



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### **NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE GRANTS SUPPORT** **GOLD STANDARD IN RESEARCH**

WASHINGTON – The Office of Justice Programs’ National Institute of Justice, the research component of the Department of Justice, today announced awards totaling more than \$19.4 million to advance rigorous methods in criminal justice research and evaluation. The awards support 27 randomized controlled trials, or RCTs. An RCT randomly assigns participants to a control or an experimental group and is regarded as the highest threshold, or gold standard, in social science research.

Funded through fiscal year 2018 appropriations, the awards reflect a greater emphasis on evidence-based evaluations of the effectiveness of criminal justice programs and practices. Projects will test a variety of public safety approaches, including terrorism and gang prevention programs, pretrial diversion and young adult courts, training models for sexual assault investigators and law enforcement officers, and enforcement strategies like focused deterrence and police use of artificial intelligence.

“Randomized controlled trials are the best way to determine the effectiveness of criminal justice programs with a high degree of certainty,” said NIJ Director David B. Muhlhausen. “Given their superiority in demonstrating causality, I firmly believe that we should undertake them wherever and whenever we can. These investments will encourage their use in our research and ultimately improve the validity of our research results.”

The award recipients include colleges, universities and scientific organizations. A list of the award recipients is located at: <https://nij.gov/funding/awards/pages/awards-list.aspx?fiscalyear=2018&tags=RCT>

The Office of Justice Programs, directed by Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Matt M. Dummermuth, provides federal leadership, grants and resources to improve the nation’s capacity to prevent and reduce crime, assist victims and enhance the rule of law by strengthening the criminal justice system. More information about OJP and its components can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov).

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