Child Maltreatment the Focus of Planning Meeting

Although the rates of violence toward children generally have declined during the past few years, the total number of child abuse fatalities has remained stable. Schools, courts, community-based organizations, and social service and law enforcement agencies all play important roles in responding to child maltreatment. NIJ, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services last spring sponsored a strategic planning meeting to delineate successful, collaborative, and interdisciplinary responses to child abuse.

More than 50 people, including researchers, administrators, and practitioners, attended the meeting. Representatives from Westminster, California; New Haven, Connecticut; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Manatee County, Florida, gave presentations on how their communities have developed innovative interventions in response to child maltreatment. Cathy Spatz Widom, Professor of Criminal Justice and Psychology at the State University of New York at Albany, moderated the meeting discussion.

Joyce Thomas, a guest speaker from the Center for Child Protection and Family Support in Washington, D.C., described a cross-system protocol for domestic violence and child maltreatment that is being implemented jointly by the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police, the city’s Office of the Corporation Counsel, the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Emergency Domestic Relations Project at the Georgetown University Law School, and the Child and Family Superior Court.

International Perspectives on Crime and Justice Research

NIJ is involved in many ongoing activities focused on international perspectives on crime and justice research. Several of these activities are highlighted below.

Drug Treatment in Thailand and the Philippines

A therapeutic community (TC) is a self-contained drug treatment model that focuses on treating the whole person, building an offender’s self-esteem, and changing his values and attitudes. It is employed in residential settings, including prisons. The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs is supporting the development of the TC model in a number of foreign settings. To help the State Department assess developments in other countries, James O. Finckenauer, Director of NIJ’s International Center, and Spurgeon Kennedy, Program Manager for NIJ’s Breaking the Cycle program, visited TC initiatives in Manila, the Philippines, and Bangkok, Thailand.

The Philippines has very recently established nonresidential TC programs in government-run correctional facilities. Although officers hold a weekly “morning meeting” with drug offenders (a formal component of the TC model), these programs cannot be considered true therapeutic communities because they are not residential. Approximately 30 nongovernmental inpatient or residential treatment and rehabilitation centers for drug users also operate in the Philippines, and approximately half of these use the TC treatment modality. Some have been doing so for a number of years. However, the clients of these centers are not necessarily criminal drug offenders as are the clients of the government-run facilities. Rather, they have admitted themselves voluntarily and pay for their treatment.

Thailand has a somewhat longer history in implementing the TC model in its correctional facilities. Currently, Thai government facilities have a relatively small number of correctional personnel trained in TC, but the country is investing in new prison construction and is expanding its capacity to provide TC treatment.

Each country has a distinctive style of treatment delivery, but in both there are stark differences with the generally harsher and more intrusive methods associated with TC as employed in U.S.-based programs. The differences between American and Asian styles seem to reflect the traditional Asian emphasis on politeness and respect for personal dignity and esteem.

For more information about NIJ’s activities in this area, contact Finckenauer at 202–616–1960 or at finckena@ojp.usdoj.gov.
Health Care Issues in Correctional Facilities

New findings suggest there have been improvements in many aspects of the United States' policy response to HIV/AIDS, STD’s, and TB in correctional facilities.

NIJ recently released copies of 1996–1997 Update: HIV/AIDS, STD’s, and TB in Correctional Facilities, which updates to the latest statistics from the Bureau of Justice Statistics' surveys on the extent of HIV/AIDS infection among inmates. The statistics are combined with the findings on policy and practice from the ongoing series of national surveys sponsored by NIJ and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The report indicates that collaboration to solve these health problems is increasing among correctional, public health, and community-based agencies. There remains, however, much room for improvement, particularly in the area of comprehensive prevention programs, discharge planning, community linkages, and continuity of treatment.


International Perspectives on Crime and Justice Research (continued from page 29)

Women in the Criminal Justice System To Be Focus of UN Workshop

The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders will convene in Vienna, Austria, April 10–17, 2000. To promote the exchange of information and experiences among UN members on efforts to improve the situation of women in criminal justice, the UN Congress plans to conduct a workshop on women in the criminal justice system. The workshop will examine this issue from several perspectives, including female criminality, the treatment of female offenders, and women as criminal justice practitioners.

NIJ has been invited to organize a presentation focusing on women as victims and survivors. This presentation will feature several practitioners representing both developed and developing countries who will discuss best practices in the areas of prevention, victim advocacy, combating forced prostitution, and the improvement of social services. NIJ’s Director of Planning and Management, Edwin W. Zedlewski, last April traveled to Helsinki, Finland, to participate in a planning meeting for the workshop.

“Eurogang” Workshops Bring Together International Researchers

An increase in youth violence has been a concern in Europe much as it has been in the United States, though in Europe, youth violence has not been accompanied by crack sales and the proliferation of sophisticated firearms. Researchers from Europe and the United States gathered a year ago in Schmitten, Germany, to discuss the similarities and differences between and among European and American youth gangs and youth groups and to develop collaborative research efforts. A second workshop was held in September in Oslo, Norway.

At last year’s meeting, which was sponsored by the Dutch Ministry of Justice, the Dutch Ministry of the Interior, the German Ministry of Justice, the University of Southern California, and NIJ, researchers discussed both the relevance and the limitations of generalizing the American body of knowledge on gangs to the European situation. The researchers agreed that the similarities in the U.S. and European situations, such as gang proliferation, the marginalization of minorities, and common gang structures, are strong evidence that the U.S. gang research can provide useful starting points for research that would have policy implications for Europe.

The second workshop, which was hosted by the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, built on the first meeting and included policy personnel interested in developing and implementing interventions. NIJ and the Justice Department’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention sponsored the U.S. researchers who participated in the workshops. NIJ anticipates publishing a report based on the workshop papers and the group’s related discussions.
Annual Research and Evaluation Conference

“Enhancing Policy and Practice” was the theme of this year’s Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation sponsored by the Office of Justice Programs’ Bureaus and Offices.

Highlights of the event included an account of trends and issues in crime and justice by Jan Chaikin, Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and a reception on Capitol Hill to celebrate NIJ’s 30 years of scientific endeavor to understand crime and improve justice.

More than 60 sessions, including panels, workshops, a cybercafe, and 5 plenary sessions, were available to the more than 800 people who attended the annual Washington, D.C., event.

The plenary papers from last year’s research and evaluation conference now are available. (See “Viewing Crime and Justice From a Collaborative Perspective.”)

Environmental Crime the Focus of Research Forum

Little research is available on the most effective means to promote compliance with environmental regulations among regulated entities. To learn more about these issues, NIJ partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Justice Department’s Division of Environment and Natural Resources to host a research forum. The primary goal of the forum, which was held in July, was to develop priorities for a research program on promoting compliance with environmental regulations. Felice Levine, Executive Director of the American Sociological Association, facilitated the discussions.

Approximately 50 people attended the forum, including Justice Department and EPA staff, criminal justice and environmental researchers, and policymakers and experts on the environment from the State and local levels. Elaine G. Stanley, Director of the EPA’s Office for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, discussed EPA data available for research on deterring environmental crime. Papers on environmental regulation compliance issues were presented by Robert Kagan of the University of California at Berkeley’s Center for the Study of Law and Society; Walter Mugdan of the EPA; David Word of the Georgia Natural Resources Department; Daniel S. Nagin of Carnegie Mellon University; Mark Cohen of Vanderbilt University; Peter Reuter of the University of Maryland; and Richard Lempert of the Russell Sage

Events

Viewing Crime and Justice From a Collaborative Perspective

The plenary papers from last year’s Research and Evaluation conference are now available in the report, Viewing Crime and Justice From a Collaborative Perspective: Plenary Papers of the 1998 Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation (NCJ 176979). The plenary presentations last year were:

- David Kennedy, “Research for Problem Solving and the New Collaborations.”
- J. Phillip Thompson, “The Changing Role of the Researcher in Working With Communities.”
- Lisbeth B. Schorr, “Replicating Complex Community Partnerships.”
- Jeffrey L. Edleson and Andrea L. Bible, “Forced Bonding or Community Collaboration? Partnerships Between Science and Practice in Research on Woman Battering.”

Download a copy from the NIJ Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij or contact the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 1-800-851-3420.
Foundation. Their papers focused on the following topics:

- The relationship between Federal and State enforcement activities and the range of government responses to non-compliance and their impact on deterrence.
- General research on deterrence and how it can be applied in the context of environmental enforcement.
- Existing research on deterrence and compliance in the context of environmental enforcement.
- Issues warranting new or additional research.

Participants discussed such issues as the motivations of regulated entities to violate or comply with environmental regulations; comparisons of the deterrent impacts of inspections, enforcement actions, penalties, and compliance assistance; and the possibility of secondary benefits, such as preventing pollution, of enforcement efforts.

Executive Sessions on Sentencing and Corrections: First Papers Published

NIJ just released the first four papers from the Executive Sessions on Sentencing and Corrections, which NIJ sponsors with the Office of Justice Programs' Corrections Program Office. This series of executive sessions brings together distinguished practitioners and scholars to examine the complex, often conflicting issues in the field.

Patterned on the influential Harvard University executive sessions on policing held under NIJ sponsorship, the series aims to find out whether current policies and practices are achieving their intended purposes.

The first four papers, which deal with the competing conceptions of sentencing and corrections that coexist today, serve as a framework for understanding the issues:


In all, approximately 16 papers will be published in the series. To obtain copies of the papers, watch the “What’s New” section of the NIJ Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij or call the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 1–800–851–3420.

DNA Commission Continues To Hear Testimony

The National Commission on the Future of DNA Evidence held its sixth meeting in Boston on July 25–26, and its seventh meeting in Washington, D.C., on September 26–27. The members discussed privacy and evidence storage issues and heard reports from several working groups.

At the sixth meeting, Lynn Fereday from the Forensic Science Service in Great Britain described developments in technology needed to gather DNA from fingerprints. Representatives from the Los Angeles Police Department testified about evidence storage issues.

For more information and copies of the proceedings, visit the Commission’s Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/dna or call the Commission’s executive assistant, Robin Wilson, at 202–307–5847.

What Every Officer Should Know About DNA Evidence

Every law enforcement officer knows to look routinely for fingerprints. And now officers also must routinely think about gathering evidence that might contain DNA.

Today’s investigators can solve crimes using the DNA collected from the perspiration on a rapist’s discarded baseball cap, the saliva on a stamp of a stalker’s threatening letter, and the skin cells shed on a ligature of a strangled victim.

NIJ recently published a handy pocket flyer for law enforcement officers that explains where to find DNA, how to collect it, how to avoid contaminating it, and how to transport and store it.

NIJ is providing free copies of the flyer to every law enforcement agency in the country. Copies also can be downloaded from NIJ’s Web page at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/dna or obtained by calling NCJRS at 1–800–851–3420.
**Law Enforcement-Corrections Partners Share Experiences**

To tackle youth gun violence in Boston, the Boston Gun Project and its Ceasefire Working Group brought together the Boston Police Department’s gang unit, the departments of probation and parole, the U.S. Attorney’s and county prosecutor’s offices, the Office of the State Attorney General, school police officers, youth corrections staff, youth workers, religious leaders, and other community advisors. The resulting decline in Boston’s youth homicides demonstrated the effectiveness of such successful partnerships.

To facilitate similar efforts, a 3-day Midwest regional workshop recently was held in Minneapolis. The meeting brought together 18 interdisciplinary teams from jurisdictions with experience or interest in forming law enforcement-corrections partnerships.

The partnership teams discussed issues of mutual concern with national experts and experienced practitioners, shared information and experiences, discussed the concepts and research associated with law enforcement-corrections partnerships, and developed strategies to combat an identified crime problem in their communities.

Representatives from 12 Midwestern States—Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin—were invited to apply to send jurisdictional teams to the workshop. A similar meeting was held in Boston for Northeast and mid-Atlantic States; additional workshops are scheduled to take place in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Seattle, Washington.

The workshop was sponsored by the Boston Police Department, the Ford Foundation, NIJ, and the Justice Department’s Corrections Program Office and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, in cooperation with the Justice Department’s National Institute of Corrections and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

For more information, contact Alanna LaFranchi at the Institute for Law and Justice at 703–684–5300.

**Crime Mapping Conference Goes International**

NIJ’s third annual crime mapping research conference, Mapping Out Crime: Expanding the Boundaries, will feature presentations from researchers and others from around the world who will highlight their innovative uses of computerized crime mapping for research and practice. The conference will take place at the Renaissance Hotel in Orlando, Florida, December 11–14, 1999. Participants at the 4-day international conference can attend plenary sessions, panels, and workshops conducted by more than 70 leading experts, including police managers, crime analysts, geographers, and criminal justice researchers. More than 750 people participated in last year’s conference.

To register for the conference, contact the Institute for Law and Justice at 703–684–5300 or register online at http://nijpcs.org/upcoming.htm.

**Confidentiality, the Internet, and Crime Mapping**

Criminal justice agencies are using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for a variety of applications: to allocate resources, to identify crime “hot spots,” to aid in criminal investigations, and to support data-driven decision-making processes. Despite the widespread use of crime mapping, standards or guidelines addressing privacy, confidentiality, data sharing, and the dissemination of geocoded crime data have not yet been developed.

To generate discussion on these complex issues, NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center hosted a 2-day Crime Mapping and Data Confidentiality Roundtable. Participants included representatives from law enforcement, the research community, the legal profession, the GIS field, the media, and victims’ rights advocates.

The roundtable discussions were guided by the following questions:

- Where is the balance between the public’s right to know and a victim’s right to privacy?
- When information passes from one agency to another, who is liable or accountable for the inappropriate use of crime maps or the sharing of inaccurate geocoded data?
- Should professional standards or guidelines be developed for crime mapping as it pertains to privacy and freedom of information issues? If so, what should these standards look like and who should promote them?
- What is the appropriate model for partnerships between law enforcement agencies and researchers with regard to sharing geocoded crime data?
What security measures are available for sharing geocoded crime data over Internet or intranet environments, and how can they be disseminated to local agencies?

A white paper based on the transcripts of the discussion will be developed and posted on the Crime Mapping Research Center Web page at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cmrc. For more information, contact Debra Stoe at 202–616–7036 or stoed@ojp.usdoj.gov.

**American Society of Criminology To Meet in Toronto**

The American Society of Criminology (ASC), an international organization that represents criminologists and others concerned with criminology and scientific research on the etiology, prevention, control, and treatment of crime and delinquency, will convene its annual meeting in Toronto this year. The meeting will cover topics of general interest to the membership, rather than concentrate on a particular theme.

The meeting will be held November 17–20 at the Royal York Hotel. Registration is $75 for ASC members, $85 for nonmembers, and $15 for student members. Registration fees increase after November 1. For more information, contact the ASC at 614–292–9207 or visit its Web site at http://www.asc41.com.

**Methamphetamine Task Force Hears Final Opinions**

The Methamphetamine Task Force, which over the past 2 years has been exploring issues associated with methamphetamine abuse, will convene its final meeting November 30–December 1 in Washington, D.C. Community stakeholders will present opinions and concerns about a wide range of drug issues at the November meeting. Invited guests include drug abuse experts from the fields of medicine and public health, neighborhood revitalization specialists, family advocates, and prevention and education specialists.

Attorney General Janet Reno and Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Director Barry McCaffrey cochair the task force. The executive cochairs are NIJ Director Jeremy Travis and ONDCP Deputy Director Donald R. Vereen, Jr. Other members of the Task Force include representatives of the secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education, members of the judiciary and public health agencies, researchers, substance abuse specialists, and law enforcement officials.

The Task Force released its interim report in September. The final report, which NIJ anticipates releasing in December, will propose recommendations to Congress. Copies will be available on NIJ’s Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij.

NIJ will soon issue open solicitations to the criminal justice research field to propose innovative research endeavors.

The Office of Science and Technology accepted proposals from the physical sciences field until October 7, 1999. The Office of Research and Evaluation will solicit social science research proposals, which will be due January 18, 2000.

This year, there will be one funding cycle for each of the two parts of the solicitation, rather than two cycles for one solicitation, as in previous years. The broad themes that have guided NIJ’s research agenda in recent years still apply:

- Rethinking Justice
- Understanding the Nexus
- Breaking the Cycle
- Creating the Tools
- Expanding the Horizons

The following summarizes key articles of interest to the Journal's readers. Most are based on studies sponsored by NIJ. Copies are available on loan from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS); in some cases, photocopies may be obtained and a corresponding fee charged. For information on availability, contact NCJRS at 1-800-851-3420 or askncjrs@ncjrs.org. Please cite the accession (ACCN) number when contacting NCJRS.

“Criminalizing White-Collar Misconduct: Determinants of Prosecution in Savings and Loan Fraud Cases,” Crime, Law, and Social Change, 26 (1997), 53–76, by Tillman, R., K. Calavita, and H. Pontell, grant number 90-IJ-CX-0059, ACCN 175387. This analysis focused on three explanations for the differential handling of white-collar offenders. Using data on individuals suspected of having committed serious crimes against savings and loan institutions, researchers sought to determine the factors that influenced prosecutors to file criminal charges against some suspects and not others. The findings indicated that all three models may be limited in their ability to explain low rates of prosecution involving white-collar crimes.

“School Disorder: The Influence of Individual, Institutional, and Community Factors,” Criminology, 37(1) (1999), 73–115, by Welsh, W.N., J.R. Greene, and P.J. Jenkins, grant number 93-IJ-CX-0038, ACCN 176452. This study examined the influence of individual, institutional, and community factors on misconduct in Philadelphia middle schools. Using data from the U.S. Census, school districts, police departments, and a survey of “school climate”—the unwritten beliefs, values, and attitudes that become the style of interaction among students, teachers, and administrators—researchers studied the following predictors of school misconduct: community poverty and residential stability; community crime; school size; student perceptions of school climate; and individual student characteristics. The authors found that the level of crime in a community has less effect on student misconduct than individual student characteristics, such as belief in rules and positive peer associations. They conclude that the assumption that “bad” communities produce “bad” schools is unwarranted and that a school is neither blessed nor doomed entirely on the basis of where it is located, nor on the basis of its student demographics.

“Stick-Up, Street Culture, and Offender Motivation,” Criminology, 37(1) (1999), 149–73, by Jacobs, B.A., and R. Wright, grant number 94-IJ-CX-0030, ACCN 176453. This article explores the decision-making processes of active armed robbers in real-life settings and circumstances. The authors attempt to understand how and why offenders move from an unmotivated state to one in which they are determined to commit robbery. They conclude that street culture represents an essential intervening variable linking criminal motivation to background, or behavioral, risk factors and the conditions of the subjective “foreground”—the immediate context in which decisions to offend are activated.

“Violent Crime and the Spatial Dynamics of Neighborhood Transition: Chicago, 1970-1990,” Social Forces, 76(1) (September 1997), 31–64, by Morenoff, J.D., and R.J. Sampson, grant number 93-IJ-CX-K005, ACCN 175654. Integrating ecological, demographic, and criminological theory, the authors examined the roles of violent crime and socioeconomic disadvantage in triggering population decline in Chicago neighborhoods from 1970 to 1990. Although both black and white populations declined in response to high initial levels of homicide and socioeconomic disadvantage, increases in neighborhood homicide, spatial proximity to homicide, and socioeconomic disadvantage were associated with black population gain and white population loss.
The following final reports of completed NIJ-sponsored research were submitted by the authors in manuscript form. The reports are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) through interlibrary loan and as photocopies. For information about fees, call NCJRS at 1-800-851-3420.

“Civil Remedies for Controlling Crime: The Role of Community Organizations,” by Roehl, J., ACCN 175519, 1998, 19 pp., grant number 93–IJ–CX–K010. This paper reviews civil remedies used by community organizations to control crimes. It presents the results of a national survey on the types and prevalence of civil remedies used, problems encountered, and outcomes. The two most common forms of civil remedies were environmental changes and enforcement strategies. Community organizations often used nuisance and drug abatement ordinances and municipal codes; sometimes they collaborated with police, prosecutors, and other government agencies. These methods displaced rather than eliminated crime and drug problems.

“Exploration of the Experiences and Needs of Former Intimate Stalking Victims,” by Brewster, M.P., ACCN 175475, 1998, 81 pp., grant number 95–WT–NX–0002. This research explored the nature of the stalking experiences of noncelebrity, former intimate victims. The victims provided data on the relationship between victim and stalker, victims’ responses to the stalking, consequences of the stalking for the victims, and the fulfillment of victims’ needs in terms of victim services and the criminal justice system. The paper includes policy recommendations for law enforcement agencies, the courts, State legislatures, and victim service agencies.

“Fast Track Program Study,” by Collier, L., P. Phelps, M. Barnett, K. Gewerth, and M. Hedberg, ACCN 175476, 23 pp., grant number 96–IJ–CX–0072. This study evaluates the effectiveness of the Bay City, Michigan, Fast Track Program in curbing and retracting nonviolent juvenile delinquents. The program was designed to provide immediate sanctions for status offenders and nonviolent juveniles who committed minor delinquent acts. Successful completion of the program expunges the charge for which a youth entered the program.

“Improving the Management of Rental Properties With Drug Problems: A Randomized Experiment,” by Eck, J.E., and J. Wartell, ACCN 175516, 1998, 25 pp., grant number 90–IJ–CX–K006. A randomized experiment was conducted in 121 San Diego, California, rental properties to test the theory that property managers can help prevent illicit activities. It also tested a drug sales prevention tactic designed to pressure landlords with drug-plagued rental properties to improve their management practices. Two experimental groups received different interventions; a control group received no further police actions. Followup analysis revealed more evictions of drug offenders for both experimental groups relative to the control group. The findings support the hypothesis that place management is causally related to crime and drug dealing.

“On-Campus Victimization Patterns of Students: Implications for Crime Prevention by Students and Post-Secondary Institutions,” by Fisher, B.S., J.J. Sloan III, F.T. Cullen, and C. Lu, ACCN 175504, 25 pp., grant number 93–IJ–CX–0049. This study reports on the victimization experiences of college students and the crime prevention challenges facing campuses today. It also examines the frequency and nature of on-campus victimizations; the crime-prevention behavior of students; and the crime-prevention programs, services, and measures at selected schools.
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The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.