

# JRSA Electronic News

## A monthly briefing for members

July 2008

### SAC News

Arkansas' new SAC Director is **Ralph Ward**. Mr. Ward holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice and political science and served as a U.S. Army tactical intelligence officer from 1997 to 2002. He has served in a number of capacities in the Arkansas Crime Information Center, where the SAC is housed, including as auditor of the Arkansas Sex Offender Registry, VINE and JusticeXchange program manager, and UCR Program Coordinator. Mr. Ward currently serves as the manager of the UCR program staff and has been instrumental in leading the state toward full NIBRS compliance. Mr. Ward also led his team in the development and installation of a new UCR repository that will enable the ACIC to produce "state-of-the-art" reports and provide real-time feedback to the agencies that contribute data to the repository. He is currently developing a plan for statewide participation in N-DEX.

### Conferences and Trainings

The Florida Network of Children's Advocacy Center, in collaboration with the United States Attorney's Office, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and others, will hold its annual **Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Abuse** on July 16-18 in Orlando. As part of the conference, OJJDP will conduct a two-part workshop on its **Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Community Intervention Project**. For more information on the conference, including a conference brochure, and to register online, visit <http://fncac.org/cac-conference.asp>. For information on OJJDP's workshop, go to [http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/csec\\_program.html](http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/csec_program.html).

The National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges will hold its annual national conference on July 27-30, 2008, in Norfolk, Virginia. The conference, **Navigating the Complex Waterways of the Judicial System**, will focus on juvenile and family law topics, including custody and visitation, divorce, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence, juvenile delinquency, and substance abuse. For additional information, including a conference brochure, or to register online, go to <http://www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1082/315/>.

National TASC (Treatment Accountability for Safer Communities) will hold its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Drugs & Crime, **The Sky's the Limit: Strengthening Communities through TASC Innovation, Integration, and Imagination**, on September 3 - 5, in Chicago, Illinois. The conference will focus on strengthening communities through innovation, integration, and imagination. Representatives from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and the Department of Justice as well as nationally recognized experts in the fields of public health and safety will share the latest developments in substance abuse education, prevention, treatment, and research. For more information or to register, go to <http://www.nationaltasc.org>.

The National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) and IJIS Institute announced the 2008 National Forum on Criminal Justice and Public Safety, **No More Victims-Standing Up to Violent Crime**, to be held August 3-5 in Louisville, Kentucky. The National Forum is a unique opportunity to explore partnerships and share ideas about multi-dimensional prevention strategies to reduce the impact of violent crime in our communities. It will bring together leaders from all levels of government and the public and private

sector to share real life solutions that are working across the country. For more information about the National Forum, including registration information and an agenda, go to <http://www.national-forum.net/>.

[Note: JRSA will be presenting a panel session at the Forum. Entitled *State Data Sources for Research on Violent Offenders*, the panel will be moderated by Gerry Ramker of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, and feature a presentation on the use of a state data warehouse by a representative of the Iowa SAC. South Carolina's SAC director will discuss use of National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, and JRSA Research Director Stan Orchowsky will discuss JRSA's project involving SAC use of criminal history records to study sex offender recidivism.]

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) will hold their 2008 National Conference, *Using Data to Improve Justice Policy and Practice*, in Portland, Oregon, October 16–17. The conference will focus on the use of statistics and research in the development of justice-related policies and programs. Justice system professionals from all levels of government and academia will be able to share the latest data and research, and discuss ways to improve the quality of justice data and research in the states as well as encourage the use of statistics and research to develop policy. The program includes more than 20 panel sessions on systemwide topics. In conjunction with the conference, JRSA will offer pre- and postconference skill-building seminars (October 14, 15, and 18) on mapping, cost benefit analysis, evaluation methods and related issues, forecasting, and statistics. For more information, or to download a conference brochure, go to <http://www.jrsa.org>.

## **Publications**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) released three new reports this month. *Jail Inmates at Midyear 2007* presents data on numbers of jails and jail inmates at midyear 2007 and analyzes patterns of growth from 2000 through 2007. This report includes data on rated capacity of jails, percent of capacity occupied, and capacity added. It provides estimates of admissions to jails and details the volume of movement among the jail population. This bulletin includes total numbers for jail inmates by gender, race, and Hispanic origin as well as counts of jail inmates by conviction and confinement status.

(<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/jim07.htm>)

*Prison Inmates at Midyear 2007* presents data on prisoners under jurisdiction of federal or state correctional authorities on June 30, 2007, collected from the National Prisoner Statistics series. This annual report describes changes in the prison population during the first six months of 2007, compared to changes from year end 2000 through year end 2006. It details the incarceration rates for prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year by jurisdiction, the number of incarcerated males and females, and the number of prisoners admitted into and released from federal and state jurisdiction. It provides estimates of the custody population by gender, race, and age, as well as the custody incarceration rates for these groups are also included. Counts of the number of non-citizens and individuals under age 18 held in custody are included. (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/pim07.htm>)

*Sexual Victimization in Local Jails Reported by Inmates, 2007* presents data from the 2007 National Inmate Survey (NIS), conducted in 282 local jails between April and December, with a sample of 40,419 inmates. The report and appendix tables provide a listing of results for sampled local jails, as required under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-79). Facilities are listed alphabetically by state with estimated prevalence rates of sexual victimization as reported by inmates during a personal interview and based on activity in the 6 months prior to the interview or since admission to the facility, if shorter. The report includes national-level and facility-level estimates of nonconsensual sexual acts, abusive sexual contacts, inmate-on-inmate and staff-on-inmate victimization, and level of coercion. It also includes estimates of the standard error for selected measures of sexual victimization and summary characteristics of victims and incidents. Data collected from prison inmates in the National Inmate Survey were reported in *Sexual Victimization in State and Federal Prisons Reported by Inmates, 2007*, released in December 2007. (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/svljri07.htm>)

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) published *Best Practices to Address Community Gang Problems: OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model*. The report provides communities responding to a present or potential youth gang problem with guidance in implementing OJJDP's Comprehensive Gang Model. It describes the research informing the model, notes findings from evaluations of several programs demonstrating the model, and outlines best practices derived from practitioners with experience in planning and implementing the model in their communities. The report is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/222799.pdf>.

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) released *Deaths Following Electro-Muscular Disruption*, an interim report about the risk of a death or serious injury related to police use of Tasers. An expert panel of medical professionals found no decisive evidence of a high risk of death or serious injury from the direct effects of Tasers and other Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs). The panel's interim report said certain groups of people may be at much higher risk of injury or death from Tasers. These groups include children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people who have heart disease. Police officers should avoid the use of Tasers against these populations unless the situation excludes other choices. The panel expects to release a final report in 2009. To review a summary and background information related to the report, go to <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/technology/less-lethal/incustody-deaths.htm>. The report is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222981.pdf>.

The Office for Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS) released *Enhancing the Problem-Solving Capacity of Crime Analysis Units*. This is the most recent guide in the Problem-Solving Tools Series of the Problem-Oriented Guides for Police, and is intended for police managers who wish to ensure that their crime analysts are properly inducted into the police environment and that their analytical work is fully integrated into departmental operations. The guide is organized around nine fundamental concerns that must be addressed when developing a problem-solving capacity within a crime analysis unit. Following each of the nine concerns, posed as questions, the author offers several recommendations for consideration when developing a group of skilled problem-solving crime analysts. The guide is available at <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/ric/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=454>.

*Violence by Teenage Girls: Trends and Context*, released by the OJJDP Girls Study Group, assesses trends of juvenile arrest rates for violent crimes, focusing on simple and aggravated assault. The bulletin also examines the context in which girls and boys offend, including the types of victims targeted and environments where offenses commonly occur. The bulletin is available at <http://www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/publications/PubAbstract.asp?pubi=240649>.

The Center for Court Innovation released the first national survey of judicial attitudes toward problem-solving justice. Conducted in collaboration with the California Administrative Office of the Courts, the survey included more than 1,000 trial court judges across the country. Survey results are presented in *Problem-Solving and the American Bench: A National Survey of Trial Court Judges*. Among other findings, the results indicate that three in four judges approve of problem-solving methods. For a copy of the report, go to [http://www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/natl\\_judges\\_survey.pdf](http://www.courtinnovation.org/uploads/documents/natl_judges_survey.pdf).

## **Announcements**

### **Final Sex Offender Registration Guidelines Now Available**

The Department of Justice announced the final guidelines for Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). The Guidelines provide necessary tools for states, the District of Columbia, territories and certain federally recognized Indian tribes to incorporate SORNA minimum requirements into their sex offender registration and notification programs. The final guidelines and additional information on significant changes can be found at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/smart>.