Light, safety and security

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We are afraid of darkness...
as children, and even as adults, mostly



The ghosts and monsters are born from the darkness...

We can't admit to believe that,

so we speak about bad guys instead... about criminals.

But these, as humans, are afraid of darkness too.

It's reasonable to light our path if we suspect there might be obstacles. To prevent injury.

It's naive to believe that light will wipe out criminals like ghosts in fairy tales...

Edison promoted his light bulb:

it will reduce crime a lot...

What happened indeed?

The same opinion:

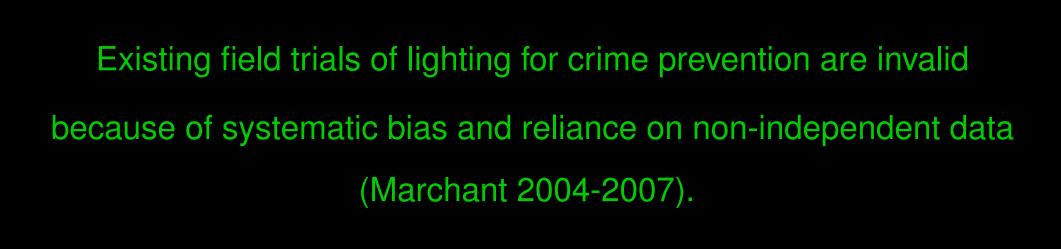
let's add light to reduce crime

is still widespread and repeated by lighting business

Why?

Lighting certainly decreases fear of crime.

But what about crime itself?



Significant positive correlations exist between city waste light and city crime rates.

Lighting blackouts always result in reductions in crime, indicating the causal direction of the correlation.

(Clark 2002, 2003)

The net effect of lighting is to assist more than to hinder criminal acts.

Fortunately, the effect is not strong:

few per cent increase in crime per increasing light amounts 10x.

Still, to reduce crime,
reducing light levels
to not much more than moonlight would help.

http://amper.ped.muni.cz/bajc