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Research Review

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Selected Summaries

The *NIJ Research Review* is prepared quarterly by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. It contains short summaries of significant research findings from recently funded reports and lists titles of other recently completed projects.

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Diffusion Processes in Homicide,

A. Blumstein et al. This study found that greater access to handguns by youth was a primary factor in the increase of youth homicides in the mid-1980s. Crack markets and youth gangs also contributed to escalating youth violence, both directly through the activities of participants and indirectly as important vehicles for the spread of guns and the associated lethal violence to youth. 16 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0005; NCJ 193425.

Do Collective Efficacy and Community Capacity Make a Difference "Behind Closed Doors"?

C.R. Block et al. Researchers found that abused women living in neighborhoods with mutual trust and social cohesion were no more likely to escape intimate partner violence or seek help than women living in other neighborhoods. Strong social cohesion and community crime prevention may reduce levels of street crime but may not have an impact on violence "behind closed doors." 128 pp. Grant 98-WT-VX-0022; funded in collaboration with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVAW); NCJ 194711.

Evaluation of the Safe Streets Now! Approach: Civil Remedies for Drugs, Crime, and Nuisance Problems,

J. Roehl et al. This report indicates that Safe Streets Now! can be an effective and

cost-efficient method of alleviating location-specific crime, drug, and nuisance problems. The primary activity of Safe Streets Now! is the filing of small-claims court actions against property owners who refuse to address these problems. An evaluation of the program found that most cases are resolved without legal action through notification and negotiation with the property owner. Residents won most of the cases with little or none of the retaliation they had feared from problem tenants and property owners. 144 pp. Grant 98-IJ-CX-0058; NCJ 194105.

Felons Who Attempt to Purchase Guns: A Study of Prior and Subsequent Criminal Involvements,

K. Adams. Researchers analyzed attempted purchases of firearms from 1991 to 1996 from establishments governed by Florida's background check system. They found that offenders who attempted to purchase a gun had an average of four arrests, and one in seven offenders was arrested within 1 year. The research suggests that an enforcement policy that focuses on offenders who pose the greatest chance of violating the law in the future is both efficient and manageable. 28 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0017; NCJ 194051.

Copies of full reports are available for a fee from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service by calling 800-851-3420.

Documents less than 25 pages long are \$10 each; documents 25 pages and longer are \$15 each.

Helping Children Exposed to Domestic Violence: Law Enforcement and Community Partnerships, Final Report,

B.E. Smith et al. Police can play a pivotal gatekeeping role in getting help for children exposed to domestic violence. This study examined promising strategies community-oriented police departments can use as they work with community partners. Proactive responses require substantial commitment from the community and service providers. 148 pp. Grant 98-IJ-CX-0069; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 193416.

Is Job Accessibility Relevant to Crime Patterns? A GIS Approach, Final Report,

F. Wang et al. Residents' physical access to jobs had a significant impact on crime rates in Cleveland in 1980 and 1990. This study differs from past research in its focus on the job accessibility and crime patterns of one city rather than a larger geographic region or a State. Low accessibility to jobs resulted in increased economic crime, violent crime, and drug offenses. 58 pp. Grant 2000-IJ-CX-0023; NCJ 193814.

Michigan Study on Women with Physical Disabilities, Final Report,

S. Milberger et al. Women with a disability, regardless of demographics, are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse than women without a disability. Factors that appear to increase a woman's likelihood of being a victim of crime include the disability itself, cognitive and communication impairment, and the reluctance of the disabled woman to report her aggressor. 31 pp. Grant 2000-WT-VX-0018; funded in collaboration with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVAW); NCJ 193769.

National Study of Delinquency Prevention in Schools, Final Report,

G.D. Gottfredson et al. This study of problem behavior in U.S. schools found that minor problems were common in schools and serious problems involving fights,

weapons, and robberies were less common but frequent enough to require the attention of school staff. The authors recommend monitoring levels of problem behavior through annual surveys of students and teachers, conducting research on the broad range of activities taking place in schools, and, for school administrators, using a broader range of rewards and sanctions. 535 pp. Grant 96-MU-MU-0008; funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance; NCJ 194129.

Nightsight Field Assessment Creative Technology Solutions to Law Enforcement Problems, Final Project Report,

J. Gingers. An emerging technology that relies on heat, not light, to create an image can reduce personnel costs and safety risks for law enforcement, according to this study. The technology, called forward-looking infrared, was effective in its ability to see through smoke, dust, a few layers of foliage, fog, and light rain in both day and night conditions. Vehicle- and hand-portable devices were tested. The report notes that further assessment is needed before this technology can be implemented. 46 pp. Grant 98-LB-VX-K001; funded in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance; NCJ 194923.

Youth, Firearms and Violence in Atlanta: A Problem-Solving Approach,

A. Kellermann et al. In an effort to reduce juvenile gun violence, Atlanta's Project PACT (Pulling America's Communities Together) combined the best ideas of local law enforcement with promising programs from other cities. The research points out that a partnership among participating organizations takes more time and energy than anticipated and reaching a consensus on the concept and importance of the problem does not necessarily lead to a consensus on the practical steps to take. 30 pp. Grant 94-MU-CX-K003; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; NCJ 194050.

Many final reports may be available online. Links to documents and their abstracts can be found using the URL at the bottom of this page. Simply enter the publication's 6-digit NCJ number. For documents not available online, a link to the publisher's Web site is provided.

Other Research Projects

Assessment of the HIDTA Program: High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas, D. Boyum. 211 pp. Grant 97-IJ-CX-0044; NCJ 194118.

Case Classification in Community Corrections: A National Survey of the State of the Art, Final Report, D.J. Hubbard et al. 58 pp. Grant 98-IJ-CX-0008; NCJ 193810.

Cocaine Alternative Treatment Study: A Multi-Site, Randomized Controlled Trial of Acupuncture for the Treatment of Cocaine Addiction, A. Margolin et al. 28 pp. Grant 97-IJ-CX-0026; NCJ 194605.

COPS: Innovations in Policing in American Heartlands, M.R. Chaiken. 101 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0047; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 194604.

Development of DNA-Based Identification Techniques for Forensic Entomology, Phase 2, Final Report, J.D. Wells. 23 pp. Grant 99-IJ-CX-0034; NCJ 194121.

Economic Distress, Community Context and Intimate Violence: An Application and Extension of Social Disorganization Theory, Final Report, M.L. Benson et al. 165 pp. Grant 98-WT-VX-0011; funded in collaboration with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVAW); NCJ 193434.

Evaluation of Community Policing in Tempe, Arizona, Final Report, T. McEwen. 111 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0090; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 193423.

Evaluation of a Comprehensive Intervention Strategy in Public Housing, D.E. Stevens. 140 pp. Grant 98-IJ-CX-0053; funded in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; NCJ 193424.

Expanding Research Capacity to Support the Implementation of Community Policing Through the Development of a Multi-Agency Research Partnership Involving the Chandler, Glendale, and Scottsdale, Arizona, Police Departments and Arizona State University West, Final Report, V.J. Webb et al. 135 pp. Grant 98-IJ-CX-0006; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 194128.

Exploratory and Confirmatory Spatial Data Analysis Approaches to Studying the Correlates of Juvenile Violent Crimes, Volume II Final Report, S. Sirdharan. 57 pp. Grant 99-JR-VX-0003; funded in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; NCJ 194127.

From Whether to How Drug Courts Work: Retrospective Evaluation of Drug Courts in Clark County (Las Vegas) and Multnomah County (Portland), J.S. Goldkamp et al. 403 pp. Grant 98-DC-VX-K001; funded in collaboration with the Drug Courts Program Office; NCJ 194124.

Homicide in Los Angeles: An Analysis of the Differential Character of Adolescent and Other Homicides, C.L. Maxson et al. 34 pp. Grant 97-IJ-CX-0018; NCJ 193812.

Identifying Strategies to Market Police in the News, S. Chermak et al. 188 pp. Grant 96-IJ-CX-0078; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 194130.

Investigating Repeated Victimization With the National Crime Victimization Survey, Final Report, J.P. Lynch et al. 169 pp. Grant 97-IJ-CX-0027; NCJ 193415.

Investigation and Evaluation of Voice Stress Analysis Technology, Final Report, D. Haddad et al. 119 pp. Grant 98-LB-VX-A013; NCJ 193832.

Murder in Space City: Houston Homicide Re-Examined, Final Report and Project Summary, V.E. Brewer et al. 17 pp. Grant 97-IJ-CX-0014; NCJ 194606.

National League of Cities: Excellence in Community Policing Awards 1996, 1997, and 1998, H.W. Cooper. 7 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0064; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 194117.

Private Versus Public Sector Operation: A Comparison of the Environmental Quality in Juvenile Correctional Facilities, Final Report, G.S. Armstrong et al. 186 pp. Grant 99-IJ-CX-0061; NCJ 194119.

Process Evaluation of Recent Juvenile Transfer Statutes in Virginia, Volume I Final Report, S. Sirdharan. 115 pp. Grant 99-JR-VX-0003; funded in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; NCJ 194126.

Reducing Firearms Violence Through Directed Police Patrol: Final Report on the Evaluation of the Indianapolis Police Department's Directed Patrol Project, E.F. McGarrell et al. 151 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0019; NCJ 194207.

Rethinking Organizational Change in Policing, R.L. Wood et al. 118 pp. Grant 98-IJ-CX-0073; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 193422.

Role of the Multnomah County District Attorney in Order Maintenance: 1990-2000, B. Boland. 47 pp. Grant 95-IJ-CX-0112; NCJ 194262.

Situational Contexts of Gun Use by Young Males in Inner Cities, Final Report, D. Wilkinson et al. 217 pp. Grant 96-IJ-CX-0013; NCJ 194120.

Social Structure and Homicide in Post-Soviet Russia, W.A. Pridemore. 285 pp. Grant 99-IJ-CX-0009; NCJ 194062.

Strategy for Enhancing the Design and Analytical Potential of Mapping in Criminal Justice Operations and Research, Final Report, J.L. LeBeau. 11 pp. Grant 97-LB-VX-0002; NCJ 193803.

Street-Level Policing in Cincinnati: The Content of Community and Traditional Policing and the Perceptions of Policing Audiences, J. Frank et al. 236 pp. Grant 96-IJ-CX-0075; funded in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services; NCJ 194131.

Unintended Impacts of Sentencing Guidelines on Family Structure, Revised Technical Report, S.L. Myers, Jr., et al. 116 pp. Grant 96-CE-VX-0015; NCJ 194339.

NIJ in the Journals

Assisting Women Victims of Violence Who Experience Multiple Barriers to Services (Grant 95-WT-NX-0005, NCJ 193611), J.M. Zweig et al. 19 pp. From *Violence Against Women*, Vol. 8, No. 2, February 2002.

Impacts of Perceived Legal Pressure on Retention in Drug Treatment (Grant 93-IJ-CX-0025, NCJ 193607), D. Young. 29 pp. From *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 29, No. 1, February 2002.

Missing Voices: Patterns of Battered Women's Satisfaction With the Criminal Legal System (Grant 98-WT-NX-0024, NCJ 193612), R.E. Fleury. 25 pp. From *Violence Against Women*, Vol. 8, No. 2, February 2002.

Motivation as a Predictor of Therapeutic Engagement in Mandated Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (Grant 98-RT-VX-K004, NCJ 193608), M.L. Hiller et al. 20 pp. From *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 29, No. 1, February 2002.

Perceived Coercion and Treatment Need Among Mentally Ill Parolees (Grant 99-CE-VX-0003, NCJ 193609), D. Farabee et al. 11 pp. From *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 29, No. 1, February 2002.

Preventing School Shootings: A Summary of a U.S. Secret Service Safe School Initiative Report (Grant 00-MU-MU-A003, NCJ 190633), B. Vossekuil et al. 6 pp. From *National Institute of Justice Journal*, No. 248, March 2002.

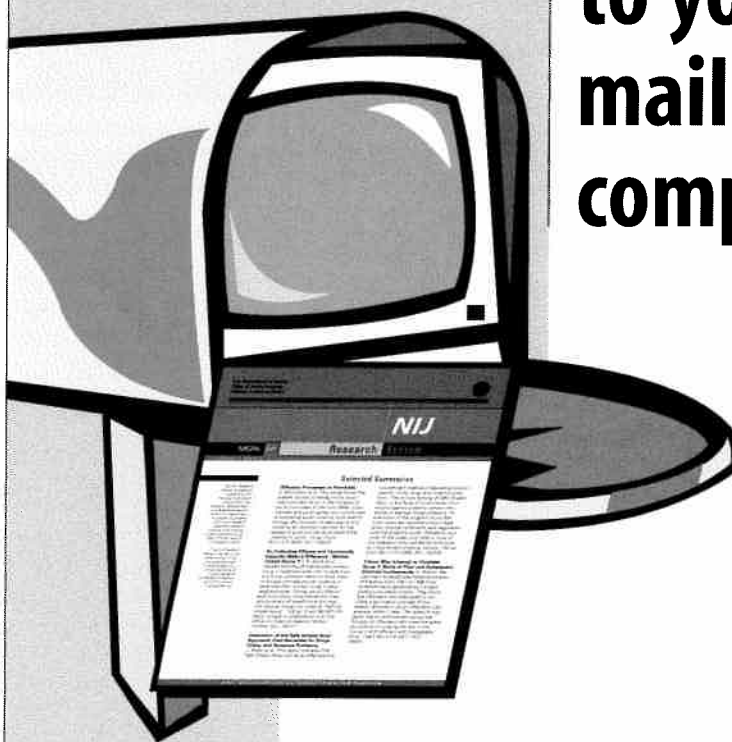
Tired Cops: The Prevalence and Potential Consequences of Police Fatigue (Grant 96-IJ-CX-0046, NCJ 190634), B. Vila et al. 6 pp. From *National Institute of Justice Journal*, No. 248, March 2002.

Findings and conclusions of the research reported here are those of the authors and do not reflect the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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 of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

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