

Using Research to Build Capacity for Evidence-Based Crime Policy

(The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix)



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Presentation Path



- Evidence-based crime policy is a necessary and important...

...but it is a “wicked” problem and we have a long way to go.
- Addressing the issue requires building capacity for EBCP.
- Can we utilize research itself as part of that capacity?
(example: The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix)

Evidence-Based Crime Policy

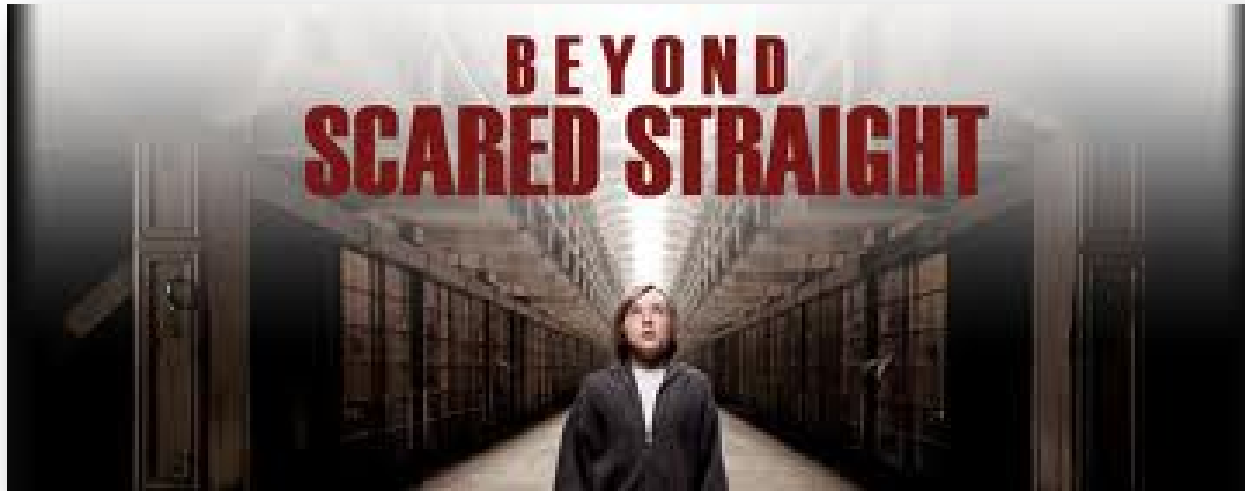


1. Policies and practices reflect principles derived from rigorous research.
2. Some decisions include and incorporate knowledge from research and scientific processes.
3. Research is “a part of the conversation” when justice practitioners or policy makers strategize about crime prevention.

Evidence-Based Crime Policy: Benefits

1. Reduces crime, disorder and fear.
2. Increases transparency and legitimacy.
(aligned with modern democratic governance)
3. Develops and tightens accountability systems.
4. Improves the motivation and work of practitioners.
5. Avoids “cures” that may harm (or just waste money).

But we still have a long ways to go



“Knowing the solid research in support of hot spots policing, we found the significant challenge was applying it One of those challenges was the expected political opposition that would occur when elected officials learned that officers were being taken away from their constituency to patrol higher crime areas.”

Gary Hoelzer, Police Captain, Town and Country Police Department, Missouri

Example: Reality of American Policing

- ❑ Reliance on reactive, random beat patrol.
- ❑ Investigations: reactive, individual, case-by-case.
- ❑ Continued isolation from other agencies.
- ❑ Problem-solving/analytic process not institutionalized.
- ❑ Lack of professional development in this area.
- ❑ Little infrastructure or support for research or analysis.
- ❑ Decision making models value “hunches”, experience, best guesses, emotions, feelings, “common sense”

Why are we in this situation?

The supply and demand for research is not in equilibrium.

The supply of research



- ❑ Cost of use is high and some research is indigestible
- ❑ Demand does not generate supply
- ❑ Digestible research still requires implementation.
- ❑ Very few translators or translation tools for research.

The demand for research is low

- Practitioner receptivity is low for many reasons.
- Belief of limited resources to build capacity for EBCP.
- The research may go against our “common sense”.
- Others are better at disseminating messages.
- Few pressures that can generate demand from practice.

Why? Resilient cultural forces counter EBCP are formalized and institutionalized

The STANDARDIZATION of process-based culture in SOPs

The INSTITUTIONALIZATION of reactivity through functions

The BELIEF in, and PROLIFERATION of, mythologies

The EMOTIONALIZATION of practices

The ACCEPTANCE of “doing the minimum” (50% rule)

A HIGH SCHOOL mentality (science is nerdy, appearances matter)

“PROFESSIONAL” ORGANIZATIONS or UNIONS have different messages and goals

The gap

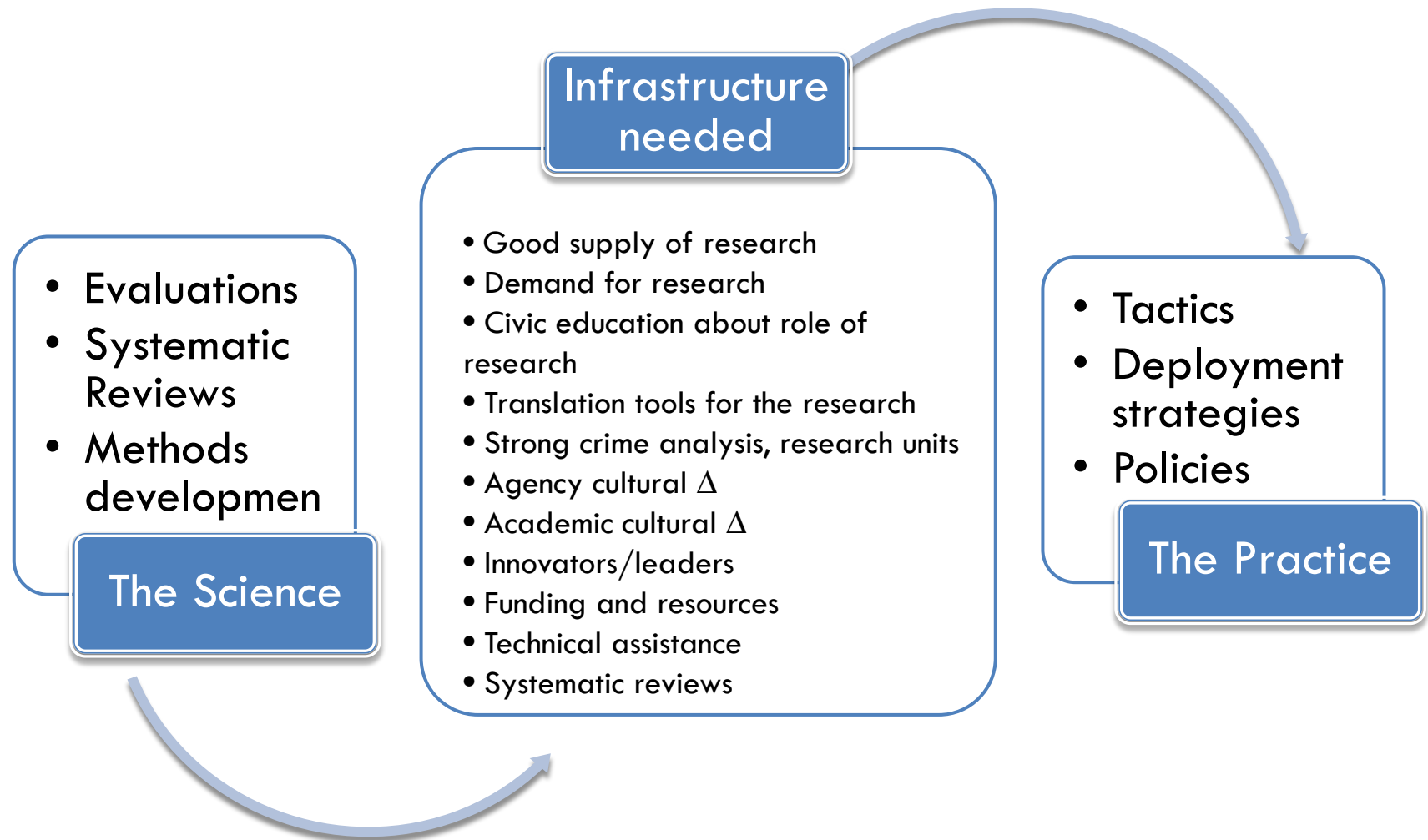
- Evaluations
- Systematic Reviews
- Methods development

The Research

- Tactics
- Deployment strategies
- Policies

The Practice

Building Capacity for EBCP



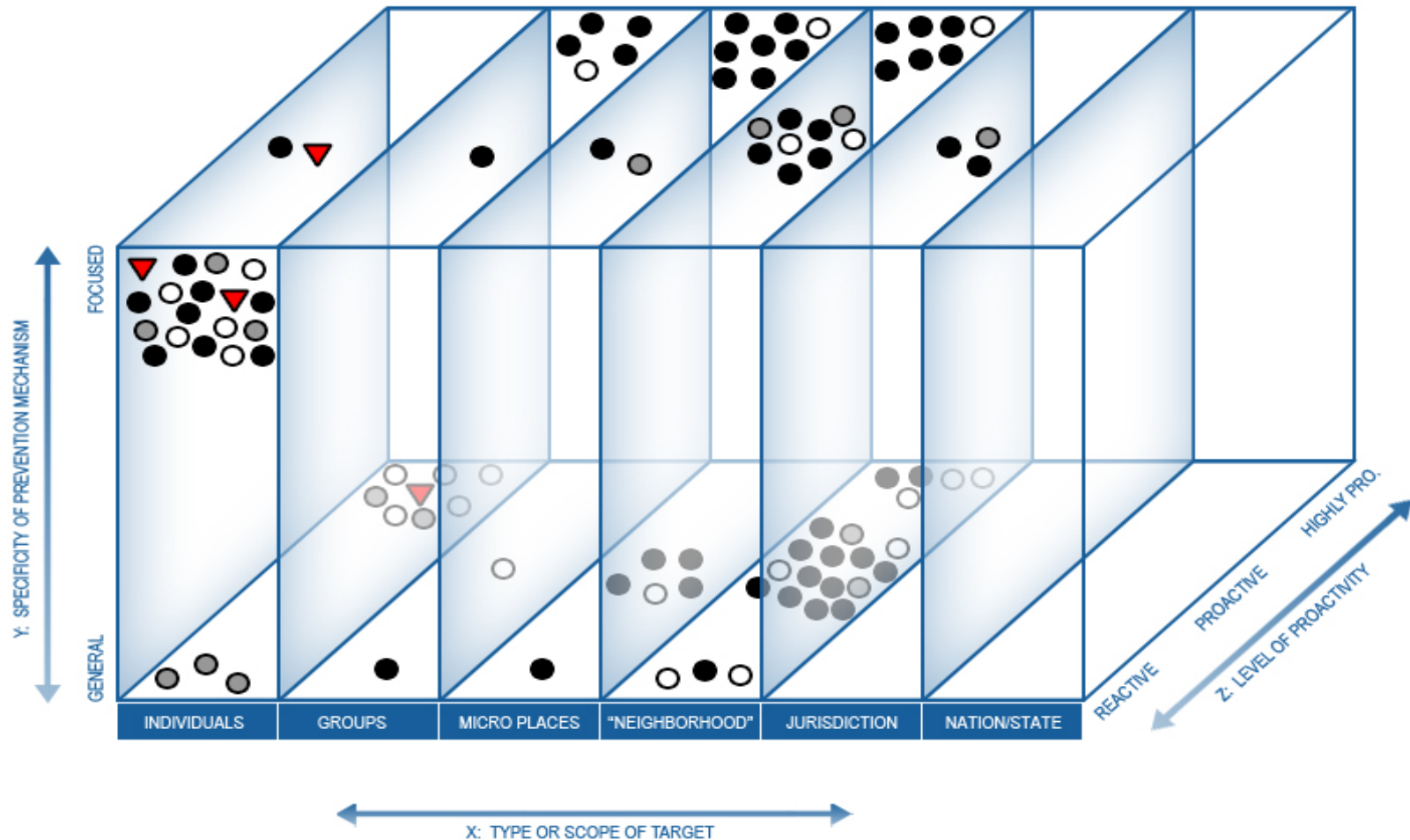
What can we do about it?

Using research to build capacity for evidence-based crime policy

Using research to build capacity for EBCP



1. Provocative outcomes
2. Synthesize research (systematic reviews)
3. Research-based translation tools
4. Strategic evidence application
5. Funding requirements



The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix

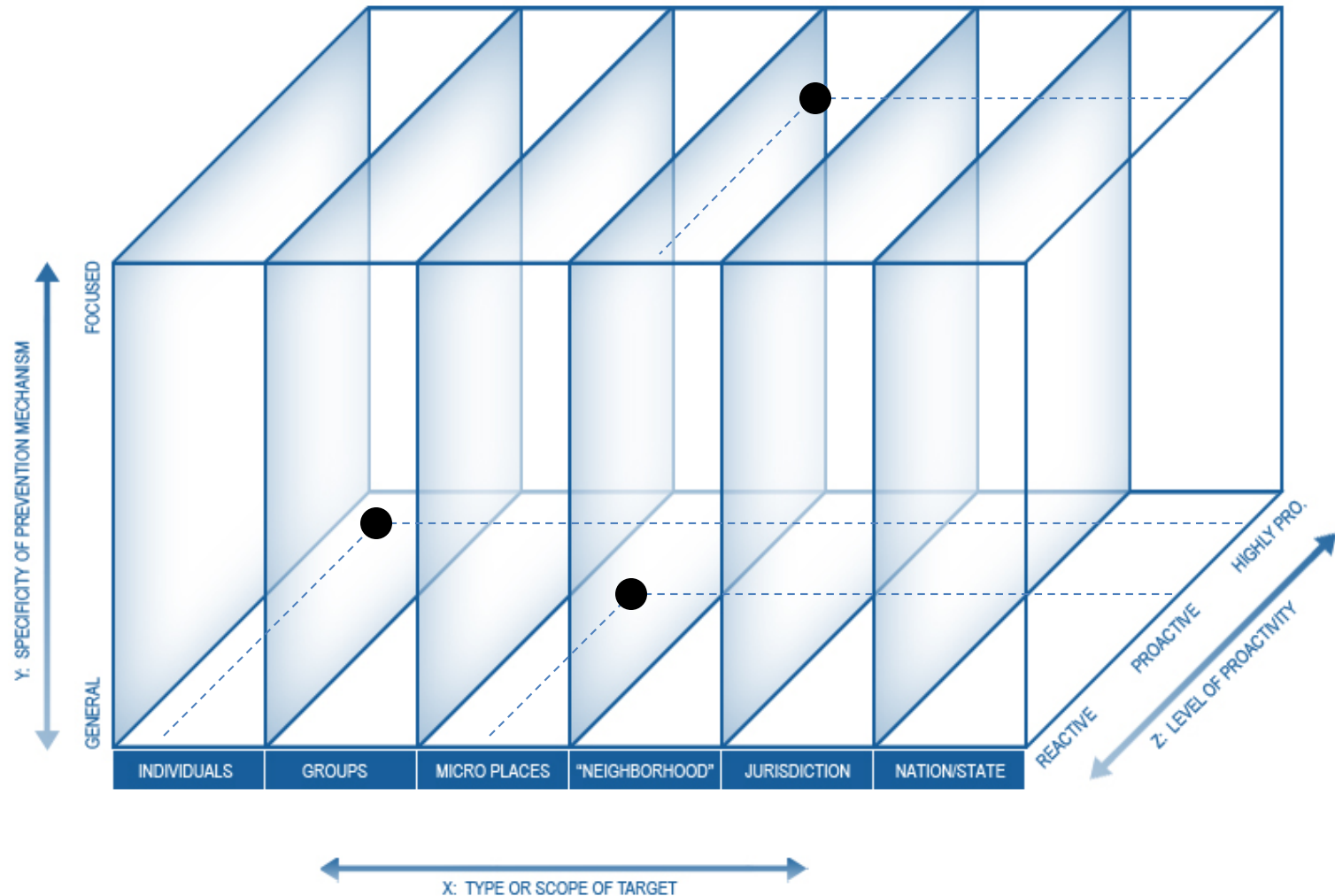
Cynthia Lum (GMU), Christopher Koper (PERF), and Cody Telep (GMU)

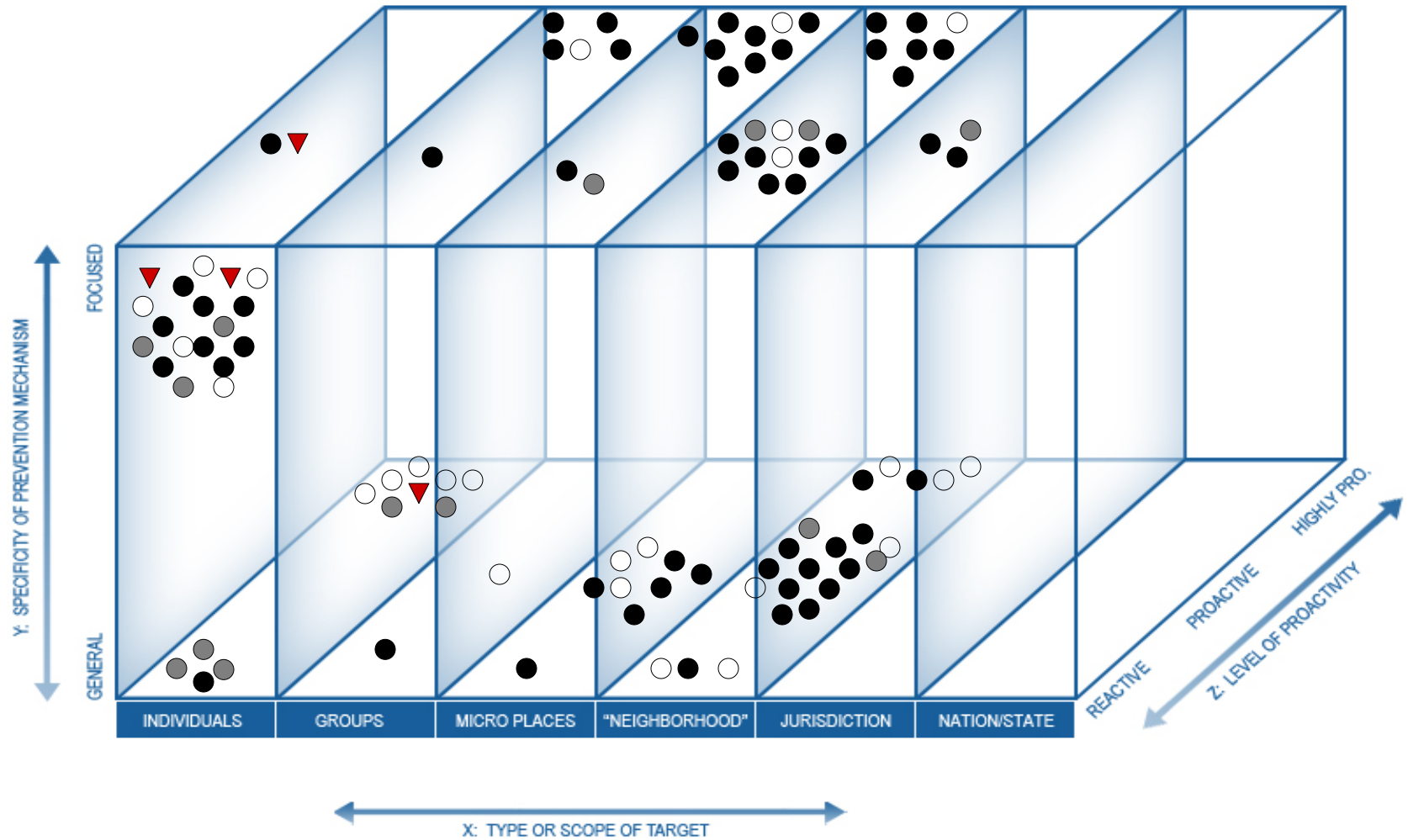
<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/matrix.html>

The research evidence in policing

- Hot spot policing at micro places for disorder
- Variety of POP efforts at hot spots of drugs and disorder
- Arrests for domestic violence
- Nuisance abatement
- Proactive arrests and crackdowns at open air drug markets
- Post arrest case enhancement
- Proactive arrests of repeat offenders
- POP in places (variety) and PSN project
- Zero tolerance and other disorder arrests
- Pulling levers and other gang suppression efforts
- Targeted enforcement (DUIs, gun crimes)
- Community policing using problem solving
- Traffic stops to reduce crime, gun carrying, etc. (DDACTS)
- DARE, GREAT, PAL Centers
- Neighborhood watch, monthly newsletters
- Trying to get landlords to restrict access
- Door to door contacts, home visits after abuse
- Second responder for family abuse
- Undirected saturation patrol or random patrol
- Police-probation partnership to increase supervision for juveniles
- Typological investigations
- Street closures
- Community oriented policing: neighborhood watch, door to door visits
- Probation-Police partnerships to reduce juvenile crime
- Information sharing/fusion centers
- Multi-agency partnerships

The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix

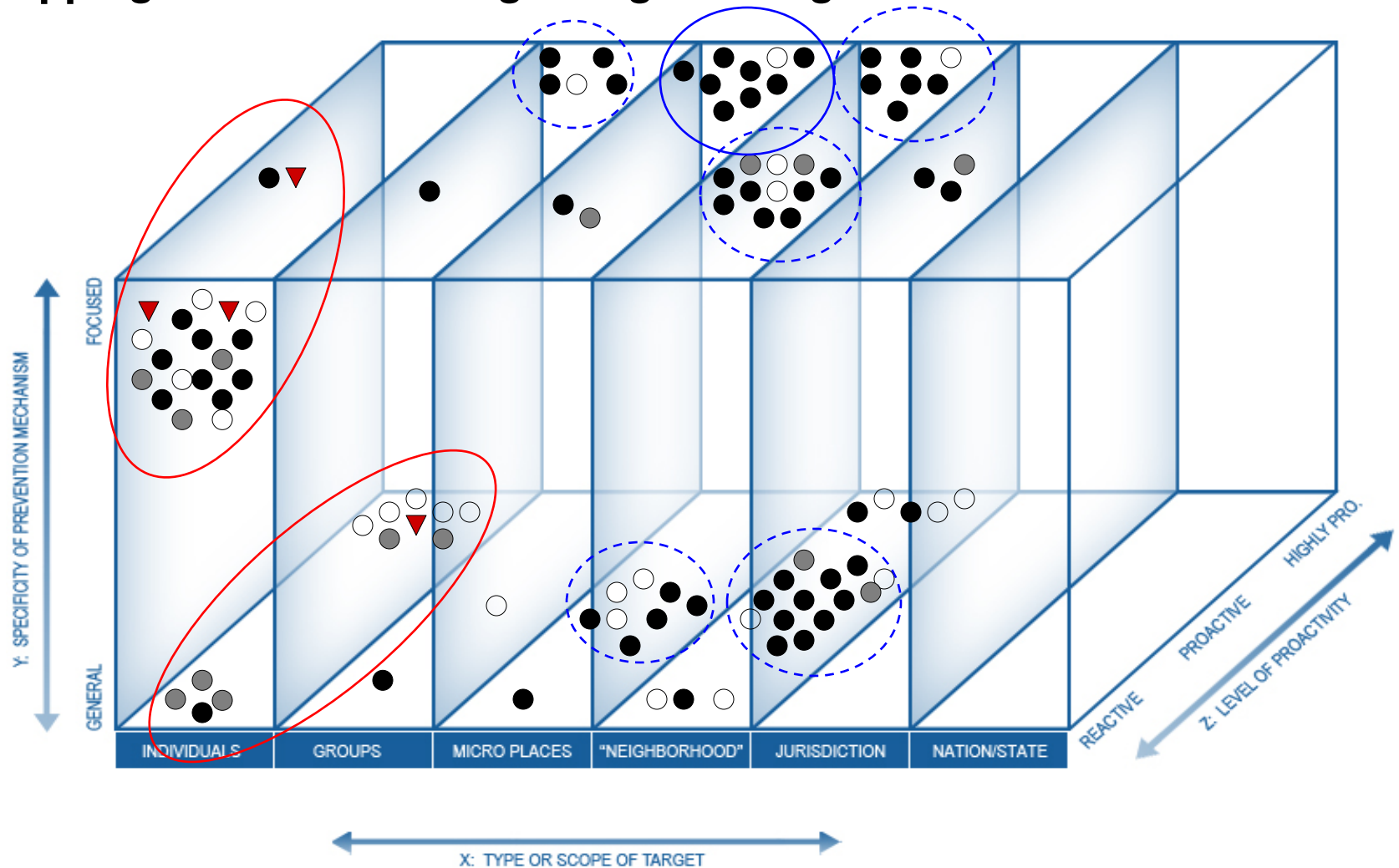




▼ Significant Backfire
 ○ Non-Significant Finding
 ● Mixed Results
 ● Significant /Effective

THE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING MATRIX

The mapping reveals clustering that gives us generalizations



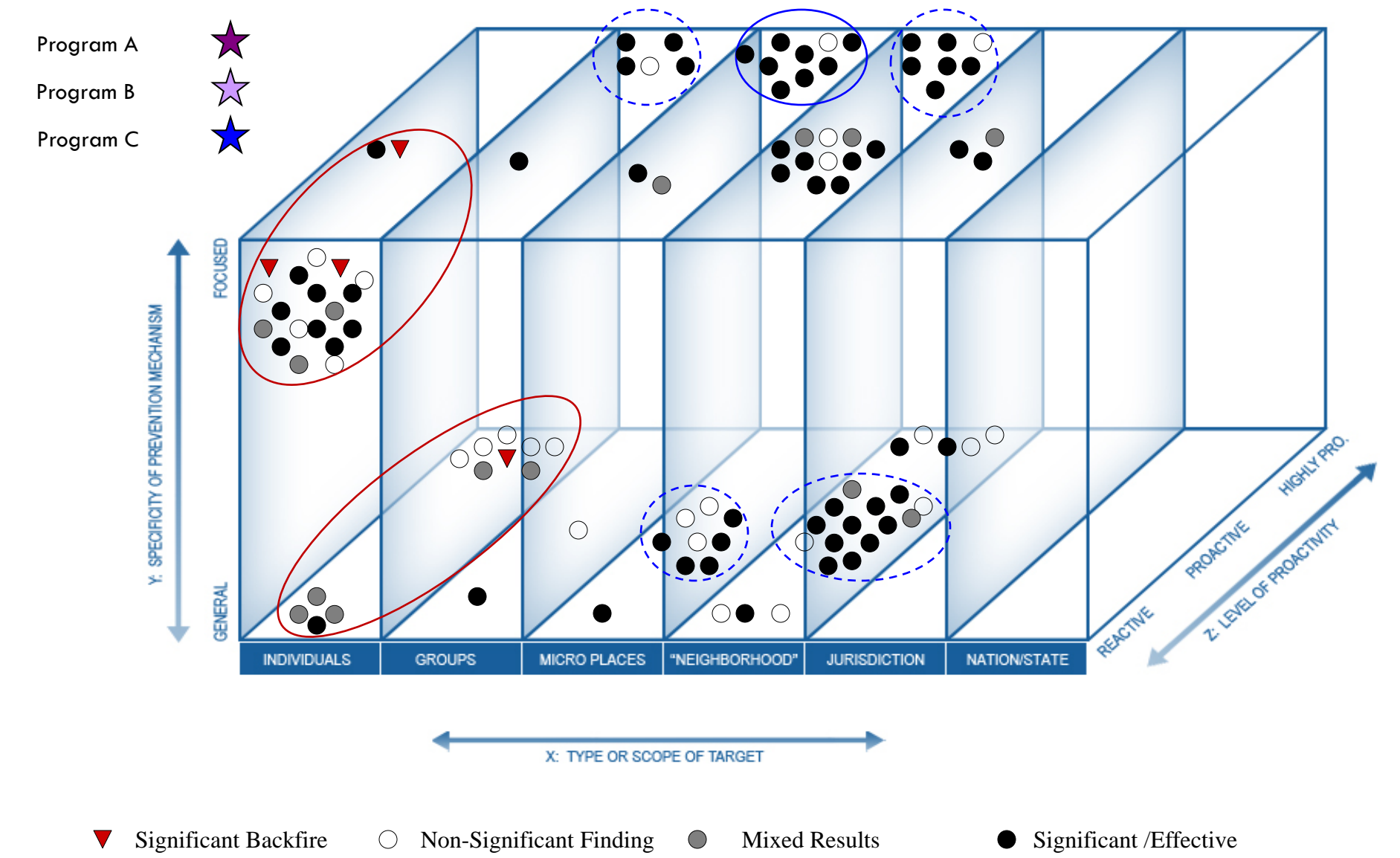
▼ Significant Backfire ○ Non-Significant Finding ● Mixed Results ● Significant /Effective

THE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING MATRIX

Some generalizations from the Matrix

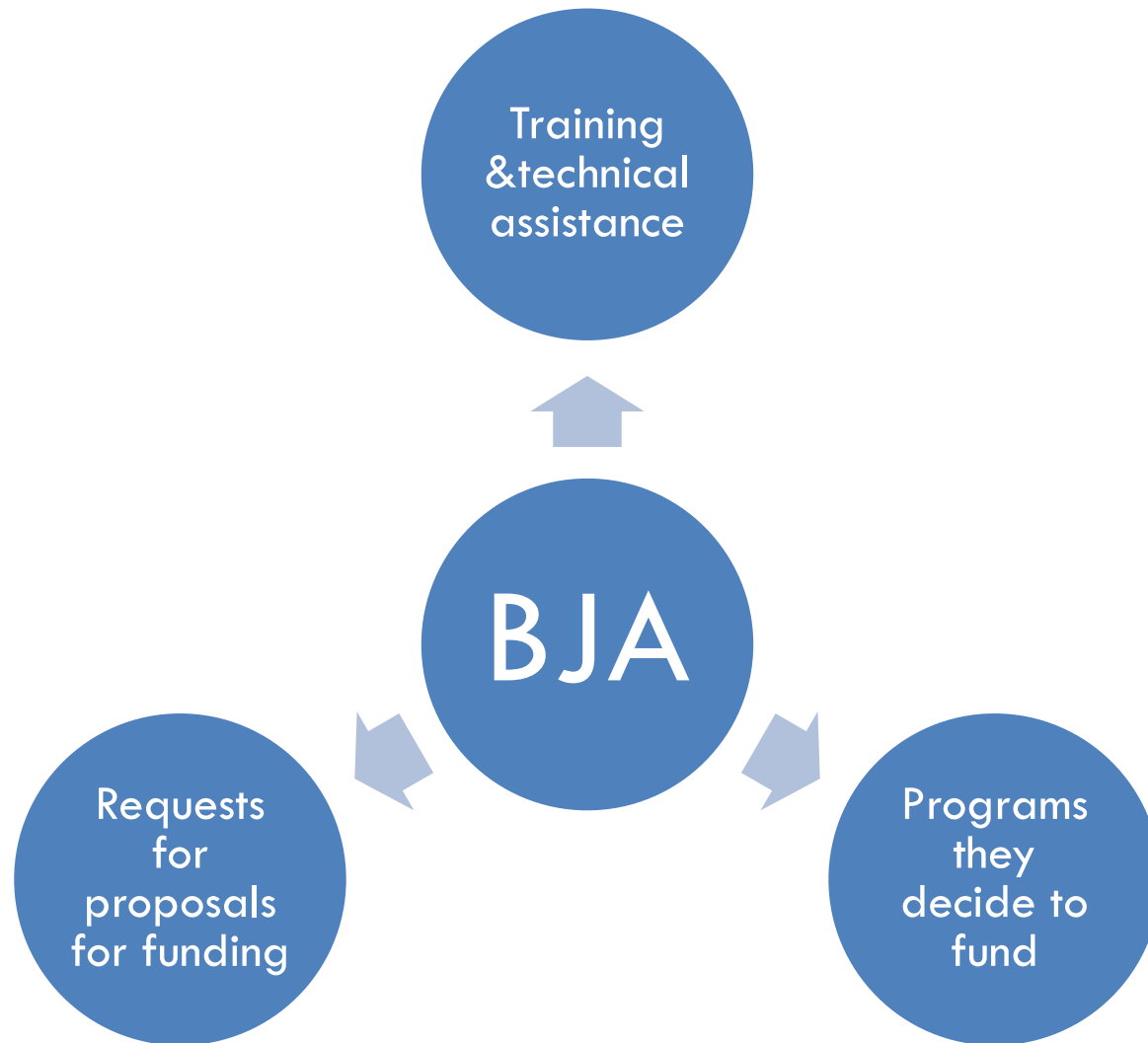
- **79%** of successful interventions studied occur at “micro-places” or “neighborhoods”.
- **64%** of successful interventions are “focused”, or tailored strategies.
- **80%** of successful interventions are either “proactive” or “highly proactive”.
- **53%** of interventions that show “no effect” or a “backfire effect” focus on targeting individual(s).

Using evidence to assess existing practices or policies



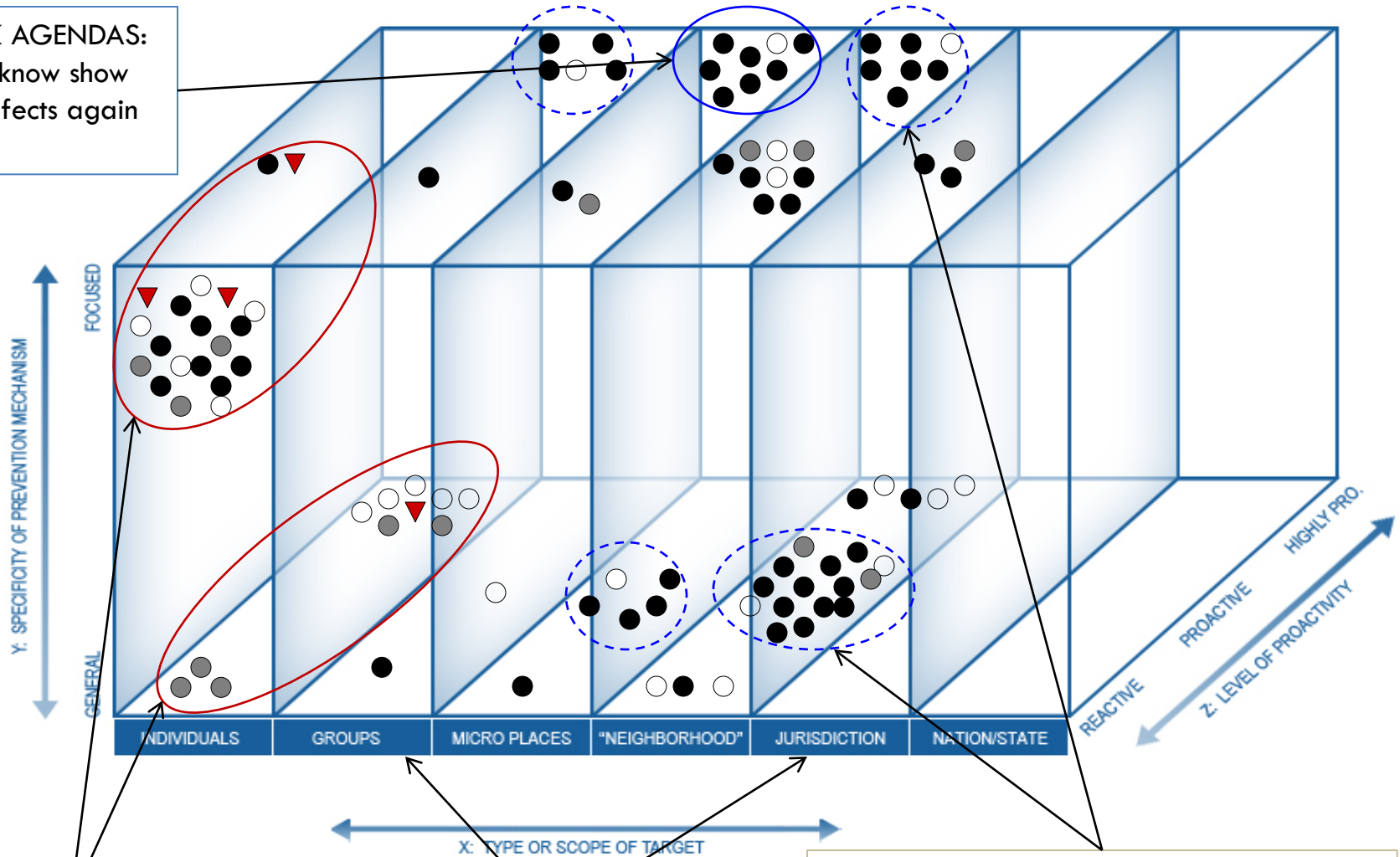
The Evidence-Based Policing Matrix (Lum, Koper and Telep, 2009)

Translation tools can be used to guide policy and funding



Using the Matrix: Strategic Development of Research Agendas

LOW RISK AGENDAS:
Areas we know show positive effects again and again

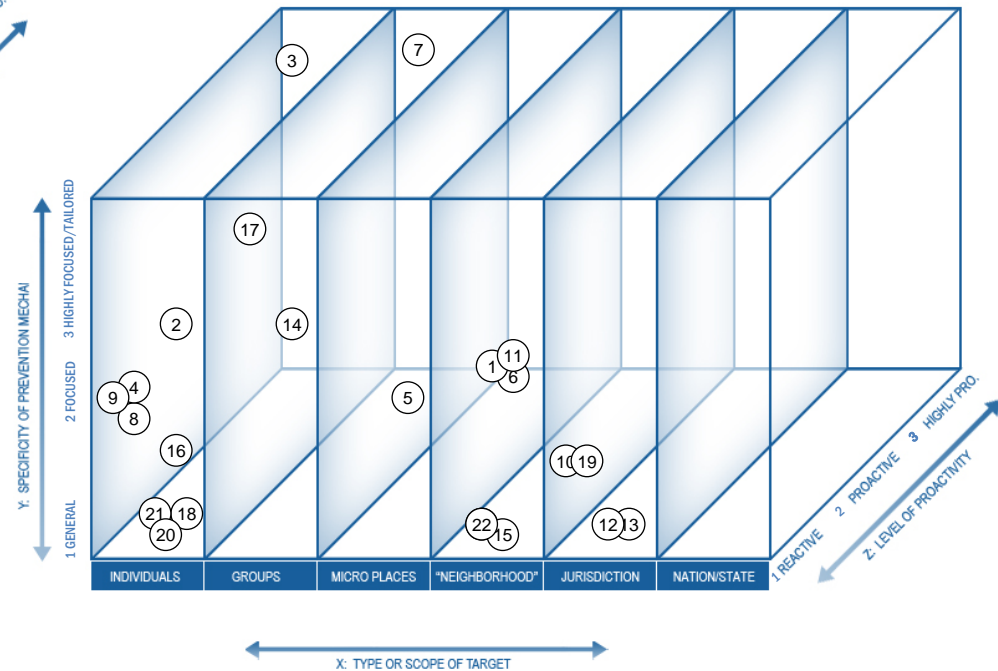
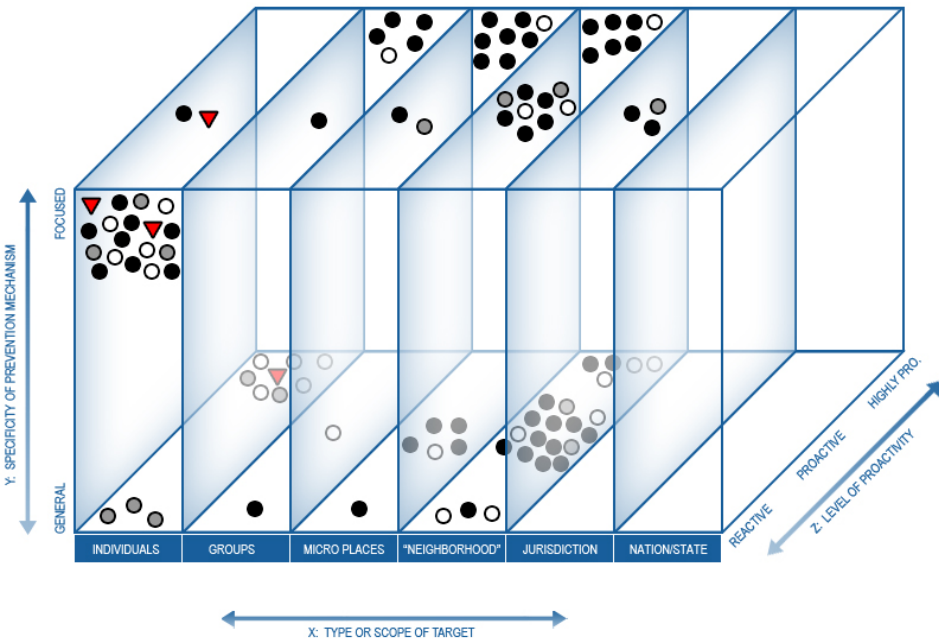


HIGHER RISK AGENDAS? –
Focused on reacting to individual offenders

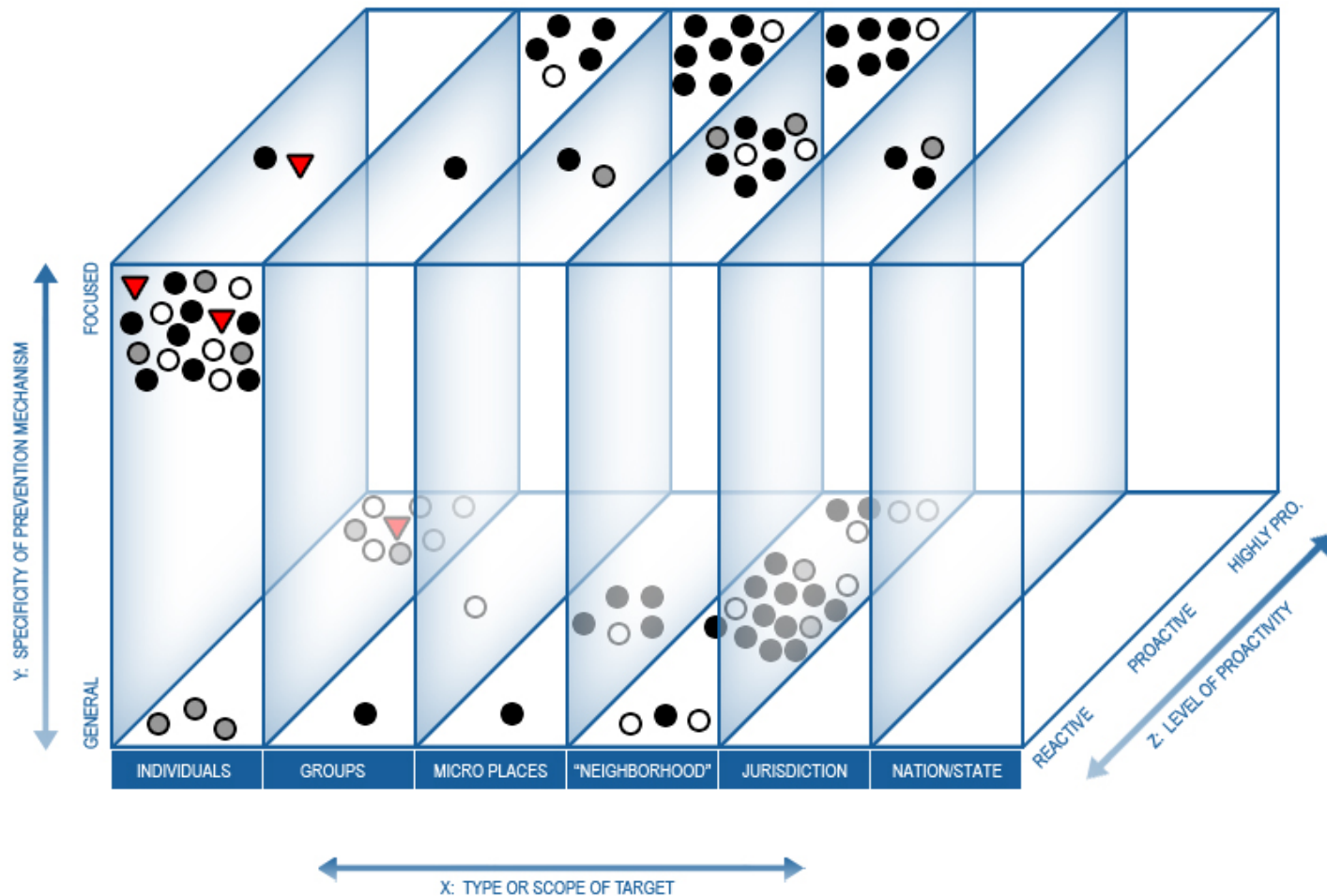
UNKNOWN: Areas where there may be lots of effort, but little research – gangs and jurisdictions!

MEDIUM RISK AGENDAS: "Promising effects" but need stronger and more specific research (neighborhood and community policing)

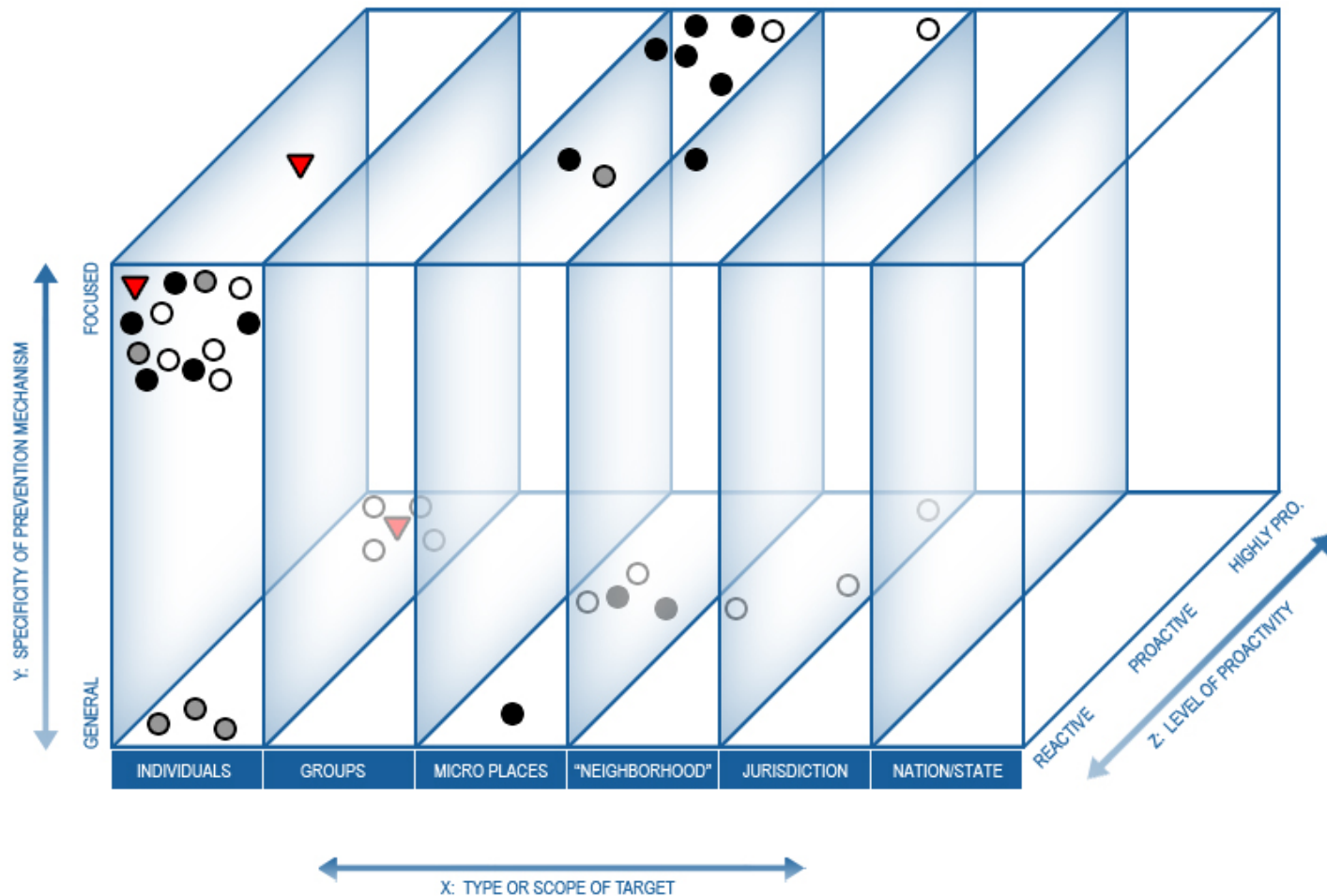
Derbyshire, England (Veigas, 2011)



A WORD OF CAUTION



Most rigorous studies in the Matrix



In Summary



- EBCP requires using research to our advantage
- Translation tools can facilitate increasing the power of research to realize EBCP
- Tools have to provide something useful to decision makers.

THANKS FOR LISTENING!

THE EVIDENCE-BASED POLICING MATRIX

<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/Matrix.html>

THE MATRIX DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

<http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/MatrixDemo.html>



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