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Research Advisory Board:  
Albert J. Reiss, Jr., Chair  
Alfred Blumstein  
Earls  
D. P. Farrington  
Norman Garmezy  
Malcolm Klein  
Norval Morris  
Lloyd E. Ohlin  
Lee Robins  
Michael Tonry  
James Q. Wilson

**Program on Human Development  
and  
Criminal Behavior**  
Main Street - P.O. Box 110  
Castine, Maine 04421  
(207) 326-9521

Co-Directors:  
Lloyd E. Ohlin  
Michael Tonry

Research Director:  
David P. Farrington  
(U.K. Telephone:  
011-44-223-872555)

NCJRS

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ACQUISITIONS

PROSPECTUS

The Program on Human Development and Criminal Behavior began operation in February 1988. The Program's main aim is to design and mount a coordinated, integrated program of research on the causes and correlates of violent and predatory crime and other forms of serious antisocial behavior. The Program is jointly sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the National Institute of Justice. Additional funding is being sought from other government agencies and private foundations.

The Program's primary focus is on violent and predatory crimes such as robbery and burglary, and on the high-rate offenders who account for a disproportionately high number of such crimes. This naturally leads to a focus on crime in urban areas. People who commit violent and predatory crimes also tend to commit other kinds of crimes such as theft, sale and use of illicit drugs, and prostitution, and to engage in other kinds of antisocial acts, such as excessive drinking and reckless driving. The Program is therefore concerned to advance knowledge about a wide variety of criminal and antisocial behaviors.

The Program's outcomes may have implications beyond advances in our ability to explain and prevent crime. Many people who commit crimes experience turmoil in other aspects of their lives. For the high-rate offender, particularly, crime is often but one manifestation of a troubled, disrupted life style. The high-rate offender tends also to be the failing student, the drunken driver, the unreliable employee, and the abusive or neglectful parent. An enquiry into the causes of

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crime is at the same time an enquiry into the causes of general defects in character and behavior. Lessons learned about how to prevent crime will be lessons learned about how to encourage good citizenship. Scholars may find the data and findings generated by the Program useful in understanding how to help people who present special challenges to practitioners not only in criminal justice, but also in education, social work, mental health, and manpower development.

What are the Program's Objectives? During the Program's first two years, its primary goal is to design a series of longitudinal cohort studies, coupled where feasible with assessments of the effects of experimental interventions. The studies will share common design features and measures and be subject to protocols governing access to data by principal investigators, persons working on related longitudinal studies, and the wider interdisciplinary research community. Some of these study designs will be submitted to the National Institute of Justice for its consideration and potential use as the basis for issuing requests for proposals ("RFPs"). Should those RFPs be issued, the Program will participate in the review of responsive proposals, in the monitoring and coordination of funded projects to assure timely progress and compliance with applicable protocols, and in consideration of requests for continued funding of approved projects. The Program will by early fall of 1989 deliver a fully developed research plan to the MacArthur Foundation for consideration for funding by its board of directors. Funding for specific projects or components of projects will also be sought from other private and public organizations.

How is the Program Organized? The Program is based in Castine, Maine as a division of Castine Research Corporation, a 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation. Lloyd E. Ohlin and Michael Tonry serve as the Program's co-directors; David P.

Farrington is the research director. Lloyd Ohlin is Touroff-Glueck Professor of Criminal Justice Emeritus, Harvard Law School. Michael Tonry is formerly professor of law, University of Maryland. David P. Farrington is university reader in psychological criminology, Cambridge University.

The development of the Program's research plans is carried out by the Program's staff working with a number of technical working groups under the general supervision of a distinguished interdisciplinary research advisory board. The research advisory board is chaired by Albert J. Reiss Jr., and consists of the following people:

| <u>Names</u>                   | <u>Affiliations</u>  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Professor Alfred Blumstein     | Dean, School of Urban and Public Affairs<br>Carnegie-Mellon University |
| Professor Felton Earls         | Department of Psychiatry<br>Washington University Medical School       |
| Dr. David P. Farrington        | Institute of Criminology<br>Cambridge University                       |
| Professor Norman Garnezy       | Department of Psychology<br>University of Minnesota                    |
| Professor Malcolm Klein        | Department of Sociology<br>University of Southern California           |
| Professor Norval Morris        | The Law School<br>University of Chicago                                |
| Professor Lloyd Ohlin          | The Law School<br>Harvard University                                   |
| Professor Albert J. Reiss, Jr. | Department of Sociology<br>Yale University                             |

Professor Lee Robins

Department of Psychiatry

Washington University Medical School

Michael Tonry

Castine Research Corporation

Professor James Q. Wilson

School of Management, University

of California at Los Angeles

Working groups appointed by the board have been directed to prepare reports for delivery to the board by January 1, 1989 on the design of model longitudinal studies of various stages of human development in relation to participation in crime, delinquency, and serious antisocial behavior. The missions of the three study groups have been conceptualized in terms of sequential patterns of involvement in crime and related behaviors. Thus the committees address, respectively, "pathways to the onset of delinquency and criminality," "onset of participation in delinquency and criminality," and "desistance from crime."

The Program's working committees are constituted as follows:

Pathways--Felton Earls, Chair, James Q. Wilson, Vice-Chair, Forrest Bennett (University of Washington), Jerome Kagan (Harvard), Mark Lipsey (Claremont), Terrie Moffitt (University of Wisconsin), Lee Robins;

Onset--David P. Farrington, Chair, Rolf Loeber, Vice-Chair (University of Pittsburgh), Delbert S. Elliott (University of Colorado), David Hawkins (University of Washington), Denise Kandel (Columbia), Malcolm Klein, Joan McCord (Temple), David Rowe (University of Oklahoma), Richard Tremblay (Montreal);

Desistance--Lloyd E. Ohlin, Chair, Alfred Blumstein, Vice-Chair, Douglas Anglin (U.C.L.A.), Arnold Barnett (M.I.T.), Robert Boruch (Northwestern), Peter Greenwood (Rand Corporation), Albert J. Reiss, Jr., Lawrence Sherman (University of Maryland).

Other working groups will be organized from time to time. Each of the working groups will carry out its tasks through a series of regular meetings, through commissioning of literature reviews and position papers, through consultation with relevant technical experts, and finally through preparation of written reports to the advisory board.

Why was the Program Established? The Program was organized because of an increasingly widely shared belief within the criminological research community that significant empirical and theoretical progress in the understanding of crime, and of its causes, treatment, and prevention, will benefit greatly from the availability of improved longitudinal data on participation in delinquency, crime, and other serious antisocial behaviors. A 1988 National Research Council report, in cooperation with the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the Social Science Research Council, urges adoption of a criminological research strategy like that envisioned for the Program (see Gerstein, Luce, Smelser, and Sperlich, The Behavioral and Social Sciences -- Achievements and Opportunities [National Academy Press 1988]).

In 1982, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation organized the Foundation's Justice Program Study Group, which consisted of Daniel Glaser (University of Southern California), Norval Morris, Governor Richard Ogilvie, Lloyd Ohlin, Herbert Wechsler (Columbia University), and James Q. Wilson. Over a period of years, this group reviewed criminological research findings and concluded that significant additional breakthroughs would require much more extensive use of longitudinal methods. Although cross-sectional research designs have provided major insights over many years, many of the basic correlations need to be ordered from the standpoint of their sequential relation in behavioral development. To make progress from correlation to causation, the study group concluded, would

require increased use of prospective longitudinal research designs, coupled where feasible with assessments of the effects of experimental interventions. The arguments advanced for the initiation of such a major series of studies are summarized and elaborated in Understanding and Controlling Crime, by David P. Farrington, Lloyd Ohlin, and James Q. Wilson (1986).

A parallel effort was initiated in 1983 by the National Institute of Justice by means of an award to the National Academy of Sciences to support the work of a Panel on Criminal Careers, chaired by Alfred Blumstein. The panel's members were Alfred Blumstein (Chair), Allen Andrews, Jr. (Chief of Police, Peoria, Illinois), Delbert S. Elliott, David P. Farrington, John Kaplan (Stanford University), Rolf Loeber, Charles F. Manski (University of Wisconsin at Madison), Norval Morris, Albert J. Reiss, Jr., Lee Robins, Harold Rose (University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee), Daniel S. Smith (University of Illinois at Chicago), Andrew L. Sonner (State's Attorney, Montgomery County, Maryland), Honorable Reggie B. Walton (Superior Court, District of Columbia), James Q. Wilson, and Marvin E. Wolfgang (University of Pennsylvania). The panel's 1986 report, Criminal Careers and "Career Criminals", like the report of the MacArthur Foundation Study Group, vigorously urged the initiation of major longitudinal research efforts focusing on improved understanding of causal relations and temporal sequences concerning an individual's participation in various forms of crime and delinquency.

Members of the MacArthur Foundation study group and the National Academy of Sciences panel now serve as members of the Program's advisory board and were instrumental in launching the Program. Because of the expensive nature of longitudinal research, and past experience with longitudinal research in this country and abroad, the Program's initiators reached the view that new longitudinal research initiatives, to succeed, must somehow be integrated in the use of common design elements and measures and carefully coordinated to assure comparability of



data, complementarity of design, and general accessibility of the data thereby generated for analyses by other scholars.

Past experience with use of longitudinal research designs in criminology has revealed a number of limitations that the Program will attempt to address:

1. Most past longitudinal research on crime and delinquency, for understandable reasons of cost constraints and time limitations, has been retrospective; the projects planned by the Program will be prospective.
2. Most past longitudinal research on crime and delinquency has relied heavily on official records, again for understandable reasons of cost; projects undertaken and planned by the Program will use multiple measures from a range of sources in addition to official records, such as interviews with offenders, parents, teachers and relevant others, use of psychometric and biological measures, and, where possible, direct observation.
3. Past longitudinal research projects in criminology have been idiosyncratic in their development of measures, with the result that data from different longitudinal studies are rarely closely comparable; projects undertaken under the Program's aegis will be conditioned upon the principal investigator's agreement to use a common core of standard measures to ensure comparability of findings.
4. Data generated by some past longitudinal research projects in criminology have neither been published nor made available for secondary analyses by other scholars until many years after their collection; projects initiated under the Program's auspices will be required to comply with protocols on data access and archiving that fix a limited period of exclusive control of data by principal investigators, that require that data be archived, and that set time periods and rules governing access to data for secondary analysis by other researchers.

5. Few longitudinal research projects in criminology cover the entire human life span or the period to age 30 by which age most participation in street crime has concluded; projects initiated in connection with the Program will investigate developmental sequences and causal relations from birth through adult participation in crime by studying successive stages in the development of criminal careers with designs in which measures are comparable and additive.

6. Prior longitudinal studies have seldom incorporated the insights, empirical variables, and theoretical perspectives of multiple disciplines; the Program's work on study designs will seek to incorporate a multi-disciplinary approach to test the explanatory relevance and relationships between different variables and perspectives.

In addition to its primary task of designing a coordinated and integrated set of longitudinal cohort studies, including where possible assessment of the effects of experimental interventions, the Program will serve a number of supportive functions. These include efforts to initiate or support development and maintenance of archives of longitudinal data on crime and delinquency; development of a larger network of longitudinal researchers by forging links with other disciplines in which longitudinal efforts have been more fully elaborated; sponsorship of secondary analyses of existing longitudinal sets; and development of a central repository for written materials concerning longitudinal research on criminological or related subjects.

June 20, 1988 .

## R E F E R E N C E S

- Blumstein, Alfred, Jacqueline Cohen, Jeffrey Roth, and Christy Visher, eds. 1986. Criminal Careers and "Career Criminals". Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press.
- Farrington, David, Lloyd E. Ohlin, and James Q. Wilson. 1986. Understanding and Controlling Crime: Toward a New Research Strategy. New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Gerstein, Dean R., R. Duncan Luce, Neil J. Smelser, and Sonja Sperlich, eds. 1988. The Behavioral and Social Sciences -- Achievements and Opportunities. Washington D.C.: National Academy Press.