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ANNUAL
REPORT



NEBRASKA CENTER FOR
JUSTICE RESEARCH

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Letter from the Director4
- About NCJR5
 - Mission Statement5
 - Facilities5
 - Statement of Goals5
- Meet the Team: Staff.6
 - Congratulations to Dr. Michael Campagna7
- Meet the Team: Graduate Assistants8
- Faculty Affiliate Highlight: Dr. Sadaf Hashimi10
 - TRAC.10
 - PONET (Co-PI)11
 - Nebraska Traffic Stop Project11
 - Global Crime11
 - Outside of Work.11
- Project Highlight: Poverty Elimination Action Plan (PEAP)12
 - PEAP: A Community-Driven Blueprint for Omaha12
- Community Partner Highlight: Project Reset13
- NCJR’s In-person Research and Engagement 2022-202414
- Budget16
- Appendices19
 - Selected Academic Publications, 2022-202419
 - Professional Publications, 2022-202420
 - Grants Awarded, 2022-202420
 - Contracts and Projects, 2022-202420
 - Role: Principal Investigator20
 - Role: Project Evaluator21
 - Selected Research Reports, 2022-202421
 - Policy and Research Briefs, 2022-202422
 - Academic Presentations, 2022-202423
 - Invited Presentations, 2022-202425
 - Panels and Discussions, 2022-202426
 - Webinars, 2022-202426

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

This is my opportunity to reflect on the work of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR) for fiscal year 2024. This was a year of enhancing and expanding some of our established work, while also venturing into new substantive areas. It was also a year of bittersweet loss, as a long-term research staff member moved on to bigger and better things. Despite great uncertainty in the national and state research environment, NCJR’s faculty and staff remained steadfast in our focus, mission, and commitment to addressing justice-related challenges through evaluation and research to improve outcomes and public safety.

First, the bittersweet news: Research Associate Michael Campagna has moved on to bigger things...and by bigger, we mean Alaska. We wish him the best in his new role as Assistant Professor in the Justice Center at the University of Alaska Anchorage. His friendship and expertise will be sorely missed, but we are excited to see him succeed in this important new role.

NCJR expanded its role in improving reentry in Nebraska this year when I was appointed by Governor Pillen to Nebraska’s newly formed Reentry Continuity Advisory Board and elected as its inaugural chair by my fellow board members. This experience has been incredibly rewarding and, at times, humbling. Attending regular meetings with leaders from the Departments of Corrections, Probation, and Parole, along with highly experienced community reentry professionals, has been an invaluable learning experience. With “all the right people in the room,” we are making meaningful progress toward better coordination of the overall reentry and transitional housing processes, promoting second chances, desistance, and public safety.

NCJR faculty and researchers also presented on reentry research and best practices at several major events this year, including the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Association annual conference in Edmond, the American Society of Criminology annual conference in San Francisco, and the West Palm Beach Reentry Summit in Florida.

NCJR Associate Director Zach Hamilton led two projects with direct implications for policy and practice. In partnership with the Lancaster County

Department of Corrections, his research team analyzed jail population data to better understand recent growth trends and to develop recommendations for improving system processing, data collection, and research efforts. These recommendations will help the county monitor and adapt to future population changes while maintaining public safety. In a second project, Dr. Hamilton led an evaluation of the Risk Assessment Instrument used in Nebraska’s juvenile justice system to examine its current application and enhance its effectiveness by reducing overrides and improving its overall accuracy in assessing youths’ risk of reoffending or failing to appear in court.

NCJR also added new areas of work to its portfolio this year. First, I collaborated with Dr. Katelynn Towne to lead the development of the City of Omaha’s inaugural Poverty Elimination Action Plan (PEAP). Initiated by Nebraska Senator Terrell McKinney’s LB 840, Omaha and Lincoln were required to create PEAPs as the first step toward a comprehensive, statewide plan to address challenges faced by high-poverty areas and to promote sustained upward mobility. Omaha’s plan was approved by the City Council and delivered to the Nebraska Legislature in July 2025.

A second major new initiative for NCJR involves promoting fairness and safety in traffic stops, in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Transportation. As part of this project, NCJR coordinated statewide trainings, began analyzing traffic stop data, and helped establish a statewide advisory board to promote best practices for fair and safe traffic stops between law enforcement professionals and citizens. NCJR and UNO’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice were awarded a second one-year grant to support a team of faculty, staff, and students engaged in this work.

Although the environment remains challenging for academic researchers, these challenges have encouraged us to reflect on our mission, our work, and our value to the State of Nebraska. We remain steadfast in our efforts to promote justice, public safety, second chances, and economic efficiency in criminal justice, corrections, and reentry.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work.
— Ryan Spohn

ABOUT NCJR

Mission Statement

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research’s (NCJR) 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.

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:

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

For more information visit: justiceresearch.unomaha.edu

MEET THE TEAM: STAFF



Ryan Spohn, Director

Ryan is the director of 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.



Zachary Hamilton, Associate Director

Zachary is the associate director of NCJR and is an associate professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University. His research areas include risk and needs assessments and corrections.



Alex Kigerl, Research Associate

Alex is a research associate for NCJR. He received his M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice in 2010 and his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and Criminology from Washington State University in 2014. His areas of research include risk and needs assessment, corrections, and cybercrime.



Katelynn Towne, Research Coordinator

Katelynn joined NCJR in 2018 as a research coordinator. Her research and evaluation work focuses on criminology, social inequality, reentry, policing, and victimization. She earned her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (2011), and both her M.A. (2014) and Ph.D. (2019) in Sociology from the University of Missouri–Columbia.



Cheryl Christiansen, Staff Associate

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

Congratulations: Research Associate Dr. Michael Campagna Accepts New Position at University of Alaska

Michael was a research associate at NCJR, where he specialized in applied criminology, evaluation design, and data analysis. His work focused on areas such as prisoner reentry, behavioral health, risk and needs assessment, and justice-involved populations. Dr. Campagna earned his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology from Washington State University, his M.A. in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and his B.A. in both Crime, Law & Justice and Sociology from Pennsylvania State University.

At NCJR, Dr. Campagna led numerous research projects, ensuring that stakeholders across the state had access to high-quality data and evidence to inform their work. He contributed to federally funded evaluations and played an integral role in developing methodologies that enhanced NCJR's ability to address pressing criminal justice issues. His work was widely published in peer-reviewed journals, and he actively contributed to the academic community as a peer reviewer for several respected journals in the field. Dr. Campagna's efforts provided a strong foundation for research excellence at NCJR, contributing valuable insights and tools for those working in criminal justice reform and policy analysis in Nebraska.

He resigned from his position at NCJR in May to take up a faculty position at the University of Alaska Anchorage, where he will continue to work toward improving the criminal justice system in Alaska, fostering evidence-based practices, and supporting community-driven research initiatives.



Report Prepared By Tara Grell, public communications and creative coordinator,
University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research

MEET THE TEAM: GRADUATE ASSISTANTS



Abby Hayes, Graduate Assistant

Abby is a doctoral student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include corrections, prison subcultures, and rehabilitation programs for offenders. Abby likes to travel, walk her dog, and watch Kansas City Chiefs games with friends and family in her free time.



Baylee Allen, Graduate Assistant

Baylee is a doctoral candidate who is currently examining the impacts of decarceration policies on those who remain incarcerated. She has accepted an assistant professor position at DePaul University in Chicago for the fall of 2025. She enjoys knitting, quilting, and playing with her Corgi, Boo.



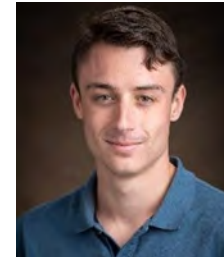
Dakota Schroll, Graduate Assistant

Dakota studies individual differences in criminal propensity, specifically biopsychosocial correlates of past, present, and future criminality in all age groups. He is currently a doctoral student and starting in the fall of 2025 will be an instructor at Wayne State College in Northeast Nebraska.



Emily Linehan, Graduate Assistant

Emily is a master's student in both the Criminology and Criminal Justice program and the Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include sexual violence and correctional mental health.



John Ursino, Graduate Assistant

John is a doctoral student whose research interests include correctional programming and risk assessment. He enjoys hiking and fishing in his free time.



Naya Russell-Coprich, Graduate Assistant

Naya is a Criminology and Criminal Justice doctoral student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Criminal Justice and Criminology from the University of Northern Colorado. Her research interests include evaluation, theory, police-community relations, corrections, and juvenile delinquency.



Sarah Al Falatah, Graduate Assistant

Sarah is a doctoral student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She holds a master's degree in criminology and criminal justice from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include corrections, mental and physical health, and rehabilitation. As a research assistant, she works on an evaluation of correctional programming in the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services with Drs. Zachary Hamilton and Jenn Tostlebe. Building from her thesis research, she is conducting a study examining suicide and mental health in Omaha. In her free time, Sarah loves reading books, putting together puzzles, spending time with friends, and going to the movies.



Taylor Gonzales, Graduate Assistant

Taylor is a second-year doctoral student at the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Her research interests include corrections, recidivism of justice-involved populations, and program evaluations.

FACULTY AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT:

DR. SADAF HASHIMI

Dr. Sadaf Hashimi joined the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO SCCJ) in 2021, just as the pandemic was winding down. Originally from British Columbia, Canada, Dr. Hashimi completed both undergraduate and master's degrees at Simon Fraser University before pursuing a Ph.D. at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Early in their academic journey, Dr. Hashimi developed a strong interest in the intricacies of group behavior, whether among friend groups, families, workplace colleagues, or co-offenders. Fascinated by the ways individuals are connected and how those connections influence behavior and outcomes, particularly in the context of violence and victimization, Dr. Hashimi was drawn to the field of network science. This field explores the structure, dynamics, and implications of interconnected systems using tools from graph theory, statistics, and the social sciences. Dr. Hashimi's research focuses on criminal groups and community safety, policing and officer behaviors, and correctional culture and reentry.



TRAC

Dr. Hashimi serves as director and program coordinator of the Transforming, Renewing, Achieving, and Connecting (TRAC) program, a college-in-prison initiative that partners with the Omaha Correctional Center (OCC), UNO, and private donors to provide postsecondary education to incarcerated individuals. TRAC offers for-credit general education courses that contribute toward a four-year degree for incarcerated students in Omaha. The program seeks to develop and implement UNO-based educational initiatives within select correctional facilities, focusing on providing incarcerated individuals with access to learning opportunities that promote academic excellence, personal growth, and preparation for reentry to the community. Since its launch in 2017, the TRAC program has offered over 30 courses and attracted more than 350 enrollments. In addition to offering courses, TRAC has monthly "drop-in" sessions at OCC and NCYF. These meetings are open to all residents, aiming to break down the barriers and unpack the pathway between incarceration and college by encouraging dialogue around education, employment pathways, and building resilience.

PONET (Co-PI)

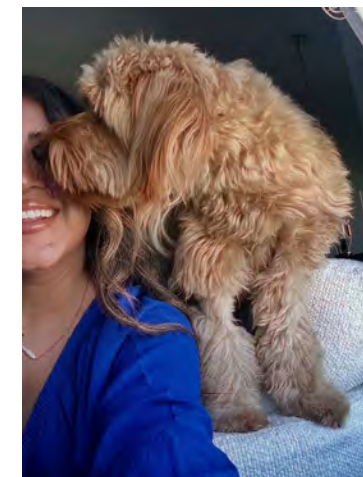
The Police Networks Project (PONET) is a longitudinal, multi-site data collection effort focused on police agencies and officers across the United States. This project employs network science to identify structural and systematic patterns of relationships within police departments. Through a combination of network surveys, officer interviews, and administrative data, the project gathers original data on officers' informal (e.g., friends at work and mentors) and formal (e.g., shift partners and working groups) networks to empirically study how the structure and composition of various types of workplace relationships contribute to officer performance (e.g., mental health, misconduct), culture (e.g., community beliefs, retention, and turnover), and behavior (e.g., firearm-related violence and use of force). Together, this project aims to uncover the social system of policing, providing actionable data to identify, prevent, and respond to various outcomes.

Implementing the Connecticut Model for Researching and Addressing Traffic Stops in Nebraska (Co-PI)

Dr. Hashimi serves as Co-PI on a project that aims to enhance our understanding of the context of police traffic stops in Nebraska through a multifaceted approach that includes data analysis, law enforcement training, and community engagement. By collaborating directly with agencies, the project focuses on strengthening law enforcement data infrastructure policies and practices while jointly developing practical, tailored solutions to improve reporting practices and promote equitable policing.

Global Crime

Dr. Hashimi is also a Co-Editor of Global Crime, a multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that attracts scholarship on transnational and organized crime worldwide. Global Crime brings together scholars from diverse international backgrounds and disciplines, including criminology, sociology, economics, history, political science, anthropology, and other fields of study.



Outside of Work

When not balancing life between Omaha and Vancouver, Dr. Hashimi enjoys traveling, particularly overseas. Having grown up in Vancouver, she has a strong appreciation for outdoor activities and the diversity of urban life. She is also a proud dog parent to Penelope, a one-year-old golden doodle full of energy and personality.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: POVERTY ELIMINATION ACTION PLAN (PEAP)

PEAP: A Community-Driven Blueprint for Omaha

In April 2024, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 840, launching the Poverty Elimination Action Plan Act — an effort championed by Senator Terrell McKinney to address the systemic roots of poverty across the state. In response, the Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR), in partnership with the City of Omaha Human Rights and Relations Department, led the development of Omaha’s Poverty Elimination Action Plan. The PEAP was approved by Mayor Stothert, Mayor Ewing, and the Omaha City Council. It was delivered to the Nebraska Legislature in July, fulfilling Omaha’s obligations for LB 840.

This community-centered plan reflects insights from local voices, academic research, and regional data to identify the most pressing needs and promising strategies to reduce poverty in Omaha. The PEAP highlights racial and economic disparities and identifies barriers related to housing costs, underutilized social supports, access to healthcare, education inequities, access to public transportation, and barriers to public transit ridership.

Informed by these findings, the plan offers a series of targeted, evidence-based recommendations. These include:

- **Expanding affordable housing** through tenant protections, land trusts, and incentives for inclusive development.
- **Increasing economic security** by exploring guaranteed income pilots, local Earned Income Tax Credits, and childcare subsidies.
- **Improving education and workforce pathways** through early childhood access, job training partnerships, and adult education incentives.
- **Supporting public transit and infrastructure** to improve access to jobs, healthcare, and schools.
- **Enhancing healthcare access** with support for community-based services and mental health resources.

A sustainability roadmap and implementation matrix were included in the PEAP to ensure the plan can adapt and endure through the rapidly evolving local, state, and federal environments. Together, these efforts aim not only to reduce poverty, but to build an Omaha where all residents can thrive.

COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: PROJECT RESET

Project Reset¹ works with justice-involved individuals in Omaha as they transition into meaningful careers in the skilled trades and labor industries. The program works with unions, apprenticeship programs, and employers to provide direct access to employment opportunities while supporting participants through a comprehensive reentry process.



Each participant in the program is matched with a dedicated Project Mentor who provides one-on-one case management, as well as job coaching. Mentors also work with participants to create a personal plan to identify and overcome any potential barriers that they may face when not only seeking employment but also maintaining it. These individual plans support participants’ career goals and connect them to other community support when needed.

The program offers a wide range of workshops focused on both personal and professional development. Some of the workshops focus on helping participants obtain essential identification documents, open bank accounts, secure housing, and access reliable transportation, to help remove some of the common barriers they may encounter when seeking employment. Financial wellness workshops are also available where participants are able to work with a free financial counselor and learn about employee benefits as well as learn about how to plan for retirement.

Project Reset also provides participants a variety of trade-focused training opportunities and career pathways that are designed to help them build long-term, sustainable employment; this includes hands-on support like resume-building workshops, interview preparation, and site visits to explore different career options. Project Reset equips individuals not only to gain employment but to build lasting, stable futures for themselves and their families. As of March 2025, over 300 participants have successfully completed the program. With strong completion rates and community partnerships, the program is making a meaningful impact on reentry and workforce development in Omaha.



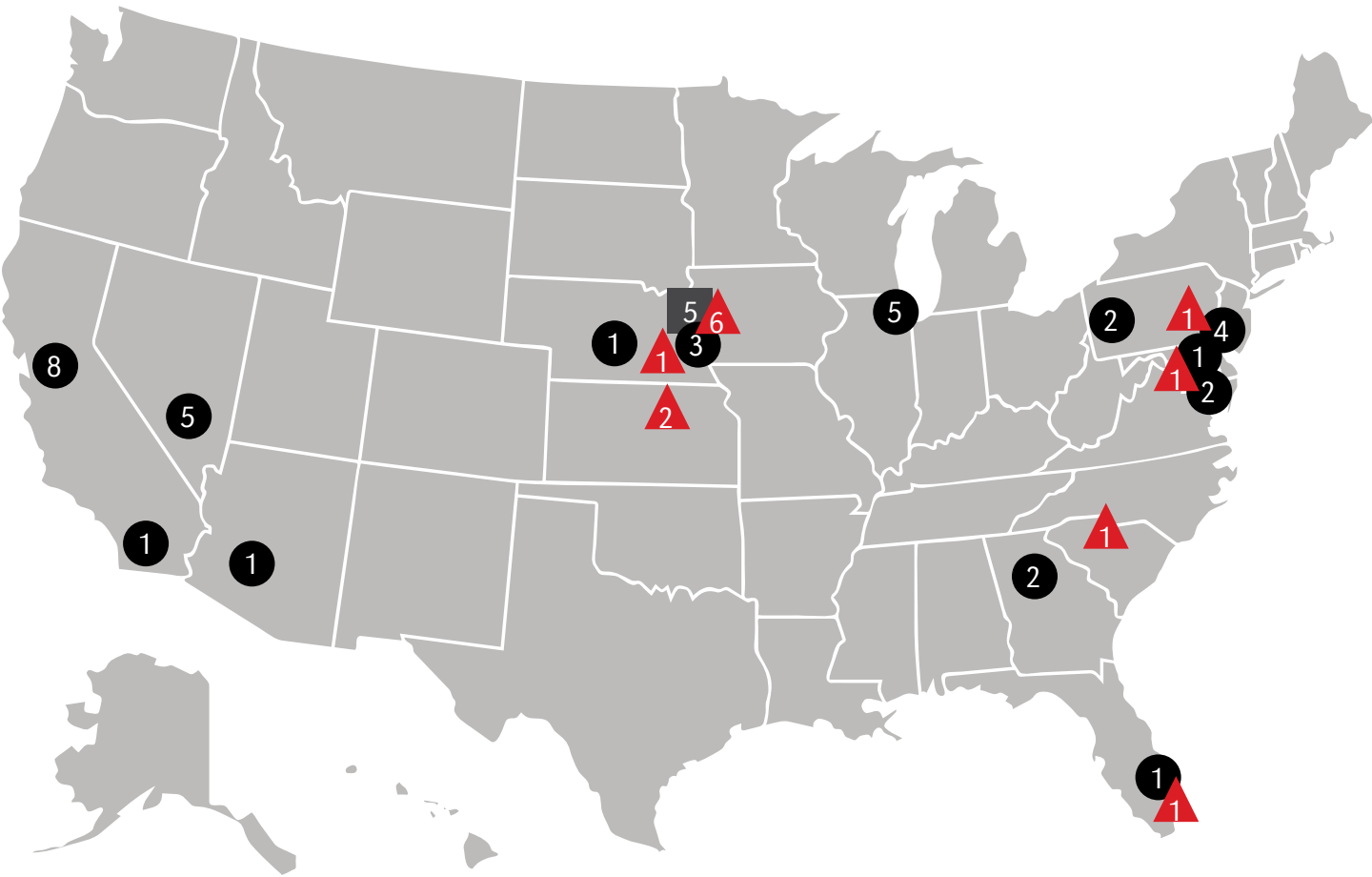
Meet Hustle,
the Project Reset
support puppy!

¹ Project Reset has since dissolved following their work with NCJR during the 2024 fiscal year, but we chose to include this highlight to recognize their contributions to Nebraska’s justice-involved community.

NCJR'S IN-PERSON RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT 2022-2024

At NCJR, the only thing we enjoy doing more than our research evaluation is talking about projects with all who are willing to listen. For the most part, we discuss our work with other academics and learn from each other's projects at national conferences in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, sociology, psychology, and evaluation methods. We frequently also have the privilege of being invited presenters to share our expertise and experiences of conducting research in Nebraska. One of the most rewarding opportunities, however, is speaking to community members about what we are discovering in our work and sharing best practices that help make our communities safe for Nebraskans. In recent years, we have had the opportunity to present our work in a variety of locations across the nation. The map below provides a sense of our geographic reach. Details on individual presentations may be found later in this report.

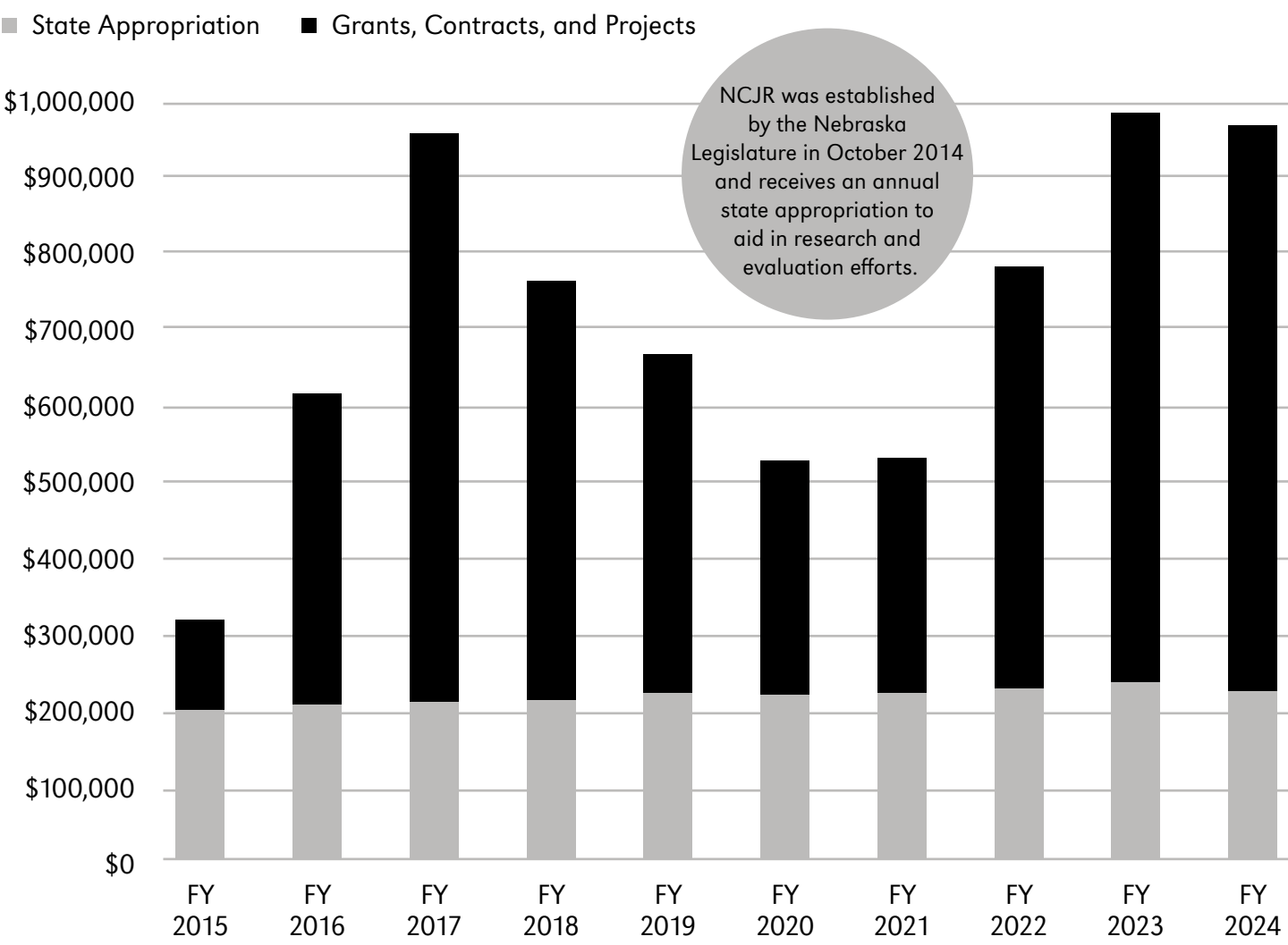
● Academic Presentations ■ Community Engagement ▲ Invited Presentations



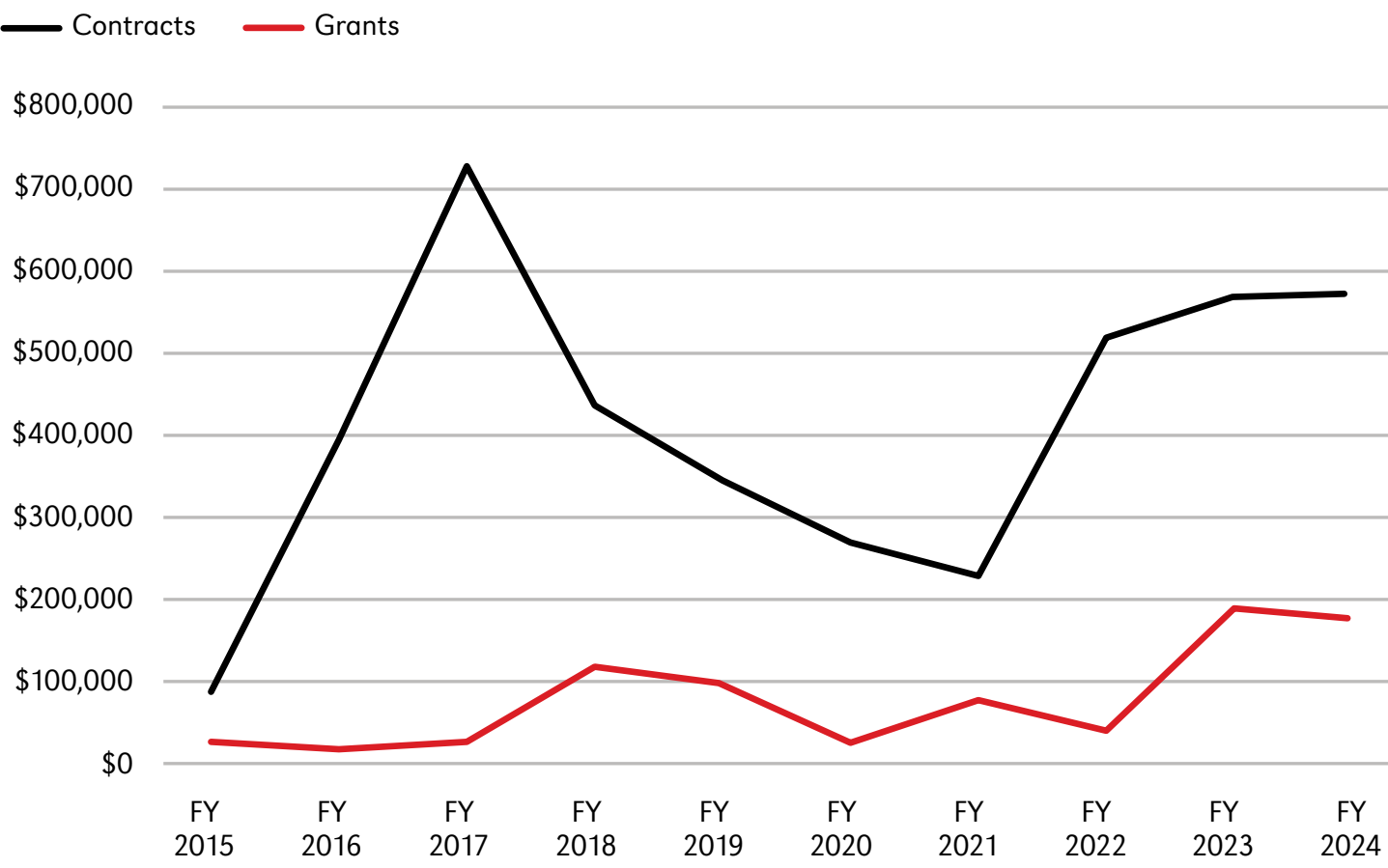
Conference Title	Location	Year	Number of Presentations
Academic Presentations			
American Society of Criminology	San Francisco, California	2024	8
The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Chicago, Illinois	2024	4
NIJ National Research Conference	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2024	2
Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Annual Conference	Kearney, Nebraska	2024	1
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Criminal Justice Month Webinar	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
American Jail Association Meetings	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
American Society of Criminology	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	2023	4
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	National Harbor, Maryland	2023	2
American Society of Criminology	Atlanta, Georgia	2022	2
Midwest Criminal Justice Association	Chicago, Illinois	2022	1
National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference	Washington, D.C.	2022	1
Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment	San Diego, California	2022	1
American Correctional Association, Annual Convention	Phoenix, Arizona	2022	1
Research and Creative Activity Fair	Omaha, Nebraska	2022	1
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022	5
Reentry Summit	Palm Beach, Florida	2022	1
Community Engagement			
Mission Middle School AP Geometry Class	Bellevue, Nebraska	2024	1
Re-Entry Task Force	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
Omaha Housing & Domestic Violence Resource Summit	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
New Life Presbyterian and First Presbyterian West Hills Congregations	Omaha, Nebraska	2022	1
Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity (MORE)	Omaha, Nebraska	2022	1
Invited Presentations			
American Jail Association	Fort Lauderdale, Florida	2024	1
NDCS Vocational & Life Skills Initiative Quarterly Meeting	Omaha, Nebraska	2024	1
Mission Middle School AP Geometry Class	Bellevue, Nebraska	2024	1
Research and Creative Activity Fair	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Research Methods Course	Lincoln, Nebraska	2023	1
Kansas-State Criminology Club, Kansas State University	Manhattan, Kansas	2023	2
Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
Bureau of Justice Assistance	Crystal City, Virginia	2023	1
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, UNO	Omaha, Nebraska	2023	1
Winthrop University	Rock Hill, South Carolina	2023	1
Project Harmony	Omaha, Nebraska	2022	1

BUDGET

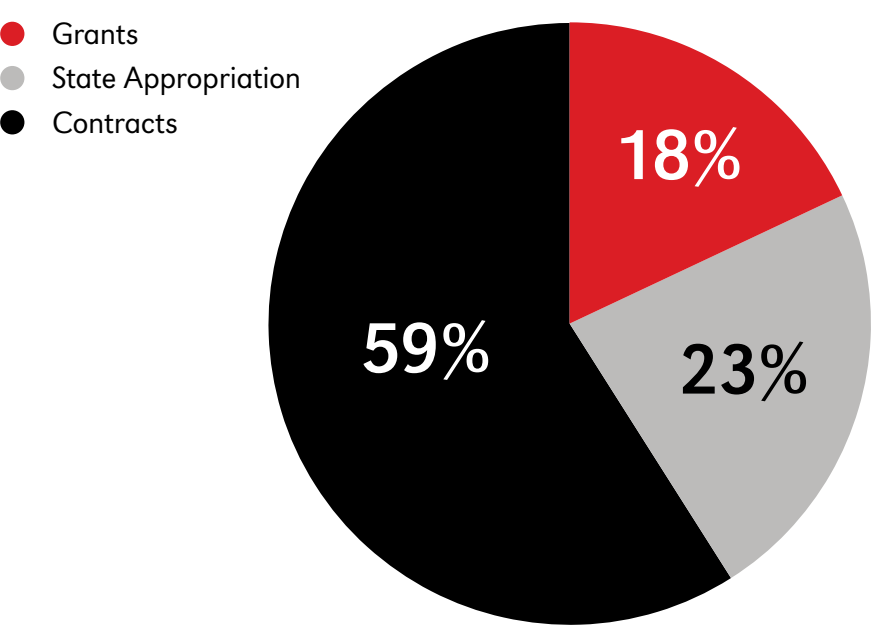
Total Budget Breakdown from Fiscal Years 2015-2024



Contracts and Grants from Fiscal Years 2015-2024



Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Breakdown



APPENDICES

Selected Academic Publications, 2022-2024

- Allen-Flores, B., Hamilton, Z., Ursino, J., & Kigerl, A. (2024). Risk-contamination and dilution: Advancing the RNR model in prison settings. *Crime & Delinquency*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00111287241287139>
- Hamilton, Z., Kowalski, M., Campagna, M., Kobie, A., & Kigerl, A. (2024). Never going to let you down: Preventing predictive shrinkage via the STRONG-R assessment method. *Justice Quarterly*, 1–21.
- Hamilton, Z., Ursino, J., & Kigerl, A. (2024). Advancing pretrial assessments: Development of the Personal Recognizance Interview & Needs Screen (PRINS). *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 92, 102183.
- Kowalski, M., Campagna, M., Wright, E. M., & Spohn, R. (2024). Type of victimization exposure, perpetrator type, and timing of victimization: The impact on behavioral health outcomes. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 39, 1132–1160.
- Krushas, A., Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., & Mei, X. (2024). Finding an answer in time: Assessing change in needs scores on time to recidivism among justice-involved youth. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 92, 102146.
- Hamilton, Z., Kowalski, M., Campagna, M., Kobie, A., & Kigerl, A. (2023). Comparing meters to yards: A nationally representative evaluation of gender bias in risk assessment. *Justice Quarterly*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07418825.2023.2286238>
- Kowalski, M., Campagna, M., Wright, E. M., & Spohn, R. (2023). Understanding abuse, mental health, and substance use: The role of victimization in a jail population. *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 48, 1320–1342.
- Krushas, A. E., Kulig, T. C., Wright, E. M., Spohn, R. E., & Castrianno, L. M. (2023). Identifying successes and barriers to working with youth exposed to trauma: An examination of five service areas in a child advocacy center. *Child & Youth Services*, 44, 275–299.
- Mei, X., Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., Krushas, A., & Taxman, F. (2023). Best practices for neglected assumptions: Multi-site confirmation of the MPACT-6. *Crime & Delinquency*, 71(6-7), 2032-2060.
- Towne, K., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., & Richey, A. (2023). “Put it in your toolbox”: How vocational reentry programs support formerly incarcerated persons through desistance. *Crime & Delinquency*, 69, 316–341.
- Allen, B., Kobie, A., & Hamilton, Z. (2022). Modernizing needs assessments. *Perspectives: The Journal of the American Probation and Parole Association*.
- Butler, H. D., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., & Towne, K. (2022). Understanding volunteerism: The role of the participant in non-clinical correctional programming. *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*, 61, 357–374.
- Hamilton, Z., Duwe, G., Kigerl, A., Gwinn, J., Langan, N., & Dollar, C. (2022). Tailoring to a mandate: The development and validation of the Prisoner Assessment Tool Targeting Estimated Risk and Needs (PATTERN). *Justice Quarterly*, 39(6), 1129–1155.
- Kigerl, A., Hamilton, Z., Kowalski, M., & Mei, X. (2022). The great methods bake-off: Comparing performance of machine-learning algorithms. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 88, 101946.
- Kowalski, M. A., Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., Baglivio, M. T., & Wolff, K. T. (2022). Protecting against adversity: The role of positive childhood experiences in youth recidivism. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15412040221133106>

Schwartz, J. A., Wright, E. M., Spohn, R., Campagna, M. F., Steiner, B., & Epinger, E. (2022). Changes in jail admissions before and after traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, 38, 1033–1056.

Towne, K. (2022). “My friends keep me woke about these things”: How college students experience and engage with police use of force content on social media. *Sociological Spectrum*, 42, 1–14.

Professional Publications, 2022-2024

Spohn, R. (2023). Practitioners, research partners, and technical assistance providers: A promising collaboration model for advancing practice and research for PSN. Project Safe Neighborhoods Training and Technical Assistance Newsletter, October 2023.

Spohn, R. (2023). Practitioners, research partners, and technical assistance providers: A promising collaboration model for advancing community-engaged research and practice in criminal justice. ASC Division on Corrections & Sentencing Newsletter, Fall 2023.

Miller, J., Spohn, R., & Campagna, M. (2022). Innovations in supervision: Reducing violence and recidivism through VRP aftercare and CBI open groups. Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Suite: Researcher–Practitioner Fellows Community of Practice.

Grants Awarded, 2022-2024

2019-23 Reducing Violence and Recidivism through VRP Aftercare and CBI Open Groups (Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna with Jennifer Miller). Bureau of Justice Assistance.

2020-22 Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers (Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright with Megan Davidson and Teresa Kulig). National Institute of Justice.

Contracts and Projects, 2022-2024

Role: Principal Investigator

2024-25 City of Omaha Poverty Elimination Plan. City of Omaha. (Ryan Spohn)

2024-26 Validating Minnesota LS/CMI. Minnesota Department of Corrections. (Zachary Hamilton)

2024-26 Adult Treatment Court Training Initiative and Veteran Treatment Court Training and Technical Assistance. National Drug Court Institute. (Zachary Hamilton)

2024-26 Lancaster County Criminal Justice System and Jail Assessment. Lancaster County, Nebraska. (Zachary Hamilton)

2023-25 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. (Ryan Spohn)

2020-23 Evaluation of Douglas County Assessment and Case Management Services. Douglas County Department of Corrections. (Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright, co-Principal Investigators)

2022-26 Nebraska Correctional Program Evaluation. (Ryan Spohn/Zachary Hamilton)

2022-23 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. (Ryan Spohn)

2022 Review And Revalidation Of The Bureau Of Prisons Needs Assessment System. (Zachary Hamilton)

2022 Waone Revalidation And Update. (Zachary Hamilton)

2022 Barriers to Collaborative Sex Offender Treatment: Perceptions of Community Providers. (Michael Campagna)

2020-22 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. (Ryan Spohn)

Role: Project Evaluator

2024 Douglas County Juvenile Case Review. Nebraska Administrative Office of Probation. (Ryan Spohn)

2023-24 Recovery Therapeutic Community Intensive Outpatient Program (RTC IOP). Douglas County, Nebraska and Bureau of Justice Assistance. (Ryan Spohn)

2020-2023 Achieving Change Together, Reentry Program Evaluation. Safer Foundation and Bureau of Justice Assistance. (Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna)

Selected Research Reports, 2022-2024

Campagna, M., Spohn, R., Hamilton, Z., Al Falatah, S., Ursino, J., Gildea, B., Tostlebe, J., Hayes, A., & Towne, K. (2024). *Evaluation report: Anger Management Program at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services*. Nebraska Center for Justice Research, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Nebraska Omaha.

Hobbs, A., Spohn, R., Towne, K., Hall, F., & Brewer, S. (2024). *Persistent juvenile offending: A review of selected youth in Douglas County, Nebraska*. Juvenile Justice Institute/Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Hayes, A., Towne, K., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., & Grell, T. (2024). *Vocational & Life Skills evaluation annual report, grant cycle four: Year three*. Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Campagna, M., Towne, K., Spohn, R., Hamilton, Z., Tostlebe, J., Krushas, A., Gildea, B., Ursino, J., Al Falatah, S., & Hayes, A. (2024). *Evaluation report: Violence Reduction Program at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services*. Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Spohn, R., & Campagna, M. (2024). *Evaluation of Safer Foundation’s Achieving Change Together (ACT) Program administered in Iowa’s 7th Judicial District*. Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., Peterson, A., Dwue, G., & Ursino, J. (2024). *The Criminal Justice Base Rate Project: Final Report*. National Institute of Justice. Washington, D.C.

Kearns, E., Turner, N., Moelter, I., Hashimi, S., Hamilton, Z. (2024). *Managing the exit of incarcerated violent extremists in the community: Stakeholder Analysis Report*. A research report published by the National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE) Center. Omaha, Nebraska.

Duwe, G., Hamilton, Z., & Kigerl, A. (2024). *2023 REVIEW AND VALIDATION OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS NEEDS ASSESSMENT SYSTEM*. National Institute of Justice. Washington, D.C.

Campagna, M., Towne, K., Spohn, R., Hamilton, Z., Tostlebe, J., Krushas, A., Gildea, B., Ursino, J., Falatah, S., & Hayes, A., 2024. *Evaluation Report: Violence Reduction Program at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Lincoln, Nebraska.

Hamilton, Z., Allen, B., Kobie, B., Ursino, J. Gildea, B., & Spohn, R. 2024. *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Crowding Project*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Lincoln, Nebraska.

Campagna, M., Hamilton, Z., Towne, K., Tostlebe, J., & Nebraska Center for Justice Research. 2024. *Evaluation report: Anger management program at the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services*. University of Nebraska Omaha.

Hobbs, A., Spohn, R., Towne, K., Hall, F., & Brewer, S. Juvenile Justice Institute/Nebraska Center for Justice Research. 2024. *Persistent juvenile offending: A review of selected youth in Douglas County, Nebraska*.

Hayes, A., Towne, K., Campagna, M., & Nebraska Center for Justice Research. 2024. *Vocational & life skills evaluation annual report, Grant Cycle Four: Year Three*.

Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., Ursino, J., & Krushas, A. (2022). *Personal Recognizance Interview & Needs Screen (PRINS) evaluation and revalidation*. Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention, King County, Washington.

Hamilton, Z., Allen, B., & Kobie, A. (2022). *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project technical report 1: Process evaluation*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Hamilton, Z., Allen, B., Kobie, A., Ursino, J., Gildea, B., & Spohn, R. (2023). *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project technical report: Phase II*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A., Allen-Flores, B., Kobie, A., Ursino, J., Krushas, A., Gildea, B., & Spohn, R. (2023). *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services classification & crowding project: Technical report*. Omaha: Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Towne, K., Campagna, M., Dueland, L., Spohn, R., Allen, B., & Grell, T. *Employer perspectives in hiring and working with justice-involved individuals: A special-topic VLS evaluation report*. Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Hayes, A., Towne, K., Campagna, C., Spohn, R., & Grell, T. *Vocational & Life Skills 2022 evaluation annual report*. (2023). Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Kowalski, M.A., Campagna, M., Wright, E., & Spohn, R. (2023). *Victimization prior to jail: The Effect of physical and/or sexual victimization on mental health and substance use disorder in a population of jailed inmates*. Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Evidence-Based Inventory of Criminal Justice Programs in Nebraska. 2023. Nebraska Center for Justice Research. With Katelynn Towne, Christopher Campbell, Monica Miles-Steffens, Brian Gildea, John Ursino, Zachary Hamilton, Michael Campagna, Addison Kobie, Taylor Claxton, Laura Dueland, and Tara Grell.

Towne, K., Campbell, C., Miles-Steffens, M., Gildea, B., Ursino, J., Spohn, R., Hamilton, Z., Campagna, M., Kobie, A., Claxton, T., Dueland, L., & Grell, T. (2023). *Evidence-based inventory of criminal justice programs in Nebraska*. Omaha, Nebraska. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Towne, K., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., Dueland, L. B., & Grell, T. (2022). *Vocational and Life Skills Evaluation annual report, grant cycle four: Year two*. Prepared for the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.

Campagna, M., & Claxton, T. (2022). *A classification of each NDCS program by client needs identified by the STRONG-R risk/needs assessment*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Hamilton, Z., Allen, B., & Kobie, A. (2022). *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project technical report 1: Process evaluation*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Kulig, T., Krushas, A., Castrianno, L., Spohn, R., & Wright, E. (2022). *Expanding the knowledge base about child advocacy centers: Final technical report*. National Institute of Justice.

Towne, K., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., Claxton, T., & Grell, T. (2022). *Vocational and Life Skills annual report, grant cycle four: Year one*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Policy and Research Briefs, 2022-2024

Kowalski, M. A., Campagna, M., Wright, E., & Spohn, R. (2023). *Victimization prior to jail: The effect of physical and/or sexual victimization on mental health and substance use disorder in a population of jailed inmates*. Nebraska Center for Justice Research. <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/nebraska-center-for-justice-research/documents/ncjr-research-brief-victimization-prior-to-jail.pdf>

Butler, H. D., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., & Towne, K. (2022). *Understanding volunteerism in Vocational and Life Skills programming*. Nebraska Center for Justice Research. <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/nebraska-center-for-justice-research/announcements/understanding-volunteerism-research.php>

Academic Presentations, 2022-2024

Al Falatah, S. A., Tostlebe, J. J., & Hashimi, S. 2024. *How do mental health concerns impact suicide attempts? A multi-method study of police calls for service*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Campagna, M., Ursino, J. M., Al Falatah, S. A., & Gildea, B. 2024. *Evaluating violence programming in prison: Comparing cognitive-behavioral and psycho-educational approaches*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Hamilton, Z., Tostlebe, J. J., Ursino, J. M., Allen-Flores, B., & Kigerl, A. 2024. *Measuring desistance via decay: Making criminal history dynamic*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Hayes, A., Towne, K., & Spohn, R. 2024. *The impact of vocational programming on racial disparities in reentry employment*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Spohn, R., Al Falatah, S., Tostlebe, J., & Ursino J. 2024. *Sex offender treatment: An evaluation of the effectiveness of prison- and community based programming*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Tostlebe, J. J., Sanchez, J., Howell, C. J., & Smith, K. 2024. *Pushing the boundaries on what is a gang: A comparative study of malicious hackers and gang members*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Turner, N., Moelter, I., Kearns, E. M., Hashimi, S., & Hamilton, Z. 2024. *Exploring practitioner perspectives on the exit and reintegration of federally-incarcerated extremists*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Ursino, J. M., & Hamilton, Z. 2024. *Exploring a generation’s bias: A multi-state evaluation of the LSI-R*. American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, California.

Allen-Flores, B., Ursino, J., & Hamilton, Z. 2024. *The impacts of decarceration on individuals who remain incarcerated*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.

Campagna, M., Lee, E., & Spohn, R. 2024. *Practitioner and research partner perspectives on the implementation and evaluation of risk reduction interventions for reentry from work release and residential corrections*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.

Spohn, R. 2024. *Practitioner, research partner, and technical assistance provider collaboration: A view of practice and research*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.

Ursino, J., Allen-Flores, B., & Hamilton, Z. 2024. *Decarceration’s effects on recidivism*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Chicago, Illinois.

Hamilton, Z. 2024. *Recidivism and redemption*. NIJ National Research Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Spohn, R. 2024. *Moving the science forward on effective practice and evidence of effectiveness of practitioner, research partner, and technical assistance provider collaborations*. (lightning talk). NIJ National Research Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Johnson, S., Juliano, N., & Spohn, R. 2024. *Lessons learned from 10 years of a Crossover Youth Practice Model site through an implementation science lens*. Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association Annual Conference, Kearney, Nebraska.

Wright, E., Spohn, R., Campagna, M., Epinger, E., & Foxall, M. 2023. *Case management assessment and considerations in jails*. American Jail Association Meetings, Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, R. 2023. *Roundtable: Strength in numbers: University-based criminal justice research centers*. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Towne, K., Spohn, R., Hamilton, Z., Campagna, M., & Gildea, B. 2023. *Evidence-based inventory of Nebraska’s criminal justice programs*. American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Campagna, M., & Spohn, R. 2023. *Does dosage of a CBI reentry program matter?* American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Campagna, M., Towne, K., Walker, A., & Spohn, R. 2023. *It takes a village: A spectrum of voices on reentry services.* American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Spohn, R. (2023). *Panel: TTA, crime analysis, and evaluation: Examples from Bureau of Justice Assistance supported programs.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, National Harbor, Maryland.

Spohn, R., Kigerl, A., & Wright, E. M. 2023. *The differential risks and needs of justice-involved veterans and non-veterans in forecasting recidivism.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, National Harbor, Maryland.

Campagna, M., & Spohn, R. 2022. *Meaningful employment as a component of reentry: How employers provide more than wages.* American Society of Criminology Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia.

Spohn, R., & Campagna, M. 2022. *Mixed methods for evaluating reentry programs: Findings from qualitative research in a process evaluation.* American Society of Criminology Meetings, Atlanta, Georgia.

Spohn, R. 2022. *The rural/urban differences in the impact of individual hopefulness, individual agency, and community factors on fear of crime.* Midwest Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

Castrianno, L., Spohn, R., Krushas, A., Kulig, T., & Wright, E. 2022. *From NCA standards to practice: Lessons learned from stories in the field.* National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C.

Castrianno, L., Spohn, R., Kulig, T., Krushas, A., & Wright, E. 2022. *Practitioner-researcher collaboration: Evaluating a child advocacy center core services.* Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, San Diego, California.

Hamilton, Z., Buklen, K., & Rist, M. 2022. *Racial bias and amelioration strategies for risk assessment.* American Correctional Association Annual Convention, Phoenix, Arizona.

Krushas, A. 2022. *Examining student-teacher relationships in the United States: A content analysis approach.* Research and Creative Activity Fair, Omaha, Nebraska.

Allen, B. 2022. *Developing a risk assessment for low-risk populations.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kowalski, M., Campagna, M., Spohn, R., & Wright, E. 2022. *Understanding abuse and mental health: The role of victimization in jail returns.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Krushas, A., Campagna, M., & Spohn, R. 2022. *Responsivity or discrimination?: Extralegal moderators of relationships between types of technical violations and revocation.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roig-Palmer, K., Campagna, M., Towne, K., & Spohn, R. 2022. *Enhancing the margins of reentry: How to put responsivity into explicit practice.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Spohn, R., & Campagna, M. 2022. *Face-to-face, virtual, and hybrid collaboration in scholar-practitioner partnerships in the digital age.* Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Britton, A., Parker, K., Stennis Williams, L., & Towne, K. 2022. *State-level reentry initiatives: How Florida and Nebraska do reentry.* Reentry Summit, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Invited Presentations, 2022-2024

Spohn, R. *Innovative collaborations: Transforming jail settings through research.* For the American Jail Association's Jail Executive Institute. Dec. 12, 2024.

Spohn, R. *First, do no harm: The risk of exacerbating inequalities through intervention delivery.* NDCS Vocational & Life Skills Initiative Quarterly Meeting. Nov. 8, 2024.

Spohn, R. *Use of math as a social science researcher.* Presented to Mission Middle School AP Geometry Class2023 . Bellevue, Nebraska. Nov. 4, 2024.

Krushas, A. E. (2023). *Examining theoretical correlates among poly-victimization in adulthood.* Invited paper presentation at the Research and Creative Activity Fair, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, R. *Addressing the challenges and criminogenic needs of reentering persons.* Presented to Kansas State University's SOCWK 350: Social Work with Offenders and Victims, Oct. 20, 2023.

Spohn, R. *Data, research, and careers in criminal justice and corrections.* For Dr. Trisha Rhodes' Criminal Justice Research Methods (CRIM 251). University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Oct. 4, 2023.

Spohn, R. *Community-engaged research in criminal justice and corrections.* For Dr. Ling Ren's Criminal Justice Research, Theory, and Methods graduate seminar (CRCJ 8030). University of Nebraska Omaha. Sept. 11, 2023.

Spohn, R. *Systemic analysis: Lessons learned from the lives of James Scurlock and Jake Gardner.* University of Nebraska-Omaha, Department of Political Science, Teachers Law School. Omaha, Nebraska. July 27, 2023.

Spohn, R. *Researcher/practitioner partnerships in the 21st century.* Innovations in Supervision Initiative Grantee Convening, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Crystal City, Virginia. June 6, 2023.

Spohn, R. *Review of Project Harmony outcome measurement system data with a focus on equitable service delivery.* Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center, Omaha, Nebraska. May 30, 2023.

Spohn, R. *Corrections and community corrections in the 21st century: Careers, policy, and applied research.* K-State Criminology Club. Manhattan, Kansas. April 20, 2023.

Hamilton, Z. *Juvenile Risk-Needs Assessment.* Presented at Certificate Presentation, Juvenile Justice Institute, Omaha, Nebraska. December 2023.

Hamilton, Z. *The Iowa Delinquency Assessment.* Presented at Iowa Supreme Court Administrative Conference, Iowa Supreme Court, Iowa Judicial Branch Building. August 15, 2023.

Hamilton, Z., Kigerl, A. *Review & Revalidation of the BOP Needs Assessment.* Presented at 2023 NIJ Research Conference, National Instituted of Justice, Washington D.C. May 2023.

Kohut, M., Knop, B., Towne, K., & Miller, T. *Social science research careers.* A virtual panel presented by Sociology Department at Winthrop University. 2023.

Krushas, A. *Finding an answer in time: Assessing change in needs scores on time to recidivism among justice-involved youth.* Presented for UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Omaha, Nebraska. 2023.

Towne, K., Campagna, M., Dueland, L., Spohn, R., & Allen, B. *Employer perspectives in hiring and working with justice-involved individuals.* A virtual research presentation prepared for the Re-Entry Task Force. 2023.

Towne, K. *Research, evaluation, & impact.* Guest lecture at University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska. 2023.

Goldsmith, M., Gildea, B., Roley-Roberts, M., & Greenberg, P. *Domestic violence & housing insecurity.* Omaha Housing & Domestic Violence Resource Summit, Omaha, Nebraska. 2023.

Towne, K., Campagna, M., Dueland, L., Spohn, R., and Allen-Flores, B. 2023. *Employer Perspectives in Hiring and Working with Justice-Involved Individuals*. A virtual research presentation prepared for the Re-Entry Task Force.

Campagna, M., Miller, J., & Spohn, R. *Case study of a Nebraska BJA grant*. Presented at Smart Suite Training and Technical Assistance Community of Practice. Presented at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. 2022.

Spohn, R. *Justice by the numbers: A discussion of data about incarceration*. Sponsored by Mathew 25 Churches of the Missouri Valley Presbytery. Aug. 4, 2022.

Spohn, R. *Data on race for research and racial conversations*. Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity (MORE). March 24, 2022.

Kulig, T., Spohn, R., Krushas, A., Castrianno, L., & Wright, E. *Expanding the knowledge base about child advocacy centers: An overview of findings from phase 1*. Project Harmony. Feb. 23, 2022.

Spohn, R. *The color of justice: Racial and ethnic disparity in state prisons, Nebraska/Iowa*. Omaha 360 Violence Intervention & Prevention Team. Feb. 9, 2022.

Spohn, R. *The color of justice: Racial and ethnic disparity in state prisons, Nebraska/Iowa*. New Life Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, and West Hills Churches, Omaha, Nebraska. Jan. 17, 2022.

Panels and Discussions, 2022-2024

Spohn, R. (panelist/presenter). *No more lost sons: Learning and healing in the wake of an Omaha tragedy*. UNO Departments of Political Science & Black Studies. Oct. 9, 2023.

Webinars, 2022-2024

Lindquist, C., Scaggs, S., Spohn, R., & Campagna, M. *Strengthening your reentry program evaluation through primary data collection*. Webinar with the Corrections and Reentry research Program. April 28, 2022.

Lee, E., Bowden, J., King, K., & Spohn, R. *Working together: The importance of community-engaged research & evaluation*. Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Criminal Justice Month. March 1, 2022.

University of Nebraska at Omaha
6001 Dodge Street
Omaha, NE 68182
justiceresearch.unomaha.edu

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Dr. Ryan Spohn, Director,
Nebraska Center for
Justice Research
402.554.3794