

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

Send questions and comments to bjaeval@jrsa.org

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement at the Justice Research and Statistics Association
777 N. Capitol St., NE, Suite 801
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 842-9330

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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

Updated Reentry Program Area

The Reentry Program Area of the BJA Center for Program Evaluation and Performance Measurement has been updated. Some of the new additions include recent evaluation information, a reentry program logic model and new publications. The program area can be found at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/program-corrections/reentry-index.htm>.

Webinars

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will hold its next **Second Tuesday's Webinar Series** on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm EST. This Webinar, *Screening and Assessment in Reentry: Incorporating Risk, Need, and Responsivity*, is free, but space is limited. To register for this webinar please see the following link:

<https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/392561969>

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) recently held a Webinar entitled "From Research to Implementation." The Webinar focused on the process of creating evidence based practices, successful implementation and the importance of fidelity to a program model. It was moderated by Clay Yeager, the former director of Pennsylvania's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and included presentations by Del Elliot, Director of the University of Colorado's Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence, J. David Hawkins, Founding Director of the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington, and Mike Pennington, Director of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The 90-minute Webinar can be viewed at:

<http://bit.ly/fowwZn>

SEARCH recently released a podcast focused on information sharing as part of the offender reentry process. The Reentry Information Sharing Pilot Project is sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and is intended to design, develop, and implement a set of information sharing capabilities the corrections community can use to exchange information among partners that participate in the offender reentry process. This podcast is available at:

<http://www.search.org/programs/info/podcasts>

Reentry

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP) recently released the results of an analysis of long-term recidivism trends among adult offenders. The data utilized in the report are from the WSIPP's criminal history database, which includes conviction data from both the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Department of Corrections (DOC). It also includes

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risk assessment data drawn from the static risk assessment tool developed by WSIPP and implemented by the DOC in 2008. The report presents information on 17 annual cohorts released from prison from 1990 to 2006. Recidivism was defined as any felony offense committed by an offender within three years of being at-risk in the community that results in a conviction in Washington State. The analyses examined two categories of recidivism — any felony convictions and violent felony convictions only. The results indicate that recidivism rates have declined for each of the four risk classification levels, with the most favorable reductions occurring among the higher risk offenders. The results also revealed that WSIPP's risk assessment tool helped to distinguish offenders' risk of recidivism, including the probability of violent recidivism. The report, *Washington State Recidivism Trends: Adult Offenders Released From Prison (1990—2006)* is available at:

<http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/pub.asp?docid=11-01-1201>

Gang Programs/Strategies

Esbensen, Matsuda, Taylor, and Peterson reported the results of the process evaluation component of their evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program. This process evaluation employed multiple methods to assess program fidelity in seven cities varying in size, region, and level of gang activity. Specifically, the authors observed G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training sessions, surveyed and interviewed G.R.E.A.T.-trained officers and supervisors, surveyed school personnel, and conducted on-site direct observations of the officers delivering the G.R.E.A.T. program. Their results indicated that the G.R.E.A.T. program was implemented with fidelity in most of the classrooms in the seven cities. They also found that officers, even those with minimal experience in the classroom, were sufficiently trained and prepared to deliver the program. Surveys indicated that most G.R.E.A.T. officers were committed to the program and that school personnel indicated that greater involvement of teachers could enhance program delivery. The results of the process evaluation show, using multiple methods, that the G.R.E.A.T. program is being implemented as intended across multiple settings. The authors conclude that these results provide a sound base for outcome analyses. The full report, *Multimethod Strategy for Assessing Program Fidelity: The National Evaluation of the Revised G.R.E.A.T. Program*, was published in the February 2011 issue of *Evaluation Review* and it is available at:

<http://erx.sagepub.com/content/35/1/14.abstract?etoc>

Other Reports

Cost—Benefit Analysis

The Australian Institute of Criminology recently released a technical paper on the application of cost-benefit analysis to crime prevention and criminal justice research. The purpose is to improve understanding of the application of cost-benefit analysis and to provide ways to make this type of analysis more responsive and effective. Specifically, this technical paper provides an overview of cost-benefit analysis, explores the differences between cost-effectiveness and cost benefit analysis, details the steps in conducting a cost-benefit analysis, and examines its application to the crime prevention field. In addition to this information, this technical report includes several case studies that examine the use of cost-benefit analysis in the crime prevention field. The full report, *Cost-benefit Analysis and its Application to Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Research*, is available at:

<http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/A/4/F/%7BA4FA76DE-535E-48C1-9E60-4CF3F878FD8D%7Dtbp042.pdf>

Tip of the Month

I have completed an evaluation — Now what?

How you use the information generated from your evaluation will vary depending on your needs and your purposes for conducting the evaluation. Some of the more common uses of evaluation information include: demonstrating your program's accomplishments, improving your program, and stimulating change. Demonstrating your program's accomplishments is particularly useful for justifying current funding or soliciting new funding. Improving your program is another important use of this information; correcting deficiencies identified in the evaluation can help you to improve the efficacy of your program. Stimulating change is another important use for this information. Often evaluations reveal areas in which

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services or processes can be improved to better serve the community of interest. These evaluation findings frequently act as a catalyst for changes or improvements. For more information on using evaluation findings, see:

Evaluation Guidebook: Projects Funded by S.T.O.P. Formula Grants under the Violence Against Women Act

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/guide/documents/stop1-4.html#chap4>

University of Iowa—Home/School/Community Partnerships

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~c07p136/evaluation.htm>