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***Evaluation News* provides information on the BJA Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement, promotes the exchange of information on evaluation and performance measurement, and publicizes criminal justice research and evaluation reports for use by state and local criminal justice agencies.**

REENTRY

In a recently completed evaluation of Delaware's Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Project (SVORI) O'Connell and Cahill discuss issues related to program implementation and outcomes. This study revealed that there were many issues that affected the implementation of SVORI in Delaware. These ranged from something as simple as selecting eligible offenders to complex issues such as not fully understanding the extent to which legal and societal barriers would affect successful reentry. The Delaware SVORI program had recidivism outcomes similar to those of other reentry programs. Of the 303 participants, approximately one third successfully completed the program and approximately one quarter remained arrest-free at one year following release from prison. Of those successfully completing the program, 63.5 percent were re-arrested within one year compared to 82.1 percent of those who failed to successfully complete the program. The report, *Delaware Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Project 2003-2006 Evaluation with Recidivism Results*, was produced by the Delaware Statistical Analysis Center. The full report can be found at:

http://sac.omb.delaware.gov/publications/documents/svori_report_2003-2006_rev.pdf

Haas and DeTardo-Bora examined the use of the Level of Supervision Inventory-Revised (LSI-R), a risk and needs assessment instrument, in West Virginia's case management system. The LSI-R is a key component of the state's offender reentry initiative. Though much is known about the ability of the LSI-R to predict future offending, the authors assert that much less is known about the use of the instrument for case management. In this study the authors surveyed a sample of correctional staff to examine how they use the LSI-R in the development of offender reentry case plans. In particular, an effort was made to examine the degree to which the correctional staffs' assessments of offender needs fit with subsequent recommendations for reentry services. Findings suggest that attitudes of the staff toward the use of the LSI-R may be having an impact on the implementation process. They found that a large proportion of correctional staff did not have a favorable attitude toward the LSI-R and were not using it. Further, they state that the staff may not be using the LSI-R results properly. These findings are important since the LSI-R plays a central role in West Virginia's case management system. Stephen Haas is Director of the West Virginia Statistical Analysis Center and Kimberly DeTardo-Bora is on the faculty of Marshall University. Information on obtaining this article, *Inmate Reentry and the Utility of The LSI-R in Case Planning*, can be found at: <http://www.aca.org/publications/ccjournal.asp>

CRIME PREVENTION

A recent evaluation examined both the implementation and impact of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) in all 94 U.S. Attorney districts. The core of the PSN strategy is increased federal prosecution of illegal gun use and illegal gun possession to reduce gun crime. This study included both an analysis of violent crime patterns in all U.S. cities with populations over 100,000 and a series of case studies conducted in jurisdictions that were considered to have implemented PSN in a serious and significant manner. The authors examined trends in violent crime while controlling factors known or believed to influence levels of violent crime. Cities implementing PSN experienced greater reductions in violent crime than those not implementing PSN. Further, PSN cities in districts with high levels of federal prosecution experienced a decline in violent crime, while non-PSN cities in districts with low levels of federal prosecution experienced an increase in violent crime. This evaluation was conducted by the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice, including Timothy Bynum, the Director of the Michigan Statistical Analysis Center. The full report *Project Safe Neighborhoods-A National Program to Reduce Gun Crime: A Final Project Report*, can be found at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/226686.pdf>

RECIDIVISM

Heil, Harrison, English and Ahlmeyer examined whether engaging in sexual offending while in prison was predictive of violence upon release from prison. Recidivism outcomes for four groups of male sex offenders were compared: (a) offenders convicted of community sex crimes, (b) community sex offenders who were convicted under non-sex-crime charges, (c) offenders known only to commit sexually abusive misconduct in prison, and (d) offenders with both community and prison sex offenses. Recidivism was examined at one year and five years post-release. The findings revealed that individuals engaging in sexual offending in prison were significantly more likely to be arrested for violent offenses upon release than other offenders. They were similar to convicted sex offenders in their risk of arrest for sexual offenses upon release; however, the average time to arrest was much shorter for prison sex offenders than convicted sex offenders. Implications for prevention and treatment are discussed. Kim English and Linda Harrison are both with the Colorado Statistical Analysis Center. The article, *Is Prison Sexual Offending Indicative of Community Risk?* can be found at:

<http://cjb.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/36/9/892>

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A recent policy brief published by the Pew Charitable Trust's Center on the States identified ten evidence-based sentencing strategies that are designed to control crime and reduce costs. The author argues that implementation of these practices would allow states to reduce crime while at the same time conserving limited resources. Some of the evidence-based strategies include: establishing recidivism reduction as an explicit sentencing goal, base sentencing decisions on risk/needs assessments, requiring community corrections programs to be evidence-based, and train court officers on evidence-based practices. *Arming the Courts with Research: 10 Evidence-Based Sentencing Initiatives to Control Crime and Reduce Costs*, can be found at:

http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/report_detail.aspx?id=51750

TIP OF THE MONTH

In the current economy resources are becoming increasingly scarce. Today it is particularly important to adequately consider the cost associated with carrying out an evaluation. One way to ensure proper planning for these costs is to develop a detailed evaluation budget. Jerry Horn has developed a detailed checklist for developing and evaluating evaluation budgets. The checklist is available on the Western Michigan University's Evaluation Center Website. The full checklist can be found at:

<http://www.wmich.edu/evalctr/checklists/evaluationbudgets.htm>