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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Veronica Puryear, Ph.D.
Research Associate
Justice Research and Statistics
Association
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Suite 801
Washington, DC 20002

PHONE: 202.842.9330
FAX: 202.842.9329
EMAIL: vpuryear@jrja.org

Web Site:
<<http://www.jrja.org>>

Dear Criminal Justice Professionals:

Welcome to the October edition of "Evaluation News: Expanding Knowledge Through Information Exchange." This monthly E-newsletter contains national and state evaluation publication sources, resources, news updates, and information on upcoming conferences. The E-newsletter provides evaluation information to states on a regular basis using technology to promote information exchange and enhance capacity to access the research community. To be removed from this list send a reply with your email address in the subject line. For comments or questions, please visit:

<http://www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org/html/contact_us/index.html>

NATIONAL EVALUATION NEWS

Abt Associates, Inc. has released a report, prepared for the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, that assesses Indiana's welfare reform approach. The report, entitled "The Indiana Welfare Reform Evaluation: Five-Year Impacts, Implementation, Costs and Benefits," is available at:

<http://www.abtassoc.com/reports/indiana_final_report.pdf>
(September 2003)

SEARCH, The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, has released a report describing how performance measures can be used to measure the success of integrated justice information system projects. The report, entitled "Measuring the Success of Integrated Justice: A Practical Approach," is available at:

<<http://www.search.org/publications/pdffiles/perfmeasures.pdf>>
(September 2003)

The National Institute of Justice has released a Research for Practice report entitled "Do Batterer Intervention Programs Work? Two Studies." The report is based on a longer research report entitled "Batterer Intervention Programs: Where Do We Go From Here?" The report provides a comprehensive synthesis of the research that was conducted, including the major findings from both studies. The report also includes a section on program and research issues of particular importance to anyone seeking to provide more effective interventions in this area, as well as those attempting to evaluate these types of programs. The 7-page Research for Practice report is available at:

<<http://www.ncjrs.org/pdffiles1/nij/200331.pdf>>
(September 2003)
NCJ 200331

The United States General Accounting Office has issued a report on justice outcome evaluations entitled "Design and Implementation of Studies Require More Attention." This report presents information from a study conducted by the GAO in which they assessed the methodological quality of a sample of completed and ongoing outcome evaluation grants managed by NIJ between 1992 and 2002. The full report is available at:

<<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d031091.pdf>>

(September 2003)

GAO-03-1091

The Vera Institute of Justice has released a report entitled "The Challenges of Replacing Prison With Drug Treatment: Implementation of New York State's Extended Willard Program." The report presents information from an evaluation of the 15-month Extended Willard Drug Treatment Program which emphasizes treatment rather than lengthy prison sentences for second-time, nonviolent, substance abusing offenders. This report is available at:

<http://www.vera.org/publication_pdf/205_402.pdf>

STATE EVALUATION NEWS

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Analysis Center has released its Winter 2003 edition of SystemStats. This edition, entitled "Juvenile Structured Day Programs for Suspended and Expelled Youth: A Statewide Assessment," presents findings from a process and impact study of juvenile structured day programs. The study includes an assessment of the relationship between the costs associated with these types of programs and their perceived impact and benefits. This edition of SystemStats is available at:

<<http://www.gcc.state.nc.us/systemstats/winter03.pdf>>

(Winter 2003)

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

AEA Conference—Evaluation 2003: The Annual Conference of the American Evaluation Association will be held at John Ascuaga's Nugget in Reno/Sparks, Nevada, November 5-8, 2003. For more information visit: <<http://www.eval.org/eval2003/>>

RECENT EVENTS

The 2003 BJS/JRSA National Conference was recently held in San Francisco, California. A number of the speaker presentations from the conference, along with session abstracts and speaker biographies, are now available on JRSA's website: <http://www.jrsa.org/>. The following are a sample of the presentations that may be of particular interest to E-newsletter subscribers. The presenters should be contacted directly with questions or for additional information concerning their presentations. Their contact information is available under the 2003 BJS/JRSA conference heading on JRSA's website.

- **Work Programs for Ex-Offenders: Potential and Promise**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/Shawn_Bushway.htm>
- **The Link Between Program Performance and Budget**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/Perry_Comeaux.htm>

- **Developing an Evidence Based Approach to Sentencing Policy**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/Kim_Hunt.htm>
- **Evaluation of Virginia Exile**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/Sherri_Johnson.htm>
- **Combating Domestic Violence in Rural Areas: Findings from an Evaluation of a Local Domestic Violence Court**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/John_McDonald.htm>
- **Measuring Program Performance in a Criminal History Records Environment: The Records Quality Index (RQI)**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/Robin_Neray.htm>
- **Evaluating Drug Courts: Outcome Differences by Gender**
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/presentations/David_Wright.htm>

RESOURCES

To review a bibliography of selected resources on evaluation concepts for practitioners compiled by Social Science Research and Evaluation (SSRE), visit: <<http://www.northeastcapt.org/PRODUCTS/other/evalbib.html>>

For more information about evaluation visit: <<http://www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org/index.html>>

To view current and past editions of the Evaluation Newsletter, visit the “What’s New” section for the BJA Evaluation Website at: <<http://www.bja.evaluationwebsite.org/>>

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