This section contains short summaries of significant research findings from recently completed NIJ-funded projects. At the end of each entry, a URL points readers to the Web location for the report's abstract.

Copies of the full report are available for a fee from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service by calling 00-851-3420. Documents under 25 pages are $10.00 each; documents 25 pages and over are $15.00 each.


Alameda County Placement Risk Assessment Validation, Final Report, P. Ebener. The recidivism risk assessment instrument used by Alameda County probation placement personnel to rate the risk of recidivism among juvenile probationers produced successful results. Findings showed that youths classified as medium-risk were twice as likely to reoffend as low-risk youths; high-risk youths were twice as likely to reoffend as medium-risk youths. The validation study found that 525 of the 1,334 youths in Alameda County tested in the low-risk category and could have received less restrictive sanctions than formal supervision. In contrast, 202 youths scored in the high-risk group and warranted more restrictive sanctions than were assigned. Evaluators agreed that this instrument is valid and equitable for the targeted juvenile population and could be a useful tool for probation placement personnel. 45 pp. Grant 98-JB-VX-0109; funded in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); NCJ 189240. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/1.html.

Boot Camps’ Impact on Confinement Bed Space Requirements, Final Report, D.G. Parent et al. Do boot camps really impact the problem of overcrowded prisons by increasing the availability of prison space for violent offenders? This in-depth study of four boot camps found that the impact on generating confinement bed space varied depending on design, operating choices, and other variables such as (1) probability of boot camp entrants imprisonment, (2) amount of discount time, (3) program failure rates, and (4) revocation rates. Three of the four camps recorded reasonable savings, the fourth possibly a modest savings. However, researchers cautioned that any savings must be realized on a large scale to have any significant impact. The study’s lessons learned could be applied to any confinement reduction program: (1) Study offender flow to carefully determine the size of the program, (2) enroll high-risk offenders, (3) maximize the program completion discount, (4) minimize revocation rates for noncriminal supervision breaches, and (5) realize that cost savings are unlikely unless large-scale reductions materialize. 69 pp. Grant 96-SC-VX-0005; funded in collaboration with the Corrections Program Office (CPO); NCJ 189788. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/2.html. An NIJ Research in Brief will be published later this year.

Containment Devices for Small Terrorist Bombs for Law Enforcement, Final Report, H.H. Klein
et al. This report describes the effort to develop a small, lightweight, cost-effective containment vessel capable of withstanding the blast of a pipe bomb containing one pound of powder. Today’s vessels are heavy, hazardous, and expensive. The containers being developed are designed for easier transportation via a pickup truck or sport utility vehicle and are light enough to be carried by one or two bomb squad members. Test results were mixed. While the experimental container could contain the detonation blast of a one-pound bomb, it did not contain the metal fragments thrown off by the detonation. One recommended solution to this problem is to line the container with ceramic tile, but this requires further discussion because of increased cost. 14 pp. Grant 97-D1-001-K001; NCJ 189582. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/4.html.

**Evaluation of the Breaking the Cycle Demonstration in Birmingham, Alabama: Final Report**, A. Harrell et al. An evaluation of the first site for Breaking the Cycle (BTC), an early intervention drug treatment program, has shown preliminary success. Developed as a method to reduce the high crime and drug use rate among felony defendants, BTC combines case management, drug testing, sanctions, and treatment. The evaluation compared drug use and crime among felony defendants enrolled in BTC to defendants not offered these services. Results revealed consistent indications of reductions in criminal activity and drug use among drug-involved defendants, although less indication of declines in drug-related problems, such as physical and mental health problems. Regardless of the offense, BTC clients were less likely than the comparison group to be arrested in the year after sample entry. Researchers cautioned that though promising, the findings are preliminary, based on only one site, and may have been affected by model diversion problems. 102 pp. Grant 97-JJ-CX-0013; funded in collaboration with the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); NCJ 189244. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/4.html.

**Evaluation of the STOP Violence Against Women Grant Program: Law Enforcement and Prosecution Components**, B.K. Uekert et al. This evaluation of the STOP Violence Against Women grant program found that the program significantly impacted the extent and scope of law enforcement and prosecution training at the State level. The program influenced legislative activity; provided a vital source of funding for cities, counties, and States; and improved victim services. Using a survey of 1995 subgrantees and a 1999 national database of subgrantees, the evaluation covered areas such as the types of activities by law enforcement and prosecution agencies, State legislation, State-level training efforts, and victim safety and offender accountability. 131 pp. Grant 96-WT-VX-0007; funded in collaboration with the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO); NCJ 189163. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/5.html.

**Investigations in the Community Policing Context**, M.A. Wycoff. Should detectives and investigators play a more inclusive and proactive role in community policing? Can agencies involve detectives and investigators in community policing without creating organizational chaos? This study discusses a variety of innovative ways to effectively integrate investigative and patrol operations. Researchers developed four models to exemplify the basic structural, functional, and procedural changes being implemented in seven cities. These changes include (1) centralizing versus decentralizing detectives, (2) making reports through an investigative versus an area chain of command, (3) using technological devices such as laptops and geographic information systems for better crime analysis, and (4) assigning problem solving and community outreach tasks to detectives. Apparent strengths and weaknesses of some of these approaches are given, but researchers note that this is a descriptive, not an evaluative discussion. 208 pp. Grant 96-JJ-CX-0081; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); NCJ 189568. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/6.html.

**Monitoring the Marijuana Upurge With DUF/ADAM Arrestees, Final Report**, A. Golub et al. Several recent studies showed that marijuana use increased significantly among young adults in the 1990s. A national survey of 23 Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) programs found that marijuana use among arrestees ages 18 to 20 rose from an average low of 25 percent in 1991 to 57 percent in 1996. Results from Monitoring the

These summaries do not contain sufficient information to adequately assess the significance of the findings as stated here. The full report provides greater detail, including information on the research design, data analysis, and study limitations.
Future programs and the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse also showed rapid but more modest increases in marijuana use among mainstream youth starting in 1992. In the 1990s, marijuana, especially smoked as a "blunt" (inexpensive cigar), replaced crack cocaine as the drug of choice for a new generation of ADAM arrestees. Researchers noted that, unlike the 1960s and 1970s, marijuana was not being used as a gateway drug because by 1998 few users had shifted to more dangerous drugs such as crack or heroin. Researchers suggested that the increased use of marijuana would follow the usual four phases of an epidemic: (1) incubation, (2) expansion, (3) plateau, and (4) decline. Findings from all three surveys showed that it plateaued by 1999 at all affected locations. 104 pp. Grant 99–1J–CX–0020; NCJ 188867. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/j/vol3_l/7.html. See also NIJ's Research in Brief (NCJ 187490) titled The Rise of Marijuana as the Drug of Choice Among Youthful Adult Arrestees at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/niij/pubs-param/187490.htm.

Profiling Inmates in the Los Angeles County Jails: Risks, Recidivism, and Release Options, J. Petersilia et al. To expand or sanction? This is the question being asked by State and local corrections officials faced with overcrowded facilities as a result of Truth in Sentencing (TIS) and other sentencing policies. This study is one in a series conducted to address this question. Using data from a sample of 1,000 inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail, it examined two possible solutions: increasing jail bed capacity or providing intermediate sanctions. Significant findings from the study revealed that the inmates were mostly high-risk, serious violent offenders and therefore not good candidates for intermediate sanctions programs. It recommended expanding jail capacity to allow lengthier incarceration for the most dangerous inmates. Other results revealed little crime specialization—offenders arrested for one crime may be arrested for something different in the future. Researchers suggested that such problems as overcrowded jails could be addressed by creating "population projection" models that consider such things as changes in demographics, crime rates, police arrest practices, length of sentences, and projected time served. 107 pp. Grant 96–CE–VX–0018; funded in collaboration with CPO; NCJ 189733. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_l/8.html.

Secure Weapon System (SWS) Smart Gun Technology, Phase I: Summary of Findings Report, J. Rankin. Too many law enforcement officers are killed or injured with their own guns. Phase I of the FN Manufacturing smart gun technology project successfully developed a model gun that could help to reduce if not eliminate this problem. Law enforcement required a gun that could not be fired against an officer and that would not malfunction because of dead batteries or electrical problems. Other requirements included limiting any other operation to the officer's partner, the reliability and durability of current guns, and usability with heavy clothes or gloves. Phase I successfully achieved such things as improved battery life and system reliability, improved recognition methodology, and a platform change to the 9-mm firearm typically used by law enforcement. It solved the reliability, durability, and environmental resistance problems of the earlier model. Researchers are optimistic about achieving similar success in the remaining three phases. 9 pp. Grant 2000–MU–MU–K005; NCJ 189247.

The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_l/9.html.

Secondary Data Analysis on the Etiology, Course and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence Against Extremely Poor Women, E.L. Bassuk et al. This study examines childhood antecedents to adult partner violence and the impact of partner violence on the use of addictive substances and on the capacity to maintain work among impoverished single mothers. Results showed that poor women who experienced childhood sexual abuse were significantly more likely to experience intimate partner violence as adults. Other childhood factors found to be associated with an increased risk of adult partner violence were parental fighting, foster care, mothers victimized by abuse, abusive primary male caretakers, and mentally ill primary female caretakers. Findings also showed that women who experienced recent partner violence had less than one-third the chance of having extended work periods. Recommended solutions included nonprofessional support networks such as family, friends, and neighbors; job training placement services; and job-related support services sensitive to women's psychosocial needs, especially mental health and violence. 137 pp. Grant 98–WT–VX–0012; funded in collaboration with the Violence Against Women Research Agenda (VAWRA); NCJ 188507. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_l/10.html.

Spatial Analysis of Crime in Appalachia, J.G. Cameron. Location affects the nature of crime. In rural areas, such as Appalachia, crime patterns are different from patterns in urban areas. In addition to rural-urban differences, the results of this study also show significant regional variations.
in the clustering and spread of both violent and property crime in Appalachia. Spatial patterns such as these highlight the need for further research on rural and regional crime that takes location and geographic context seriously. This highly technical report is designed to demonstrate how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial analysis procedures can be applied to understand crime patterns in Appalachia. The report, sponsored by NIJ's Crime Mapping Research Center, is specifically written for a sophisticated audience familiar with mapping techniques and software. 214 pp. Grant 99-LT-VX-0001; funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); NCJ 189559. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/11.html.

Stand-Off Detection and Tracking of Concealed Weapons Using Magnetic Tensor Tracking, Final Activities Report, P.V. Czipott. This report describes the effort to test a new magnetic detection device capable of locating weapons, especially firearms. The magnetic sensor is designed for mounting on or near the front bumper of a car and automatically detects whether an individual is carrying a weapon and its location. Test results showed that the breadboard system successfully detected metallic objects at a range of 10 to 15 feet away in a magnetically cluttered environment. It has potential benefits for use in other safety scenarios. 20 pp. Grant 98-DT-CX-K002; NCJ 189583. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/11.html.

Visual Effects Assessment of the Green Laser-Baton Illuminator, R. Dennis et al. The Green Laser-Baton Illuminator (GLBI) is a device that could make it easier for Law enforcement personnel to immobilize fleeing suspects at night. Originally designed to use glare (transmitting a wall of light) to safely incapacitate an individual during daylight, the GLBI was the first nonlethal technology laser illuminator to incorporate a green rather than a red laser. Effectiveness tests included daytime visibility thresholds, glare source effects on a vehicle operator, flashblindness determination, and the effect of GLBI on night vision goggles. Tests indicated that a green laser is inherently more effective than a red laser as both a tagging and glare source because it is 8.27 times more sensitive to the eye during the day than red light. Results also showed that the GLBI did not perform well as a daytime immobilizing device but was effective as a nighttime glare source. Also, safety concerns were raised about the use of any laser with sufficient energy to incapacitate an individual during daylight. A commercial product that would incorporate recommended improvements to miniaturize the device and homogenize the beam profile is being discussed. 23 pp. Grant 98-DT-CX-A040; NCJ 189571. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/13.html.

Other Research Projects

Affordable Crime Mapping and Information Sharing Technology, R.J. Pennington. 5 pp. Grant 97-JJ-CX-K006; funded in collaboration with
COPS; NCJ 188873. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rt/vol3_1/14.html.


*Classifying Inmates for Strategic Programming,* E. Sullivan et al. 70 pp. Grant 98-CE-VX-0010; funded in collaboration with CPO; NCJ 188891. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rt/vol3_1/16.html.


*Development of Peer Support Programs in Native American and Campus Police Departments,* L.A. Morris et al. 102 pp. Grant 98-FS-VX-0005; funded in collaboration with CPO; NCJ 189123. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rt/vol3_1/18.html.


*Identifying Strategies to Market the Police in the News,* S. Chermak et al. 80 pp. Grant 96-IJ-CX-0078; funded in collaboration with COPS; NCJ 188563. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rt/vol3_1/23.html.


*Violence Against Women: An Examination of Developmental Antecedents Among Black, Caucasian, and...*

Wisconsin Idea: A Research Partnership of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections and the University of Wisconsin Law School, M. Smith. 149 pp. Grant 96–CE–VX–0003; funded in collaboration with CPO; NCJ 188875. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/41.html.


Reducing Repeat Incidents of Elder Abuse: Results of a Randomized Experiment, Final Report, R.C. Davis et al. 56 pp. Grant 95–IJ–CX–0061; funded in collaboration with COPS; NCJ 189086. The full abstract can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol3_1/43.html. See also N1J’s Research in Brief (NCJ 188675) titled Results From an Elder Abuse Prevention Experiment in New York City at: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/188675.htm.

RSAT Evaluations:


NIJ in the Journals


- Client Gender and the Implementation of Jail-Based Therapeutic Community Programs (Grant 98–RT–VX–K001, NCJ 188513) J.A. Bouffard et al. 20 pp. From...


Findings and conclusions of the research reported here are those of the author(s) and do not reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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NCJ 192280
Upcoming Events

Technologies for Public Safety in Critical Incident Response Conference and Exposition
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Albuquerque, New Mexico
For more information contact Jen Telander at:
888-475-1919 or e-mail jtelander@etc.org

3rd Annual Innovative Technologies for Community Corrections Conference
May 20-22, 2002
San Diego, California
For more information contact Jennifer Dunne at:
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2002 Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation
July 21-24, 2002
Washington, DC
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