

# JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

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## JRSA News

Please note—JRSA has new contact information:

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### **JRSA to Co-Sponsor 2013 National Forum on Criminal Justice**

The Justice Research and Statistics Association is partnering with the [National Criminal Justice Association](#) (NCJA) and the [IJIS Institute](#) to sponsor The [2013 National Forum on Criminal Justice](#), to be held in Chicago, Illinois, August 4-6. Besides organizing a workshop track focusing on research and evaluation, JRSA is facilitating two postconference seminars, one on *Cost Benefit Analysis* to be taught by Michael Wilson, former director of the Oregon SAC and current cost-benefit consultant, and one on *Introduction to Propensity Score Matching and Interrupted Time Series Analysis Using SPSS*, taught by Gipsy Escobar, an Assistant Professor at Loyola University Chicago.

The National Forum has four substantive tracks and showcases programs, research, and technologies that help justice practitioners and decision makers in states, local communities and tribal nations address pressing public safety issues. This year's theme, *Integrating Research, Policy and Technology to Improve Public Safety*, illustrates the emphasis on evidence-based programs, information sharing, and the use of diverse data types (criminal history, administrative, survey) to do research.

For more information on JRSA's workshops and seminars, go to <http://www.jrsa.org/events/national-conference.htm>. For more information on the 2013 National Forum on Criminal Justice or to register, go to <http://connect2justice.ncja.org/NationalForum2013/Home>.

## National News

### **Karol Mason Confirmed to Head OJP**

The Senate voted last month to confirm Karol Mason as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs. Nominated by President Obama in February, she takes over for Mary Lou Leary, who has served as Acting AAG since Laurie Robinson left. Mason was most recently a partner at the law firm of Alston & Bird, LLP in Atlanta. She previously served as Deputy Associate Attorney General from 2009 to 2012 where she worked with OJP on several initiatives, including Defending Childhood, Strong Cities Strong Communities, the New Orleans Working Group, the Grants Management Board, and the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation. While there, she earned the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award. Mason received an A.B. in Mathematics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School. She should be in place at OJP by the end of the month.

## **Publications and Online Resources**

### **BJS Releases Report on Sexual Victimization in Correctional Facilities**

Nationwide, 2.0 percent of all prison inmates and 1.6 percent of all jail inmates reported at least one incident of sexual victimization involving another inmate; 2.4 percent of prison inmates and 1.8 percent of jail inmates reported having had sex or sexual contact with facility staff. An estimated 80,600 adult inmates—57,900 in prisons and 22,700 in jails—reported experiencing one or more incidents of sexual victimization by another inmate or facility staff during 2011-12. The findings are reported by the Bureau of Justice Statistics in [\*Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2011-12\*](#), which is based on National Inmate Survey (NIS), 2011-12. Required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, the survey was conducted in 233 state and federal prisons, 358 local jails, and 15 special confinement facilities between February 2011 and May 2012, with a sample of 92,449 inmates age 18 or older and 1,738 inmates ages 16 to 17.

A second report released by BJS in May focuses on the number of jails and jail inmates in 2012. [\*Jail Inmates At Midyear 2012 - Statistical Tables\*](#) describes annual change in jail populations and patterns of change from 2000 through 2012, and shows rated capacity of jails and percent of capacity occupied. The report also provides estimates of admissions to jails, details the volume of movement among the jail population, and presents the distribution of jail inmates by sex, race, and Hispanic origin. In addition, it includes information about the effect of California's public safety realignment on jail populations. The report also includes standard errors for jail estimates.

Finally, BJS' report, [\*Firearm Violence, 1993-2011\*](#), presents trends on the number and rate of fatal and nonfatal firearm violence from 1993 to 2011. It examines incident and victim demographic characteristics of firearm violence, including the type of firearm used; victim's race, age, and sex; and incident location.

### **Paper Identifies Impact of Affordable Care Act on Criminal Justice**

[\*The Affordable Care Act and Criminal Justice: Intersections and Implications\*](#), a white paper from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, highlights the various provisions of the Affordable Care Act that have direct and indirect implications for various components of the criminal justice system.

### **Vera Reports on Roundtable Discussion about Building CBA Capacity**

How does an organization develop the capacity to perform meaningful Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA)? In the interest of trying to answer this question, the [Vera Institute of Justice](#) organized a roundtable discussion of experts from state entities (e.g., the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission), nonprofit organizations, and elected officials from four states who discussed strategies to build CBA capacity. [\*Building Cost-Benefit Analysis Capacity in Criminal Justice: Notes from a Roundtable Discussion\*](#) summarizes the findings of this discussion.

### **Report Discusses Justice Reinvestment Strategies**

The Justice Center of the Council of State Governments released "[\*Lessons from the States: Reducing Recidivism and Curbing Corrections Costs Through Justice Reinvestment\*](#)." Sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the report highlights 17 states that have cut corrections costs while reducing recidivism and improving public safety.

### **Defending Childhood Task Force Report Available**

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention announced that PDF copies of the "[\*Report of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence\*](#)" are now available. The report, which was commissioned by the Attorney General as part of the Defending Childhood Initiative,

details the recommendations of the National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence and is a blueprint for reducing the impact of trauma on children who witness or experience violence.

<http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>

### **New Multimedia Resource on Wrongful Conviction Available**

The National Institute of Justice has added [\*Wrongful Convictions: The Latest Scientific Research and Implications for Law Enforcement\*](#) to its list of available multimedia resources. In this presentation, Jon Gould, Ph.D., and John R. Firman discuss findings from a study on wrongful convictions and the implications for law enforcement.

### **Understanding Sexual Assault Kit Backlogs**

[\*Untested Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases: Using Research to Guide Policy and Practice\*](#) explores some of the underlying issues behind untested sexual assault kits, including weak spots in collecting, storing, and testing kits; why the police might not send sexual assault kits to be tested; and what early evidence is showing about complex issues (including victim notification).

### **Latest *TECHBeat* Now Available**

[\*TECHBeat Spring 2013\*](#), a publication of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC), features an article about how California prisons have curtailed the use of contraband cell phones. Other articles discuss an automated system used in pawn shops to assist in stolen property investigations, a summary of technology news, and the effectiveness of camera surveillance systems in deterring crime.

## **Conferences and Training**

### **APPA Invites Corrections Practitioners and Policymakers to Training Institute**

The [American Probation and Parole Association](#) is holding their [Annual Training Institute](#) in Baltimore, Maryland, July 28 -31. The featured speaker at the opening plenary session, “Embracing the NEW Supervision Frontiers,” will be Faye Taxman, Director of the Advancing Correctional Excellence Center at George Mason University in Virginia, who helped develop the RNR Simulation Tool that allows jurisdictions to assess individuals, jurisdictions, and program capacity based on the tenets of evidence-based practices. All APPA Institute workshops have been approved by the APPA Training Accreditation Committee and the NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals.

## **Announcements**

### **IACP Accepting Applications for Law Enforcement Research Award**

The [International Association of Chiefs of Police](#) sponsors the [Excellence in Law Enforcement Research Award](#), which recognizes law enforcement agencies that demonstrate excellence in initiating, collaborating on, and employing research to improve police operations and public safety. The goal of this award program is to promote the establishment of effective research, especially partnerships among law enforcement agencies and researchers. Applications are due by June 29. Information is available at <http://www.theiacp.org/About/Awards/IACPExcellenceinLawEnforcementResearchAward/tabid/276/Default.aspx>. <http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>

### **MOV Nomination Period to Open May 31**

The nomination period for the [Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor](#) (MOV), the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer, will be open from May 31 to July 31, 2013. The medal is awarded

annually by the President to public safety officers who have exhibited exceptional courage, regardless of personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life. Public safety officers must be nominated by the chief executive officer of their employing agencies. More information is available at <https://www.bja.gov/programs/medalofvalor/index.html> .