

# Corrections Research at NIJ: Providing Guidance in a Time of Change

Eric Martin, Social Science Analyst  
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David Muhlhausen, Ph.D., Director, National Institute of Justice  
Chris Tillery, Office Director, Office of Research, Evaluation and Technology



**NIJ**

## Presentation Overview

- NIJ Overview
- Crime Solutions
- Corrections Research Highlights
- Research on Promising Reentry Initiatives
- Corrections Strategic Research Plan
- NIJ's role in Implementing the First Step Act



## NIJ Overview

- **Research, Development and Evaluation arm of the Department of Justice**
- **NIJ has two main research offices:**
  - **Office of Research Evaluation and Technology**
  - **Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences**
- **NIJ Director serves as the Chief Evaluation Officer for DOJ**
- **NIJ hosts Crime Solutions repository of evaluation evidence**

# Crime Solutions

- Repository of Evaluation Evidence on Programs and Practices
- Evaluations of over 500 programs listed
  - 136 programs in Corrections and Reentry
  - Programs are rated as:
    - Effective
    - Promising
    - No Effects

The screenshot shows the Crime Solutions.gov website interface. At the top, it says 'National Institute of Justice' and 'OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS'. The main heading is 'Crime SOLUTIONS.gov' with the tagline 'RELIABLE RESEARCH. REAL RESULTS.' Below this is a search bar and navigation tabs for 'TOPICS', 'All Programs & Practices', 'About CrimeSolutions.gov', 'Resources', 'FAQs', and 'Nominate'. The left sidebar lists various topics like 'Corrections & Reentry', 'Criminals', 'Criminals & Crime Prevention', etc. The main content area is titled 'Corrections & Reentry' and 'Inmate Programs & Treatment'. It features a table of search results with columns for 'Title', 'Evidence Rating', 'Topics', and 'Summary'. The first result is 'Alphabeta Courts (Term) Jail-Based Reentry Specialist Program' with an 'Effective' rating. The second result is 'Enhancing Therapeutic Skills (England)' with a 'Promising' rating. To the right of the table, there are sections for 'D.O.P. Publications' and 'Questions and Answers'.

## Corrections Related Research at NIJ

- Supports research on Institutional and Community Corrections, and Offender Reentry
- Reoccurring calls for Corrections and Reentry Evaluation Research
- Other Relevant Research also Comes From:
  - Graduate Research Fellowship
  - Safety, Health and Wellness
  - Artificial Intelligence

## Research and You

- Do you use research to inform practice?
- Where do you go to get research?
- How big a priority are research results to your work?



## NIJ Investment in Corrections and Reentry Research

- Initiated 22 Corrections Research Projects in the last Two Years
  - ~ \$20 million investment
- Projects include topics on:
  - Development of AI algorithms to assist Community Supervision
  - Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction
  - Risk-Needs-Responsivity Program Evaluations
  - Alternative Young Adult Housing Programs
  - Evaluation of Body-Worn Cameras in Jails
  - Correction Officer Occupational Prestige

## Notable Ongoing Projects

- Correctional Officer Suicide in Massachusetts
- Restrictive Housing:
  - Inmate and Officer Well-Being
  - Offender Misconduct
  - Step-Down Programs
- Contraband and Mitigation Techniques
- Impact of Parental Incarceration on Children





## Recent Findings

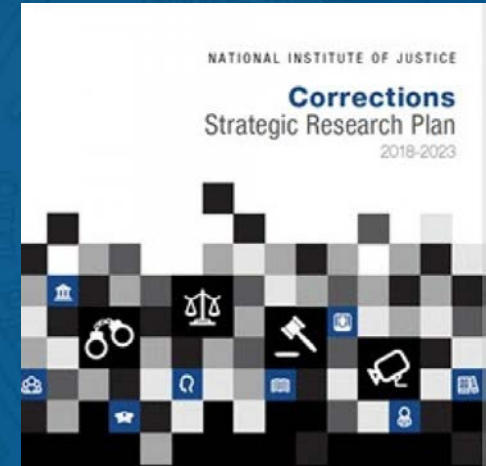
- **Kiosk Supervision effective for Low-risk Offenders**
- **Home Visits can Reduce Recidivism**
- **Implementing New Initiatives can be Difficult**
- **Training alone is Inadequate to Implement New Programs**
- **Jails can Systematically Address Inmate Self-Harm**
- **Managed Access Systems Reduce Value of Contraband Cell Phones**

## Enhance Rigor of Evaluations of Reentry Initiatives

- Provided over \$11 million in Funding on Evaluations of Reentry Programs since 2018
- Ensured Evaluations had the Highest Standard of Rigor
  - Many Evaluations use Quasi-Experimental Designs
  - May Show Greater Impact when Compared to an RCT

# Charting a Path Forward: NIJ's Corrections Strategic Research Plan

- **Describes Three Broad Priorities:**
  - **Optimize Workforce Development**
  - **Enhance Correction Practices**
  - **Individuals Involved with the Corrections System**
- **Priorities are supported by Nine Research Objectives**



## What Do You Need to Know?

- What are the Most Pressing Issues in the Field?
- Is NIJ Research Addressing These?

## First Step Act

- **Federal Prison System Reform and Recidivism Reduction**
- **NIJ is mandated to:**
  - **Assess BOP's Current Risk Assessment System**
  - **Develop and Evaluate a New Risk Assessment System**
  - **Develop Recommendations on Reentry Programming**
  - **Continue Second Chance Act Research**
- **NIJ established an Independent Review Committee (IRC) to Facilitate these Tasks**



## Introducing PATTERN

- Predicts the likelihood of **General and Violent Recidivism** over a **3-year period**
- Includes **Static and Dynamic Factors**
- **Gender-specific Prediction Models**

# Questions



## Contact Info

- Eric Martin
  - [Eric.D.Martin@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:Eric.D.Martin@ojp.usdoj.gov)
  - 202-598-7260
- [www.nij.ojp.gov](http://www.nij.ojp.gov)
- [www.nij.ojp.gov/corrections](http://www.nij.ojp.gov/corrections)
- [www.crimesolutions.gov](http://www.crimesolutions.gov)