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Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute Newsletter

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What’s Inside This Issue:

• Latest Research Results
• Projects and Studies Underway
• Research Awards and Distinctions
• Recent Research Publications

CJPRI Crime Survey Results

Make a Big Splash

Crime rates in Oregon are at their lowest level since the 1960’s; however Oregonians do not seem to know it. According to a representative survey of Oregonians conducted by CJPRI, most believed that crime across the state increased in the previous year. Only 10% were aware that crime had actually declined. These are the headline results from the first analysis conducted by CJPRI Director, Brian Renauer. Dr. Renauer found that personal ideology, educational achievement, and affiliation were the strongest contributing factors to beliefs about crime trends. “Disconnect between crime data and citizen’s beliefs are more than an interesting oddity,” Dr. Renauer observes. Beliefs about crime have important consequences for public perceptions about the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and trust in public officials and government institutions, among other consequences.

The second analysis, conducted by Associate Professor Jody Sundt, focused on opinions about crime control strategies. The survey found nine out of ten Oregonians supported at least one policy that could reduce the prison population. Victims of crime were no more, or less, likely to support reducing the use of prison to cut government spending. Oregonians did not support across-the-board reductions in prison population just to save money but were supportive of policies that would reduce prison size overall while still protecting the public from dangerous offenders.

The results of the statewide survey of Oregonians were surprising many. Almost as soon as the results were rolled out, the requests for interviews started rolling in. Dr. Renauer and Dr. Sundt spoke with many media outlets and community groups to discuss the results. Dr. Renauer found his picture on the front page of the Oregonian and Dr. Sundt was invited to testify to the Governor’s Commission on Public Safety, a body tasked with identifying sustainable, effective criminal justice policies and practices. Dr. Sundt found the members of the Commission to be “very receptive and engaged. I hope we can continue to educate the public about crime and cost-effective ways to improve public safety,” she adds.

For more information about the survey and results, sponsored jointly by CJPRI and the Criminology & Criminal Justice Online program, visit: http://www.pdx.edu/cjpri/

CJPRI has a long history of research partnerships with the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). The latest is a jointly-staffed “Crime Analysis Team” which works together to map reported crime in Portland according to time and place.

The formal partnership, launched this year, plans to provide summary crime maps to the public showing where crimes of various sorts occur within the city, when they happen, and how the current rates compare to those of previous years. The first maps available focus on residential burglary and street robbery. Auto theft analysis is in the works, followed by a series of offense types. Once posted for the public, the maps and supplementary material will be updated on annual basis to make it most useful for the public and policymakers.

While still early in their work, the PPB-CJPRI Crime Analysis Team has already posted a number of interesting maps and summary analyses. For example, the Team found street robbery incidents in Portland from 1995 to 2010 declined by 60%, a dramatic drop mirrored by declines in violent crime around the country. At the same time, the highest rates of street robbery have shifted from inner North East Portland further to the East. Black residents had the highest rates of street robbery victimization but the overall decline in crime over the past 15 years has cut their victimization rate nearly in half.

Dr. Kris Henning of CJPRI jointly founded the Crime Analysis Team with Sgt. Greg Stewart of PPB’s Crime Analysis Unit. Sgt. Stewart is also currently a graduate student in the CCJ Master’s program. Of the Crime Analysis Team’s work, Dr. Henning states, “While we had been working together on crime analysis for some time, having the formal partnership together gives the work more visibility. It’s great to be part of this effort, helping to provide the public with factual information about crime in the community.”

To see the latest maps and summaries from the Crime Analysis Team, visit http://www.pdx.edu/cjpri/crime-data

CJPRI Crime Analysis Team Offers a Bird’s Eye View of Crime

OUR MISSION
The Criminal Justice Policy Research Institute (CJPRI) is housed within the Division of Criminology and Criminal Justice (CCJ) in the College of Urban and Public Affairs’ Mark O. Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University. Its mission is to facilitate informed decision making by engaging in and disseminating the results of applied research studies that help build knowledge about effective approaches to preventing and controlling crime.

Crime Analysis Team Offers a Bird’s Eye View of Crime

We fulfill this mission through several major activities: (1) serving as a research resource for the Oregon Legislative Assembly and other units of state and local government as outlined in Senate Bill 240, (2) seeking funding support for and administering research projects conducted by CCJ Division faculty, (3) disseminating the research of the CJPRI and the broader CCJ faculty and (4) providing a web-based resource designed to provide Oregon policy makers a forum for exploring criminal justice policy and practice issues using objective, performance-based criteria.
The programs each employed a therapy component, along with a mix of other services such as case management and family advocacy. Eligible child age varied but most programs enrolled only families with young children.

Of the 15 sites in the evaluation, randomized experiments testing the effectiveness of the programs were conducted in 10 sites. In the remaining five sites, comparisons groups drawn from similar populations were used to examine the effectiveness of the SSPA interventions. For each enrolled family, research assessments were conducted every six months over the course of two years. Despite the highly rigorous methods, the final report on the overall evaluation was inconclusive about the impact of each individual program because not enough families could be recruited and retained at each individual site. Dr. Hickman and her RAND Corporation colleagues are following up with a series of studies that pool all the data together to address a series of questions about children exposed to violence.

Key among these is a forthcoming analysis that examines the outcomes of the overall SSPA approach rather than the effectiveness of each individual program. Other SSPA studies forthcoming assess the factors related to research retention, the relationship of lifetime violence exposure to mental health and behavior problems, and the protective function of resilience in the presence of violence exposure in young children.

“The national evaluation of SSPA was initially intended to tell us how each of the 15 sites individually impacted participating children and families. We weren’t able to do that with our retained sample sizes,” Dr. Hickman says. “At the same time, we’ve ended up being able to use the data to learn a variety of other things about this under-studied population. That’s really valuable and rewarding consolation prize.”

Researchers Employ EPICS Skills with Caseload of Probationers

Dr. Jody Sundt and Dr. Emily Salisbury have been busier than usual. In addition to running multiple research projects, teaching undergraduate and graduate students, with a variety of service activities sprinkled in, they each decided to take on a small caseload of real-life probationers too. Why? It is part of their joint commitment to helping to support the sustainability of the EPICS model in Oregon.

EPICS, or Effective Practices in Correctional Settings, is a research-based approach to community supervision of offenders. It was developed by University of Cincinnati researchers to equip parole and probation officers with a set of skills that have been shown to help reduce recidivism of the clients they supervise. The skills reflect core correctional practices established from decades of research, and include such skills as using authority effectively, using reinforcement effectively, and structured skill building with clients.

Sundt and Salisbury serve as trainers for the EPICS model in Oregon. They volunteered to supervise a small number of probationers for Multnomah County Department of Community Justice to put the tools of EPICS in to practice. Dr. Salisbury explains, “This was a great way for us to serve Multnomah County as well as help make us better trainers, as we were able to use our EPICS skills face-to-face with probationers and discuss barriers to implementation with probation staff.”

Sundt and Salisbury expect to see a continued demand for their EPICS technical assistance, as the model has already been widely implemented among adult and juvenile county correctional agencies across Oregon, with Washington State Department of Corrections projected to follow.

National Evaluation of Safe Start Promising Approaches Wraps Up

After many years of data collection planning, implementation and analyses, the final report on the National Evaluation of Safe Start Promising Approaches has been delivered to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). CJPRI Associate Director Laura Hickman served as the co-principal investigator on the evaluation, which was awarded in 2005 while she was still with the RAND Corporation. Dr. Hickman continued daily collaboration with her RAND Corporation colleagues after she transitioned to Portland State in 2007.

Safe Start Promising Approaches (SSPA) was developed by OJJDP to implement and evaluate evidence-based and promising approaches to helping children and their families who had been exposed to violence. The programs each employed a therapy component, along with a mix of other services such as case management and family advocacy. Eligible child age varied but most programs enrolled only families with young children.

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CJPRI Among Founders of New Consortium Connecting Researchers and Practitioners

Where is a good researcher when you need one? The U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance was interested in finding ways to make quality researchers more accessible to criminal justice practitioners. It partnered with George Mason University’s Center for Evidence-Based Policy (CEBCP) to assemble a team of researchers to develop a model and get the project off the ground. CJPRI Associate Director Laura Hickman was invited to join the team and notes “It was very rewarding to have been a part of this important effort.” The work lead to the recent launch of the e-Consortium for University Centers and Researchers for Partnership with Justice Practitioners. The e-Consortium offers a tool for local, state, and federal agencies, as well as other organizations, to identify quality university-based researchers in their region or across the country with a particular skill or expertise. Information about registered research organizations is made available online to help facilitate connections between researchers and interested practitioners.

The list of registered organizations has grown at a healthy pace since the Bureau of Justice Assistance began listing the e-Consortium as a resource in its funding applications earlier this year.

To access the e-Consortium for University Centers and Researchers for Partnership with Justice Practitioners, visit www.gmuConsortium.org

Kudos Corner

In December 2011, Jody Sundt was asked to testify before Governor’s Commission on Public Safety due to her expertise in the area of public attitudes toward crime and crime control policies.

The National Girls Institute—a major research-based clearinghouse for females in the juvenile justice system—recently cited Emily Salisbury’s work, in collaboration with Patricia Van Vos- dus, on “feminist pathways” as a core theoretical model for understanding female delinquency and recommended it as a “best practice” for providing trauma-informed care to girls in the juvenile system.

This academic year, Kris Henning was prompted to become the Associate Dean of the College of Urban and Public Affairs. Despite the many responsibilities of the new role, Dr. Henning will remain actively engaged in his CCJ research activities.

An article in the Journal of Criminal Justice Education ranked Laura Hickman in the top 5 among “female academic stars” based on the quality and quantity of her scholarly publications. The ranking was an update to a 2007 analysis which first listed Dr. Hickman among the top 20 female criminologists receiving a Ph.D. between 1996 and 2006.

In June, William (Bill) Feyerherm was invited by the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division to participate in a roundtable called for the purpose of soliciting “input of those on the cutting edge of juvenile justice reform issues” on handling matters of Constitutional violations in juvenile court processes.

Emily Salisbury was an invited guest on Prison Pipeline, a KBOO radio program, based on her expertise with female offender populations. Her interview, lasting nearly half an hour, was well received and inspired a number of follow-up conversations.

Professor Robert Lockwood received the 2011/2012 College of Urban & Public Affairs “Outstanding Teaching” Award, a distinguished honor based entirely on student feedback.

The Executive Board of the Western Regional Council of Criminal Justice Research Activities recently cited Meda Chesney-Lind as a “feminist pathways” as a core theoretical model for understanding female delinquency and recommended it as a “best practice” for providing trauma-informed care to girls in the juvenile system.

The Executive Board of the Western Society of Criminology voted unanimously to create a new award named for CJPRI Senior Research Fellow Meda Chesney-Lind. The award will honor scholarly achievement and activism in the intersection of gender and crime. At its next annual conference, Dr. Chesney-Lind will also be the inaugural award recipient, in recognition of her “monumental contributions” to the field.
An Examination of Measures Related to Risk assessments by female victims of intimate Disproportionate Minority Contact in Oregon’s Disproportionate Minority Contact: A Na


Welcoming Back a Distinguished Researcher Back to CJPRI

After a long term and distinguished service as Vice Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies at Portland State, William (Bill) Feyerherm has returned full-time to the faculty of the Criminology & Criminal Justice Division. While Dr. Feyerherm remained affiliated with CCJ during his years in PSU administration, he notes “I had really limited time to collaborate with CCJ colleagues on new projects or to focus on my own building on my own research.”

And what a body of research it is. Dr. Feyerherm is a nationally-known expert on the role of race and culture in the processing of youth within the juvenile justice system. In 2002, he received the W.E.B. DuBois Award from the Western Society of Criminology for his contributions to racial and ethnic issues in criminology. Dr. Feyerherm has been tapped by numerous federal, state and local agencies to provide consultation and research expertise.

Dr. Feyerherm currently serves as a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice, the Oregon Juvenile Justice Advisory Commission, and the Multnomah County Juvenile Justice Advisory Council. Dr. Feyerherm also served for six years as a member of the Oregon Law Enforcement Contacts Policy Commission. In July 2012, Dr. Feyerherm was appointed to the Oregon Youth Development Council; a body created by the Governor to oversee State services for youth aged 6 through 20. As that was not enough, Dr. Feyerherm also serves in an ongoing consultant role to the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) on issues of Disproportionate Minority Contact, including the development of an index to measure that contact. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division has called upon Dr. Feyerherm’s expertise in the development of cases involving patterns of disparate treatment of juveniles in juvenile justice systems.

“Bill is an enormous asset to CJPRI,” observes Director Renauer. “We couldn’t be more pleased to have someone of his national stature right down the hall.” For his part, after more than two decades at PSU, Dr. Feyerherm shows no signs of slowing down. “Being among this group of active, engaged CCJ researchers is really invigorating for me. I’m feeling almost inclined to volunteer for service on yet another advisory panel,” he jokes.
CJPRI Racial Profiling Training Partnership Receives New Sponsor

CJPRI work in the area of racial profiling and police training has continued to grow. Since 2008, CJPRI in partnership with the Law Enforcement Contacts Policy and Data Review Committee (LECC) and the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training have been working to address racial profiling issues in Oregon.

Recently, the partnership has attracted the support of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. The grant was awarded to help cover training for Oregon law enforcement, specifically those counties served by the Community Fund. The grant was awarded to include Tribal Police. CJPRI Director and project lead, Brian Renauer states, “We are thankful for the support of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund which is an inappropriate factor in a profile, learn how to avoid escalating racially-charged stops, and how to address unethical issues among peers and within a department.

According to the CJPRI project co-lead, Emma Corell, “The goal of the training is to help officers become more effective in their decision making processes and become leaders in their field. Regardless of their position in a department, every officer plays a significant role in police-citizen relations.” The support of the Spirit Mountain Community Fund is a reflection of the broad acceptance and value of this work across the state.

To learn more about racial profiling training and partnership visit the LECC section of the CJPRI website here: http://www.pdx.edu/cjprili.

David Kennedy Receives 2011 Hatfield Scholar Award

Saying that David Kennedy has made an impact on thinking about controlling urban violence is an extreme understatement. His work has been nothing short of revolutionary. In recognition of Kennedy’s innovative approach to understanding and addressing the country’s extreme urban violence problem, faculty of the three Hatfield School Divisions voted unanimously to award David Kennedy the 2011 Hatfield Scholar Award.

The award is offered to exceptional scholars whose careers best exemplify former Senator and former Governor Mark O. Hatfield’s ideals of public interest, scholarship, public service, civil and human rights, social justice, and peace. In introducing David Kennedy at the Hatfield Scholar Awards Ceremony, CJPRI Associate Director Laura Hickman joked, “I really must thank David Kennedy for his willingness to come to PSU to receive this award. It’s allowed me to thoroughly impress colleagues all around the country when I tell them who I’m having lunch with today.”

Among a host of distinctions, David Kennedy may be best known for presiding over the so-called “Boston Miracle” – a dramatic drop in homicide victimization associated with the implementation of Operation Ceasefire, an intervention he developed aimed at reducing serious youth violence in urban communities. Operation Ceasefire won the Ford Foundation Innovations in Government Award, the Herman Goldstein International Award for Problem Oriented Policing, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Webber Seavey Award.

Currently, David Kennedy is the Director of the Center for Crime Prevention and Control and professor of criminal justice at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City. While at PSU, Kennedy also delivered an engaging presentation on his past and present work called “Stopping It: Why the Answer to Our Crisis of Guns, Gangs, Drugs, and Mass Incarceration is in Our Grasp.”

To watch it online, visit: http://online.ccj.pdx.edu/stopping-it-by-david-kennedy/