2019

Annual Report 2019

Nebraska Center for Justice Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR) was established in 2014 with a mission to develop and sustain criminal justice research capacity internal to the State of Nebraska. Our goal is to assist the Legislature, justice agencies, practitioners, foundations, and stakeholders with research and evaluation to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety. This annual report summarizes the activities and financial status of NCJR in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In this past year, NCJR once again crafted our Adult Justice in Nebraska report to provide a foundation of data trends in areas such as law enforcement and corrections for the Legislature at the beginning of the legislative session. NCJR also completed a report assessing the effectiveness of the ShotSpotter audio shot detection system in Omaha as part of the Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Project Safe Neighborhoods initiatives. NCJR Director, Ryan Spohn, completed a report for the Bureau of Justice Assistance that summarized the results of a multi-state “immersion” training of the Blue Courage initiative, which focuses on law enforcement officer health, well-being, and professional success. Finally, NCJR staff produced 16 monthly and quarterly reports for Nebraska’s Vocational and Life Skills inmate reentry initiative.

In regards to NCJR’s academic mission, our faculty and graduate students placed multiple publications in academic journals and presented at the annual conferences of the American Society of Criminology, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities, the Omaha-area Heartland Juvenile Service Association, and the Nebraska Juvenile Justice Association.

From a budgetary standpoint, we continue to be encouraged by the well-balanced budgetary profile of NCJR that includes state funding, contracts with local agencies, federal grants, and funding by local foundations. The diversity of our funding profile not only broadens the impact of our research, training, technical assistance, and evaluation activities across the state, but also allows us to provide “matching” funding for products that benefit from both public and private dollars. Our state appropriation is only 35% of our budget, suggesting that for every state dollar invested, NCJR attracts two additional dollars in external funds.

In summary, 2018-2019 was another productive year with a substantial output of research, evaluation, and academic products. In addition, we continue to build research partnerships, collaborations, and relationships with agency and community stakeholders. We look forward to learning from these experiences and increasing our capacity to serve the Nebraska community in subsequent years. On a very sad note, we lost a very special friend, colleague, and faculty affiliate in Dr. Benjamin Steiner, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, who passed this year.

FROM THE DIRECTOR
RYAN E. SPOHN
Mission Statement

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research’s 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.

NCJR 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 Omaha campus.

Statement of Goals

NCJR is a non-partisan non-profit research entity housed in the University of Nebraska at Omaha’s College of Public Affairs and Community Service. 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. Propose and conduct scientific evaluations of policies and activities of Nebraska state agencies in order to assist them to serve Nebraskans efficiently and effectively.
3. Provide the public and legislature with regular reports regarding our activities.
4. Contribute to the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice’s graduate program by funding students via applied research projects.
5. Promote sustainability of statewide justice reinvestment activities.
6. Increase research credibility by producing useable technical reports and meaningful academic publications.
7. Continue our national reputation as a top-tier research and evaluation Center by ensuring our deliverables are produced with the utmost methodological rigor.

For more information visit: justiceresearch.unomaha.edu

Meet the Team

RYAN SPOHN, PH.D.  
Director

Ryan is the Director of the Nebraska Center for Justice Research (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.

EMILY WRIGHT, PH.D.  
Associate Director

Emily is the Associate Director of the NCJR. She received her B.S. in Psychology from Arkansas State University (2003), M.S. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati (2004), and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati (2008). Her areas of research include neighborhood crime and victimization, exposure to violence, gender differences in offending and victimization, and correctional intervention strategies.

MICHAEL F. CAMPAGNA, PH.D.  
Research Associate

Michael is the Research Associate for the NCJR. He received his B.A. in both Crime, Law, & Justice and Sociology from the Pennsylvania State University (2006), M.A. in Criminal Justice 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 the Research Coordinator for the 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 criminalology, social inequality, policing, victimization, and social media.

LAURA SCHOENROCK, M.P.A.  
Program Coordinator

Laura has been a Program Coordinator since April 2012. Laura is a graduate of the UNO Masters in Public Administration Program and holds a B.A. degree in Organizational Communication studies from the University of Northern Iowa. She is currently coordinating the development of a transitional program for imprisoned individuals in the state of Nebraska.

SARA TOTO, M.A.  
Research Assistant

Sara is a doctoral candidate in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and a research assistant for the NCJR. She received her B.A. in Criminal Justice (2013) and her M.A. in Criminal Justice (2015) from the University of Nevada, Reno. Her research interests include institutional and community corrections and exposure to violence and victimization.

CHERYL CHRISTIANSEN  
Staff Associate

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


* Includes academic peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, and policy and research briefs.
GRANTS AWARDED 2014-2019

2016-18
A Collaborative Evaluation of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative (with WestEd Justice and Prevention Resource Center). The Nebraska Children & Families Foundation.

2016-18
Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

2015-17
Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

2014-19
Evaluation of the Douglas County Crossover Youth Practice Model (with Emily Wright). The Sherwood Foundation.

2014-15
Project Safe Neighborhoods, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Research partner with City of Omaha.

GRANTS SUBMITTED

2019
Richards, Tara and Emily Wright. 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. National Institute of Justice, Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant.

2019

2019
Davidson, Megan, Teresa Kulig, Ryan Spohn, Emily Wright. Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers. National Institute of Justice.

2018

2018
Spohn, Ryan and Emily Wright. Evaluation of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation’s Nebraska Expectant and Parenting Project. The Nebraska Children & Families Foundation.

CONTRACTS AND PROJECTS 2016-2018

Role: Principle Investigator

2019

2018-20

2017-18

2017-19

2017

2016

2016-18

Role: Project Evaluator

2018-19
A Collaborative Evaluation of the Nebraska Connected Youth Initiative. WestEd Justice & Prevention Resource Center.

2017-19
Douglas County Operation Youth Success Evaluation. The TerraLuna Collaborative.

2017-19
Minority Health Initiative Evaluation, Colfax and Platte Counties, NE. Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

2016-17
Blue Courage Police Training Assessment. The International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training.

2016-17
Douglas County Operation Youth Success Evaluation. The TerraLuna Collaborative.

2016-18
Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
SELECTED RESEARCH REPORTS

2016-2018


Spohn, Ryan. 2019. Immersion State Blue Courage Training Evaluation. For the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards & Training (IADLEST)


Wright, Emily M., Spohn, Ryan, and Joselyne Chenane. 2018. Evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (Youth Impact!): Executive Summary. For the Sherwood Foundation.


Spohn, Ryan, Emily M. Wright, and Joselyne Chenane. 2017. Evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (Youth Impact!): Results Summary. For the Sherwood Foundation.


Hamilton, Zachary and Alex Kigerl. 2016. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification Tool Development. Nebraska Center for Justice Research.


Research Coordinator, Dr. Katelynn Towne, visits the Capitol to meet with Senators and provide them with the 2018 Adult Justice Report.
**ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

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**2016-2019**

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Spohn, Ryan and Emily Wright. 2018. “The Process and Results of a Metropolitan University Collaborating with Community Partners to Improve Service to Crossover Youth.” Presented at Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.


Ellison, Jared and Ryan Spohn. 2016. “Assessing the Consequences of Colorado’s Legalization of Recreational Marijuana on Nebraska.” Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.


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**NUMBER OF PRESENTATIONS PER YEAR**

![Number of Presentations Per Year](image_url)

*Includes invited and academic presentations, as well as panels and discussions*
INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2016-2019

Campagna, Michael and Ryan Spohn. 2019. “Selection Bias is Ruining My Evaluation! A Comparison of Two Adjustment Models.” Presented at the May 2019 meeting of the Omaha Evaluators Group, May 9, Omaha, NE.


Spohn, Ryan. 2018. “Reentry as a Component of PSN.” Presented at the National Project Safe Neighborhoods Conference, Bureau of Justice Assistance, December 5 and 7, Kansas City, MO.


Spohn, Ryan. 2017. “Nebraska Center for Justice Research: Research and Community Engagement Activities.” Presented at the Omaha Community Partnership meeting, June 22, Omaha, NE.

Wright, Emily M., Ryan Spohn, and Joselyne Chenane. 2017. “Evaluation of Douglas County Youth Impact!” Presented at the quarterly meeting of the Nebraska Juvenile Services, April 11, Lincoln, NE.


POLICY AND RESEARCH BRIEFS


WEBINARS

Bilchik, Shay, Michael Umpierre, Amy Latshaw, Monica DeMent, Cara Stirts, Dawn Rockey, Larry Gendler, Emily Wright, and Ryan Spohn. 2018. Crossover Youth Practice Model 101. Webinar with the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform at Georgetown University and the Nebraska Court Improvement Project, June 22.


PANELS AND DISCUSSIONS

2016-2018

Spohn, Ryan. 2018. “Beyond Police, Courts, and Corrections.” For UNO’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, February 7, Omaha, NE.


Spohn, Ryan. 2016. “Sustainability Panel.” For the statewide Crossover Youth Practice Model Meeting, September 6, Omaha, NE.

Spohn, Ryan. 2016. “Evidence-Based Practice Panel.” For the Nebraska Children’s Commission Meeting, January 20, Omaha, NE.
Representatives of the Douglas County Crossover team and Dr. Ryan Spohn meet to discuss the successes of the Youth Impact! Model.


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**FACULTY AFFILIATE HIGHLIGHT**

**DR. TERESA KULIG**

Dr. Teresa Kulig joined the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice as an Assistant Professor in 2018. As an affiliate of NCJR, also collaborates with the Goldstein Center for Human Rights, and Women’s and Gender Studies, to study victimization with an emphasis on human trafficking. Her exemplary work has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as the American Journal of Public Health, Justice Quarterly, Justice Evaluation Journal, and Victims & Offenders.

Highlighted below are just a few of the many projects Dr. Kulig has led and participated in to help improve the knowledge base regarding our understanding and responses to crime victims across local, state, and national community and justice agencies.

One such example of Dr. Kulig’s community engagement and collaboration with justice agencies is her recent National Institute of Justice grant submission with co-investigators Dr. Emily Wright, Dr. Ryan Spahn, and Dr. Megan Davison – Dr. Debra Anderson is also a consultant on the project. This collaborative effort among staff from UNO SCCJ, NCJR, and Project Harmony would evaluate the effectiveness of Project Harmony, a child advocacy center (CAC) that serves youth in the greater Omaha area, as well as those in parts of southwestern Iowa. In 2017, Project Harmony provided services to over 5,000 youth as part of their initiative to protect and support children who are abused or neglected. Project Harmony partners with other local agencies to offer an array of services including the coordination of cases across providers, housing for youth, evidence-based mental health services, medical exams, foster care health screening, forensic interviews, and advocacy and support for children and their families.

Although CACs like Project Harmony have existed for several decades, little research has examined their effectiveness in providing children with comprehensive services to prevent re-victimization as they navigate the criminal justice system. Project Harmony is one of the largest CACs in the nation, which makes it the ideal candidate for evaluation and a potential model for other CACs. As a first step, this grant would examine various services provided by Project Harmony to determine whether the programs are being implemented as intended. The core services within the agency would be studied using a mixed methods design, including interviews, focus groups, surveys, and existing agency data. Findings from this evaluation would then be used to assess the viability of human trafficking in Ohio. The research team collaborated with multiple state and local agencies across the state to obtain existing agency records and to provide an estimate of the number of known victims and at-risk individuals. Dr. Kulig’s 2018-2019 Inquiry Awards grant supported a study that examined the prevalence and effectiveness of human trafficking courts across the United States for addressing the needs of “victim-defendants.”

Findings from this study suggest that, while trafficking courts have rapidly increased over a relatively short period, there is a lack of clear theory guiding intervention with trafficking “victim-defendants.” Furthermore, only a limited number of evaluations have been conducted to determine whether the goals of these specialty courts are actually achieved. More details about the study findings are available in a recent Victim & Offenders special issue on problem-solving courts; a booklet tailored for Nebraska legal actors is also forthcoming.

Dr. Kulig has also done research outside of Nebraska. In a study funded by the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, Dr. Kulig worked with a research team from the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati (Dr. Valerie Anderson and Dr. Christopher Sullivan) to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking in Ohio. The research team collaborated with multiple state and local agencies across the state to obtain existing agency records and to provide an estimate of the number of evaluations have been conducted to determine whether the programs are being implemented as intended. The core services within the agency would be studied using a mixed methods design, including interviews, focus groups, surveys, and existing agency data. Findings from this evaluation would then be used to assess the viability of human trafficking in Ohio. The research team collaborated with multiple state and local agencies across the state to obtain existing agency records and to provide an estimate of the number of known victims and at-risk individuals. Dr. Kulig’s 2018-2019 Inquiry Awards grant supported a study that examined the prevalence and effectiveness of human trafficking courts across the United States for addressing the needs of “victim-defendants.”

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The School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and NCJR are excited by the work Dr. Kulig is doing within the Omaha community and beyond, and we look forward to seeing her continue to contribute valuable research in the area of victimization.

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Dr. Kulig presents Omaha Police Lieutenant Sherie Thomas with the Rising Star Achievement Award at the 2019 School of Criminal Justice and Criminal Justice Scholarship and Awards Luncheon.
RESEARCH STAFF HIGHLIGHT

NCJR’s Newest Research Staff
Dr. Michael Campagna and Dr. Katelynn Towne

Research Associate Dr. Michael Campagna, received his Ph.D. from Washington State University in Criminal Justice and Criminology. His interests include barriers to the reentry process, improving case management through the use of risk/needs assessments, restrictive housing, and using developmental theory to examine desistance.

An addition to NCJR last summer, Dr. Campagna has taken the lead on data management and analyses for various projects, including the Vocational Life Skills (VLS) initiative. During the winter, the Nebraska Board of Parole requested NCJR conduct an evaluation of their parole sanctioning process, by which Dr. Campagna will be the primary investigator. He is also involved in the Youth Impact! Project, the DCDC jail case management project. Since bring brought onboard, he has presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, the Omaha Evaluators, and filled in as an adjunct instructor for the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He enjoys developing new research partnerships and mentoring graduate students. His ultimate goal is to assist Nebraska in creating a collaborative, data-driven environment of criminal justice agencies and community organizations that seek to reduce recidivism and improve quality of life for Nebraskans.

Research Coordinator Dr. Katelynn Towne, received her Ph.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia in Sociology. Her interests include social inequities on the criminal justice experience, victimization, and the role of media on attitudes towards police.

An addition to NCJR last summer, Dr. Towne has brought a considerable and essential skillset to NCJR with her background in mixed-methodology. In addition to managing data and providing technical assistance for quantitative aspects of the VLS evaluation, she has been coordinating qualitative efforts by interviewing formerly incarcerated persons who have struggled and excelled with VLS reentry programming. She presents findings of this evaluation in reports and at professional meetings. Since joining NCJR, she has presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual conference and the Policing and Society Conference. She enjoys engaging the community with evidence-based practice possibilities and aims to reduce recidivism.

We at NCJR are happy to have both Drs. Campagna and Towne working to produce quality research that benefits the community.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Vocational and Life Skills

Vocational and Life Skills Programs
Work to Reduce Recidivism and Increase Employment across Nebraska

Omaha - Since 2015, a grant administered by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) has funded reentry programs for formerly incarcerated individuals across the state of Nebraska that provide vocational and life skills training. To qualify for programming, participants must currently be incarcerated; under probation or parole supervision; or within 18 months of release. Nearly 7,000 participants have been served by the Vocational and Life Skills (VLS) program initiative.

Eight programs received funding in the third grant cycle. VLS programming is offered at all ten correctional facilities in the state and many more participants are served in area communities. Program services vary widely including specific job training, community college courses, and residential facilities, and offer peer-support and case management throughout programming. Many of the staff of the programs can sometimes uniquely relate to participants, as they were also involved in the correctional system at some point. This personal connection to the participants’ reentry challenges can increase hope within participants and show that they can succeed and become a productive member of society.

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research (NCJR), under the advisement of Director Ryan Spohn, Ph.D., signed on as an evaluation research partner in May 2015. Research Associate Michael Campagna and Research Coordinator Katelynn Towne work directly with NDCS and the VLS programs to track data on program participation and subsequent outcomes.

This evaluation continually assesses the rates at which participants return to prison and gain and maintain employment in the community. NCJR additionally provides VLS with best practices trainings, cutting-edge research findings, VLS specialty reports, and internally-developed leading measures to help VLS improve its capacity and effectiveness. In order to develop reports and assess barriers, strengths, and progress, participants are surveyed throughout their programming. Interviews with participants, agency workers, and NDCS staff provide additional insight into barriers and successes of VLS. NCJR staff are excited to work with programs and staff dedicated to offering people second chances and a path forward.
MHA partners with NCJR on the VLS reentry initiative.

The REAL program, which stands for respond, empower, advocate, and listen, is a program area that is evaluated by NCJR as part of a larger part of the Vocational and Life Skills Reentry Initiative.

The REAL program identifies those persons with mental illness that come into contact with the police and provides assistance to support services through the use of MHA’s peer specialists. Since its inception in 2011, more than 1,900 individuals have been referred to the REAL program, and 85% have accepted services. The REAL program uses collaboration between law enforcement and mental health specialists to provide de-escalation training and best practices for interactions with mentally ill individuals. Lincoln Police come into contact with persons with mental illness 2,800 times or more per year through mental health crisis investigations or through other contacts (e.g., driver in a motor vehicle accident).

When a Lincoln Police officer is called to a mental health crisis, they determine what to do with the individuals, and at that time, they can activate the REAL program by making a referral to MHA. Officers start the referral process via an email system where they briefly provide information to MHA about how to contact the individual with mental illness, their possible mental health issues, and a brief description of the encounter with LPD. Within 24 to 48 hours, a peer specialist – a trained mental health advocate, who is also a person with mental illness – will contact the individual and ask if they would like to receive help in seeking out support services.

This service is free and voluntary. Peer specialists do not diagnose individuals; instead, they are there to help identify the needs and issues that may have precipitated the mental health crisis. Often, persons with mental illness identify issues with finding and maintaining stable housing, employment, and finding mental health and/or substance use counseling and treatment. The REAL program ensures

...peer specialists respond to persons with mental illness (PMIs) after a crisis, empower PMIs by helping them develop long-term mental health plans, advocate for PMIs when attempting to secure resources, and listen to PMIs’ needs, wants, and frustrations rather than coerce them into decisions (emphasis added, Bonkiewicz, Moyer, Magdanz, and Walsh 2018:490).

The collaboration between MHA and LPD continues beyond that first referral. Peer specialists will update the referring officer about the long-term plans and strategies they discussed with the person with mental illness. This provides an officer with the information they can use to build a rapport and help de-escalate a problem if they come into contact with the individual in the future. The referring officer may also be of assistance to the individual and peer specialist by providing contacts in outreach groups or resource centers for food, shelter, or other necessities. Finally, LPD and MHA hold quarterly meetings to discuss ways to improve mental health services in the community and address issues related to specific cases of persons with mental illness receiving multiple contacts from LPD.

An internal evaluation of the REAL program provides some preliminary support for this collaborative effort (Bonkiewicz et al. 2018). In a comparison of referred individuals with mental illness to the REAL program and non-referred individuals with mental illness, there was no difference between the groups in the likelihood of being arrested at 12, 24, or 36 months after the initial mental health call for service. However, it appears that the referred participants were less likely to be taken into emergency protective custody and also generated fewer mental health calls compared to the non-referred individuals, but only at 24 and 36 months after the initial crisis. The evaluation also found the group that benefited the most from REAL were those with extensive histories of mental health calls for service compared to those with fewer prior calls. Overall, the REAL program has the potential to be effective in reducing calls to and contacts by police with persons with mental illness.

If you have questions about this program or other Vocational and Life Skills grant-funded programs, please contact Dr. Campagna (mcampagna@unomaha.edu) or Dr. Towne (ktowne@unomaha.edu).
For those who have been granted parole, they must abide by certain rules (e.g., refrain from engaging in criminal conduct or find and maintain employment) to maintain their conditional release from prison. A variety of sanction may be employed in response to parole violations. For example, if a parolee is found to have committed a minor form of noncompliance, they may receive a written warning or greater curfew restrictions; however, a parolee who partakes in a more severe form of noncompliance may be at risk of receiving custodial sanctions or the highest level of noncompliance—a revocation of their parole. Therefore, to abide by their mission statement, the Nebraska Board of Parole (NBP) has asked NCJR to examine the effects of sanctions delivered by parole to clients.

The NBP Sanctions Evaluation will examine outcomes for all client sanctions after a parole violation had been determined. The study period will be between January 1, 2000 and December 31, 2018 and include all clients served by parole during this time frame. Parole has reorganized and changed supervision policies, risk assessments, and administration within this period, therefore each consideration will be accounted for in the analysis through consultation with NBP. An advanced matching procedure will accompany the analysis to ensure the control group is as close as possible to the experimental group on key demographics and criminological characteristics. Further, a measure of graduated sanctioning will be developed and examined for how it affects revocations, violations, and new crimes. Criminal history, institutional records, and risk/needs variables will inform the study.

Utilizing data regarding criminal history, institutional records, and risk/needs of the clients, a combination of quasi-experimental, correlational, and descriptive analyses will be employed to examine the following evaluation questions:

- Does return to jail for a parole violation deter future violations or new crimes?
- Does utilization of community services moderate the effectiveness of sanctions?
- What is the rank of effectiveness by type of sanction?
- Does sanction effectiveness vary by original crime type?
- Does sanction effectiveness vary by race, gender, or age?
- Do graduated sanctions for a parole violation deter future violations or new crimes?
- What combinations of sanctions deter future violations?
- What combinations of sanctions deter future violations?
**RESEARCH REPORT HIGHLIGHT**

**Adult Justice in Nebraska (2018)**

This report compares criminal justice data across Nebraska from 2012 to 2018. Completed in January, 2019, the document presented the most recent and comprehensive system-wide data available. NCJR will continue to provide updates to this report each year and submit the findings to the Nebraska state legislature. Our hope is that the report serves as a reference guide for providing a clearer understanding of recent trends in crime and criminal justice activities in the state of Nebraska. The report was made possible by the financial support provided to NCJR by LB 907.

You Can Find this Report on Our Website

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**COLLABORATION HIGHLIGHT**

**NCJR is a founding member of the Inter-University Network of Criminal Justice Research Centers (INCJRC)**

Since November 2018, NCJR along with a dozen other academic criminal justice research centers across the nation created a collaborative group to provide networking opportunities for justice-focused researchers. We at NCJR are excited to participate in this network of respected centers and look forward to working collaboratively with members of this group on future research.

To find more information on INCJRC and affiliated centers, please visit: www.incjrc.net

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA OMAHA**

- Nikitah Okonba RA Imani, PhD: Black Studies
- Joseph Allen, PhD: Center for Applied Psychological Services
- Abby Borinson, PhD: Counseling
- Gaylene Armstrong, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Todd Armstrong, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Amy Anderson, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Samantha Clinkinbeard, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Teresa Kulig, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Justin Nix, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Tara Richards, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Lisa Sample, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Joseph Schwartz, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Benjamin Steiner, PhD: Criminal Justice & Criminal Justice
- Emily Wright, PhD: Gerontology & Biology
- Janelle Beadle, PhD: Information Science & Technology
- Ann Fruhling, PhD: Juvenile Justice Institute
- Anne Hobbs, PhD, JD: Psychology
- Jessiline Anderson, PhD: Psychology
- Juan Casas, PhD: Psychology
- Rosemary Strasser, PhD: Psychology
- Rimi Reiter-Palmon, PhD: Psychology
- Kerry Baldin, LCSW, PhD: Social Work
- Amanda Randall, LCSW, PhD: Social Work
- Jieru Bai, PhD: Social Work
- Daniel Hawkins, PhD: Sociology
- Larry Barksdale, MA: Forensic Science
- Richard Wiener, MLS, PhD: Law & Psychology
- Ari Kahn, PhD: Political Science
- Brian Bornstein, PhD: Psychology
- Eve Bronk, PhD, JD: Psychology
- Maria Scalaro, PhD: Psychology
- Cynthia Willis-Esqueda, PhD: Psychology
- Lisa Kurt-Butler, PhD: Sociology
- Tara Warner, PhD: Sociology

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA LINCOLN**

- Lorena Baccaglini, DDS, PhD: Public Health
- Jane Meza, PhD: Public Health
- Dejun Su, PhD: Public Health
- Melissa Tibbits, PhD: Public Health

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER**

- Lorena Baccaglini, DDS, PhD: Public Health
- Jane Meza, PhD: Public Health
- Dejun Su, PhD: Public Health
- Melissa Tibbits, PhD: Public Health
University of Nebraska Kearney

Julie Campbell, PhD  Criminal Justice
Timbre Wulf-Ludden, PhD  Criminal Justice

External Affiliates

Ashley Arnio, PhD  Texas State University
Jonathan Brauer, PhD  University of Indiana
Pauline Brennan, PhD  University of Massachusetts Lowell
H. Daniel Butler, PhD  Sam Houston State University
Ashley Hall, PhD  University of Illinois-Chicago
Zachary Hamilton, PhD  Washington State University
Don Kurtz, PhD  Kansas State University
Jukka Savolainen, PhD  ICPSR, University of Michigan
Michael Walker, PhD  University of Minnesota

STUDENT AFFILIATES

Emily Adams  I/O Psychology
Krista Brewer  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Jeff Chao  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Joselyne Chenane  I/O Psychology
Kelsey Ciagala  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Shelby Connett  Social Work
Nicky Dalbir  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Ebonie Epinger  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Julie Garman  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Maja Kotlaja  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Sara Moore  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Amber Richey  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Starr Solomon  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Sara Toto  Criminology & Criminal Justice
Brandon Tregle  Criminology & Criminal Justice

NCJR Funded By Semester

NCJR Summer 2018
Emily Adams
Krista Brewer
Jeff Chao
Joselyne Chenane
Nicky Dalbir
Ebonie Epinger
Sara Toto
Brandon Tregle
Hours/Week: 160

NCJR Fall 2018
Emily Adams
Krista Brewer
Ebonie Epinger
Sara Toto
Hours/Week: 80

NCJR Spring 2019
Ebonie Epinger
Sara Toto
Kelsey Ciagala
Hours/Week: 60

NCJR Summer 2019
Shelby Connett
Ebonie Epinger
Amber Richey
Sara Toto
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