Office of Criminal Justice Services

Criminal Justice Bulletin

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National Domestic Violence Month

News/Announcements

Teen Driver Safety Week October 14-20: The 6th annual National Teen Driver Safety Week (NTDSW) takes place October 14-20, 2012. This year's theme is **'Share, *Not* Scare.'** Although graphic reenactments of car crashes and other tactics may get your attention, they may not be the best way to change behavior over the long haul. Instead, message to motivate by communicating the benefits of safe driving. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Focus on the positive. Talk about positive behaviors like always wearing a seat belt and being a good passenger instead of focusing on what teens should *not* be doing. Here's how.
- Engage rather than offend. Get your friends involved in creating a NTDSW campaign at your school that promotes the benefits of safe behaviors. Positively structured learning experiences have a much greater chance of motivating people to choose safe, smart behaviors. For campaign ideas, visit ridelikeafriend.org.
- Empower rather than scare. Teens want to do the right thing and be a part of the solution. Reaffirm their positive instincts by celebrating safe driving and passenger behaviors. Do not dwell on the few at your school who are rebelling in an unhealthy way. Stay positive. Others will follow your lead.

Learn more about messaging to motivate at mostofus.org. This site offers advice about positive health-related communication. It also discusses how to build positive campaigns, ones proven to influence teens to avoid substance abuse, violence, car crashes, and other health risks.

Senate Committee Approves Bill Changing How States Handle Criminal History Checks: Before leaving for recess, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved a bill which intends to establish uniform policies and procedures for how child-serving organizations can obtain national criminal history background checks. The purpose of the bill is to ease the burden on child-serving organizations that require background checks for employees and volunteers. These may be public or private organizations that provide "care, care placement, supervision, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children," including schools, non-profit service providers, summer camps and other establishments. In introducing the bill, S. 645, Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) noted that the cost of a criminal history background check can be prohibitively expensive and time-consuming. The bill tries to address this burden by streamlining how employers access criminal history background checks and identify which individuals have been convicted of serious crimes involving children.

During mark-up, the committee adopted an amendment that, if passed into law, would require that child-serving organizations seeking criminal history records access the records directly from the FBI, not from the states. Also, the amendment creates a new color-coded system for releasing the information with different types of convictions given a different color based on severity of offense. The amendment was offered to prevent unfunded mandates placed upon the states. However, according to SEARCH, which represents the state criminal history information agencies, since the states provide the records to the FBI, the amended bill would prevent states from receiving compensation for these transactions.

Also, the committee-passed bill authorizes the FBI to charge fees to recover the costs of implementing the program, including the ability to reimburse, if appropriate, for "a State criminal background check." However, the bill does not define when the state's involvement or reimbursement is considered appropriate, potentially leaving states with the ongoing responsibility to collect criminal history records without a sure source of revenue for their upkeep. According to SEARCH, another concern with this amendment is that states maintain more detailed and complete records than the FBI and include a higher percentage of dispositions than those at the national level. Bypassing the state check could mean that those requesting records would not get the most complete information available.

Source: NCJA

Senate Judiciary Approves Rape Kit Backlog Bill: Last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence Registry Act. The purpose of the bill, called the SAFER Act, is to assist states and local governments in analyzing and reducing their backlog of rape kits not yet submitted to a lab for DNA testing. The bill, S. 3250, would authorize states and local governments to use a certain portion of their Debbie Smith Act funding to conduct one-year audits of the untested sexual assault evidence in their possession. It would also increase the portion of Debbie Smith Act funding that may be used for analyzing untested DNA evidence from crime scenes. Under current law, 40 percent of the funding is required to be spent on grants for the analysis of DNA evidence. This bill would increase to 75 percent the portion of total funding that could be used for DNA analysis, and expand authorization to include capacity building needs as well.

Click here for more details.

Training/Technical Assistance

Free Grant Writing Seminars: OCJS is hosting free Grant Writing seminars in 2012. OCJS's grant trainings provide an overview of identifying grant sources, analyzing program objectives, creating a budget, seeking letters of support, and writing proposals. Federal and state grants available to criminal justice professionals are discussed. Attendees also receive the OCJS publication, *Grant Writing: Identifying and Applying for Funding in a Competitive Market*. Grant writing 101 trainings take place on the following dates: **November 8**.

All trainings are held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Classroom, located at 1970 W. Broad St., Columbus, on the first floor. To download and print a training registration form, visit: http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_TrainingForm.pdf

Register here: is http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/OCJSregister

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Training/Technical Assistance Con't.

Free Webinar To Examine Bullying Prevention in Schools: October is National Bullying Prevention Month, and it's important to remember that bullying can threaten students' physical and emotional safety at school, and can adversely impact their ability to learn. The best way to address bullying is to stop it before it starts.

On October 24, the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention will host "School-Based Health Professionals Respond to Bullying" a webinar focused on bullying in school settings. This webinar, developed in collaboration with the National Association of School Nurses and the National Assembly of School-Based Health Care, will showcase on-the-ground perspectives from clinicians and students along with best practices for bullying prevention and response.

When: Wednesday October 24, 2 p.m. EDT

Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

To register, click here.

Men of Color Symposium: This important symposium will feature two keynote speakers: Dr. Ivory A. Toldson is an associate professor at Howard University and will present *"Breaking Barriers 2: Plotting the Path Away from Juvenile Detention and Toward Academic Success for School-age African-American Males."*

Dr. Victor Saenz, an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Administration at the University of Texas at Austin, will present: *"Latino Males: Improving College Access and Degree Completion."*

These two very important topics will take place Thursday, October 25 from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the U.S. Conference Theater at The Ohio Union; 1739 North High Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Refreshments will be provided.

Finding Words Ohio: The Forensic Interviewer at Trial: Presented in collaboration with the National Child Protection Training Center (NCPTC), this 3-day course is designed for teams of two: a prosecutor and a forensic interviewer. This training requires attorneys and forensic interviewers to work together in preparation for a child abuse trial. The course combines lectures and practical court exercises to enhance the ability of the forensic interviewer and prosecutor or civil child protection attorney to defend the forensic interview and multidisciplinary team investigation from attacks by the defense.

Presenters: Victor Vieth - Executive Director, NCPTC; Rita Johnson - Forensic Interview Specialist, NCPTC

When: October 29 -31, 2012

Where: Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (London, OH)

Cost: $100

Additional Information: Please visit http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/FindingWords

Questions call Ohio Attorney General's Crime Victim Section at 614.466.5610.

Grant funding

OCJS Releases FY 2012 JAG LE RFP:

WHAT TO EXPECT

Application. Projects may request a maximum of $20,000 of OCJS/JAG LE funds, and there will be a 10 percent cash match requirement on the total project cost. Agencies may submit only one application per subgrantee, multiple applications will not be considered for funding. Local law enforcement agencies are eligible to apply as the implementing agency. The unit of local government must serve as the official subgrantee (e.g., mayor or commissioner's office).

PROGRAM PURPOSE

Funds will be used for:

- Hiring, training, and employing on a continuing basis new, additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel.
- Paying overtime to employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel for the purposes of increasing the number of hours worked by such personnel.
- Procuring equipment, computer technology, and other materials directly related to law enforcement functions. Allowable costs include equipment needed to implement OIBRS. Funded OIBRS projects will be required to report OIBRS data within a specified time after completion of the subgrant, and the records management system vendor must be an Ohio certified OIBRS vendor.

ELIGIBILE APPLICANTS

Per Ohio Revised Code Section 5502.62 (C) (6), all law enforcement agencies must be compliant with reporting crime statistics, using either the Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System or Uniform Crime Reporting, in order to receive funding through OCJS. Note: if the applying agency is not reporting using OIBRS or Uniform Crime Reporting the application will not be reviewed and will not receive funding.

Programs under criminal justice departments that are consistently reporting crime statistics are the only law enforcement agencies eligible for OCJS funding pursuant to Ohio law. Ohio law requires all law enforcement agencies to report their crime statistics in order to be eligible for criminal justice grants from OCJS.

AWARD

Award notifications will be made via www.ocjsgrants.com to selected projects. Before final approval, projects must complete and return all required forms. All awards will be funded for seven months, operating from February 1, 2013 through August 31, 2013.

To apply, please visit: www.ocjsgrants.com. For technical assistance on any part of the JAG application, call OCJS at: 614.466.7782 and ask to speak to your Grants Coordinator.

Regional Contacts: http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/grants.stm

Applications must be submitted by October 31, 2012.

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Grant funding

Safety and Health for Older Women (RFP): Funding through this request is available for activities and events that enhance access to information and health care resources that promote the safety and health of older women (women 50+) in the United States and its affiliated territories. Community-based partnerships and collaborations are strongly encouraged. Activities that educate health professionals on issues related to older women are also strongly encouraged. Projects will be funded up to a maximum amount of $2,500.

Who can apply: Funding is available to eligible entities located in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the six U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Island Jurisdictions, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Eligible entities include public and private organizations, community- and faith-based organizations, health professionals' organizations, colleges and universities, community health centers, hospitals, health departments, and tribal and urban Indian organizations.

Organizations may submit **only one** proposal for this funding opportunity. Similarly, organizations working together on the same project may only submit one proposal for that project. If more than one proposal is submitted by any one organization, none of the proposals from that organization will be reviewed or considered for funding. An exception will be made for national organizations with affiliates where individually incorporated affiliates of the same national organization may each submit a proposal for consideration. An exception will also be made for universities with the caveat that different schools within the same university may not submit more than one proposal.

A conference call will be held to clarify instructions for submitting a proposal. The call will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. ET/2:00 p.m. CT/1:00 p.m. MT/12:00 p.m. PT.

To join the conference call, please dial 1-866-393-5407. Upon dialing in, please provide the conference ID number: 47016050. The title of the conference call is "Safety and Health for Older Women". Advance registration is NOT required to join the call.

For help with this RFP please e-mail: owhapplication@jsi.com or phone toll-free: 1-866-224-3815.

Sexual Assault Report

Absence of Anogenital Injury in the Adolescent/Adult Female Sexual Assault Patient

*Jenifer Markowitz, ND, RN, WHNP-BC, SANE-A, DF-IAFN**

Documentation from sexual assault medical-forensic examinations will often note that no injury was found to the female genitalia or anus. Rates of sexual assault injury vary widely in published reports and may be impacted by a variety of issues, including the types of techniques used to assess the patient and the amount of time between the assault and the exam. The absence of anogenital injury does not mean that a sexual assault didn't occur. Anticipating the circumstances when injury will be identified is a challenge.

- A review of 43 studies by Carter-Snell, in 2007, found that on average, 55% of study participants had no anogenital injury.
- Sugar, Fine & Eckert found, in a 2004 study, that only 20% of patients in their study had anogenital injury.
- Drocton, Sachs, Chu, and Wheeler, in a 2008 review of more than 2,800 medical records, reported that half of their study participants had no anogenital injury.
- More recent studies by Maguire, Goodall, and Moore, in 2009, and McLean, et al., in 2011, found that 60% (n=164) and 77% (n=500) of their study participants, respectively, had no anogenital injury.
- In Rosay and Henry's 2008 study, only 43% of participants (n=813) had anogenital injury. Recent sexual activity (<96 hours) decreased the likelihood of anogenital injury, as did a report of ejaculation during the assault. Among the factors that increased the likelihood of anogenital injury was the presence of non-genital injury. Victim use of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the assault did not seem to predict if there would be injury.
- Never having experienced intercourse prior to the assault was noted in multiple studies to increase the incidence of anogenital injury.

How the patient is examined impacts reported injury rates in the literature. This is of particular importance because studies illustrate that simply looking at the genitalia or anus with the naked eye (direct visual inspection) is often insufficient for identifying genital injury that may be present. Specialty techniques, such as colposcopy and other types of digital agnification, as well as foley catheters and toluidine blue dye8 consistently allow for better injury identification on the part of the examiner. Zink, et al. found that more anogenital injuries were noted with the use of toluidine blue dye and colposcopy than looking with the naked eye alone. Furthermore, in evaluating anal injury specifically, toluidine blue dye was significantly more likely to help identify injury than looking at the area with or without magnification. Jones, et al. found a 50% increase in identifying anogenital injury when using a foley catheter with adolescent sexual assault patients.

Very few studies have specifically examined injury from anal penetration. Most studies that analyze anal trauma do so in a larger context of all types of sexual assault, and no attempt is made to identify the frequency of anal injury solely in those patients who have experienced anal penetration. Hilden, et al. did look at anal injury in those patients reporting anal assault—while their study found that women who were anally penetrated were at greater risk for anogenital injury, ultimately, only 53% had anogenital injury, a figure in line with general findings of anogenital injury in sexual assault patients. Sugar, et al. identified anal penetration as one factor that increased the likelihood of anogenital injury. In their analysis of 141 patients who had been anally penetrated, 28% had some type of anogenital injury (unspecified), with 16% positive for anal tearing injuries (lacerations). Rosay and Henry also found that odds of anogenital injury were greater with anal penetration.

Among patients who required an examination of the anal canal and rectum (indicated by a report of anal penetration or relevant symptom of anal trauma, such as rectal bleeding), 64% had injury, although the locations of those injuries were not broken out in their study. Fully one third had no anogenital injury of any type.

Click here for the full report.

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Research, Evaluation & Statistics

States Report Reductions in Recidivism: In many jurisdictions, state and local government officials have intensified their efforts to reduce recidivism. As policymakers are under tremendous pressure to cut spending wherever possible, Republican and Democratic elected officials alike have made the case that improved efforts to reduce re-offense rates among people released from prison would save money and increase public safety. Their position is backed by an extensive and compelling body of research that demonstrates the impact that policies, practices, and programs can have in reducing the likelihood that someone released from prison or jail will reoffend.

The report of the 2010 National Summit on Justice Reinvestment and Public Safety highlighted four principles that the research reflects are critical to any effort to reduce recidivism: focusing resources on individuals most likely to reoffend; investing in research-driven, evidence-based programs; implementing effective community supervision policies and practices; and applying place-based approaches.

Many states are now presenting data that indicate declines in statewide recidivism rates for adults released from prison. This brief highlights a cross-section of states with robust, current data that reflect such improvements. It is not a comprehensive research report, nor is it an evaluation of any state's recidivism efforts, assessing how changes in the recidivism rate in each state correlate to particular changes in policy or practice. Instead, this brief summarizes recent data provided to the Council of State Governments Justice Center's National Reentry Resource Center by a select group of states that carefully monitor changes in their recidivism rates. For each state highlighted, this brief also reviews strategies that, according to their own qualitative assessments, these states believe have contributed to the decline in their recidivism rates.

This brief highlights significant statewide recidivism reductions achieved in Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon, Texas, and Vermont. For each state, this brief compares three-year post-release recidivism rates for two cohorts: people exiting prison in 2005 and those released in 2007. This data is among the most current available for statewide three-year recidivism rates. Some states saw particularly sharp reductions during this period, such as Kansas, which achieved a 15-percent decline, and Michigan, which saw an 18-percent drop.

Click here for the full report.

Evidence-based practices

Assessment of Health and Personal Risks for Police Officers Released: NIJ released the report *Shifts, Extended Work Hours, and Fatigue: An Assessment of Health and Personal Risks for Police Officers*. Little is known of the long term impact of shift work and extended work hours on police officers. The primary purpose of this investigation was to examine police shift work exposure and the association of such exposure with adverse health outcomes such as disease, stress, and depression.

Officers working midnight shifts were younger, on average, than those working other shifts. Results on shift work and cardiovascular disease suggest that police officers working midnight shifts combined with either shorter sleep duration or increase overtime may be at an increased risk for metabolic syndrome. Night shift work was significantly and independently associated with apnea and snoring. Those on night shift with sleep problems were at higher risk for obesity. There were increase risks for cancer and cardiovascular disease across all shifts compared to the general population.

Click here for the full report.

Report Focuses on Behavior Adjustment Among Youth Exposed to Community Violence: The NIJ-funded report, *The Power of Developmental Assets in Building Behavioral Adjustment among Youth Exposed to Community Violence: A Multidisciplinary Longitudinal Study of Resilience*, focused on how developmental assets may promote resilience into adulthood among urban youth exposed to community violence. While several studies have documented the harmful effects of exposure to violence, few studies focus on resilient youth.

The researchers looked at whether baseline family, peer, and neighborhood-level protective factors predicted behavioral adjustment 3 to 7 years later among youth. In the short-term, being a victim was associated with increased aggression and delinquency. In the long-term, though, both victims and witnesses to violence had higher chances of behavioral adjustment. Family, friend, and neighborhood support, family boundaries, and collective efficacy had protective effects. Also, family support, positive peers and meaningful opportunities changed the effect of exposure to violence, increasing the chances of behavioral adjustment. Programs that help nurture these specific supports and opportunities can promote positive behavioral trajectories and resilience.

Click here for the full report.

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