Corrections Research at the National Institute of Justice

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Presentation Summary

• Agency Overview
  • Office of Justice Programs
  • National Institute of Justice

• Corrections Research

• Safety, Health, and Wellness

• Research and Development Process
OJP Bureaus and Offices

- OAAG: Office of the Assistant Attorney General
- BJA: Bureau of Justice Assistance
- BJS: Bureau of Justice Statistics
- NIJ: National Institute of Justice
- OJJDP: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- OVC: Office for Victims of Crime
- SMART: Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

NIJ
NIJ Mission Statement

“The National Institute of Justice — the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice — is dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science. NIJ provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to inform the decision-making of criminal and juvenile justice communities to reduce crime and advance justice, particularly at the state and local levels.”

We accomplish our mission through the "Listen, Learn, Inform" model — we "listen" to the needs of the field; "learn" ways to meet those needs by funding research, development, and evaluation projects; and then "inform" the field of what we learned.
Office of Investigative & Forensic Sciences (OIFS)

• Improves the quality and practice of forensic science through innovative solutions that support research and development, testing and evaluation, technology, and information exchange.

Office of Research, Evaluation and Technology (ORET)

• Develops, conducts, directs and supervises social and behavioral science research and evaluation activities across a wide variety of issues. Manages technology research and development, development of technical standards, testing, and technology assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement and corrections agencies.
Corrections Research

- Institutional corrections (Prisons and Jails)
- Community corrections
  - Focus on reentry
- Correctional (and police) officer safety, health and wellness
  - Priority of the DOJ administration
Safety, Health, and Wellness Strategic Plan

- Interdisciplinary effort focusing comprehensively on the safety, health, and wellness of all individuals in the criminal justice system

- Divided into two main priorities:
  - Research to promote safety
  - Research to promote health and wellness
Safety, Health, and Wellness Corrections Projects and Programs

- Effects of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction in Correctional Offices
- Defining the Impact of Stress and Traumatic Events on Correctional Officers
- Physiological and Psychological Responses to Critical Incidents among Correctional Officers
Safety, Health, and Wellness Corrections Projects and Programs (cont’d)

- The Impacts of Restrictive Housing on Inmate Behavior, Mental, Health and Recidivism, and Prison Systems and Personnel

- The Impact of Correctional Officer Suicide on the Institutional Environment and on the Well-being of Correctional Employees

- Altering Administrative Segregation for Inmates and Staff: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Effects of Living and Working in Restrictive Housing
NIJ’s Research and Development Process

1. **Identify Needs Through Stakeholder Engagement**
   - Non-Competitive
     - Intramural research
     - Collaboration with other scientific organizations
     - Other
   - Competitive
     - Solicitations
     - Challenges

2. **Develop Research Agenda**

3. **Implement Research**

4. **Post-Award Activities**

5. **Evaluate Research Results**
   - Results from awards inform future funding opportunities and become part of the process of developing the program of research and agenda

6. **Disseminate to the Field**
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