

ICJIA RESEARCH & ANALYSIS UPDATE

SPOTLIGHT: PROVIDING HIGHER EDUCATION IN ILLINOIS PRISONS



The Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority cohosted a two-day event, “*Higher Education in Prison: Degrees of Change.*” Members of the Illinois Higher Education in Prison Task Force, Vera Institute of Justice, correctional centers, state agencies, educators and others discussed the importance of providing education to people who are incarcerated, student outcomes, and policies to create a path forward. The event also included a screening of the film *Degrees of Freedom*, which highlighted the women in New York’s Bedford Hills Correctional Facility who worked to bring higher education back to their prison setting.

Research Publications



Illinois Work Release Centers: Perspectives of Prison Administration and Program Staff

We conducted 16 interviews with Illinois Department of Corrections administrators and Adult Transition Center (ATC) program staff to understand their perceptions of ATC operations and their purpose, as well as their perspectives on ATC effectiveness, strengths, and weaknesses.



Illinois Juvenile Justice System Data Trends Pre- and Post- COVID-19

This article provides a snapshot of juvenile trends from 2018 to 2022. It is meant to be a brief overview of youth statistics in the juvenile justice system. We analyzed arrest, detention, youths continued under supervision, informal probation, and corrections in Illinois.

Data Collection and Task Force Reports



Lewd Sexual Display in a Penal Institution: 2024 Report

Required by statute, researchers compiled charges, referrals, and demographic information related to lewd sexual displays in a penal institution.



2024 Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women Annual Report

This report provides recommendations for improving policies and practices aimed at reducing gender-based violence, increasing safety, and promoting healing for victims and communities.

Restore, Reinvest, and Renew

The Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act created the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) program, which reinvests a portion of cannabis tax revenue into communities experiencing high rates of gun injury, unemployment, child poverty, and incarceration.



Process Evaluation of Select Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Funded Grantees: [Full Report](#)

With a mixed methods approach, researchers conducted organization-specific process evaluations on the implementation and operations of their R3 programs. Sources included observations, interviews, surveys, focus groups, and administrative data.

Don't have time to read the full report? [Read a summary](#), including a description of the evaluation and its findings.

Research Presentations

- Researchers participated in the [Logic Model Workshop](#) with the Building Recovery, Inclusion, and Dignity for Growth and Empowerment (BRIDGE) Deflection Leadership Team.
- Researchers presented [Illinois Police and the Opioid Crisis: Examining Discretion, Stigma, and Knowledge in Officer Interactions with People with Opioid Use Disorder](#) to the Chicago South Side Heroin Opioid Task Force
- Researchers presented to the Illinois Opioid Crisis Response Advisory Council on [Illinois Police and the Opioid Crisis: Examining Discretion, Stigma, and Knowledge in Officer Interactions with People with Opioid Use Disorder](#).
- Researchers presented an [Illinois Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative Overview](#) to the Task Force on Missing and Murdered Chicago Women and Girls.

New ICJIA Research Staff

This quarter, ICJIA welcomed a number of new researchers to assist with our work.



SUSAN ALRIFAI

Susan Alrifai is a Research Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Evaluation.



GABRIELLA DEMARTINIS

Gabriella DeMartinis is a Research Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Evaluation.



NICOLE HANSEL

Nicole Hansel is a Research Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Evaluation.



JANIS SAYER

Janis Sayer is a Research Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Evaluation.



KATHERINE WILSON MCCOY

Katherine Wilson McCoy is a Research Fellow in the Center for Justice Research and Evaluation.



ANNAMARIA SIRUGO

Annamaria Sirugo is a Research Fellow in the Center for Victim Studies.



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