

# JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

March 29, 2012

## JRSA News

### **JRSA's National Juvenile Justice Evaluation Center Bulletin Now Available!**

Comparing juvenile recidivism rates is particularly difficult if not impossible, because state systems have different laws defining juvenile offenders, offenses, and adjudication processes. However, there are initiatives to examine additional factors beyond criminal offending and rearrest. Read about the challenges of evaluating the effectiveness of juvenile justice interventions, as well as news on programs in DC, Kentucky, and Ohio in the March issue of JRSA's NJJEC Bulletin.

<http://www.jrsa.org/njjec/newsletters/njjec-bulletin-march2012.pdf>

### **Bridging the Gap Between Researchers and Practitioners—Summary of Special Session Now Available**

At the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Conference last November, JRSA and Criminal Justice Journalists organized a special program of four panel sessions devoted to the question of how to ensure that research results have an impact on program and policy decisions. The panels focused on issues in policing, victimization, corrections, and juvenile justice. Two researchers and two practitioners on each panel engaged in a facilitated discussion that focused on what we know from the research and what we need to know for effective practice. To view or download a summary of those panels, go to <http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/asc-2011-researcher-practitioner-panels.pdf>.

## SAC News

### **Article on Stringent Laws against Sex Offenders Cites SAC Studies**

An article in "Corrections.com" cites recent research from the Connecticut and Maine SACs on the recidivism rates of sex offenders. The article, *Sex Offender Laws are Based on Rage and Fear*, uses figures from *Recidivism among Sex Offenders in Connecticut*, which was released this month, and quotes Connecticut SAC Director Ivan Kuzyk. It also cites statistics from an October 2010 report from the Maine SAC, *Sexual Assault Trends and Sex Offender Recidivism in Maine, 2010*, written by Mark Rubin, Research Associate, and William Ethridge, Graduate Research Assistant, Muskie School of Public Service, University of Southern Maine (where the SAC is housed). Publications from both SACs can be linked to from the article, which is available at <http://www.corrections.com/news/article/30085-sex-offender-laws-are-based-on-rage-and-fear>.

## **Publications**

### **BJS Report Details Sexual Victimization in Correctional Facilities**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2008-09*, which presents data from the National Inmate Survey, 2008-09, conducted in 167 state and federal prisons, 286 local jails, and 10 special correctional facilities between October 2008 and December 2009, with a sample of 81,566 inmates ages 18 or older. The report provides a listing of facilities ranked according to the prevalence of sexual victimization, as required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-79). The prevalence of victimization as reported by inmates during a personal interview is based on sexual activity in the 12 months prior to the interview or since admission to the facility, if less than 12 months. It includes estimates of nonconsensual sexual acts, abusive sexual contacts, inmate-on-inmate and staff sexual misconduct, and level of coercion. The report also presents findings on reported sexual victimization by selected characteristics of inmates, including demographic characteristics, sexual history and orientation, and criminal justice status. It includes details on victims' experiences and the circumstances surrounding incidents of sexual victimization. For a copy of the report or associated data, go to <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2202>.

### **Also released by BJS...**

As part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005, the 108th Congress merged the discretionary Edward Byrne Memorial Grant Program with the formula-based Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) program to establish the Edward Byrne Memorial (Byrne) Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. BJS just released *Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, 2011*, which describes the steps used in the Byrne/JAG formula calculation process and presents summary results of the FY 2011 formula calculations. More information is available at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4237>.

*Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2011* presents data on crime and safety at school from the perspectives of students, teachers, and principals. A joint effort by BJS and the National Center for Education Statistics, this annual report examines crime occurring in school as well as on the way to and from school. It also provides the most current detailed statistical information on the nature of crime in schools and school environments; and responses to violence and crime at school. Data come from several sources, including *School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey*, the *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, *School Survey on Crime and Safety*, and the *School Staffing Survey*. Look for more information at <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=2295>.

### **Paper Details Child Welfare/Juvenile Justice Connection**

Georgetown Public Policy Institute's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform and the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps announced the release of *Addressing the Needs of Multi-System Youth: Strengthening the Connection between Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice*. Released at a symposium held at Georgetown University on March 1, the paper provides a framework for jurisdictions to use to better serve youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems--commonly referred to as crossover or dually-involved youth. For more information and a copy of the paper, go to <http://cjjr.georgetown.edu/resources.html>.

### **March Issue of CJIS Links a “Must Read!”**

The FBI just released the March issue of CJIS Links, a publication of the FBI’s Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division geared for CJIS system users, including federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and members of the national security and intelligence communities. The March issue includes articles on the CJIS Division turning 20, changes to the definition of rape made by the FBI’s UCR Program, and instances of five record-breaking days in the last six months for FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). To read this issue of CJIS Links, go to <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/cjis-link/march-2012/nics-hits-record-days-as-index-continues-to-rise> .

## **Conferences and Training**

### **Courses to Investigate Electronic Crime Available for State and Local Law Enforcement Officers**

Through the Electronic Crime Technology Center of Excellence (ECTCoE), the National Institute of Justice is sponsoring two new digital evidence courses, *Digital Evidence Collection Training* and *Computer Forensic Investigation Training*. The courses are available free of charge to those who work in state and local law enforcement. For more information, go to <http://www.ectcoe.net/> and click on “Training.”

### **Registration Open for NIJ Research Conference**

Registration is now open for the 2012 NIJ Research and Evaluation Conference to be held June 18-20 in Arlington, VA. There is no registration fee, and while DOJ policy dictates that no food or drink will be served, there will be plenty of opportunities to network and learn from each other. NIJ is bringing together leaders in the criminal justice field to highlight evidence-based programs and showcase what works, what doesn't work, and what the research shows as promising. Joan Petersilia, Ph.D., Professor of Law and Faculty Co-Director, Stanford Criminal Justice Center, will be the Keynote Speaker. <http://www.nijconference2012.com/>

### **OVC Accepting Applications for National Victim Assistance Academy**

The Office for Victims of Crime is accepting applications for the [National Victim Assistance Academy](#) (NVAA), to be held August 6-10, 2012, in Jacksonville, Florida. Starting this year, OVC will sponsor only one NVAA annually. The NVAA mission is to provide a 40-hour intensive, interactive learning experience to help develop and promote professional skills and knowledge for victim service providers. Continuing Education Units will be awarded to participants who complete all of the requirements of the Foundation-Level Training, Professional Skill-Building Institute, or Leadership Institute. The application deadline is July 27, 2012. For more information, go to <https://www.ovcttac.gov/views/TrainingMaterials/dspNVAA.cfm>.

### **Save the Date for *Possible* Conference on Sex Offender Management**

The Office of Sex Offender Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking announced the possibility of a National Training Symposium on Sex Offender Management and Accountability on

August 7-9 in New Orleans, Louisiana. If approved by the Department of Justice, the conference will be free, though no food or drink will be provided. Details will be posted on <http://www.smart.gov>.

## **Announcements and Online Resources**

### **NCJA Seeks Nominations for Outstanding Criminal Justice Programs Awards**

[The National Criminal Justice Association](#) is seeking nominations for its annual NCJA Outstanding Criminal Justice Programs Awards. These awards honor innovative and successful criminal justice programs that showcase promising practices to address critical crime-related issues in communities. Programs will be evaluated on the following dimensions:

- Does the program address an important criminal justice issue?
- Has the program demonstrated effectiveness based on program goals?
- Is the program a good example of leveraging federal, state, local, or other funds and resources?
- Can the program be easily replicated in other jurisdictions?

A panel of criminal justice experts from across the country will select five award winners, one from the Northeast, the South, the Midwest, and the West, and one tribal program. NCJA will honor these programs at the [2012 National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety](#), which will take place July 29-31 in Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. Travel expenses will be provided for one representative from each winning program. [Note: The administrator of the SAA must sign the nomination form as well as the program director. Nominations are due by **April 13.**] For more information, go to <http://bit.ly/GGe7AF>.

### **New Online Course on Bullying Prevention Available**

The National Center for School Engagement, in collaboration with the Partnership for Families and Children, has released the online course, "*Getting Serious: A Best Practice Approach to Bullying Prevention.*" The course provides an overview of bullying concepts and trends, highlights the links between school climate and bullying, and introduces best practices in bullying prevention. The course costs \$99. For more information, go to <http://partnershipuniversity.org/new-course-getting-serious-best-practice-approach-bullying-prevention-0>.

### **OJP Launches Faith-Based Partnerships Web Site**

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) launched the Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Web site to develop a growing community of faith leaders, practitioners, grantees, and other federal agencies. The site highlights funding and training opportunities as well as best practices to combat crime using faith-based approaches. There is also a link to the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. The site is located at <http://www.ojp.gov/fbnp/violence.htm>.