

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

This issue of the *NIJ Journal* focuses on a single important topic—homicides committed by the victim's spouse or other intimate partner. Women are most likely to be the victim in these cases of intimate partner homicide. An overview on page 2 reflects the range of ideas the authors discuss, from aspects of the problem (such as risk factors and the effect of alcohol abuse) to possible steps toward reducing the number of incidents (such as the effectiveness of domestic violence services and the use of fatality reviews). The articles shed new light on a type of crime that continues to have serious social consequences and to present challenges to law enforcement and health providers.

The "At-A-Glance" section reports on research on numerous other criminal justice subjects. The research and programs described include a pilot program in which Florida sheriffs act as child protective service investigators; the new, "gentrified" drug markets of Manhattan's Lower East Side (which offer home delivery to middle-class customers); an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of multijurisdictional drug enforcement task forces; quality-of-life policing; racial profiling; and advice to police departments on how to get feedback and participation from community residents.

The anniversary of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is also recognized in this issue. One of the first federally funded clearinghouses, NCJRS helps criminal justice professionals easily access publications and information from NIJ and its sister agencies of the Office of Justice Programs, as well as offering an opportunity for professionals to share their knowledge with one another.



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