

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

December 22, 2011

JRSA News

Former Virginia SAC Director Rick Kern Succumbs to Cancer

JRSA is mourning the death of Richard Kern, former Virginia SAC director, on December 13 after a long battle with cancer. Dr. Kern, whose most recent position was Director of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, served JRSA in many ways over many years. In addition to serving as Vice President and President of the Association, he served as Chair of the Research Committee and, most recently, as Appointed Non-SAC Delegate on the Executive Committee in 2008 and 2009. He leaves behind his wife Denise and three children. He was a valued friend and colleague to many, and we will miss him.

JRSA Releases Guide for Practitioners on How to Recognize Quality Evaluation Reports

The Bureau of Justice Assistance Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement, which is administered by JRSA, just released *Is This a Good Quality Outcome Evaluation Report? A Guide for Practitioners*. Written by Mary Poulin, Stan Orchowsky, and Jason Trask, the guide is designed to introduce and explain the key concepts in outcome evaluation research in order to help practitioners distinguish between good and poor quality evaluation reports. The guide is available at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/reference/Quality_Outcome_Eval.pdf.

Publications

OJJDP Bulletin Summarizes Juvenile Arrests

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released *Juvenile Arrests, 2009*. Part of the *Juvenile Offenders and Victims National Report Series*, this bulletin summarizes 2009 juvenile crimes and arrest data reported by law enforcement agencies across the country and cited in the FBI report, *Crime in the United States 2009*. Juvenile arrests for violent offenses declined 10% between 2008 and 2009, and overall juvenile arrests fell 9% during that same period. Between 1994—when the Violent Crime Index arrest rates for juveniles hit a historic high—and 2009, the rate fell nearly 50% to its lowest level since at least 1980. Arrest rates for nearly every offense category for both male and female and white and minority youth were down in 2009. However, during 2000–2009, juvenile arrests for robbery rose 15%, and arrest rates for murder were unchanged, so juvenile crime and violence continue to plague many communities. *Juvenile Arrests, 2009* is available at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/236477.pdf>.

Prisoners in 2010

The total U.S. prison population fell last year for the first time in nearly four decades, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported last week. The 1.6 million behind bars was a decline of 0.6%. The number of state prisoners fell by 10,881 while the federal prison population continued to grow, adding 1,653 to reach a total of 209,771. *Prisoners in 2010* also reported that the number of offenders under adult correctional supervision fell 1.3% in 2010, the second consecutive year of decline. At year-end 2010, about 7.1 million people, or 1 in 33 adults, were under the supervision of adult correctional authorities. Half of states reported decreases in their prison population during 2010, including California (6,213), Georgia (4,207), New York (2,031) and Michigan (1,365). The largest increases were in Illinois (3,257), Texas (2,400) and Arkansas (996). *Prisoners in 2010*, is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2230>.

Prison and Jail Deaths in Custody, 2000-2009

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that in 2009 both the rate and number of deaths in local jails dropped to one of the lowest levels in a decade, based on data from the Deaths in Custody Reporting Program. The jail mortality rate dropped to 127 inmate deaths per 100,000 jail inmates in 2009 from 151 deaths per 100,000 in 2000. Over the past three years, the number of jail deaths has declined, from a high of 1,102 deaths in 2007 to 948 in 2009. The report is available at <http://bit.ly/t9Nxvm>.

Other recent BJS releases:

Jails in Indian Country, 2010, presents findings from the *2010 Survey of Jails in Indian Country*, an enumeration of all jails, confinement facilities, detention centers, and other correctional facilities operated by tribal authorities or the Bureau of Indian Affairs on June 30, 2010. According to the report, at midyear 2010 a total of 2,119 inmates were held in Indian country jails, down 2.6% from 2,176 at midyear 2009. Seventy-five Indian country jails in operation reported inmate counts to BJS in 2010. The report is available at: <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2373>.

Correctional Population in the United States, 2010, presents statistics on the number of offenders under the supervision of adult correctional authorities in the United States at year-end 2010. Persons supervised by adult correctional authorities include those in the community under the authority of probation or parole agencies that supervise adults and those incarcerated in state or federal prisons or local jails. The report, which provides the change in the total correctional population, by correctional status, during 2010 also examines the impact of the changes in the community supervision and incarcerated populations during the year on the change observed in the total correctional population. The report is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2237>.

Justice Expenditures and Employment, 1982-2007 - Statistical Tables, presents data on justice expenditures and employment in five-year increments from 1982 to 2007. Data tables show federal, state, and local government expenditures and employment for corrections, police protection, and judicial and legal services. The report is available at: <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2192>.

Report Highlights Legislation to Reduce Employment Barriers for People with Criminal Records

A new report from the Sentencing Project looks at states' efforts to promote employment of people with criminal records. *State Reforms Promoting Employment of People with Criminal Records: 2010-11 Legislative Round-Up* was done in collaboration with the National Employment Law Project and the National H.I.R. E. Network and highlights legislative action and policies in states that reduce barriers to employment. According to an analysis by the American Bar Association, collectively states have adopted more than 30,000 laws that restrict access to employment and other basic rights for people with criminal records. The roundup, which highlights model policies in states across the country and discusses recent legislation brought forth during the last year, is available at http://sentencingproject.org/doc/cc_Legislative_Roundup_Employment_&_Criminal_Records_2010-11.pdf.

Brief Describes the Links between Suicide and Bullying for LGBT Youth

The Suicide Prevention Resource Center has released, *Suicide and Bullying*, a brief on the relationship between bullying and suicide, especially as it relates to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered youth. The brief describes the extent of the problem and identifies strategies for bullying and suicide prevention. It is available online at http://www.sprc.org/library/Suicide_Bullying_Issue_Brief.pdf.

Bullying in Schools: An Overview

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention released *Bullying in Schools: An Overview*. This bulletin examines the connection between different types and frequencies of bullying, truancy, and student achievement, and whether students' engagement in school mediates these factors. It discusses the results of three studies conducted in 2007 at the National Center for School Engagement, and compares these results with those from a Swedish study. The authors conclude that victimization in the form of bullying can distance students from learning. Schools can overcome this negative effect if they adopt strategies that engage students in their work, creating positive learning environments that produce academic achievement. *Bullying in Schools: An Overview* is available online at <http://www.ojjdp.gov/pubs/234205.pdf>.

Conferences and Training

OVC to Hold Webinar on Responding to Victims of Property Crimes

On December 28, at 2 p.m. ET, the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) will conduct a Web Forum Guest Host Session on best practices for responding to victims of property crimes. Dr. Deborah Weisel, an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at North Carolina Central University, will lead the discussion. Her experience includes research on police responses to crime problems and repeat victimization from burglary and robbery. For more information on how to participate, go to <http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/>.

Mass Violence/Emergency National Training Conference Registration Open

On January 31 to February 2, 2012, the Office for Victims of Crime will sponsor the Mass Violence and Emergency National Training Conference - *Improving Readiness to Assist Victims* in Jacksonville, Florida. This three-day conference will feature state of the art training, with national experts presenting workshops and keynotes focusing on multi-disciplinary teams and victim-centered approaches to assisting victims of mass violence and disasters. For more information on the conference, go to <https://www.thecjportal.org/CONF/Ovconf/Pages/default.aspx>. To view the current conference schedule, go to <https://www.thecjportal.org/CONF/Ovconf/Documents/OVC%20Conference%20Schedule.pdf>.

The conference brings together victim service providers and allied professionals to share experiences and knowledge about responding to victims, survivors, and communities. The registration fee for this conference has been eliminated.

OJJDP to Sponsor Substance Abuse Prevention Forum

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is sponsoring the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Leadership Forum at the Gaylord National Hotel & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland, on February 6-9. The conference will provide the latest strategies for substance abuse prevention and will include presentations by nationally recognized drug abuse prevention experts and policymakers. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will convene its 8th Annual Prevention Day in conjunction with the Forum on Monday, February 6, and on February 8, CADCA will hold its Capitol Hill Day. For more information on the National Leadership Forum, go to <http://forum.cadca.org/>.

Register for Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness Conference

On April 10-12, OJJDP will cosponsor the Joint Meeting on Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness (JMATE) in Washington, DC. The theme of 2012 JMATE is *Collaborating and Integrating to Support Youth and Families in an Era of Change*. Conference sessions will include presentations on juvenile justice, school-based services, recovery services, treatment and recovery systems collaboration and integration, youth and families, evidence-based practices, and special topics. Adolescent treatment researchers, evaluators, and data managers, as well as clinical supervisors and/or clinicians involved in delivering services under CSAT or other federally-funded grants are encouraged to attend. (JMATE may qualify towards annual meeting requirements.) For more information, go to <http://www.jmate.org/jmate2012/ContentTwoColumn.aspx?id=MTM%3d>.

Online Resources

Resources Help Parents Find Better Schools

OJJDP announced that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has partnered with GreatSchools, a national nonprofit educational resource for parents, to provide an online database that helps families find schools that best suits the needs of their children. The database, which describes more than 200,000 public, charter, magnet, and private schools across the United States for students in kindergarten through grade 12, is available at <http://www.greatschools.org/find-schools/>.

NIC's E-Newsletter Available through Subscription

The National Institute of Corrections publishes a monthly e-newsletter that includes articles about new publications, upcoming conferences, technology in corrections, corrections news and updates, and more. To subscribe, go to <http://www.nicic.gov> and click on "Subscribe to Newsletters & Alerts" in the NIC Action Center (upper right-hand corner of the page).

Announcements

NIJ Seeks To Fill Deputy Director Position

The National Institute of Justice is conducting a nationwide search for candidates for a newly created position - Deputy Director of the National Institute of Justice - to help oversee and lead the activities, programs, and operations of NIJ's three science offices: Science and Technology, Research and Evaluation, and Investigative and Forensic Sciences. For more information and to apply, visit the USAJOBS Web site at <http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/304363700>.