

Asian Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center

Risk and Protective Factor Research Update

Throughout the second half of the spring semester and during the summer, API research staff in Oakland and Honolulu surveyed youth and parents or legal guardians from eight ethnic groups. The sample was randomly drawn from one public high school, one public middle school, and community-based organizations in Oakland, California, and three public high schools on O'ahu, Hawai'i. The table below provides the breakdown of the completed youth and parent survey sample (both locations combined).

Research staff are continuing to survey youth and their parents during the fall semester. In addition, API research staff at both sites will begin surveying youth on probation (and a corresponding parent/legal guardian) in the near future. In the hopes of advocating strategically for desired services, preliminary analyses are being provided for school, ethnic, and geographic communities.

The survey itself covers a wide range of topics including basic demographics, immigration and refugee history, self-reported delinquency, gender dynamics, attitudes toward school, strengths and assets, gang contact and affiliation, self-esteem, peer pressure, and ethnic identity, among others.

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NCCD Special Awards



Judge Len Edwards and Linda Davis

infectious good nature has clearly inspired those around him and helped improve the lives of countless families.

Other NCCD Special Award presentations:

Judge Leonard Edwards of the Santa Clara County Superior Court, and past president of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, was presented the NCCD Roscoe Pound Award in October at an intimate event in North Beach, San Francisco. Long-time colleagues and friends gathered to congratulate him, reminisce, and reflect on the many significant advances Judge Edwards is responsible for in the juvenile and family court in California. He has shown the value of judicial leadership in combatting violence against women and in bringing appropriate mental health resources in to the family court. Judge Edwards has taken a very proactive position in creating those needed resources and alternatives for families in his court. In doing so, he has set a tone of compassionate leadership that resonates through the judicial system, the social services system, and law enforcement. Edwards' energetic and apparently

Chief Justice of the Milwaukee County Court, Michael Skwierawski, received one of two 2003 Grace B. Flandreau Awards for outstanding contributions to the compassionate care of youth. NCCD Board member, Linda Davis, presented the award at the judge's official retirement party in July at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee, with almost 200 in attendance.

The other Flandreau award went to the Honorable Myrna Field, Justice of the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas. NCCD Board member, Judge Carolyn E. Temin, presented this award to Judge Field at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges, also in July in Hershey, PA.

In May, NCCD President Barry Krisberg presented Orlando Martinez, of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, with his Albert Elias Award for outstanding achievements in juvenile justice at the Annual Conference of the Georgia Juvenile Services Association, held in Atlanta.

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Reducing the Incarceration of California's Women

The Challenge

California leads the nation in the number of women who are incarcerated—on average over 20,000. Nationwide, that's 11% of adult women and 13% of juveniles. Of the 20,000, nearly 9,800 women are in state prisons, over 10,000 are in county jails, and almost 2,500 young women are in local or state juvenile correctional facilities. These are predominately poor women of color—31 % are African American, 26 % are Latino, and 5 % are Native American, Asian American, or Pacific Islanders. Their crimes are mostly property crimes and drug offenses (over 60% combined). Only 30% of the state's women prisoners are confined for crimes against persons. By contrast, nearly half of male prisoners are confined for such crimes. Approximately 38% of women entering prison are parole violators. Women in county jails and local facilities are even more likely than those in state prisons to be confined for nonviolent crimes. Violations of probation rules and bench warrants are the primary reasons that women are held in local correctional facilities.

Based on national figures, one can estimate that these incarcerated women are parents to over 50,000 children. We know that these children suffer from many psychological and social impediments, and that their caretakers in the community (usually grandparents and other relatives) face many difficult problems. A very high percentage of these children will get involved in the juvenile justice, criminal justice, mental health, and welfare systems in the future. More enlightened care and concern for these children would constitute a

wise investment of prevention dollars.

A 1993 survey of California women prisoners by Bloom and Owen found that women in the state's prisons were subject to long histories of violent victimization and sexual abuse, and were themselves children of parents who had been incarcerated. They were plagued by a range of civil legal problems, including child custody issues and loss of government benefits, and were barred from many jobs due to their drug involvement or

These women do return to their homes and families, often worse off than before.

criminal records. Bloom and Owen noted that women were imprisoned for offenses that were less serious than those for which men were imprisoned. There was a glaring lack of intermediate sentencing options at the local level, propelling many of these women into the state prison system.

Once incarcerated, women in California prisons received inferior medical and mental health care and were offered substandard educational or vocational programs. There were virtually no gender-specific services for women offenders at either the county or the state level. Incarcerated women are likely to be dependent on drugs and to have committed crimes related to their addiction problems. These women possess extremely high rates of mental illness and medical problems, especially HIV-AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Even more shocking, there have been

periodic scandals about the physical and sexual abuse of women by their captors. A 1996 Human Rights Watch Report noted that male correctional employees have vaginally, anally, and orally raped female prisoners, contributing to these women's trauma and further impeding their rehabilitation. These women *do* return to their homes and families, often worse off than before.

Confined women have typically received minimal attention by elected officials. In fact, a June, 2003, study by the National Institute of Corrections found that attitudes about women offenders are often guided by a "male preference" where "women inmates are seen as more demanding, more complaining, and more likely to refuse order," making them "not worth the trouble they cause."

The Opportunity

Despite this grim portrait, there are significant opportunities to make progress on this issue. First, the number of women in prisons and jails declined and remained lower by 10% soon after the passage of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Proposition 36). Prop 36 was passed by 61% of Californians, was aimed at keeping out of correctional facilities those offenders charged with minor drug possession, and earmarked \$120 million per year for alternative drug treatment programs. Currently, the scope of Proposition 36 is limited to a small number of eligible drug offenders. Nonetheless, increased funding for drug treatment, broader eligibility criteria, and new gender-specific programming would likely exert a major impact in reducing the incarceration of California women.

Another promising signal that the

unnecessarily punitive climate in California may be changing is the growing network of people who understand and challenge the obstacles facing incarcerated women.

- Recently, a coalition of criminal justice reform groups helped persuade the legislature to delay the opening of a new women's prison.

- California is facing an unprecedented bud-get crisis that is likely to continue for several years. Voters are likely to support cuts in the state's correctional expenditures rather than other services.

- The California legislature is currently dominated by elected officials who support a progressive social agenda, especially on behalf of disadvantaged women. Prior investigations of abuses at California women's prisons and in the young women's facility at the Youth Authority, conducted by the independent Office of the Inspector General, have already sensitized legislative members on the urgency for change.

- Attorney General Bill Lockyer has announced that the reduction of violence against women is his top law enforcement priority.

- The proposed strategy can expect assistance from a number of criminal and juvenile court judges, as well as from the California Judicial Council.

- Law enforcement officials that have fully embraced community-oriented justice models might be productively engaged in a statewide effort to implement more rational sentencing policies for women.

Conclusion

California is at a crossroads. The lack of public and legislative attention to the overincarceration of women is contributing to the marginalization and family fragmentation plaguing many communities in California. This in turn creates financial and social burdens on families, communities, providers, and jurisdictions who could otherwise manage socially deviant behavior through more effective means. NCCD is prepared to work with a variety of agencies, elected officials, and community organizations and coalitions to advance a proactive response to the overincarceration of women.

Owen, B., and Bloom, B. (1995). Profiling women prisoners: Findings from national surveys and a California sample. *The Prison Journal*, 75(2) 165-185.

Human Rights Watch (1996, December). *All Too Familiar*. Retrieved June, 2003, from <http://www.hrw.org/us/index.php>

Parents Anonymous®: Evaluation Update

Juvenile delinquency prevention efforts ideally encompass a broad array of interventions. One critical strategy that deserves inclusion in this array is the reduction of child maltreatment. An emerging body of research points persuasively to a strong link between the experience of abuse or neglect and subsequent delinquent behavior.

Numerous studies have shown that maltreating parents are often socially isolated, have smaller peer networks, and have less contact with and receive less help from their families. Interventions that are effective in increasing social support and decreasing social isolation will likely be effective in promoting nurturing parenting. One promising program in this area is Parents Anonymous®. Parents Anonymous® operates a network of parent-led, professionally facilitated, community-based self-help support groups. The cornerstones of the intervention model include mutual support and shared leadership.

In 2001, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) selected NCCD to conduct a process and outcome evaluation of the Parents Anonymous® program. The process evaluation was completed in the fall of 2002, and the national outcome evaluation is currently under way.

Faced with the challenge of evaluating a nationwide volunteer self-help group, we developed an innovative, rigorous research design. The findings of the process evaluation indicated that groups implemented the model (i.e., mutual support and shared leadership) of Parents Anonymous® to varying degrees. While some groups were high on model implementation, other groups were low. To evaluate the effectiveness of the Parents Anonymous® model, we are recruiting newly arriving parents from both high- and low-model implementation groups. Consenting parents will be asked to participate in three intensive interviews over a period of six months. This longitudinal study will allow us to explore several important comparisons (i.e., parents in low- vs. high-model implementation groups; parents who attend for short vs. long periods of time) while controlling for a number of important variables such as the initiation of help-seeking behaviors.

NCCD Board

*Interview with Board Chair Juan Sanchez
October 30, 2003*

Our incoming chair of the NCCD Board of Directors, Juan Sanchez, reflects on his work, leadership, and nonprofits in the current economy.

Juan is the founder and director of Southwest Key, a nonprofit that develops alternatives to detention and long-term institutionalization for youth—mostly poor youth of color. Since its beginning in 1987 in Texas, the organization currently runs 42 programs in 19 communities in 6 states.

Prior to founding SW Key, Juan ran a home for youth and a residential treatment center where he saw first-hand the impact of institutions on the lives of young people. The more he saw, the more convinced he became that kids belong in their homes and communities. The more time youth spend in institutions, the harder it is to turn their lives around.

Q: What part of your job do you find the most satisfying?

What I find most satisfying is having a vision of creating something unique and different, and having the autonomy to develop it and see it become a reality. SW Key has recently reassumed the administration of the treatment center I used to run. In addition to its original purpose, it is now also a center for unaccompanied minors whose only offense is being in this country illegally. Our goal is to reunite them with their families. Our Voices of Youth program enlists young people in all parts of the work that SW Key does. Seeing youth, that other people have given up on, become self-confident leaders is truly amazing.

Q: What do you think are the best measures of success for an organization?

I think you have to ask yourself if you were able to make a difference in the lives of the people you intend to serve. Recently we had a visit from a young man who had lived at one of our residential Centers-La Esperanza Home. He went on to Texas A&M and became an engineer, and he still had his



*Juan Sanchez
Katie Nichols*

certificate of graduation from Esperanza Home. Being able to track our successes through the accomplishments of the youth we serve would be the best measure of greatness.

Q: How would you describe your philosophy of leadership?

Leadership is about helping people develop and grow, to discover their own potential. A good leader sets the tone, reminds everyone of the mission, models behavior, allows creativity, and allows people to fail, youth and staff alike. You've got to recognize people, let them know they are important. You've got to work as a team and, above all, have FUN. Find reasons to celebrate, and have a good time, it helps people release energy and develop creativity.

Q: What do you see on the horizon in the world of nonprofits?

Unfortunately, I think we're in for difficult times in funding. Money is just not going to be there. Every community we work in is having financial difficulties. Those nonprofits that do survive will undoubtedly be strong. I think it's going to be important for us to do as much *collaboration* as possible, be as efficient as possible, be more accountable, and find ways to evaluate our success.

Q: What do you see as the unique strengths of the NCCD board?

As an agency, NCCD can be a valuable partner in research and evaluation, which can be valuable to funders and nonprofit organizations. I think the diversity of this board is a special strength. It is both ethnically diverse; as well as having membership from a myriad of fields of expertise. I would like to see the board be more informed as well as have our board meetings be more interactively engaged about NCCD business instead of merely absorbing information.

Q: What are your thoughts on the recruitment of new board members?

We should continue to look at diversity and perhaps include a youth member, but one who is trained, not just a token. Maybe we can recruit someone who has been through the system and made it, someone who offers a perspective that we don't have, someone who can keep reminding us of the world we're trying to change.

Q: What unique strengths of your own do you bring to the position of board chair for NCCD?

I bring my experience of directly working with youth currently involved in the juvenile justice system. As "Presidente" of a non-profit organization, I also understand issues facing agencies like NCCD during this difficult, political and economic period in our county. Given my own experience, I believe we can enhance possible collaborations between Southwest Key and NCCD in the area of Juvenile Justice reform. I believe I am the first Latino to serve as Board Chair and thus want to bring a unique perspective to the Board.

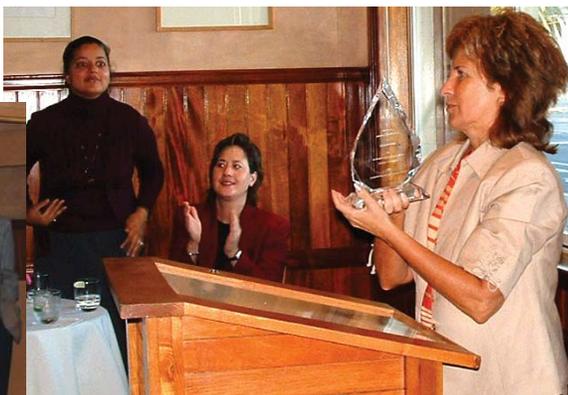
San Francisco

September 11-12

At the board meeting in March of 2003, the directors had the difficult task of choosing this year's honorees for NCCD Special Recognition Awards out of the many gifted and dedicated professionals whose work in criminal and juvenile justice makes a difference in the lives of individual Americans.

What became clear during the discussion was that we were missing a category—community service. Two easy decisions followed. The first was to create a new award for outstanding contributions to the community, in honor of one of our own board members, Katie Nichols. The second was to decide that the first person to whom NCCD would grant this new award was Mimi Silbert, the founder and director of Delancey Street. Delancey Street is arguably the nation's most successful rehabilitation program—a model of community-based treatment for drug addicts and criminals.

On September 11, the NCCD board and staff gathered at Delancey Street to honor two remarkable women. With the backdrop of a naval battle ship just across the Embarcadero, Mimi accepted the award with a combination of humility and giddiness. Her words about accepting undoable challenges, learning to operate in peaceful ways, and honoring the human spirit moved the entire roomful of witnesses. Though she held the award in her own hands, she deflected all praise and passed it directly on to the residents of Delancey Street, many of whom helped fill the room. This was no false modesty, but a truly respectful tribute to those individuals who have overcome adversity few of us ever have to face.



NCCD Interns: A New Generation of Researchers

This summer our Oakland office was bustling with interns! We had a total of twelve interns representing U.C. Berkeley, U.C. Santa Cruz, U.C. San Diego, California State University Hayward, San Jose State University, and Mills College.

Four interns (Yu-Ting Chen, Do Kim, Carina Lieu, and Anh Truong) focused on interviewing youth for the Risk & Protective Factors Study; five interns (Xiao Feng Fu, Emie Mitsuno, Lisam Moua, Stephanie Lee, and Danielle Setiawan) assisted with a variety of projects relating to the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center, and three interns (Francisco Barocio, Maya McCray, and Brian Chung) helped out on NCCD projects such as teen victimization and disproportionate minority confinement. In addition, Lisam Moua designed and received IRB approval for his independent research project on Hmong American college students, to find out more about their experiences growing up in California.

6 Interns had the opportunity to learn more about the field of criminology through informational workshops held this summer. Dr. Barry Krisberg was a guest



speaker for a historical overview of the juvenile justice system and NCCD Senior Research Associate Monique Morris led a discussion on African Americans and prison privatization. Will Tov, a former Research Assistant, held

several trainings on how to use SPSS graphing software.

With the beginning of the 2003-2004 academic year, a crew of eight new interns and one returning intern joined the office. Lisam is continuing his work on the Hmong American college student project,

while three new interns (Jodie Grotins, Angela Estrella, and Shabnam Javdani) are providing assistance with the Parents Anonymous® Evaluation project, three interns (Thania Lee, Vena Lam, and Marlena Chambers) are working on API Center projects, and two interns (LaNita Williams and David Liou) are working with Dr. Krisberg.

Our office benefited greatly from the youthful energy and intellectual curiosity that the interns brought with them. We hope that they leave here with an enduring interest in youth violence prevention research and a greater awareness of research opportunities and techniques.



NCCD Briefs

Don Gottfredson Criminal Justice Library

On October 15, 2003, the Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice dedicated the Library of Criminal Justice to its first Dean, Donald M. Gottfredson, who was a major leader in creating the collection that is now the library's core. The ceremony followed a symposium on Criminal Justice Policy and Research also in honor of Gottfredson—a giant in American Criminology. Attending on behalf of NCCD were board members, the Honorable John Racanelli (who also read a personal statement from NCCD President Barry Krisberg) and Drucilla Ramey, Esq.

Ralph Francis Salerno

A former consultant to NCCD and to the Department of Justice in Washington, DC, Ralph Francis Salerno, died on October 15, 2003, at the age of 78 in Scranton, PA. Salerno was a decorated New York policeman and an authority on organized crime in America. As detective sergeant until 1967, he built a reputation of knowing “more about the Mafia in America than anyone not sworn into it.”

PASS Award Winners

This year's PASS Award winners are soon to be announced. The winners list will be announced to the press and posted on the NCCD website: www.nccd-crc.org

Factors... continued from page 1

Several important lessons have been gleaned thus far, chief of which is the necessity for community partnership and interviewers who are part of the community. For instance, many Southeast Asian adult participants are unfamiliar with traditional research and survey instruments; thus, having interviewers who are fluent in their native language and who live in the community, has been critical in obtaining consent and cooperation. Understanding and respecting cultural traditions and nuances are also necessary to gain entry into the community. For instance, in order to interview a Vietnamese youth at his or her home, the interviewer must acknowledge the parent through appropriate greetings, and again explain to the parent the study and the need for confidentiality. Failing to consider cultural factors in data gathering may lead to spurious findings.

NCCD MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, founded in 1907, is a nonprofit organization which promotes effective, humane, fair, and economically sound solutions to family, community, and justice problems. NCCD conducts research, promotes reform initiatives, and seeks to work with individuals, public and private organizations, and the media to prevent and reduce crime and delinquency.

Structured Decision Making Update: New Jersey Highlights

Background

Like many state jurisdictions throughout the nation, the State of New Jersey Division for Youth and Family Services (DYFS) has been experiencing significant scrutiny of the child protection system and the safety and well-being of children in its care. Beginning in 1982, Governor Kean ordered a major reorganization of the State's child welfare agency. Then in 1996, a report issued by a child advocacy agency resulted in Governor Whitman commissioning a study. The study, released in 1998, described a system in crisis: poorly paid and undertrained caseworkers, unmanageable caseloads, little supervision, unclear and inconsistent guidelines for evaluation and child removal. In response to these findings, Governor Whitman committed \$28 million in additional money to increase staffing, training, and supervision.

In 1999, Children's Rights Inc. sued the State of New Jersey, claiming that children in the state were dying of abuse and neglect. As part of the settlement with Children's Rights, Inc., New Jersey DYFS agreed to work closely with a panel of independent experts that are charged with guiding and assisting in a comprehensive reform of the state-run child welfare system. The panel, funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, is composed of experts in child welfare and related fields. They have engaged in a process with the State that will result in the State issuing a plan to address every aspect of the child welfare system.



Partnership with CRC

In May of 2003, the CRC began Structured Decision Making™ development activities for child protective services (CPS) with New Jersey DYFS as part of the State's plan to improve the system. Over the next three years, New Jersey DYFS will be working with CRC to 1) implement SDM™ in CPS, 2) design a web-based SDM™ application, 3) implement SafeMeasures®, 4) conduct a workload study, 5) receive regular management information reports to evaluate SDM™ implementation, and 6) participate in advanced supervisory training.

Workgroups met monthly between May and August, 2003 to design SDM™ assessment tools for screening, response priority, safety, risk, child and family strengths and needs, reassessment, and reunification. SDM™ implementation will follow a "phased" approach as each region receives training. Training is slated to begin with a Training-of-Trainers session in January, 2004, followed by concurrent staff training sessions, facilitated by joint CRC and DYFS training teams, through April, 2004.

New Publications

“API Currents”

API Center Newsletter, Vol. 3, No. 2

“Culture Counts: How Five Community-Based Organizations Serve Asian and Pacific Islander Youth”

NCCD, October 2003

“Under the Microscope: Asian and Pacific Islander Youth in Oakland, Needs•Issues•Solutions”

API Center, November 2003

New Projects

San Francisco Community Response Plan

The San Francisco Foundation

Florida Juvenile Justice Sanctions

Jessie Ball duPont Fund

Workload Study

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

API Center

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Georgia Detention II

Georgia Department of Corrections

New Mexico PSD Training

State of New Mexico

Dakota County Data Services

County of Dakota, MN

Philadelphia Structured Decision Making

City of Philadelphia

New Mexico Juvenile Structured Decision Making

State of New Mexico

Virginia Structured Decision Making

State of Virginia

District of Columbia Detention

District of Columbia

Orange County TANF Risk Assessment

Orange County, CA

Tehama County Structured Decision Making

Tahama County, CA

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Upcoming Events

Board Meetings—**March 2004, Austin, TX**

API Center Community Response Plan Meetings—**November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11**

For additional information, please visit www.nccd-crc.org or phone (510) 208-0500