

*Evaluation News is produced by BJA's Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement at the Justice Research and Statistics Association.*

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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*

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy (CEBCP) at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia will be holding its 2nd Annual Evidence-Based Crime Policy Symposium on August 9 - 11, 2010. The symposium is designed to bring together those in the academic, practice, and policy worlds to for a series of workshops, panels, and special lectures. Additional information and a tentative schedule are available at:  
<http://gunston.gmu.edu/cebcp/CEBCPSymposium.html>

The Justice Research and Statistics Association has recently released a special edition of Justice Research and Policy (JRP), a semiannual, peer reviewed journal. This special issue on sentencing and corrections, which includes an assessment on the outcomes associated with determinate sentencing, is available at:  
<http://www.jrsa.org/pubs/journal/index.html>

#### EVALUATION AND PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT RESOURCES

The National Institute of Justice has recently released a new seminar as part of their Research in the Real World seminar series. The seminar, *Solutions in Corrections: Using Evidence-based Knowledge*, highlights the work of Ed Latessa. In this seminar, he describes how he and his team and assessed more than 550 programs, lessons learned, and examples of states that are trying to use evidence-based knowledge to improve correctional programs. The seminar is available at:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/multimedia/presenter/presenter-latessa/>

#### COMMUNITY-BASED CRIME PREVENTION

The RAND Corporation recently released an evaluation of the One Vision One Life Initiative of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. This initiative is similar, but not identical to, the CeaseFire initiatives. These initiatives use street-level work and intelligence to intervene in potentially violent disputes. Specifically, One Vision One Life focused on a plan to stop local shootings. This plan included mediation and intervention, provision of alternatives for those most at risk for violence, strong community coalitions, a unified message of no shootings, a rapid response to all shootings, and programs for at risk youths. Researchers from RAND and the Michigan State University assessed the effects of the initiative in three areas of Pittsburgh. Additionally, they employed

Useful resources for criminal justice program evaluation and performance measurement are available at the BJA Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement web site:  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation>.

statistical techniques that permitted them to compare these areas to other neighborhoods within the city. Controlling for neighborhood attributes, seasonal effects and trends over time, researchers measured changes in homicides, aggravated assaults and gun assaults before and after the intervention. The results of their analysis showed that the initiative had no effect on homicides and was associated with an increase in aggravated assaults and gun assaults in all three areas. In addition, they found that there was a spillover effect in some of the surrounding areas. It is unclear whether the program design or challenges with evaluation design and implementation were responsible for these results. The full report, *Community-Based Violence Prevention: An Assessment of Pittsburgh's One Vision One Life Program*, is available at: [http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND\\_MG947.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2010/RAND_MG947.pdf)

### **SEX OFFENDERS**

The Home Office in the United Kingdom recently released a report detailing the findings of a process evaluation of the Child Sex Offender Review (CSOR) Public Disclosure Pilots. These CSORs were designed to provide members of the public with a formal mechanism for requesting information about individuals who have unsupervised access to children. The CSORs are intended to be used to check whether or not a particular individual may be a child sex offender and/or have convictions for child sex offending. The 12 month long pilot projects were implemented in four areas. The goal of this evaluation was to determine how successfully the CSORs provided the information, whether the CSORs have contributed to existing child protection arrangements, and the cost of implementation. The evaluation is based on an analysis of a sample of 159 applications for a check on an individual and 186 qualitative interviews with pilot project staff, police and probation offender managers, other national and local stakeholders, applicants, and registered sex offenders (RSOs) living in the pilot areas. The interviews revealed information pertaining to the perceptions of the CSORs. Applicants were largely satisfied with the disclosure process and they reported that the CSORs contributed to increased alertness about risks to, and protection of, children. Police and offender managers reported that the CSORs formalized good practice in child protection. Pilot project staff and police officers also valued the gathering of additional intelligence about offenders (not just child sex offenders), a view supported by some probation officers and social workers across the four areas. RSOs reported anxiety related to potential negative reactions in the community to sex offenders. Some of the recommendations contained in the report included: providing adequate preparation time prior to roll-out, strengthening the relationship with existing public protection and safeguarding arrangements, and development of marketing and publicity to accompany rolling out CSORs. The full report, *Child Sex Offender Review (CSOR) Public Disclosure Pilots: a process evaluation*, is available at: [http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.horr32cpdf&ns\\_type=pdf&ns\\_url=\[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr32c.pdf\]](http://uk.sitestat.com/homeoffice/rds/s?rds.horr32cpdf&ns_type=pdf&ns_url=[http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/horr32c.pdf])

### **TIP OF THE MONTH**

There are many different terms that are used in the discussion of evidence-based programs or practices. The lack of standardized language may contribute to confusion and misunderstanding. Due to the lack of standardization, it is imperative to request or provide definitions when using these terms. Failure to do so will likely contribute to confusion related to these terms. For more information on evidence-based programs and practices terminology, see: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/reference/words-words-words-NCJA-2010.pdf>