

# JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

January 7, 2013

## JRSA News

### **Report by JRSA on the Evaluation of Utah's Youth and Families with Promise Program Now Available**

NIJ has released the final report, [\*A Process and Outcome Evaluation of the 4-H Mentoring/Youth and Families with Promise \(YFP\) Program\*](#). Written by JRSA Research Director Stan Orchowsky, and former JRSA Research Associate Mary Poulin, the report describes the design and goals of Utah's 4-H Mentoring/Youth and Families with Promise (YFP) program. It discusses the process and outcome evaluation conducted by JRSA to assess the degree to which the program is implemented and operated as planned, as well as its effectiveness in increasing participants' interpersonal competence, improving their academic performance, strengthening their family relationships, and preventing delinquency.

The evaluation found no evidence for improvement in academic performance, strengthening of family relationships, or delinquency prevention. Significant deviation from documented program guidelines was seen, and required program "dosage" was not always provided. While the evaluation had some methodological limitations, its findings show limited evidence of program success. Once issues with program implementation have been addressed, however, further evaluation might be considered. The full report is available on the JRSA website at <http://www.jrsa.org/projects/yfp-final-report-to-NIJ.pdf>, and a summary can be found at <http://www.jrsa.org/projects/yfp-final-report-to-NIJ-exec-summary.pdf>.

### **New Issue of JRP Available**

The new issue of *Justice Research and Policy* (Volume 14, No. 2), JRSA's peer-reviewed journal, is now available. This issue includes articles on "Charting the Evolution of Structure and Determinacy in State Sentencing and Corrections Policies 1970-2010," "Drug Treatment Courts: A Quantitative Review of Study and Treatment Quality," and "Examining Metal Theft in Context: An Opportunity Theory Approach." Arizona SAC Director Phil Stevenson was a co-author on the article, "Understanding Police Gang Data at the Aggregate Level: An Examination of the Reliability of National Youth Gang Survey Data (Research Note)." For a copy of JRP, or to see the abstracts, go to <http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/journal/index.html> or contact JRSA Director of Publications Nancy Michel at [nmichel@jrsa.org](mailto:nmichel@jrsa.org).

### **Vermont SAC Domestic Violence Report Posted on JRSA's IBR Resource Center**

A new report from the Vermont SAC was recently posted on JRSA's online Incident-Based Reporting Resource Center (IBRRC). *An Analysis of Domestic Violence and Arrest Patterns in Vermont Using NIBRS Data*, written by Robin Weber, Research Director, Vermont Center for Justice Research, uses a variety of NIBRS data points to provide a statewide look at domestic violence incidents. The report also analyzes police response to domestic violence incidents. To view the report, go to [http://www.jrsa.org/ibrcc/background-status/Vermont/vermont\\_summary.shtml#fourth](http://www.jrsa.org/ibrcc/background-status/Vermont/vermont_summary.shtml#fourth). There is also a description of how the SAC worked with the IBR data for this project.

## **SAC News**

### **Minnesota SAC Evaluates State-Funded Youth Intervention Programs**

[\*The Minnesota Youth Intervention Program: A Statistical Analysis of Participant Pre- and Post-Program Surveys\*](#) reports on an analysis of Minnesota's Youth Intervention Program (YIP), a collective of youth programs which are supported in part, by specific funding from the Minnesota Legislature. Fifty-one youth programs currently receive YIP funds. In light of the diversity of YIP funded program goals and services, as well as challenges in demonstrating program effects, Minnesota's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), where the SAC resides, designed a survey to assess program effect on youth participant attitudes and behaviors. The purpose of the study was to identify whether YIP funded programs are serving the intended youth population, meeting the stated program purpose areas, and having a positive effect on youth attitudes and behavior.

## **National News**

### **BJS and NIJ Directors Depart for the University of Maryland**

On December 31, 2012, after serving two and a half years as Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), James P. Lynch left his position to become Chair of the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Maryland. While serving as BJS Director, he led efforts to increase funding that improved and expanded BJS data collections. The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) has been improved, and steps have been taken to redesign the survey that would increase its utility in the areas of subnational estimates and the measurement of rape and sexual assault. In the National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) project, the foundation has been laid to complete a nationally representative incident-level system of police administrative records on offenses known to the police. The criminal history records that BJS built over the last two decades are now being used for recidivism collections and other statistical purposes. Efforts are underway to improve both the National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP) and the National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP). New data collections have begun regarding tribal courts and agencies serving victims. Director Lynch also oversaw efforts to build or maintain the core data collections on police, courts, corrections, expenditures, and deaths in custody and the process of arrest.

In farewell comments to the staff, Dr. Lynch said—

*In the daily grind, you may lose sight of the importance of BJS and the uniqueness of your contribution to the nation. BJS's estimates are the last word on crime and justice topics, and I know from my time here that you have earned that status. As director I am often asked how many people work at BJS and, when I tell them, people are universally shocked at how so few do so much. I hope that I have contributed to your work environment as you have to mine. Together I believe that we have been able to make real contributions to our statistical infra-structure and to enhance the status of BJS within the Department of Justice and the federal statistical community.*

William J. Sabol, principal deputy director at BJS, is serving as acting director.

Likewise, John Laub is leaving the Justice Department for the University of Maryland, where he was a *Distinguished University Professor* in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice before becoming Director of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) in July 2010. Dr. Laub championed "translational criminology," saying that, "If we want to prevent, reduce and manage crime, scientific discoveries must be translated into policy and practice."

In his final “Director’s Corner” post, Dr. Laub wrote—

*Serving as NIJ Director has been one of the high points of my career. Not only has my tenure been personally gratifying, but I believe that it has offered a significant step for the field of criminology and criminal justice. Never before in the history of NIJ has the position of director been filled by someone with a Ph.D. in criminology or criminal justice with extensive research experience. I believe that this also offered a turning point for the field and represents a clear indication that science is — and will be — an important part of the mission of NIJ, the Office of Justice Programs and the Department of Justice.*

Deputy Director Greg Ridgeway, will serve as acting director of the agency. The full text of Dr. Laub’s farewell message can be found on the NIJ website at <http://www.nij.gov/nij/about/director/farewell.htm>.

## **Publications and Online Resources**

### **BJS Study Finds Drops in Correctional and Probation and Parole Populations**

The U.S. correctional population declined 1.4 percent in 2011 continuing a three year drop, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ (BJS) study, [Correctional Populations in the United States, 2011](#). The rate of adults under supervision on probation or parole was more than double that of adults incarcerated in state and federal prisons or local jails in 2011, though both decreased at about the same rate. Over half of the decrease in the incarcerated population was due to the decline in the number of people in state and federal prisons. The decline in probationers in 2011 mostly accounts for the overall decline in the correctional population.

The number of adults under community supervision—probation, parole, or other post-prison supervision—declined for the third consecutive year in 2011 according to a second BJS study, [Probation and Parole in the United States, 2011](#). A two percent decrease in the probation population accounted for much of the overall community supervision decline, and was enough to offset a 1.6 percent increase in the smaller parole population.

### **BJS Reports Decline in Violent Victimization Committed By Strangers**

According to a new study by BJS, from 1993 to 2010, the rate of nonfatal violent victimizations committed by offenders who were strangers to the victims declined by 77%. [Violent Victimization Committed By Strangers, 1993-2010](#), presents findings on the rates and levels of violent victimization committed by offenders who were strangers to the victims. The report presents annual trends and compares changes across three 6-year periods in the incidence and type of violence committed by strangers from 1993 through 2010. It also describes the characteristics of victims and circumstances of the violent crime. Data come from the National Crime Victimization Survey and the FBI’s Supplemental Homicide Reports.

### **BJS also released the following in December...**

[State Corrections Expenditures, FY 1982-2010](#), which presents data on state corrections expenditures from fiscal years 1982 to 2010. This bulletin examines trends in state corrections spending for building and operating institutions and for other corrections functions. Data are drawn from the Census Bureau’s State Government Finance Survey, which collects information on state expenditures and revenues, and BJS’s National Prisoner Statistics, which collects information on state prison populations.

[\*Mortality in Local Jails and State Prisons, 2000-2010 - Statistical Tables\*](#), which presents national and state-level data on the number of inmate deaths that occurred in local jails and state prisons, and includes aggregated data on deaths in federal prisons. The report presents findings by year from 2000 to 2010 and analyzes 11-year trends in deaths in custody. Data sources include the BJS' [Deaths in Custody Reporting Program](#) (DCRP), initiated in 2000 under the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-297), and the [National Prisoner Statistics](#) series

[\*Sheriffs' Offices, 2007 - Statistical Tables\*](#), which presents data on staffing; operating costs; race, ethnicity, and sex of deputies; deputy salaries; screening methods for hiring; and training requirements for new deputies. Data from the 2007 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey provide these national estimates, and also describe sheriffs' offices in terms of use of in-car video cameras and computers, community policing efforts, task force participation, and emergency preparedness activities.

### **Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence Releases Final Report**

The Department of Justice's Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence released its [final report](#) and policy recommendations gathered from public hearings held across the country over the past year. The task force report includes 56 recommendations and highlights the importance of identifying children who are victims or witnesses of violence and providing support and services to help them heal. It focuses on developing programs to help children access supportive and non-violent relationships with trusted adults in their homes and communities. The task force also calls for all children who enter the juvenile justice system to be screened for exposure to violence. The report is available at <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>.

### **FBI Releases 2011 Hate Crime Statistics**

According to statistics released in December by the FBI, 6,222 criminal incidents involving 7,254 offenses were reported in 2011 as a result of bias toward a particular race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity/national origin, or physical or mental disability. [Hate Crimes Statistics, 2011](#) is available at <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/hate-crime/2011>.

## **Conferences and Webinars**

### **Webinar Discusses Mental Health Court Development**

This Thursday, January 10, at 2:00 p.m. EST, the Council of State Governments will present the webinar, [Introduction to Developing a Mental Health Court](#). This webinar will introduce a free online multimedia curriculum that provides information on how to start, maintain, or learn more about mental health courts.

### **Webinar to be Held on Strengthening Indigent Defense**

On January 22 at 3 p.m. EST, the Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Criminal Justice Association will host [Strengthening Indigent Defense: Understanding State and Federal Resources](#). This webinar will showcase the Justice Department's efforts to encourage jurisdictions to bring all system stakeholders together and will highlight some of the state and federal resources available to the public defense community.

### **Webinar to be Held on the Use of Medical Imaging on Death Investigations**

On January 29, at 1:00 p.m. ET, RTI International and the National Institute of Justice will host [Advanced Medical Imaging in Medicolegal Death Investigation \(Live\)](#). This live online course will discuss the use

of advanced medical imaging in medicolegal death investigation, imaging forensics history, the current state of imaging in forensics, and future uses in medicolegal death investigations.

### **Webinar to be Offered on Collaboration Practices in Smart Policing**

The Smart Policing Initiative (SPI) is offering a webinar on *Advanced Collaboration Practices in Smart Policing*, on February 5 at 2:00 p.m. ET. This online interactive session is aimed at engaging law enforcement agencies and departments in a focused discussion on advanced collaboration practices in Smart Policing. Discussion will focus on how to incorporate collaboration and partnerships into policing, and will include several SPI examples or sites actually using collaboration as a part of their strategies. Topics will include: benefits and risks of collaborating; reaching out to hard-to-reach groups; managing challenging stakeholders; reaching out to non-traditional stakeholders; and assessing partnerships. A resource list will be provided at the end of the presentation. Registration information will soon be available at [www.SmartPolicingInitiative.com](http://www.SmartPolicingInitiative.com). The Smart Policing Initiative is a collaborative consortium composed of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, CNA, and over 30 local law enforcement agencies focused on testing solutions to serious crime problems in their jurisdictions. For more information on the webinar or SPI, contact Vivian Chu at [spi@cna.org](mailto:spi@cna.org).

### **NCJFCJ to Host Family Law Conference**

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) will host its annual national conference, *Judicial Institute: Family Law*, in San Antonio, Texas, on February 24-27. The conference will feature a range of cutting edge family law topics on challenging issues in divorce, custody and visitation, property distribution and finances, military service and families, and the role technology and social media play both in and out of the courtroom. The mission of this conference is to provide the most current information and tools to family and domestic relations judges to improve case processing and outcomes for children, youth, families, victims, and communities with whom they work. The conference is judicially-focused and open to all those interested in the improvement of juvenile and family justice. For more information, go to <http://www.ncjfcj.org/jifl2013>.

## **Announcements and Online Resources**

### **NIJ and JUSTNET Launch Social Media Sites**

Both the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and JustNet.org--the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)—announced that they are on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. You can "like" NIJ on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/OJPNIJ>, follow NIJ on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/OJPNIJ) at <https://twitter.com/OJPNIJ>, and subscribe on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHHM5nko68jcoTnpUV2Jl5w) at <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHHM5nko68jcoTnpUV2Jl5w>. "Like" JUSTNET on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/JustNetorg) at <https://www.facebook.com/JustNetorg>, follow on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/JUSTNETorg) at <https://twitter.com/JUSTNETorg>, and subscribe on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/JUSTNETorg) at <http://www.youtube.com/JUSTNETorg>.

**Office for Victims of Crime Provides Updated SAACT Materials for Download**

The Training and Technical Assistance Center of the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC TTAC) updated its [Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training \(SAACT\)](#), a course designed to teach advocates how to provide competent, effective crisis intervention services to victims and survivors of sexual assault. SAACT teaches advocates about advocacy/counseling, the realities and impact of sexual assault, procedures to follow in common situations, techniques to support recovery, and compassion fatigue and self-care. The training materials now include the latest available statistics, laws, and definitions related to sexual assault. The OVC TTAC Web site contains all the materials needed to conduct this important training