

# NEBRASKA CENTER FOR JUSTICE RESEARCH

2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

UNIVERSITY OF  
**Nebraska**  
Omaha



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## Mission Statement

The Nebraska Center for Justice Research’s (NCJR) mission is “to develop and sustain research capacity internal to the State of Nebraska, assist the Legislature in research, evaluation, and policymaking to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices in corrections, and improve public safety.” Our research focus is to use data, research, and evaluation to reduce recidivism, promote the use of evidence-based practices, and improve public safety in Nebraska with an emphasis on reducing prison overcrowding.

## Facilities

NCJR currently occupies approximately 1,000 square feet in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice (SCCJ), located in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service (CPACS) building on the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) campus.

## Statement of Goals

NCJR is a non-partisan non-profit research entity housed in UNO CPACS. The team is comprised of social science researchers who strive to serve the residents of Nebraska with honor and integrity by producing scientific studies held to the highest ethical standards. In pursuit of this overarching goal, we:

- 1 Conduct non-partisan examinations of justice-related issues for the state of Nebraska.
- 2 Continue our national reputation as a top-tier research and evaluation center by ensuring our deliverables are produced with the utmost methodological rigor.
- 3 Propose and conduct scientific evaluations of policies and activities of Nebraska state agencies in order to assist them to serve Nebraskans efficiently and effectively.
- 4 Provide the public and legislature with regular reports regarding our activities.
- 5 Contribute to the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice’s graduate program by funding students via applied research projects.
- 6 Promote sustainability of statewide justice reinvestment activities.
- 7 Increase research credibility by producing useable technical reports and meaningful academic publications.

**For more information visit:** [justiceresearch.unomaha.edu](http://justiceresearch.unomaha.edu)

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome from the Nebraska Center for Justice Research leadership, researchers, and staff. I am writing on a flight to Philadelphia for the annual American Society of Criminology conference. I mention this because one glance at the many presentations that will be delivered by NCJR faculty and students is an objective indication (which is of course the preferred type of indication for researchers) of just how much we accomplished this past year. Our faculty will also be attending two ceremonies to accept awards and to be honored by our peers and colleagues in the field of criminology.

I would like to summarize a few highlights from our year. First, NCJR added a faculty fellow, Dr. Jenn Tostlebe, who recently completed her PhD in Sociology from the University of Colorado-Boulder. Dr Tostlebe is a new assistant professor in UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice and is off to an amazing start with her research career, with multiple manuscripts published in the field's top journals. Second, NCJR began a multi-year contract to provide mixed-methods, process and outcome evaluations of clinical programs and evidence-based non-clinical programs for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS). We are extremely excited about this work because it allows to build upon our years of evaluating reentry programs for NDCS, as well as provide in-depth feedback on both the process by which various programs are implemented and the impact of these programs on important outcomes such as new arrests upon release from prison. Finally, increases in our external funding and workload allowed us to increase

the number of graduate research assistants that we support. These additional student researchers increase our research power and result in coaching and mentoring opportunities where our faculty are able to pass-on our love of community-engaged, applied research to the next generation.

We are proud of what we accomplished in the 2022-23 fiscal year and look forward to completing our numerous research and evaluation projects aimed at improving the functioning of Nebraska's criminal justice, correctional, and reentry systems. This annual report serves as one mechanism to highlight our activities, but we encourage you to visit our website ([justiceresearch.unomaha.edu](http://justiceresearch.unomaha.edu)) to view our reports, research briefs, and academic publications. For example, a recently uploaded report that we hope is particularly impactful on the process of ensuring that persons reentering our communities from Nebraska correctional facilities are employed and successfully reintegrated into society. This research project involved interviews of employers who hire justice-involved individuals to hear their opinions of the salient successes and challenges or barriers that they face in this process.

As we continue to grow, NCJR remains dedicated to using data, research, and evaluation to promote effective practices, cost-effective practices, and public safety in Nebraska. Thank you for your interest in our work and please contact us if you have questions or suggestions for our center.

— Ryan Spohn

## MEET THE TEAM: STAFF



### Ryan Spohn, Director

He received his B.S. in Sociology/Criminology from Kansas State University (1996), M.S. in Sociology from Texas A&M University (1998), and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Iowa (2003). His areas of research include juvenile delinquency, crime, families, child maltreatment, and the evaluation of criminal justice agencies and programs.



### Zachary Hamilton, Associate Director

He is also an associate professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He received his Ph.D. from Rutgers University. His research areas include risk and needs assessments and corrections.



### Michael F. Campagna, Research Associate

He received his B.A. in both Crime, Law, & Justice and Sociology from Pennsylvania State University (2006), M.A. in Criminology from Indiana University of Pennsylvania (2009), and Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology from Washington State University (2017). His areas of research include prisoner reentry, risk/needs assessment, case management, developmental theory, and desistance.



### Alex Kigerl, Research Associate

He received his B.S. in both Psychology and Sociology from Portland State University (2008). He also received his M.S. in Criminology and Criminal Justice from Portland State University (2014). His areas of research include risk and needs assessment, corrections, and cyber crime.



### Katelynn Towne, Research Coordinator

She received her B.A. in Sociology from University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2011), M.A. in Sociology from University of Missouri-Columbia (2014), and Ph.D. in Sociology from University of Missouri-Columbia (2019). Her areas of research include criminology, social inequality, reentry, policing, victimization, and social media.



### Cheryl Christiansen, Staff Associate

She tracks the Center's budgets and supports the directors and coordinators with their various administrative needs. Cheryl has worked for the University of Nebraska at Omaha in the Biology department, as well as the dean's office in the College of Information Sciences & Technology, starting there in 2008.

Report Prepared By Tara Grell, public communications and creative coordinator,  
University of Nebraska at Omaha Center for Public Affairs Research

# MEET THE TEAM: STUDENTS

## Graduate Assistants



### Amber Krushas

is a doctoral candidate in the UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Her research interests include pathways to offending and victimization, victimology, corrections, and program and policy evaluation. She enjoys spending time with her two cats and visiting her family in Wisconsin.



### Addie Kobie

is a current doctoral student and research assistant at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and studies Criminal Justice and Criminology. Her research interests include juvenile delinquency, corrections, and risk assessments. In her free time, she knits, sews, and watches comedy movies.



### Brian Gildea

is a doctoral student whose research interests include Intimate partner violence, victimology, and court policy. In his free time, he enjoys sports, cooking/trying new restaurants, and documentaries.



### Baylee Allen

is a doctoral student interested in risk assessments and inmate behaviors. She enjoys knitting, painting, and playing with her Corgi, Boo.



### John Ursino

is a doctoral student whose research interests include correctional programming and risk assessment. He enjoys hiking and fishing in his free time.

# MEET THE TEAM: STUDENTS

## Graduate Research Assistants



### Sarah Al Falatah

is a doctoral student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include mental and physical health and the criminal justice system, biosocial criminology, corrections, and rehabilitation. In her free time, Sarah loves putting together puzzles, spending time with friends, and going to the movies.



### Abby Hayes

is a doctoral student in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Her research interests include corrections, prison subcultures, and rehabilitation programs for offenders. In her free time outside of school and work, Abby likes to travel, watch Kansas City Chiefs games with her friends and family, and walk her dog.

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHT:

## Dr. Jenn Tostlebe

Jenn Tostlebe joined the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at UNO in fall 2023. She received her Ph.D. from The University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Sociology. Her Dissertation, *The intersection of social states and individual characteristics: A longitudinal examination of the gang membership-psychopathic tendencies link and its association with offending drew on psychological and sociological frameworks to examine the link between a set of individual characteristics that relate to a wide range of criminal behaviors, psychopathic tendencies, and one social influence known for its robust relationship with criminal offending, gang membership.* Her research focuses primarily on incarceration and reentry, mental and physical health, gangs and criminal networks, and criminological theory. Highlighted below are a few exciting projects that Dr. Jenn Tostlebe is currently working on.



### Healthcare in Prison

#### ***Contemporary Issues in Health and Punishment, DCS Handbook on Corrections and Sentencing, Volume 9***

Working with UCB graduate student Selena Munoz-Jones, Dr. Tostlebe wrote this chapter to document the landscape of mental and physical healthcare in corrections. Specifically, the authors describe what is known about healthcare and death in U.S. prisons, focusing on studies related to healthcare and deaths in prison from the perspectives of institutions, healthcare providers, and incarcerated individuals. Using data gathered from Department of Corrections' official websites, they also provide an overview of publicly available state prison system healthcare policies (e.g., housing policies based on needs, requirements to share information on deaths in custody) and practices (e.g., what services are provided and when during custody). Finally, Dr. Jenn Tostlebe and Selena Munoz-Jones highlight the strengths and deficiencies in institutional healthcare, as well as pertinent variations across jurisdictions, along with the (un)availability of public information relating to healthcare.

### Preparing adults in custody for successful reentry: An experimental study of a restrictive housing exit program in the Oregon state prison system

#### ***Stepping out of solitary confinement: Effects on attitudes, behaviors, and health from experimental evaluation in Oregon***

Alongside Drs. David Pyrooz, Ryan Labrecque, and Bert Useem, Dr. Tostlebe reports the results from an evaluation of a step-down program in the Oregon Department of Corrections. Developed in 2018 and implemented in 2019, the step-down program was designed to include more rehabilitation programming, a less restrictive environment, incentives for good behavior, and cultural change among correctional officers. The evaluation was undertaken between 2019 and 2022, when 211 prisoners were randomly assigned to either remain in the business-as-usual condition ( $n = 102$ ) or transfer (voluntarily) to the step-down unit condition ( $n = 109$ ). Interviews were conducted with 112 prisoners about six months post-randomization and paired with official records of misconduct. Intent-to-treat estimates of the effects of the program on attitudes, behaviors, and health are presented in this paper, testing hypotheses preregistered on the Open Science Framework.

### The COVID-19 pandemic and operational challenges, impacts, and lessons learned: A multi-methods study of U.S. prison systems

Taking stock of how U.S. prison operations changed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and influenced the daily work of prison staff, Drs. Jenn Tostlebe, Meghan Novisky and David Pyrooz administered a survey to 31 state correctional agencies in April 2021 and conducted five focus groups with 62 correctional staff in collaboration with the National Institute of Corrections. Using a framework of bounded rationality, they found that daily operations were strained, particularly in the areas of staffing, the implementation of public health policy efforts, and the sustainment of correctional programming. That is, while prison systems and staff were under-prepared to respond to the pandemic, they attempted to address complex problems with the limited resources they had. Here, results underscored a need in corrections for prioritizing further developments and reviews of collaborative policies and practices for managing crisis situations. Additionally, they discovered that seeking avenues for leveraging technological innovations to improve operations and facilitate enhanced communication are especially warranted. Finally, meaningful reductions in the prison population, changes in physical infrastructure, and expansions of hiring and retention initiatives proved to be critical for positioning prisons to manage future emergencies.

## Is gang membership a universal contributor to the victim-offender overlap? A cross-national analysis

Working with UCB doctoral candidate, Jose Sanchez, here Dr. Jenn Tostlebe assessed the victim-offender overlap among gang membership. Specifically, they adopted four victim-offender arrangements used in prior research and data from the International Self-Report Delinquency Study (ISR2) to test (1) whether the victim-offender overlap applied to gang members internationally and (2) whether there were between-country differences in the overlap. Results from this study provides insight into the victim-offender overlap among gangs in a cross-national perspective and, if there is cross-national variation in the overlap, it will open the door for future research to explore what factors contribute to the variation.

Dr. Jenn Tostlebe has also begun working on projects with NCJR, including the evaluation of correctional programming in the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Evaluation (described in detail in “Project Highlight” section).

When Dr. Jenn Tostlebe is not working, she enjoys traveling, playing video games with her Fiancé, going on hikes, to the pool, and playing outside with her to-be step-sons, relaxing at home with her two cats, and looking up pescatarian/vegetarian food. She is looking forward to exploring Omaha and checking out the local eats and drinks!



## PROJECT HIGHLIGHT:

### Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Evaluation

As prescribed by the Nebraska Legislature (LB 896), NCJR will provide a three-year evaluation of services provided by the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) (December 1, 2022 to June 30, 2026). Specifically, NCJR will arrange standardized evaluations of clinical treatment programs, non-clinical treatment programs, and other structured programming. The primary goals of evaluation activities are to determine if programs are being delivered with fidelity and if they are achieving their intended outcomes. An additional goal is to provide useful feedback to address existing challenges and barriers to effective program delivery.

Seven clinical programs and three non-clinical programs will be evaluated during the project period ending June 30, 2026. The first program to be evaluated is the Violence Reduction Program (VRP; Wong & Gordon, 2004), a treatment program designed to reduce the risk of violence among individuals who are in custody, forensic mental health facilities, or under supervision in the community. VRP utilizes cognitive-behavioral and social learning techniques to teach individuals how to identify their antisocial thinking patterns that lead to aggression, and to substitute them with pro-social thoughts and actions that circumvent the antecedents of violent behaviors (Gordon & Wong, 2016). VRP uses the principles of the risk-need-responsivity (RNR) model to assess each participant’s needs that must be addressed to facilitate behavior change, and their risks that lead to the problem behaviors. Adhering to the RNR model is meant to ensure

participants are learning skills to identify and change behaviors related to engaging in violence (Gordon & Wong, 2016).

Under VRP, participants are meant to receive session-, module-, and phase evaluations throughout the program (Gordon & Wong, 2016). Then, after each of the three phases, qualitative assessments should be used to provide a more in-depth understanding of how participants are progressing. The evaluations and assessments provided to participants are aimed at capturing their understanding of the VRP material and learning how to apply the skills they are gaining to their daily lives (Gordon & Wong, 2016).

Along with all other evaluations, this initial evaluation includes both a process evaluation and outcome evaluation. The process evaluation includes site visits, interviews with key staff, interviews with program participants, group observations, and review of program materials to inform the evaluation. To inform the outcome evaluation, NDCS provided NCJR with data on program participants, as well as a comparison group.

The purpose of the VRP evaluation, along with all other evaluations, is to determine whether the programming has been implemented as intended. Additionally, this evaluation hopes to measure the program effects by assessing progress towards intended outcomes. Finally, the goal of this evaluation is to identify programs and/or program areas that need improvement and possible suggestions.

# COMMUNITY PARTNER HIGHLIGHT:

## Diane Good-Collins, Metropolitan Community College

The Metropolitan Community College's 180 Re-Entry Assistance Program (MCC 180 RAP) offers a wide array of learning opportunities for justice-involved individuals in Omaha area.<sup>1</sup> MCC offers readiness courses and training opportunities for individuals interested in a wide array of career paths. Services range from peer support groups, OSHA certification training, and classes towards earning an associate degree. Importantly, MCC 180 RAP acknowledges potential barriers beyond job skills, and offers their participants assistance in securing basic needs through their Re-entry Pantry and Resource Center.<sup>1</sup> The NCJR research team was fortunate enough to interview Diane Good-Collins, the director of MCC 180 RAP.

When asked how a community college in Nebraska became the largest campus-located re-entry program in America, Mrs. Good-Collins noted the holistic approach that MCC 180 RAP takes towards reentry:

“ Our intention was to provide the incarcerated population with education and training, so they were able to obtain employment and success upon their eventual transition to the community. Upon working with the incarcerated and re-entry populations continued, we identified criminogenic needs and the significant barriers experienced to attain the supports needed to address the needs... As MCC assumed the role of finding second chance employers willing to hire the re-entry population, assisting with career readiness skill building and destigmatizing this hidden workforce, the result was a large pool of workforce options for the re-entry population - a connection to over 360 employers in every industry and pay scale.

The holistic approach taken by MCC staff is further shown in their individualistic style of assisting their clients. When asked what strategies MCC uses to help their clients gain meaningful employment, Mrs. Good-Collins, answered:

“ Through motivational interviewing, we connect people to their passions and long-term career pathways. We do not believe in connecting anyone to survival employment. We consider individual skillsets, interests, work history and then work to enhance employment readiness skills, create a resume, and connect them to potential second chance employers in their field of interest.

While the success that these strategies have achieved is well-known in our community, we asked Mrs. Good-Collins what are some things that may surprise people about MCC 180 RAP. Some surprising features of the program include:

- MCC 180 RAP is primarily grant funded.
- The Re-entry Center is open six days/week and three evenings/week.
- About 80% of the MCC team have lived-in justice system experience.
- Once someone is employed, the Re-entry Workforce Development Center (previously Job Center) assists with workforce needs – attire/uniforms, tools, footwear – nonskid shoes, steel toe or composite toe boots, etc.

<sup>1</sup> Re-Entry. Metropolitan Community College 180 Re-Entry Assistant Program. (2024). <https://www.mccneb.edu/Student-Resources/Re-Entry>

The high proportion of staff with lived-in experience is a valuable and impressive resource in re-entry programs. To gain more insight in how this aids the MCC team in helping their clients, we asked Mrs. Good-Collins how lived experience in the justice systems creates advantages for her and her staff:

“ When working with the incarcerated and re-entry populations, we have instant credibility when they know we understand their situation, barriers and experiences. We have literally walked a mile in their shoes and understand experientially how difficult incarceration and transitioning is. In addition, many report they are motivated by the evidence of our current stations in life, and it gives them hope that they, too, can get out, move forward and not return to prison or old behaviors.

The MCC team has accomplished truly impressive feats, becoming the largest program of its kind in America. In addition to the success MCC 180 RAP has already achieved, it is a growing program and continues to serve more clients each day. As such, we asked the director what the future of the program may look like. Mrs. Good-Collins expressed the importance of continuing to be responsive to the community:

“ The goal of MCC 180 RAP is to continue to develop and strengthen current support offered. As needs change or we become aware of a need that was not previously identified, we do our best to remain fluid and able to offer support to address those needs. For example, two years ago, there was a huge gap for the re-entry population regarding child support so 180 RAP has partnered with Nebraska Child Support Enforcement to assist incarcerated parents with access to factual information and answers regarding general child support inquires. This partnership has expanded beyond on campus workshops to information sessions inside the Nebraska prisons in 2023 and will continue.

Despite adapting to meet community needs, MCC 180 RAP will continue and seek to expand their existing services:

“ Offering expanded education inside the prison systems is integral to helping someone reimagine their life upon release. The future of re-entry must include expanded education, opportunities and greater access to basic needs to reduce the likelihood that people will return to prison.

Finally, the director expressed the desire for the work MCC does to impact the community beyond just the clients that they serve:

“ As far as the future of re-entry, in general, I believe people will become more re-entry knowledgeable, tolerant and, eventually, more supportive. Because of the ongoing work of many over the years to destigmatize and humanize who re-entry people are, the public will come to understand that the best option is the support individuals returning to the community as it helps to rebuild the individual, families, workforce and communities.



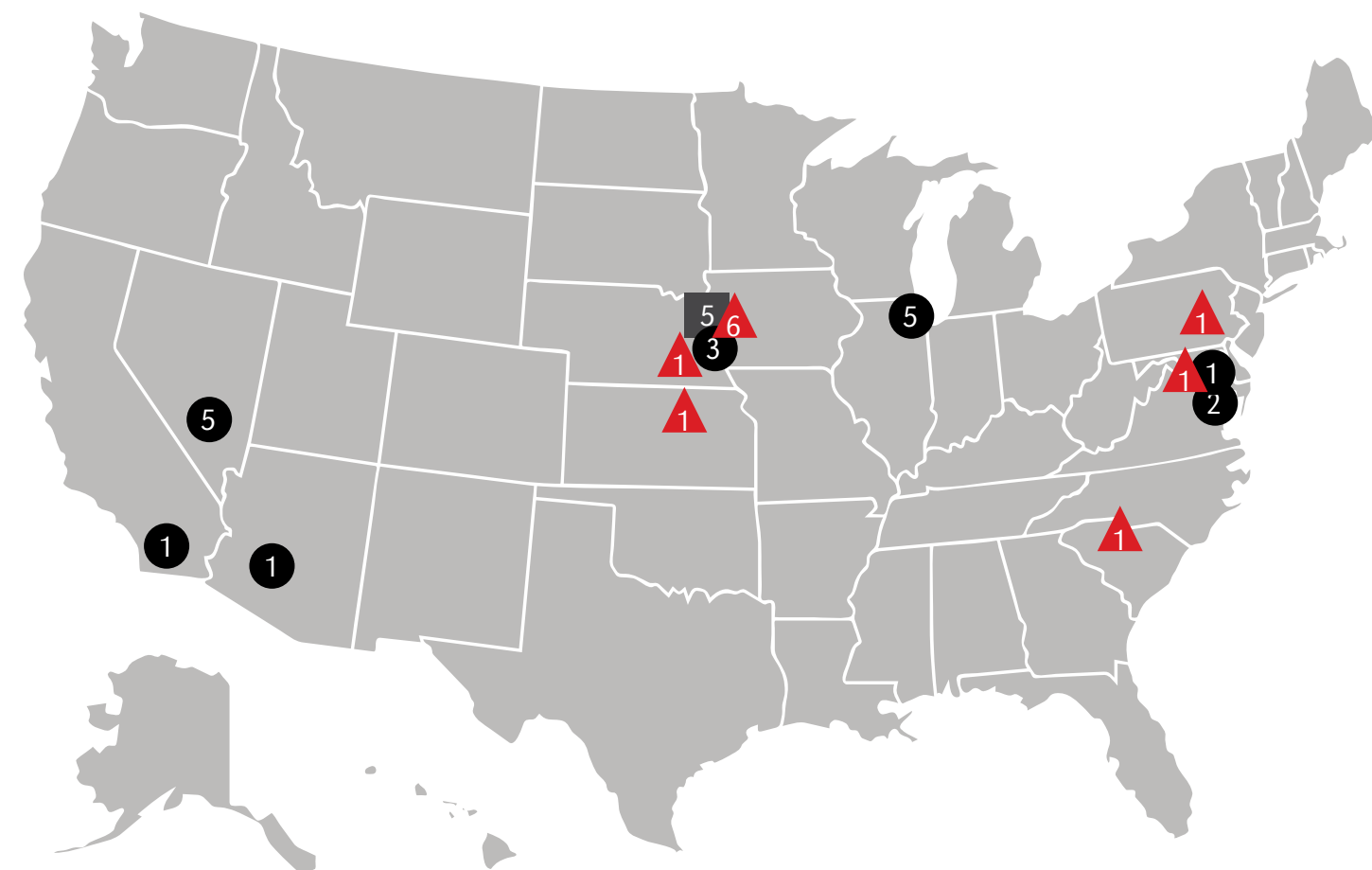


# IN-PERSON RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT 2021-2023

At NCJR, the only thing we enjoy doing more than our research evaluation is talking about projects with all who are willing to listen. For the most part, we are talking about our work with other academics and learning from each other's projects at national conferences in the fields of criminology, criminal justice, sociology, psychology, and evaluation methods. We frequently also have the privilege of being invited to share our expertise and experiences of conducting research in Nebraska. One of the most rewarding opportunities, however, is speaking to community members about what we are discovering in our work and sharing best practices that help make our communities safe for Nebraskans. In recent years, we have had the opportunity to present our work in a variety of locations across the nation. As such, we have decided to map them out to get a sense of our geographic reach. Details on individual presentations may be found later in this report.

Conference Title	Location	Year
<b>Academic Presentations</b>		
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology	Chicago, Illinois	2021
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences	Las Vegas, Nevada	2022
Research and Creative Activity Fair	Omaha, Nebraska	2022
American Correctional Association, Annual Convention	Phoenix, Arizona	2022
Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment	San Diego, California	2022
National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference	Washington D.C.	2022
Research and Creative Activity Fair	Omaha, Nebraska	2023
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings	National Harbor, Maryland	2023
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings	National Harbor, Maryland	2023
American Jail Association Meetings	Omaha, Nebraska	2023
<b>Community Engagement</b>		
Leadership Omaha Class 43	Omaha, Nebraska	2021
Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity (MORE)	Omaha, Nebraska	2022
New Life Presbyterian and First Presbyterian West Hills Congregations	Omaha, Nebraska	2022
Omaha Housing & Domestic Violence Resource Summit	Omaha, Nebraska	2023
Re-Entry Task Force	Omaha, Nebraska	2023

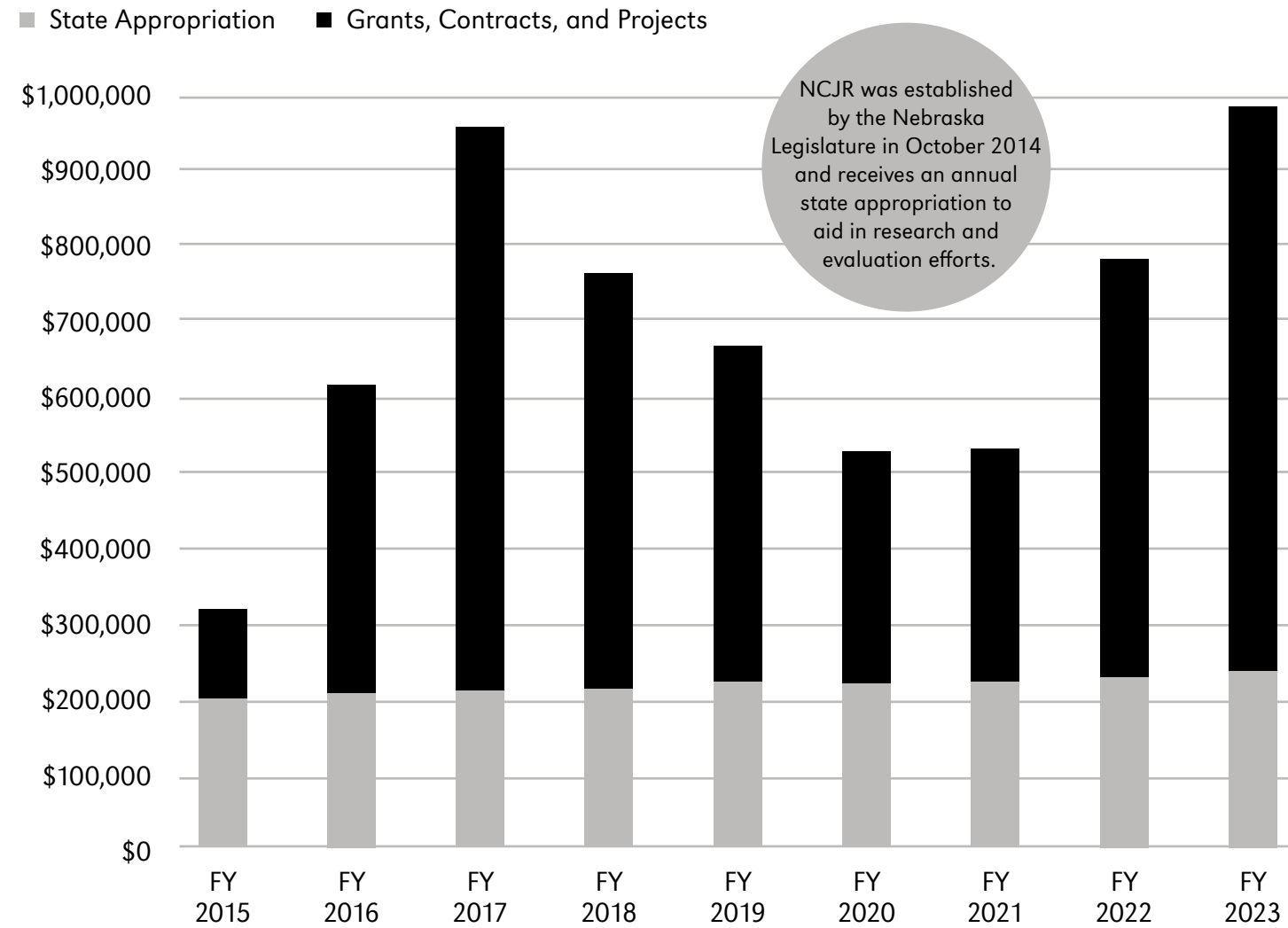
● Academic Presentations    ■ Community Engagement    ▲ Invited Presentations



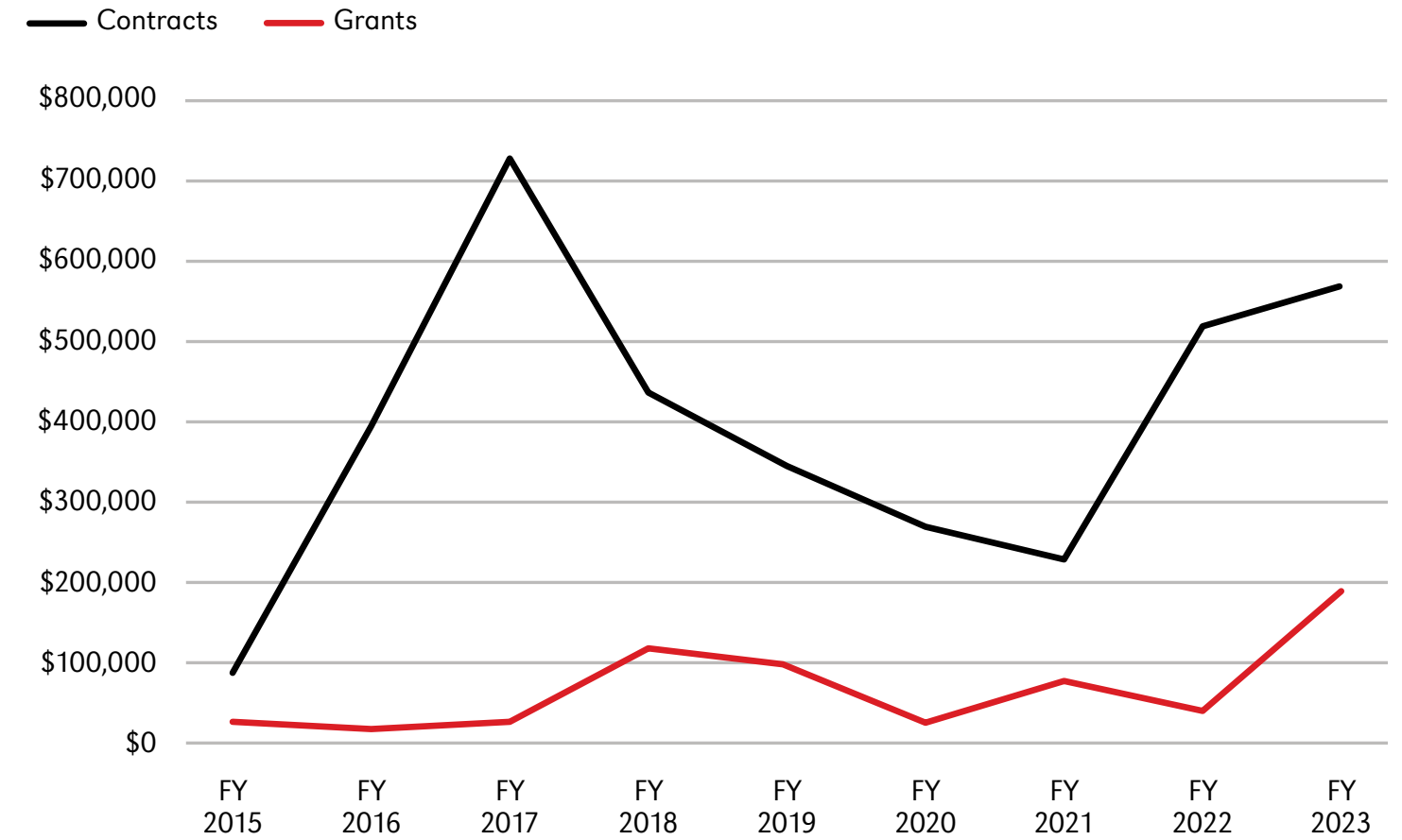
Conference Title	Location	Year
<b>Invited Presentations</b>		
Pennsylvania Department of Corrections	Harrisburg, Pennsylvania	2021
Nebraska Legislature	Omaha, Nebraska	2021
Douglas County, Nebraska, Board of Commissioners	Omaha, Nebraska	2021
Project Harmony	Omaha, Nebraska	2022
Winthrop University	Rock Hill, South Carolina	2023
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, UNO	Omaha, Nebraska	2023
Bureau of Justice Assistance	Crystal City, Virginia	2023
Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center	Omaha, Nebraska	2023
Kansas-State Criminology Club	Manhattan, Kansas	2023
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Research Methods Course	Lincoln, Nebraska	2023
Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Criminal Justice Month Webinar	Omaha, Nebraska	2023

# BUDGET

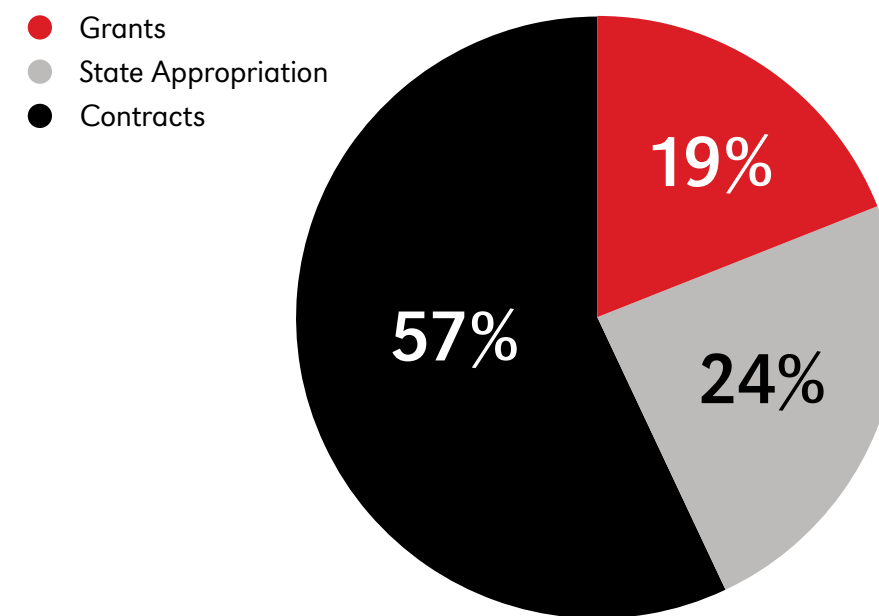
## Total Budget Breakdown from Fiscal Years 2015-2023



## Contracts and Grants from Fiscal Years 2015-2023



## Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Breakdown



# APPENDICES

## Selected Academic Publications, 2021-2023

- Butler, Leah, Erica Fissel, Brian Gildea, and Bonnie Fisher. 2023. "Understanding intimate partner cyber abuse across partnership categories based on gender identity and sexual orientation" *Victims & Offenders*, 18:1, 77-100.
- Krushas, Amber and Teresa Kulig. 2023. Exploring the physical, mental, and social health issues of sex trafficking victims by stage of exploitation. *Victims & Offenders*, 18:3, 447-472.
- Mei, Xiaohan, Zachary Hamilton, Alex Kigerl, Amber Krushas, and Faye Taxman. 2023. Best Practices for Neglected Assumptions: Multi-site Confirmation of the MPACT-6. *Crime & Delinquency*.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, and Amber Richey. 2023. "'Put it in your Toolbox': How Vocational Reentry Programs Support Formerly Incarcerated Persons through Desistance." *Crime & Delinquency*. 69: 316-341.
- Butler, Daniel, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, and Katelynn Towne. 2022. "Understanding Volunteerism: The Role of the Participant in Non-Clinical Correctional Programming." *Journal of Offender Rehabilitation* 61(7): 357-374.
- Kowalski, Melissa, Zachary Hamilton, Alex Kigerl, Michael Baglivio, and Kevin Wolff. 2022. Protecting Against Adversity: The Role of Positive Childhood Experiences in Youth Recidivism. *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 21:3.
- Allen, Baylee, Addison Kobie, and Zachary Hamilton. 2022. "Modernizing needs assessment scoring to improve agency outcomes." *The Journal of the American Probation and Parole Association*, 46:2, 18-26.
- Kigerl, Alex, Zachary Hamilton, Melissa Kowalski and Xiaohan Mei. 2022. "The great methods bake-off: Comparing performance of machine learning algorithms." *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- Krushas, Amber, Teresa Kulig, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, and Lynn Castrianno. 2022. Identifying successes and barriers among a child advocacy center. *Child & Youth Services*.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2022. "My friends keep me woke about these things: How college students experience and engage with police use of force content on social media." *Sociological Spectrum*, 42:1, 61-74.
- Church, Abere Sawaqdeh, David Marcus, and Zachary Hamilton. 2021. "Community service outcomes in justice-involved youth: Comparing restorative community service to standard community service." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, 48:9, 1243-1260.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Grant Duwe, Alex Kigerl, Jason Gwinn, Neal Langan, and Christopher Dollar. 2021. "Tailoring to a nation: The development and validation of the Prisoner Assessment Tool Targeting Estimated Risk and Needs (PATTERN)." *Justice Quarterly*, forthcoming.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Melissa Kowalski, and Alex Kigerl. 2021. "Prediction is local: The benefits of optimization." *Justice Quarterly*, 39:4, 722-744.
- Hsieh, Ming-Li, Kuan-Ju Chen, Pak-Sing Choi, and Zachary Hamilton. 2021. "Is more, better? The joint effects of multiple evidence-based treatment." *Criminal Justice & Behavior*, 49:6, 911-929.
- Mei, Xiaohan, Zachary Hamilton, Melissa Kowalski and Alex Kigerl. 2021. "Redesigning the Central Eight: Introducing the M-PACT Six." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, 19:4, 445-470.
- Schwartz, Joseph, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, Benjamin Steiner, and Ebonie Epinger. 2021. "Changes in jail admission before and after traumatic brain injury." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, forthcoming.

## Professional Publications, 2021-2023

- Miller, Jennifer, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2022. "Innovations in supervision: Reducing violence and recidivism through VRP aftercare and CBI open groups." *Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Suite: Researcher-Practitioner Fellows Community of Practice*. NE\_Case Study\_Final\_May 2022.pdf (msu.edu).
- Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna. 2021. "The Continued Importance of Face-to-Face Meetings for Scholar-Practitioner Partnerships in the Digital Age." ASC Division on Corrections & Sentencing, Fall 2021 Newsletter.
- Ebonie, Epinger, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, Taylor Claxton, and Benjamin Steiner. 2021. "Examining risk and need factors among a midwestern jail population." *American Jails*, 35:1, 34-38.

## Grants Awarded, 2021-2023

- 2020-22 Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers (Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright with Megan Davidson and Teresa Kulig). National Institute of Justice.
- 2020-21 A Descriptive Analysis of Missing and Murdered Native Women and Children in Nebraska, Barriers to Reporting and Investigation, and Recommendations for Improving Access to Justice (Emily Wright with Tara Richards). National Institute of Justice, Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grant.
- 2019-23 Reducing Violence and Recidivism through VRP Aftercare and CBI Open Groups (Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna with Jennifer Miller). Bureau of Justice Assistance.

## Contracts and Projects, 2021-2023

### Role: Principal Investigator

- 2022-26 Nebraska Correctional Program Evaluation.
- 2022-23 Vocational and Life Skills Evaluation.
- 2022 Review And Revalidation Of The Bureau Of Prisons Needs Assessment System. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2022 Waone Revalidation And Update. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2022 Barriers to Collaborative Sex Offender Treatment: Perceptions of Community Providers. Michael Campagna.
- 2020-23 Evaluation of Douglas County Assessment and Case Management Services. Douglas County Department of Corrections. Ryan Spohn and Emily Wright (co-Principal Investigators).
- 2020-22 Vocational & Life Skills Evaluation. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Ryan Spohn.
- 2021 Multi-State Research on Juvenile Offending. National Institute of Justice. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2021 STRONG-R Revalidation and Update. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Zachary Hamilton.
- 2021 Nebraska Classification Process. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Zachary Hamilton.

### Role: Project Evaluator

- 2020-2023 Achieving Change Together, Reentry Program Evaluation. Safer Foundation and Bureau of Justice Assistance. Ryan Spohn and Michael Campagna.

## Selected Research Reports, 2021-2023

- Hamilton, Zachary, Alex Kigerl, John Ursino, and Amber Krushas. 2022. *Personal Recognizance Interview & Needs Screen (PRINS) Evaluation and Revalidation*. Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD). King County, Washington.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Baylee Allen, & Addie Kobie. 2022. *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project Technical Report 1: Process Evaluation*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Hamilton, Z., Baylee Allen, Addie Kobie, John Ursino, Brian Gildea, and Ryan Spohn. (2023). *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project Technical Report: Phases II*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services. Lincoln, Nebraska.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2023. *Vocational and Life Skills Quarterly Report: Grant Cycle Four, Quarter 11*. For the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2023. *Vocational and Life Skills Quarterly Report: Grant Cycle Four, Quarter 10*. For the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2022. *Vocational and Life Skills Quarterly Report: Grant Cycle Four, Quarter Nine*. For the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2022. *Vocational and Life Skills Quarterly Report: Grant Cycle Four, Quarter Eight*. For the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn. 2022. *Vocational and Life Skills Quarterly Report: Grant Cycle Four, Quarter Seven*. For the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn, Christopher Campbell, Monica Miles-Steffens, Brian Gildea, John Ursino, Ryan Spohn, Zachary Hamilton, Michael Campagna, Addison Kobie, Taylor Claxton, Laura Dueland, Tara Grell. 2023. *Evidence-Based Inventory of Criminal Justice Programs in Nebraska*. For the Nebraska Legislature.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Laura Dueland, Ryan Spohn, Baylee Allen, and Tara Grell. 2023. *Employer Perspectives in Hiring and Working with Justice-Involved Individuals*. Prepared for the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, Laura Brooks Dueland, and Tara Grell. 2022. *Vocational and Life Skills Evaluation Annual Report, Grant Cycle Four: Year Two*. Prepared for the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Kowalski, Melissa, Michael Campagna, Emily Wright. 2023. *Victimization Prior to Jail: The Effect of Physical and/or Sexual Victimization on Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder in a Population of Jailed Inmates*. Omaha: Nebraska Center for Justice Research.
- Campagna, Michael, and Taylor Claxton. 2022. *A Classification of each NDCS Program by Client Needs identified by the STRONG-R Risk/Needs Assessment*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Hamilton, Zachary, Baylee Allen, and Addison Kobie. 2022. *Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Classification & Flow Project Technical Report 1: Process Evaluation*. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Kulig, Teresa, Amber Krushas, Lynn Castrignano, Ryan Spohn, and Emily Wright. 2022. *Expanding the Knowledge Base about Child Advocacy Centers: Final Technical Report*. National Institute of Justice.

- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, Taylor Claxton and Tara Grell. (2022). *Vocational and Life Skills Evaluation Annual Report, Grant Cycle Four: Year One*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Campagna, Michael. 2021. *Review of the Nebraska Screening and Assessment Tool (NSAT)*. Submitted to the Nebraska Crime Commission.
- Spohn, Ryan, and Michael Campagna. 2021. *Safer Foundation ACT Program: Process Evaluation Report*. Submitted to the Safer Foundation.
- Campagna, Michael, and Debra O'Connell. 2021. *Technical Assistance for Corrections Final Report*. Submitted to the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services.
- Hamilton, Zachary, and Alex Kigerl. 2021. *Development of the Nebraska Screening and Assessment Tool*. Nebraska Division of Community Based Aid.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. *Ready & Resilient: Qualitative Findings from Life Story Interviews with Vocational and Life Skills Program Participants*. Prepared for the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.
- Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. *Vocational and Life Skills Evaluation Annual Report, Grant Cycle Three: Year Two*. Prepared for the Nebraska Judiciary Committee and the Nebraska Department of Corrections.

## Policy and Research Briefs

- Hamilton, Zachary. 2021. *Research Brief: Describing PATTERN Risk Levels*. National Institute of Justice.
- Butler, H. Daniel., Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, and Katelynn Towne. 2022. "Understanding Volunteerism in Vocational and Life Skills Programming." Nebraska Center for Justice Research. Omaha, Nebraska.
- Krushas, Amber, Zach Hamilton, and Xiaohan Mei. 2023. "Assessing the Construct Validity of the MPACT-6." Nebraska Center for Justice Research. Omaha, Nebraska.
- Hamilton, Zach, John Ursino, and Alex Kigerl. 2023. "Evaluation of the King County's Pretrial Risk Assessment: The Personal Recognizance Interview & Needs Screen (PRINS)." Nebraska Center for Justice Research. Omaha, Nebraska.
- Ursino, John. 2023. "The Predictive Validity of the LSI-R on a Sample of Native American Females." Nebraska Center for Justice Research. Omaha, Nebraska.

## Academic Presentations, 2021-2023

- Goldsmith, Michaela, Brian Gildea, Michelle Roley-Roberts, and Pierce Greenberg. 2023. Domestic Violence & Housing Insecurity. Omaha Housing & Domestic Violence Resource Summit, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Krushas, A.E. 2023. Examining theoretical correlates among poly-victimization in Adulthood. Invited paper presentation for the Research and Creative Activity Fair, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2023. "Panel: TTA, Crime Analysis, and Evaluation: Examples from Bureau of Justice Assistance Supported Programs." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings. National Harbor, Maryland.

Spohn, Ryan, Alex Kigerl, and Emily M. Wright. 2023. "The Differential Risks and Needs of Justice-Involved Veterans and Non-Veterans in Forecasting Recidivism." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings. National Harbor, Maryland.

Wright, Emily, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, Ebonie Epinger, Mark Foxall. 2023. "Case Management Assessment and Considerations in Jails." American Jail Association Meetings. Omaha, Nebraska.

Allen, Baylee. 2022. "Developing a risk assessment for low-risk populations." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Britton, Anthony, Kasey Parker, LaVon Stennis Williams, and Katelynn Towne. 2022. "State-Level Reentry Initiatives: How Florida and Nebraska do Reentry." Reentry Summit. West Palm Beach, Florida

Campagna, Michael and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Meaningful Employment as a Component of Reentry: How Employers Provide More than Wages." American Society of Criminology Meetings. Atlanta, Georgia.

Castrianno, Lynn, Ryan Spohn, Teresa Kulig, Amber Krushas and Emily Wright. 2022. "Practitioner-researcher collaboration: Evaluating a child advocacy center core services." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment, San Diego, California.

Castrianno, Lynn, Ryan Spohn, Amber Krushas, Teresa Kulig, and Emily Wright. "From NCA Standards to Practice: Lessons Learned from Stories in the Field." Presented at the National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference, Washington, D.C.

Kowalski, Melissa, Michael Campagna, Ryan Spohn, and Emily Wright. 2022. "Understanding abuse and mental health: The role of victimization in jail returns." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Krushas, Amber. 2022. "Examining student-teacher relationships in the United States: A content analysis approach." Presented at the Research and Creative Activity Fair, Omaha, Nebraska.

Krushas, Amber, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Responsivity or discrimination?: extralegal moderators of relationships between types of technical violations and revocation." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Roig-Palmer, Krystal, Michael Campagna, Katelynn Towne, and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Enhancing the Margins of Reentry: How to Put Responsivity into Explicit Practice." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Spohn, Ryan. 2022. "The Rural/Urban Differences in the Impact of Individual Hopefulness, Individual Agency, and Community Factors on Fear of Crime." Midwest Criminal Justice Association annual meeting. Chicago, Illinois.

Spohn, Ryan and Michael Campagna. 2022. "Mixed Methods for Evaluating Reentry Programs: Findings from Qualitative Research in a Process Evaluation." American Society of Criminology Meetings. Atlanta, Georgia.

Spohn, Ryan, and Michael Campagna. 2022. "Face-to-Face, Virtual, and Hybrid Collaboration in Scholar-Practitioner Partnerships in the Digital Age." Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Meetings, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Claxton, Taylor, and Amber Krushas. 2021. "Trauma among incarcerated LGBTQ+ youth: updates on research, policy, and programming." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Epinger, Ebonie, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2021. "Jails Use Data Too!" Presented at the American Jail Association Meetings, Columbus, Ohio.

Epinger, Ebonie, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Michael Campagna, and Joseph Schwartz. 2021. "The Intersectionality of Race and Gender in Risk and Need Factors among a Jail Population." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Krushas, Amber, Teresa Kulig, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, Lynn Castrianno, and Debra Anderson. 2021. "Identifying Successes and Barriers among a Child Advocacy Center." Presentation at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

Spohn, Ryan. 2021. "Research Partnerships Addressing Re-Entry." Presented at the American Society of Criminology Meetings, Chicago, Illinois.

Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, and Ryan Spohn. 2021. "Reentry Employment During the COVID-19 Era." Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Chicago, Illinois.

## Invited Presentations, 2021-2023

Kohut, Mike, Brian Knop, Katelynn Towne, and Ty Miller. 2023. "Social Science Research Careers." A virtual panel presented by Sociology Department at Winthrop University.

Krushas, Amber. 2023. "Finding an Answer in Time: Assessing Change in Needs Scores on Time to Recidivism among Justice-Involved Youth." Presented for the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, Ryan. 2023. "Researcher/Practitioner Partnerships in the 21st Century." Innovations in Supervision Initiative Grantee Convening, Bureau of Justice Assistance. Crystal City, Virginia.

Spohn, Ryan. 2023. "Review of Project Harmony Outcome Measurement System Data with a Focus on Equitable Service Delivery." Project Harmony Child Advocacy Center, Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, Ryan. 2023. "Corrections and Community Corrections in the 21st Century: Careers, Policy, and Applied Research." K-State Criminology Club. Manhattan, Kansas.

Towne, Katelynn, Michael Campagna, Laura Dueland, Ryan Spohn, and Baylee Allen. 2023. "Employer Perspectives in Hiring and Working with Justice-Involved Individuals." A virtual research presentation prepared for the Re-Entry Task Force.

Towne, Katelynn. 2023. "Research, Evaluation, & Impact" Guest lecture at University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Campagna, Michael, Jennifer Miller, and Ryan Spohn. 2022. "Case study of Nebraska BJA grant. Presented at Smart Suite Training and Technical Assistance Community of Practice." Presented at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Hamilton, Zachary, Kristofer Buklen, and Marjorie Rist. 2022. "Racial bias and Amelioration Strategies for Risk Assessment". Presented at the American Correctional Association Annual Convention, Phoenix, Arizona.

Hamilton, Zachary, and Marjorie Rist. 2021. "Developing the Pennsylvania STRONG-R." Presented at the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Kulig, Teresa, Amber Krushas, Ryan Spohn, Lynn Castrianno and Emily Wright. 2022. "Overview of Findings from Phase I." Presented at Project Harmony, Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, Ryan. 2022. "Data on Race for Research and Racial Conversations." Presented at the Movement in Omaha for Racial Equity (MORE), Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, Ryan. 2022. "Justice by the Numbers: A Discussion of Data about Incarceration." Sponsored by Mathew 25 Churches of the Missouri Valley Presbytery. Omaha, Nebraska.

Spohn, Ryan. 2021. "Racial Disparities in Prison Populations: Who is System-Involved and Why?" Presented to the Leadership Omaha Class 43, Omaha, Nebraska.

- Spohn, Ryan. 2022. "The Color of Justice: Racial and Ethnic Disparity in State Prisons, Nebraska/Iowa." Presented at the New Life Presbyterian, First Presbyterian, and West Hills Churches, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan, Mark Foxall, Leah Butler, Michael Campagna, and Katelynn Towne. 2022. "The color of justice: Racial and ethnic disparity in prisons, Nebraska/Iowa." Presented to the New Life Presbyterian and First Presbyterian West Hills congregations, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Epingler, Ebonie, Emily Wright, Ryan Spohn, and Joseph Schwartz. 2021. "Jails Use Data Too!" Presentation to the Douglas County, Nebraska, Board of Commissioners, Omaha, Nebraska.

## Panels and Discussions, 2018-2023

- Spohn, Ryan. 2023. "Working Together: The Importance of Community-Engaged Research & Evaluation." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Criminal Justice Month Webinar. Virtual.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "Georgetown Capstone Presentation: Reducing Race and Ethnic Disparities in the Douglas County Juvenile Justice System." Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2019. "Project Safe Neighborhood Training/Technical Assistance Strategic Planning Collaboration Meeting." For the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Washington, D.C.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "The Intersection of Disproportionate Minority Contact, Justice, & Law Enforcement." For the First United Methodist Church of Omaha and Policy Research & Innovation (PRI), Omaha, Nebraska.
- Spohn, Ryan. 2018. "Beyond Police, Courts, and Corrections." For UNO's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Omaha, Nebraska.

## Webinars

- Lee, Erica, Jordan Bowden, Kelly King, and Ryan Spohn. "Working Together: The Importance of Community-Engaged Research & Evaluation." Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, National Criminal Justice Month. March 1, 2022.
- Lindquist, Christine, Samuel Scaggs, Ryan Spohn, and Michael Campagna. 2022. *Strengthening your Reentry Program Evaluation through Primary Data Collection*. Webinar with the Corrections and Reentry research Program.
- Hamilton, Zachary. 2021. *Juvenile Risk Assessment*. Webinar with Colorado Division of Youth Services.
- Hamilton, Zachary. 2021. *Optimizing Juvenile Risk Assessment*. Webinar with the Counsel of Juvenile Justice Administrators.
- Hamilton, Zachary, and Lindsey Wylie. 2021. *Developing a Statewide Diversion Assessment Tool*. Webinar with the Nebraska Center for Community-Based Aid.

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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