

Analysis of Minnesota Court Data Sheds Light on Offender Payment of Restitution

Peter Jannett, Research Analyst, Minnesota State Court Administrator's Office, and Suzanne Elwell, Director, Crime Victim Justice Unit, Minnesota Office of Justice Programs

Minnesota Restitution Working Group

In 2013, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to convene a working group to study how restitution for victims in criminal cases is requested, ordered, and collected in Minnesota. Under the direction of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), a division of the Department of Public Safety, representatives from all parts of the criminal justice system and victim support community engaged in a nearly year-long examination of the restitution statutory framework, the practices of local and state agencies, and the experiences and perspectives of victims and practitioners.

A key responsibility of the Restitution Working Group was to collect information about restitution practices throughout the state. Under the direction of Minnesota's Statistical Analysis Center Director, Danette Buskovich, OJP administered two surveys to specific stakeholder groups—court administrators and supervising agents—to gather information about differences in restitution practices across the state, knowledge and attitudes about the restitution process, roadblocks to the successful collection of restitution, and challenges for victims. Information from these two surveys helped inform the process, highlighting issues identified by stakeholders and identifying specific problems with the process in practice, while directing the group toward specific recommendations.¹

¹ The results of these two surveys are available on the [OJP website](#).

Most importantly, the working group effort sought to shed light on the key question faced by all states: To what extent is restitution paid? The State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO), which had been specifically directed by the legislature to provide the working group with summary data on restitution, conducted a comprehensive analysis of court data. Using a cohort model, SCAO examined restitution amounts ordered and paid by case type and offense level, identified the extent to which payment plans are established, and summarized restitution

data by county and judicial district. This article highlights some of the key findings of the SCAO analysis.²

² Jannett, P., *Restitution in Minnesota: 2010 Cohort Analysis*, State Court Administrator's Office, Court Services Division, Research and Evaluation Unit (December 2014). A detailed documentation of data collection from MNCIS is available upon request. The full analysis is contained in the report, [Restitution in Minnesota: Report to the Legislature](#), which can be found on the [OJP website](#).

See *Minnesota Restitution* page 2

NCJA Studies Trends in States' Use of Byrne JAG Funds

State Administering Agencies (SAAs) are the agencies within state and territorial governments responsible for criminal justice planning and policy development. In addition, these agencies allocate resources statewide and distribute, monitor, and report on spending under the federal Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program and various other federal grant programs. As required by federal statute, the SAA is designated by the Governor, or in the case of territories and the District of Columbia, the head of the executive branch of government. In total, there are 56 Edward Byrne JAG SAAs across the 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia.

Sixty-eight percent of the 50 active Statistical Analysis Centers are located within their SAAs, while 14% are in universities, and 18% are in other state agencies. JRSA is committed to enhancing the relationship between all SACs and their SAAs, whether or not they are co-located. This task has been facilitated by our affiliation with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA), the association of the State Administering Agencies.

Written by David Marimon, former Senior Policy Analyst for the National Criminal Justice Association

In the fall of 2014, with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, NCJA began a yearlong research project focused on assessing how 50 states and the District of Columbia spent more than \$400 million in state formula Byrne JAG funding in

FY13 and FY14. While NCJA has been collecting data on Byrne JAG spending since FY09, the FY13 and FY14 Byrne JAG Spending Study went beyond simply collecting spending data and used qualitative interviews and follow-up conversations to gather programmatic examples on hundreds of programs from around

See *Byrne JAG Funds* page 8

CONTENTS

FEATURE ARTICLE

Analysis of Minnesota Court Data Sheds Light on Offender Payment of Restitution..... 1

NCJA Studies Trends in States’ Use of Byrne JAG Grant Funds ... 1

Community Drug Early Warning System (CDEWS) Helps to Identify Emerging Drugs at Local Level 4

STATE REPORT

Federal Government Looks Toward Justice Reinvestment for Solutions to Prison Crowding 6

NATIONAL SCENE

Loretta Lynch Confirmed as Attorney General..... 8

OJP Diagnostic Center: Supporting States in Data-Driven Justice Reform 9

SAC NEWS

JRSA Welcomes New SAC Directors in Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, and Montana, and a New SAC Contact in South Carolina..... 11

DC – Study on Mental Health Records Sharing, Return of the Brown Bag Lecture Series, SAC Welcomes New Staff Member ... 11

Florida – FL SAC Director Appointed to OJP Science Advisory Board Subcommittee 12

Minnesota – MN SAC Trains School Resource Officers on Youth Development 12

West Virginia – SAC Partnering on Naloxone Distribution Pilot Project, Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative, Predicting Recidivism of Released Offenders: Validation of the LS/CMI, Staff Receive Training in Use of Correctional Program Checklist, SAC Develops Index to Measure Level of Correctional Program Quality 12

Minnesota Restitution from page 1

About the Data

Data from adult criminal cases disposed in 2010 with restitution assessments were pulled from the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS).³ The year 2010 was chosen because conversion to MNCIS was implemented in 2009, which makes more distant historical data less useful. The 2010 Cohort consists of 11,910 cases. Transactions on these cases are followed for a *minimum* of 3 years and 4 months to a *maximum* of 4 years and 4 months from their date of

³ Minnesota’s two most populous counties, Hennepin and Ramsey (each representing an entire judicial district), are not included in this analysis because they did not process their restitution transactions through the Minnesota Court Information System in 2010. However, restitution data obtained from these counties independently reveal trends similar to those presented here.

disposition. Cases in the 2010 Cohort are assigned a case type and disposition type according to their *most serious charge* on their *most serious disposition*. The full analysis also includes the outcomes by judicial districts and counties.

Restitution Ordered by Case Type and Offense Level

The analysis revealed significant differences in the amount of restitution assessed (ordered by the court) by case type and offense level (see Figures 1 and 2).

Property cases account for 63% of the 2010 Cohort, and 36% of all property cases disposed in 2010 have restitution assessments. Property cases account for approximately 57% of the total assessment dollars for the 2010 Cohort. Property cases, while relatively numerous, have average assessments that fall below the per-case average for the entire 2010 Cohort.

Figure 1: 2010 Cohort by Case Type

Case Type	Assessment Total	% of Total \$	Cases	% of Cases	Average Assessment
Property	\$14,282,546	57%	7,562	63%	\$1,887
Person	5,255,531	21	1,586	13	3,307
Other	2,594,865	10	1,361	11	1,907
Traffic	1,814,403	7	630	5	2,880
Drug	455,187	2	452	4	1,007
DWI	585,866	2	319	3	1,837
Total	\$24,988,398	--	11,910	--	\$2,098

Figure 2: 2010 Cohort by Offense Level

Offense Level	Assessment Total	% of Total \$	Cases	% of Cases	Per Case Average
Misdemeanor	\$ 2,870,663	11%	6,691	56%	\$ 429
Felony	19,021,294	76	3,789	32	5,020
Gross Misdemeanor	2,124,173	9	1,211	10	1,754
Petty Misdemeanor	942,736	4	171	1.44	5,513
Converted: N/A	29,532	0	48	0.40	615
Total	\$24,988,398	--	11,910	--	\$2,098

Minnesota Restitution from page 2

Person cases, on the other hand, have a much smaller share of cases, and a much larger average assessment, composing roughly 13% of all cases in the 2010 Cohort, but accounting for 21% of all assessments. In 2010, 8% of all disposed person cases have a restitution assessment, compared to 7% of all case types, excluding traffic cases.⁴

Felony-level offenses account for 76% of assessed restitution, and have the second highest average assessment. Felony dispositions also have the highest proportion of cases with assessed restitution (22%) of any offense level. Misdemeanor offenses account for 56% of all cases, but only 11.5% of total assessments. Therefore, the average assessment total for a majority of the cases in the 2010 Cohort is \$429, which is roughly 20% of the average assessment for the entire

cohort (\$2,098). This result implies that the distribution of assessment amounts is *heavily skewed* towards higher totals, and that most assessments on most cases are substantially lower than the average for the Cohort taken as a whole.

Payment of Restitution

Figure 3 reflects the payment of restitution (“satisfaction”) and assigns a measure of Days from Disposition to each transaction for every case in the 2010 Cohort. The transactions are attached to individual cases, and are used to track a case’s progress in satisfying a restitution assessment. When a case satisfies its assessment (through a combination of payments, credits, adjustments, reductions), it is counted as “Satisfied,” or “100% Satisfied.” Cases with any amount of assessment outstanding are counted “Outstanding.”

The most striking insight provided by Figure 3 is that 46% of the cases in the 2010 Cohort satisfy their entire assessment within 1 month of disposition. Within 1 year of disposition, 53% of cases satisfy their balances. After 3+ years from disposition, 67% of cases satisfy their balances. This seems to

suggest a highly skewed distribution of assessment amounts, which is verified by tracking the Amount Satisfied across the chart. After 1 month, 46% of cases satisfy their balances, but these cases account for only 14% of the total amount assessed after 1 month. After 3+ years, 67% of cases are satisfied, accounting for 49% of all assessments.

Amount of Restitution Assessed

Figure 4 is a bucket distribution chart with the vertical axis showing the count of cases in a given bucket and the horizontal axis showing the buckets themselves. Each bucket has a dollar amount attached to it, and this dollar amount is the maximum assessment total allowed in that bucket. The distribution of assessment amounts skews heavily downward to the right side of the chart, where higher assessment amounts are found. What is most illuminating is that 55% of cases have total assessments of \$350 or less, and 80% of cases have total assessments of \$1,350 or less. The top 20% of cases by assessment amount, highlighted in the red box, are heavily biasing the average assessment upwards.

⁴ Traffic cases are excluded from the above chart because they make up an enormous proportion of all disposed cases, but less than 0.2% of all traffic cases have restitution assessments in the 2010 Cohort. Including traffic, restitution is assessed on less than 2% of the 2010 Cohort cases.

Figure 3: Restitution Satisfied and Outstanding by Days from Disposition

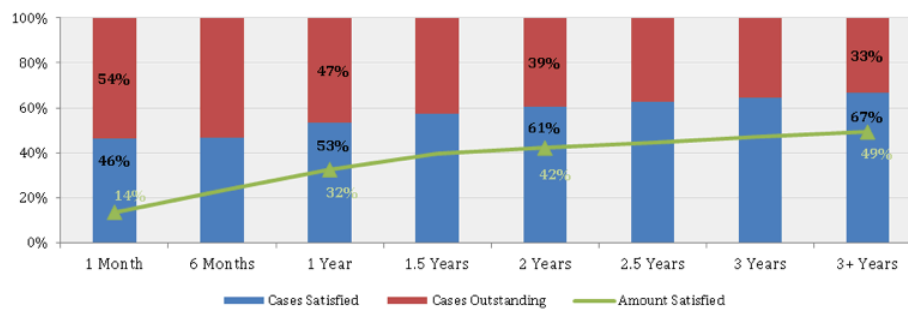
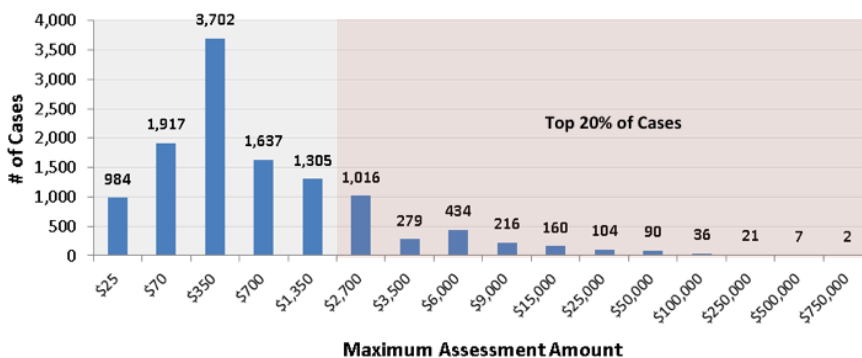


Figure 4: Distribution of Cases by Assessment Amount



Figures 4 and 5 demonstrate the overwhelming influence of the top 20% of cases: The top 20% of cases account for 89% of all assessments. Correspondingly, Figure 3 demonstrates that after 3+ years, nearly 70% of all cases have satisfied their balances, but only 49% of assessments have been satisfied.

Figure 5: Descriptive Statistics by Total Assessment Group

Bottom 80% of Cases

Mean	\$296
Median	\$156
Maximum	\$1,332
Sum	\$2,824,287
Count	9,536

Top 20% of Cases

Mean	\$9,336
Median	\$3,093
Maximum	\$663,467
Sum	\$22,164,111
Count	2,374

Community Drug Early Warning System (CDEWS) Helps to Identify Emerging Drugs at Local Level

E. Erin Artigiani, Deputy Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs, Amy S. Billing, CDEWS Project Director, and Eric D. Wish, Director, Center for Substance Abuse Research, University of Maryland, College Park

The Office of National Drug Control Policy’s (ONDCP) annual National Drug Control Strategy has emphasized the need for the United States to develop a rapid and low-cost system for identifying emerging drugs at the local community level.¹ This need has become even

more critical recently with the advent of a prescription drug epidemic and the rapid development of new psychoactive substances (NPS) such as synthetic cannabinoids (SCs). In a period when chemists can quickly change the chemical makeup of the synthetic drugs they produce in order to stay ahead of the law, the typical user of a synthetic drug does not know and cannot accurately report

the specific psychoactive substance that s/he took. It is therefore critical that any new system test biologic specimens to determine the specific drugs taken. With constrained federal and local budgets and rapidly shifting drug trends, a useful drug use monitoring system also needs to be capable of rapidly responding to newly available drugs and producing results quickly at minimal cost. To that end, staff at the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at the University of

¹ Office of National Drug Control Policy. (2014). *2014 National Drug Control Strategy*. Washington, DC: Author.

See *CDEWS* page 5

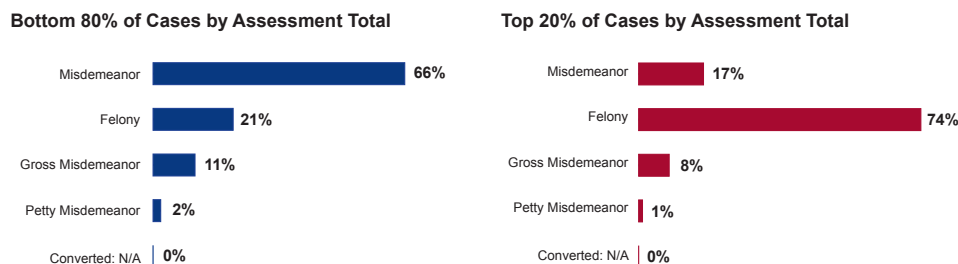
Minnesota Restitution from page 3

Two obvious differences are immediately clear when the bottom 80% and the top 20% of cases are broken out by case type and offense level (see Figure 6). The bottom 80% is dominated by misdemeanor-level offenses, while the top 20% is dominated by felony-level offenses. While property cases constitute a majority in both groups, person cases are 75% more prevalent in the top 20% of cases than in the bottom 80%. These results are unsurprising; as shown in Figures 1 and 2, person and felony cases have the highest per case average assessment in the 2010 Cohort. Therefore, it appears that the top 20% has a greater share of serious crimes than does the bottom 80%, which is primarily composed of less serious property and misdemeanor offenses. Due to the prevalence of felony offenses, the top 20% of cases involve offenders who are more likely to face incarceration (which would make the payment of restitution assessments more difficult), and who are facing longer sentences over which restitution can be paid.

Conclusion

This analysis of court restitution data was essential to the Restitution Working Group process and provided much needed clarity on what had been, up to this point, a great unknown. Absent any data, too often the conversation about restitution would be based on personal perspectives that followed two narratives: (1) offenders never pay restitution, and (2) most offenders do not have the ability

Figure 6: Case Type and Offense-Level Composition by Assessment Group



to pay restitution. The SCAO analysis demonstrates that both of these are misconceptions about the reality of restitution satisfaction, and reveals that for many victims, restitution is not just an empty promise.

The research and analysis by the State Court Administrator’s Office form the building blocks for ongoing collection and review of restitution data. This will be valuable not just as a mechanism for the accountability of our systems, but also to assess the impact of any changes made as a result of the adoption of the Restitution Working Group’s recommendations.⁵

⁵ The Restitution Working Group crafted more than 40 recommendations aimed at (1) improving the clarity, consistency, and efficiency of the process, (2) ensuring that all victims are well informed and have the opportunity to make appropriate restitution requests, and (3) improving the likelihood of payment by offenders. These recommendations call for changes and refinements to all parts of the restitution process,

Contact Information

Suzanne Elwell
 Director, Crime Victim Justice Unit
 Office of Justice Programs
 Minnesota Department of Public Safety
 445 Minnesota Street, Suite 2300
 St. Paul, MN 55101 • 651-201-7312
 Suzanne.elwell@state.mn.us

Peter Jannett
 Research Analyst II
 Research & Evaluation Unit
 State Court Administrator’s Office
 305 Minnesota Judicial Center
 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
 St. Paul, MN 55155 • 651-215-0046
 Peter.Jannett@courts.state.mn.us

improved information to both victims and offenders, and comprehensive training of criminal justice professionals and partners. The end result of the Restitution Working Group process was a set of statutory and practice recommendations put forward by the group to stakeholder constituencies and the legislature for future implementation. See full report, *Restitution in Minnesota: Report to the Legislature*.

CDEWS from page 4

Maryland, College Park, worked with ONDCP to test the feasibility of the Community Drug Early Warning System (CDEWS). The first CDEWS study (CDEWS-1) was completed in September 2013,² and the second CDEWS study was completed in April 2015.³

Underlying Rationale for CDEWS: Urinalysis for Advance Warning of Emerging Drugs in the Community

The National Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) and the Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) programs were based on evidence that trends in arrestee urinalysis results could provide advance warning of emerging drugs in the larger community.^{4,5} While the information collected by these federally sponsored programs over a 27-year period was very valuable, the DUF and ADAM programs relied on periodically stationing research staff in booking facilities to collect urine specimens and conduct brief interviews with arrestees.⁶ Collecting the required number of specimens was time consuming and only feasible in large city venues. The ADAM program ended in 2014.

² Wish, E.D., Artigiani, E.E., and Billing, A. S. (2013). *Community Drug Early Warning System: The CDEWS Pilot Project*. Washington, DC: Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President. Available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/finalreport_with_cover_09172013.pdf

³ Wish, E.D., Billing, A.S., and Artigiani, E.E. (2015). *Community Drug Early Warning System: The CDEWS-2 Replication Study*. Washington, DC: Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President. Available at https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/ondcp/policy-and-research/finalreport_4_8_15v3.pdf

⁴ DuPont, R. L., and Wish, E. D. (1992). Operation Tripwire Revisited. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 521, 91–111.

⁵ Wish, E.D. (1997). *The Crack Epidemic of the 1980's and the Birth of a New Drug Monitoring System in the United States*. Paper presented at The Crack Decade: Research Perspectives and Lessons Learned Conference, November 4–5, 1997.

⁶ Office of National Drug Control Policy. (2013). *ADAM II: 2012 Annual Report: Arrestee Drug Abuse Monitoring Program II*. Washington, DC: Author.

The CDEWS model was subsequently designed to introduce three important innovations. First, CDEWS would focus on a diverse group of criminal justice populations: pretrial surveillance, lockup, parole and probation, and drug court, and reanalyze specimens that had already been collected by the local criminal justice system (CJS) testing program. Second, CDEWS could be implemented in two types of CJS testing programs—those that conducted on-site urine testing and those that sent specimens to a laboratory for screening. Third, and perhaps most important, tests for a large number of substances, including prescription drugs and SCs, could be included in an expanded CDEWS urinalysis screen.

First Two CDEWS Studies: CDEWS-1 and CDEWS-2

CDEWS provides rapid information about emerging drug use in local communities by sampling anonymous urine specimens already collected and tested by a local CJS program for a limited panel of drugs that are ready to be discarded. CDEWS sends the specimens to a research laboratory to retest them for an expanded panel of more than 75 drugs. The first study, CDEWS-1, tested 1,064 specimens from three sites. The most dramatic findings centered around the identification of specific SCs used by adult arrestee and parole/probation populations in the Washington, DC, and Richmond, VA, Metropolitan Areas. In this study, SC metabolites were found to be *equally or more likely* to be detected in specimens that had passed the local CJS drug tests than in those that failed, suggesting that people were using SCs to avoid detection by the routine CJS testing screens that did not test for them.

It became evident that it was critical to update the CDEWS test panel periodically to include newly discovered SC metabolites. The composition of the synthetic drugs simply change very fast as specific chemicals are identified and made illegal. For the CDEWS-2 study, CESAR staff interviewed more than a dozen federal agency and private laboratory chemists and other experts to determine the most important drugs, including NPS, to include in the testing panel, which now has 28 SC metabolites in the

CDEWS-3 study panel. A large number of specimens tested positive for the new SC metabolites added during CDEWS-2. The CDEWS-2 study showed dramatic changes from the SC metabolites detected the prior year in CDEWS-1, and substantial differences in the SC metabolites found from site to site.

CDEWS-2 replicated the CDEWS results for adult parolees/probationers in Washington, DC, and included new adult and/or juvenile criminal justice populations from Washington, DC (juveniles), Denver, CO (drug court adults), and Tampa, FL (juveniles). A total of 1,026 specimens from these populations were tested as part of the CDEWS-2 study.

More than 50% of the 21- to 30-year-old male probationers from DC who had *passed* the local, more limited CJS screen and about 1 in 5 of *all* tested juveniles in DC at *all* ages, from 13 to 17, tested positive for SC. The SC metabolites detected varied by population and site; for example, all SC positive specimens from the Tampa juveniles contained only one metabolite, UR-144, but only 71% of the SC positive specimens from DC juveniles and 53% of SC positives from adults in the Denver drug court contained UR-144. In fact, among DC juveniles, 8 SC metabolites were found, and among Denver adults, 10 SC metabolites were found. Testing for designer stimulants was suspended after all initial subsamples from the four populations tested negative for these drugs.

Some Limitations of CDEWS

CDEWS can best be viewed as providing timely information about local drug use and availability that can help target populations where additional information may be collected. The results can also be used to identify drugs that local criminal justice and health-related testing programs might consider adding to their test panel. The CDEWS urinalysis results should not be generalized to the general criminal justice population or the broader community. The findings apply more readily to those high-risk persons selected for testing by the participating agencies. However, as noted earlier, drug trends in high-risk criminal justice populations

Federal Government Looks Toward Justice Reinvestment for Solutions to Prison Crowding

Allie Maples, JRSA Summer Intern, Junior and Political Science Major at Eastern Kentucky University

On Thursday, June 25, 2015, at a press conference hosted by The Pew Charitable Trusts Public Safety Performance Project, Representative Bobby Scott (D-VA) and Representative Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI) announced the introduction of the Safe, Accountable, Fair, and Effective (SAFE) Justice Act. Using states participating in the Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI) as a model, the SAFE Justice Act will aim to restructure the federal prison system to reduce overcrowding in prisons and reduce federal spending on prisons through a data-driven process. The SAFE Justice Act was a collaborative effort between Democrats and Republicans within the House Judiciary Committee's Over-Criminalization Task Force. The bill would work to reduce mandatory minimums for drug offenses using targeted sentencing, curtail the number of regulatory burdens, expand recidivism reduction, and provide more resources to police officers to build community relations.

South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard spoke about the success of a similar bill in his state during a meeting held at the capitol in June. By partnering with a research team from The Pew Charitable Trusts, Governor Daugaard was able to learn that despite increases in prison spending, crime rates were not decreasing. Thus, a bipartisan task force was created of diverse stake holders including prosecutors, defense attorneys, law enforcement, corrections, and legislators to draft the South Dakota Public Safety Improvement Act, which was signed into law by Governor Daugaard in February 2013. The act restructured nonfelony and nonviolent sentencing, incentivized good behavior on parole, and made investments in behavioral health to treat offenders for alcohol and drug addiction, as well as teach self-discipline. According to a

report from the Public Safety Performance Project of The Pew Charitable Trusts, roughly 45% of offenders return to prison within three years. But, behavioral health programs are combating these rates and becoming a new, worthy investment because they ensure negative behaviors do not become cyclical in communities. According to Stateline, the 2013 law helped avoid the building of two new prisons, which would have cost \$224 million. This year the legislature passed the Juvenile Justice Public Safety Improvement Act, which is expected to cut the number of juveniles placed in detention by half over five years, saving \$32 million. The money saved from offenders not returning to prison was either reinvested in corrections programs in South Dakota or reallocated to other state agencies.

South Dakota is not alone in its efforts to be smart on crime and not just be tough on crime. South Carolina and Utah made comprehensive reforms in their prison systems as well using data from their Statistical Analysis Centers. In Utah, more offenders were sentenced for drug possession than for any other crime in 2013. This contributed to the state's 18% increase in prison population from 2004 to 2013. Using JRI, a commission created a solution through sentencing reforms: first- and second-time drug offenses were reduced from felonies to class A misdemeanors. Also, in a continued effort to decrease recidivism, judges in Utah were provided the results of risk/needs assessments before sentencing so offenders could be treated for mental illness or addiction before being lost in the prison system with the unlikely hope that they become sober on their own. The impact of Utah's data-driven reforms is expected to save taxpayers more than \$500 million over 20 years. These funds will be reinvested toward

CDEWS from page 5

may foreshadow drug use trends that show up later in the general population. Lastly, long holding times required for positive specimens by CJS monitoring agencies (prior to their release for inclusion in the study) may have resulted in the degradation of some drugs, resulting in false negative results and underestimates of drug use. This may be especially true of designer stimulants,⁷ which were not detected in any of the CDEWS-2 specimens.

Some Implications of the CDEWS Findings

The CDEWS results attest to the value of expanded testing of specimens already collected by local CJS drug testing programs for uncovering recent drug use. The findings regarding SC illustrate the difficulties inherent in measuring the constantly evolving nature of NPS. Many adults and juveniles in local CJS drug testing programs are likely turning to SC to avoid detection. Most important, it is likely that programs using standard limited protocols to test urine specimens in other contexts, such as schools, workplaces, accident investigations, hospitals, and treatment programs, are missing SC use in their populations, leading to lost opportunities for diagnosis and intervention. These risks are especially dangerous for youths being exposed to new and constantly changing NPS at an early age. Future CDEWS studies might help to address these issues, and CESAR is currently seeking new sites for CDEWS-3. People interested in helping to launch a CDEWS study in their area should contact CESAR at cesar@umd.edu.

This article has focused primarily on the CDEWS findings about SC. Additional findings can be accessed in the complete reports released by ONDCP available online at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/research-and-data>.

Complete CDEWS-1 and CDEWS-2 reports are available online at www.cesar.umd.edu. For additional information about CDEWS, please contact Eric D. Wish, Ph.D., at ewish@umd.edu. 📧

See *Justice Reinvestment* page 7

⁷ Huestis, M. (April 14, 2013). Personal communication.

Justice Reinvestment from page 6 —

strengthening community supervision, public safety initiatives, and evidence-based treatment programs.¹

South Carolina focused on its stakeholders, including the voters, before implementing prison reforms. Before the reforms, the threat of building a new prison was fast approaching. But today, by adding common sense sentencing reforms, improving release policies, strengthening parole and probation, and establishing ongoing oversight, South Carolina has reduced its prison population by 9.5 % and its state correctional saving totaled at least \$18.7 million, according to the South Carolina Sentencing Reform Oversight Committee.

Nineteen other states have joined South Dakota, Utah, and South Carolina in using JRI to complete comprehensive prison reforms in the hope that policy becomes based on data. The SAFE Justice Act's goal of fewer regulatory crimes, fewer prisons, and more accountability was the product of the effectiveness of justice reinvestment initiatives in the states. Many Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) are contributing to the justice reinvestment efforts in their states in a variety of ways. Some of these efforts are highlighted below.

■ Georgia

The Georgia SAC received a Justice Information Sharing Initiative grant in partnership with the State Board of Pardons and Parole and the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry. The grant will help build a reentry portal to share mental health, risk assessment, and substance abuse information about

returning citizens with local community service boards that provide substance abuse counseling and mental health services. The SAC also participates in the Georgia Prisoner Reentry Initiative (GA-PRI) Grants Committee and the associated Data and Evaluation Committee. The GA-PRI Grants Committee coordinates all the efforts for the \$6.5 million in Bureau of Justice Assistance grants that Georgia received last year for State Reduction in Recidivism, Justice Reinvestment, SMART Supervision, and Justice Information Sharing grants. The goal is to ensure all these funding initiatives—while targeted at different programs and managed at different agencies—adhere to the “one strategy, one plan” motto of the GA-PRI.

■ Hawaii

The Hawaii SAC's in-progress State Justice Statistics (SJS) project is a direct response to a JRI request for specific quality assurance measures relating to Hawaii's adult criminal offender population. Much earlier, the Hawaii SAC compiled and provided to the JRI team three data sets of statewide risk assessment data. The Hawaii SAC also directs the state's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which produces additional data utilized for the JRI effort.

■ Kansas

On June 1, 2013, the state of Kansas enacted House Bill 2170 as a justice reinvestment approach to increase public safety while reducing state spending. This bill permits the use of two- and three-day “quick dip” jail sanctions to be administered to offenders under community supervision who commit a technical violation. Offenders who commit an additional technical violation after receiving a “quick dip” sanction are then eligible for a graduated sanction of 120 or 180 days in prison.

The Council of State Governments (CSG) partnered with the Kansas

Sentencing Commission (KSC), Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC), and several other state agencies to initially implement HB 2170 and monitor its progression. The KSC designated a research analyst to track this bill. His duties include designing and developing KSC's justice reinvestment graduated sanctions database, compiling a monthly monitoring report for CSG, conducting in-person trainings and web seminars for field officers, and attending annual JRI trainings/summits.

HB 2170 is projected to have an immense impact on the state's criminal justice system. In fact, an early projection model produced by the KSC estimates that this bill will result in a decrease of 452 prison inmates by the end of FY 17. The savings from the reduction of prison bed space will be utilized to enhance community-based health treatment resources. The KSC, along with several other agencies, works to provide a data-driven justice reinvestment approach to reduce corrections spending and reinvest savings to increase public safety. More information is available from *Justice Reinvestment Initiative in Kansas* (December 2014), http://www.sentencing.ks.gov/docs/default-source/publications-reports-and-presentations/ksc_jri_report.pdf?sfvrsn=2 and *Kansas Sentencing Commission FY 2014 Annual Report* (April 2015), <http://www.sentencing.ks.gov/docs/default-source/publications-reports-and-presentations/fy-2014-annual-report-whole.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

■ Oklahoma

In 2012, the Oklahoma Legislature addressed several criminal justice challenges facing the state by passing Justice Reinvestment legislation. House Bill (HB) 3052 does the following:

1. Establishes a new state-funded grant program to assist local law enforcement agencies in implementing data-driven strategies to reduce violent crime,

See Justice Reinvestment page 10

¹ MGT of America Inc. (prison population projection), The Pew Charitable Trusts (projections with H.B. 348 policy changes)



Loretta Lynch Confirmed as Attorney General

Loretta Lynch was sworn in as the 83rd Attorney General of the United States on April 27th, 2015, replacing

Eric Holder, who announced his intention to step down in September 2014. Ms. Lynch, the country's first African-American woman to serve in the role, was tapped by President Obama in November and her nomination was cleared by the Senate Judiciary Committee in February. The final vote was delayed for months over Republican opposition to her defense of President Obama's executive actions on immigration. She was finally confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 23rd.

She received her A.B., cum laude, from Harvard College in 1981, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1984. In 1990, after a period in private practice, Ms. Lynch joined the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, located in Brooklyn, New York—the city she considers her adopted home. There, she forged an impressive career prosecuting cases involving narcotics, violent crimes, public corruption, and civil rights. In one notable instance, she served on the prosecution team in the high-profile civil rights case of Abner Louima, the Haitian immigrant who was sexually assaulted by uniformed police officers in a Brooklyn police precinct in 1997.

In 1999, President Clinton appointed her to lead the Eastern District Office as United States Attorney—a post she held until 2001. In 2002, she joined Hogan

& Hartson LLP (now Hogan Lovells) as a partner in the firm's New York office. While in private practice, Ms. Lynch performed extensive pro bono work for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, established to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations in the 1994 genocide in that country. As Special Counsel to the Tribunal, she was responsible for investigating allegations of witness tampering and false testimony.

In 2010, President Obama asked Ms. Lynch to resume her leadership of the United States Attorney's Office in Brooklyn. Under her direction, the office successfully prosecuted numerous corrupt public officials, terrorists, cybercriminals, and human traffickers, among other important cases. She has a reputation as a highly qualified, but low-profile prosecutor who has a good relationship with law enforcement. 🌟

Byrne JAG Funds from page 1

the country. These funds represent only a fraction of the almost \$1 billion of U.S. Department of Justice grant dollars administered by the states in FY14, but Byrne JAG dollars are the most flexible of all the funding streams and considered the cornerstone of federal support for state and local justice systems. As such, understanding how states allocate this money can provide great insight into the needs, challenges, and criminal justice trends at the state and local levels. In addition to helping those at the federal level understand how Byrne JAG dollars are impacting justice systems, the 2013 and 2014 Byrne JAG Spending Study will provide states with an enhanced understanding of what their neighbors and colleagues from around the country are doing to help lower crime rates, reduce recidivism, increase offender accountability, and provide services and support to victims and at-risk youth. While the spending data are important for understanding the national picture, the programmatic examples gathered in the study provide the opportunity to assist state and local agencies

with understanding the wide variety of projects and initiatives Byrne JAG dollars can support.

Blending Funds and Maximizing Small Investments

Over the last five years many federal formula grant programs underwent deep cuts as Congress sought to rein in federal spending. With funding streams like the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners (RSAT) program and the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) program being cut or eliminated entirely, states have looked to Byrne JAG dollars to help fill the gaps created by decreased funding. Overall, states reported using Byrne JAG dollars to help support work funded by a variety of other federal and state funding streams. In addition to RSAT, Byrne JAG dollars in multiple states helped supplement programs funded with Title II, Violence Against Women ACT (VAWA), and Bureau of Justice Statistics grant dollars. Another popular use of Byrne JAG funds was to blend them with other state-funded initiatives

like Wisconsin's Treatment Alternatives and Diversion, New York's Statewide Cure Violence replication called SNUG, or Illinois Redeploy, a statewide performance incentive funding initiative aimed at expanding alternatives to incarceration. Whether the funding is being used to help support direct service, program coordination, fidelity monitoring, or research and evaluation, the year-over-year drops in Byrne JAG allocations have made states rethink the viability of supporting full programs with fluctuating grant dollars.

In addition to the blending of funding, interviews with representatives from the 50 states and the District of Columbia also uncovered a large number of small (under \$100,000) grants being aimed at supporting or enhancing existing programs or practices. While many enforcement activities received large sums of money, states used capacity grants to help bolster local prevention, victim services, training, and reentry efforts. Specifically, funds were used to support child advocacy centers, victim coordinators, social

See Byrne JAG Funds page 9

OJP Diagnostic Center: Supporting States in Data-Driven Justice Reform

U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center



There is no standard, one-size-fits-all criminal justice system in the United States. Dependent upon the areas they serve, criminal justice structures vary across states based on disparate laws, agencies, and methods of criminal justice process management.¹ With so many different systems across 50 states, how can the federal government offer flexible, tailored technical assistance and training in support of state justice agencies?

The U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center bridges this divide—enabling state, local, and tribal policymakers to implement data-driven justice reform. As a

technical assistance resource designed to help municipalities address their unique concerns through collecting and analyzing both quantitative and qualitative data at the state and local levels, the OJP Diagnostic Center works collaboratively with community representatives and decision-makers to define what drives their challenges and determine what mitigation measures will work in their jurisdictions. Diagnostic Center specialists craft workable solutions, ranging from peer-to-peer exchanges to a host of training offerings, and advocate for the development of comprehensive, cross-system community safety strategies. The OJP Diagnostic Center has worked with multiple states to provide support for a range of justice reform issues, from improving juvenile justice client behavior management systems, to leveraging

data to govern realignment from state correctional facilities to local jails and supervision. Beyond working strictly at the state level, Diagnostic Center specialists have supported multilayered assignments in 20 cities and counties nationwide with topics ranging from cross-agency information sharing to improved data collection to enhanced community engagement and problem-oriented policing training.

Interested in learning more about how the OJP Diagnostic Center makes a lasting

“The Diagnostic Center’s support was invaluable in our continuing efforts to strengthen DJJ’s [the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Juvenile Justice] client behavior management system.”

Barbara Murray, Alaska Juvenile Justice Specialist

impact in the communities it serves? Look for an upcoming feature article in the next edition of the *JRSA Forum*, follow us on social media, and visit our website at www.OJPDiagnosticsCenter.org to read about our engagements nationwide. 📍

¹ National Center for Victims of Crime (2008). “The Criminal Justice System: What Is It?” Retrieved July 2, 2015, from: <https://www.victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/the-criminal-justice-system#fn1>



Byrne JAG Funds from page 8

workers, reentry planners, and university-practitioner training and technical assistance partnerships.

Research, Evaluation, and EBP Replication

While states have been using Byrne JAG funds to support research and evaluation for years, the percentage of Byrne JAG dollars spent on research, evaluation, and researcher-practitioner partnerships has been steadily increasing. The FY13 and FY14 Spending Study did not provide an exact dollar amount used to replicate evidence-based practices (EBPs) overall, but we do know that during the study period states spent more than \$20 million supporting the replication of specialty courts and more than \$12.5 million to support planning, evaluation, and research partnerships. This \$12.5 million

represents the single largest investment of federal Office of Justice Program dollars to support state and local research, evaluation, and implementation capacity. Outside of Byrne JAG’s support for specialty courts, many states reported replicating other important EBPs, including, but not limited to:

- Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS)/Crime Analytics
- Ceasefire/Cure Violence
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s Comprehensive Gang Model
- Alternative Sentencing Social Workers
- Child Advocacy Centers
- Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring Program

Next Steps

In the coming months NCJA will be releasing a number of publications highlighting state Byrne JAG support for a wide variety of topics, including: specialty courts, forensic science, research and evaluation, juvenile justice, victims services, crime prevention, and justice information sharing. These documents will help expand the Byrne JAG stakeholder community, assist the Bureau of Justice Assistance with describing the impact of Byrne JAG, and assist localities with understanding how Byrne JAG dollars can impact state and local justice systems. 📍

Justice Reinvestment from page 7

2. Institutes a pre-sentence risk and needs screening process to help guide sentencing decisions about treatment and supervision,
3. Mandates supervision for all adults released from prison, and
4. Creates more cost-efficient and meaningful responses to supervision violations.

The new Justice Reinvestment Grant Program, administered by the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, provides grant funds to local law enforcement to address crime using innovative policing strategies. To be eligible for grant funds, local law enforcement agencies must focus on five purpose areas: (1) evidence-based policing strategies (intelligence-led policing, directed patrols); (2) technology advancements (e.g., crime mapping software, GPS technologies); (3) analytical capabilities (e.g., analysis of crime trends); (4) community partnership enhancements (e.g., programming focused on gang violence); or (5) direct victim services (e.g., enhancing access to victims' services). The Oklahoma City Police Department (OCPD) received grant funds to implement a three-pronged approach in an area with a high violent crime rate: proactive policing strategies, nuisance abatement, and community outreach. The Oklahoma SAC is responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of the program.

First, OCPD increased proactive policing strategies by using crime data to identify hot spots in the target area. With that information, patrol officers increased their presence and initiated traffic stops, "knock and talks," and other voluntary contacts in the area. Second, OCPD enhanced its nuisance abatement program by hiring a part-time code enforcement specialist to work in the target area. The code enforcement specialist is the department's expert on municipal codes and zoning violations related to dilapidated structures, multifamily housing, aban-

doned vehicles, and waste management. The code enforcement specialist is responsible for self-initiated activity, responding to action grams, investigating citizen and business complaints, and participating in community outreach meetings. Finally, OCPD developed a comprehensive community outreach program. The goal of community outreach is to increase positive interaction and develop trust among law enforcement, community stakeholders, apartment managers/owners, and citizens in the target area. Police community relations officers work with community partners to organize community events in the target area.

Oregon

Implementing the Justice Reinvestment Initiative in the state is currently the main focus for the Oregon SAC and the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). The SAC is housed within the CJC, which is Oregon's State Administering Agency (SAA). In April the CJC hosted the Justice Reinvestment Summit, a day-long event to facilitate planning with the counties for the Justice Reinvestment Grants they will receive in the next biennium. All 36 counties were represented, along with legislators who were able to join the event mid-day. Attendance was just above 500 people, with Governor Kate Brown opening the Summit and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum closing it. Thanks to the success of this Summit, the CJC is planning a second Summit for 2017. Details from the event, including information on speakers, presentations, and a short video, are available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/cjc/justicereinvestment/Pages/Summit.aspx>.

During Oregon's most recent legislative session, which ended July 6, the SAC was tasked with determining the amount of Justice Reinvestment funding for each county in the next biennium. JRI grants are included in the CJC budget. The final appropriation was a higher-than-anticipated

\$40 million to CJC for the Justice Reinvestment Grant program.

Finally, the SAC recently finalized two publications regarding the state's Justice Reinvestment efforts: Oregon's Justice Reinvestment bill, which passed in July 2013, changed the state's definition of recidivism. In May 2015, the SAC released the first statewide analysis of this new definition, which is the arrest, conviction, or incarceration for a new crime within three years of release from custody or imposition of probation. The report, *Oregon Recidivism Analysis*, is available at <http://www.oregon.gov/cjc/SAC/Documents/OregonRecidivismAnalysisMay2015.pdf>

In addition, the SAC released *Justice Reinvestment Implementation in Oregon, August 2013 to April 2015*, which summarizes Justice Reinvestment performance measures, including reported crime, recidivism, and prison utilization statewide and at the county level. The report proposes a "stop light" display for county-level prison use, based on prison sentences for driving, drug, and property crimes exclusively. The report can be found on the CJC website <http://www.oregon.gov/cjc/justicereinvestment/Documents/Justice%20Reinvestment%20Implementation%20in%20Oregon.pdf>

Pennsylvania

In 2011, Pennsylvania initiated the process of employing a data-driven Justice Reinvestment Initiative (JRI)-approach to reduce corrections spending and reinvest a portion of the savings in public safety projects. At that time, the Commonwealth was facing a burgeoning state prison population that would have required the construction of several new prisons. JRI strategies, however, helped reverse that trend and, as a result,

See Justice Reinvestment page 14

SAC NEWS

JRSA Welcomes New SAC Directors in Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, and Montana, and a New SAC Contact in South Carolina

Shana Malone was appointed Director of the **Arizona** Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), where she has been Senior Research Analyst since 2009. Her work at the Arizona Criminal Justice Commission has focused on translational research and enhancing data-driven decision-making among policymakers and local community coalitions, agencies, and organizations, and she has been involved in several local and national multisystemic prevention and evaluation projects. Her research interests include computational social science, dynamical systems applications, substance abuse and delinquency prevention, and family dynamics. Ms. Malone received her master's degree in human development from Arizona State University. Former SAC Director Phillip Stevenson left Arizona to take a position at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

In May, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) Executive Director John Maki named **Dr. Megan Alderden** the Research Director for ICJIA's Research & Analysis Unit and Director of the **Illinois** SAC. Dr. Alderden comes to ICJIA with 16 years of research experience in the field of criminal justice working as an academic and practitioner. Dr. Alderden's most recent research focuses on sexual victimization and policing issues. She currently is a co-principle investigator on a project examining evidence-based practices in homicide and sexual assault investigation in Illinois, and on a federally funded study examining the impact of forensic evidence on prosecutorial decisions and court outcomes in sexual assault cases. Dr. Alderden is also a researcher with the National Police Research Platform, where her work focuses on police diversification, police culture, and the civilianization of police agencies. She has written several government reports and articles for scholarly journals. Prior

to joining the Authority, Dr. Alderden was an Associate Professor of criminal justice at Saint Xavier University, and preceding her work in academia, she was a researcher for the Chicago Police Department and ICJIA. Dr. Alderden received her Ph.D. in criminal justice with a gender and women studies concentration from the University of Illinois at Chicago, her master's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University, and her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Calvin College.

Marjorie Stanek has been the Research Coordinator for the **Kentucky** SAC since early 2012. In this capacity she plans and oversees the SAC's research and evaluation efforts. Although she will continue in this role, Ms. Stanek was named as the SAC Director in March 2015 after the previous Director, Tanya Dickinson, transferred to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services' Behavioral Health Division. Prior to joining the SAC, Ms. Stanek worked for seven years as the Development Coordinator for the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, the victim service provider for Lexington and the 17 counties of Kentucky's Bluegrass Area Development District. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in sociology from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and a Master of Arts degree in sociology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Ms. Stanek will complete her Master of Public Health degree from the University of Kentucky's College of Public Health during the fall semester of 2015. She is also a doctoral candidate in health promotion at the University of Kentucky, where her dissertation research focuses on child maltreatment within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In addition to her academic and work interests, Marjorie volunteers at Pawsibilities Unleashed, a service and therapy dog training organization in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Gabriel Downey was appointed in June as SAC Director for the state of **Montana**. The Montana SAC is housed within the Montana Board of Crime

Control. Mr. Downey recently completed his master's degree in criminology at the University of Montana, where he served as a lead graduate research assistant for the Criminology Research Group. He is particularly interested in juvenile justice-related issues, and his expertise is in disproportionate minority contact. Mr. Downey, who has conducted research utilizing a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, believes in incorporating both methods into his research.

Holly Groover was hired as a statistician in the **South Carolina** Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs (OHSJP) in April 2015, and appointed to head South Carolina's SAC, which is located in OHSJP. Previously, Ms. Groover helped recoup Medicare funds by designing statistical sampling plans for audits and using inferential statistics to project overpayment. She also taught and coordinated science studies events at the University of South Carolina, and served as managing editor for *Philosophy of Science*, a leading academic journal. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, with a bachelor's degree in physics and a minor in mathematics, and she has a master's degree in applied statistics from the University of South Carolina. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. and is conducting research on how physics and statistics inform measurement in the social sciences.



District of Columbia

Study on Mental Health Records Sharing in the District of Columbia

The DC SAC is wrapping up a study on mental health information sharing in the District of Columbia. The objective of the study is to identify what behavioral health information local and federal criminal justice agencies are collecting and sharing. The goals of the study are to a) assess the level of information sharing

See SAC News page 12

SAC NEWS, continued

SAC News from page 11

occurring within federal and local agencies; b) identify barriers to information sharing across agencies; c) identify gaps in information and duplication of efforts; and d) increase interagency communication. The study implements different data collection strategies, including a survey, interviews, and legal reviews. It is expected that these efforts will enable the District to identify opportunities for early identification of mental health needs. The study began in October 2014 and data collection efforts have concluded. The study report is currently under review and is slated to be released in the fall.

Return of the Brown Bag Lecture Series

Washington DC’s SAC is happy to announce the return of the Brown Bag Lecture Series. The lecture series features local and national experts speaking on critical issues impacting criminal justice systems. The lecture series season began with a presentation by Spurgeon Kennedy, Director of the Office of Strategic Development for the Pretrial Services Agency, entitled, “PSA Risk Assessment: Is Supervision Matched to the Risk Level of Pretrial Defendants?” A selection of the remaining 2015 lectures include:

- A Public Health Approach to Gun Violence,
- How Justice Systems are Leveraging Medicaid Expansion, and
- Implementation Science and the Importance of Fidelity.

SAC Welcomes New Staff Member

In May, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) and DC SAC welcomed its newest staff member, David Marimon. In addition to his work as a Research and Policy Analyst with the SAC, Mr. Marimon’s portfolio will include staffing the Interagency Research Advisory Council, the Grants Planning Committee, and the District’s Warrant Work Group. Before coming to the CJCC, Mr. Marimon spent five years with the National Criminal Justice

Association, where he worked with both the State Administrating Agencies and State Statistical Analysis Centers. Mr. Marimon holds a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Miami University of Ohio and a Master of Social Work from the University of Maryland.



Florida

Florida SAC Director Appointed to OJP Science Advisory Board Subcommittee

Susan Burton, Senior Management Analyst Supervisor for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), was appointed to the data collection and statistics subcommittee of the Office of Justice Programs Science Advisory Board.

Ms. Burton, who is assigned to the Criminal Justice Information Services Division at FDLE, is the Administrator of the Florida Statistical Analysis Center (FSAC). The subcommittee she will join was created in 2010 and consists of 25 experts and scholars who were appointed by the U.S. Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason from the fields of criminology, statistics, sociology, and criminal and juvenile justice.

In her role on the subcommittee, she will provide input, guidance, and research recommendations in the areas of science and statistics. The board ensures federal programs are scientifically sound for the purpose of enhancing the performance and impact made by the national law enforcement community.



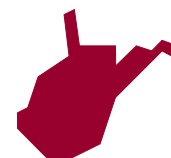
Minnesota

MN SAC Trains School Resource Officers on Youth Development

In 2014, the Minnesota Statistical Analysis Center (MN SAC) completed a

first-of-its-kind survey of School Resource Officers (SROs) in the state with the goal of gathering information on their training, experience, duties, and perceptions about youth, and their role as an SRO. Over 70% of SROs participated. The survey revealed that training and experience among SROs varies widely. Specifically, the MN SAC found that less than half of SROs have received training in youth/brain development, the effects of trauma, or how to provide mentoring or counseling to youth. In addition, nearly one in 10 SROs reported that they would like more information about mental health and understanding youth behavior.

In response to these findings, the MN SAC is partnering with the Minnesota School Safety Center, which is responsible for school safety assessments and which regularly trains school-based law enforcement officers. The MN SAC completed its first training of SROs last month on key stages of youth development, adolescent brain development, and the impact of trauma on development and behavior. Ideally, SROs knowledgeable about youth development will take these factors into consideration when interacting with youth in a school setting and making decisions about how best to provide both support and accountability. The MN SAC plans to continue Minnesota School Safety Center trainings on youth development for both new and veteran SROs as a component of a comprehensive SRO training curriculum.



West Virginia

SAC Partnering on Naloxone Distribution Pilot Project

The Office of Research and Strategic Planning (ORSP), West Virginia’s SAC, is currently working with several partners to pilot a naloxone distribution project in

See SAC News page 13

SAC NEWS, continued

SAC News from page 12

three day report centers. Naloxone is a drug that can potentially be used to save lives by reversing the effects of overdoses of opioid drugs such as heroin, morphine, and OxyContin. Drug offenders who have recently been released from incarceration or residential drug treatment centers are at an especially high risk of fatal opioid overdoses because they often lose their tolerance for opioids during their periods of nonuse. Since day report centers are frequently used to supervise recently released drug offenders, they are an attractive site for distribution of naloxone. This pilot project examines the feasibility of using day report centers to distribute naloxone to at-risk offenders and provide education about this potentially life-saving medication. Partners in the project include Western Regional Day Report Center, Berkeley-Jefferson Day Report Center, Marion County Day Report Center, Project Lazarus, First Choice Health Services, and the Injury Control Research Center at West Virginia University. For more information about this project, please contact Tom Arnold at Thomas.K.Arnold@wv.gov.

Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative in West Virginia

The West Virginia SAC is working with The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Division of Corrections, the Department of Education, and the Division of Juvenile Services to implement the Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative. The goal of this initiative is to help states implement an innovative approach to cost-benefit analysis that can be used to identify effective correctional rehabilitation programs, calculate potential returns on investment for expanding these programs or funding new ones, and predict the fiscal impact of different criminal justice policy options. As part of this project, which began in January, ORSP is conducting recidivism and cost-benefit analyses for all correctional treatment programs provided to state prison inmates and day report center

clients. The analytic results will be presented to the legislature by staff from The Pew Charitable Trusts and the SAC in October. For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov or Tom Arnold at Thomas.K.Arnold@wv.gov.

Predicting Recidivism of Offenders Released from the West Virginia Division of Corrections: Validation of the LS/CMI

As part of ongoing efforts to monitor the statewide implementation of the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) risk assessment tool, ORSP (the West Virginia SAC) will be releasing a report later this month that assesses the ability of the LS/CMI to predict recidivism by offenders released from Division of Corrections (DOC) supervision. Preliminary findings indicate that LS/CMI total risk scores are strong predictors of both reincarceration and regional jail bookings for the DOC population. Offenders who are identified by the LS/CMI as having a higher risk level are significantly more likely to recidivate, and this finding holds for both male and female clients, as well as for violent offenders. The report also contains additional analyses that assess the predictive validity of the individual subcomponents of the LS/CMI. Results indicate that some subcomponents perform better than others. The results underscore the importance of periodic validation of the tool and repeated staff trainings on the scoring of the tool. For more information about this project, please contact Maria Orsini at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov or Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov.

Staff Receive Training in Use of Correctional Program Checklist

Several ORSP staff recently completed training provided by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute in the use of the Correctional Program Checklist (CPC), an evidence-based

correctional program assessment tool. The CPC is designed to evaluate the extent to which correctional treatment programs adhere to the principles of effective intervention. Each assessment results in a report that provides program directors and staff with a description of how well their program adheres to evidence-based practices as well as detailed recommendations for improving their program's effectiveness. Research shows that the scores produced by CPC assessments are strongly correlated with programs' recidivism rates, and that programs that improve their CPC scores tend to achieve better outcomes. As part of their training, ORSP staff conducted assessments of two correctional facilities in West Virginia: The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) unit at Lakin Correctional Center and the Western Regional Day Report Center: Cabell County. ORSP plans to conduct CPC assessments of five additional correctional facilities within the year. For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov or Maria Orsini at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov.

SAC Develops Index to Measure Level of Correctional Program Quality

Current methods for assessing correctional program quality rely heavily on information gathered from site visits and direct observation by researchers, which requires significant investments in terms of time, training, and resources. This makes it difficult to assess large numbers of facilities or to conduct frequent reassessments. Consequently, ORSP has developed a set of indicators that utilize commonly available administrative data to assess the extent to which correctional service delivery adheres to evidence-based practices. These indicators have been combined to create a composite program quality index score that can be used to measure the level of service

See SAC NEWS page 14

SAC NEWS, continued

quality for a large numbers of facilities across entire correctional systems. In addition, since the data systems that provide the information for the index are updated continuously, research staff can use this approach to conduct reassessments

whenever necessary without significant new investments in time or resources.

Preliminary analysis of data from West Virginia day report centers indicates that programs that score higher on the program quality index tend to experience better outcomes, including lower rates of

recidivism. Future work will assess the extent to which the index scores correlate with other measures of program quality gathered from site visits as well as surveys of offenders and corrections staff. For more information about this project, please contact Dr. Douglas Spence at Douglas.H.Spence@wv.gov. ☞

JRSA FORUM

The JRSA Forum is supported by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. JRSA is a national nonprofit organization. For membership or other information, call (202) 842-9330, e-mail cjinfo@jrsa.org, or visit our Web site: <http://www.jrsa.org>.

Karen F. Maline, Editor

JRSA Officers and Staff

Stephen M. Haas, *President*

Lisa Shoaf, *Vice President*

Danette Buskovich, *Secretary/Treasurer*

Jim McDonough, *Delegate*

Thea Mounts, *Delegate*

George Shaler, *Delegate*

Roger Przybylski, *Appointed Delegate*

Jeffrey Sedgwick, Executive Director

Sandra Dayton, *Director of Finance*

Erin Farley, *Research Associate*

Shawn Flower, *Research Associate*

Karen F. Maline, *Member Services Manager*

Ajima Olaghere, *Research Assistant*

Stan Orchowsky, *Research Director*

Jason Trask, *Strategic Communications Associate*

July 2015 Vol. 33, No. 2

Justice Research and Statistics Association

720 7th Street, NW
Third Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Justice Reinvestment from page 8

Pennsylvania recently recorded its lowest state inmate population since June 2009.

Pennsylvania's SAC has been involved throughout the JRI process by collaborating with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections (DOC), the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP), the Pennsylvania Sentencing Commission, the Pennsylvania State Data Center (PaSDC), and the Council of State Governments (CSG) to develop a digital dashboard that will highlight key joint performance measures. These dashboards are expected to be completed and released to the public in Fall 2015, at which time users will be able to manipulate them, drill down into trends, and conduct analyses on demand. This will guarantee that the JRI joint performance measures can be continually monitored and that key stakeholders have the information they need to make adjustments, if warranted. The web-based dashboards will reduce the time it takes to visualize the key metrics by automating the file transfer and cleaning processes, and will ensure that real-time data are available to decision-makers.

West Virginia

West Virginia's Justice Reinvestment policy framework includes the objectives of strengthening community supervision and ensuring effective substance abuse treatment for offenders with high needs. As part of ongoing efforts to reduce recidivism and ensure effective implementation of evidence-based practices, SAC staff are organizing and participating in a series of

evidence-based trainings. These include Cognitive-Behavioral Interventions for Substance Abuse (CBI-SA), Thinking for a Change (T4C), Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS), and Motivational Interviewing (MI). These trainings emphasize cognitive-behavioral strategies and adherence to "what works" in offender treatment. CBI-SA teaches offenders cognitive-behavioral strategies for avoiding substance abuse, and incorporates an individualized success plan. Thinking for a Change (T4C) is an integrated, cognitive behavioral change program for offenders that includes cognitive restructuring, social skills development, and development of problem solving skills. EPICS provides a structure for meeting with offenders that emphasizes the targeting of criminogenic needs and the reinforcement of cognitive-behavioral strategies. Finally, Motivational Interviewing is a collaborative, person-centered form of guiding to elicit and strengthen motivation for change.

The implementation of a train-the-trainer model is in progress in the state whereby suitable staff members will be identified as trainers. SAC staff are the trainers for these curricula and will subsequently expand training opportunities to correctional professionals throughout the state.

The following trainings are scheduled:

- August 24-28, 2015: EPICS Training of Trainers
- November 16-19, 2015: Thinking for a Change (T4C) Training of Trainers

For registration and information, please contact Maria Orsini at Maria.M.Orsini@wv.gov. ☞