

**BJA CENTER FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION WEB SITE UPDATES • UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS**

*Evaluation News is brought to you by BJA's Center for Program Evaluation at the Justice Research & Statistics Association*

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Dear Criminal Justice Professionals:

Welcome to the September edition of "Evaluation News: Expanding Knowledge Through Information Exchange." 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 and evaluation community.

**NEW PROGRAM AREAS FOR THE BJA CENTER FOR PROGRAM EVALUATION WEB SITE**

**CRIME PREVENTION**

The Center for Program Evaluation has added a new program area on Crime Prevention. This program area includes an overview of Crime Prevention and evaluation information on Community-Based Crime Prevention programs and strategies. See the Crime Prevention program area at:

[http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/psi\\_cp/index.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/psi_cp/index.htm) .

**COMING SOON: MENTAL HEALTH COURTS**

A Mental Health Courts program area will be added soon to the BJA Center for Program Evaluation Web Site as one type of Problem-Solving Court. Mental health courts are a relatively new type of problem-solving court begun in the late 1990s to address the issues of mentally ill offenders whose problems cannot be properly addressed in traditional court systems.

Studies show that mental health courts have been useful for facilitating case processing, saving court resources, and reducing subsequent offending.

Examples of commonly used mental health court performance measures include: number of target population correctly identified as needing mental health services, duration of treatment engagement, Length of mental health court participation, and improved client functioning.

Useful resources for planning and implementing program evaluations and for developing program performance measures are available at:

The BJA Center for Program Evaluation Web Site  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/evaluation/index.html>

### **UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND TRAININGS**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance 2005 Regional Conference Series for State Administering Agencies will be held in November and December 2005. The BJA Center for Program Evaluation will participate in the cyber clinic at each conference. Participants will have live access to the web site at the cyber clinic and will be able to interact with BJA Center for Program Evaluation staff. Also, we will be distributing a survey at the cyber clinic to obtain your input about the web site. For agenda, registration, location, and date information see:  
<http://www.ncja.org/bjaregionalmeeting.html> .

JRSA will be hosting the 2005 Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Research and Statistics Association National Conference on October 27-28, 2005 in St. Petersburg, FL. To register for the conference and view the regularly updated agenda visit:  
<http://www.jrsa.org/events/conference/index.html> .

The Office for Victims of Crime will be hosting a workshop entitled, *Program Evaluation: Assessing Victim Services Progress and Measuring Success* December 6-7, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona. For more information see:  
<http://www.ovcttac.org/calendar/events.cfm?EventID=435&CurrtDate=12/01/2005&FuseAction=ShowEvent> .

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