

NEBRASKA
CENTER FOR
JUSTICE
RESEARCH

ANNUAL
REPORT
2020

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



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 2019-2020 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. In addition, I testified to the Judiciary Committee in September to inform an interim study (LR 204) focusing on the effectiveness of Nebraska's sex offender registry, a process I evaluated in 2012-3. Also, I testified in November (LR 237) regarding best practices for Nebraska's Vocational and Life Skills reentry initiative, which NCJR has evaluated from 2014 until the present. The NCJR evaluation team produced monthly reports, quarterly reports, an annual report, as well as a special qualitative report documenting the great work of this initiative.

Regarding 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 and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Unfortunately, three additional national conferences were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, precluding our participation. NCJR faculty and staff also had a very successful year of publishing in academic journals, including *Justice Quarterly*; *Policing and Society*; *Corrections: Policy, Practice and Research*; *The Prison Journal*; *Criminal Justice Policy Review*; and *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*.

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, 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. In particular, we were very excited with our success in securing federal grant projects. NCJR faculty are secondary investigators on a \$566,259 National Institute of Justice grant, in collaboration with Project Harmony, to expand the knowledge base of child advocacy centers. NCJR also collaborated with Nebraska Parole to secure a \$553,445 Bureau of Justice Assistance grant to enhance Nebraska's use of evidence-based practices to reduce violent recidivism among persons under community supervision. Our state appropriation is only 39% of our budget, suggesting that for every state dollar invested, NCJR attracts between one and two additional dollars in external funds.

In summary, 2019-2020 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. The local justice systems and reentry professionals who collaborate with us on this important work are all facing significant struggles to deal safely with the COVID-19 pandemic, and NCJR is dedicated to do everything possible to promote personal safety and public safety during these challenging times.



Table of
CONTENTS

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research 6

Meet the Team 7

Presentation Highlight Thematic Panel 8

Associate Research Director Highlight Dr. Emily Wright 10

Faculty Affiliate Highlight Dr. Tara Richards 12

Program Highlight Vocational Life Skills 16

Student Affiliate Highlights 18

Research Report Highlight 20

Testimony Highlights 21

NCJR Budget Fiscal Years 2013-2020 23

Appendices 25

Faculty and Student Affiliates 34

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:

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



RYAN SPOHN, PH.D.

Director

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 WRIGHT, PH.D.

Associate Director

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 F. CAMPAGNA, PH.D.

Research Associate

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 TOWNE, PH.D.

Research Coordinator

Katelynn is the Research Coordinator for the NCJR. She received her B.A. in Sociology/Psychology 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.



SARA TOTO, M.A.

Research Assistant

Sara has recently accepted an assistant professorship at Central Washington University and was previously the graduate student assigned to the Nebraska Center for Justice Research. 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 CHRISTIANSEN

Staff Associate

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.

REPORT PREPARED BY

TARA GRELL

Graphic Designer, Center for Public Affairs Research

THEMATIC PANEL

Risk and Need Assessment among Jail and Prison Inmates, American Society of Criminology, 2019

In November of 2019, a group of researchers from the Nebraska Center for Justice Research presented a panel titled "Risk and Need Assessment among Jail and Prison Inmates" at the American Society of Criminology Conference in San Francisco. Three of the panel presentations are highlighted here.

The Effects of Risk Factors and Criminogenic Needs on Recidivism among a Jail Population

Ebonie Epinger, Emily M. Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael F. Campagna, and Benjamin Steiner

Recidivism is a major concern within the criminal justice system. Understanding recidivism patterns among jail inmates is far less understood than recidivism patterns among prison inmates, but is important because jails process more individuals than prisons and knowledge of what contributes to recidivism among jail inmates could aid in the development of assessment tools to be used in these settings. However, very few studies focus on the odds of recidivism among a jail population, nor how the risk factors and criminogenic needs (e.g. substance abuse and mental health) of jail inmates may impact those odds. This study contributes to the literature by examining how a variety of risk factors and criminogenic needs (age, criminal record, mental health, sexual and physical abuse) influence the odds of short-term recidivism (6-months post-release) using data from approximately 5,000 inmates housed in a Midwestern jail.



Conference hotel for the Annual Society of Criminology Meeting held in San Francisco, 2019.

Jails Use Data Too: How Externalizing, Internalizing, and Psychopathy Scales Mediate the Relationship between Childhood Factors and Recidivism

Michael F. Campagna, Emily M. Wright, Joseph Schwartz, Ryan Spohn, Benjamin Steiner, and Ebonie Epinger

Prior studies have shown that childhood neglect, maltreatment, and other environmental factors may contribute to a variety of psychological and behavioral issues such as criminal activity in adulthood. Yet, how these factors may be used to inform case management, including custody assignment and assignment to treatment, is less understood. The evidence is mixed on whether childhood factors should even be included in adult risk/needs assessment. However, many risk assessments include an item based on its bivariate relationship with the outcome of interests (e.g., recidivism). With a better understanding on the role adult factors play in the mediation of these childhood factors, better assessment may be achieved. This study examines a large and rich dataset from a jail population for the mediating effects of internalizing, externalizing, and psychopathy scales on the relationship between childhood factors and recidivism within an SEM framework. Results may be used to better utilize childhood factors and the scales in the prediction of adult risk to recidivate, as well as to inform case management.

Risk Factors and Negative Outcomes for Military Veterans and Non-Veterans in a Jail Population

Ryan Spohn, Emily M. Wright, Michael F. Campagna, Joseph Schwartz, Benjamin Steiner, and Ebonie Epinger

Research indicates that more than half of justice-involved veterans have either mental health problems (such as PTSD, depression, or anxiety) or substance-abuse disorders. Moreover, they are likely to suffer from traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and be at risk for homelessness and suicide ideation. Less is known about how the levels of these risk factors compare to similar justice-involved individuals who are not veterans. We also have little information on differences in how risk factors impact negative outcomes for veteran and non-veteran jail inmates. The current study examines a large sample of jail inmates (N = 4,854) that includes 245 discharged, active duty, and reserve duty veterans to further examine these issues. Outcomes of interest included externalizing behaviors, institutional misconducts, and post-release recidivism. The results of this study's analysis have implications for policy in Nebraska and elsewhere.

For a list of presentations by NCJR researchers, see page 30.



Research Associate, Dr. Katelynn Towne, presenting findings from the Vocational Live Skills Reentry Initiative (presentation titled "Qualitative Themes in Reducing Barriers to Reentry") at the Annual Society of Criminology Meeting in San Francisco, November, 2019.

DR. EMILY WRIGHT



Dr. Emily Wright has been a professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska-Omaha since 2012. She became a faculty affiliate of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research in 2014. In 2016, Dr. Wright accepted the position of Associate Director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research, and has served in this capacity ever since. Dr. Wright has many research interests, among them a strong interest in victimization, gender differences in offending and victimization, and effective correctional interventions. She contributes to field and the community in many ways, including participating in peer review panels, most recently for the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute of Justice. Dr. Wright is a prolific researcher and has produced many articles, reports, and book chapters throughout her academic career. We highlight two of her recent publications below.

When Victims Refuse and Prosecutors Decline: Examining Exceptional Clearance in Sexual Assault Cases

In 2019, Dr. Emily Wright and colleagues, Dr. Tara Richards and Dr. Marie Skubak Tillyer, published “When Victims Refuse and Prosecutors Decline: Examining Exceptional Clearance in Sexual Assault Cases” in *Crime & Delinquency*. The article utilizes data from the 2011 NIBRS, which represents crimes reported by law enforcement agencies to the FBI. The NIBRS includes data from 6,000 agencies across 36 states. Using data from 21,977 incidents of sexual assault, Drs. Wright, Richards, and Tillyer examined rates of arrest and exceptional clearance.

Sexual assault is generally underreported. In fact, estimates indicate that 65% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police. Of those reported to law enforcement, only 31% of sexual assaults between 2005 and 2010 resulted in an arrest. The majority of sexual assault cases cleared occurs via exceptional means. There are three broad categories

of exceptional clearance, including cases in which the victim does not cooperate, cases in which the prosecutor will not prosecute, and “other cases,” including those in which the offender has died or is unreachable due to refusal of extradition.

In general, previous scholarship shows that more intimacy between offender and victim will result in less punitive outcomes for the offender. Research suggests that the general perception of “real rape” is a rape that is committed by a stranger, results in injury to the victim, and may involve other crimes, such as the use of a weapon. These types of rapes are predicted to result in more punitive outcomes, including arrest. Rape committed by non-strangers, especially intimate partners, resulting in no injuries, and involving no other crimes are predicted to be more frequently cleared through exceptional means.

Using multinomial regression analysis on the NIBRS data, Dr. Wright and colleagues tested their hypotheses. The findings indicate that victims are more likely to refuse to cooperate when the perpetrator of the sexual assault is a non-stranger. Victim refusal to cooperate was also less likely when the victim sustained injury during the sexual assault or the sexual assault was one of multiple co-occurring

crimes. The presence of a weapon during the crime was not found to be related to victim cooperation. Dr. Wright and colleagues also found that among the sample, prosecutors were more likely to decline to prosecute when the offender was a non-stranger to the victim. Prosecutors were less likely to decline to prosecute when the victim sustained a major injury due to the sexual assault, if the crime occurred in a public setting, if the crime was committed by an older offender, or if the case involved multiple similar offenses. Prosecutors were also more likely to prosecute if the victim was male or older, or if the crime took place in states with specific requirements for prosecution. Again, the presence of a weapon was not found to be related to the decision to prosecute.

Dr. Wright and colleagues conclude by questioning the terminology used to describe “exceptional” clearance of sexual assault cases, as the data indicates it is in fact the standard method of clearing this type of case. When the crime is not consistent with societal perceptions of “real rape,” exceptional clearance is more likely to be used, which serves to reinforce those same perceptions, and leaves many individuals in dangerous situations.

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.

The Sources of Violent and Nonviolent Offending Among Women in Prisons

In 2020, Dr. Emily Wright and colleagues, Dr. Benjamin Steiner and Dr. Sara Toto, published “The Sources of Violent and Nonviolent Offending Among Women in Prisons” in *Justice Quarterly*. For this study, Dr. Wright and colleagues collected data on violent and nonviolent misbehavior by women in a prison setting. They surveyed 665 inmates at a women’s prison and analyzed the data to find predictors of in-prison offending.

Incarcerated individuals who break rules while in prison are more likely to continue to offend after their reentry into the community. Therefore, understanding influences of misbehavior in prison is important to

public safety. There have been studies looking at predictors of in-prison offending, but almost all of these studies have focused on men. There is a dearth in the research when it comes to understanding why women break prison rules, and so Dr. Wright and colleagues set out to fill this gap.

Dr. Wright and colleagues performed state-of-the-art statistical analyses and made some very interesting discoveries. They found that the most consistent predictors of women’s violent and nonviolent offending were 1) levels of impulsivity, 2) anti-social attitudes, 3) risk designation (low, medium, high), 4) age, 5) history of child abuse, 6) race, and 7) sexual orientation. Previously, connections have been drawn between race and risk of prison misbehavior, but this is the first study to report a correlation between sexual orientation and women’s in-prison offending. Dr. Wright and her colleagues hypothesize that a higher risk of victimization in prison contributes to higher odds of misbehavior, which may help to explain why inmates with marginalized identities are more likely to violate prison rules. Mental illness was found to be a predictor of nonviolent offending, but not of violent offending. Higher reading levels and family support appear to be protective factors. Women with high reading levels and high levels of family support were less likely to commit nonviolent offenses.

With this study, Dr. Wright and colleagues have set the stage for more research on predictors of women’s in-prison offending. They suggest that future research continues to include both violent and non-violent misbehavior, as looking only at violent misbehavior may not fully represent the issue. This study also makes clear the importance of mental health care and education for inmates, as those with access to these resources may engage in more prosocial behavior and may be more ready for reentry into the community.

Steiner, Benjamin, Emily M. Wright, and Sara Toto. 2020. “The Sources of Violent and Nonviolent Offending among Women in Prison.” *Justice Quarterly* (37)4:644-666.

For more information on publications by NCJR researchers, see page 25.

DR. TARA RICHARDS



Dr. Tara Richards joined School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ) at the University of Nebraska Omaha as an Assistant Professor in 2018, and in 2020 she was promoted to an Associate Professor. Dr. Richards' research focuses on intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and child maltreatment, and contributes to SCCJ's signature area of excellence in victimology. She is a leader in her research areas, with a strong record of publication in top journals such as Justice Quarterly, Law and Human Behavior, and Crime & Delinquency. Her work has also been cited by major news outlets including Mother Jones, Huff Post, and the Boston Globe. She brings her expertise in victimology into the classroom and is passionate about enhancing research capacity for practitioners, lawmakers, and non-profit organizations. Highlighted below are a few of the many projects Dr. Tara Richards is engaged in.

Report on Prevalence of Missing Native Women and Children, NE

Dr. Richards is engaged in multiple policy-driven research projects. For example, Dr. Richards along with Dr. Emily Wright and Alyssa Nystrom are currently assisting the Nebraska State Patrol and the Nebraska Commission of Indian Affairs in the data collection and writing for a report associated with Legislative Bill (LB) 154. Nebraska's LB 154 calls for a study on the prevalence of missing Native women and children. The intent of the bill is to strengthen community partnerships, remove barriers, and improve the ability to report and investigate missing persons cases. With the passage of this bill, Nebraska joined a group of states leading the nation on policy surrounding missing Native American women and children.

There was no funding attached to LB 154, and without adequate resources, Dr. Richards was concerned that producing the necessary research would be challenging, if not impossible. To address this, Drs. Richards and Wright applied for and received

federal funding from the National Institute of Justice. The grant provides funding for eighteen months, which means that research can continue beyond the completion of the initial report for LB 154. In the additional twelve months, Dr. Richards and her colleagues plan to begin implementing and testing recommendations presented in the LB 154 report. Throughout, they will continue to receive feedback from tribal and non-tribal stakeholders. Dr. Richards is committed to being a "good ally" for this important problem. As a professor at a public institution of higher education, Dr. Richards feels strongly that her research should serve the people of Nebraska.

Drs. Richards and Wright have been working closely with Captain Matt Sutter of the Nebraska State Patrol and Judi gaiashkibos, Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs. As part of their work, the research team held listening sessions in Native American communities across the state. Retired Judge William Thorne, a member of the Pomo and Coast Miwok Tribes, facilitated these discussions. The NIJ funds will support a series of interviews and focus groups that dig deeper into the themes uncovered in the listening sessions. Dr. Richards hopes that this research will lead to improved community education,

new law enforcement training and policies, and enhanced victim services. Indeed, the University of Nebraska Omaha's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice has a strong policy focus and specializes in translational research, which was important to Dr. Richards in her decision to join the department.

"Gateway Project" at House of Ruth, Baltimore, MD

Dr. Richards is involved in other researcher-practitioner projects, including an Office of Victims of Crime-funded project in Baltimore, Maryland that is testing a supportive services model of batterer intervention treatment. This model offers services beyond the scope of traditional batterer intervention treatment programs, such as referrals to substance use treatment, job placement, and parenting classes. Working with her on this project are Dr. Christopher Murphy, a psychologist at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, and Dr. Charvonne Holliday, a public health scholar at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Richards believes that the unique expertise that each contributor brings to this project allows for a holistic

perspective. The present research is the culmination of four years of work including two previous Bureau of Justice Assistance-funded studies of Maryland's batterer intervention treatment programs.

Dr. Richards and her colleagues have strong practitioner partners at their project site, the Gateway Project at the House of Ruth in Baltimore, Maryland. The Gateway Project serves a predominantly African American population who live in economically distressed and disenfranchised neighborhoods and face high rates of violent crime. In consultation with nationally respected technical assistance providers, Gateway Project staff have invested many years in creating a culturally-competent treatment program curriculum that is sensitive to the ways in which power and control in relationships are manifested by individuals who themselves experience discrimination and social and economic disenfranchisement. A recent statewide analysis of Maryland's batterer intervention treatment programs by Drs. Richards and Murphy found that clients who completed the Gateway Project had significantly lower recidivism for all criminal offenses and violent offenses than clients who do not attend or dropout of treatment, even in light of a number of control variables.



Front row, left to right: Dr. Tara Richards, Dr. Emily Wright, Juliette Bobrow with the Omaha Women's Fund along with (back row, left to right) Tribal Judge William Thorne, NSP Lieutenant Tyler Kroenke and NSP Captain Matt Sutter listen intently at a forum with Ponca community leaders.

At the same time, this evaluation also found that Gateway Project clients had the highest overall level of recidivism among the sampled programs, with criminogenic risks such as substance abuse and unemployment predicting reoffending.

As the resident criminologist on this project, Dr. Richards' is focused on assessing and mitigating clients' criminogenic needs and risk factors. Research indicates that individuals who commit domestic violence often commit other types of crime, and likely have similar needs and risk factors as other offenders. Batterer intervention treatment programs have not traditionally addressed the full scope of criminogenic needs and risk factors. Moreover, scholarship on correctional programming has not generally been applied to domestic violence offenders. Dr. Richards sees great potential in joining these two bodies of research. Specifically, her goal is to examine how additional services aimed at criminogenic risks and needs more generally can also decrease battering or domestic abuse.

at least partially due to a lack of available resources. These campuses are often small and underfunded, and rarely have an on-campus victim advocate available to students.

Additionally, tribal colleges and universities are often located in rural areas that may have limited community resources for sexual assault survivors. The current project aims to leverage indigenous values and resources as well evidence-based system responses to develop and disseminate prevention and intervention resources at tribal colleges and universities.

The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and NCJR are excited by the work Dr. Richards 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.

Federal Grant for Work with Red Wind Consulting, Inc., CO

Red Wind Consulting, Inc. is a Tribal Technical Assistance Provider located in Colorado. Last year, Drs. Tara Richards and Emily Wright began working with Red Wind on an Office of Victims of Crime-funded project to develop a holistic response to sexual assault for tribal colleges and universities. There are thirty-six tribal colleges and universities across the nation, including two in Nebraska. Richards and Wright had the opportunity to visit Tohono O'odham Community College in Arizona and speak with faculty, staff, and administrators about gaps in current knowledge, training, and resources to address violence and victimization among students.

Even though Native American individuals are at a higher risk of sexual assault than individuals of other racial and ethnic groups, there has not been a strong emphasis on sexual assault prevention and intervention at tribal colleges and universities. This is

For more information on NCJR Faculty Affiliates, see page 34.



Dr. Katelynn Towne with colleagues at the 2019 Policing and Society Conference in Akureyri, Iceland.



Dr. Michael Campagna presenting research on prison visitation, social bonding, and reduced recidivism at a Vocational Live Skills quarterly meeting, April, 2019.



Community Engagement in Omaha: After attending a week-long capstone training at Georgetown University addressing Race and Ethnic Disparities (RED) in juvenile justice, Dr. Ryan Spohn and a team from Douglas County invited community members to the Omaha Police Department's Northeast Precinct for a community feedback event. In addition to addressing disparities, part of the group's mission is community outreach and gathering community feedback on perceptions of needed changes to the system.

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. Eight programs received funding in the third grant cycle (July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020). 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. Nearly 10,000 participants have been served by the Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) program initiative, and 95% of participants say they would recommend the programs they complete to others.



The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR), under the advisement of Director Ryan Spohn, Ph.D., has evaluated the initiative since it began. Research Associate Michael Campagna and Research Coordinator Katelynn Towne work directly with NDCS and the VLS programs to track data on program participation, processes, and subsequent outcomes. The evaluation team also mentors graduate and

undergraduate research assistants on various VLS projects to give them applied research experience and extend services for stakeholders.

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.



See page 27 for more information on NCJR's grants, contracts, and projects.



SARA TOTO



In May, Sara Toto completed her Ph.D. in Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, and has accepted a position as an assistant professor at Central Washington University beginning in the Fall of 2020. Sara is originally from the Reno/Tahoe area in Nevada and received her bachelors and master's degrees in criminal justice from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research areas broadly encompass corrections, victimization, and quantitative methods. Her dissertation and various publications and research projects follow from these interests. For example, a recent manuscript Sara co-authored with Drs. Benjamin Steiner and Emily Wright, published in *Justice Quarterly*, examines the predictors of violent and nonviolent misconduct in a large sample of incarcerated women. They found that both demographics (e.g., age and race) and background factors (e.g., mental health problems and prior victimization) were relevant in predicting violent and nonviolent offending in prison. The data for this project stem from a larger study funded by a Bureau of Justice Assistance Prison Rape Elimination Act Demonstration Grant. This project examines a broader range of risk and need factors among women (e.g., sexual orientation, manipulative tendencies) than has previously been studied, and looks at different outcomes such

as sexual victimization and sexual perpetration in prison. This project has expanded into Sara's dissertation, which adds men to the sample and assesses gender differences in the prediction of in-prison sexual offending and victimization. Her dissertation provides the initial identification of predictors most relevant to incarcerated women and men, and explores the creation of a sexual violence propensity risk assessment tool that would increase the safety for those housed.

Besides Sara's research on sexual violence in prison, she has also been involved with the Nebraska Center for Justice Research as a student research assistant since 2017. Her role has been to develop annual reports and assist with data collection, analysis, and the preparation of other grant and contract-funded projects that come through the center. Since taking this position, Sara has been involved in the creation and publication of over half a dozen technical reports. Through this assistantship, Sara has worked directly with criminal justice agencies, and has used her skills to present data and analyses in an efficient and practitioner-friendly manner. For example, she has assisted with the creation of three of our annual Adult Justice in Nebraska reports, which present an overview of the recent trends in Nebraska's adult criminal justice system and are intended as a reference guide for Nebraska Senators. Besides Sara's work on the Adult Justice series, she has also contributed to several of our annual report publications, Evaluation of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) program at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services report, and Marijuana enforcement in Nebraska (2013-2015) report. Sara enjoys producing work that is used by members of our community to impact policies and procedures and looks forward to continuing this kind of work as an assistant professor at Central Washington University.

HIGHLIGHTS

Ebonie Epinger

Ebonie Epinger is a doctoral student in the Criminology and Criminal Justice Department. She is from Omaha, Nebraska. In her work with the Nebraska Center for Justice Research, Ebonie works primarily on the Douglas County Jail Project. Her work for this project includes data management and report writing. In the next five years, Ebonie is planning to graduate with her Ph.D. and continue working on applied research.

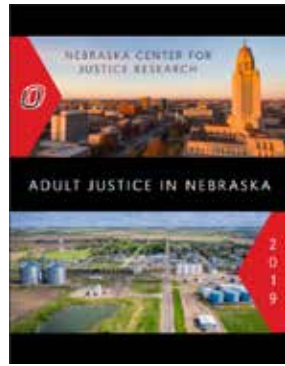
Genevieve Heimer-Lang

Genevieve Heimer-Lang is a master's student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is originally from Iowa City, Iowa. In her work with the Nebraska Center for Justice Research, she helps to create the Annual Report and update the website. Genevieve has an interest in social justice and in the future, hopes to work with people within and outside of the United States criminal justice system.

William Kunkle

William G. Kunkle is an undergraduate student in the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media. He is from Monterey Park, California. In his work with the Nebraska Center for Justice Research, he helps input surveys taken for the VLS Program and assists the staff with project research. In the future, William plans to attend law school.

For a complete list of student affiliates and funding hours, see page 35.



Adult Justice in Nebraska (2019)

This report compares criminal justice data across Nebraska from 2014 to 2019. Completed in December, 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.



Transformation Project Program Update and Recommendations for the Future

This report outlines the history of the Transformation Project (TP), highlights prior evaluations, and presents a new evaluation. Recommendations for the future of TP conclude the report. TP is a pilot cognitive-behavioral program that targets criminogenic thinking patterns and attitudes in order to promote prosocial outcomes. TP seeks to assist inmates to identify and alter thinking patterns that lead to antisocial behavior. Its ultimate goal is to reduce institutional misconducts and community recidivism, and increase quality of life for inmates and correctional staff.



Vocational and Life Skills Annual Report – Grant Cycle Three: Year One

The current report presents data evaluation updates for the Vocational and Life Skills Program (VLS) for the first year of Grant Cycle Three. VLS was created by the Nebraska Legislative Bill 907 in 2014 to reduce recidivism and increase meaningful employment for justice-involved individuals. This report contains 1) a VLS logic model, 2) descriptions of the eight funded programs and a matrix of services provided, 3) a snapshot of participation across the programs, 4) participant characteristics and feedback, and 5) evaluation updates on individualized service provider goals and results into the first year of the grant cycle.

You can find these reports on our website and by clicking the report covers here.

See page 28 for a listing of our other research reports.

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee regarding LR 204

September 27, 2019

In September of 2019, Dr. Ryan Spohn, director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research, testified to the Nebraska Judiciary Committee regarding LR 204, focusing on Nebraska’s sex offender registry. Whereas Nebraska had utilized a risk-based sex offender classification system, LB 285 replaced that classification system with a new system based on the federal Adam-Walsh based classifications. He discussed the results of an NCJR research study aimed at determining how the post-LB 285 Adam Walsh-based classification system is functioning with regards to sex offender recidivism. Dr. Spohn shared evidence that indicates that the older, pre-LB 285 risk-based system resulted in less overall recidivism. The current Adam Walsh-based system predicts whether an offender is at high risk to reoffend, but does not offer clarity on medium to low risk. These findings suggest that, as an overall tool for identifying a nuanced risk to reoffend, the old risk-based system appears more effective. However, if the goal is simply to distinguish the highest risk offenders from everyone else, the Adam Walsh Act Tier system appears most effective.

Dr. Spohn made three recommendations to the committee. First, if Nebraska decides to return to a system similar to the pre-LB 285 risk-based system, a new instrument should be developed and validated on recent data. Second, policy changes should account for the difference between severity of offences and likelihood to reoffend. Third, in attempts to increase public safety, emphasize that sex offenders usually victimize those close to them.

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee regarding LR 237

November 8, 2019

In November of 2019, Dr. Ryan Spohn, director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research testified to the Nebraska Judiciary Committee regarding LR 237. He discussed the Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) program created by LB 907 in 2014. This state-funded reentry program represents a comprehensive approach to improving reintegration of individuals into the community. For three years, the Nebraska Center for Justice research has served as the contracted evaluator for the initiative.

In Dr. Spohn’s testimony, he highlighted major findings from the NCJR evaluation of the VLS reentry program. Vocational Life Skills programming is currently delivered in ten correctional facilities and the community. As of June 2019, 7660 individuals were served through the program, and 85% of participants successfully completed their programs. In a survey of participants, 95% said they would recommend VLS programs to others, 86% said the program fit their needs, and 82% said the program will help them resist reoffending. The Nebraska Center for Justice Research has developed a Theory of Change for the initiative, which serves as an overall logic model, as well as specific models for each grantee. Vocational Life Skills grantees generally met performance measures during the year, and deficiencies are being addressed to improve performance.

FISCAL YEAR 2013-2020

Testimony to the Judiciary Committee regarding LB 786

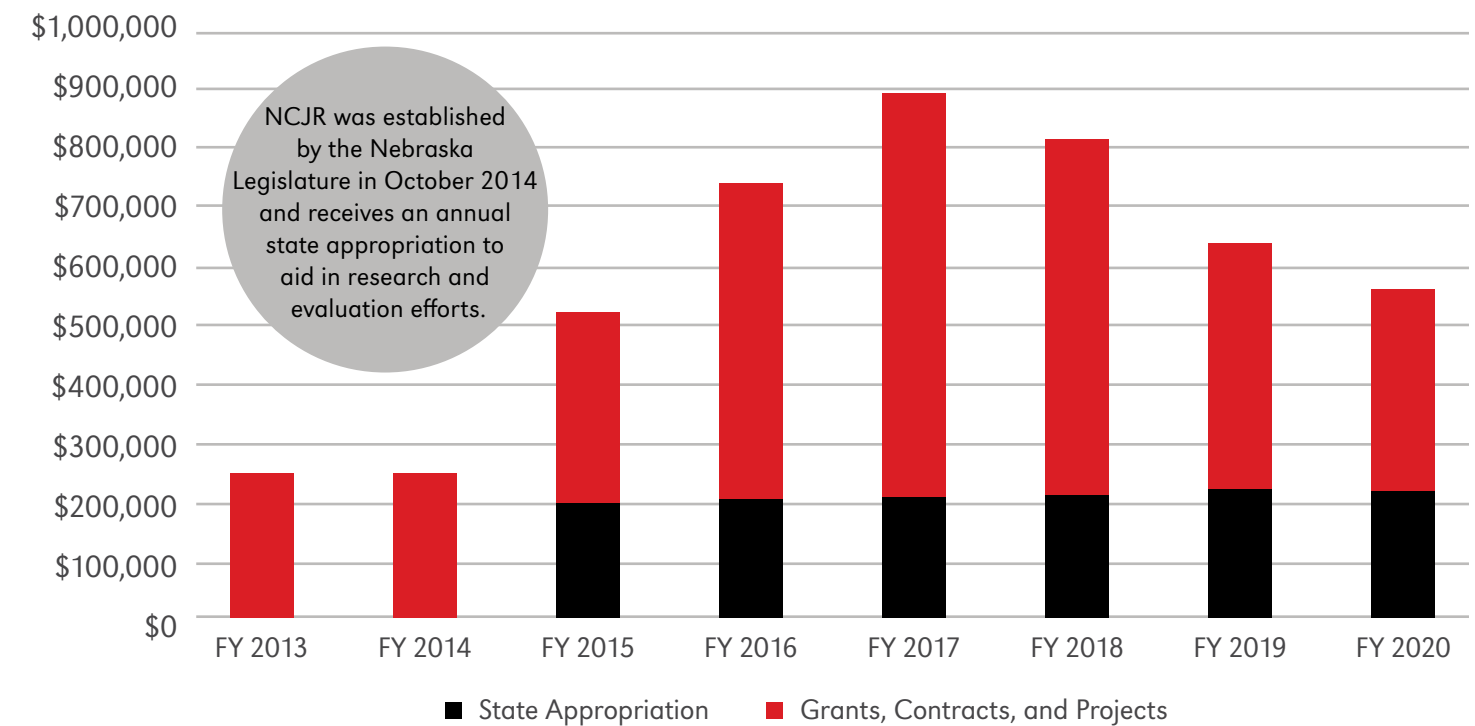
February 12, 2020

In February of 2020, SCCJ Associate Professor and NCJR faculty affiliate, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, provided testimony to the Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Legislature. Dr. Schwartz has been working on a project to assess rates of brain injury in the incarcerated population at the Douglas County Jail. He briefly reviewed previous peer-reviewed findings showing that brain injury appears to be more common among incarcerated individuals than members of the general populace. There are two main implications of these findings. First, criminal justice agencies should be aware that the effectiveness of programming may be variable depending on the individual's injury status. Second, correctional staff may be better equipped to interact with inmates with brain injuries if staff receives specialized training.

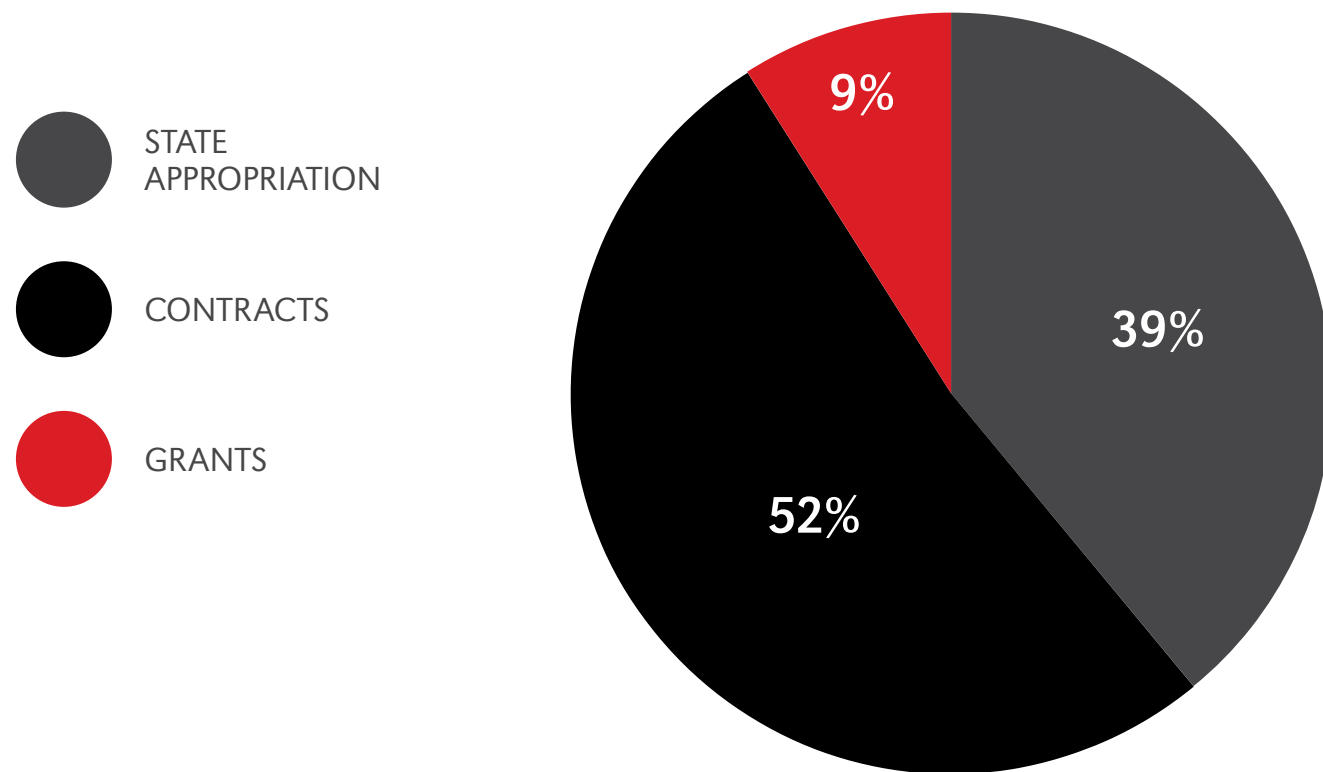


Nebraska State Capitol Rotunda.

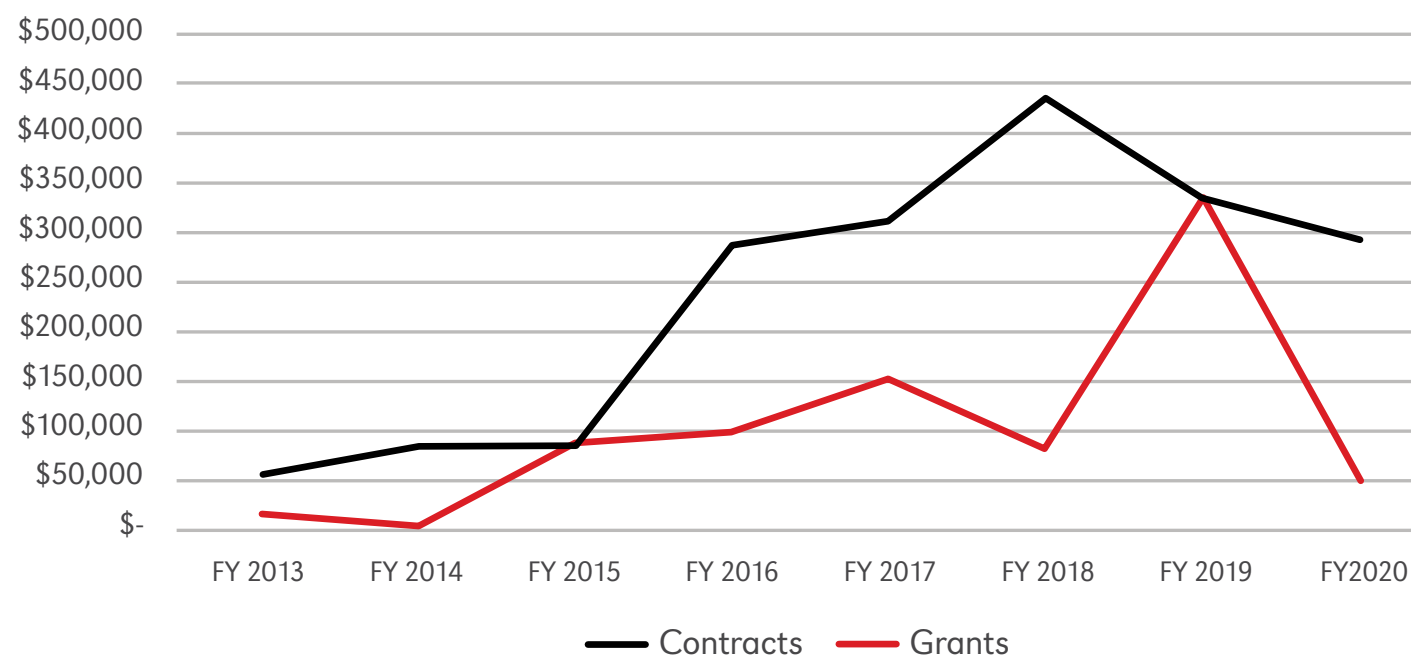
Total Budget Breakdown, Fiscal Year 2013-2020



Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Breakdown



Contracts and Grants from Fiscal Year 2013-2020



Selected Academic Publications, 2017-2020

Avery, Eileen E., Joan M. Hermsen, and Katelynn Towne. 2020. "Crime Victimization Distress, Neighborhood Social Cohesion and Perceived Police Effectiveness." *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, online first.

Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2020. "Responding to Crossover Youth: A Look Beyond Recidivism." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, forthcoming.

Steiner, Benjamin, Emily M. Wright, and Sara Toto. 2020. "The Sources of Violent and Nonviolent Offending among Women in Prison." *Justice Quarterly* (37)4:644-666.

Batton, Candice and Emily M. Wright. 2019. "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.

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* 99(6):639-661.

Campagna, Michael, Ming-Li Hsieh, and Christopher M. Campbell. 2019. "The Contours of Assessment: Considering Aspects that Influence Prediction Performance." *Corrections: Policy, Practice and Research*, online first.

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

Nix, Justin, Tara N. Richards, Gillian M. Pinchevsky, and Emily M. Wright. 2019. "Are Domestic Incidents Really More Dangerous to Police? Findings from the 2016 National Incident Based Reporting System." *Justice Quarterly*, online first.

Schwartz, Joseph A., Emily M. Wright, and Brandon A. Valgardson. 2019. "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Deleterious Outcomes in Adulthood: A Consideration of the Simultaneous Role of Genetic and Environmental Influences in Two Independent Samples from the United States." *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 88:420-431.

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.

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*, online first.

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.

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 L. and Emily M. Wright. 2018. "The Role of Police Officer Race/Ethnicity on Crime Rates in Immigrant Communities." *Race and Justice*, online first.

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.

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.

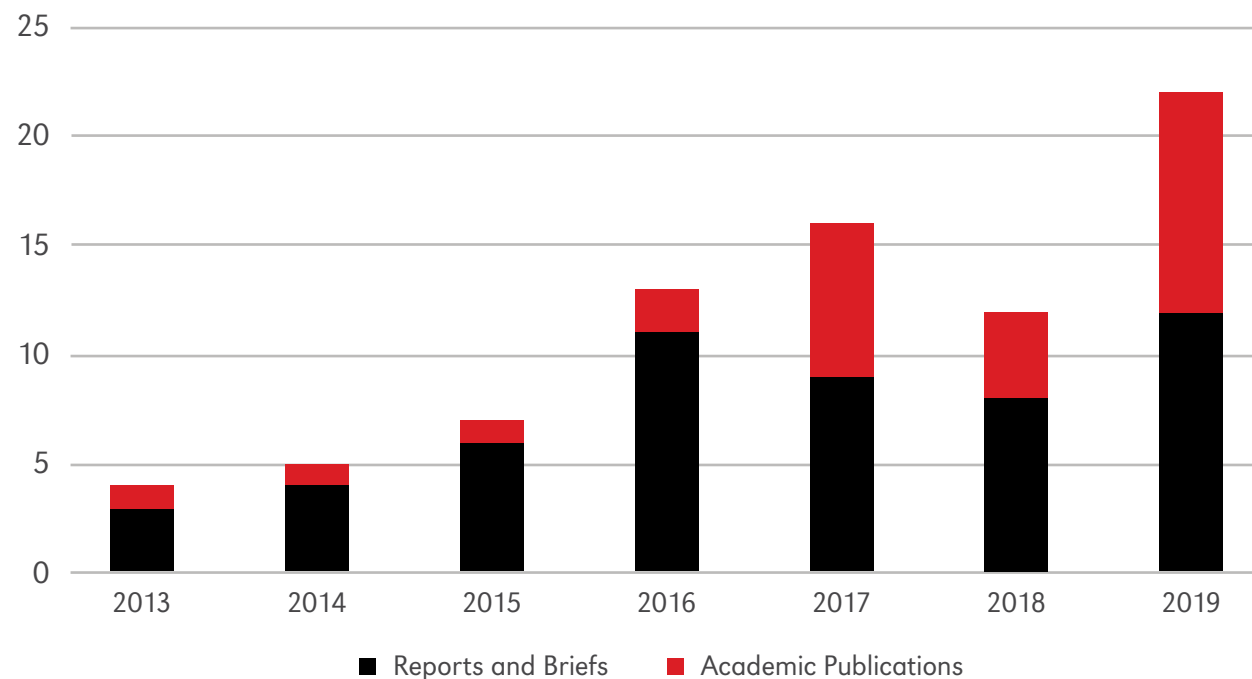
Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, and Johanna C. Peterson. 2017. "Rape and Mental Health Outcomes Among Women: Examining the Moderating Effects of 'Healthy' Fear Levels." *Violence Against Women* 23(9):1055-1075.

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.

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*, online first.

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.

Number of Publications Per Year



Grants Awarded, 2017-2020

2020-23 Douglas County, Nebraska Sexual Assault Research Project
Principal Investigator: Tara Richards
Co-Investigator: Emily Wright
Funding Agency: National Institute of Justice
Funded Amount: \$657,908

2020-22 Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers
Principal Investigator: Teresa Kulig
Co-Investigators: Ryan Spohn, Emily Wright, and Megan Davidson
Funding Agency: National Institute of Justice
Funded Amount: \$566,259

2020-21 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
Principal Investigator: Tara Richards
Co-Investigator: Emily Wright
Funding Agency: National Institute of Justice, Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant
Funded Amount: \$169,255

2019-23 Reducing Violence and Recidivism through VRP Aftercare and CBI Open Groups
Principal Investigator: Jennifer Miller
Research Partners: Ryan Spohn and Michael F. Campagna
Funding Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance
Funded Amount: \$533,445; UNO Subcontract Amount: \$159,997

2018-20 American Indian/Alaska Native Training Technical Assistance Program
Principal Investigator: Victoria Ybanez
Consultant: Emily Wright
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) Grant Program
UNO Subcontract Amount: \$18,225

Contracts and Projects, 2017-2020

2020 Achieving Change Together Evaluation. Evaluation of a Bureau of Justice Assistance Second Chance Act, Community-Based Adult Reentry Program
Project Evaluator: Ryan Spohn
Funding Agency: Safer Foundation
Funded Amount: \$100,000

2020 Technical Assistance and Provisions to Improve Assessment and Case Management
Principal Investigator: Michael F. Campagna
Funding Agency: Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
Funding Amount: \$36,000

2019 Youth Impact! Cost/Benefit Analysis Update
Principal Investigator: Ryan Spohn
Funding Agency: The Sherwood Foundation
Funded Amount: \$4,643

2018-20 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation
Principal Investigator: Ryan Spohn
Funding Agency: Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
Funded Amount: \$342,221

2018-19 A Collaborative Evaluation of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative
Project Evaluator: Ryan Spohn
Funding Agency: WestEd Justice & Prevention Resource Center
Funded Amount: \$10,000

2017-18 Douglas County Juvenile Justice Prevention Needs Assessment
Principal Investigators: Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright
Funding Agency: The Sherwood Foundation
Funded Amount: \$137,484

2017-19 Douglas County Operation Youth Success Evaluation
Project Evaluator: Ryan Spohn
Funding Agency: The TerraLuna Collaborative.
Funded Amount: \$20,000

2017-19 Evaluation of Douglas County Assessment and Case Management Services
Principal Investigators: Ryan Spohn, Benjamin Steiner and Emily Wright
Funding Agency: Douglas County Department of Corrections
Funded Amount: \$312,658

2017-19 Minority Health Initiative Evaluation, Colfax and Platte Counties, NE
Project Evaluator: Ryan Spohn
Funding Agency: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
Funded Amount: \$18,424

2017 Defy Ventures Evaluation
Principal Investigators: Ryan Spohn, Roni Reiter-Palmon and Joseph Allen
Funding Agency: The Sherwood Foundation
Funded Amount: \$50,162

Selected Research Reports, 2017-2020

Spohn, Ryan. 2020. Analysis of Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center, 2012-2019: Successful Completions and Recidivism by Youth Level of Service Scores and Race/Ethnicity. For the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2020. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q7. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Campagna, Michael and Ryan Spohn. 2019. The Transformation Project final evaluation—2019. For the Sherwood Foundation.

Toto, Sara, Ryan Spohn, Emily M. Wright, Ryan Campagna, and Katelynn Towne. 2019. Adult Justice in Nebraska 2019. For the Nebraska Legislature.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2019. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q6. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2019. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q5. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2019. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q4. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2019. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q3. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2019. Vocational and life skills annual report – Grant Cycle 3: Year 1. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Spohn, Ryan. 2019. Immersion State Blue Courage Training Evaluation. For the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards & Training (IADLEST)

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, Sara Toto, and Emily M. Wright. 2019. Nebraska Center for Justice Research: Annual Report 2019. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Campagna, Michael and Katelynn Towne. 2018. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 2: Q8. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

Campagna, Michael and Katelynn Towne. 2018. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 2: Q7. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

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.

Scheller, Eric, Joseph Allen, Roni Reiter-Palmon, Ryan Spohn, and Joseph Mroz. 2018. Defy Ventures Evaluation Plan Report. For 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.

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.

Spohn, Ryan, Sara Toto, and Emily M. Wright. 2018. Nebraska Center for Justice Research: Annual Report 2018. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2018. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q2. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Towne, Katelynn and Michael Campagna. 2018. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 3: Q1. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, and Joselyne Chenane. 2018. Evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (Youth Impact!): Executive Summary. For the Sherwood Foundation.

Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, Joselyne Chenane, and Sara N. Toto. 2018. Evaluation of the Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) Program at Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Campagna, Michael and Katelynn Towne. 2017. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 2: Q6. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Campagna, Michael and Katelynn Towne. 2017. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 2: Q5. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Campagna, Michael and Katelynn Towne. 2017. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 2: Q4. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

Campagna, Michael and Katelynn Towne. 2017. Vocational and life skills quarterly report – Grant Cycle 2: Q3. For the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

- 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, Joselyn Chenane, and Sara Toto. 2017. Adult Justice in Nebraska 2017. For the Nebraska Legislature.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, Joselyne Chenane, and Sara Toto. 2017. Marijuana Enforcement in Nebraska (2013-2015). For the Nebraska Legislature.
- 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.

Policy and Research Briefs, 2017-2020

- Nix, Justin, Tara N. Richards, Gillian M. Pinchevsky, and Emily M. Wright. 2020. Assessing the Relative Dangerousness of Various Call Types. For Police Chief, International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- 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.

Academic Presentations, 2017-2019

- Campagna, Michael F., Emily M. Wright, Joseph Schwartz, Ryan Spohn, and Benjamin Steiner. 2019. "Jails Use Data Too! How Internalizing, Externalizing, and Psychopathy Scales Mediate the Relationship between Childhood Factors and Recidivism." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 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.
- Epinger, Ebonie, Emily M. Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, and Benjamin Steiner. 2019. "The Effects of Risk Factors and Criminogenic Needs on Recidivism among a Jail Population." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 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.
- Kurtz, Don and Ryan Spohn. 2019. "The Importance of Social Support at Reentry: Qualitative Work from a Statewide, Multi-Site Reentry Initiative in Nebraska." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Kotlaja, Marijana M., Abigail A. Fagan, and Emily M. Wright. 2019. "Perceptions, Tolerance, and Disadvantage: Examining Neighborhood Influences on Child Physical Abuse." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

- Schwartz, Joseph, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, and Benjamin Steiner. 2019. "Brain Injury as a Risk Factor for Institutional Misconduct and Recidivism: Results from a Sample of Jail Inmates." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Spohn, Ryan, Cara Stirts, and Doug Johnson. 2019. "Increasing Collaboration While Decreasing costs for Dual-Involved Youth." Presented at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Conference.
- Spohn, Ryan, Emily Wright, Michael Campagna, Joseph Schwartz, and Benjamin Steiner. 2019. "Risk Factors and Negative Outcomes for Military Veterans and Non-Veterans in a Jail Population." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Toto, Sara, Emily M. Wright, and Benjamin Steiner. 2019. "The Sources of Violent and Nonviolent Offending Among Women in Prison". Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2019. "My Friends Keep Me Woke About These Things." Presented at the Policing and Society Conference, Akureyri, Iceland.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2019. "When There is a Will, the Way is Still Hard: Qualitative Themes of Ex-Offender Reentry." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 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. 2017. "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.

Invited Presentations, 2017-2019

Campagna, Michael. 2019. "Jails Use Data too!" Presented to the Douglas County Detention Center executive board, November 8, Omaha, NE.

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. "Community-Engaged Research and Research-Focused Careers." Presented at Kansas State University, October 25, Manhattan, KS.

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.

Panels and Discussions, 2017-2019

Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "Georgetown Capstone Presentation: Reducing Race and Ethnic Disparities in the Douglas County Juvenile Justice System." September 27, Omaha, NE.

Spohn, Ryan, 2019. "Project Safe Neighborhood Training/Technical Assistance Strategic Planning Collaboration Meeting." For the Bureau of Justice Assistance, July 19, Washington, DC.

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. 2018. "Beyond Police, Courts, and Corrections." For UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, February 7, Omaha, NE.

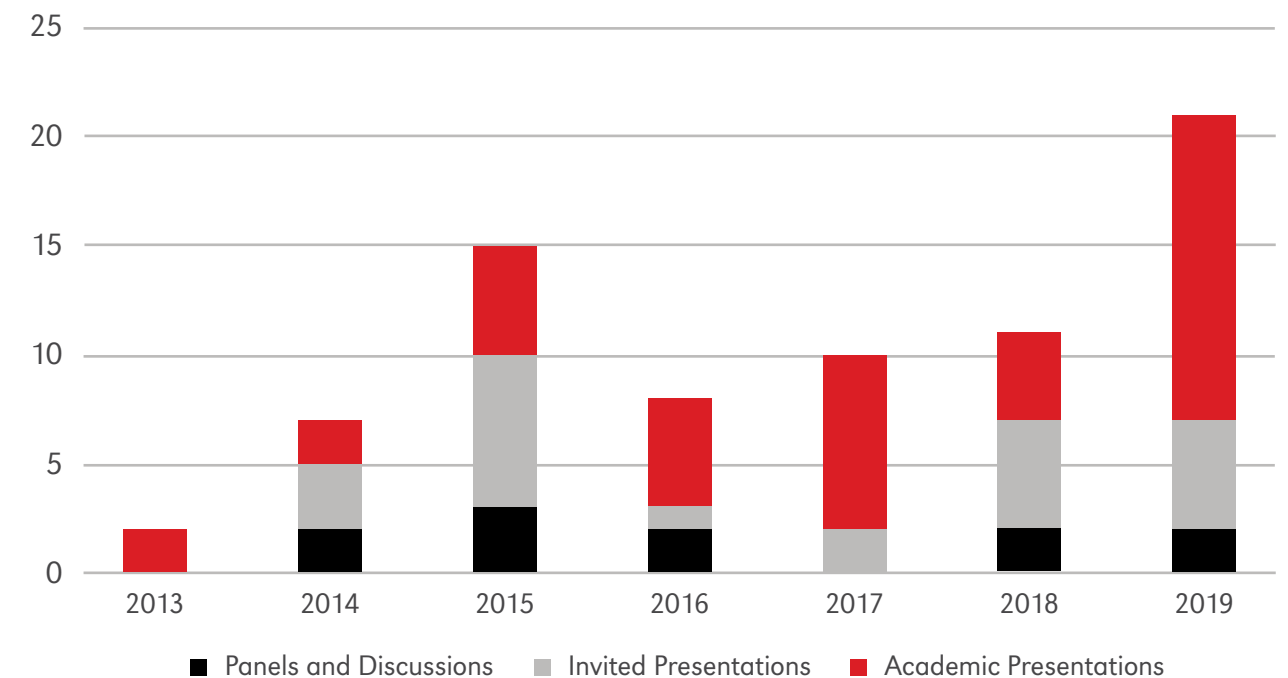
Webinars, 2017-2019

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.

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.

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.

Number of Presentations Per Year



AFFILIATES

University of Nebraska Omaha – Faculty

Nikitah Okembe-RA Imani, Ph.D.	Black Studies
Joseph Allen, Ph.D.	Center for Applied Psychological Services
Abby Bjornson, Ph.D.	Counseling
Gaylene Armstrong, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Todd Armstrong, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Amy Anderson, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Samantha Clinkinbeard, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Teresa Kulig, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Justin Nix, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Tara Richards, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Lisa Sample, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Joseph Schwartz, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Emily Wright, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Janelle Beadle, Ph.D.	Gerontology & Biology
Ann Fruhling, Ph.D.	Information Science & Technology
Anne Hobbs, Ph.D., JD	Juvenile Justice Institute
Jessiline Anderson, Ph.D.	Psychology
Juan Casas, Ph.D.	Psychology
Rosemary Strasser, Ph.D.	Psychology
Roni Reiter-Palmon, Ph.D.	Psychology
Kerry Beldin, LCSW, Ph.D.	Social Work
Amanda Randall, LCSW, Ph.D.	Social Work
Jieru Bai, Ph.D.	Social Work
Daniel Hawkins, Ph.D.	Sociology

University of Nebraska Lincoln – Faculty

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

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Faculty

Lorena Baccaglioni, DDS, Ph.D.	Public Health
Jane Meza, Ph.D.	Public Health
Dejun Su, Ph.D.	Public Health
Melissa Tibbits, Ph.D.	Public Health

University of Nebraska Kearney – Faculty

Julie Campbell, Ph.D.	Criminal Justice
Timbre Wulf-Ludden, Ph.D.	Criminal Justice

External Faculty Affiliates

Ashley Arnio, Ph.D.	Texas State University
Jonathan Brauer, Ph.D.	University of Indiana
Pauline Brennan, Ph.D.	University of Massachusetts Lowell
H. Daniel Butler, Ph.D.	Iowa State University
Ashley Hall, Ph.D.	University of Illinois-Chicago
Zachary Hamilton, Ph.D.	Washington State University
Don Kurtz, Ph.D.	Kansas State University
Jukka Savolainen, Ph.D.	Wayne State University
Michael Walker, Ph.D.	University of Minnesota

Student Affiliates

Emily Adams	I/O Psychology
Krista Brewer	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Jeff Chao	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Kelsey Ciagala	I/O Psychology
Shelby Connett	Social Work
Nicky Dalbir	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Ebonie Epinger	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Julie Garman	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Sara Moore	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Amber Richey	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Sara Toto	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Brandon Tregle	Criminology & Criminal Justice

Students Funded By Semester

NCJR SUMMER 2019	NCJR FALL 2019	NCJR SPRING 2020	NCJR SUMMER 2020
Ebonie Epinger Sara Toto	Ebonie Epinger William Kunkle Sara Toto	Genevieve Heimer-Lang William Kunkle Sara Toto	Ebonie Epinger Genevieve Heimer-Lang William Kunkle Sara Toto
HOURS/WEEK: 40	HOURS/WEEK: 50	HOURS/WEEK: 30	HOURS/WEEK: 70

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



Dr. Ryan Spohn, Director

Nebraska Center for Justice Research

University of Nebraska at Omaha

6001 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68182

402.554.3794 | justiceresearch.unomaha.edu

The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs, activities, or employment. UNO is an AA/EEO/ADA institution. For questions, accommodations, or assistance please call/contact the Title IX/ADA/504 Coordinator (phone: 402.554.3490 or TTY 402.554.2978) or the Accessibility Services Center (phone: 402.554.2872). UCTEMP0718