



The Research Review

Volume 1, Issue 4

December 2000

Selected Summaries

This section contains short summaries of significant research findings from recently completed NIJ-funded projects. At the end of each project title and summary, there is a URL to point readers to the Web location for the full report abstract. Copies of the full report are available from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service by calling 800-851-3420.

COPS, Technology Research and Development for Community Policing: Arlington Police Department, Final Report,

L. Barclay. This report described the Best Information Gateway (BIG), a multifaceted computer program and computerized briefing stations used successfully by the Arlington Police Department to reduce duplicative work efforts and to create a team approach to fighting crime. BIG is a database of names, vehicles, incident reports, jail inmates, mugshots, and other data that gives officers electronic access to large portions of the department's information. BIG also accepts customized queries for specific information, and the COPSOLVE component allows officers to electronically report progress on their assignments so their supervisors could review or manage their work. The program provides police officers with information critical to

problem solving and beat management. It resides on an Intranet that can be accessed through personal computers. Grant 97-IJ-CX-K005; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); NCJ 183204. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/tr/vol1_4/01.html.

Process Evaluation of the Forever Free Substance Abuse Treatment Program,

M. Prendergast et al. Inmates at the California Institute for women who participated in this 4- to 6-month intensive residential substance abuse treatment program, immediately followed by up to 6 months of community residential treatment as parolees, showed significant improvement. One-hundred and fifteen of the 119 participants completed the program. The primary drugs of abuse

most commonly reported were cocaine/crack (36 percent), amphetamine/methamphetamine (28 percent), and heroin or other opiates (25 percent). Approximately one-third (36 percent) of treatment subjects were white, 31 percent black, 24 percent Latino, and 9 percent of other ethnic background. After 1 month of treatment, participants were highly motivated about receiving treatment and had already developed strong ties or bonds with both counselors and other participants. Psychological functioning increased significantly for participants by the end of treatment, with levels of depression and anxiety decreasing and levels of self-esteem increasing. Grant 97-RT-VX-K003; funded in collaboration with the Corrections Program Office (CPO); NCJ 183013. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/tr/vol1_4/02.html.

Analysis of the United Nations Data Set on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems: Part I, R.W. Burnham. This analysis of data collected by the United Nations on crime and criminal justice since the mid-1970s discussed the benefits and limitations of the information and indicated the need for improved data. Results showed that reliability and validity of the data varied from case to case and variable to variable.

The NIJ Research Review, which will be published every 3 months, contains short summaries of significant research findings and a listing of other recently completed projects. In addition, a Web address is provided for easy electronic access to the full abstract of each project. Information on upcoming conferences and other significant events is also included.

Some problems involved in analyzing the data across countries, cultures, or jurisdictions relate to definitions, recording practices, operating practices, factual inequalities, and crime recording. Thus, it is difficult to use the data to analyze precise changes in any variable from year to year, but the data can be used to develop descriptions of the dynamics of the main components in the criminal justice process and to generate hypotheses. Grant 97-MU-CX-0002; funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS); NCJ 183461. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/03.html.

Impact Evaluation of Victim Services Programs: STOP Grants Funded by the Violence Against Women Act: Final Report, B.E.

Smith et al. This evaluation found that STOP (Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors) grants had a substantial positive impact on the lives of victims and the criminal justice system's response to victims. Data were gathered from two samples representative of law enforcement, prosecution, and court programs that provide victim services. Information was obtained from 62 interviews with STOP subgrantee program representatives and 96 interviews with representatives of programs coordinating with the 62 STOP programs.

Eighty-three percent of the survey's respondents indicated that STOP funds changed the way they delivered their services. More than two-thirds noted an improvement in the empowerment and psychosocial well-being of victims; 60 percent felt that victims were better informed of criminal justice actions taken in their cases; and nearly half indicated that prosecutions were more successful. Grant 96-WT-NX-0003; funded in collaboration

with the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO); NCJ 183460. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/04.html.

Northeast Gang Information System: Description of the System and Lessons Learned, L. Pitts.

This report discussed the Northeast Gang Information System (NEGIS), which was designed to develop a multi-State gang information-sharing network to combat the marked increase in violence, drug trafficking, and related crimes traceable to youth gangs in the Northeast. The highly ranked NEGIS is a multifaceted database system that provides State and local police officials comprehensive, high-quality information on gangs, gang members, and their movement and alleged criminal offenses. NEGIS is composed of five databases: (1) Electronic Messaging, (2) Law Enforcement Directory, (3) Reference Library, (4) Leads Database, and (5) Criminal Intelligence Database—the core of the system.

Some of the key lessons learned in the implementation of the system are that top-level commitment is essential; intelligence is a critical, central feature; consensus is the best basis for decision-making; and tradeoffs between system costs and security should be analyzed early in the implementation process. Grant 96-LB-VX-K007; NCJ 183468. More information can be found at http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/05.html or in *Northeast Gang Information System: Description of the System and Lessons Learned* at: <http://www.nlectc.org/txtfiles/negis.html>.

Chicago Women's Health Risk Study, June 2000, C.R. Block.

Designed to provide information on reducing the risk of death or life-threatening injury to women in intimate-violent situations, this study found that the single most important

risk factor for continuing violence was the length of time between incidents. The study, which involved interviews with 497 physically abused women, relatives and friends of 87 homicide victims of intimate partners, and a baseline comparison group of 208 unabused women, covered a profile year and a 1-year followup period. Factors analyzed included lethal or life-threatening events such as stalking, harassment, and controlling behavior; attempts to leave; arrest and other interventions; and other circumstances such as pregnancy and gun availability. Researchers also indicated that practitioners and clinicians should ask abused women not only about the most recent incident, but also about past incidents to get a more comprehensive picture of their needs and potential danger. Grant 96-IJ-CX-0020; funded in collaboration with VAWO; NCJ 183128. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/06.html.

"The Other Way" Program

Evaluation, R.J. Cadoret et al. Participants in "The Other Way" (TOW) substance abuse treatment program at the Clarinda Correctional Facility in Clarinda, Iowa, rated the program highly. Data were collected from the inmates through a semistructured interview and several self-administered questionnaires. Fifty-eight percent of participants were "very satisfied," and 34 percent were "satisfied" with the program. Adult male inmates were referred to the program if they

These summaries do not contain sufficient information to adequately assess the significance of the findings as stated here. The full report provides greater detail, including information on the research design, data analysis, and study limitations.

needed residential substance abuse treatment and were within 12 months of consideration for release. Areas rated the most helpful or useful were: assignments (95 percent), therapy groups (84 percent), lectures/videos (83 percent), individual counseling (82 percent), staff interaction (67 percent), and peer interaction (53 percent). The physical setting was rated the least popular program component. Grant 97-RT-VX-K009; funded in collaboration with CPO; NCJ 183646. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/07.html.

Analysis of Police Use-of-Force

Data, G.P. Alpert et al. This study of police use of force in the Metro-Dade Police Department in Miami and in the cities of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon, found that the “force factor”—the level of force used by the police relative to the suspect’s level of resistance—is a key element to consider in attempting to reduce injuries to both the police and suspects. The force factor is calculated by measuring both the suspect’s level of resistance and the officer’s level of force on an equivalent scale and by then subtracting the level of resistance from the level of police force.

Results indicated that on the average the level of force used by the departments correlated to the type of training emphasized by the departments. The force factor was slightly negative in Metro-Dade where police are trained to use a force slightly under the level of resistance; whereas the force factor was slightly positive in Eugene and Springfield where police are trained to use a force slightly higher than the level of resistance. Researchers suggested that future research on police use of force must include the relative measure of force to indicate a thorough understanding of the police-public

encounter. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0104; funded in collaboration with COPS; NCJ 183648. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/08.html or in NIJ’s report (NCJ 176330) “Chapter 5: The Force Factor,” *Use of Force by Police: Overview of National and Local Data* at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pubs-sum/176330.htm>.

Other Research Projects

Factors Related to Domestic Violence Court Dispositions in a Large Urban Area: The Role of Victim/Witness Reluctance and Other Variables, Final Report, J. Belknap et al. Grant 96-WT-NX-0004; funded in collaboration with VAWO; NCJ 184232. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/09.html.

RACKETS: Case Tracking and Mapping System, C. Reilly et al. Grant 98-LB-VX-0004; funded in collaboration with BJA and CPO; NCJ 182918. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/10.html.

Process Evaluation of the Wisconsin Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Female Prisoners: The Women in Need of Substance Abuse Treatment (WINSAT) Program, K.R. Van Stelle et al. Grant 98-RT-VX-K003; funded in collaboration with CPO; NCJ 183647. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/11.html.

Creating a Structured Decision-making Model for Police Intervention in Intimate Partner Violence, M. Wordes. Grant 96-IJ-CX-0098; funded in col-

laboration with COPS; NCJ 182781. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/12.html.

Crime and Social Organization: Advances in Criminological Theory, Volume 10, E. Waring et al. Grant 97-IJ-CX-0031; NCJ 183328. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/13.html; also see Waring, Elin and David Weisburd, editors (2001) *Crime and Social Organization, Advances in Criminological Theory, Volume 10*. William S. Laufer and Freda Adler, series editors. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction.

NIJ in the Journals

- *Assessing the Interrelationships Between Perceptions of Impact and Job Satisfaction: A Comparison of Traditional and Community-Oriented Policing Officers* (Grant 95-IJ-CX-0084, NCJ 183580) B.A. Lawton et al. 26 pp. From *Justice Research and Policy* Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/14.html.

The *NIJ Research Review* is prepared by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research, evaluation, and development bureau of the U.S. Department of Justice. The *NIJ Research Review* contains short summaries of reports resulting from grants funded by NIJ, additional abstract titles, and notices of upcoming events.

- *Determinants of Citizen Complaints Against Police Abuse of Power* (Grant 98-IJ-CX-0064, NCJ 183359) L. Cao et al. 11 pp. From *Journal of Criminal Justice* Vol. 28, No. 3, May/June 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/15.html.
- *Drunk Drivers, DWI "Drug Court" Treatment, and Recidivism: Who Fails?* (Grant 96-IJ-CX-0022, NCJ 183582) J. Breckenridge et al. 19 pp. From *Justice Research and Policy* Vol. 2, No. 1, Spring 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/16.html.
- *Helping Hand of the Law: Police Control of Citizens on Request* (Grant 95-IJ-CX-0071, NCJ 183207) S. Mastroski et al. 36 pp. From *Criminology* Vol. 38, No. 2, May 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/17.html.
- *Impact of Individual, Organizational, and Environmental Attributes on Voluntary Turnover Among Juvenile Correctional Staff Members* (Grant 96-SC-LX-0001, NCJ 183239) O. Mitchell et al. 25 pp. From *Justice Quarterly* Vol. 17, No. 2, June 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/18.html.
- *Influence of Organizational Climate on Detention Officers' Readiness to Use Force in a County Jail* (Grant 94-IJ-CX-K006, NCJ 183480) M. Griffin. 26 pp. From *Criminal Justice Review* Vol. 24, No. 1, Spring 1999. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/19.html.

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■ *Pepper Spray: A Safe and Reasonable Response to Suspect Verbal Resistance* (Grant 95-IJ-CX-0104, NCJ 183574), M. Smith et al. 13 pp. From *Policing* Vol. 23, No. 2, 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/20.html.

This issue and future issues of the *NIJ Research Review* may be found online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/rr/>.

■ *Permanent Beat Assignments in Association With Community Policing: Assessing the Impact on Police Officers' Field Activity* (Grant 95-IJ-CX-0041, NCJ 183236) R. Kane. 22 pp. From *Justice Quarterly* Vol. 17, No. 2, June 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_4/21.html.

Upcoming Events

● *2001 American Correctional Association Winter Conference*
January 22-24, 2001
Nashville, Tennessee

Fifth Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse
January 29-February 2, 2001
San Antonio, Texas

American Academy of Forensic Sciences 53rd Annual Scientific Meeting
February 19-24, 2001
Seattle, Washington

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NCJ 185667

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