The 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 address 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.

**Development of Computer-Based Training for Law Enforcement**, N. Nelson et al. An eight-part instructional design model used in this research study to administer computer-based training to law enforcement officers increased student performance. Of the 14 units developed, the 2 evaluated showed promising results. The test on the Patrol Concepts and Techniques unit produced a 26-percent improvement for an average student; the test on the Introduction to Law Enforcement unit showed an average student improvement of 17.33 percent. Grant 98-LB-VX-K018; also funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Corrections Program Office (CPO); NCJ 181404. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/14.html.

**Final Report of Outcomes for the Ozark Correctional Center Drug Treatment Program**, J.E. Nash. One-year graduates of the therapeutic community drug treatment program at the Ozark Correctional Center in Missouri showed a mixed pattern of behavior changes from program dropouts and a nonparticipating comparison group. Factors considered for all groups included drug-use relapse, criminal recidivism, employment status, and educational activities. Results showed the program was minimally effective in reducing recidivism and drug use. Program graduates held more jobs, had longer periods of employment, and had lower recidivism and incarceration rates than members of the other groups. Findings showed that the men who relapsed to drug use were probably the same men who had been heavy drug abusers before treatment. Findings also implied that the program could become more successful as it develops. Grant 97-RT-VX-K013; also funded by CPO; NCJ 181649. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/15.html.

**Evaluating the Effects of Fatigue on Police Patrol Officers: Final Report**, B.J. Vila et al. This study examined the possible causes and effects of officer fatigue in four major police agencies in four regions. Researchers found significant levels of fatigue among police officers who routinely worked excessive consecutive hours that would not be allowed in other public service agencies. Findings revealed levels of fatigue six times higher than those of shift workers in industrial and mining jobs. Self-reported data on sleep quality revealed high levels of sleep pathologies—only 26 percent of officers reported getting the 7 or more hours of sleep needed for good health. Researchers recommended that guidelines should be established until research could provide further guidance for developing work-hour standards. Grant 96-JJ-CX-0046; also funded by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS); NCJ 181651. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/16.html.

**Drug Testing for Youthful Offenders on Parole: An Experimental Study**, R. Haapanen et al. Results of this 5-year experimental...
drug study of juvenile parolees from the California Youth Authority (CYA) suggested that drug testing at different levels can be used as a risk-assessment tool to identify parolees prone to future criminal activity. The study, which tracked CYA wards released to parole for a followup period up to 42 months, was designed to assess differences in outcome for comparable groups that differed in the amount of drug testing, but not in other aspects of supervision. The study found that positive drug tests during the first 3 months of parole predicted higher levels of arrest over the followup period. Researchers recommended that the drug-testing strategy involve minimal surprise testing, but regular, frequent testing during the first 3 months of parole. Grant 91—IJ–CX–K023; NCJ 182782. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/17.html.

Response to Domestic Violence in a Pro-Active Court Setting—Final Report, E. Buzawa et al. This evaluation of the Quincy, Massachusetts, Domestic Violence program, which advocates an integrated systemwide approach to domestic violence, found that despite aggressive enforcement, recidivism rates remained high, especially within the first month after arrest. The study tracked 353 defendants in male-to-female domestic violence cases for up to 1 year after arraignment. Victims interviewed for the study indicated a 50-percent re-victimization rate during the followup period. Findings did not support the model of passive female victims; almost 3 of 4 victims had prior complaints on the same offender. Other major findings indicated that 71 percent of domestic violence incidents involved violence, only 36 percent of offenders were influenced by alcohol or drugs, and 84.4 percent of offenders had prior juvenile or adult criminal records. Policy and practice recommendations included developing targeted training to help police analyze and respond to both victims and offenders. Grant 95—IJ–CX–0027; NCJ 181427. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/18.html.

Less-Than-Lethal Weapons: New Solutions for Law Enforcement—Final Report, L. Pilant. This report discusses less-than-lethal technologies being considered by NIJ’s Office of Science and Technology that would improve productivity and provide alternatives for law enforcement. Such devices must improve present practice, not overburden the officer, be inexpensive, require little training, not require dedicated manpower, and not present major liability issues. Development of current projects may take 3 to 5 years, but some have shown great promise such as restraint devices, distraction devices, crowd-control devices, magnetic-tagging devices for vehicular tracking, and over-and-under weapons with chambers for less-than-lethal and lethal rounds. Grant 92—IJ–CX–0003; NCJ 181653. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/19.html.

National Evaluation of the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for State Prisoners Program From Onset to Midpoint—Final Report, D.S. Lipton et al. This midpoint evaluation found that the 50 States, five Territories, and the District of Columbia have generated plans for at least one RSAT program. The report discusses: (1) the main RSAT treatment approaches (therapeutic community, cognitive-behavioral, 12-step); (2) RSAT accomplishment data by State; (3) research methods; (4) analysis of the National Survey information; (5) RSAT States and Territories with limited information; and (6) important considerations such as delays, gender, age, treatment in jail, aftercare and continuity of treatment, and combining treatment approaches. Results showed that 47 States have RSAT programs (70 total) that have actually begun admitting clients. Findings also showed that approximately 7,700 clients are currently in RSAT programs and that more than 3,600 clients have successfully completed RSAT programs. Grant 97–RT–VX–K006; also funded by CPO; NCJ 182219. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/20.html.

Therapeutic Communities in Prisons and Work Release: Effective Modalities for Drug-Involved Offenders, J.A. Inciardi et al. Delaware’s Drug Treatment Program for offenders in therapeutic communities, which consists of a continuum of primary (in prison), secondary (work release), and tertiary (aftercare) treatment equivalent to sentence mandates, had positive effects on its participants. Findings showed that clients who completed the work-release treatment were significantly more likely than those not treated or who dropped out of treatment to remain drug-free and arrest-free 3 years after release from prison. In addition, preliminary analyses of data on the aftercare treatment clients suggested that treatment graduates enrolled in aftercare programming remained more drug-free and arrest-free after 42 months. Grant 97–RT–VX–K004; also funded by

These summaries do not contain sufficient information to adequately assess the significance of the findings as stated here. The full reports provide greater detail, including information on the research design, data analysis, and study limitations.
Attitudes Towards Crime and Punishment in Vermont: Public Opinion About an Experiment With Restorative Justice, J. Greene. Vermont citizens' view of crime and corrections in their State improved somewhat after using reparative boards to address crime. In 1994, the majority of Vermont citizens had very little confidence in virtually the entire criminal justice system; 94 percent favored establishing a statewide network of community-based reparative boards, which have handled more than 3,000 cases to date. Researchers found that Vermont citizens are now more confident in their criminal justice system. Findings also showed that, though improved, the public's assessment of the criminal justice system still remains mixed; 46 percent voted good, whereas 51 percent voted fair. Grant 98—JI—CX—0010; NCJ 182361. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/22.html.

Development of the Human Y Chromosome as a Forensic Tool, Final Progress Report, M.F. Hammer et al. This study explored the possibility of identifying a set of Y chromosome-specific markers that could be used in forensic analysis and also to establish a database for U.S. population groups based on the nonrecombining portion of the Y chromosome (NRY). Researchers identified several tri-, tetra-, and penta-nucleotide repeats that had marker qualities. Tests involving Y-micro-satellites and 31 bi-allelic polymorphisms on the NRY were administered to a panel of 1,141 individuals representing national and international population groups. Results showed that NRY was useful in population-specific data, while Y-micro-satellites and combination haplotypes were useful in individual-specific data. Results also demonstrated the importance of considering the potential impact of both population structure and admixture among U.S. groups on the statistical analysis of Y-chromosome forensic data. Grant 97—LB—VX—0011; also funded by BJA and CPO; NCJ 181956. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/23.html.

Evaluation of the STOP Formula Grants to Combat Violence Against Women: The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (1999 Report), M.R. Burt et al. This evaluation of the STOP Formula Grant program found that the program has had a major positive impact on reducing violence against women. Findings indicated that since the beginning of the STOP program in 1995, States have made great strides in addressing domestic violence and sexual assault problems. Researchers found that 50 percent of States use STOP funds to develop new services, 69 percent to improve existing services, 42 percent to expand existing services, 83 percent to reach more new victims, and 53 percent to provide more services to prior victims. Results also showed that 61 percent of communities felt they met most victims' needs for domestic violence, 46 percent for sexual assault, and 26 percent for stalking. Grant 95—WT—NX—0005; also funded by the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO); NCJ 181797. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/24.html.

Police Use of Domestic Violence Information Systems, Final Report, J.A. Roehl. The Justice Research Center conducted this survey of 11...
police departments to assess the capabilities of domestic violence data management systems. All police departments surveyed had separate domestic violence units, and six police departments maintained domestic violence databases that varied in content, comprehensiveness, and age. Database systems were used to investigate cases and to track domestic violence patterns and trends. Researchers advised developers of such systems to carefully consider cost, scope, speed, and accuracy of data. Grant 95—IJ—CX—0097; also funded by COPS; NCJ 182435. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/26.html.

Study of Knowledge and Attitudes of Public Housing Residents Toward Community Policing in the City of Charleston, G. Berhie et al. This study found that 1,777 public housing residents in Charleston, South Carolina, responded favorably to questions on fear of crime, perceptions of crime, expectations of police service, and resident participation in crime prevention and education programs. They ranked important crime threats as child involvement in drugs, random shootings, crimes against children, and robbery. About 81 percent said they felt safe or somewhat safe during the day, and 35.2 percent said they felt safe at night. As precautions against crime, 25.1 percent stayed in at night, 11.1 percent requested better lighting, 8.7 percent joined a neighborhood watch, 8.4 percent installed new locks, 6.3 percent carried mace, and 4.6 percent obtained a gun. Approximately 35 percent reported police officers as somewhat responsive to crime, 28.9 percent reported them as very responsive, and 16.6 percent reported them as somewhat responsive. About 30 percent of residents believed community policing made a difference in crime prevention, and about 45 percent were reasonably optimistic about community policing in Charleston. Grant 96—IJ—CX—0063; also funded by COPS; NCJ 182434. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/27.html.

National Evaluation of the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, Final Report and Appendices, R.K. Yin et al. Most grantees (232 of 236) who responded to this 1997 national evaluation of Local Law Enforcement Block Grants (LLEBGs) indicated effective and innovative use of LLEGB funds. Most funds were used to purchase equipment; hiring new personnel and overtime pay were a distant second and third, respectively. Eighteen innovative practices were identified, of which 33 percent were first-time collaborations, 22 percent were early adoptions of an activity in the State or by a type of agency, and 22 percent had distinctive program features. The main accomplishment was improved law enforcement capability, followed by crime prevention and reduction. This report addressed process evaluation; later reports will address impact. Grant 97—LB—VX—0008; also funded by BJA and CPO; NCJ 182567. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/29.html.

Ballistics Matching Using 3D Images of Bullets and Cartridge Cases: Final Report, B. Bachrach. This study found that three-dimensional (3D) information from a bullet's surface can be successfully used to improve the matching rate of existing automated search and retrieval systems. The first of two evaluation tests involved grouping bullets fired by three different guns whose barrels were manufactured consecutively. Results showed that the system grouped the different bullets correctly. The second evaluation test ("blind tests") involved "control bullets" from different guns and "questioned bullets." In two series of "blind tests," the system was challenged to match the "questioned bullets" with the guns that fired them based on data obtained from the "control bullets." In both cases the system correctly identified which guns fired the "questioned bullets." Grant 97—LB—VX—0008; also funded by BJA and CPO; NCJ 182567. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/30.html.

Other Research Projects

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

Alachua County Sheriff's Office Research Partnership With the University of Florida, M.J. Scchitano. Grant 96—IJ—CX—0087; also funded by COPS; NCJ 182520. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/30.html.

Florida Law Enforcement Research Coalition—Final Report, T. Pate. Grant 95—IJ—CX—0085; also funded by COPS; NCJ 182366. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/31.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.


Turnover Among Alaska Village Public Safety Officers: An Examination of the Factors Associated With Attrition, D. Wood. Grant 98–I]–CX–0035; also funded by COPS; NCJ 182609. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/33.html.


Forensic Science:


Substance Abuse:


Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) in Jail: Comparison of Six Sites in Virginia, F.S. Taxman. Grant 98–RT–VX–K001; also funded by CPO; NCJ 182858. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/44.html.


Overview and Illustrative Examples of the Research Agenda for the Therapeutic Community Continuum of Treatment for Offenders in Delaware, C.A. Saum et al. Grant 97–RT–VX–K014; also funded by CPO; NCJ 182359. More information can be found at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/47.html.


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- Drugs in the Heartland: Methamphetamine Use in Rural Nebraska (Grant 98—IJ—CX—0065, NCJ 180986), D.C. Hertz. 12 pp. National Institute of Justice Research in Brief, April 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/05.html.


- Prevalence and Consequences of Male-to-Female and Female-to-Male Intimate Partner Violence as Measured by the National Violence Against Women Survey (Grant 93—IJ—CX—0012, NCJ 181292), P. Tjaden et al. 20 pp. From Violence Against Women Vol. 6, No. 2, February 2000. More detailed information can be found in the full abstract at: http://www.ncjrs.org/rr/vol1_3/12.html.


Findings and conclusions of the research reported here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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