

Ann	UAL	REPORT	2019

# 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 annual report summarizes the activities and financial status of NCJR in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In this past year, NCJR once again crafted our Adult Justice in Nebraska report to provide a foundation of data trends in areas such as law enforcement and corrections for the Legislature at the beginning of the legislative session. NCJR also completed a report assessing the effectiveness of the ShotSpotter audio shot detection system in Omaha as part of the Bureau of Justice Assistance's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiatives. NCJR Director, Ryan Spohn, completed a report for the Bureau of Justice Assistance that summarized the results of a multi-state "immersion" training of the Blue Courage initiative, which focuses on law enforcement officer health, well-being, and professional success. Finally, NJCR staff produced 16 monthly and quarterly reports for Nebraska's Vocational and Life Skills inmate reentry initiative.



In regards to NCJR's academic mission, our faculty and graduate students placed multiple publications in academic journals and presented at the annual conferences of the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, the Omaha-area Heartland Juvenile Service Association, and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association.

From a budgetary standpoint, we continue to be encouraged by the well-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. Our state appropriation is only 35% of our budget, suggesting that for every state dollar invested, NCJR attracts two additional dollars in external funds.

In summary, 2018-2019 was another productive year with a substantial output of research, evaluation, and academic products. In addition, we continue to build research partnerships, collaborations, and relationships with agency and community stakeholders. We look forward to learning from these experiences and increasing our capacity to serve the Nebraska community in subsequent years. On a very sad note, we lost a very special friend, colleague, and faculty affiliate in Dr. Benjamin Steiner, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, who passed this year.

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### THE NEBRASKA CENTER FOR **:::::: JUSTICE RESEARCH ::::::**

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research's mission is "to develop and sustain research capacity internal to the State of Nebraska, assist the Legislature in research, evaluation, and policymaking to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices in corrections, and improve public safety." Our research focus is to use data, research, and evaluation to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety in Nebraska with an emphasis on reducing prison overcrowding.

#### 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.

#### STATEMENT OF GOALS

NCJR is a non-partisan non-profit research entity housed in the University of Nebraska at Omaha's College of Public Affairs and Community Service. The team is comprised of social science researchers who strive to serve the residents of Nebraska with honor and integrity by producing scientific studies held to the highest ethical standards. In pursuit of this overarching goal, we:

- Conduct non-partisan examinations of justice-related issues for the state of Nebraska.
- Propose and conduct scientific evaluations of policies and activities of Nebraska state agencies in order to assist them to serve Nebraskans efficiently and effectively.
- Provide the public and legislature with regular reports regarding our activities.
- Contribute to the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice's graduate program by funding students via applied research projects.
- Promote sustainability of statewide justice reinvestment activities.
- Increase research credibility by producing useable technical reports and meaningful academic publications.
- Continue our national reputation as a top-tier research and evaluation Center by ensuring our deliverables are produced with the utmost methodological rigor.

For more information visit: justiceresearch.unomaha.edu

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**RYAN** SPOHN, PH.D. DIRECTOR



**EMILY** WRIGHT, PH.D. Associate Director



MICHAEL F. CAMPAGNA, PH.D.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE



**KATELYNN** TOWNE, PH.D.

RESEARCH COORDINATOR



**LAURA** SCHOENROCK. M.P.A.

Program COORDINATOR



**SARA** TOTO, M.A.

Research Assistant



**CHERYL CHRISTIANSEN** 

Staff Associate

Ryan is the Director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR). 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.

Emily is the Associate Director of the NCJR. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Arkansas State University (2003), M.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati (2004), and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati (2008). Her areas of research include neighborhood crime and victimization, exposure to violence, gender differences in offending and victimization, and correctional intervention strategies.

Michael is the Research Associate for the NCJR. He received his B.A. in both Crime, Law, & Justice and Sociology from the Pennsylvania State University (2006), M.A. in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2009), and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology from Washington State University (2017). His areas of research include prisoner reentry, risk/needs assessment, case management, developmental theory, and desistance.

Katelynn is the Research Coordinator for the NCJR. She received her B.A. in Sociology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2011), M.A. in Sociology from University of Missouri-Columbia (2014), and Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Missouri-Columbia (2019). Her areas of research include criminology, social inequality, policing, victimization, and social media.

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.

Sara is a doctoral candidate in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and a research assistant for the NCJR. She received her B.A. in Criminal Justice (2013) and her M.A. in Criminal Justice (2015) from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research interests include institutional and community corrections and exposure to violence and victimization.

Cheryl is a staff associate at the NCJR. She tracks the Center's budgets and supports the directors and coordinators with their various administrative needs. Cheryl has worked for the University of Nebraska Omaha in the Biology department, as well as the dean's office in the College of Information Sciences & Technology, starting there in 2008.

### SELECTED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2016-2019

Campagna, Michael, Melissa Kowalski, Laurie A. Drapela, Mary K. Stohr, Elizabeth Tollefsbol, Youngki Woo, Xiaohan Mei, and Zachary Hamilton. 2019. "Understanding offender needs over forms of isolation using a repeated measures design."

The Prison Journal, forthcoming.

Chenane, Joselyne L., Emily M. Wright, and Chris L. Gibson. 2019. "Traffic Stops, Race, and Perceptions of Fairness." *Policing and Society,* forthcoming.

Richards, Tara N., Marie Skubak Tillyer, and Emily M. Wright. 2019. "When Victims Refuse and Prosecutors Decline: Examining Exceptional Clearance in Sexual Assault Cases." *Crime & Delinquency* 65(4):474-498.

Steiner, Benjamin, Emily M. Wright, and Sara Toto. 2019. "The Sources of Violent and Nonviolent Offending among Women in Prison." *Justice Quarterly*, forthcoming.

Zavala, Egbert, Ryan E. Spohn, and Leanne F. Alarid. 2019. "Gender and Serious Youth Victimization: Assessing the Generality of Self-Control, Differential Association, and Social Bonding Theories." Sociological Spectrum 39(1):53–69.



Research Associate, Dr. Michael Campagna, visits the Capitol to meet with Senators and provide them with the 2018 Adult Justice Report.

Woo, Youngki, Laurie Drapela, Michael Campagna, Mary K. Stohr,
Zachary Hamilton, Xiaohan Mei, & Elizabeth Tollefsbol.
2019. "The effect of disciplinary segregation on offender
behavior: Institutional and community outcomes." Criminal
Justice Policy Review, forthcoming.

Batton, Candice, & Emily M. Wright. 2018. "Patriarchy and the Structure of Employment in Criminal Justice: Differences in the Experiences of Men and Women Working in the Legal Profession, Corrections, and Law Enforcement." Feminist Criminology 14(3):287-306.

Butler, H. Daniel, Starr Solomon, and Ryan Spohn. 2018.

"Programming in Restrictive Housing: Considerations for Improving Outcome Evaluations." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 45(8):1174-1191.

Chenane, Joselyne, Emily M. Wright. 2018. "The Role of Police Officer Race/Ethnicity on Crime Rates in Immigrant Communities."

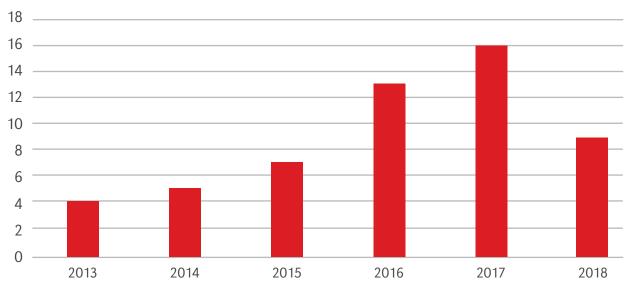
Race and Justice, forthcoming.

Ellison, Jared M., Benjamin Steiner, and Emily M. Wright. 2018.

"Examining the Sources of Violent Victimization Among Jail Inmates." *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 45(11):1723-1741.

- Ellison, Jared and Ryan Spohn. 2017. "Borders Up in Smoke: Marijuana Enforcement in Nebraska after Colorado's Legalization of Medicinal Marijuana." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 28(9):847-865.
- Spohn, Ryan, Abby L. Bjornsen, and Emily M. Wright. 2017. "Factors Associated with Perceptions of Rape Events and Reporting of Rape Events among College and Non-College Women." *Journal of Aggression, Conflict, and Peace Research* 9(4):279-289.
- Radatz, Dana L. and Emily M. Wright. 2017. "Does Polyvictimization Impact Incarcerated and Non-incarcerated Adult Women Differently? An Exploration into Internalizing Problems." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 32(9):1379-1400.
- Richards, Tara N., Marie S. Tillyer, and Emily M. Wright. 2017. "Intimate Partner Violence and the Overlap of Perpetration and Victimization: Considering the Influence of Physical, Sexual, and Emotional Abuse in Childhood." *Child Abuse & Neglect* 67:240-248.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, and Johanna C. Peterson. 2017. "Rape and Mental Health Outcomes Among Women: Examining the Moderating Effects of 'Healthy' Fear Levels." *Violence Against Women* 23(9):1055-1075.
- Wright, Emily M. and Marie S. Tillyer. 2017. "Neighborhoods and Intimate Partner Violence against Women: The Direct and Interactive Effects of Social Ties and Collective Efficacy." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, forthcoming.
- Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, Joselyne Chenane, and Nick Juliano. 2017. "The Importance of Interagency Collaboration for Crossover Youth: A Research Note." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice* 15(4):481-491.
- Cain, Calli, Benjamin Steiner, and Emily M. Wright. 2016. "Nonstranger Victimization and Inmate Maladjustment: Is the Relationship Gendered?" *Criminal Justice and Behavior* 43(8):992-1017.
- Radatz, Dana L. and Emily M. Wright. 2016. "Integrating the Principles of Effective Intervention into Batterer Intervention Programming: The Case for Moving toward More Evidence-Based Programming." *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 17:72-87.

#### Number of Publications Per Year\*



\* Includes academic peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, and policy and research briefs.

# GRANTS AWARDED ......... 2014-2019 .......

**2016-18** A Collaborative Evaluation of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative (with WestEd Justice and Prevention Resource Center). The Nebraska Children & Families Foundation.

2016-18 Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

**2015-17** Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

**2014-19** 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.

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Richards, Tara and Emily Wright. A Descriptive Analysis of Missing and Murdered Native Women and Children in Nebraska, Barriers to Reporting and Investigation, and Recommendations for Improving Access to Justice.

National Institute of Justice, Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant.

**2019** Richards, Tara and Emily Wright. Douglas County, Nebraska Sexual Assault Research Project. National Institute of Justice.

2019 Davidson, Megan, Teresa Kulig, Ryan Spohn, Emily Wright. Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers. National Institute of Justice.

**2018** Richards, Tara, Emily Wright, and Victoria Ybanez. American Indian/Alaska Native Training Technical Assistance Program. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) Grant Program.

**2018** Spohn, Ryan and Emily Wright. Evaluation of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation's Nebraska Expectant and Parenting Project. The Nebraska Children & Families Foundation.

# CONTRACTS AND PROJECTS 2016-2018 .....

#### Role: Principle Investigator

2019 Youth Impact! Cost/Benefit Analysis Update. The Sherwood Foundation. Ryan Spohn.

2018-20 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Ryan Spohn.

2017-18 Douglas County Juvenile Justice Prevention Needs Assessment. The Sherwood Foundation. Ryan Spohn with Emily Wright.

**2017-19** Evaluation of Douglas County Assessment and Case Management Services. Douglas County Corrections. Ryan Spohn with Benjamin Steiner and Emily Wright.

**2017** Defy Ventures Evaluation. The Sherwood Foundation. Ryan Spohn with Roni Reiter-Palmon and Joseph Allen.

2016 Completely KIDS Evaluation. Completely KIDS. Ryan Spohn.

**2016-18** Juvenile Justice Alternatives to Detention Evaluation. Douglas County/The Sherwood Foundation. Ryan Spohn.

#### **ROLE: PROJECT EVALUATOR**

2018-19
A Collaborative Evaluation of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative. WestEd Justice & Prevention Resource Center.

**2017-19** Douglas County Operation Youth Success Evaluation. The TerraLuna Collaborative.

**2017-19** Minority Health Initiative Evaluation, Colfax and Platte Counties, NE. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

**2016-17**Blue Courage Police Training Assessment. The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

**2016-17** Douglas County Operation Youth Success Evaluation. The TerraLuna Collaborative.

**2016-18** Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

2016-2018

- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, and Sara Toto. 2019. Adult Justice in Nebraska 2018. For the Nebraska Legislature.
- Spohn, Ryan, Justin Nix, and Ashley Arnio. 2019. Assessing the Effectiveness of ShotSpotter in Omaha: Addendum to Project Safe Neighborhoods 2016 Final Evaluation Report. For the Bureau of Justice Assistance.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. Immersion State Blue Courage Training Evaluation. For the International Association of Directors of Law **Enforcement Standards & Training (IADLEST)**
- Towne, Katelynn & Michael Campagna. 2019. Vocational and life skills quarterly report Grant Cycle 3: Q2. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Towne, Katelynn & Michael Campagna. 2018. Vocational and life skills quarterly report Grant Cycle 3: Q1. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Campagna, Michael & Katelynn Towne. 2018. Vocational and life skills quarterly report Grant Cycle 2: Q4. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Wright, Emily M., Spohn, Ryan, and Joselyne Chenane. 2018. Evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (Youth Impact!): Executive Summary. For the Sherwood Foundation.
- Kurtz, Don L., Ryan Spohn, and Johanna Peterson. 2018. Nebraska Vocational and Life Skills Initiative. Client Perceptions of Program Services and Ability to Reintegrate: A Qualitative Analysis of Grant Cycle 1 Participant Interviews. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, Joselyne Chenane, and Sara N. Toto. 2018. Evaluation of the Moral Reconation Therapy (MRT) Program at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Scheller, Eric, Joseph Allen, Roni Reiter-Palmon, Ryan Spohn, and Joseph Mroz. 2018. Defy Ventures Evaluation Plan Report. For the Sherwood Foundation.
- Steiner, Benjamin, Emily M. Wright, Ryan Spohn, Ebonie Epinger, and Nicky Dalbir. 2018. Evaluation of Douglas County Assessment and Case Management Services: Year 1 Report. For Douglas County and the Sherwood Foundation.
- Schoenbeck, Madison, Joseph Mroz, Joseph Allen, Roni Reiter-Palmon, and Ryan Spohn. 2018. Alternatives to Detention Evaluation: Final Report. For the Douglas County and Sherwood Foundation.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, Joselyn Chenane, and Sara Toto. 2017. Adult Justice in Nebraska 2017. For the Nebraska Legislature.
- Scheller, Eric, Joseph Allen, Roni Reiter-Palmon, Ryan Spohn, and Joseph Mroz. 2017. Defy Ventures Program Theory Report. For the Sherwood Foundation.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, Joselyne Chenane, and Sara Toto. 2017. Marijuana Enforcement in Nebraska (2013-2015). For the Nebraska Legislature.

- Scheller, Eric, Joseph Allen, Roni Reiter-Palmon, Ryan Spohn, and Joseph Mroz. 2017. Defy Ventures Situation Analysis Report. For the Sherwood Foundation.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, Joselyne Chenane, and Sara Toto. 2017. Nebraska Center for Justice Research: Annual Report 2017. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, and Joselyne Chenane. 2017. Evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (Youth Impact!): Results Summary. For the Sherwood Foundation.
- Spohn, Ryan, Joseph Mroz, Joseph Allen, and Roni Reiter-Palmon. 2017. Alternatives to Detention Evaluation: Year One Report. For Douglas County and the Sherwood Foundation.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, and Jared Ellison. 2016. Adult Justice in Nebraska 2016. For the Nebraska Legislature.
- Hamilton, Zachary and Alex Kigerl. 2016. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification Tool Development. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.
- Miller, Jennifer and Ryan Spohn. 2016. EPIC Alternative Education Program: Formative Evaluation Report. For the Douglas County Youth Center and the Sherwood Foundation.
- Nebraska Center for Justice Research. 2016. Alternatives to Detention Theory of Change Report. For Douglas County and the Sherwood Foundation.
- Nebraska Center for Justice Research. 2016. Completely KIDS Final Report (2014-2015). For Completely KIDS.
- Miller, Jennifer and Ryan Spohn. 2016. Operation Youth Success: Developmental Evaluation Final Report. 2016. For the Sherwood Foundation.
- Wright, Emily M. and Ryan Spohn. 2016. Douglas County Youth Impact! Views of Challenges from the Professionals Involved. For the Douglas County Youth Impact! Working Group.
- Wright, Emily M. and Ryan Spohn. 2016. Douglas County Youth Impact! Views of Successes from the Professionals Involved. For the Douglas County Youth Impact! Working Group.
- Wright, Emily M. and Ryan Spohn. 2016. Douglas County Youth Impact! Recommendations from the Professionals Involved. For the Douglas County Youth Impact! Working Group.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2016. Project Safe Neighborhoods 2014 Grant Final Evaluation Report. For the City of Omaha.
- Spohn, Ryan and Jared Ellison. 2016. Marijuana Enforcement in Nebraska (2009-2014). For the Nebraska Legislature.



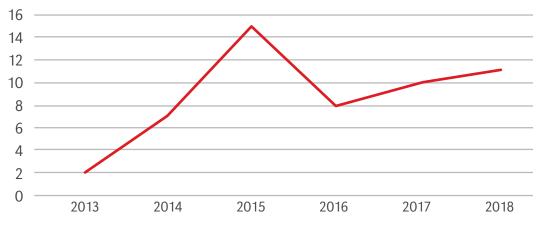
Research Coordinator, Dr. Katelynn Towne, visits the Capitol to meet with Senators and provide them with the 2018 Adult Justice Report.

### **ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS** 2016-2019

- Campagna, Michael F., Katelynn Towne, and Ryan Spohn. 2019. "Type and Dosage of Reentry Programming: Effects on Racial Disparity in Recidivism and Employment." Presented at Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- Johnson, Douglas F., Nick Juliano, Ryan Spohn, and Emily Wright. 2019. "Achieving Positive Outcomes for Crossover Youth through Youth and Family Engagement." Presented at Heartland Juvenile Services Association annual conference, Omaha, NE.
- Johnson, Douglas F., Nick Juliano, Ryan Spohn, and Marlon Wofford. 2019. "Utilizing Voice and Choice to Improve Outcomes for Crossover Youth and Their Families." Presented at Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association annual conference, Kearney, NE.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2019. "My Friends Keep Me Woke About These Things." Presented at the Policing and Society Conference, Akureyri, Iceland.
- Towne, Katelynn, Ryan Spohn, and Michael F. Campagna. 2019. "Reentry Program Participant Satisfaction and Remaining Challenges". Presented at Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- Brewer, Krista, Emily Wright, Benjamin Steiner, Ryan Spohn, Nicky Dalbir, and Ebonie Epinger. 2018. "The Relationship between Prior Victimization and Misconducts among Jail Inmates." Presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Epinger, Ebonie, Benjamin Steiner, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, and Krista Brewer. 2018. "Examining Racial and Gender Differences in Risk and Criminogenic Needs among a Jail Population." Presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Johnson, Doug, Shawn Coonfare, Ryan Spohn, and Margaret Vacek. 2018. "Achieving Positive Outcomes for Crossover Youth through Youth Family Engagement." Presented at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Denver, CO.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "The Nebraska Center for Justice Research: A State/University Partnership to Advance Data, Research, and Evidence-Based Practice." Presented at American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, PA.
- Spohn, Ryan and Emily Wright. 2018. "The Process and Results of a Metropolitan University Collaborating with Community Partners to Improve Service to Crossover Youth." Presented at Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Arnio, Ashley and Ryan Spohn. 2017. "An Exploratory Analysis of ShotSpotter as a Tool for Community Policing." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Chenane, Joselyne, Ryan Spohn, and Emily Wright. 2017. "Evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (Youth Impact!)." Poster presented at the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association conference, Kearney, NE.
- Leifker, Denise, Samantha O'Hara, Brianne Potts, William Wells, Delores Craig-Moreland, Gordon A. Crews, and Ryan Spohn. 2017. "The Blue Courage Guardianship Police Training Program: Observations from a Multi-State Implementation and Evaluation." Roundtable at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

- Schoenbeck, Madison, Kevin Mitchell, Ryan Spohn, Joseph Mroz, Joseph Allen, and Roni Reiter-Palmon. 2017. "Evaluating the System of Alternatives to Youth Detention in Douglas County." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- Solomon, Starr, H. Daniel Butler, and Ryan Spohn. 2017. "Examining the Relationship between Misconduct and Restrictive Housing." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- Spohn, Ryan, Madison Schoenbeck, Joseph Mroz, Joseph Allen, and Roni Retier-Palmon. 2017. "Addressing Risk but not Needs in Juvenile Intake: An Evaluation of Alternatives to Juvenile Detention." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Toto, Sara N., Benjamin Steiner, and Emily M. Wright. "Assessing Risk Factors for Sexual Perpetration and Victimization in a Prison for Women." Poster presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, and Joselyne Chenane. 2017. "Crossover Youth in the Justice System: An Outcome and Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Crossover Youth Practice Model." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.
- Chenane, Joselyne, Emily M. Wright, and Ryan Spohn. 2016. "When Helping Crossover Youth Helps the Juvenile Justice System: Reports from Agency Professionals." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Ellison, Jared and Ryan Spohn. 2016. "Assessing the Consequences of Colorado's Legalization of Recreational Marijuana on Nebraska." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Miller, Jennifer and Ryan Spohn. 2016. "Collaborative Efficacy? Assessing Collective Impact in the Context of Juvenile Justice Reform." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- Toto, Sara N., Benjamin Steiner, and Emily M. Wright. 2016. "Assessing Gender Specific Risk Factors for Sexual Perpetration and Victimization in Prison." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, and Joselyne Chenane. 2016. "Enhancing Services for Crossover Youth: Challenges and Recommendations." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

#### Number of Presentations Per Year\*



\*Includes invited and academic presentationa, as well as panels and discussions

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS 2016-2019

Campagna, Michael and Ryan Spohn. 2019. "Selection Bias is Ruining My Evaluation! A Comparison of Two Adjustment Models." Presented at the May 2019 meeting of the Omaha Evaluators Group, May 9, Omaha, NE.

Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "The State of Crossover Youth Research." Presented at the Youth Impact Annual Meeting, February 1, Lincoln, NE.

Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "The State of Crossover Youth Research." Presented at the Youth Impact Annual Meeting, January 15, Lincoln, NE.

- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "Reentry as a Component of PSN." Presented at the National Project Safe Neighborhoods Conference, Bureau of Justice Assistance, December 5 and 7, Kansas City, MO.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "Violence Reduction through Community Engagement and Partnerships." Presented at the National Project Safe Neighborhoods Conference, Bureau of Justice Assistance, December 5, Kansas City, MO.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2017. "Nebraska Center for Justice Research: Research and Community Engagement Activities." Presented at the Omaha Community Partnership meeting, June 22, Omaha, NE.
- Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, and Joselyne Chenane. 2017. "Evaluation of Douglas County Youth Impact!" Presented at the quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Juvenile Services, April 11, Lincoln, NE.
- Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn and Anne Hobbs. 2016. "Justice Initiatives in Nebraska." Presented at Mass Incarceration Criminal Justice Reform, Best Practices Conference, September 23, Omaha, NE.

## PANELS AND DISCUSSIONS

2016-2018 .....

- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "Beyond Police, Courts, and Corrections." For UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, February 7, Omaha, NE.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "The Intersection of Disproportionate Minority Contact, Justice, & Law Enforcement." For the First United Methodist Church of Omaha and Policy Research & Innovation (PRI), December 11, Omaha, NE.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2016. "Sustainability Panel." For the statewide Crossover Youth Practice Model Meeting, September 6, Omaha, NE.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2016. "Evidence-Based Practice Panel." For the Nebraska Children's Commission Meeting, January 20, Omaha, NE.

### :::: POLICY AND RESEARCH BRIEFS ::::

Braun, Clara L., Emily M. Wright, and Ryan Spohn. 2017. Restricted Housing among Juvenile Populations. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Moore, Sara, Emily M. Wright, and Ryan Spohn. 2017. Status Offenders and the Juvenile Justice System. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

### WEBINARS

Bilchik, Shay, Michael Umpierre, Amy Latshaw, Monica DeMent, Cara Stirts, Dawn Rockey, Larry Gendler, Emily Wright, and Ryan Spohn. 2018. Crossover Youth Practice Model 101. Webinar with the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and the Nebraska Court Improvement Project, June 22.

Coonfare, Shawn, Dan Jackson, Nick Juliano, Ryan Spohn, and Emily M. Wright. 2018. A Research and Practice Partnership to Improve Outcomes for Crossover Youth: Douglas County, Nebraska's CYPM Evaluation. For Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, February 20.

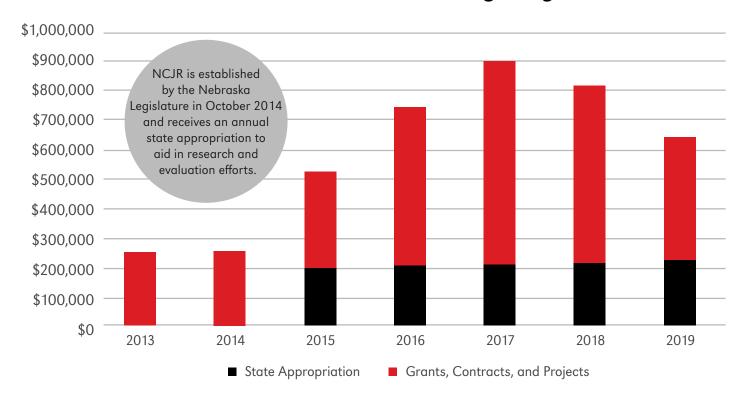
Spohn, Ryan, Nick Juliano, Emily M. Wright, and Darci Poland. 2018. Douglas County, Nebraska CYPM Cost-Benefit Analysis. For Georgetown's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, April, 26.



NCJR's Associate Director, Dr. Emily Wright, summarizes major findings from an evaluation of the local implementation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model

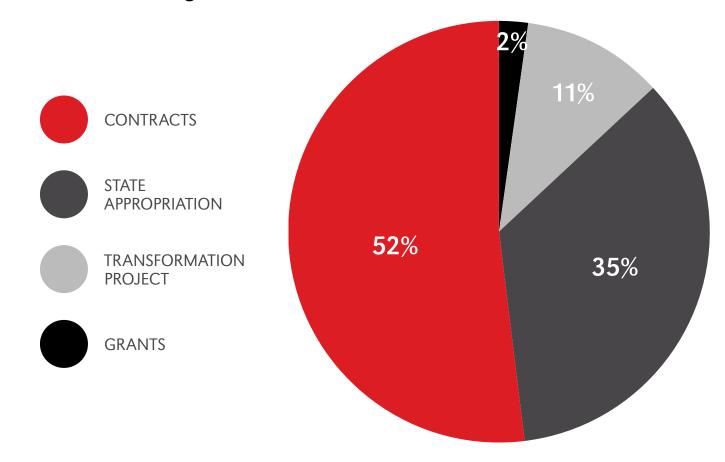
### \*\*\*\*\*\*\* NCJR BUDGET FY 2013-2019 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### TOTAL BUDGET BREAKDOWN, FISCAL YEAR 2013-2019

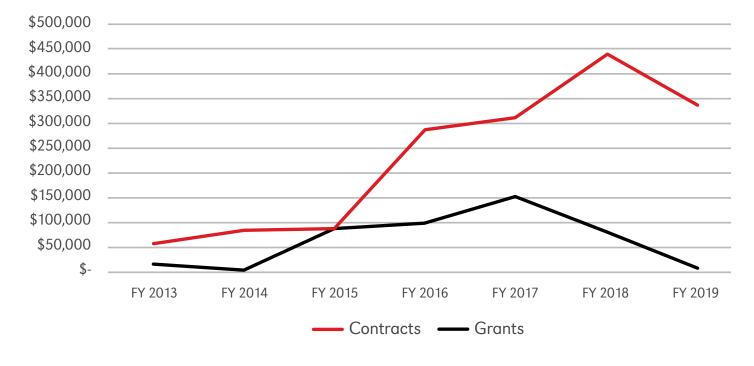


Representatives of the Douglas County Crossover team and Dr. Ryan Spohn meet to discuss the successes of the Youth Impact! Model.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET BREAKDOWN



### **CONTRACTS AND GRANTS FROM FY 2013-2019**



### \*\*\*\*\* FACULTY AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT \*\*\*\*\*



#### Dr. Teresa Kulig

Dr. Teresa Kulig joined the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice as an Assistant Professor in 2018. As an affiliate of NCJR, also collaborates with the Goldstein Center for Human Rights, and Women's and Gender Studies, to study victimization with an emphasis on human trafficking. Her exemplary work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the American Journal of Public Health, Justice Quarterly, Justice Evaluation Journal, and Victims & Offenders.

Highlighted below are just a few of the many projects Dr. Kulig has led and participated in to help improve the knowledge base regarding our understanding and responses to crime victims across local, state, and national community and justice agencies.

One such example of Dr. Kulig's community engagement and collaboration with justice agencies is her recent National Institute of Justice grant submission with co-investigators Dr. Emily Wright, Dr. Ryan Spohn, and Dr. Megan Davison - Dr. Debra Anderson is also a consultant on the project. This collaborative effort among staff from UNO SCCJ, NCJR, and Project Harmony would evaluate the effectiveness of Project Harmony, a child advocacy center (CAC) that serves youth in the greater Omaha area, as well as those in parts of southwestern lowa. In 2017, Project Harmony provided services to over 5,000 youth as part of their initiative to protect and support children who are abused or neglected. Project Harmony partners with other local agencies to offer an array of services including the coordination of cases across providers, housing for youth, evidence-based mental health services, medical exams, foster care health screening, forensic interviews, and advocacy and support for children and their families.

Although CACs like Project Harmony have existed for several decades, little research has examined their effectiveness in

providing children with comprehensive services to prevent re-victimization as they navigate the criminal justice system. Project Harmony is one of the largest CACs in the nation, which makes it the ideal candidate for evaluation and a potential model for other CACs. As a first step, this grant would examine various services provided by Project Harmony to determine whether the programs are being implemented as intended. The core services within the agency would be studied using a mixed methods design, including interviews, focus groups, surveys, and existing agency data. Findings from this evaluation would then be used to assess the viability of conducting further process and outcome evaluation efforts. Ultimately, this study would provide insights into how Project Harmony and eventually, other CACs, can implement best practices when dealing with abused or neglected youth. Additionally, in 2018, Dr. Kulig was one of only a few who received an Inquiry Awards Grant sponsored by the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS). The CPACS Inquiry Awards promote research in Nebraska and neighboring

states that help to understand and address issues deemed relevant by the public. Dr. Kulig's 2018-2019 Inquiry Awards grant supported a study that examined the prevalence and effectiveness of human trafficking courts across the United States for addressing the needs of "victim-defendants." Findings from this study suggest that, while trafficking courts

have rapidly increased over a relatively short period, there is a lack of clear theory guiding intervention with trafficking "victim-defendants." Furthermore, only a limited number of evaluations have been conducted to determine whether the goals of these specialty courts are actually achieved. More details about the study findings are available in a recent Victim & Offenders

special issue on problem-solving courts; a booklet tailored for Nebraska legal actors is also forthcoming.

Dr. Kulig has also done research outside of Nebraska. In a study funded by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, Dr. Kulig worked with a research team from the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati (Dr. Valerie Anderson and Dr. Christopher Sullivan) to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking in Ohio. The research team collaborated with multiple state and local agencies across the state to obtain existing agency records and to provide an estimate of the

number of known victims and at-risk individuals. The research team identified 1,032 known victims of sex trafficking and 4,209 at-risk individuals based on the examination of existing data sources predominantly between 2014 and 2016. Beyond the prevalence estimate, the research team found that the existing Ohio data systems were not currently set up for comprehensive

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data sharing cross agencies or with researchers. Agencies across Ohio are collecting different levels of information on human trafficking (e.g., individual-level details with identifiers compared to aggregate reports), and this makes it difficult to compare and integrate findings across the state. Due to the difficulty in obtaining statewide numbers on the prevalence of human

trafficking in Ohio, this effort has led to what the research team believes to be a conservative estimate relative to the true number of victims. Full technical reports for this project have been published and there is a forthcoming publication in the American Journal of Public Health.

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and NCJR are excited by the work Dr. Kulig is doing within the Omaha community and beyond, and we look forward to seeing her continue to contribute valuable research in the area of victimization.



Dr. Kulig presents Omaha Police Lieutenant Sherie Thomas with the Rising Star Achievement Award at the 2019 School of Criminology and Criminal Justice Scholarship and Awards Luncheon.

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### \*\*\*\*\* RESEARCH STAFF HIGHLIGHT \*\*\*\*\* PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### NCJR's Newest Research Staff Dr. Michael Campagna and Dr. Katelynn Towne

Research Associate Dr. Michael Campagna, received his Ph.D. from Washington State University in Criminal Justice and Criminology. His interests include barriers to the reentry process, improving case management through the use of risk/needs assessments, restrictive housing, and using developmental theory to examine desistance.



An addition to NCJR last summer, Dr. Campagna has taken the lead on data management and analyses for various projects, including the Vocational Life Skills (VLS) initiative. During the winter, the Nebraska Board of Parole requested NCJR conduct an evaluation of their parole sanctioning process, by which Dr. Campagna will be the primary investigator. He is also involved in the Youth Impact! Project, the DCDC jail case management project, Since bring brought onboard, he has presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Omaha Evaluators, and filled in as an adjunct instructor for the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He enjoys developing new research partnerships and mentoring graduate students. His ultimate goal is to assist Nebraska in creating a collaborative, data-driven environment of criminal justice agencies and community organizations that seek to reduce recidivism and improve quality of life for Nebraskans.



Research Coordinator Dr. Katelynn Towne, received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Sociology. Her interests include social inequities on the criminal justice experience, victimization, and the role of media on attitudes towards police.

An addition to NCJR last summer, Dr. Towne has brought a considerable and essential skillset to NCJR with her background in mixed-methodology. In addition to managing data and providing technical assistance for quantitative aspects of the VLS evaluation, she has been coordinating qualitative efforts by interviewing formerly incarcerated persons who have struggled and excelled with VLS reentry programming. She presents findings of this evaluation in reports and at professional meetings. Since joining NCJR, she has presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference and the Policing and Society Conference. She enjoys engaging the community with evidence-based practice possibilities and aims to reduce recidivism.

We at NCJR are happy to have both Drs. Campagna and Towne working to produce quality research that benefits the community.

#### VOCATIONAL AND LIFE SKILLS

Vocational and Life Skills Programs Work to Reduce Recidivism and Increase Employment across Nebraska

Omaha - Since 2015, a grant administered by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) has funded reentry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals across the state of Nebraska that provide vocational and life skills training. To qualify for programming, participants must currently be incarcerated; under probation or parole supervision; or within 18 months of release. Nearly 7,000 participants have been served by the Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) program initiative.

Eight programs received funding in the third grant cycle. VLS programming is offered at all ten correctional facilities in the state and many more participants are served in area communities. Program services vary widely including specific job training, community college courses, and residential facilities, and offer peer-support and case management throughout programming. Many of the staff of the programs can sometimes uniquely relate to participants, as they were also involved in the correctional system at some point. This personal connection to the participants' reentry challenges can increase hope within participants and show that they can succeed and become a productive member of society.



The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR), under the advisement of Director Ryan Spohn, Ph.D., signed on as an evaluation research partner in May 2015. Research Associate Michael Campagna and Research Coordinator Katelynn Towne work directly with NDCS and the VLS programs to track data on program participation and subsequent outcomes.

This evaluation continually assesses the rates at which participants return to prison and gain and maintain employment in the community. NCJR additionally provides VLS with best practices trainings, cutting-edge research findings, VLS specialty reports, and internally-developed leading measures to help VLS improve its capacity and effectiveness. In order to develop reports and assess barriers, strengths, and progress, participants are surveyed throughout their programming. Interviews with participants, agency workers, and NDCS staff provide additional insight into barriers and successes of VLS. NCJR staff are excited to work with programs and staff dedicated to offering people second chances and a path forward.



### ::::: COLLABORATOR HIGHLIGHT ::::::



### THE REAL PROGRAM

#### COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT AND NEBRASKA'S MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

MHA partners with NCJR on the VLS reentry initiative.

The REAL program, which stands for respond, empower, advocate, and listen, is a program area that is evaluated by NCJR as part of a larger part of the Vocational and Life Skills Reentry Initiative.

The REAL program identifies those persons with mental illness that come into contact with the police and provides assistance to support services through the use of MHA's peer specialists. Since its inception in 2011, more than 1,900 individuals have been referred to the REAL program, and 85% have accepted services. The REAL program uses collaboration between law enforcement and mental health specialists to provide deescalation training and best practices for interactions with mentally ill individuals. Lincoln Police come into contact with persons with mental illness 2,800 times or more per year through mental health crisis investigations or through other contacts (e.g., driver in a motor vehicle accident).

When a Lincoln Police officer is called to a mental health crisis, they determine what to do with the individuals, and at that time, they can activate the REAL program by making a referral to MHA. Officers start the referral process via an email system where they briefly provide information to MHA about how to contact the individual with mental illness, their possible mental health issues, and a brief description of the encounter with LPD. Within 24 to 48 hours, a peer specialist - a trained mental health advocate, who is also a person with mental illness - will contact the individual and ask if they would like to receive help in seeking out support services.

This service is free and voluntary. Peer specialists do not diagnose individuals; instead, they are there to help identify the needs and issues that may have precipitated the mental health crisis. Often, persons with mental illness identify issues with finding and maintaining stable housing, employment, and finding mental health and/or substance use counseling and treatment. The REAL program ensures

...peer specialists respond to persons with mental illness (PMIs) after a crisis, empower PMIs by helping them develop long-term mental health plans, advocate for PMIs when attempting to secure resources, and listen to PMIs' needs, wants, and frustrations rather than coerce them into decisions (emphasis added, Bonkiewicz, Moyer, Magdanz, and Walsh 2018:490).

The collaboration between MHA and LPD continues beyond that first referral. Peer specialists will update the referring officer about the long-term plans and strategies they discussed with the person with mental illness. This provides an officer with the information they can use to build a rapport and help de-escalate a problem if they come into contact with the individual in the future. The referring officer may also be of assistance to the individual and peer specialist by providing contacts in outreach groups or resource centers for food, shelter, or other necessities. Finally, LPD and MHA hold quarterly meetings to discuss ways to improve mental health services in the community and address issues related to specific cases of persons with mental illness receiving multiple contacts from LPD.

An internal evaluation of the REAL program provides some preliminary support for this collaborative effort (Bonkiewicz et al. 2018). In a comparison of referred individuals with mental

illness to the REAL program and non-referred individuals with mental illness, there was no difference between the groups in the likelihood of being arrested at 12, 24, or 36 months after the initial mental health call for service. However, it appears that the referred participants were less likely to be taken into emergency protective custody and also generated fewer mental health calls compared to the non-referred individuals, but only at 24 and 36 months after the initial crisis. The evaluation also found the group that benefited the most from REAL were those with extensive histories of mental health calls for service compared to those with fewer prior calls. Overall, the REAL program has the potential to be effective in reducing calls to and contacts by police with persons with mental illness.

If you have questions about this program or other Vocational and Life Skills grant-funded programs, please contact Dr. Campagna (mcampagna@unomaha.edu) or Dr. Towne (ktowne@unomaha.edu).



### ····· PROJECT HIGHLIGHT ·····

### NEBRASKA BOARD OF PAROLE **SANCTIONS EVALUATION 2019**

#### STATE OF NEBRASKA BOARD OF PAROLE MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Nebraska Board of Parole and the Division of Parole Supervision to continue its research, understanding and implementation of evidence-based approaches as it pertains to the release of clients who have appropriately been prepared for community supervision. The Board and the Division of Parole Supervision are dedicated to maintaining public safety, reducing recidivism and addressing the need of victims, while integrating clients into society through a balance of best practice supervision and treatment strategies.

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For those who have been granted parole, they must abide by certain rules (e.g., refrain from engaging in criminal conduct or find and maintain employment) to maintain their conditional release from prison. A variety of sanction may be employed in response to parole violations. For example, if a parolee is found to have committed a minor form of noncompliance, they may receive a written warning or greater curfew restrictions; however, a parolee who partakes in a more severe form of noncompliance may be at risk of receiving custodial sanctions or the highest level of noncompliance - a revocation of their parole. Therefore, to abide by their mission statement, the Nebraska Board of Parole (NBP) has asked NCJR to examine the effects of sanctions delivered by parole to clients.

The NBP Sanctions Evaluation will examine outcomes for all client sanctions after a parole violation had been determined. The study period will be between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2018 and include all clients served by parole during this time frame. Parole has reorganized and changed supervision policies, risk assessments, and administration within this period, therefore each consideration will be accounted for in the analysis through consultation with NBP. An advanced matching procedure will accompany the analysis, to ensure the control group is as close as possible to the experimental group on key demographics and criminalistics chracteristics. Further, a measure of graduated sanctioning will be developed and examined for how it affects revocations, violations, and new crimes. Criminal history, institutional records, and risk/needs variables will inform the study.

Does return to jail for a parole violation deter future violations

or new crimes?

Utilizing data regarding criminal history, institutional records, and risk/needs of the clients, a combination of quasiexperimental, correlational, and descriptive analyses will be employed to examine the following evaluation questions:

Do graduated sanctions for a parole violation deter future violations or new crimes?

Does utilization of community services moderate the effectiveness of sanctions?

What combinations of sanctions deter future violations?



What is the rank of effectiveness by type of sanction?

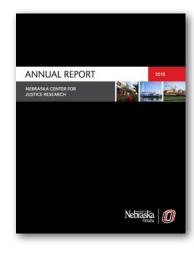
Does sanction effectiveness vary by original crime type?



Does sanction effectiveness vary by race, gender, or age?

### \*\*\*\*\* RESEARCH REPORT HIGHLIGHT \*\*\*\*\*

#### ADULT JUSTICE IN NEBRASKA (2018)



This report compares criminal justice data across Nebraska from 2012 to 2018. Completed in January, 2019, the document presented the most recent and comprehensive system-wide data available. NCJR will continue to provide updates to this report each year and submit the findings to the Nebraska state legislature. Our hope is that the report serves as a reference guide for providing a clearer understanding of recent trends in crime and criminal justice activities in the state of Nebraska. The report was made possible by the financial support provided to NCJR by LB 907.

You Can Find this Report on Our Website

### **COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT**

NCJR is a founding member of the Inter-University Network of Criminal Justice Research Centers (INCJRC)



Since November 2018, NCJR along with a dozen other academic criminal justice research centers across the nation created a collaborative group to provide networking opportunities for justice-focused researchers. We at NCJR are excited to participate in this network of respected centers and look forward to working collaboratively with members of this group on future research.

To find more information on INCJRC and affiliated centers, please visit: www.incjrc.net

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**HOURS/WEEK: 160 HOURS/WEEK: 80**  **HOURS/WEEK: 60** 

**HOURS/WEEK: 80** 



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