

2022

Annual Report 2022

Nebraska Center for Justice Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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**NEBRASKA
CENTER
FOR
JUSTICE
RESEARCH**

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Mission Statement

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research's (NCJR) mission is "to develop and sustain research capacity internal to the State of Nebraska, assist the Legislature in research, evaluation, and policymaking to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices in corrections, and improve public safety." Our research focus is to use data, research, and evaluation to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety in Nebraska with an emphasis on reducing prison overcrowding.

Facilities

NCJR currently occupies approximately 1,000 square feet in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ), located in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) building on the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) campus.

Statement of Goals

NCJR is a non-partisan non-profit research entity housed in UNO CPACS. The team is comprised of social science researchers who strive to serve the residents of Nebraska with honor and integrity by producing scientific studies held to the highest ethical standards. In pursuit of this overarching goal, we:

- 1 | Conduct non-partisan examinations of justice-related issues for the state of Nebraska.
- 2 | Continue our national reputation as a top-tier research and evaluation center by ensuring our deliverables are produced with the utmost methodological rigor.
- 3 | Propose and conduct scientific evaluations of policies and activities of Nebraska state agencies in order to assist them to serve Nebraskans efficiently and effectively.
- 4 | Provide the public and legislature with regular reports regarding our activities.
- 5 | Contribute to the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice's graduate program by funding students via applied research projects.
- 6 | Promote sustainability of statewide justice reinvestment activities.
- 7 | Increase research credibility by producing useable technical reports and meaningful academic publications.

For more information visit: justiceresearch.unomaha.edu



Each fall I look fondly upon this opportunity to reflect upon the work and impact of NCJR over the previous fiscal year. Each year I realize the importance of this reflection, reasons why I should not reserve reflective practice solely for the purposes of this letter, and how I should more fully integrate reflection into our daily work. This confession serves as evidence that I have adopted this resolution for future years and I encourage you all to hold me to it.

The 2021-2022 year was intended to be a sort of rebirth. We all looked forward with great anticipation to the end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy: in-person work and unfettered engagement with our community stakeholders. And just like so many things in our lives, that did not go completely according to plan. NCJR's work now is predicated upon a whole bunch of "hybrids." Many of us have adopted a hybrid work arrangements... some days each week in the office and some days working from home. We attend hybrid conferences (you can attend in the comfort of your home or on-site in tropical Chicago!) and hybrid trainings. Hybrid meetings are a mainstay and the question, "In-person or Zoom?" is commonly heard.

And the truth is...most of this is working out just fine. Hybrid work means we lose less of our valuable time to commutes. Less commuting means less money on gas. And just ask my staff how many times I have complained about my daily "zipper-merges" in Omaha metro construction zones! Hybrid conferences and trainings allow for greater attendance and more democratic participation, as they mitigate many previous constraints resulting from costs, limitations due to disability, and dangers to persons who are immunocompromised. Hybrid meetings reduce travel time and costs, while also increasing opportunities for participation, although a downside might be that we still have days where "Zoom fatigue" rears its ugly head. When it comes to community-engaged research in criminal justice, reentry, and corrections, however, we learned that at least a modicum of face-to-face interaction greatly increases collaboration and project

implementation. In fact, Dr. Campagna and I even co-authored a research note for the American Society of Criminology Division of Corrections & Sentencing newsletter entitled, "The Continued Importance of Face-to-Face Meetings for Scholar-Practitioner Partnerships in the Digital Age." If there was one thing the pandemic taught us, it was that an essential component of what NCJR faculty and staff find rewarding in our community-engaged work in Nebraska is our in-person collaborative moments with our practitioner-partners who are engaged in difficult, but essential work promoting public safety and justice across the state.

In short, nothing this year went entirely as planned...and some of that is just fine. We learned to be flexible. We learned what we value most in our work. We learned what we could let go. And through this all, we flourished. Our dedication to local, state, and national research and evaluation projects never wavered. New contracts and grants were obtained. Our research was presented at regional and national conferences, published in reports, and published in academic manuscripts. We engaged with our local communities via an unprecedented number of invited presentations. This success was reflected quantitatively in a 47% increase in the center's budget compared to the previous year. In conclusion, I have complete faith that the challenges we faced over the last few years not only resulted in flexibility, useful adaptations, and resiliency, but will also ultimately fuel additional success next year and beyond. *Ad astra per aspera* (to the stars through difficulties)!

— Ryan E. Spohn

**Ryan
Spohn,
Ph.D.**

Director



Ryan is the director of NCJR. He received his B.S. in Sociology/Criminology from Kansas State University (1996), M.S. in Sociology from Texas A&M University (1998), and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Iowa (2003). His areas of research include juvenile delinquency, crime, families, child maltreatment, and the evaluation of criminal justice agencies and programs.

**Zachary
Hamilton,
Ph.D.**

*Associate
Director*



Zachary is the associate director of NCJR and is an Associate Professor in SCCJ at UNO. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University. His research areas include risk and needs assessments and corrections.

**Michael F.
Campagna,
Ph.D.**

*Research
Associate*



Michael is a research associate for NCJR. He received his B.A. in both Crime, Law, & Justice and Sociology from the Pennsylvania State University (2006), M.A. in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2009), and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology from Washington State University (2017). His areas of research include prisoner reentry, risk/needs assessment, case management, developmental theory, and desistance.

**Katelynn
Towne,
Ph.D.**

*Research
Coordinator*



Katelynn is a research coordinator for NCJR. She received her B.A. in Sociology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2011), M.A. in Sociology from University of Missouri-Columbia (2014), and Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Missouri-Columbia (2019). Her areas of research include criminology, social inequality, reentry, policing, victimization, and social media.

**Cheryl
Christiansen**

*Staff
Associate*



Cheryl is a staff associate at NCJR. She tracks the Center's budgets and supports the directors and coordinators with their various administrative needs. Cheryl has worked for UNO's Biology department, as well as the dean's office in the College of Information Sciences & Technology, starting there in 2008.

Report Prepared By Tara Grell,
graphic designer, UNO Center
for Public Affairs Research

**Laura
Brooks
Dueland,
M.A.**

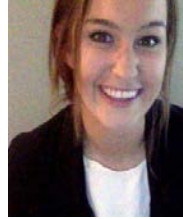
*Graduate
Assistant*



Laura is a Ph.D. candidate through UNO's Industrial/Organizational Psychology program. Her dissertation focuses on the effectiveness of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) management policies and practices on employee perceptions of inclusion. In her free time, she volunteers with Benson First Fridays, plays sports like sand volleyball and tennis, and hangs out with her nieces and nephews.

**Amber
Krushas,
M.S.**

*Graduate
Assistant*



Amber is a Ph.D. candidate in SCCJ. Her research interests include pathways to offending and victimization, victimology, corrections, and program and policy evaluation. She enjoys spending time with her two cats and visiting her family in Wisconsin.

**Addie
Kobie,
M.A.**

*Graduate
Assistant*



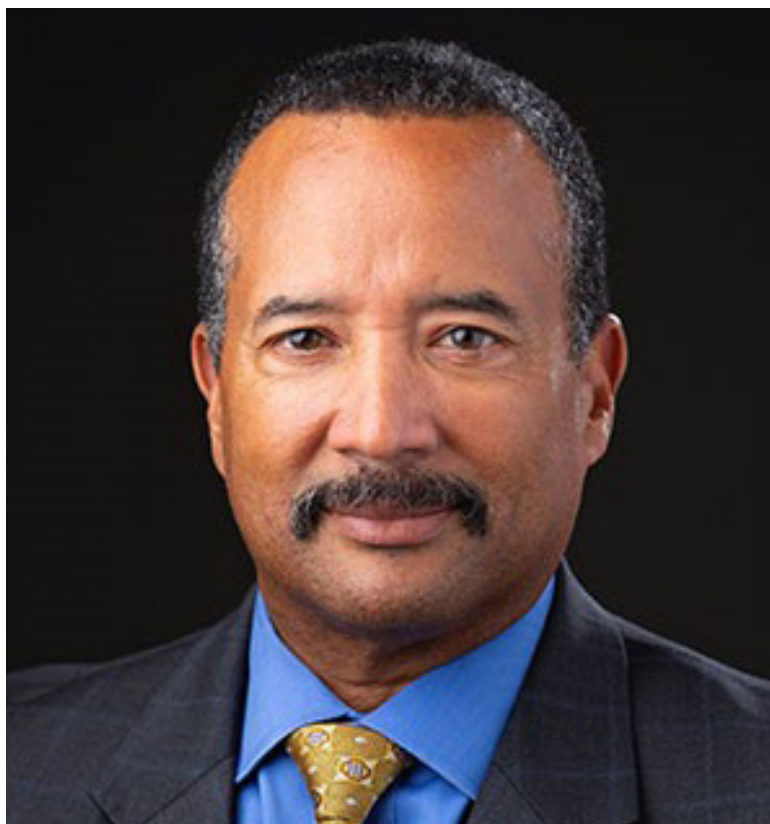
Addie is a current Ph.D. student and research assistant at UNO and studies Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her research interests include juvenile delinquency, corrections, and risk assessments. In her free time, she knits, sews, and watches comedy movies.

**Baylee
Allen,
M.S.**

*Graduate
Assistant*



Baylee is a doctoral student interested in risk assessments and inmate behaviors. She enjoys knitting, painting, and playing with her Corgi, Boo.



Dr. Mark Foxall joined UNO faculty as the Community Service Associate in 2018, following his retirement as the Director of the Douglas County Department of Corrections. He started his law enforcement career as an Omaha police officer, after which he transitioned to the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent. He also served as the Director of Project Impact with the United States Attorney's Office in the District of Nebraska.

Spending his career in local and federal law enforcement, as well as within the Nebraska Department of Corrections, provided Dr. Foxall with a unique perspective, and this experience enriches his teaching and mentoring of UNO students. For example, he was working in Los Angeles during the Rodney King riots and is able to provide students with the history and setting to understand policing at the time and how it has evolved. Moreover, such a rich work history allows him to provide students with knowledge about regional differences in law enforcement and corrections throughout our country. Overall, he especially enjoys guiding students as they grow and evolve through the academic process and supporting them as they make career decisions.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Foxall leads the London study abroad trip, which hosts twenty-seven criminal justice students and eight global communications students, as well as nine non-student community members. The legacy trip, which started in 1972, gives students the opportunity to attend magistrate court sessions and tour Pentonville and Wormwood Scrubs Prisons. Students also have the opportunity to hear from court magistrates, solicitors, and a retired London metropolitan police officer. Associated lectures include knowledge about United Kingdom (U.K.) policing history, use of wrist restraints, portable radios, and the lack of firearm use. The experience provides students with an in-depth look at U.K. policing and courts systems, which the students use to complete a journal comparing the United States and U.K.'s criminal justice systems.

Outside of academia, Dr. Foxall has integrated his career and teaching experience to develop and lead law enforcement and corrections trainings. His trainings include implicit bias and bias intervention, behavioral health threat assessment, as well as use of force and restrictive housing training. Additionally, he provides guidance to correction facility leaders through transformational leadership training, management training, and overall administrative training (e.g., budgeting, recruitment).

As a prominent member of the community, Dr. Foxall serves on numerous boards and committees, including the American Jail Association's Board of Directors; American Correctional Association's Adult Local Detention Facility Committee, Professional Education Committee, and Certification Committee; Omaha Police Foundation; Metropolitan Chiefs Association (Past President); Omaha Crime Stoppers; RISE; Lutheran Family Services; Siena Francis House; You Turn (Board President); and 100 Black Men (Board President). He also has received several honors for his law enforcement career and work in the community.

When not working, Dr. Foxall enjoys spending time at home, tending to his yard and garden as well as golfing.



Amber Krushas is a Ph.D. candidate in SCCJ at UNO. Her research interests include pathways to offending and victimization, victimology, corrections, and program and policy evaluation. She has published in Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Race and Justice, Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma, Victims & Offenders, and Child & Youth Services.

Amber's primary work as a research assistant has focused on the National Institute of Justice Grant that collaborates with Project Harmony, a large Child Advocacy Center (CAC), to conduct a formative evaluation and evaluability assessment of five core CAC services. The project goal is to better understand Project Harmony's program operations and lay the groundwork for a subsequent outcome evaluation. The project has provided Amber the opportunity to hone skills needed as a researcher to collaborate and communicate with practitioners for effective, evidence-based programing.

Amber is in the dissertation phase of the doctoral program. Her dissertation seeks to explore which of several victimological theories may differentiate victims of recurrent victimization from non-victims and those who experience single victimization. Using data obtained from a YouGov survey, Amber will examine various predictors of recurrent victimization, along with any differences across gender. Amber is planning to join the job market next semester. As a future faculty member, she

hopes to continue research in the fields of corrections and victimology, ideally exploring pathways to offending and victimization in addition to conducting program and policy evaluations on response to victims and offenders.

When Amber has free-time she enjoys heading to the farmer's market, attending concerts, running, and playing with her kittens, who often join zoom meetings as well.



Dr. Daniel Butler is a faculty affiliate for NCJR at Iowa State University, and a proud UNO alum. Throughout his career, he has studied many issues surrounding correctional issues, including restrictive housing, programming, and prison violence. In 2020, Dr. Butler received the Distinguished New Scholar Award from the American Society of Criminology's (ASC) Division of Corrections and Sentencing.



Much of Dr. Butler's work has focused on various aspects of correctional facilities. Most recently, he has been collaborating with Dr. Nacy Rodriguez on a grant funded project delving into prison violence and how it is defined. After compiling multiple policies related to violence in correctional facilities, they plan to analyze how the definitions impact response to prison violence which will have important policy implications to practitioners. He is also preparing a manuscript for publication looking at the intersection of reporting behaviors of individuals who have been sexually assaulted in prison, family engagement with those individuals in prison, and the immediate effects of restrictive housing.

Dr. Butler has also helped with various NCJR projects over the years. Most recently, Dr. Butler worked on a project evaluating program volunteerism in Nebraska's correctional facilities, specifically looking at who participates in Vocational and Life Skills programs and what characteristics those individuals may have. In this way, Dr. Butler hopes to be able to inform how to reach an audience for the program that is not necessarily targeted now as well.

In addition to research, Dr. Butler has actively mentored the next generation of scholars. Specifically, this is his second year as a mentor for the Divisions of Corrections, where he helps graduate students publish articles. Further, in the classroom, he stresses the importance of the inherent connection between the classroom and the real-world implications.

When asked what an affiliate meant to him, Dr. Butler cited NCJR's continued work with practitioners and the connections that the center forms between them and researchers. Specifically, he believes connecting research and bringing it to practitioners is necessary and that NCJR is a living example of that connection. However, the most important thing that Dr. Butler found in his connection to NCJR is that he gets to stay connected to UNO and specifically keep those relationships he formed here.

When asked about what he looked forward to in the next year, Dr. Butler stated that he was excited about the tenure that he is up for this year. When not researching, Dr. Butler loves to read science fiction books.

Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers: National Institute of Justice Grant 2022 Conferences

Practitioner-Researcher Collaboration: Evaluating a Child Advocacy Center Core Services

Ryan Spohn, Ph.D., Lynn Castrianno, Ph.D., Amber Krushas, M.S.

This presentation outlined the collaborations between UNO, NCJR, and Project Harmony, a large Child Advocacy Center (CAC), as part of a National Institute of Justice (NIJ) grant. Broadly, the purpose behind this NIJ grant was to conduct a formative evaluation and evaluability assessment of five core CAC services to better understand Project Harmony's program operations and lay the groundwork for a subsequent outcome evaluation. Presented at the Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, this presentation reviewed these collaborations between practitioners at Project Harmony and researchers examining the implementation and evaluation readiness of five core service areas. Specifically, Drs. Spohn and Castrianno outlined the major considerations, benefits, and challenges of participating in a practitioner-researcher collaboration aimed at improving agency performance and outcomes. Beyond this, presenters highlighted the major goals, challenges, and benefits of assessing the evaluability of large child-serving agencies, along with some of the tools and methods used to prepare child-serving agencies for an outcome evaluation.

From NCA Standards to Practice: Lessons Learned from Stories in the Field

In addition to the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, the research team also presented at the National Children's Alliance (NCA) Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. Following the formative evaluation stage of the grant, Drs. Ryan Spohn and Lynn Castrianno and Amber Krushas discussed the challenges and successes in implementing standards under the membership organization for CACs — the NCA. Specifically, Drs. Ryan Spohn and Lynn Castrianno and Amber Krushas provided an overview of the tools and methods used to examine adherence of NCA standards and provided specific recommendations on how to improve implementation of NCA standards within CACs. In addition, project deliverables (e.g., fidelity tools, logic model flow charts) were presented to aid audience members in successfully measuring NCA standard implementation within their own CACs.



Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification and Bed Management Evaluation

Zachary Hamilton, Ph.D., Alex Kigerl, Ph.D., Baylee Allen, M.S., Addie Kobie, M.A.

This year, the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) contracted with NCJR to help streamline their classification process. NDCS sought to move inmates more efficiently through the system to reduce overcrowding and prepare individuals for reentry. The project began with Dr. Hamilton and team interviewing relevant staff at all ten NDCS facilities. Staff included case management staff, security staff, and mental health staff. Groups discussed the processing and flow of NDCS inmates through the system and recommendations staff had for improvements.

This project sought to address three primary research questions:

1. Are security level spaces meeting the demands of the classification system?

Given suggested issues of crowding and sources of bottlenecks, it was first necessary to assess if individuals were residing in locations that are higher or lower than their recommended security level. In so doing, NDCS can identify where there is a need to create more resources and at what custody level.

2. How can NDCS reduce serious misconducts in mixed-custody facilities?

Mixed security level facilities exist, where inmates classified as maximum security are housed with medium-security inmates, while

other housing facilities combine medium- and minimum-security inmates. These mixed-custody level facilities are typically the result of modifications to older facilities over the years, where remodeling efforts combined facility levels to meet department need. Given the described issues with serious misconducts, administration officials expressed a concern regarding difficulties in managing mixed custody facilities, where true (non-mixed) custody facilities may improve management and reduce misconduct.

3. Should short-term inmates be a special case in the classification system?

One of the perceived causes of crowding within the NDCS system are those with short sentences. Those that are admitted with less than a year until release, or those returning on parole violations have less than a year to service in their sentence. As the classification system is the forecasting system, a better way to fit short timer's into the system seems promising to decrease bottlenecks and system overcrowding.

The team is currently analyzing NDCS administrative data and expects to report recommendations by the end of the calendar year.



Project Harmony Collaboration with UNO

From January 2020 to September 2022, Project Harmony, UNO, and NCJR collaborated through a National Institute of Justice-funded project. Specifically, this project involved a formative evaluation and evaluability assessment of five core services of a large Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Nebraska, Project Harmony. Broadly, the goal of this project was to better understand the CAC’s program operations and lay the groundwork for subsequent outcome evaluations. That is, while studies have assessed various outcomes of CACs (e.g., child and family satisfaction with services, prosecution outcomes), few have examined program operations, despite the importance of exploring the processes that lead to these outcomes. As no two CACs are alike, examination of each agency’s policies and procedures is essential. By first assessing the operations that are characteristic of each CAC, a more holistic understanding was gained regarding how these procedures lead to service outcomes.

Project Harmony Mission

To protect and support children, collaborate with professionals and engage the community to end child abuse and neglect. Boldly focused on ending this cycle, Project Harmony has reimagined how communities can come together — leveraging resources to respond to, treat and ultimately prevent child abuse. Project Harmony’s nationally recognized, collaborative, child-focused approach works to ensure children are not further victimized by the systems intended to protect them. They have brought multiple agencies working in these systems together into one place — where they can coordinate and communicate most effectively and tackle child abuse as a team. This powerful model means that Project Harmony is the resource for child abuse services and training in the Omaha metro area and surrounding communities. As a result, the agency is able to help community members protect and support the most vulnerable among us — restoring courage, facilitating healing and empowering community members to be someone in the life of a child.

Project Harmony History

Project Harmony opened its doors in 1996, with a vision to not only create an integrated response system, but also to develop a single child friendly location where all the professionals would come together to serve each child. They wanted the child to share their experience only once, envisioning a system with joint accountability where no child would fall through the cracks.

Children Served: In 2021, Project Harmony served 6,473 children from the Omaha metro and southwest Iowa areas through early intervention and response services.

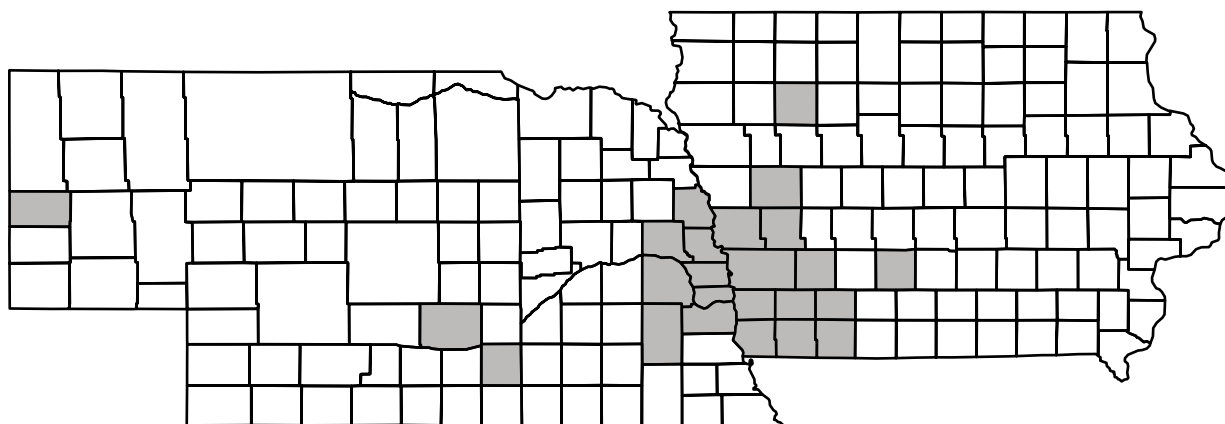
Intakes by Type of Abuse

52%	Sexual
15%	Neglect
11%	Physical
8%	Child on Child
8%	Other
6%	Witness to Violence

Children’s Response Services

5,270	Advocacy sessions provided
2,959	Youth received mental health sessions
1,841	Forensic interviews conducted
1,191	Medical exams conducted
138	Multidisciplinary meetings
105	Missing youth clients served

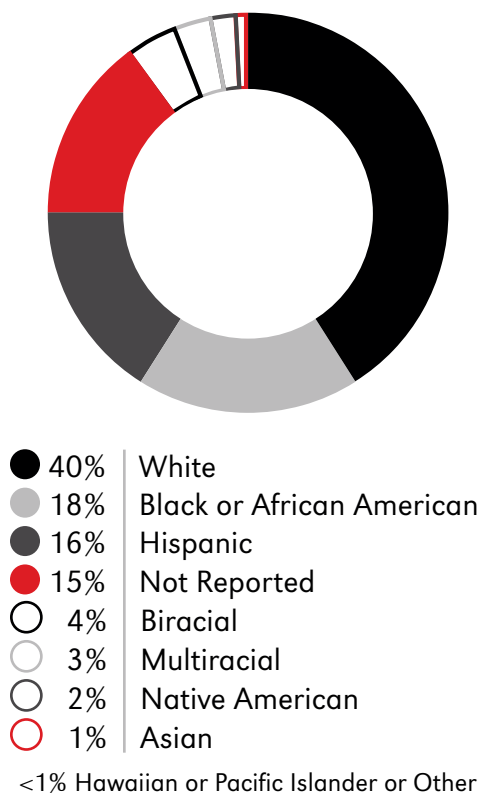
Geographic Distribution of Children Served



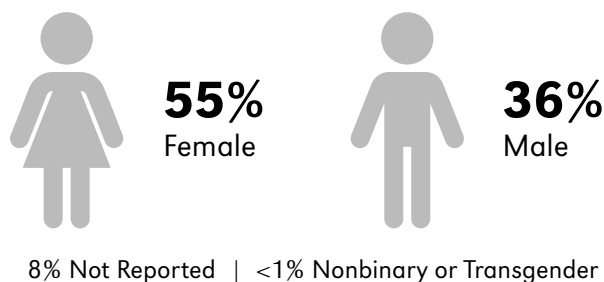
59.6%	Douglas	1.0%	Harrison	0.3%	Burt
12.5%	Sarpy	1.0%	Washington	0.3%	Adams (IA)
7.3%	Pottawattamie	0.6%	Cass (IA)	0.2%	Adams (NE)
7.0%	Dodge	0.6%	Fremont	0.2%	Buena Vista
2.0%	Saunders	0.6%	Mills	0.2%	Montgomery
1.3%	Cass (NE)	0.5%	Taylor	0.2%	Scotts Bluff
1.1%	Crawford	0.5%	Page	0.1%	Buffalo
1.1%	Lancaster	0.4%	Shelby	0.1%	Madison

Demographics of Children Served

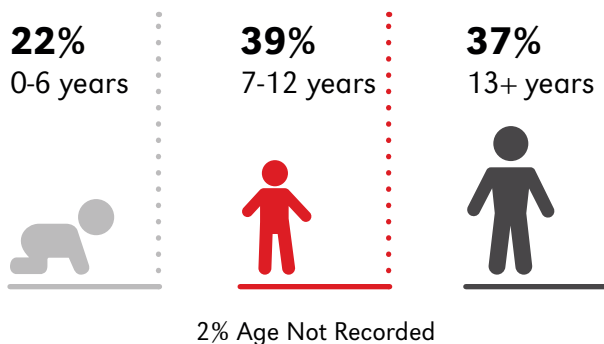
Race of Children Served



Gender of Children Served



Age of Children Served

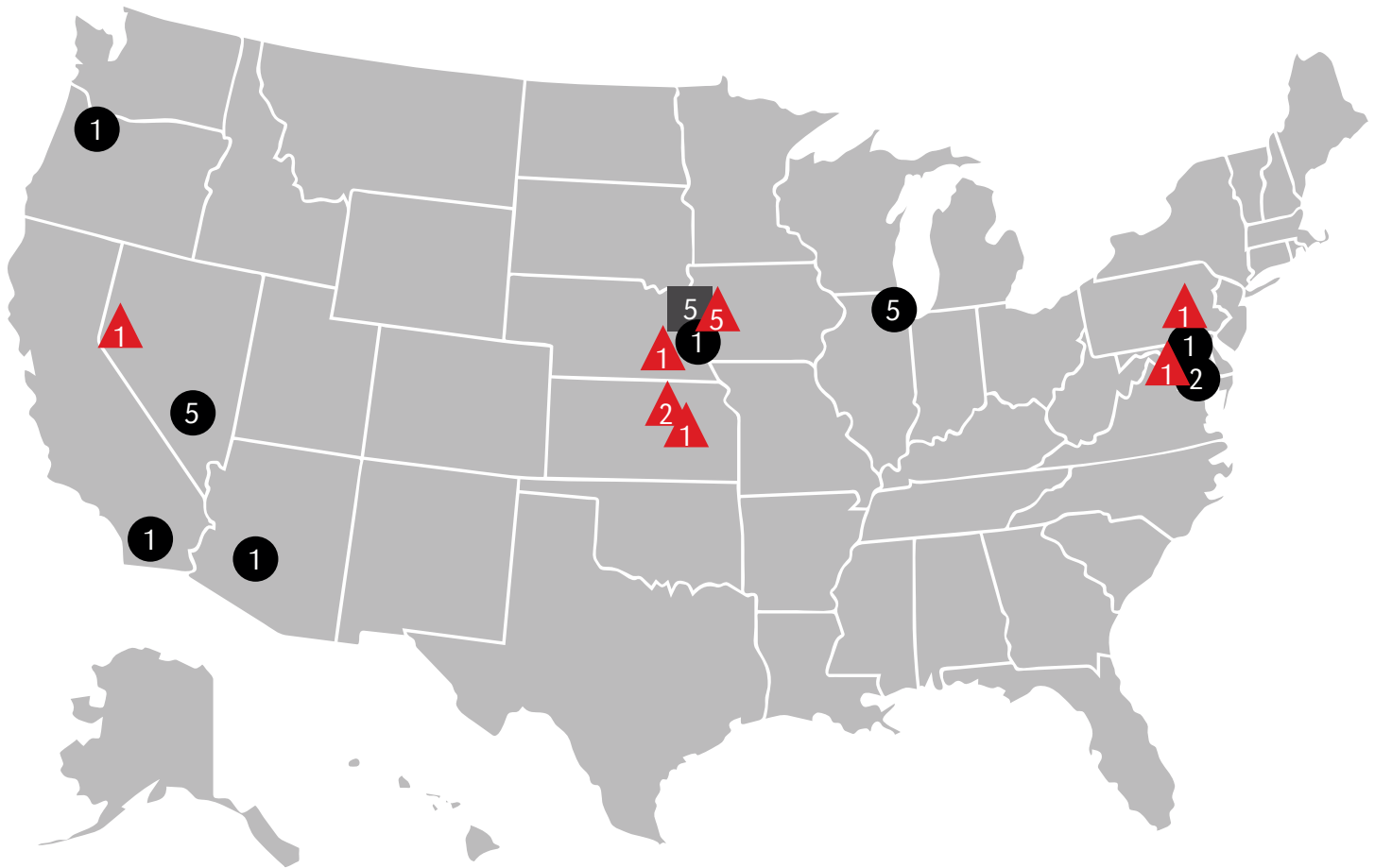


NCJR's In-person Research and Engagement 2019-2022

At NCJR, the only thing we enjoy doing more than our research evaluation is talking about projects with all who are willing to listen. For the most part, we are talking about our work with other academics and learning from each other's projects at national conferences in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, sociology, psychology, and evaluation methods. We frequently also have the privilege of being invited to share our expertise and experiences of conducting research in Nebraska. One of the most rewarding opportunities, however, is speaking to community members about what we are discovering in our work and sharing best practices that help make our communities safe for Nebraskans. In recent years, we have had the opportunity to present our work in a variety of locations across the nation. As such, we have decided to map them out to get a sense of our geographic reach. Details on individual presentations may be found later in this report.

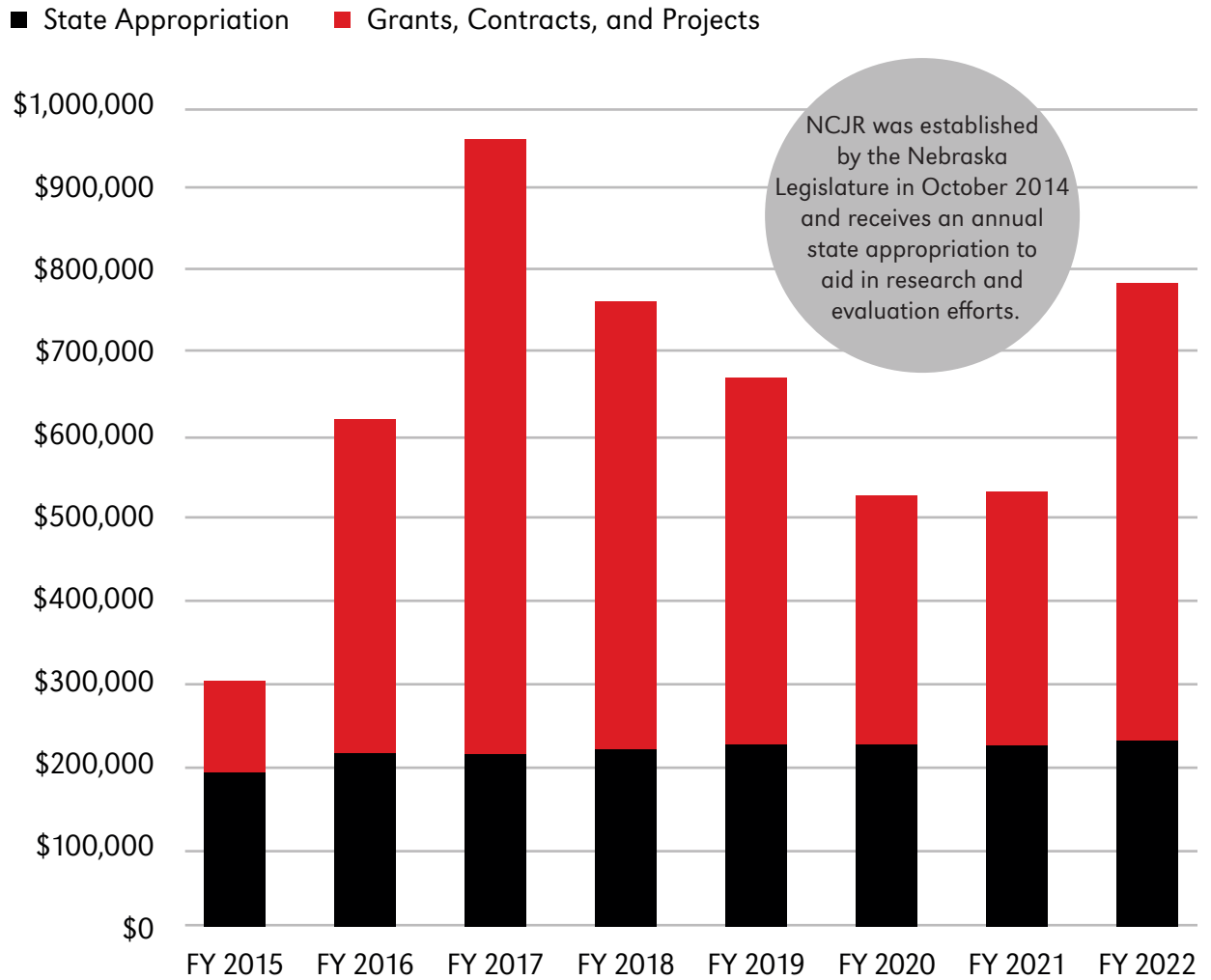
Conference Title	Location	Date
Academic Presentations		
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Baltimore, Maryland	2019
American Psychology-Law and Society	Portland, Oregon	2019
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Research and Creative Activity Fair	Omaha, Nebraska	2022
American Correctional Association, Annual Convention	Phoenix, Arizona	2022
Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment	San Diego, California	2022
National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference	Washington D.C.	2022
Community Engagement		
May 2019 meeting of the Omaha Evaluators Group	Omaha, Nebraska	2019
Douglas County, Nebraska, Race and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, A'Jamal Byndon	Omaha, Nebraska	2020
Leadership Omaha Class 43	Omaha, Nebraska	2021
Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity (MORE)	Omaha, Nebraska	2022
New Life Presbyterian and First Presbyterian West Hills congregations	Omaha, Nebraska	2022

Academic Presentations
 Community Engagement
 Invited Presentations

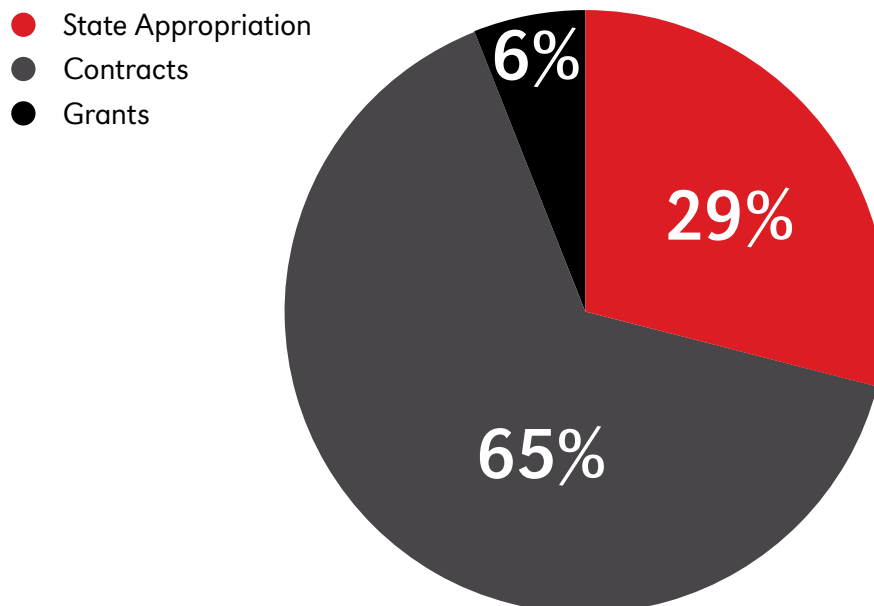


Conference Title	Location	Date
Invited Presentations		
Guest Lecture at Emporia State University	Emporia, Kansas	2019
Youth Impact Annual Meeting	Lincoln, Nebraska	2019
Kansas State University	Manhattan, Kansas	2019
Douglas County Detention Center executive board	Omaha, Nebraska	2019
Presented to the Omaha community at the Omaha Police Dept. NE Precinct	Omaha, Nebraska	2019
National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges	Reno, Nevada	2019
The Attorney General of the United States.	Washington D.C.	2019
Kansas State University SOCWK 350: Social Work with Offenders and Victims	Manhattan, Kansas	2020
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	2021
Nebraska Legislature	Omaha, Nebraska	2021
Douglas County, Nebraska, Board of Commissioners	Omaha, Nebraska	2021
Project Harmony	Omaha, Nebraska	2022

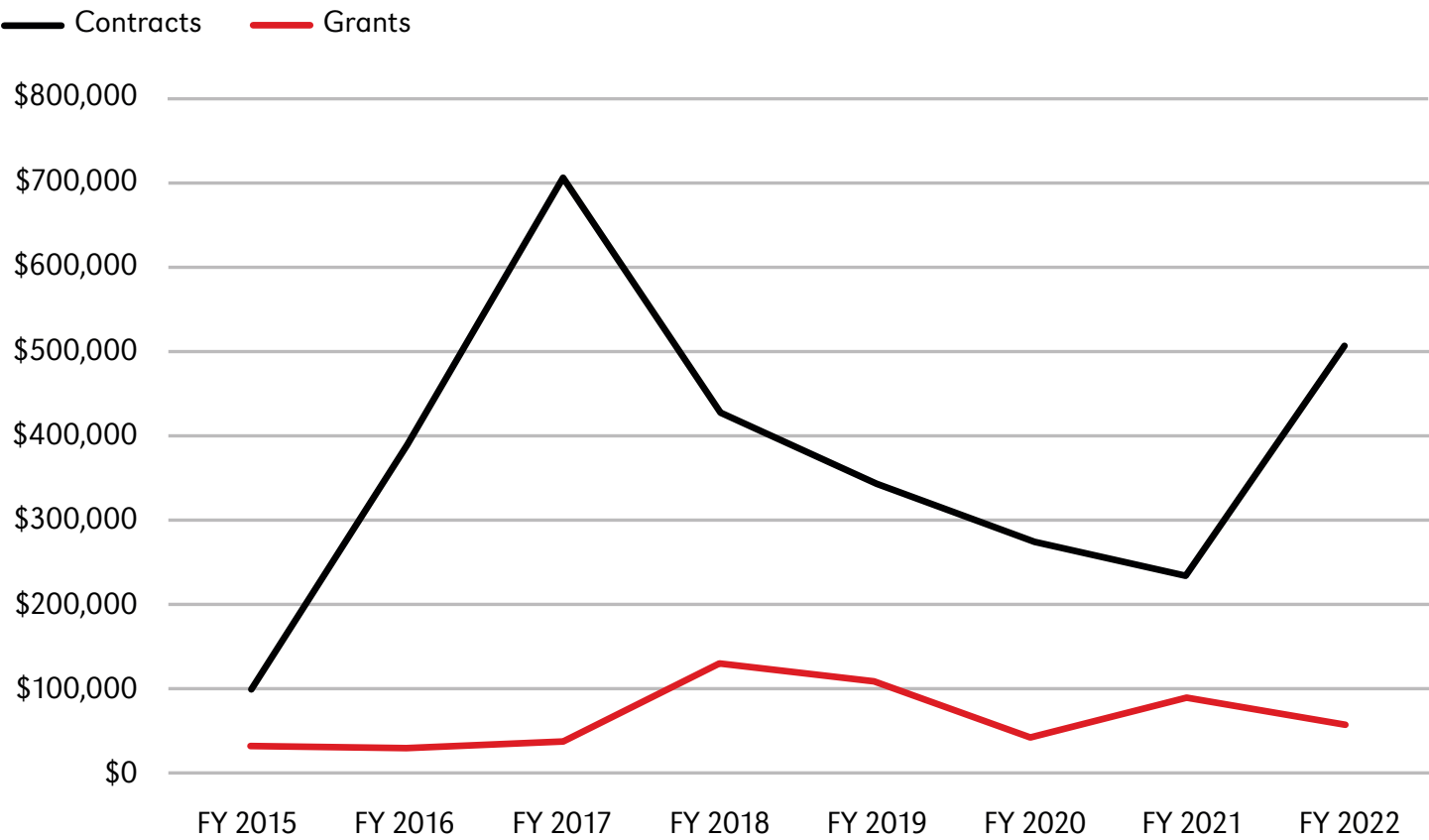
Total Budget Breakdown from Fiscal Years 2015-2022



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget Breakdown



Contracts and Grants, Fiscal Years 2015-2022



Selected Academic Publications, 2019-2021

- Allen, Baylee, Addison Kobie, and Zachary Hamilton. 2022. "Modernizing needs assessment scoring to improve agency outcomes." *The Journal of the American Probation and Parole Association*, 46:2, 18-26.
- Kigerl, Alex, Zachary Hamilton, Melissa Kowalski and Xiaohan Mei. 2022. "The great methods bake-off: Comparing performance of machine learning algorithms." *Journal of Criminal Justice*, forthcoming.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2022. "My friends keep me woke about these things: How college students experience and engage with police use of force content on social media." *Sociological Spectrum*, 42:1, 61-74.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, and Amber Richey. 2022. "Put it in your Toolbox: How vocational reentry programs support formerly incarcerated persons through desistance." *Crime & Delinquency*, forthcoming.
- Church, Abere Sawaqdeh, David Marcus, and Zachary Hamilton. 2021. "Community service outcomes in justice-involved youth: Comparing restorative community service to standard community service." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 48:9, 1243-1260.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Grant Duwe, Alex Kigerl, Jason Gwinn, Neal Langan, and Christopher Dollar. 2021. "Tailoring to a nation: The development and validation of the Prisoner Assessment Tool Targeting Estimated Risk and Needs (PATTERN)." *Justice Quarterly*, forthcoming.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Melissa Kowalski, and Alex Kigerl. 2021. "Prediction is local: The benefits of optimization." *Justice Quarterly*, 39:4, 722-744.
- Hsieh, Ming-Li, Kuan-Ju Chen, Pak-Sing Choi, and Zachary Hamilton. 2021. "Is more, better? The joint effects of multiple evidence-based treatment." *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, 49:6, 911-929.
- Mei, Xiaohan, Zachary Hamilton, Melissa Kowalski and Alex Kigerl. 2021. "Redesigning the Central Eight: Introducing the M-PACT Six." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 19:4, 445-470.
- Schwartz, Joseph, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, Benjamin Steiner, and Ebonie Epinger. 2021. "Changes in jail admission before and after traumatic brain injury." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, forthcoming.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Melissa Kowalski, Douglas Routh, and Alex Kigerl. 2020. "Optimizing youth risk assessment performance: Development of the Modified Positive Achievement Change Tool (M-PACT) in Washington State." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 46:8, 1106-1127.
- Hermesen, Joan, Eileen Avery, and Katelynn Towne. 2020. "Crime victimization distress, neighborhood social cohesion, and perceived police effectiveness." *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, 30:6, 581-592.
- Romain, Danielle and Amber Krushas. 2022. "Examining the interaction of race and probationer noncompliance on sanctioning decisions." *Race and Justice*, 12:2, 231-251.

Woo, Youngki, Laurie Drapela, Michael Campagna, Mary Stohr, Zachary Hamilton, Xiaohan Mei, and Elizabeth Tollesbol. 2020. "Disciplinary segregation's effects on inmate behavior: Institutional and community outcomes." *Criminal Justice Policy Review*, 31:7, 1036-1058.

Wright, Emily, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2020. "Responding to crossover youth: A look beyond recidivism." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 18:4, 381-394.

Professional Publications, 2021-2022

Miller, Jennifer, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2022. "Innovations in supervision: Reducing violence and recidivism through VRP aftercare and CBI open groups." *Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Suite: Researcher-Practitioner Fellows Community of Practice*. NE_Case Study_Final_May 2022.pdf (msu.edu).

Ebonie, Epinger, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, Taylor Claxton, and Benjamin Steiner. 2021. "Examining risk and need factors among a midwestern jail population." *American Jails*, 35:1, 34-38.

Grants Awarded, 2019-2022

2020-22 Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers (Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright with Megan Davidson and Teresa Kulig). National Institute of Justice.

2020-21 A Descriptive Analysis of Missing and Murdered Native Women and Children in Nebraska, Barriers to Reporting and Investigation, and Recommendations for Improving Access to Justice (Emily Wright with Tara Richards). National Institute of Justice, Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant.

2019-23 Reducing Violence and Recidivism through VRP Aftercare and CBI Open Groups (Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna with Jennifer Miller). Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Contracts and Projects, 2018-2022

NCJR Faculty Serve as Principal Investigators

2022 Barriers to Collaborative Sex Offender Treatment: Perceptions of Community Providers. Michael Campagna.

2021 Multi-State Research on Juvenile Offending. National Institute of Justice. Zachary Hamilton.

2021 STRONG-R Revalidation and Update. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Zachary Hamilton.

2021 Nebraska Classification Process. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Zachary Hamilton.

2020-23 Evaluation of Douglas County Assessment and Case Management Services. Douglas County Department of Corrections. Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright (co-Principal Investigators).

2020-22 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Ryan Spohn.

2020 Base Rate Project. National Institute of Justice. Zachary Hamilton.

- 2020 MPACT Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts. Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2020 Lancaster (Ne) County Diversion Risk Assessment. Lancaster County. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2020 King County PRINS Revalidation. King County. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2020 COVID First Responders Needs Assessment. The First Responders Foundation. Ryan Spohn.
- 2020 Technical Assistance and Provisions to Improve Assessment and Case Management. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Michael F. Campagna.
- 2019 Domestic Violence Risk Assessment. Washington State Legislature. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2019 First Step Act: Assessment Development. National Institute of Justice. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2019 Prison Classification. Washington State Department of Corrections. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2019 Youth Impact! Cost/Benefit Analysis Update. The Sherwood Foundation. Ryan Spohn.

NCJR Faculty Serve as Evaluators

- 2020-2023 Achieving Change Together, Reentry Program Evaluation. Safer Foundation and Bureau of Justice Assistance. Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna.
- 2018-19 A Collaborative Evaluation of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative. WestEd Justice & Prevention Resource Center. Ryan Spohn.
- 2017-19 Douglas County Operation Youth Success Evaluation. The TerraLuna Collaborative. Ryan Spohn.
- 2017-19 Minority Health Initiative Evaluation, Colfax and Platte Counties, NE. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Ryan Spohn.

Selected Research Reports, 2019-2021

- Campagna, Michael, and Taylor Claxton. 2022. *A Classification of each NDCS Program by Client Needs identified by the STRONG-R Risk/Needs Assessment*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Baylee Allen, and Addison Kobie. 2022. *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project Technical Report 1: Process Evaluation*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Kulig, Teresa, Amber Krushas, Lynn Castrianno, Ryan Spohn, and Emily Wright. 2022. *Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers: Final Technical Report*. Submitted to the National Institute of Justice.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, Taylor Claxton and Tara Grell. (2022). *Vocational and Life Skills Annual Report – Grant Cycle 4 yr 1*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.

- Campagna, Michael. 2021. *Review of the Nebraska Screening and Assessment Tool (NSAT)*. Submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission.
- Spohn, Ryan, and Michael Campagna. 2021. *Safer Foundation ACT Program: Process Evaluation Report*. Submitted to the Safer Foundation.
- Campagna, Michael, and Debra O’Connell. 2021. *Technical Assistance for Corrections Final Report*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Hamilton, Zachary, and Alex Kigerl. 2021. *Development of the Nebraska Screening and Assessment Tool*. Submitted to the Nebraska Division of Community Based Aid.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. *Ready & Resilient: Qualitative Findings from Life Story Interviews with Vocational and Life Skills Program Participants*. Submitted to the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. *Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation Annual Report, Grant Cycle Three: Year Two*. Submitted to the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Butler, Leah, Ryan Spohn, and Josie Schafer. 2020. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System in Nebraska*. Submitted to the Center for Public Affairs Research at UNO.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2020. *Analysis of Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center, 2012-2019: Successful Completions and Recidivism by Youth Level of Service Scores and Race/Ethnicity*. Submitted to the Douglas County Juvenile Assessment Center.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2020. *Douglas County Youth Impact! Cost/Benefit Analysis: Revised Edition, 2019 Dollars*. Submitted to the Sherwood Foundation.
- Toto, Sara, Emily Wright, Michael Campagna, and Katelynn Towne. 2020. *Adult Justice in Nebraska, 2019*. Submitted to the Nebraska Legislature.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2020. *Ready and Resilient*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Campagna, Michael, Alex Kigerl, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. *Parole Custodial Sanctions And Graduated Sanctions*. Submitted to Parole Administration.

Policy and Research Briefs 2020-2021

- Hamilton, Zachary. 2021. *Research Brief: Describing PATTERN Risk Levels*. National Institute of Justice.
- Butler, Leah, Ryan Spohn, and Josie Schafer. 2020. *Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System in Nebraska*. UNO Center for Public Affairs Research.

Academic Presentations, 2018-2022

- Allen, Baylee. 2022. "Developing a risk assessment for low-risk populations." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Brooks Dueland, Laura. 2022. "Create workplaces that work for all." Presented at 1 Million Cups, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Castrianno, Lynn, Ryan Spohn, Teresa Kulig, Amber Krushas and Emily Wright. 2022. "Practitioner-researcher collaboration: Evaluating a child advocacy center core services." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, San Diego, California.
- Castrianno, Lynn, Ryan Spohn, Amber Krushas, Teresa Kulig, and Emily Wright. 2022. "From NCA Standards to Practice: Lessons Learned from Stories in the Field." Presented at the National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Kowalski, Melissa, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, and Emily Wright. 2022. "Understanding abuse and mental health: The role of victimization in jail returns." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Krushas, Amber. 2022. "Examining student-teacher relationships in the United States: A content analysis approach." Presented at the Research and Creative Activity Fair, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Krushas, Amber, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Responsivity or discrimination?: extralegal moderators of relationships between types of technical violations and revocation." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Roig-Palmer, Krystal, Michael Campagna, Katelynn Towne, and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Enhancing the Margins of Reentry: How to Put Responsivity into Explicit Practice." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Spohn, Ryan, and Michael Campagna. 2022. "Face-to-Face, Virtual, and Hybrid Collaboration in Scholar-Practitioner Partnerships in the Digital Age." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Claxton, Taylor, and Amber Krushas. 2021. "Trauma among incarcerated LGBTQ+ youth: updates on research, policy, and programming." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.
- Epinge, Ebonie, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2021. "Jails Use Data Too!" Presented at the American Jail Association Meetings, Columbus, Ohio.
- Epinge, Ebonie, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, and Joseph Schwartz. 2021. "The Intersectionality of Race and Gender in Risk and Need Factors among a Jail Population." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.
- Krushas, Amber, Teresa Kulig, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Lynn Castrianno, and Debra Anderson. 2021. "Identifying Successes and Barriers among a Child Advocacy Center." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2021. "Research Partnerships Addressing Re-Entry." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, Chicago, Illinois.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. "Reentry Employment During the COVID-19 Era." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

- Adams, Emily, Laura Brooks Dueland, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "Citywide initiatives: Assessing workplace diversity and inclusion efforts." Poster presented at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference, Denver, Colorado.
- Adams, Emily, Laura Brooks Dueland, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "CODE Mini Message." Presented at the CODE Conference, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Adams, Emily, Laura Brooks Dueland, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "CODE Mini Message." Presented at the Leadership Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Brooks Dueland, Laura, Abigail Folberg, Matt Swanson, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "Perceptions of requests for diversity statements in job advertisements." Poster presented at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference, Denver, Colorado.
- Brooks Dueland, Laura, Abigail Folberg, Matt Swanson, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "Reactions to selection processes involving diversity statements." Poster presented at the Society for Industrial Organizational Psychology Conference, Austin, Texas.
- Crawford, Danielle, Matt Swanson, Laura Brooks Dueland, Sarah Stepanek, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "Conflict management techniques within diversity initiatives: A critical missing link." Interactive discussion facilitated at the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Conference, Denver, Colorado.
- Mokuta, Azusa, Suzuki, Yuika, Laura Brooks Dueland, and Carey Ryan. 2020. "Reactions to selection processes involving diversity statements." Poster presented at the Midwestern Psychological Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Invited Presentations, 2018-2022

- Campagna, Michael, Jennifer Miller, and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Case study of Nebraska BJA grant. Presented at Smart Suite Training and Technical Assistance Community of Practice." Presented at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Kristofer Buklen, and Marjorie Rist. 2022. "Racial bias and Amelioration Strategies for Risk Assessment". Presented at the American Correctional Association Annual Convention, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Hamilton, Zachary, and Marjorie Rist. 2021. "Developing the Pennsylvania STRONG-R." Presented at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.
- Kulig, Teresa, Amber Krushas, Ryan Spohn, Lynn Castrianno and Emily Wright. 2022. "Overview of Findings from Phase I." Presented at Project Harmony, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2022. "Data on Race for Research and Racial Conversations." Presented at the Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity (MORE), Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2021. "Racial Disparities in Prison Populations: Who is System-Involved and Why?" Presented to the Leadership Omaha Class 43, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2022. "The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons, Nebraska/Iowa." Presented at the New Life Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, and West Hills Churches, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan, Mark Foxall, Leah Butler, Michael Campagna, and Katelynn Towne. 2022. "The color of justice: Racial and ethnic disparity in prisons, Nebraska/Iowa." Presented to the New Life Presbyterian and First Presbyterian West Hills congregations, Omaha, Nebraska.

- Epinger, Ebonie, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, and Joseph Schwartz. 2021. "Jails Use Data Too!" Presentation to the Douglas County, Nebraska, Board of Commissioners, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2020. "Role of Social Workers in the Criminal Justice System, Evidence-Based Practices, and Reentry." Presented to Kansas State University SOCWK 350: Social Work with Offenders and Victims, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2020. "RED (Racial and Ethnic Disparities) LIVE! Speaking Truth to Power." Facebook Live interview by Douglas County, Nebraska, Race and Ethnic Disparities Coordinator, A'Jamal Byndon. <https://fb.watch/bzGWe-cqK9/>.
- Campagna, Michael. 2019. "Jails Use Data too!" Presented to the Douglas County Detention Center executive board, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Campagna, Michael, and Ryan Spohn. 2019. "Selection Bias is Ruining My Evaluation! A Comparison of Two Adjustment Models." Presented at the meeting of the Omaha Evaluators Group, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Hamilton, Zachary. 2019. "The PATTERN Risk Assessment." Presented to the Attorney General of the United States, Washington, D.C.
- Hamilton, Zachary. 2019. "Setting a Collaborative Foundation: Washington State's Base Rate Study." Presented to the American Psychology-Law and Society, Portland, Oregon.
- Hamilton, Zachary and Carl McCurley. 2019. "New Findings on Differences Across States in Probation Risk/Needs Assessment." Presented to National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, Nevada.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "Community-Engaged Research and Research-Focused Careers." Presented at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "The State of Crossover Youth Research." Presented at the Youth Impact Annual Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan, and Georgetown Capstone Team. 2019. "Douglas County RED Georgetown Capstone Presentation." Presented to the Omaha community at the Omaha Police Dept. NE Precinct, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2019. "Based on What Evidence?" Guest Lecture at Emporia State University, Emporia, Kansas.

Panels and Discussions, 2017-2020

- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "Georgetown Capstone Presentation: Reducing Race and Ethnic Disparities in the Douglas County Juvenile Justice System." Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "Project Safe Neighborhood Training/Technical Assistance Strategic Planning Collaboration Meeting." For the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, D.C.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "The Intersection of Disproportionate Minority Contact, Justice, & Law Enforcement." For the First United Methodist Church of Omaha and Policy Research & Innovation (PRI), Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "Beyond Police, Courts, and Corrections." For UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Omaha, Nebraska.

Webinars 2021-2022

Lindquist, Christine, Samuel Scaggs, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2022. *Strengthening your Reentry Program Evaluation through Primary Data Collection*. Webinar with the Corrections and Reentry research Program.

Hamilton, Zachary. 2021. *Juvenile Risk Assessment*. Webinar with Colorado Division of Youth Services.

Hamilton, Zachary. 2021. *Optimizing Juvenile Risk Assessment*. Webinar with the Counsel of Juvenile Justice Administrators.

Hamilton, Zachary, and Lindsey Wylie. 2021. *Developing a Statewide Diversion Assessment Tool*. Webinar with the Nebraska Center for Community-Based Aid.

University of Nebraska at Omaha – Faculty

Gaylene Armstrong, Ph.D.	Director, Criminology & Criminal Justice
Todd Armstrong, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Amy Anderson, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Jessiline Anderson, Ph.D.	Native American Studies
Janelle Beadle, Ph.D.	Gerontology & Biology
Abby Bjornsen, Ph.D.	Counseling
Leah Butler, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Juan Casas, Ph.D.	Psychology
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Abigail Folberg, Ph.D.	Industrial Organizational Psychology
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Eve Brank, Ph.D., JD	Psychology; Director of Center for Children,
	Families, and the Law
Ari Kohen, Ph.D.	Political Science
Lisa Kort-Butler, Ph.D.	Sociology
Trisha Rhodes, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
Scott Sasse, Ph.D.	Criminology & Criminal Justice
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Richard Wiener, MLS, Ph.D.	Law & Psychology
Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, Ph.D.	Psychology

University of Nebraska Medical Center – Faculty

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	Global Engagement
Dejun Su, Ph.D.	Public Health
Melissa Tibbits, Ph.D.	Public Health

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University of Massachusetts Lowell
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