

TechBeat

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by JTIC

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About TechBeat



TechBeat is the monthly newsmagazine of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System. Our goal is to keep you up to date on technologies for the public safety community and research efforts in government and private industry.

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Federal Program Manager:

Dr. Mark Greene, (202) 307-3384, mark.greene2@usdoj.gov

Staff:

Managing Editors, Lance Miller and Ron Pierce; Editor, Michele Coppola; Lead Writer, Becky Lewis; Graphic Designers and Multimedia, Amy Salsbury, Pei Miller, Yan Yan and Christian Baker.

The NLECTC System

The Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC), a component of the National Institute of Justice's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, serves as an information resource for technology and equipment related to law enforcement, corrections and courts and as a primary point of contact for administration of a voluntary equipment standards and testing program for public safety equipment.



JTIC is part of the NLECTC System, which includes the Justice Innovation Center for Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Criminal Justice Agencies, which focuses on the unique law enforcement challenges faced by those types of agencies; the National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test and Evaluation Center, which provides technology-related research and testing and operational evaluations of technologies; and the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, which supports technology research, development, testing and evaluation efforts in forensic science. In addition, a Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative exists to assess and prioritize technology needs across the criminal justice community.



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The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for



Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

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JUSTNET News. Includes article abstracts on law enforcement, corrections and forensics technologies that have appeared in major newspapers, magazines and periodicals and on national and international wire services and websites.

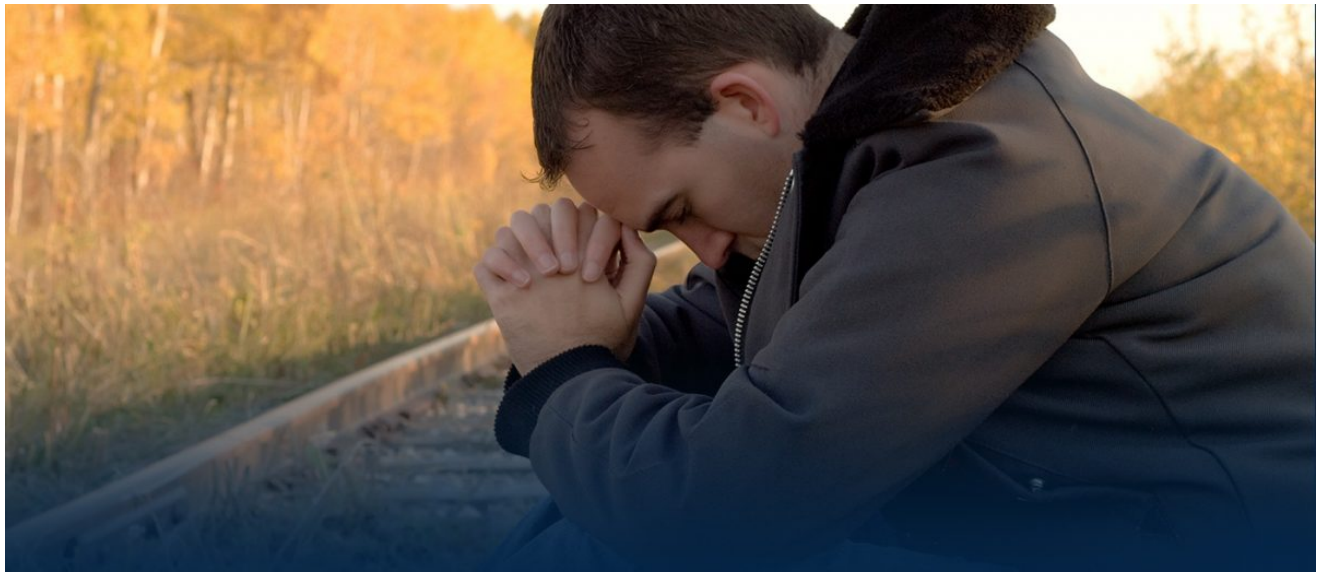
Testing Results. Up-to-date listing of public safety equipment evaluated through NIJ's testing program. Includes ballistic- and stab-resistant armor, patrol vehicles and tires, and more.

Calendar of Events. Lists upcoming meetings, seminars and training.

Social Media. Access our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube feeds for the latest news and updates.

Tech Topics. Browse for information on law enforcement, corrections and courts technologies.

<http://www.youtube.com/JUSTNETorg>



Framework for Law Enforcement Responses to People With Mental Health Needs

Framework for Law Enforcement Responses to People With Mental Health Needs

As law enforcement officers and agencies respond to an increasing number of calls for individuals experiencing mental health and emotional crises, they continue to become more aware of a need for increased and improved training and response protocols. Agencies that recognize that need, but want a roadmap of where to start, can find help in [*Police-Mental Health Collaborations: A Framework for Implementing Effective Law Enforcement Responses for People Who Have Mental Health Needs*](#), a new online publication from the Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center.

Produced with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the framework is based on six key questions:

1. Is our leadership committed?
2. Do we have clear policies and procedures to



respond to people who have mental health needs?



3. Do we provide staff with quality mental health and stabilization training?
4. Does the community have a full array of mental health services and supports for people who have mental health needs?
5. Do we collect and analyze data to measure the police-mental health collaborations (PMHCs) against the four key outcomes?
6. Do we have a formal and ongoing process for reviewing and improving performance?

Each question addresses “why it matters and what it looks like,” with an illustrative case study. According to Terence Lynn, Deputy Division Director, Law Enforcement, at the CSG Justice Center, the framework helps communities build more comprehensive efforts and adapt them to the scale needed for that jurisdiction with a focus on four key outcomes that allow agencies to see if their efforts are succeeding:

- Increased connections to resources.
- Reduced repeat encounters with law enforcement.
- Minimized arrests.
- Reduced use of force in encounters with people who have mental health needs.

“It allows agencies to assess what they’ve implemented and look for areas that need improvement. The Framework also helps with developing new training and addressing specific issues,” Lynn says. “Law enforcement and community health agencies tend to act as stand-alone entities, and they’re interacting with the same individuals and issues. The Framework helps agencies that may not even know each other exists begin a conversation about forging partnerships so that everybody benefits.”

He adds that in addition to providing a starting point for agencies, it also allows those who have some efforts in place to assess what they’re doing and where they’re going. Several of those agencies helped with the development of the framework content, contributing feedback to the case studies featured after each section.

Lynn explains that the CSG Justice Center has established a network of law enforcement and mental health learning sites that work on improving responses to individuals experiencing mental and emotional crises. These learning sites come from a variety of geographical and demographical locations, with some of them contributing case studies to the framework. (The

agencies included in the case studies are in Los Angeles, Houston, Tucson, Arlington (Mass.), Salt Lake City and the University of Florida.)

Lynn says now that the Framework has been released, the next steps call for piloting its use with several communities, then generating data to show its usefulness. The CSG Justice Center also wants to promote it to the field through webinars and conferencing.

“We’ll be doing a presentation at the International Association of Chiefs of Police annual conference in October, in partnership with BJA, to discuss the framework and its positive outcomes and benefits. We’ll be doing that at other national conferences and law enforcement behavioral health conferences as well,” Lynn says. “And there’s just being engaged in conversation with learning sites and hearing about what’s going on in the field. Our goal is to help them understand how data can help determine if they’re moving the needle and having a positive impact, and using that information to help inform their decision-making. They’re excited that the framework is in existence, and I think it will be a valuable source of information to help their efforts.”

Download *Police-Mental Health Collaborations: A Framework for Implementing Effective Law Enforcement Responses for People Who Have Mental Health Needs* [here](#).

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Report on Reducing Gun Violence

Report on Reducing Gun Violence

A report from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) highlights actions that can be taken to reduce gun violence in the United States.

The report, *Reducing Gun Violence: What Works, and What Can Be Done Now*, covers what PERF learned in researching gun violence and convening a national meeting of police chiefs and other experts in 2018.

A main point of the report is that the gun violence problem in the United States is actually several different problems, with different causes, different perpetrators, different victims and different solutions. PERF members and researchers said that the gun violence problem should be seen as four different types of gun violence:



- 1) Suicides committed with guns.

2) “Everyday” criminal homicides and nonfatal shootings (including drug-related and gang-related violence, killings committed as part of a robbery or other crime, interpersonal disputes and other homicides).

3) Domestic violence involving firearms.

4) Mass shootings.

The report examines what is known about each category of gun violence, and explores promising approaches that can be taken to prevent and reduce each type of gun violence.

The report includes an action plan, with nine recommendations to reduce gun violence.

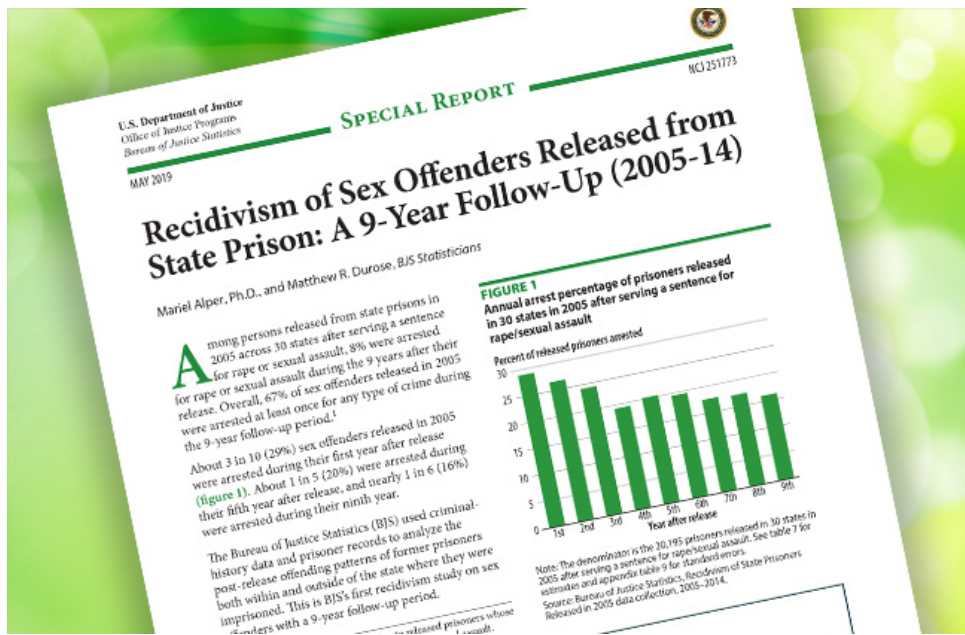
Sample, abbreviated recommendations include:

- Impose certainty of punishment for illegal possession of a firearm. Recommended approaches include that states should enact swift, certain and proportional punishments for people charged with illegal possession of a firearm. Penalties should be modest for first offenses, and increase proportionally for each subsequent offense.
- Implement evidence-based policing strategies to target the small number of offenders who are responsible for most gun violence.
- Limit the availability of high-powered firearms.
- Assess threats to prevent mass shootings.
- Expand gun violence research.

Access the full report [here](#).

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Sex Offender Recidivism Study

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Recidivism of Sex Offenders Released from State Prison: A 9-Year Follow-Up (2005-14), compares released prisoners whose most serious commitment offense was rape or sexual assault to all other released prisoners, in terms of their characteristics and recidivism patterns.

The study tracks a representative sample of prisoners released in 2005 in 30 states and examines their arrests through 2014. (These states were responsible for 77 percent of all state prisoners released nationwide.)

State prisoners released in 2005 after serving time for rape or sexual assault were more than three times as likely as other released prisoners to be arrested for rape or sexual assault during the nine years following their release. An estimated 7.7 percent of released sex offenders were arrested for rape or sexual assault during the nine-year follow up period, compared to 2.3 percent of other released prisoners.

Access the report [here](#).

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Research Brief: Identity Theft and Fraud

Office for Victims of Crime

This overview of identity theft and fraud discusses their features, prevalence, harms, risk of victimization, the nature and effects of victim services, and how related policy, practice, and research need to improve.

Fraud refers to crimes in which deceptive or false acts are committed for personal, typically financial, gain. Identity fraud is a subcategory in which personally identifying information of others (e.g., social security number, birth date, credit card) is used to commit fraud. Although identity theft and identity fraud are often used interchangeably, not all theft of personally identifying information results in fraud; therefore, this brief focuses on identity fraud and other, non-identity, frauds.

According to 2017 consumer reports to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the most common types of identity fraud were credit card fraud, employment/tax fraud and utilities

fraud. Young adults are among the most victims of identity fraud, and older adults are at higher risk of other frauds, such as fraudulent prize promotions.

(Abstract taken from [here.](#))

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