

JRSA Electronic News

A monthly briefing for members

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Publications

Illinois SAC Releases Report on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) released a research report on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Due to the secretive and hidden nature of CSEC, this crime is difficult to study and quantify. The research, which was supported by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), relied on three research methods to study CSEC in Illinois: arrest statistics, focus groups with individuals who were prostituted as juveniles, and interviews with law enforcement officers. The goal of the research was to gain a better understanding of CSEC in Illinois. The report also offers six recommendations to more effectively combat the problem of CSEC. The report is available at <http://www.icjia.state.il.us/public/pdf/ResearchReports/CSEC%202008%20ICJIA%20REPORT.pdf>. For more information, contact Jessica Ashley, principal investigator, at 312-793-8550.

Managing Backlogged Crime Laboratory Cases

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) released a publication highlighting various ways that crime labs have found to address backlog problems without a large increase in personnel or a policy that limits case submissions. The "NIJ In Short," *Increasing Efficiency in Crime Laboratories*, describes how some laboratories have begun implementing managerial advances such as process mapping, an efficiency forum, and business process management to address backlog challenges. To view and download this "NIJ In Short," go to <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/220336.pdf>.

PREA Resources for Judges Available

The National Judicial College (NJC), under a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has published two new resources entitled *What Judges Need to Know About Prison Rape: The Prison Rape Elimination Act and The Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003: Curriculum for Judges*. The first resource is a CD-ROM curriculum that may be played on any computer that provides judges with an introductory overview of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA). The second resource is a model curriculum also designed as an introductory overview of PREA. The NJC developed this curriculum to be presented in a one- to three-hour period. The purpose of both resources is to teach judges how to identify the critical provisions of PREA; manage PREA cases effectively and efficiently; apply evidentiary rules in PREA cases; and sentence offenders considering victim's rights, reentry, community safety, and other significant concerns. For more information or if you would like to receive a copy of these products, e-mail Kelly Unger at Unger@judges.org or fax (775) 784-1253 with the following: name, organization, address, telephone number, e-mail address, how many you would like, and a brief description [25 words or less] of why you are interested in this project.

Meetings and Training

NIJ and Kennedy School to Hold Online Discussion on PREA Research

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and Harvard Kennedy School's Government Innovators Network are sponsoring a live online chat on Sexual Victimization in Prisons on February 7th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. A panel will discuss the state of Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) research—what data are available and what's yet to come—and examine ways to move from better understanding to reliable prevention and eventual elimination. The discussion will be moderated by **A.T. Wall**, Director of the Department of Corrections for the State of Rhode Island. The panel includes:

Barbara Owen - Professor of Criminology, California State University, Fresno

Brenda Smith - Professor of Law, American University; Commissioner, National Prison Rape Elimination Commission

Allen Beck - Deputy Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics

For information on registering and instructions on how to log in, go to <http://www.innovations.harvard.edu/spotlight.html?id=721&preview=1>.

Juvenile and Family Court Judges to Hold Conference on Juvenile Justice

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the National District Attorneys Association are sponsoring the 35th *National Conference on Juvenile Justice* March 9–12, in St. Louis, Missouri. This conference will offer juvenile justice professionals a national perspective on the issues they face in their day-to-day efforts to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Sessions at the conferences will highlight effective practice and programs, offer tips and tools, provide an opportunity for networking, and inspire and invigorate participants. Breakout session topics will include truancy and safe schools, gangs, family violence, child abuse and neglect, juvenile sex offenders, and substance abuse. Register by February 14 to benefit from the early payment discount. For more information, including a conference brochure, go to <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1054/315/>.

Accessing and Sustaining Resources for Community & Faith-Based Organizations

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) is conducting workshops in Los Angeles and Philadelphia to help faith-based and community organizations take their organizations to the next level and instruct them on building financial security and sustainability into their programs. Key topics will include: how to apply for government funding and attract private funding, manage financial growth, and manage and plan for organizational growth. The workshop in Philadelphia will be March 19-20. The Los Angeles workshop will be held April 1-2. There is no cost to attend either conference, but register early because seating is limited. For more information, go to <http://www.sei2003.com/ojjdp>.

OVC Offers Workshops for Professionals Working with Victims

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is offering specialized training workshops to enhance the capacity of victims' advocates to better serve crime victims and increase their professional skills. Training sessions for the first half of 2008 are:

- *Identity Theft*, February 20-21, in Albuquerque, New Mexico
Learn to help victims report and recover from identity theft.
- *Responding to School Violence*, March 11-12, Portland, Oregon
Explores violence issues faced by school systems, parents, and students
- *Mental Health Response to Mass Violence and Terrorism*, March 25-27, Savannah, Georgia
"The basics" for mental health and other service providers facing mass victimizations.
- *The Ultimate Trainer*, April 1-3, Charleston, West Virginia
Designed for victim service providers who develop and deliver training but do not have a formal background or extensive experience in adult education or instructional design, this course helps participants build the knowledge and practical skills they need to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate quality-training programs.
- *Sexual Assault Advocate/Counselor Training*, April 29-30, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Focuses on crisis intervention rather than long-term counseling, helps sexual assault advocates and counselors deepen their understanding of the problem of sexual assault and the major roles of an advocate/counselor.

For more information on these, and workshops offered later in the year, go to <http://www.sei2003.com/ovcttac2008/index.htm>.

Announcements

NIC Invites Researchers to Corrections Roundtable

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) recently established the Correctional Research Roundtable to serve as a forum within its Web site, *Corrections Community*. The goal of the Roundtable is to promote networking among practitioners, academicians, and anyone else interested in correctional research. It will be a virtual meeting ground for discussion of topics such as in-progress or newly completed research, research theory and techniques, the practitioner/academic interface, and evidence-based practice. NIC hopes that it will become an important tool for enhancing communication among researchers with shared interests. Membership is free and open to anyone interested in participating. To join the Corrections Community, users should create an account (a very quick process) at <http://community.nicic.org/user/createuser.aspx>, and then visit the Roundtable at <http://community.nicic.org/forums/107.aspx>. For more information, contact Eileen Conway at the NIC Information Center, econway@nicic.org. For technical assistance, send an e-mail to communitysupport@nicic.org.

OVW Announces Teen Dating Violence Prevention Week

February 4–8 is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Week. According to the Web site of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), U.S. Department of Justice, recent studies show that 20 percent of teenage girls and young women have experienced some form of dating violence, which can include physical, emotional, verbal, psychological, or sexual abuse. OVW plans to launch a national outreach campaign targeted toward youth. For more information and a list of resources, go to <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/>.