

Nebraska Center for Justice Research

Annual Report 2015



UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



FROM THE DIRECTOR:

Ryan E. Spohn

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR) was established in 2014 with a mission to develop and sustain criminal justice research capacity internal to the State of Nebraska. Our goal is to assist the Legislature, justice agencies, practitioners, foundations, and stakeholders with research and evaluation to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety. This inaugural annual report summarizes the activities and financial status of NCJR in its first year.

From a research standpoint, we are very excited about the reports our Center has produced in its inaugural year. For example, we created a Trends in Adult Justice report that will be distributed annually to the Legislature at the beginning of the legislative session. We also produced a study in response to Legislative Resolution 520, which outlined the impact of Colorado's legalization of medicinal marijuana on Nebraska's law enforcement and local jail system. NCJR also produced a comprehensive examination of how "Good Time" laws have affected prison sentences in our state penitentiaries. Please access our website to view each of these reports.

NCJR was also very active in research and evaluation projects addressing social justice issues, such as the Nebraska DHHS Minority Health Initiative, and law enforcement projects, such as the Project Safe Neighborhood project with the City of Omaha targeted at removing violent gun offenders from

our streets. We are also eager to collaborate in promoting social innovation in the field of juvenile justice in Douglas County by serving as evaluators for the Youth Impact! Project, which promotes best outcomes for cross-over youth involved in both the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, as well as serving as evaluators for the Operation Youth Success collective impact initiative aimed at improving the functioning and outcomes of the Douglas County juvenile justice system.

From a budgetary standpoint, we are encouraged by the balanced budgetary profile of NCJR that includes state funding, contracts with local agencies, federal grants, and funding by local foundations. The diversity of our funding profile not only broadens the impact of our research, training, technical assistance, and evaluation activities across the state, but also allows us to provide "matching" funding for products that benefit from both public and private dollars.

Overall, we see NCJR's inaugural year as a period of exceptional growth and substantial output of research and evaluation products, as well as a learning period of how best to work with policymakers, criminal justice leadership and practitioners, and a variety of stakeholders investing in public safety and justice in Nebraska. We look forward to learning from these experiences and increasing our capacity to serve the Nebraska community in subsequent years.



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THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH

Mission Statement

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR) is devoted to maintaining a sustainable multidisciplinary research center internal to the State of Nebraska. We assist the legislature with research, evaluation, and policymaking in the effort to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety.

Statement of Goals

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research is comprised of a dedicated team of social science researchers who strive to serve the people of Nebraska as well as the University community. In pursuit of this overall goal, we:

- Conduct rigorous, objective, and neutral examinations of social, economic, and political issues facing the Nebraska community.
- Educate the public and provide assistance to the legislature regarding all issues related to social welfare and the criminal justice system.
- Contribute to the University's graduate program by involving students in funded data collection and analysis projects.

Core Activities

NCJR's core activities aim to reduce prison overcrowding in Nebraska without compromising public safety. To this end, NCJR staff attended all Council of State Governments phase 1 meetings and are collaborating with CSG phase 2 staff in tracking data related to the implementation of the justice reinvestment activities legislated in LB605. As part of these efforts, NCJR is assessing the validity of the risk and needs assessments used by parole to guide evidence-based supervision practices and evaluating the Life Skills and Vocational Grant recipients aimed at reducing recidivism. Finally, the research projects described in this report, such as the study of Nebraska's "good time" laws, all directly or indirectly facilitate data-driven strategies for reducing imprisonment.

NCJR Facilities

NCJR currently occupies approximately 1,000 square feet in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ), located in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) building on the University of Nebraska Omaha campus.



**Ryan Spohn, PhD (Director)**

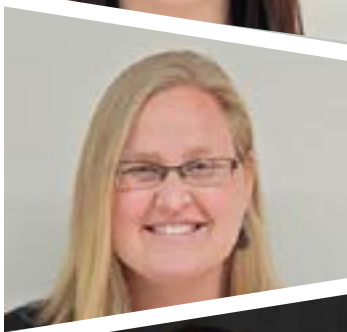
Ryan is the Director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research. He received his B.S. in Sociology/Criminology from Kansas State University (1996), M.S. in Sociology from Texas A&M University (1998), and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Iowa (2003). His areas of research include juvenile delinquency, crime, families, child maltreatment, and the evaluation of criminal justice agencies and programs.

**Laura Schoenrock, MPA (Program Coordinator)**

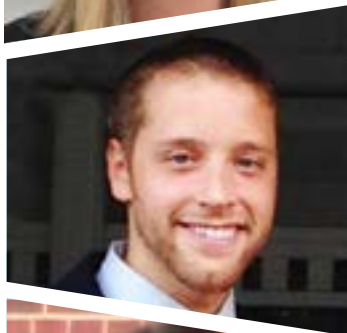
Laura has been a Program Coordinator since April 2012. Laura is a graduate of the UNO Masters in Public Administration Program and holds a B.A. degree in Organizational Communication studies from the University of Northern Iowa. She is currently coordinating the development of a transitional program for imprisoned individuals in the state of Nebraska.

**Johanna Peterson, MA (Research Coordinator)**

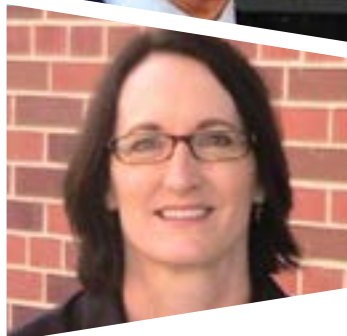
Johanna is a Research Coordinator at the Nebraska Center for Justice Research. Johanna received her B.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska Lincoln (2012) and her M.A. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska Omaha (2014). She helps to coordinate data collection, data management and research design strategies for various research projects.

**Jennifer Miller, PhD (Research Coordinator)**

Jennifer is a Research Coordinator at the Nebraska Center for Justice Research. She received her B.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Nebraska (2004), M.A. in Political Science from the University of Nebraska (2008), and PhD in Political Science from the University of Arizona (2014).

**Jared Ellison, MS (Graduate Assistant)**

Jared is a PhD student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and the graduate student assigned to the Nebraska Center for Justice Research. He received his B.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Niagara University (2009) and his M.S. in Criminal Justice Administration from Niagara University (2010). His research interests include short-term incarceration, the criminal court system, and offender reentry.

**Cheryl Christiansen (Staff Associate)**

Cheryl works as a Staff Associate. She tracks the department's budgets and supports the directors and coordinators with their various administrative needs. She previously worked in the Biology department and the dean's office in the College of Information Science and Technology, starting there in 2008.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2010-2015

Spohn, R. E., Wright, E. M., & Peterson, J. C. (Forthcoming). Rape and mental health outcomes among women: Examining the moderating effects of 'healthy' fear levels. *Violence Against Women*.

Spohn, R. E., & Wood, S. D. (2014). Spare the Rod, Endanger the Child? Strain, Race/Ethnicity, and Serious Delinquency. *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice*, 12(3), 159-193.

Zavala, E., & Spohn, R. E. (2013). The role of vicarious and anticipated strain on the overlap of violent perpetration and victimization: A test of general strain theory. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 38(1), 119-140.

Spohn, R. E. (2012). Delinquent Friends and Reactions to Strain: An Examination of Direct and Indirect Pathways. *Western Criminology Review*, 13, 16-36.

Spohn, R. E., & Kurtz, D. L. (2011). Family Structure as a Social Context for Family Conflict Unjust Strain and Serious Delinquency. *Criminal Justice Review*, 36(3), 332-356.

Zavala, E., & Spohn, R. E. (2010). Emotional abuse and controlling behaviors in heterosexual relationships: The role of employment and alcohol use for women and their partners. *Sociological Spectrum*, 30(5), 526-549.

Academic Publications Under Review

Spohn, R. E., & Bjornson, A. Factors associated with perceptions of rape events and reporting of rape events and reporting of rape among college and non-college women. Under review at *Violence and Victims*.

Ellison, J. M., & Spohn, R. E. Borders up in smoke: Marijuana enforcement in Nebraska after Colorado's legalization of medicinal marijuana. Under review at *Criminal Justice Policy Review*.

GRANTS AWARDED

2014-16

Evaluation of the Douglas County Crossover Youth Practice Model. (with Emily Wright). The Sherwood Foundation.

2014-15

Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

2013-14

Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

2012-13

Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

Grants Under Review

Local Evaluator (with Johanna Peterson): ReStart Reentry Program. Applicant: Center for People In Need. Funding agency: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. UNO portion of Budget: \$682,329. (5 years)

Research Partner (with Benjamin Steiner): SMART Supervision Program Evaluation. Applicant: Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Funding agency: BJA. UNO portion of budget: \$343,792.

CONTRACTS AND PROJECTS

Ryan E. Spohn: Principle Investigator

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 2015 | Douglas County Collective Impact Initiative. The Sherwood Foundation. |
| 2015 | Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. |
| 2015 | Parole Validation Study. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. With Ben Steiner and Lisa Sample. |
| 2012 | Transformation Project inmate transition program. Private donor via University of Nebraska Foundation. |
| 2014 | Justice Assistance Grant: Performance Measure Development. Nebraska Crime Commission. |
| 2014 | Nebraska Coalition of Juvenile Justice: Strengths-Based Assessment. Nebraska Crime Commission. |
| 2013-14 | Completely KIDS: Evaluation of Liberty Elementary Programs. |
| 2013 | Violence Against Women Act (VAWA): Strategic Planning. Nebraska Crime Commission. |
| 2013 | Justice Assistance Grant: Strategic Planning. Nebraska Crime Commission. |
| 2013 | Evaluation of Programs Funded by Nebraska's Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Funds. |
| 2012 | Nebraska Sex Offender Registry Study. Nebraska State Patrol/State Legislature. |
| 2012 | Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center Service Provider Evaluation. |

Ryan E. Spohn: Project Evaluator

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2013-17 | Minority Health Initiative Evaluation, Colfax and Platte Counties, NE. |
| 2013-14 | Second Chance Act – Evaluating Best Practice Implemented in Juvenile Re-entry. |
| 2011-15 | Prevalence of Traumatic Brain Injury among Youth at Nebraska Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers. Nebraska Department of Education. PI: Jeff Chambers. |

Selected Research Reports, 2012-2015

The Impact of After-School and Family Strengthening Programs on Student Outcomes: The Completely KIDS Liberty Project. 2015. For Completely KIDS.

Traumatic Brain Injury Screening: Differences between Youth with and without Juvenile Justice System Involvement in Nebraska. 2015. For the Nebraska Office of Vocational Rehabilitation at the Nebraska Department of Education. With Jeff Chambers.

Colorado's Legalization of Medicinal Marijuana: The Effects on Nebraska's Law Enforcement and Local Jail System. For the Nebraska Legislature. With Jared Ellison.

Nebraska Coalition of Juvenile Justice Strength-Based Assessment. 2015. For the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Trends in Adult Justice. 2014. For the Nebraska Legislature. With Jared Ellison.

Examining the Effects of Nebraska's Good Time Laws: Research Brief. 2014. For the Nebraska Legislature.

Nebraska Minority Health Initiative, 2013-14 Annual Evaluation Report. For East-Central District Health Department.

The Transformation Project: Post-Hoc Evaluation Report of a Prison Transition Program. 2014.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program: Evaluation Report. 2013. For the Nebraska Crime Commission.

Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center Analysis of Outcomes by Services. 2013. For the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center (diversion).

Nebraska Sex Offender Registry Study: Final Report. 2013. For the Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

Nebraska Sex Offender Registry Study: Interim Report. 2012. For the Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Legislature.

Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant, Nebraska Strategic Plan, 2012-2015. For the Nebraska Crime Commission.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

2012-2015

Spohn, Ryan and Emily Wright. "Evaluation of Douglas County Youth Impact" Presented at the 2015 Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Meeting.

Spohn, Ryan (presenter) and Abby Bjornson. "Factors Associated with Perceptions of Rape Events and Reporting of Rape among College and Non-College Women." Presented at the 2015 Midwest Sociological Society Meeting.

Ellison, Jared (presenter) and Ryan Spohn. "Borders up in smoke: Marijuana enforcement in Nebraska after Colorado's legalization." Presented at the 2015 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meeting.

Spohn, Ryan and Kristina Thompson. "African-American Girls and Serious Delinquency: The Role of Friends' Delinquency, Peer Pressure, and Victimization." Presented at the 2014 Midwest Sociological Society Meeting.

Zavala, Egbert (presenter), Ryan Spohn and Leanne Alarid. "Gender and Victimization: Assessing the Generalizability of Self-Control, Differential Association, and Social Bonding." Presented at the 2014 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meeting.

Spohn, Ryan and Don L. Kurtz. "Perceptions of Respectability and Juvenile Diversion Outcomes by Race in a Midwest Community." Presented at the 2013 American Society of Criminology Meeting.

Peterson, Johanna C., Ryan Spohn, and Emily M. Wright. "The Differential Impact of Fear of Crime on College Women's Mental Health Outcomes." Presented at the 2013 American Society of Criminology Meeting.

Spohn, Ryan. "What They Say or What They Do? Gender Differences in Peer Pressure, Friends' Delinquency, and Serious Delinquency." Presented at the 2012 American Society of Criminology Meeting.

Chambers, Jeff, Sandy Lint, Ryan Spohn and Hannah Dietrich. "Partnering with Parents for System Change." Presented at the 2012 National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect.

Jared Ellison, Graduate Assistant
“Borders up in smoke: Marijuana enforcement
in Nebraska after Colorado’s legalization.”
Presented at the 2015 Academy of Criminal
Justice Sciences Meeting, Orlando FL.



INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2012-2015

Chambers, Jeff and Ryan Spohn. “Traumatic Brain Injury Screening Differences between Youth with and without Juvenile Justice System Involvement in Nebraska.” Presented to Nebraska Brain Injury Advisory Council. Lincoln, NE. June 26, 2015.

Ellison, Jared and Ryan Spohn. “Borders up in smoke: Marijuana enforcement in Nebraska after Colorado’s legalization.” Presented at the March 2015 meeting of the Omaha Evaluators Group.

Spohn, Ryan. “Rape and Mental Health Outcomes among Women: Examining the Moderating Effects of “Healthy” Fear Levels.” Presented at the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Nebraska Omaha, March 10, 2015.

Spohn, Ryan. “Nebraska Center for Justice Research: Legislative Activities.” Presented at the Omaha Friends and Families of Inmates meeting, Feb. 28, 2015.

Spohn, Ryan. “Nebraska Center for Justice Research, Creation and Activities.” Presented at the Omaha Friends and Families of Inmates meeting, Sept. 27, 2014.

Spohn, Ryan. “State Advisory Group Strength-Based Assessment.” Presented at the Nebraska Coalition for Juvenile Justice, September 5, 2014, Boys Town.

Spohn, Ryan and Laura Schoenrock. “The Transformation Project.” Presented at the UNO/SMSU Restricted Housing Seminar, June 19, 2014, Omaha, NE.

Spohn, Ryan, Laura Schoenrock, Nicole Kennedy, and Hank Robinson. “The Transformation Project.” Presented at the 2012 Association of State Correctional Administrators Midwest Director’s Conference, Omaha, NE.

Panels and Discussions, 2014-2015

Panel Discussant, film on capital punishment: Into the Abyss, for Filmstreams’ Community Development Program and UNO’s Grace Abbott School of Social Work, April 22, 2015.

Session Chair and Discussant, Contemporary Issues in Criminal Offending and Victimization, Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 28, 2015.

Session Chair, Rational Choice Theories: New Directions and Applications, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Nov. 21, 2014, San Francisco, CA.

Evaluation Panel for Nebraska Minority Health Initiative Technical Assistance Meeting, July 30, 2014.

TRAININGS PROVIDED

2013-2015

Outcomes and Performance Measures: Training for NDCS Reentry Grantees. Training provided for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. (June 26, 2015)

Performance Measure Training: 2014 FY JAG Funds. Funded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. (November 3, 2014)

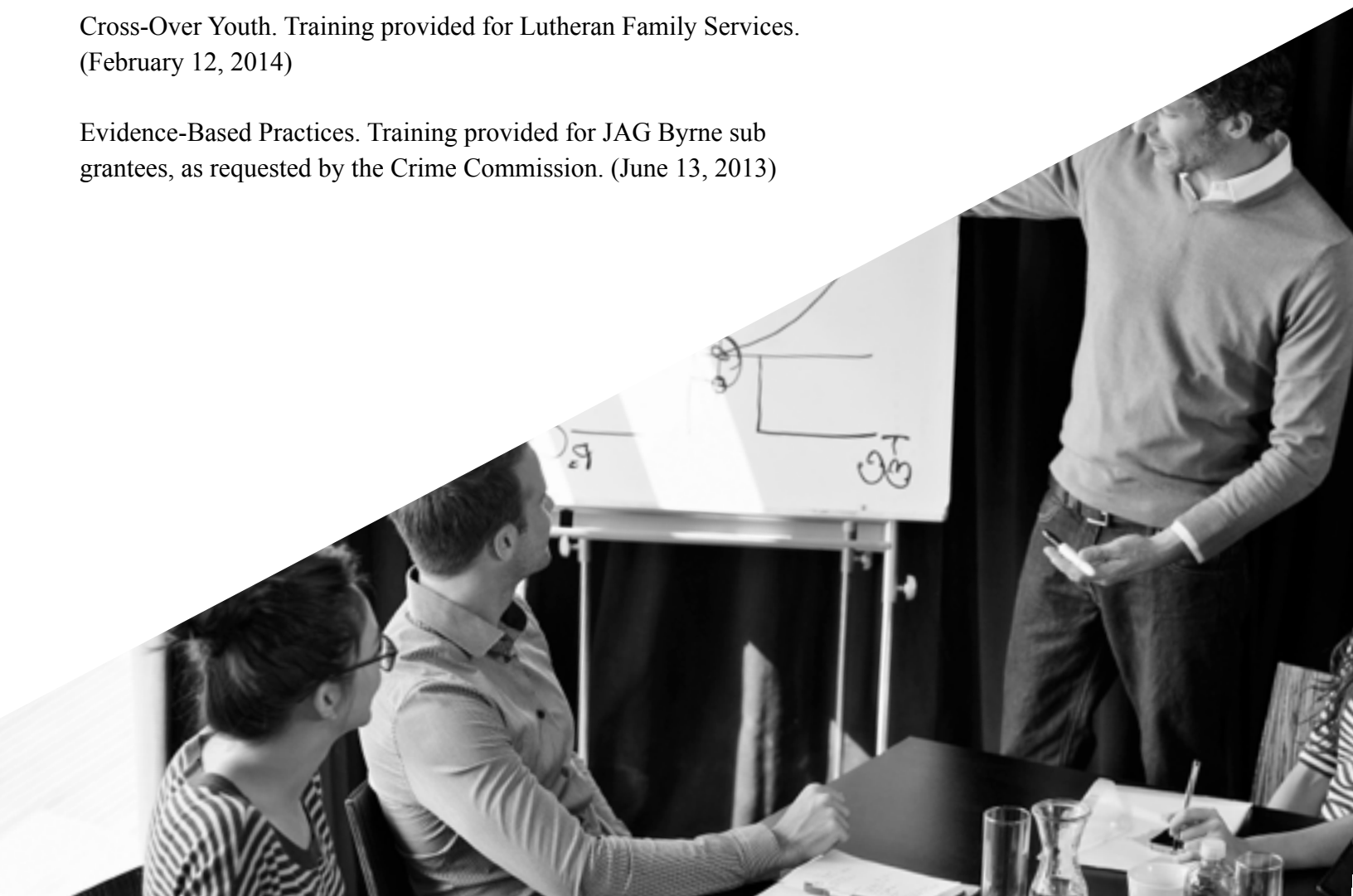
Developing Outcomes for VOCA & STOP (VAWA) Grant Programs. Funded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. (October 8, 2014)

Measuring Relevant Processes and Outcomes in Violence Prevention Programs. With Anne Hobbs and Monica Miles-Steffens. Funded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. (June 17, 2014)

Outcomes and Performance Measures: Training for JAG, STOP VAWA, and VOCA Subgrantees. Funded by the Nebraska Crime Commission. (May 15, 2014)

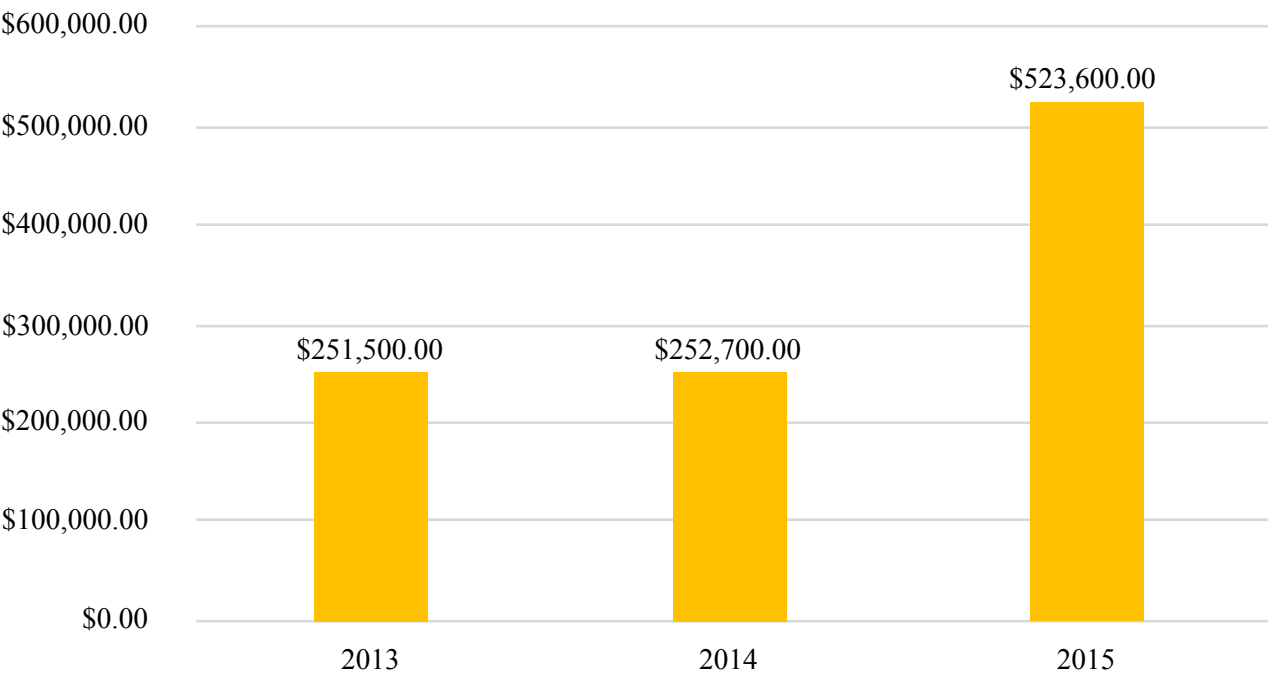
Cross-Over Youth. Training provided for Lutheran Family Services. (February 12, 2014)

Evidence-Based Practices. Training provided for JAG Byrne subgrantees, as requested by the Crime Commission. (June 13, 2013)



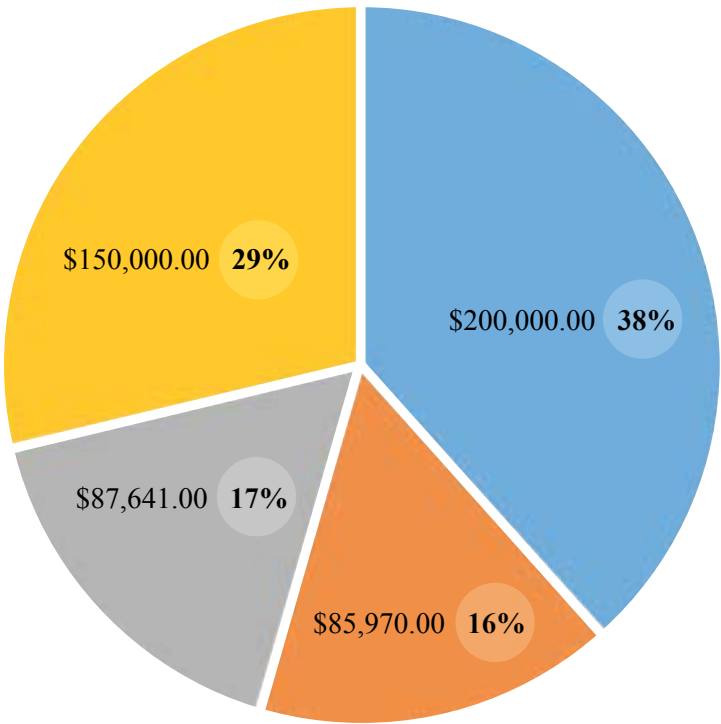
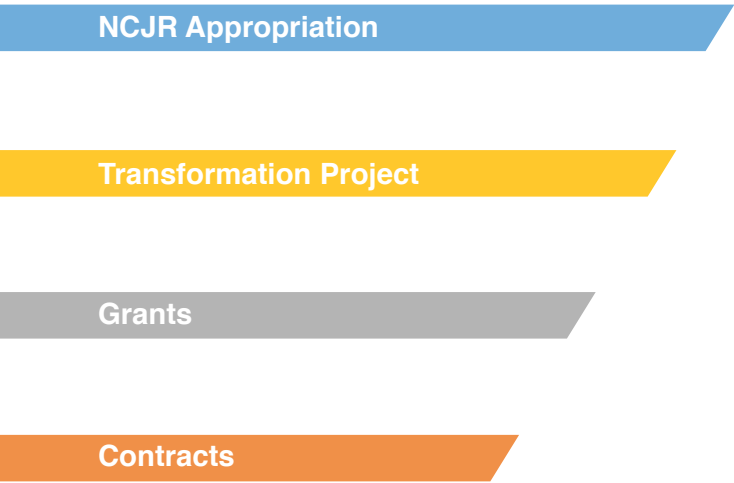
NCJR BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2013-2015

Total Budget Fiscal Year 2013-2015



FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

NCJR Funding Sources



Project Highlight

THE CROSSOVER YOUTH PROJECT EVALUATION



The Crossover Youth Practice Model (now known as Youth Impact!) was developed to improve outcomes for youth who may become or who are dually-involved in the child-welfare (CWS) and juvenile justice systems (JJS). These “dually-involved” or “crossover” youth are higher-risk for exposure to violence and/or abuse; familial dysfunction, substance use, or criminality; congregate or group home placement; school dropout, poor grades, and truancy; mental health and/or substance use problems; and adult criminality.

The goals of the Crossover Youth Practice Model are to reduce recidivism, crossover to the justice system, out of home and congregate placements, and the use of detention among youth. The primary purpose of the project is to evaluate the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM) that has been implemented in Douglas County, NE and to determine whether those goals are being reached.

This program is designed to enhance collaboration and decision-making between the youth, their family, and JJS and CWS personnel in agencies such as the Douglas County Attorney’s Office, the NE Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Omaha schools, Omaha child advocacy centers, Nebraska juvenile probation, Nebraska Families Collaborative (a private welfare provider), the Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC), Boys Town, Project Harmony, and the Douglas County Youth Center. The aim is to provide enhanced diversion services to dually-involved youth in an integrated fashion and prevent them from penetrating further into the juvenile justice system or the child welfare system.

This project seeks to conduct a process evaluation, outcome evaluation, cost-benefit analysis, and broader systems analysis of the CYPM in Douglas County, NE. The project is budgeted at a total of \$142,919 over two years.

Project Highlight

EVALUATION OF THE NEBRASKA FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT FORM



As the number of aging inmates increases in the Nebraska Department of Corrections, having an understanding of the functional challenges elderly inmates face is of value for correctional staff now and in the future. The purpose of this project is to implement, provide training, and ultimately analyze a functional assessment instrument developed specifically for the corrections environment.

The University of Nebraska Omaha's Department of Gerontology and other investigators will be working with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) in revising a Functional Assessment Instrument for inmates 45 years of age and older and develop a training manual for use by correctional personnel.

UNO researchers and investigators will be involved in the following activities:

- Coordinate with NDCS for the implementation of the Nebraska Functional Assessment Instrument
- Hold meetings with NDCS staff to outline the revision of a functional assessment instrument with aging inmates developed by the investigators in 2014 for use within the NDCS system
- Develop the training curriculum, evaluation tool, and disseminate the plan for use by NDCS

TRANSFORMATION PROJECT



The Transformation Project is a prisoner transition and reentry program aimed at improving outcomes for inmates both during their incarceration and upon their release. The Transformation Project was first implemented in 2009 for general population inmates and has recently evolved into a program aimed at improving the behavior and outcomes of inmates in restrictive housing.

The vision of the Transformation Project is to create a prison system where inmates are committed to the values, attitudes, and behaviors they believe will help them successfully transition through incarceration and reentry.

The mission of the Transformation Project is to facilitate prisoners in developing a foundation for learning and motivation to change through a process of self-reflection and goal setting.

The goals of the project are to reduce recidivism, promote positive inmate behavior, and promote positive behavior in the community upon reentry. The ultimate goal for the Transformation Project is to create a unique and evidence based program that works, not only in Nebraska, but in other states as well.

The Transformation Project works with male, female, and child-aged inmates in order to improve their life inside prison and after their release.

SELECTED REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

TRENDS IN ADULT JUSTICE ACROSS NEBRASKA

This report details criminal justice trends in Nebraska for five years from 2008 to 2012. Completed in December, 2014, the document presented the most recent and comprehensive system-wide data available. Each year, NCJR will provide updates to the report and submit the findings to the Nebraska state legislature.

The report is organized according to the stages of the process of the criminal justice system:

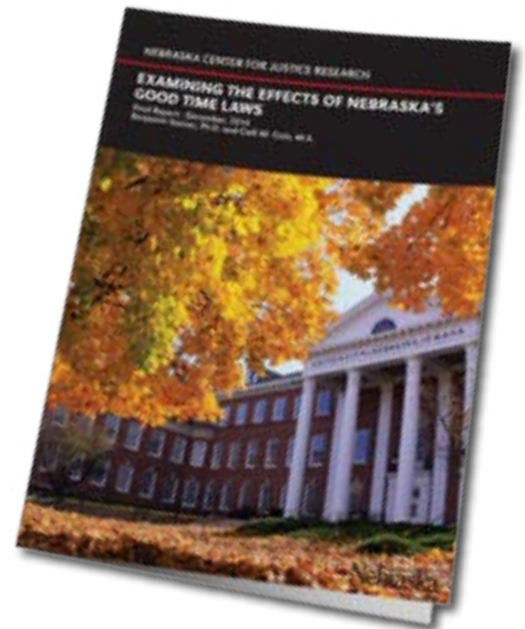
- Environmental context provides an overview of the population and demographic trends in Nebraska
- System context provides an overview of law enforcement employment
- Offenses provides an overview of crimes reported or known to the police and includes information on the percent of crimes cleared by arrest
- Arrests provides an overview of violent and property crime arrests by districts and compares arrests in Nebraska to neighboring states
- County court provides an overview of the distribution of the county court caseload by district
- District court provides an overview of the distribution of the district court caseload
- Corrections provides data on admissions and correctional populations by factors such as gender, age, race, and correctional institution



EXAMINING THE EFFECTS OF NEBRASKA'S GOOD TIME LAWS

Sentencing credit laws provide opportunities for inmates to gain a reduction in their prison sentence and such laws have at least four intended goals: 1) reduce prison populations, 2) promote prosocial behavior during imprisonment by offering inmates incentive for good behavior and/or deterring them from engaging in antisocial behavior, 3) reduce recidivism by providing offenders incentive for good behavior and participation in rehabilitative programming, 4) lower correctional costs.

The state of Nebraska currently has a sentencing credit law that automatically awards good time credits to inmates. The study described in this report involved an examination of the administration and effects of the state of Nebraska's good time law.



Main Findings/Conclusions:

1. What are the relative effects of incident characteristics (e.g., type of violation) and inmate characteristics (e.g., age) on prison officials' decisions to remove good time credits?

Conclusion: Prison officials, for the most part, made equitable decisions regarding whether to remove good time in response to prison rule violations.

2. What is the effect of losing good time credits on inmates' subsequent misconduct?

Conclusion: Removing good time credits in response to prison rule violations had no effect on inmates' subsequent misbehavior in general, but removing good time credits did amplify inmates' odds of engaging in additional violence in prison.

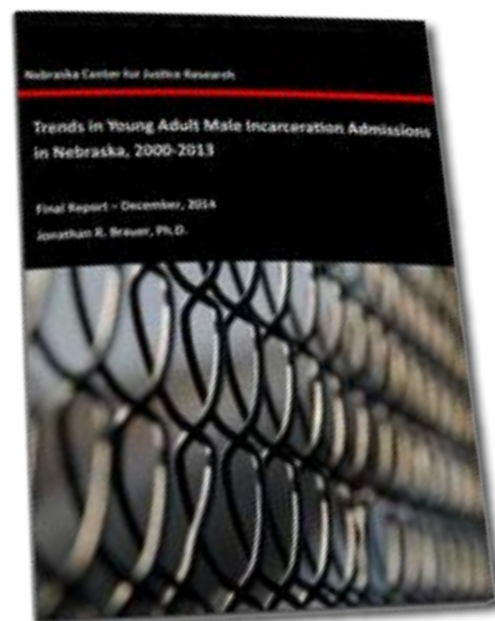
3. What is the effect of losing good time credits on inmates' odds of recidivism?

Conclusion: Nebraska prison officials' decisions to remove good time are primarily being made in an equitable manner, but removing good time credits in response to prison rule violations has little impact on offender behavior, whether in prison or upon release.

TRENDS IN YOUNG ADULT MALE INCARCERATION ADMISSION IN NEBRASKA, 2000-2013

This report examined correctional admissions data for males sentenced to incarceration in Nebraska from years 2000 through 2013. These data are collected by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Young offenders (under 25) make up the largest group of male admits by age, comprising 28% of new admissions in 2013. In addition, the number of male offenders admitted to prison has increased since 2000. Meanwhile, admission rates for young offenders have been relatively consistent since 2000, indicating that rising admissions overall are not due to more young offenders serving time in prison. Offenders aged 25 and older account for the bulk of the increase in prison admissions, with the oldest offenders (49 and older) accounting for the largest percentage increase since 2000. Other notable findings from the study:

- While rates of incarceration admissions have remained relatively stable for most racial/ethnic groups since 2000, there has been an increase in the percentage of young Black admits (from 24% in 2000 to 30.6% in 2013).
- Since 2000, incarceration admission rates have increased for young violent offenders and declined for young drug offenders.
- Since 2006, as many young offenders have been incarcerated for violent crimes as property crimes in Nebraska (2013: 34.1% and 33.7%, respectively).
- Property crimes are the most common admission offense for all age groups, followed by violent offenses (2013: 37% and 27%, respectively).
- Longer average sentence lengths also may have contributed to Nebraska's growing incarcerated population.
- Not accounting for fluctuations in operational or other costs, increases in the number of admissions from 2000 to 2013 alone is projected to have caused a substantial increase in the annual costs of incarceration.
- Rising incarceration costs do not appear to be driven by increases in young adult incarceration admissions.



COLORADO'S LEGALIZATION OF MEDICINAL MARIJUANA:

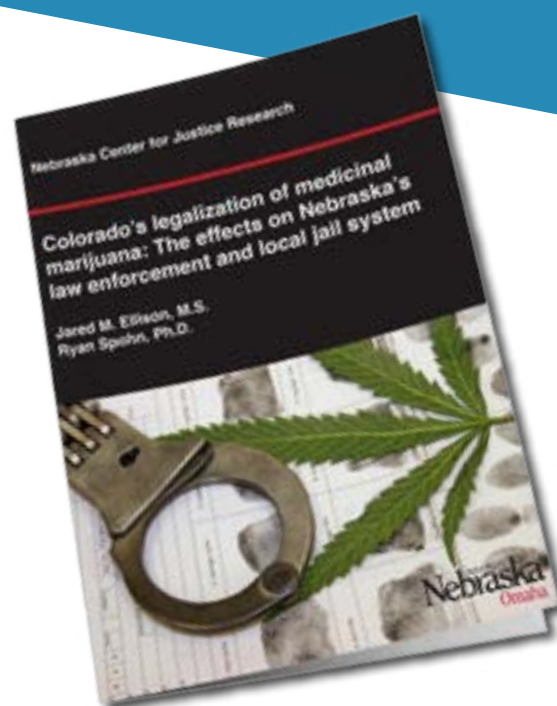
THE EFFECTS ON NEBRASKA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT AND LOCAL JAIL SYSTEM

With the passage of Amendment 20 in 2000 and Amendment 64 in 2012, Colorado legalized the medicinal and recreational use of marijuana. Subsequently, Nebraskan law enforcement agencies in counties along the Colorado border reported increases in marijuana-related arrests and reductions in jail space. In response, the Nebraska Legislature passed Legislative Resolution 520 to study the potential increased costs incurred by criminal justice agencies in border counties.

We examined trends in law enforcement and corrections related to the possession and sale of marijuana in Nebraska subsequent to the legalization of medicinal marijuana in Colorado (i.e., 2000-2013). Specifically, we examined marijuana trends in three groups of counties: those along the Colorado-Nebraska border, those along the I-80 corridor, and the remaining counties in Nebraska. We expected that 1) the impact of marijuana in Colorado will be most pronounced in counties along the Colorado border, 2) the next strongest impact will be for Nebraska counties along the I-80 corridor, and 3) “control counties,” which are neither border nor I-80 counties, would see the smallest increases.

Main Findings/Conclusions:

1. Border counties and I-80 corridor counties have arguably been the hardest hit by Colorado's decision to legalize marijuana.
2. There is an obvious and noticeable trend upward in marijuana related criminal justice activities since 2000 in border counties and I-80 counties, while smaller increases or even average decreases have taken place in control counties.
3. The 14 years of available data provide strong support for the argument that border counties have experienced larger relative increases than other Nebraska counties.



FACULTY AFFILIATES

University of Nebraska Omaha

Nikitah Okembe-RA Imani, PhD	Black Studies
Abby Bjornson, PhD	Counseling
Amy Anderson, PhD	Criminal Justice
Jonathan Brauer, PhD	Criminal Justice
Samantha Clinkinbeard, PhD	Criminal Justice
John Crank, PhD	Criminal Justice
Lisa Sample, PhD	Criminal Justice
Jukka Savolainen, PhD	Criminal Justice
Joseph Schwartz, PhD	Criminal Justice
Ben Steiner, PhD	Criminal Justice
Michael Walker, PhD	Criminal Justice
Emily Wright, PhD	Criminal Justice
Ann Fruhling, PhD	Information Science & Technology
Anne Hobbs, PhD, JD	Juvenile Justice Institute
Jessiline Anderson, PhD	Psychology
Juan Casas, PhD	Psychology
Rosemary Strasser, PhD	Psychology
Kerry Beldin, LCSW, PhD	Social Work
Amanda Randall, LCSW, PhD	Social Work
Daniel Hawkins, PhD	Sociology

University of Nebraska Lincoln

Ashley Hall, PhD	Forensic Science
Larry Barksdale, MA	Forensic Science
Richard Wiener, MLS, PhD	Law & Psychology
Ari Kohen, PhD	Political Science
Brian Bornstein, PhD	Psychology
Eve Brank, PhD, JD	Psychology
Mario Scalora, PhD	Psychology
Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, PhD	Psychology
Lisa Kort-Butler, PhD	Sociology
Tara Warner, PhD	Sociology

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Lorena Baccaglini, DDS, PhD	Public Health
Jane Meza, PhD	Public Health
Ruth Stashefsky Margalit, MD	Public Health
Melissa Tibbits, PhD	Public Health

University of Nebraska Kearney

Julie Campbell, PhD	Criminal Justice
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STUDENT AFFILIATES

Rita Augustyn	Ebonie Epinger
Maja Kotlaja	Jonathan Bolen
Daniel Butler	Danny Madrid
Calli Cain	Danielle Slakoff
Joselyne Chenane	Starr Solomon
Jared Ellison	

Students Funded By Semester

NCJR Fall 2014

Daniel Butler
Calli Cain
Jared Ellison
Ebonie Epinger
Dana Radatz
Starr Solomon
HOURS/ WEEK: 100

NCJR Spring 2015

Daniel Butler
Joselyne Chenane
Jared Ellison
Emily Rader
Starr Solomon
HOURS/ WEEK: 90

NCJR Summer 2015

Rita Augustyn
Jonathan Bolen
Daniel Butler
Callie Cain
Joselyne Chenane
Jared Ellison
Ebonie Epinger
Maja Kotlaja
Danielle Slakoff
Jenna Strawhun
HOURS/ WEEK: 280

NCJR Fall 2015

Daniel Butler
Joselyne Chenane
Jared Ellison
Jared Ganley
Jared Miller
Sara Saldana
Starr Solomon
HOURS/ WEEK: 130



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For more information on the content of
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