

# JRSA Electronic News

## A monthly briefing for members

August 2007

### SAC News

The Connecticut SAC provided the Hartford Courant with statistics from recent SAC reports for an article about the recent home invasion/triple murder in Cheshire, Connecticut. The incident caused a great deal of public outcry. The August 26 article in the Courant was one of the first articles published since the incident that included evidence-based research. Here is a link to the article; statistics and charts can be found by clicking on "inmate statistics":

<http://www.courant.com/hc-release0826.artaug26,0,4704600.story?page=1>.

### Conferences and Trainings

On September 12, 2007, at 2 p.m. (Eastern time), join an online discussion about *Public Policy in Victims Services*. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), in conjunction with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), will present a Web Forum discussion with Susan Smith Howley on public policy in victim services. Visit the OVC Web Forum at

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/index.asp> to submit questions for Ms. Howley and return on

September 12 at 2 p.m. (eastern time) for the live discussion. Go to

<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/ovcproviderforum/asp/participate.asp> to learn how to participate beforehand so you are ready for the discussion.

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is holding the **8th National Conference on Preventing Crime: Helping Build Safer Communities** October 3-5, 2007, at the Hilton Atlanta. The purpose of the conference is to provide a forum and training for crime prevention practitioners to identify and learn about emerging trends and issues and ways to address them; to network with colleagues from across the country to share experiences and successes; and to renew commitments to prevention as a priority in reducing crime. Preregistration for the conference will close after September 12, 2007. For more information, go to <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?1Q,P1,DEEF951A-BC13-48A2-8FEF-E7A9FD1EBFD1>

The **National Association for Justice Information Systems (NAJIS)** is holding their 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, October 16-18 in Santa Fe, NM. Designed by practitioners for practitioners, this is a law and justice technology and management conference that delivers objective and timely information on justice information technology topics. This year's agenda offers a wealth of information about integration efforts and direction extending through the law and justice communities. Some of the topics will visit criminal history, NIEM/GJXDM, national efforts to share law enforcement data, regional mobile quick ID solutions, funding beyond the federal grants, and public records access. For more information, go to <http://www.najis.org/Registration.html>.

OJJDP's 2007 National Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Conference, *Reducing Disproportionate Minority Contact in Juvenile Justice by Making the Right Connections*, will be held October 25–27, 2007 in Denver, CO. The two-and-a-half day conference will provide state and local juvenile justice professionals with a variety of strategies to help make the right connections in their DMC-reduction efforts. The conference should be of particular interest to juvenile justice specialists; DMC coordinators; police officers; detention and probation professionals; family court judges; attorneys; and community-based youth services providers, including child welfare professionals. The conference will be

held at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver. For more information, go to [http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news\\_at\\_glance/219271/sf\\_2.html](http://www.ncjrs.gov/html/ojjdp/news_at_glance/219271/sf_2.html).

Communities In Schools, the nation's largest dropout prevention organization, will hold its national conference, *Leadership for Change: A Nation without Dropouts*, on October 31-November 4, in Atlanta, GA. The conference is expected to bring together more than 1,200 leaders engaged in youth development, education reform, and community-strengthening efforts to discuss the current dropout problem and ways to address it. Register by September 6, 2007, to receive the early bird discount. For more information about the conference and to register online, visit <http://www.cisnationalconference.com/>.

## **Publications**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) recently released the following publications:

*Sexual Violence Reported by Correctional Authorities, 2006* presents data from the Survey on Sexual Violence, 2006, an administrative records collection of incidents of inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate sexual violence reported to correctional authorities. The report provides counts of sexual violence, by type, for adult prisons, jails, and other adult correctional facilities, as well as an in-depth analysis of substantiated incidents, including where the incidents occur, time of day, number and characteristics of victims and perpetrators, nature of the injuries, impact on the victims, and sanctions imposed on the perpetrators. The appendix tables include counts of sexual violence, by type, for all State systems, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and sampled jail jurisdictions. The report also includes an update on BJS activities related to implementation of the data collections required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-79). For more information or a copy of the report, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/svrca06.htm>.

*Black Victims of Violent Crime* presents findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey about nonfatal violent victimization (rape/sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault) experienced by non-Hispanic blacks. Data on homicides are drawn from the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program's Supplementary Homicide Reports. Comparisons are made with the victimization experience of other racial/ethnic groups. Findings include violent victimization rates by victim characteristics. Also examined are crime characteristics, including weapon use, offender race, police reporting, and police response to violent crime incidents. Trends in violent victimization are also discussed. For a copy of the report, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/bvvc.htm>.

*Felony Sentences in State Courts, 2004* presents statistics for adults who were convicted of a felony and sentenced in State courts. The data were collected through a survey of a nationally representative sample of State courts in 300 counties in 2004. The number and characteristics (age, sex, race) of offenders who were sentenced to prison, jail, or probation are reported for the five major offense categories. Trends from 1994 to 2004 highlight the number of adults convicted of felonies as well as the types of conviction offenses and sentence lengths imposed. More information can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/fssc04.htm>.

*Improving Criminal History Records in Indian Country, 2004-2006* describes the achievements of the Tribal Criminal History Records Improvement Program (T-CHRIP) which provides grants to federally-recognized tribes to improve data sharing across tribal, state and national criminal records systems. This report summarizes the history, goals and objectives of T-CHRIP and discusses allowable activities supported by the program. The report details T-CHRIP-funded projects aimed at improving public safety in Indian Country by enhancing the quality, completeness, and accessibility of

criminal history records and by facilitating the implementation of background check systems for criminal justice and noncriminal justice purposes. The report also includes an overview of the Office of Justice Programs' Indian Country Justice and Safety Website and the Tribal Violence Prevention Technology Assistance Program. For more information on the report, as well as links to additional resources for information on Indian Country, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ichric06.htm>.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has added a *National Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Databook* to its *Statistical Briefing Book*. The DMC Databook enables users to review the processing of delinquency cases within the juvenile justice system and assess levels of disproportionate minority contact at various decision points. It includes national data for the 15-year period 1990-2004. To view the *DMC Databook*, visit <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/dmcdm/>. The *Statistical Briefing Book* is located at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/index.html>.

## **Announcements**

September is Youth Court Month. A record 1,255 youth courts across the United States annually involve more than 115,000 youth volunteers in the sentencing and disposition of more than 120,000 youth offenders. With funding from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, the National Association of Youth Courts, Inc. has published the *National Youth Court Month 2007 Planning and Action Guide*. The Guide, which is available online at [http://training.youthcourt.net/NYCC2007-2008\\_Calendar\\_Action\\_Kit\\_6-4-07a.pdf](http://training.youthcourt.net/NYCC2007-2008_Calendar_Action_Kit_6-4-07a.pdf), is designed to assist communities in observing National Youth Court Month, designated for September 2007. This year's theme is "Empowering Youth, Experiencing Justice."

SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, announced the launch of its redesigned **Justice Information Exchange Model© (JIEM) Website**. JIEM was developed by SEARCH through funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), to help jurisdictions across the country document their business information sharing requirements. The site includes several new features, such as easier access to information and more detail on the three integrated components of JIEM—the JIEM Methodology, Reference Model, and Modeling Tool. The site is geared both to those new to JIEM, as well as current certified JIEM users. The new site also offers a "sneak peek" at the newest version of the JIEM Tool, which will be available on the Eclipse platform and is scheduled for a Fall 2007 release. Visitors to the site can sign up to get future announcements on the new JIEM Tool release, to learn of training opportunities, or to take a WebEx JIEM Quick-start Course. An FAQs page provides further details on the pending release. For more information, go to <http://www.search.org/programs/info/jiem.asp>.

Applications for the **Innovations in American Government Awards** are due on October 15, 2007. This award, sponsored by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, recognizes that government can work to improve the quality of life for citizens and that it deserves greater public trust. Many award-winning programs have been replicated across jurisdictions and policy areas, and some have served as harbingers of today's reform strategies or as forerunners to state and federal legislation. By highlighting exemplary models of government's innovative performance, the Program serves as a catalyst for continued progress in addressing the nation's most pressing public concerns. For more information on the award, or for an application, go to <http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu/Ash/awards.htm>.