

Burglary in the Pandemic

Graham Farrell

Anthony Dixon

Nick Tilley

Presentation to the Danish Crime
Prevention Council

09 March 2021



- Background
- Mobility theory of crime in pandemic
- Burglary and mobility
 - England and Wales
 - Denmark (preliminary)
- Conclusions



- Funded via the UKRI open call on COVID-19 (Economic and Social Research Council)
- Team from Leeds and University College London
- Aiming to reduce the crime harms of the pandemic
- www.covid19-crime.com
- 3 publication series

Reducing the Crime Harms of the COVID-19 Pandemic

Supported by UKRI Economic and Social Research Council grant ES/V00445X/1

Main page

About

News / blog

People

Three publication series are edited by the project team (asterisk = authored by project team). Contact Nick Tilley at n.tilley@ucl.ac.uk about *Special Papers*, Graham Farrell at g.farrell@leeds.ac.uk about *Stats Bulletins*, or the [Crime Science](#) journal. [Policing Insight](#) reproduces many *Special Papers*.

Crime Science special collection on COVID-19

7. [Somehow I always end up alone: COVID-19, social isolation and crime in Queensland](#)
6. [Disentangling community-level changes in crime](#)

Jill Dando Institute COVID-19 Special Papers

26. [Contactless Card Payment Limits*](#)
25. [Frauds in the crisis](#)
24. [Preventing a Vaccine Crime Wave*](#)
23. [Covid facemasks as crime facilitators*](#)

Statistical Bulletin on Crime and COVID-19

13. [Second lockdown crime effects less pronounced*](#) (13Jan21)
12. [Fly-tipping during the pandemic*](#) (26Nov20)
11. [Rail Network Crime Time and Place*](#)

Mobility theory of crime in the pandemic



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

- Lockdown, social distancing
 - Increased remote working, schooling, leisure, shopping
 - Many crime types decline due to reduced mobility
 - But for burglary:
 - mobility increases in residential areas;
 - increased daytime guardianship
 - increased surveillance
 - offenders more conspicuous; smaller stolen goods market

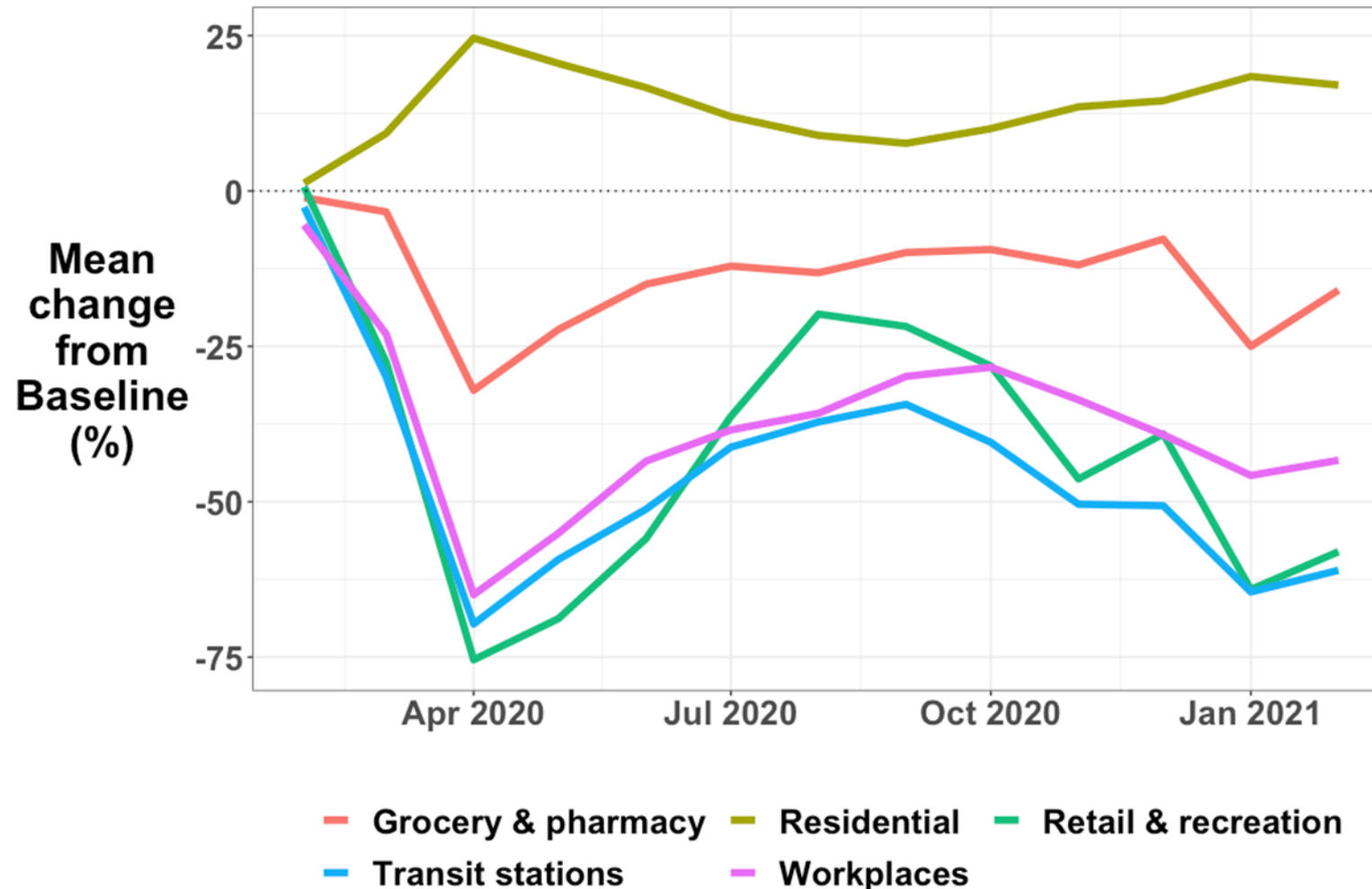


England and Wales – Mobility

(Google covid-19 mobility report)



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Residential area
mobility *increased*
25% in April

- Work at home
- Home schooling
- Local exercise
- Online leisure

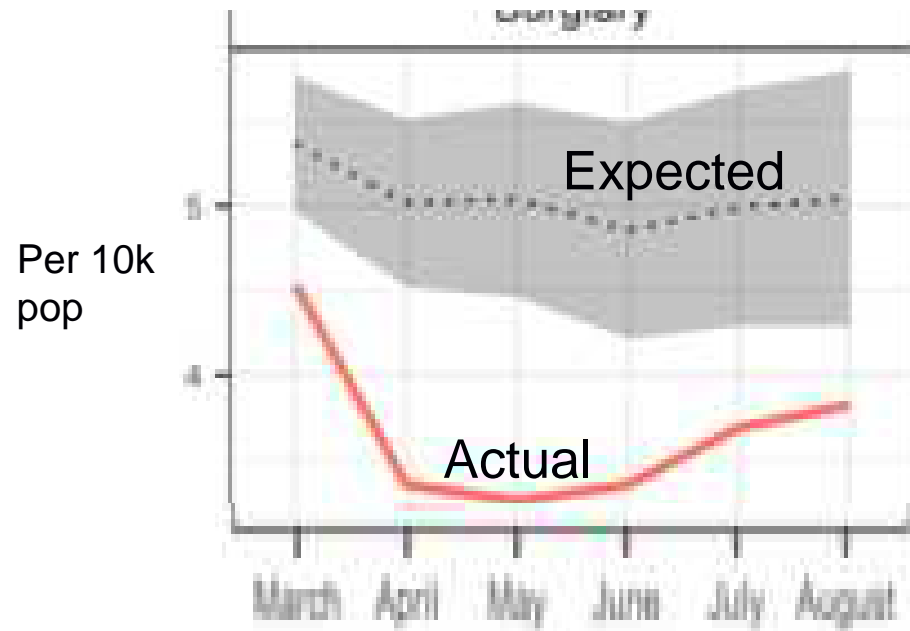
England and Wales: Six-months in

(Langton et al. 2021. recorded burglaries)

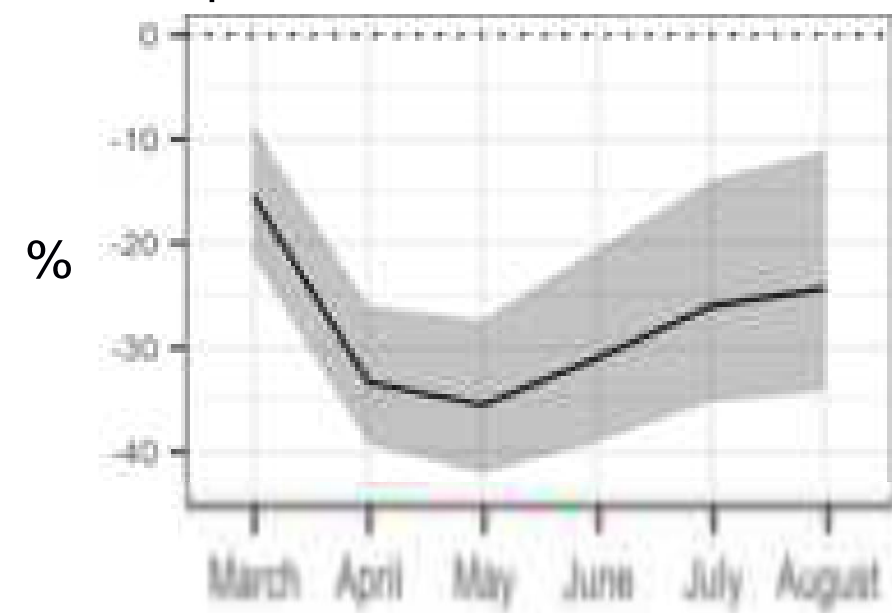


UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Burglary per 10k population



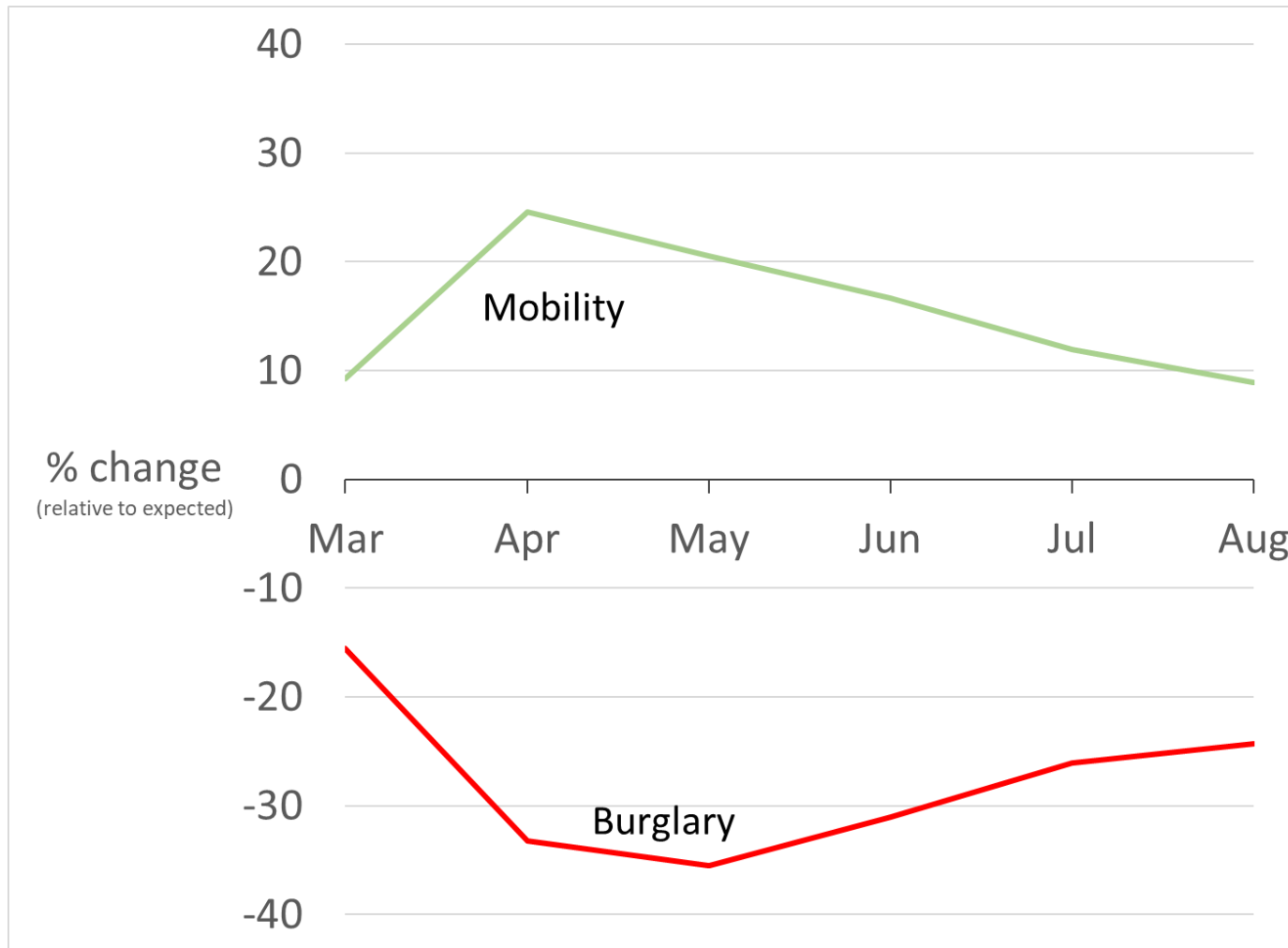
Burglary % change relative to expected



England and Wales 2020: residential



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



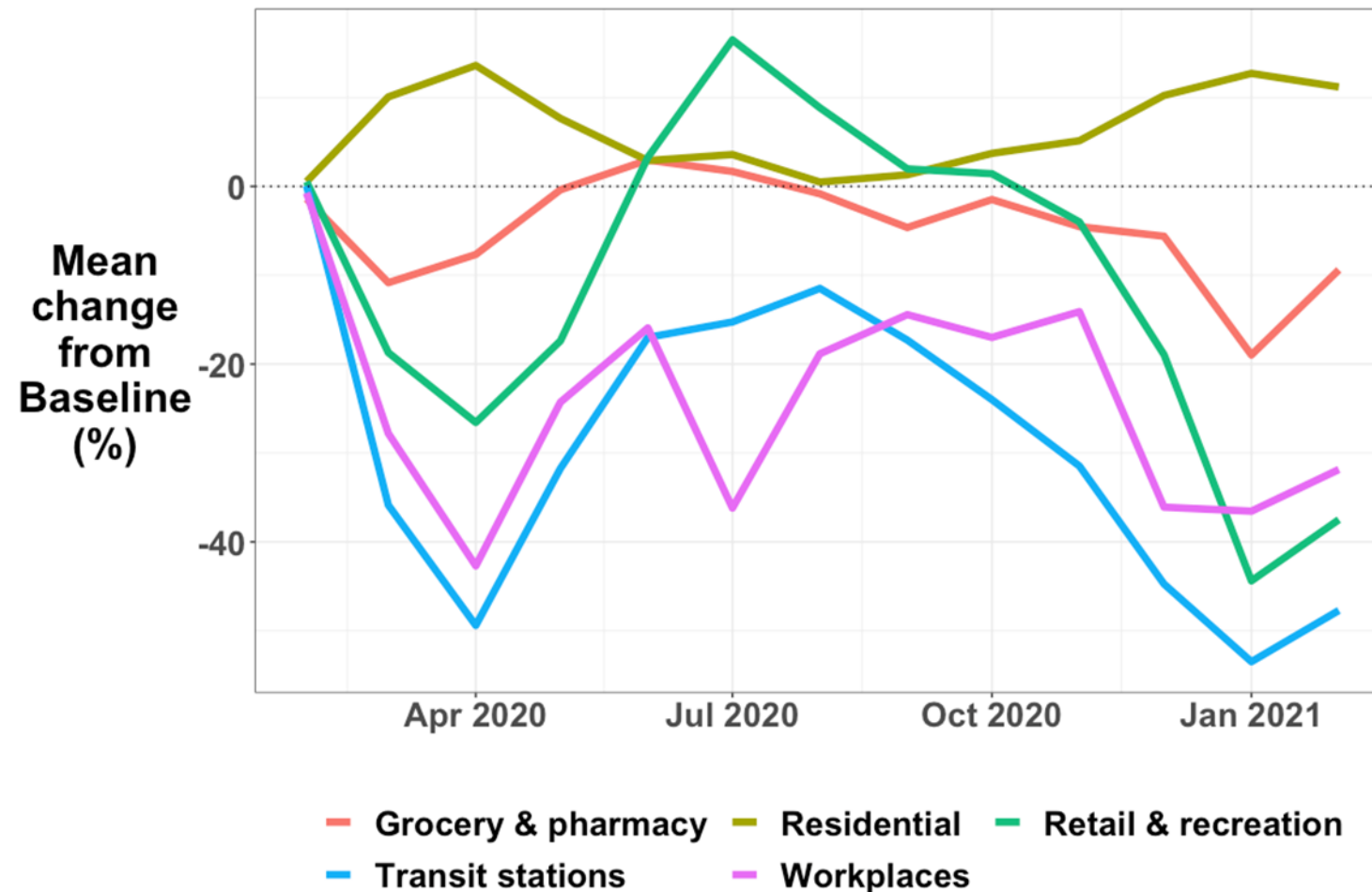
Between 1 and 3% decline in recorded burglary for each 1% *increase* in residential area mobility

Denmark – mobility

(Google covid-19 mobility report)



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



Residential area
mobility *increased*
~15% in April

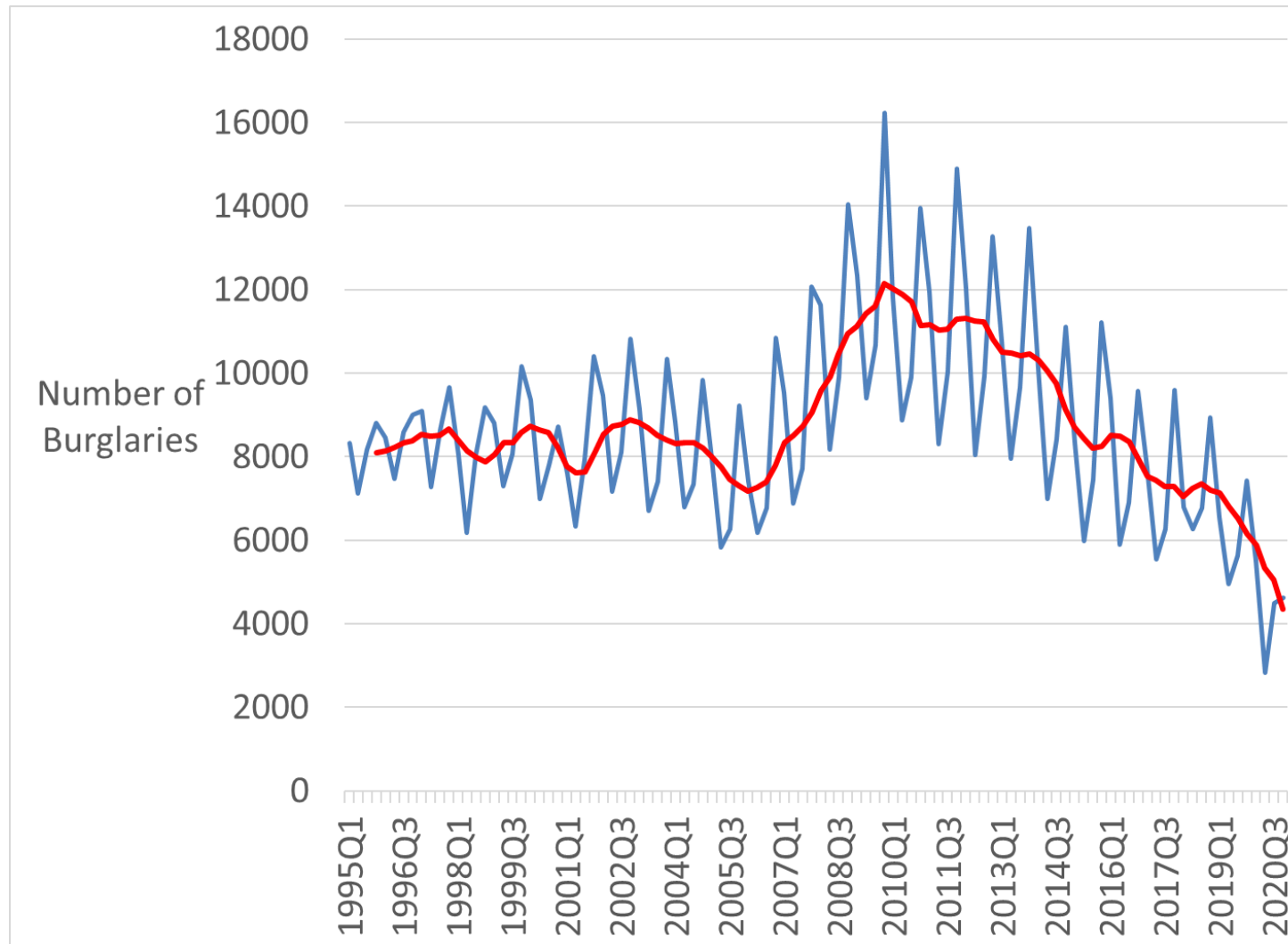
- Slightly less dramatic across-the-board

Recorded residential burglary, Denmark 1995-2020

by quarter



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

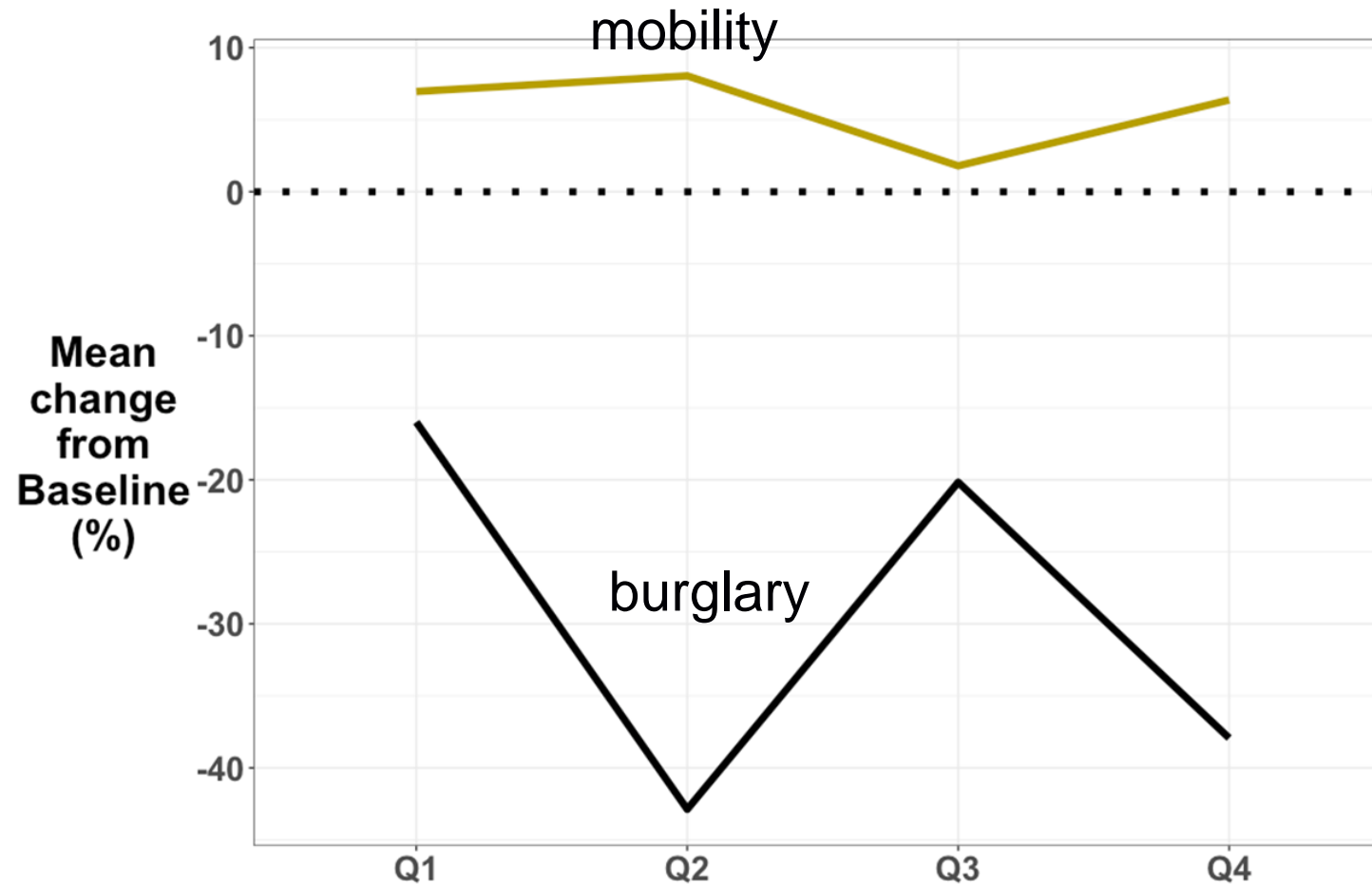


Decline in 2020
exceeds that
of previous
trend

Denmark in 2020 by quarter



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



- Residential mobility increase
- Burglary decline 20-40%
- Both mobility and burglary change less dramatic than E&W
- Consistent with mobility theory of crime in pandemic

Conclusions



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

- Burglary decrease consistent with reduced crime opportunities
 - Decline since 2001 due to household security
 - Pandemic 2020 decline due to increased guardianship
- Lockdown increased remote working, school and leisure
 - Increased home occupancy, guardianship, surveillance
 - Effects less pronounced when movement less restricted



Halford et al. (2020) [Coronavirus and crime: Social distancing, lockdown and the mobility elasticity of crime](#) *Crime Science*, 9(11); 1-12.

Langton, S. et al. (2021). [Six-months in: Pandemic crime in England and Wales](#), *Crime Science*, 10(6); 1-16.

Dixon, A. and G. Farrell. 2021. [Second lockdown effects on crime less pronounced in England and Wales](#), *Statistical Bulletin on COVID-19 and Crime*, issue 13. University of Leeds.

Project website: www.covid19-crime.com