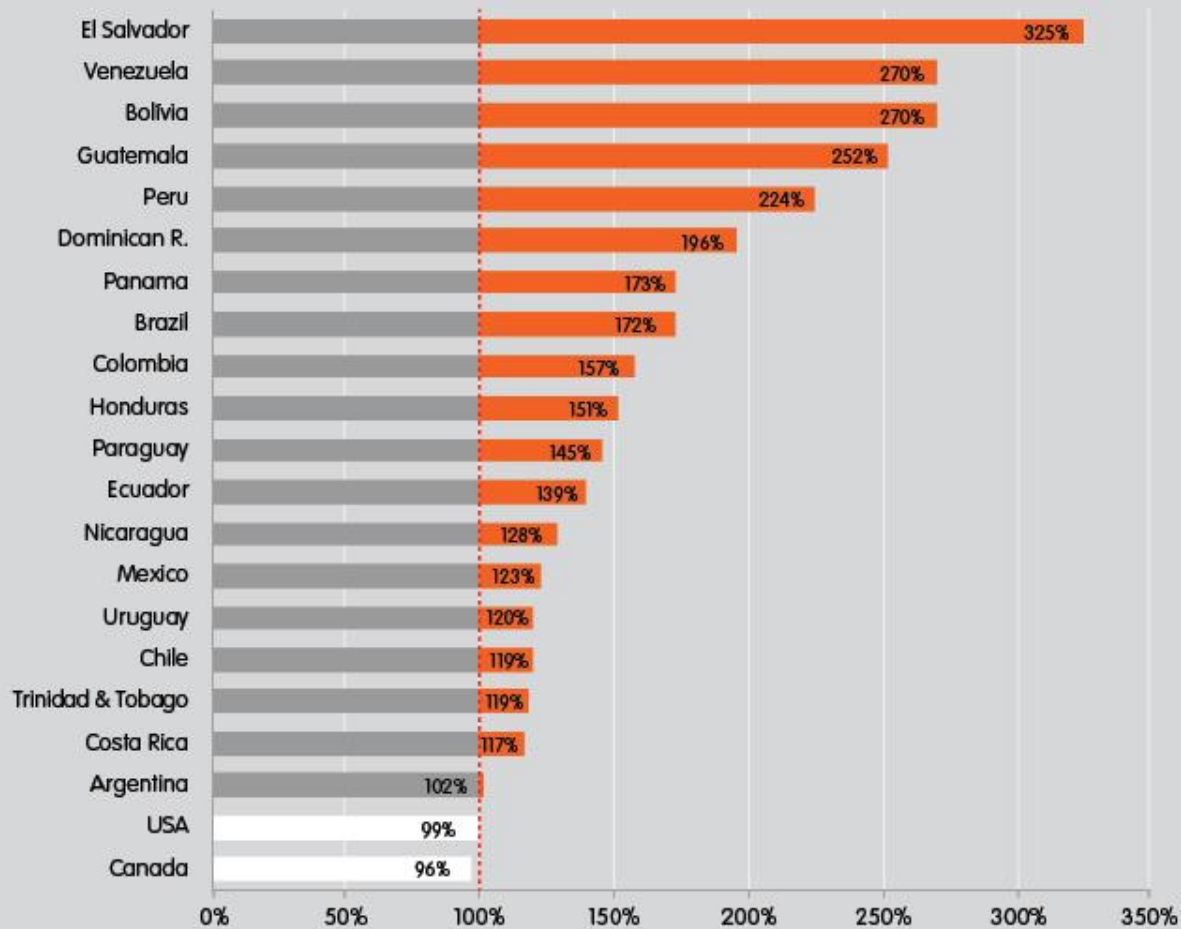


Severity of punishment: sentences and prisons

- The prison population increased 163% in the past two decades
- Incapacitation: To put criminals in jail mechanically reduces crime
- More severe sentences are hardly effective as deterrence

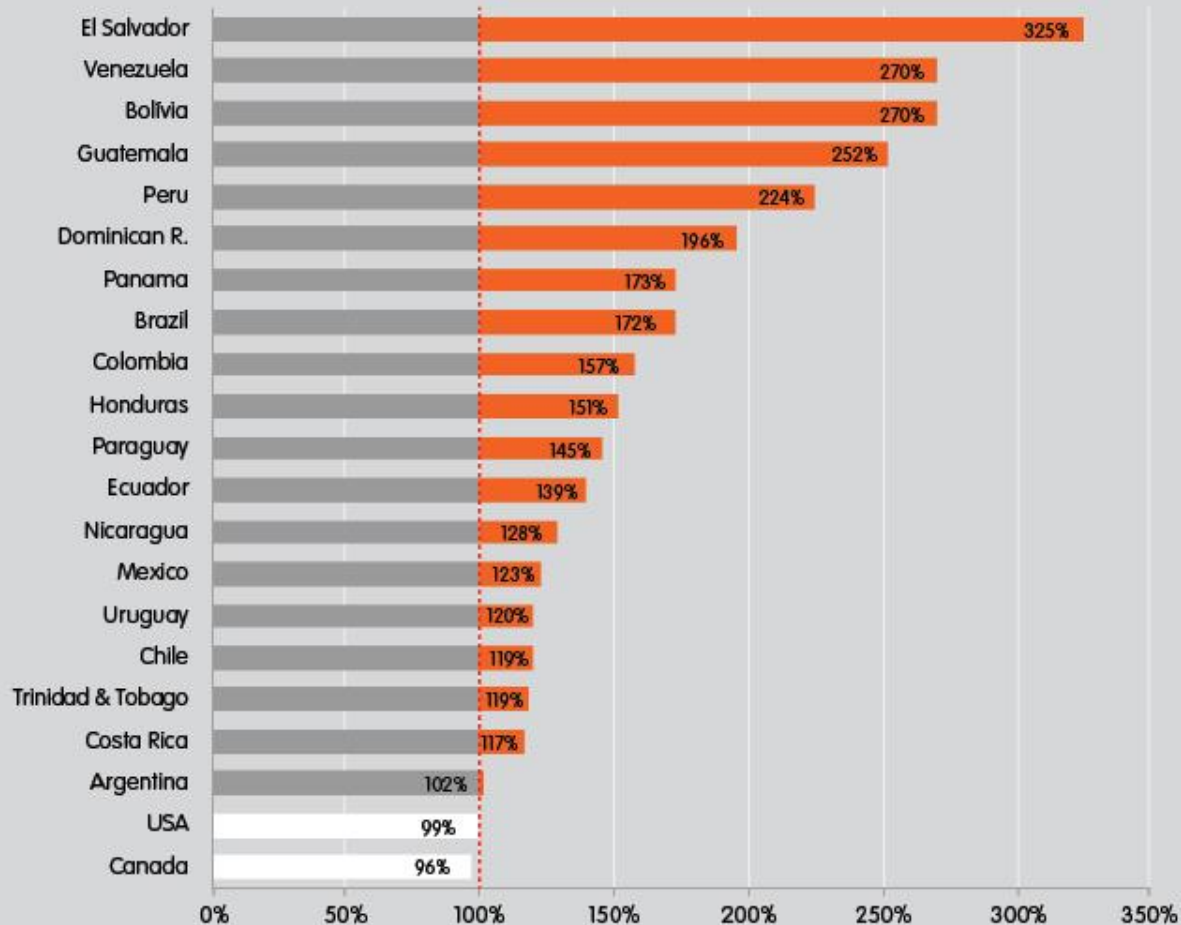
Prison occupancy rate (optimal %)

Source: ICPS (2014)



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Rehabilitation... or schools of crime

There are two people for every sleeping space

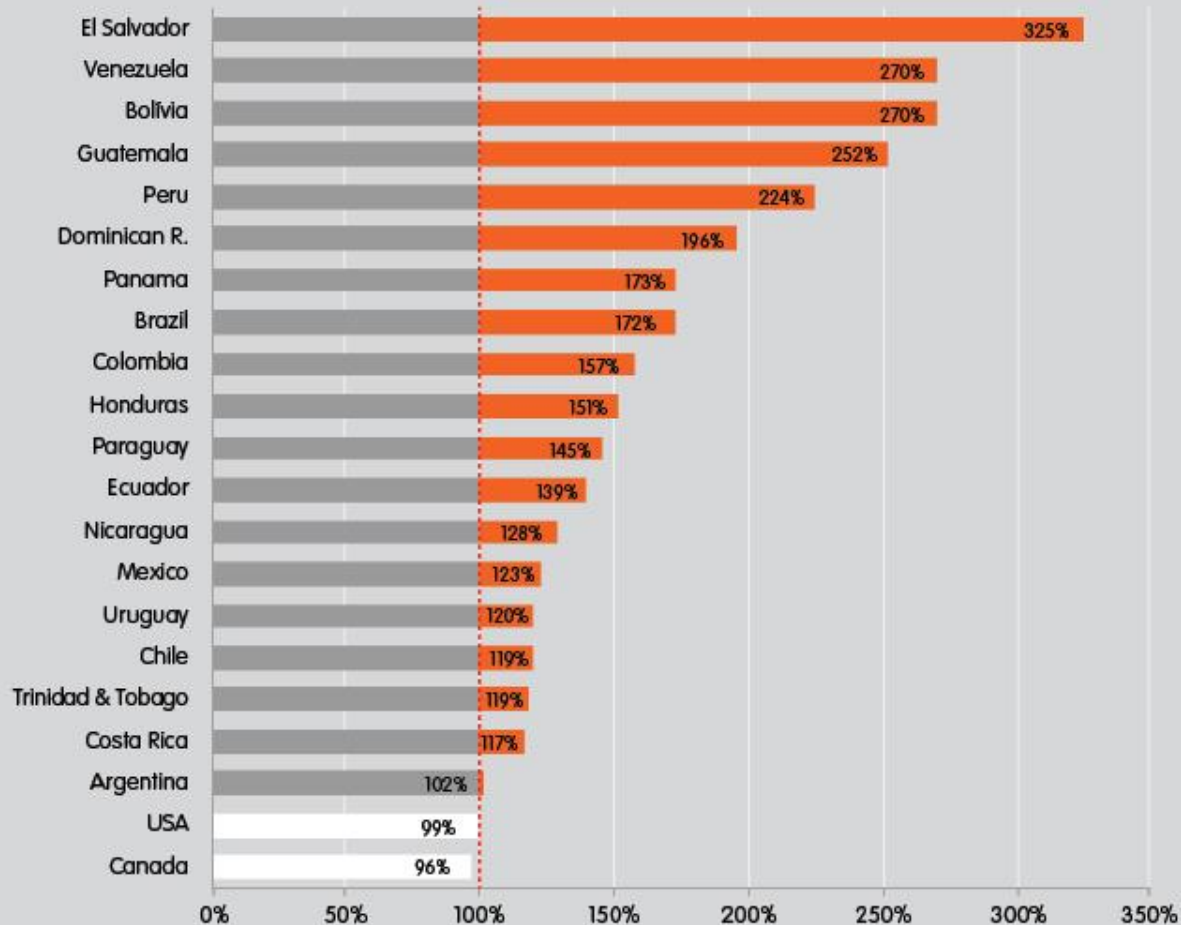
● 64% feel less safe in prison than outside

Only 1 every 4 inmates takes part in educational activities

Source: PNUD (2013)

Prison occupancy rate (optimal %)

Source: ICPS (2014)



Rehabilitation... or schools of crime

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- 64% feel less safe in prison than outside

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Source: PNUD (2013)

Alternative mechanisms to imprisonment?

- Electronic monitoring reduces re-offending by 48% (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

Source: Di Tella and Schargrodsky 2013

Towards a safer Latin America

Implement policies in a wide range of directions

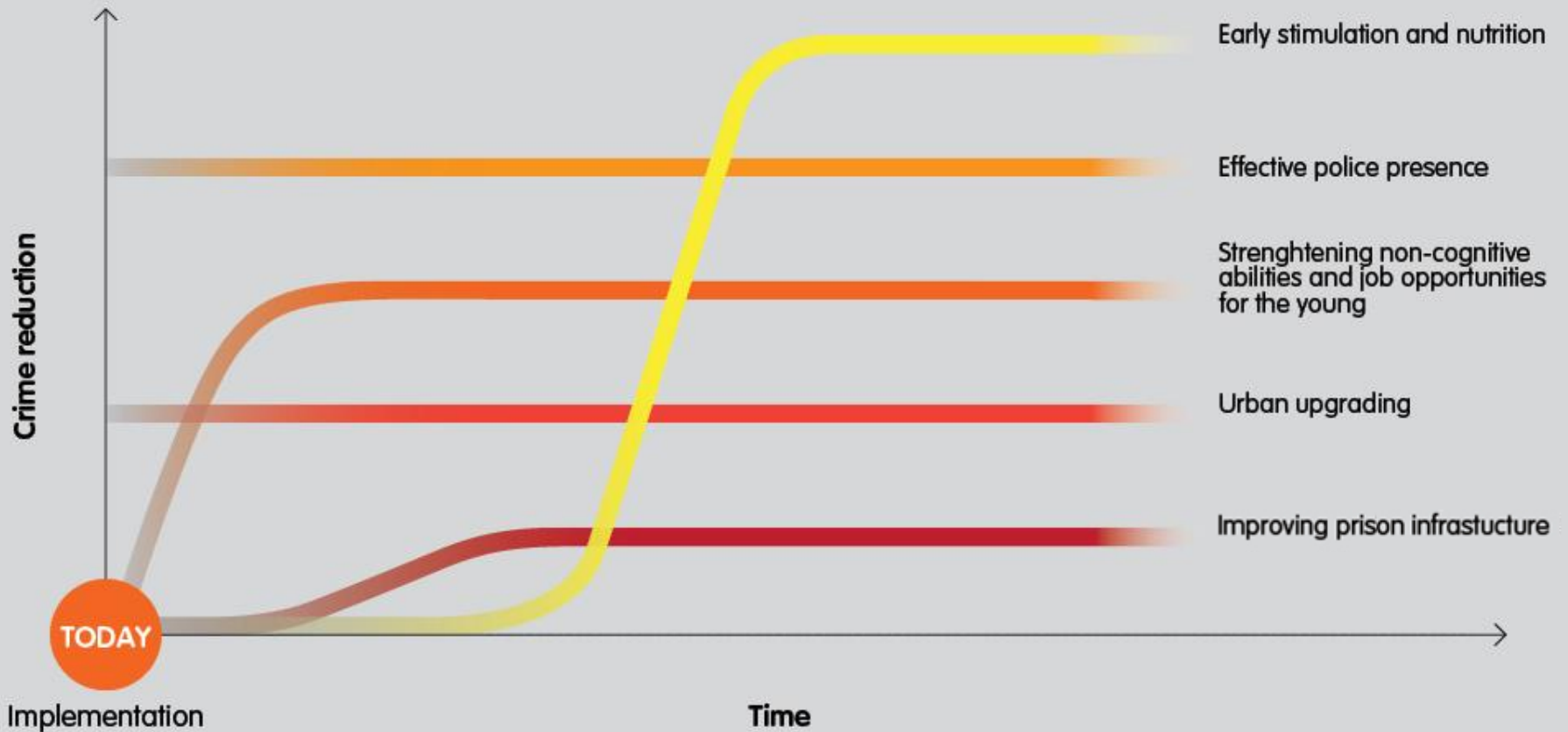
Critical areas:

- Public officials (e.g. police ranks) with technical capacity
- Programs designed to strengthen cognitive and non-cognitive abilities of youth at risk
- Youth employment programs
- Spatially targeted interventions for urban upgrading, social cohesion and policing services

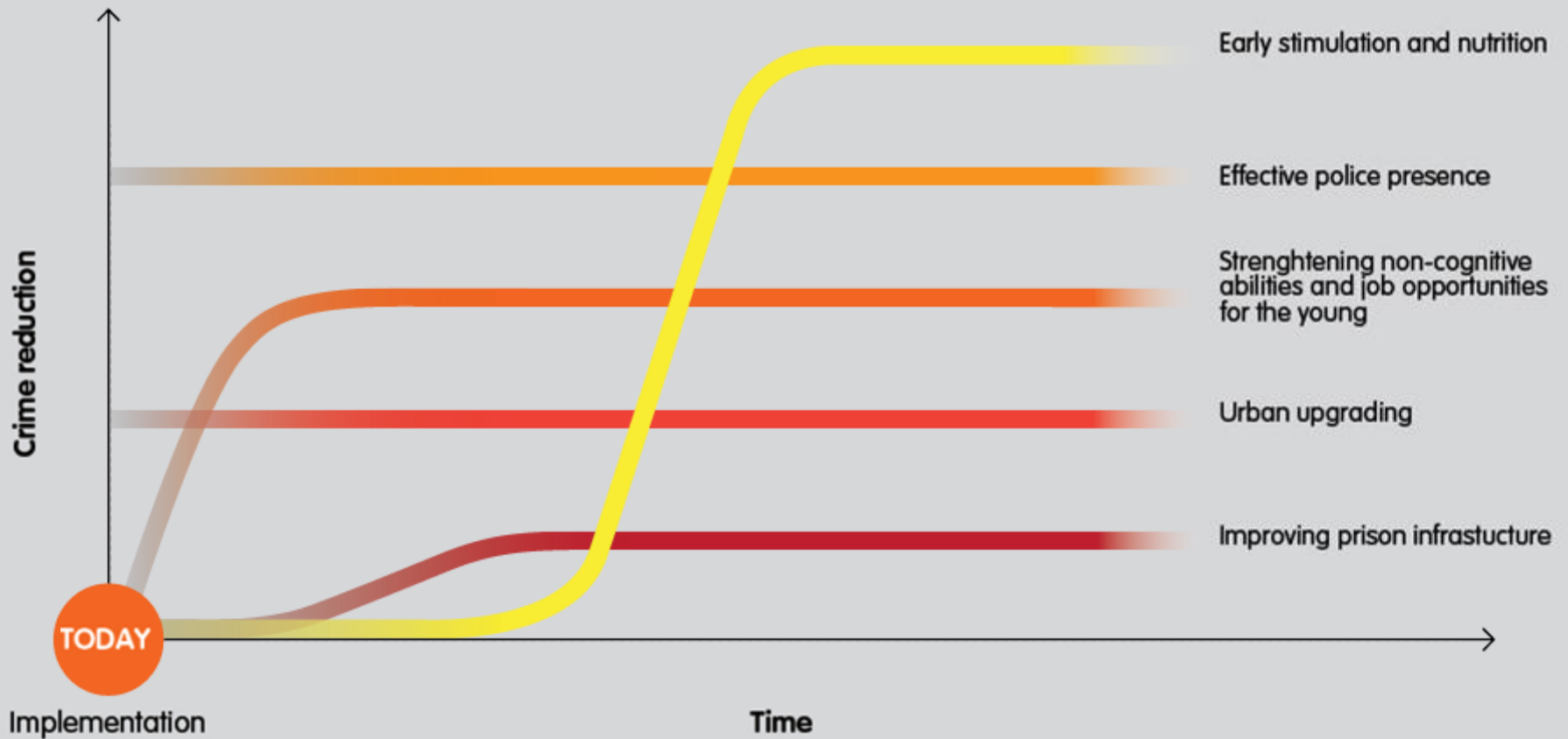
How to prioritize interventions?

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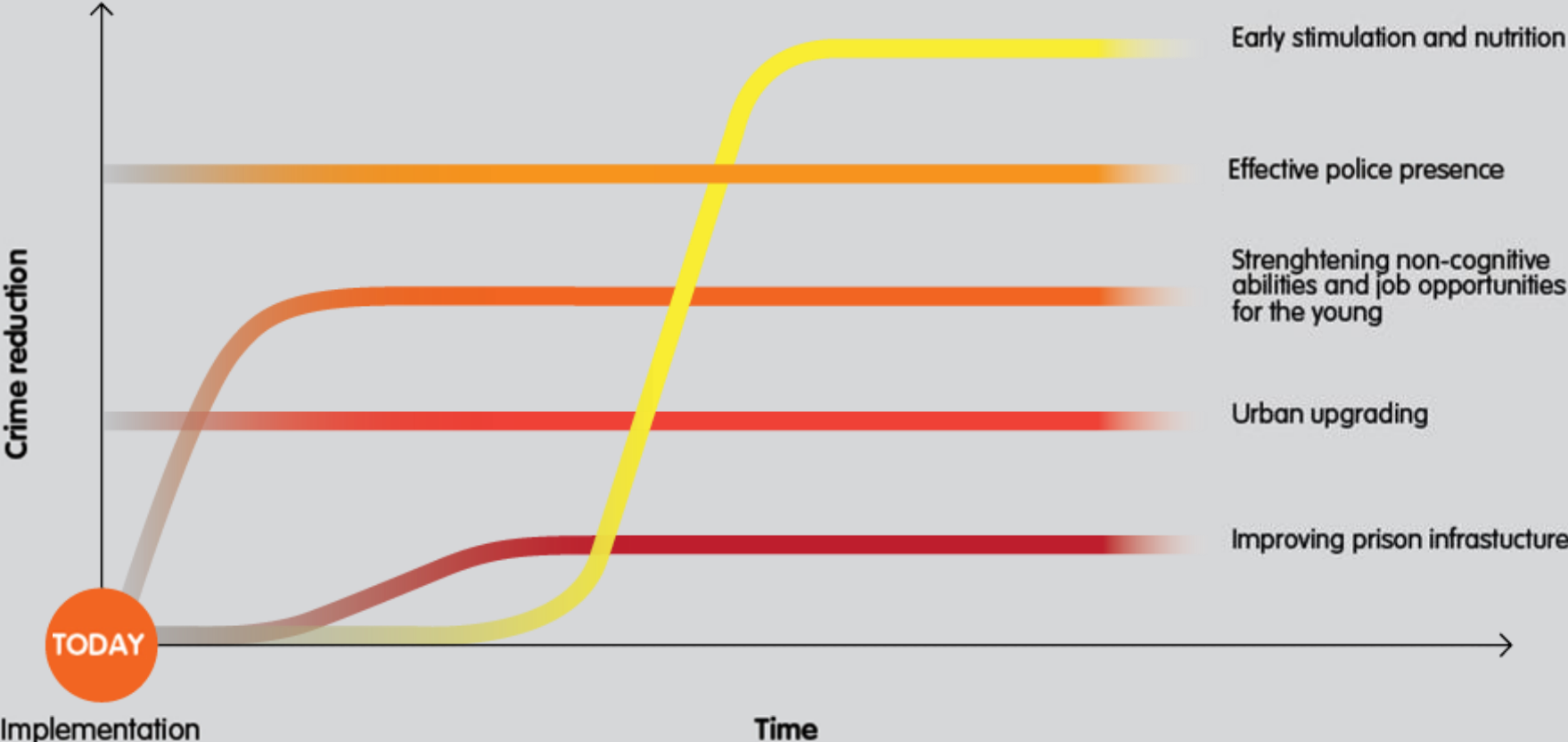
Effect size vs temporal horizon



Problems in the implementation of policies



Problems in the legitimacy of criminal justice institutions





126.456^(*)

*Homicides in Latin America in 2010