

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

August 2008

SAC News

Rachel Philofsky was recently appointed Director of **the Maryland Statistical Analysis Center**, which is in the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP). Ms. Philofsky previously held the position of Statistical Analyst in the same office. She received a master's degree from the University of Maryland Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. While at the University of Maryland, Ms. Philofsky taught undergraduate criminology and statistics classes and worked as Professor Ray Paternoster's Research Assistant conducting research on capital punishment. Ms. Philofsky has published articles on capital punishment in academic and legal journals. Prior to graduate school, Ms. Philofsky served as a Special Agent for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Inspector General and as a 9-1-1 dispatcher for the Maryland State Police.

Ken Nicolas, who has been serving as Interim Texas SAC director, was promoted to the newly created position of Special Advisor and Director of the Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center. Look for more information in the September issue of The JRSA Forum. Current contact information for all SACs can be found on JRSA's Web site: <http://www.jrsa.org/sac/index.html>.

JRSA News

Don't forget to register for the **BJS/JRSA 2008 National Conference** will be held in Portland, OR on October 16-17. Although there are no more rooms available at the Hilton Portland and Executive Tower at the conference rate, JRSA made arrangements for lodging at the conference rate with the Heathman Hotel, a beautiful facility across Broadway from the Hilton. For a link to the hotel, or more information about the conference, go to <http://www.jrsa.org>.

Publications

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released *Sexual Violence Reported by Juvenile Correctional Authorities, 2005-06*, which provides detailed statistics about youth-on-youth and staff-on-youth sexual violence. The report presents data from the 2005 and 2006 *Survey on Sexual Violence (SSV)*, an administrative records collection of incidents required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, and provides counts of sexual violence, by type, for juvenile correctional facilities. The report also provides 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, and all sampled locally or privately operated facilities. According to the SSV, there were over 2000 allegations of sexual violence in juvenile detention facilities in 2005 and 2006, amounting to 16.7 allegations for every 1000 detained youth in 2005 and 16.8 allegations for every 1000 detained youth in 2006. The report combines data from all state-operated juvenile detention centers and 279 non-state facilities in 2005. It expanded to include 330 non-state facilities for the 2006 survey. To view or download the report, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/svrjca0506.htm>.

In an effort to strengthen sanctions for serious juvenile crimes, most states enacted laws expanding the types of offenders and offenses eligible for transfer from juvenile courts to adult criminal courts. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) published *Juvenile Transfer Laws: An Effective Deterrent to Delinquency?*, which provides an overview of research on the deterrent effects of such transfers, focusing on OJJDP-funded studies on the effect of transfer laws on recidivism. The information it provides should help inform public discussion and policy decisions. This bulletin is available online only at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=242419>.

OJJDP released *Highlights of the 2006 National Youth Gang Survey*, which provides data on the number of gangs, gang members, and gang-related homicides in larger cities, suburban counties, smaller cities, and rural counties to accurately reflect youth gang activity in the United States. Based on survey results, it is estimated that nearly 3,400 jurisdictions across the United States experienced gang activity in 2006. For a copy of the fact sheet, go to <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=245263>.

OJJDP released the report *Building Brighter Futures in Indian Country: What's on the Minds of Native Youth*. The report captures the meeting of the 2007 Tribal Youth Focus Group, which was comprised of boys and girls, ages 10 to 17, and their chaperones, from 20 tribes across the United States. The purpose of this meeting was to bring tribal youth together and encourage an open dialog among them about their communities, families, and life experiences. The goal is for this dialog will guide OJJDP as it continues to develop programs to help tribal communities address the challenges they face in strengthening families and assisting at-risk youth. The report is available at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/typ/download/223353.pdf>.

The Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics has released *America's Children in Brief: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2008*. The Forum has published this annual child welfare report since 1997, alternating between a comprehensive report and a condensed version highlighting selected indicators, as is the case this year. The Forum fosters coordination and integration among 22 federal agencies that produce or use statistical data on children and families. The *America's Children* series provides an accessible compendium of indicators drawn from the most reliable official statistics across topics; it is designed to complement other more specialized, technical, or comprehensive reports produced by various Forum agencies. To view or download a copy of the report, go to <http://www.childstats.gov/pubs/index.asp>.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) released a fact sheet on *HOPE in Hawaii: Swift and Sure Changes in Probation*, which describes Hawaii's Opportunity Probation with Enforcement (HOPE) program. Preliminary research on HOPE shows that the program successfully reduces drug use and crime, even among difficult populations such as methamphetamine abusers, sex offenders and domestic violence offenders. According researchers, five percent of HOPE probationers missed appointments with their probation officers compared to 12 percent of non-HOPE offenders. Also, 11 percent of those in the HOPE program tested positive for drug use compared to 26 percent of non-HOPE probationers. The NIJ fact sheet discusses why HOPE was started and how it affects probationers and the court system, and provides some preliminary findings from the program. The fact sheet is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222758.pdf>. For information on HOPE, go to <http://www.courts.state.hi.us/hope>.

Another NIJ fact sheet, *Sex Offender Residency Restrictions: How Mapping Can Inform Policy*, provides information on how offender residency laws affect communities, law enforcement, and the sex offenders themselves, and how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) can help officials and legislators evaluate the impact of sex offender residency laws in their communities. This fact sheet is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222759.pdf>.

Conferences and Trainings

The **National Commission on Correctional Health Care** will hold its annual conference on October 18-22 in Chicago, Illinois. This multifaceted forum will bring together a diverse group of practitioners and administrators from all correctional health care disciplines, and will provide opportunities for professional development. Through lectures, panels, workshops, poster presentations and exhibits, participants will receive the latest information on core competencies, best practices, and emerging developments in this field. For more information, go to <http://www.ncchc.org/education/national/index.html>.

The **Office for Victims of Crime** announced their **Fall 2008 training schedule**. Courses include: *Providing Culturally Competent Services to Victims of Crime* (Lincoln, NE), *Identity Theft* (San Diego, CA), *Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training* (Portland, ME), *Enforcing Victims' Rights* (Charleston, SC), and *Supporting Children Living with Grief and Trauma: A Multidisciplinary Approach* (Los Angeles, CA). For more information or to register, go to <https://www.ovcttac.gov/trainingCenter/training.cfm>.

The **National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ)** is seeking presenters for its **National Conference on Juvenile Justice**, to be held in Orlando, FL on March 11-14, 2009. The conference will provide presenters with a forum to address a multidisciplinary audience of professionals working in America's juvenile and family courts. For more information, go to <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1150/347/>.

Announcements

New job announcements have been posted and can be found in the "Employment Opportunities" section of JRSA's web site, <http://www.jrsa.org/resources/employment.htm>. Among them are SAC director positions in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Harvard University is soliciting applications for the **Innovations in American Government Award**. Administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, the Innovations Award is heralded as the premier public-sector award in the nation. It is given annually to programs that serve as examples of creative and effective government at its best. All units of government--federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial—from all policy areas are eligible to apply. The top winners of the 2009 Innovations Award will receive a \$100,000 grant to support replication and dissemination activities. All winners and finalists receive monetary grants. Applications and additional information are available at <http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu>. **Applications are due September 30, 2008.**

With support from The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the **Reentry Policy Council** has developed an **online assessments tool** for government professionals working to make prison and jail reentry safer and more successful. The tool was developed to familiarize officials with the different assessment instruments used in corrections systems across the nation, and is available at <http://tools.reentrypolicy.org/assessments/chart>.

The **National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA)** announced that presentations from its recent *2008 National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety* have been posted online and are available at <http://www.ncja.org/Content/NavigationMenu/EducationEvents/2008NationalForum/default.htm>. This year's program included sessions on gangs, school and campus safety, informed policing, crime in Indian country, suspicious activity reporting, pandemic and public health planning, and justice reinvestment, as well as a number of workshops showcasing innovative programs and technologies that are helping in

the fight against violent crime. The 2009 National Forum will take place August 9-11, 2009 in Bellevue, Washington.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) announced the availability of assistance to American citizens victimized by terrorism abroad. The **International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program (ITVERP)** was authorized by Congress to reimburse eligible direct victims of acts of international terrorism that occur outside the United States for expenses associated with that victimization. For more information on ITVERP, go to <http://www.ovc.gov/intdir/itverp/index.html>.

September 2008 is the **19th Annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month**. This year's theme, *Join the Voices for Recovery: Real People, Real Recovery* recognizes individuals and families that have overcome addiction in all its forms and acknowledges the individuals in the criminal justice and social services sectors who help bring recovery to those in need. For more information, go to <http://recoverymonth.gov/>.

The **Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART)** announces the launch of *SMART Watch*. This online newsletter, which is available at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart/smartwatch/08_july/news.html, highlights ongoing activities, news, and funding opportunities, relevant to those in the field of sex offender management.