Selected Summaries

**Diffusion Processes in Homicide**, A. Blumstein et al. This study found that greater access to handguns by youth was a primary factor in the increase of youth homicides in the mid-1980s. Crack markets and youth gangs also contributed to escalating youth violence, both directly through the activities of participants and indirectly as important vehicles for the spread of guns and the associated lethal violence to youth. 16 pp. Grant 95—IJ—CX—0005; NCJ 193425.

**Do Collective Efficacy and Community Capacity Make a Difference “Behind Closed Doors”?** C.R. Block et al. Researchers found that abused women living in neighborhoods with mutual trust and social cohesion were no more likely to escape intimate partner violence or seek help than women living in other neighborhoods. Strong social cohesion and community crime prevention may reduce levels of street crime but may not have an impact on violence “behind closed doors.” 128 pp. Grant 98—WT—VX—0022; funded in collaboration with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVAW); NCJ 194711.

**Evaluation of the Safe Streets Now! Approach: Civil Remedies for Drugs, Crime, and Nuisance Problems**, J. Roehl et al. This report indicates that Safe Streets Now! can be an effective and cost-efficient method of alleviating location-specific crime, drug, and nuisance problems. The primary activity of Safe Streets Now! is the filing of small-claims court actions against property owners who refuse to address these problems. An evaluation of the program found that most cases are resolved without legal action through notification and negotiation with the property owner. Residents won most of the cases with little or none of the retaliation they had feared from problem tenants and property owners. 144 pp. Grant 98—IJ—CX—0058; NCJ 194105.

**Felons Who Attempt to Purchase Guns: A Study of Prior and Subsequent Criminal Involvements**, K. Adams. Researchers analyzed attempted purchases of firearms from 1991 to 1996 from establishments governed by Florida’s background check system. They found that offenders who attempted to purchase a gun had an average of four arrests, and one in seven offenders was arrested within 1 year. The research suggests that an enforcement policy that focuses on offenders who pose the greatest chance of violating the law in the future is both efficient and manageable. 28 pp. Grant 95—IJ—CX—0017; NCJ 194051.
Helping Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships, Final Report, B.E. Smith et al. Police can play a pivotal gatekeeping role in getting help for children exposed to domestic violence. This study examined promising strategies community-oriented police departments can use as they work with community partners. Proactive responses require substantial commitment from the community and service providers. 148 pp. Grant 98–IJ–CX–0069; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 193416.

Is Job Accessibility Relevant to Crime Patterns? A GIS Approach, Final Report, F. Wang et al. Residents' physical access to jobs had a significant impact on crime rates in Cleveland in 1980 and 1990. This study differs from past research in its focus on the job accessibility and crime patterns of one city rather than a larger geographic region or a State. Low accessibility to jobs resulted in increased economic crime, violent crime, and drug offenses. 58 pp. Grant 2000–IJ–CX–0023; NCJ 193814.

Michigan Study on Women with Physical Disabilities, Final Report, S. Milberget al. Women with a disability, regardless of demographics, are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse than women without a disability. Factors that appear to increase a woman's likelihood of being a victim of crime include the disability itself, cognitive and communication impairment, and the reluctance of the disabled woman to report her aggressor. 31 pp. Grant 2000–WT–VX–0018; funded in collaboration with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW); NCJ 193769.

National Study of Delinquency Prevention in Schools, Final Report, G.D. Gottfredson et al. This study of problem behavior in U.S. schools found that minor problems were common in schools and serious problems involving fights, weapons, and robberies were less common but frequent enough to require the attention of school staff. The authors recommend monitoring levels of problem behavior through annual surveys of students and teachers, conducting research on the broad range of activities taking place in schools, and, for school administrators, using a broader range of rewards and sanctions. 535 pp. Grant 96–MU–MU–0008; funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance; NCJ 194129.

Nightsight Field Assessment Creative Technology Solutions to Law Enforcement Problems, Final Project Report, J. Gingers. An emerging technology that relies on heat, not light, to create an image can reduce personnel costs and safety risks for law enforcement, according to this study. The technology, called forward-looking infrared, was effective in its ability to see through smoke, dust, a few layers of foliage, fog, and light rain in both day and night conditions. Vehicle- and hand-portable devices were tested. The report notes that further assessment is needed before this technology can be implemented. 46 pp. Grant 98–LB–VX–K001; funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance; NCJ 194923.

Youth, Firearms and Violence in Atlanta: A Problem-Solving Approach, A. Kellermann et al. In an effort to reduce juvenile gun violence, Atlanta's Project PACT (Pulling America's Communities Together) combined the best ideas of local law enforcement with promising programs from other cities. The research points out that a partnership among participating organizations takes more time and energy than anticipated and reaching a consensus on the concept and importance of the problem does not necessarily lead to a consensus on the practical steps to take. 30 pp. Grant 94–MU–CX–K003; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; NCJ 194050.
Other Research Projects


Cocaine Alternative Treatment Study: A Multi-Site, Randomized Controlled Trial of Acupuncture for the Treatment of Cocaine Addiction, A. Margolin et al. 28 pp. Grant 97—IJ—CX—0026; NCJ 194605.


From Whether to How Drug Courts Work: Retrospective Evaluation of Drug Courts in Clark County (Las Vegas) and Multnomah County (Portland), J.S. Goldkamp et al. 403 pp. Grant 98—DC—VX—K001; funded in collaboration with the Drug Courts Program Office; NCJ 194124.


Identifying Strategies to Market Police in the News, S. Chermak et al. 188 pp. Grant 96—IJ—CX—0078; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 194130.


Rethinking Organizational Change in Policing, R.L. Wood et al. 118 pp. Grant 98–IJ–CX–0073; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 193422.


NIJ in the Journals


Impacts of Perceived Legal Pressure on Retention in Drug Treatment (Grant 93–IJ–CX–0025, NCJ 193607), D. Young. 29 pp. From Criminal Justice and Behavior, Vol. 29, No. 1, February 2002.


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