

# TEN ARGUMENTS AGAINST EVIDENCE-BASED CRIME PREVENTION POLICY

## AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR VALIDITY

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**Australian Government**  

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**Australian Institute of Criminology**



**Crime Prevention Division**  
**Attorney General's**  
department of nsw

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<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/2005-cp/>

# Delivering crime prevention

10 arguments against evidence-based policy:  
An assessment of their validity

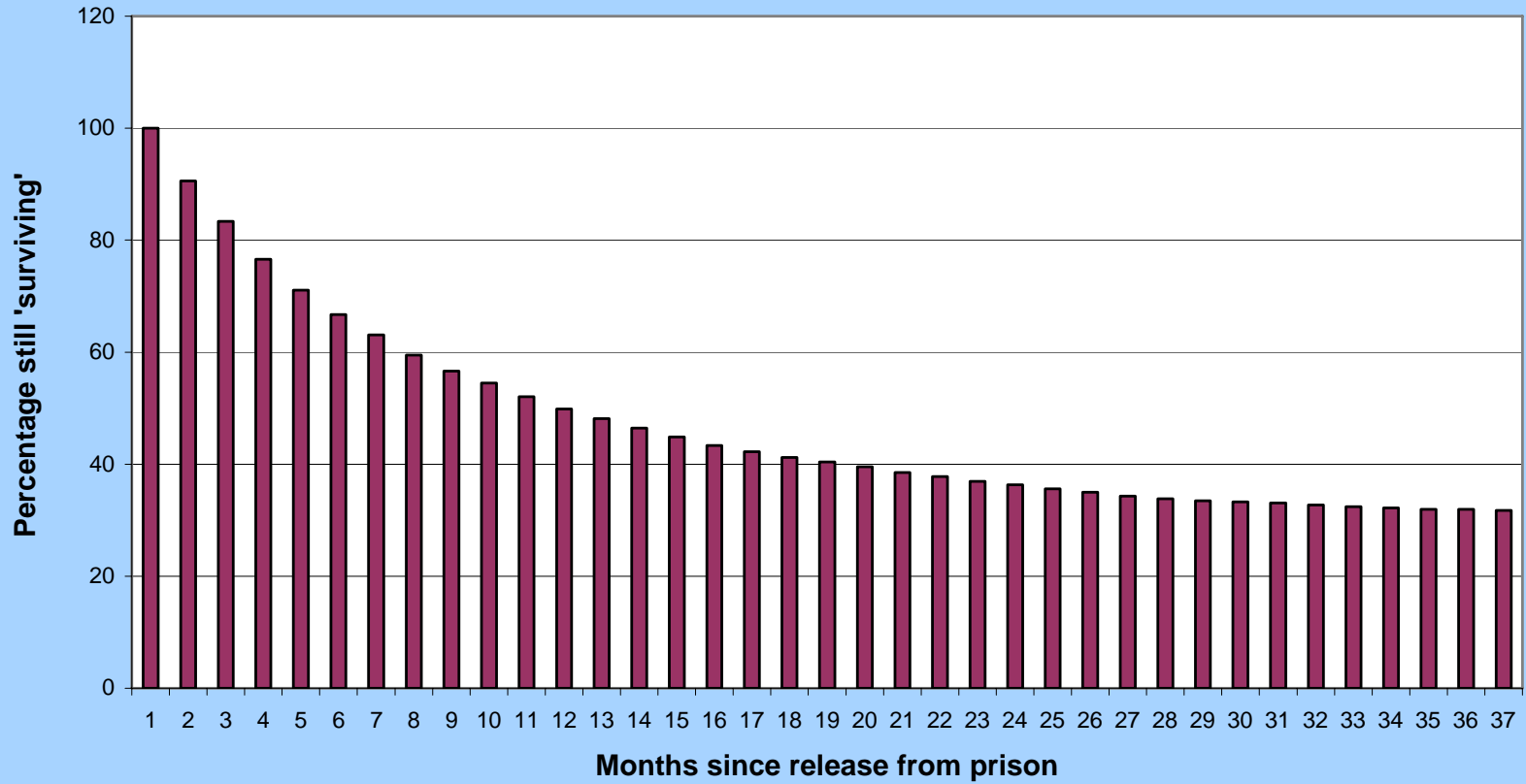
Myth number 1:

“Crime control is commonsense”

## Myth number 2:

“Human behaviour can’t be explained  
in scientific terms”

## Percentage of parolees who have not re-offended



## Myth number 3:

“Experience is just as useful in deciding ‘what works’ as research”

# Myth number 4

“There’s no agreement on what constitutes scientific evidence”

## Myth number 5:

“You shouldn’t base policy on research because researchers sometimes get it wrong”

## Myth number 6:

“You can’t trust research because what fails in one place may work in another”

## Myth number 7:

“Research is always time consuming  
and expensive”

# Myth number 8

“Some policies don’t need to be evaluated: we know they’ll work”

## Myth number 9:

“Evidence-based policy is sometimes unethical”

# Myth number 10:

“There are no objective facts”