WASHINGTON – The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) today announced the release of a New Perspectives in Policing bulletin, “Policing and Wrongful Convictions.” The bulletin is a collaboration between NIJ and the Harvard Kennedy School.

The bulletin outlines what the experts have learned from exonerations of wrongfully convicted defendants, including the psychology behind cognitive biases and their relationship to wrongful convictions. The authors offer their analysis of the leading factors that contribute to wrongful convictions and provide a number of recommendations for minimizing their likelihood.

They also describe several preferred evidence-based police practices related to eyewitness identification, interrogation, informant procedures and evidence preservation and storage. They recommend a system-wide approach to learning from wrongful convictions and improving the system as a whole.

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The Office of Justice Programs, headed by Assistant Attorney General Karol V. Mason, provides federal leadership in developing the nation’s capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice and assist victims. OJP has six components: the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the National Institute of Justice; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; the Office for Victims of Crime and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering and Tracking. More information about OJP can be found at [www.ojp.gov](http://www.ojp.gov)