



Science under scrutiny

*Strengthening criminal justice research through
transparency and local engagement*

Justin Nix & Tara Richards
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Midwestern Criminal Justice Association
Chicago, IL
September 25, 2025

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha

Introductions



Landscape – Federal Funding

- According to the Council on Criminal Justice, as of May:

373

terminated grants

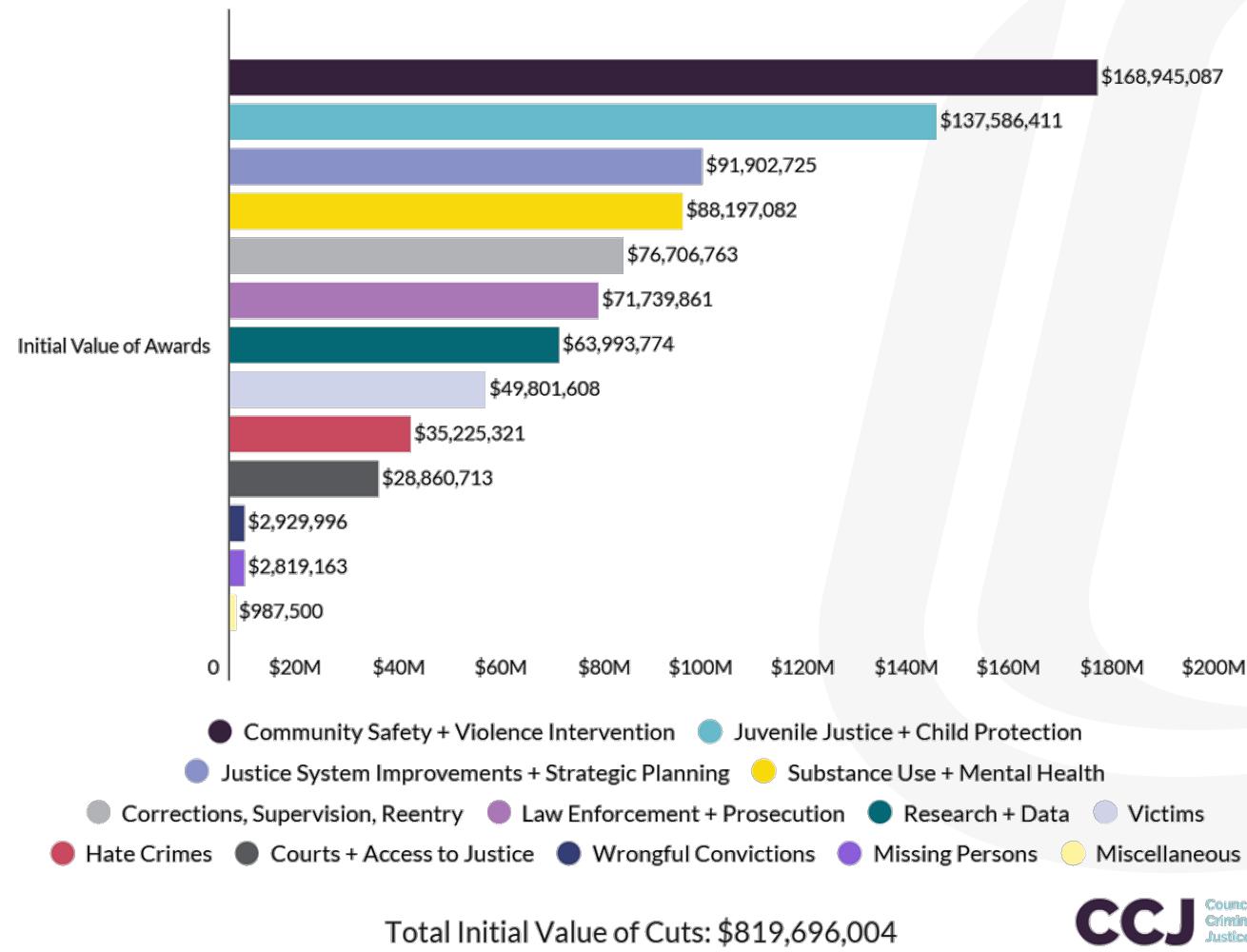
221

affected organizations

\$819.7M

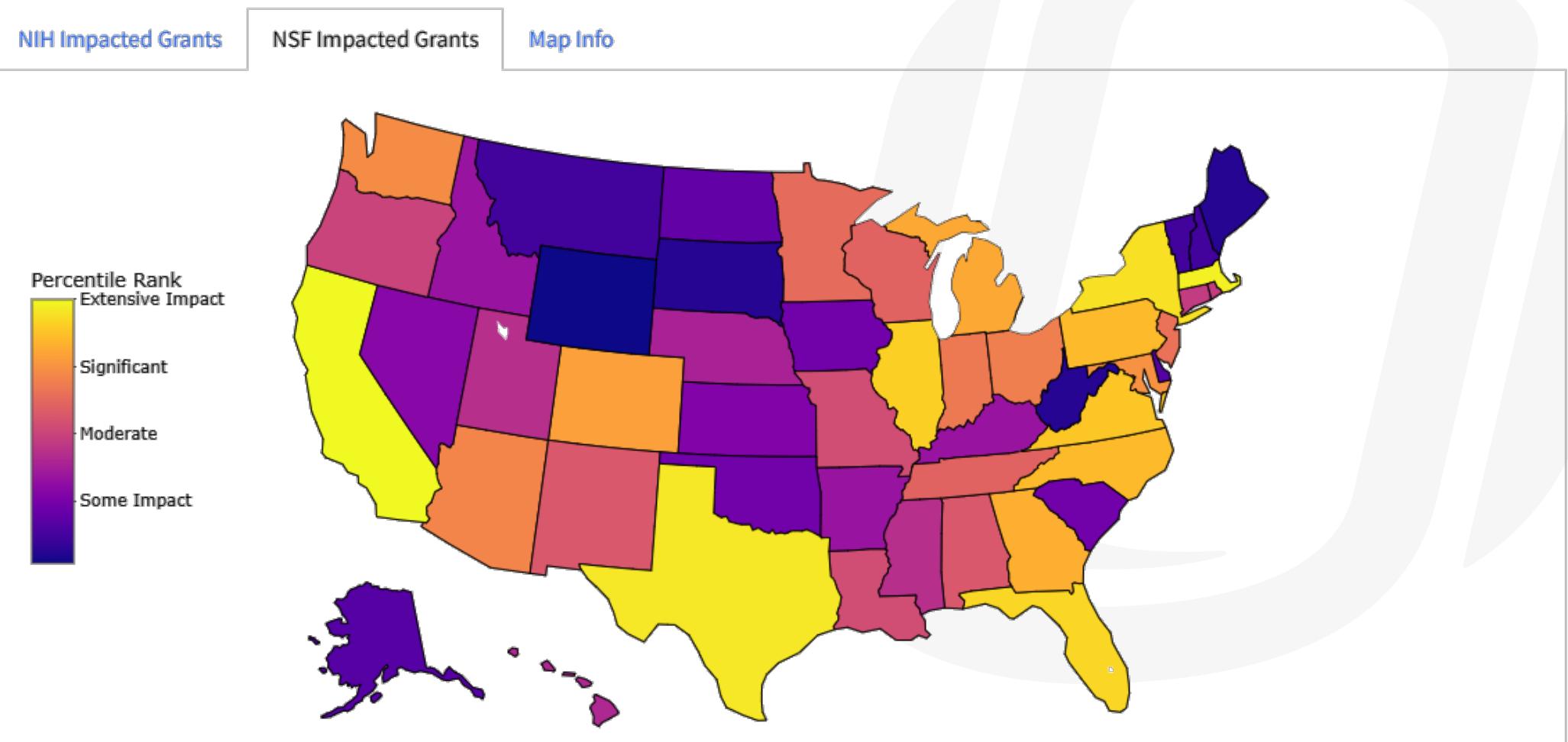
total initial award value

Landscape – Federal Funding

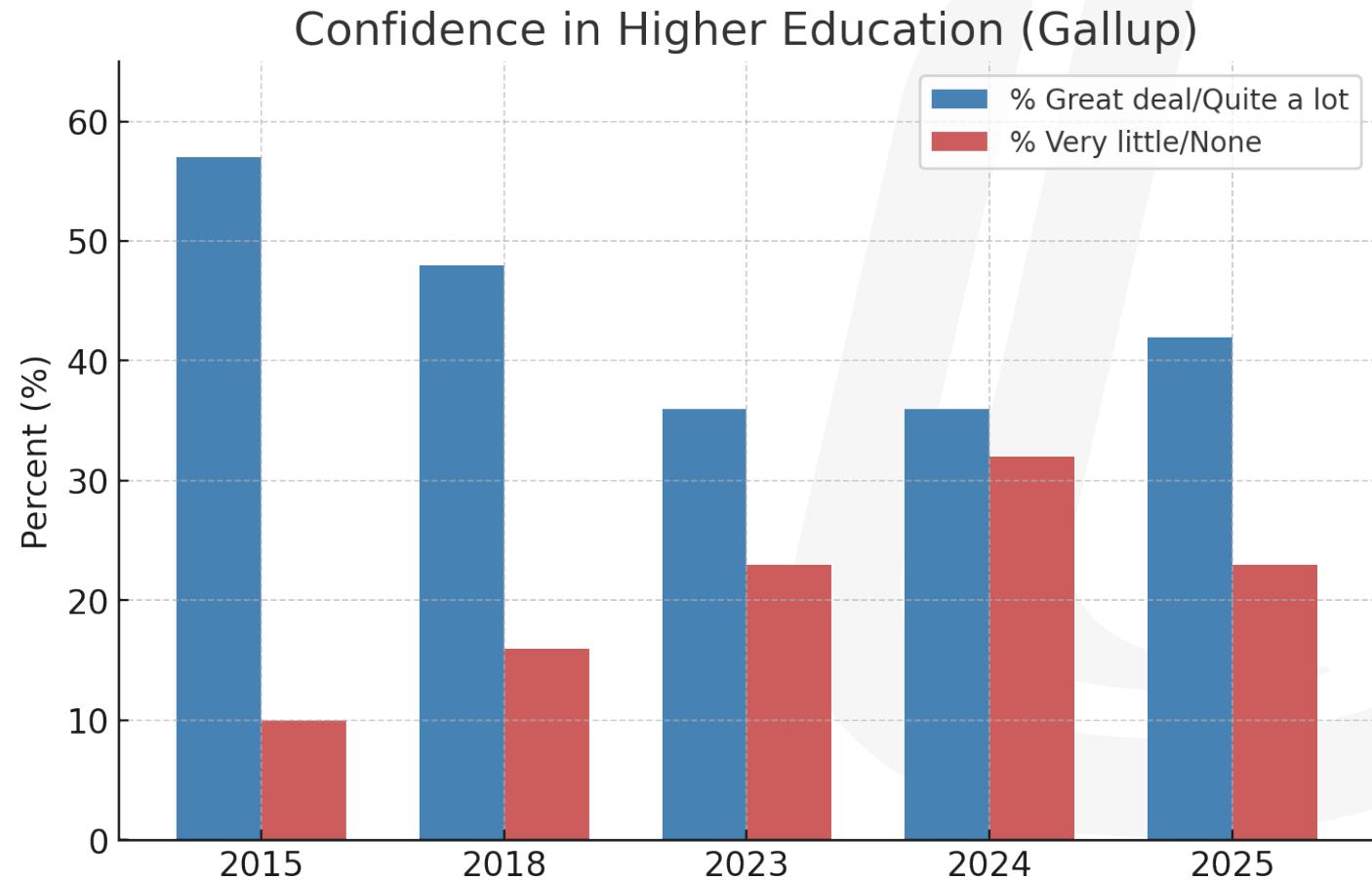


CCJ
Council on
Criminal
Justice

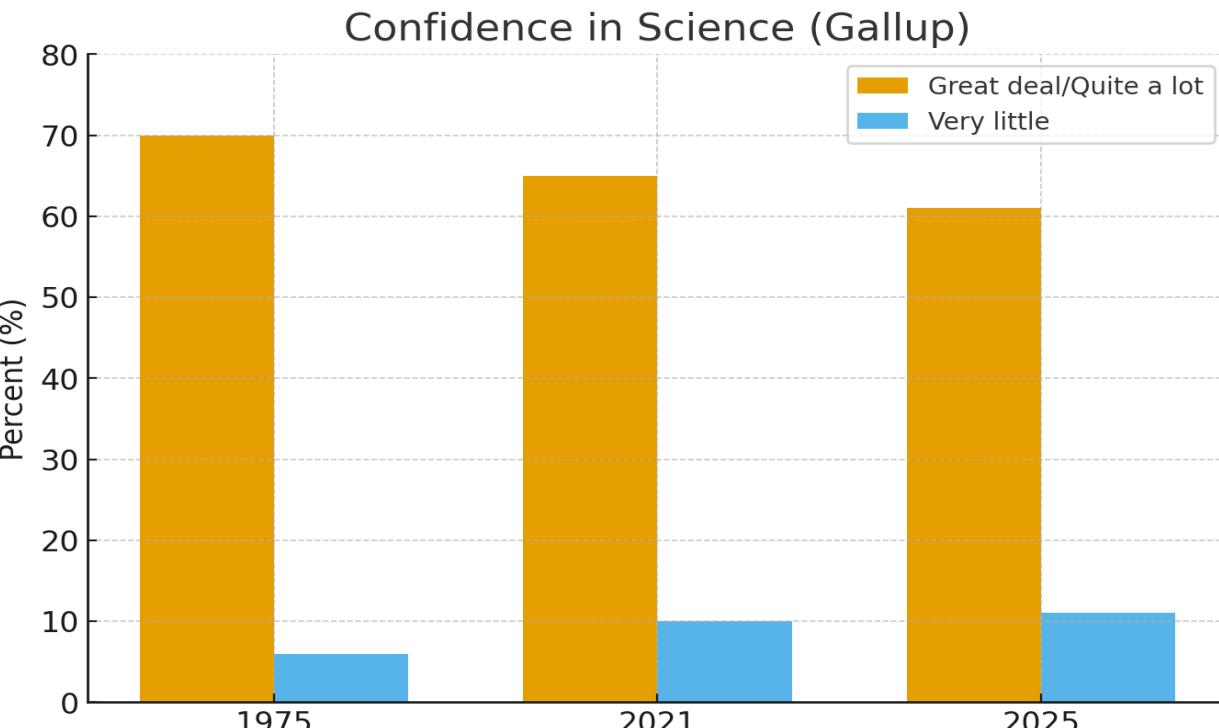
Landscape – Federal Funding



Landscape – Higher Ed



Landscape – Higher Ed



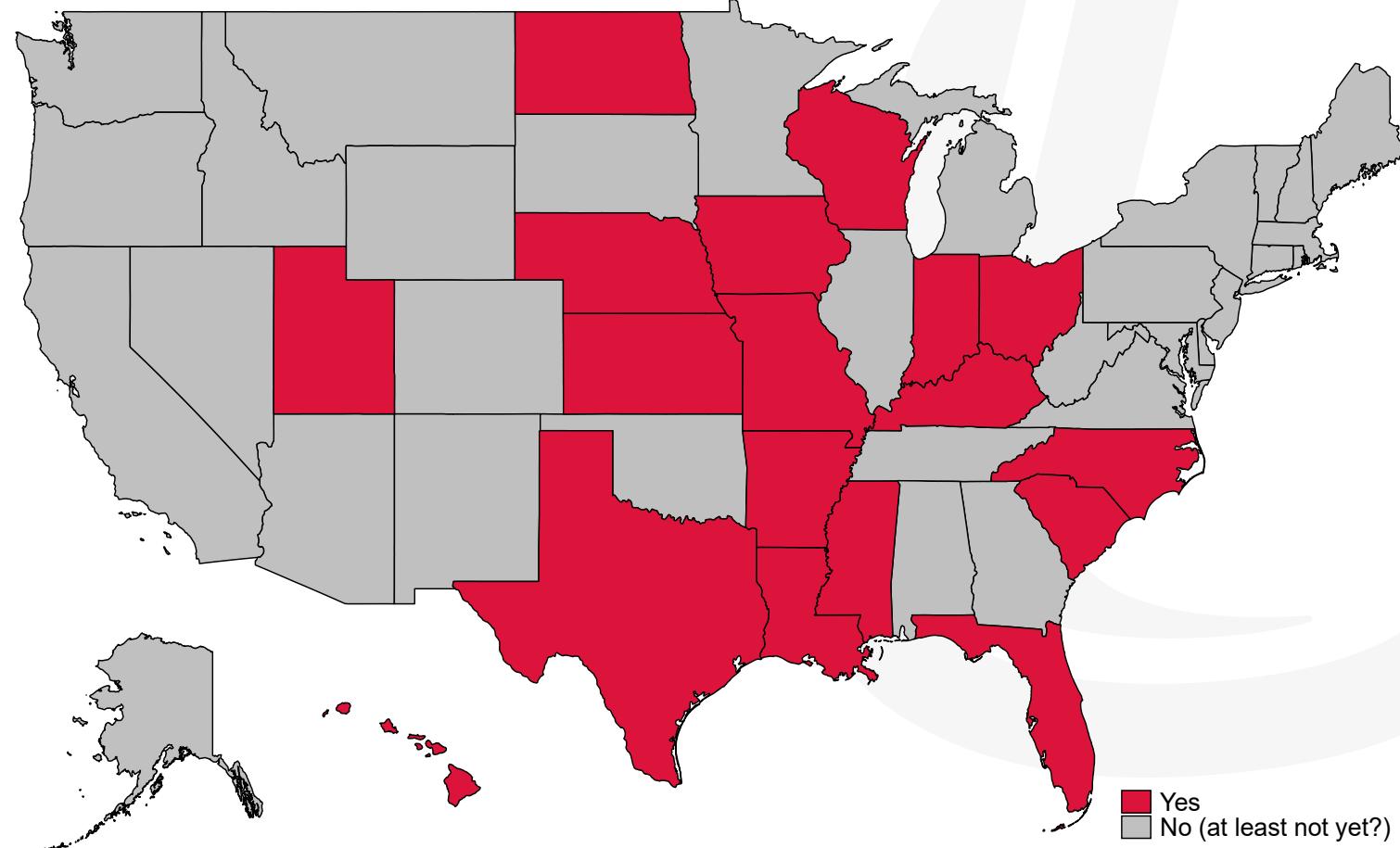
Confidence in Science, 1975 and 2021

Now I am going to read you a list of institutions in American society. Please tell me how much confidence you, yourself, have in each one -- a great deal, quite a lot, some, or very little? How about -- Science?



Landscape – Higher Ed

Attempts to Modify/Eliminate Tenure Since 2015





Practitioners still want research!

In 2025...

- NDOT – analyze statewide traffic stop data.
- Iowa DOC - create a parole decision-making tool to address prison overcrowding.
- NE DV Fatality Review Team - pilot the lethality assessment program in rural Nebraska.
- UNMC - impact of expanding HBVIP to family members of patients of violent injury.





What's our path forward?

OPEN SCIENCE



Pre-register your studies

Remove paywalls

Share data and code

Be available to speak with media

Open Science – Pre-Register Studies

OSF REGISTRIES ▾ Add New My Registrations Help Donate

A Scoping Review of the Extant Literature on Remote and Hybrid work in Community- and Systems-Based Victim Service Agencies

Public registration ▾ Updates ▾

Overview

Metadata

Files

Resources

Wiki

Components 0

Links 0

Analytics

Recent Activity

Comments 0

Landing Page

Intended use
This Generalized Systematic Review Registration Form is intended as a general-purpose registration form. The form is designed to be applicable to reviews across disciplines (i.e., psychology, economics, law, physics, or any other field) and across review types (i.e., scoping review, review of qualitative studies, meta-analysis, or any other type of review). That means that the reviewed records may include research reports as well as archive documents, case law, books, poems, etc. This form, therefore, is a fall-back for more specialized forms and can be used if no specialized form or registration platform is available.

Citation
Van den Akker, O. R., Peters, G. Y., Bakker, C., Carlsson, R., Coles, N. A., Corker, K. S., Feldman, G., Moreau, D., Nordström, T., Pickering, J. S., Riegelman, A., Topor, M., Vegel, N., Yeung, S., Mellor, D., & Pfeiffer, N. Generalized Systematic Review Registration Form. MetaArXiv.. <https://doi.org/g5fj>.

Review Methods
In this section, you register the general type, background and goals of your review.

Type of review
Scoping review using the PRISMA framework for conducting and reporting scoping reviews (Tricco et al., 2018)

Review stages
Search, Screening, Extraction, Synthesis

Current review stage
Protocol stage/Pre-search stage

Start date
December 10, 2024

Contributors
Tara Richards and Lane Kirkland Gillespie

Description
The scoping review's primary purpose is to document the current state of knowledge and understanding of remote and hybrid work in community- and systems-based victim service agencies; both provider and client process and outcomes will be examined.

Registration type
Generalized Systematic Review Registration

Date registered
December 9, 2024

Date created
December 9, 2024

Associated project
osf.io/6sxnm

Internet Archive link
<https://archive.org/details/osf-registrations-dw2cg-v1>

Registration DOI
<https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/DW2C>

Open Science – Pre-Register Studies



A systematic review of the processes and impacts of multi-disciplinary teams addressing child sexual exploitation.

Katherine Hazen, Amy Farrell, Sarah Lockwood, Matthew Kafafian, Isabella De Jesus, Anna Vasaturo, Tiffany Hidalgo, Teresa Kulig, Tara Richards, Joan Reid, Caralin Branscum, Michaela Benson-Goldsmith, Jamie Abernathy

Citation

Katherine Hazen, Amy Farrell, Sarah Lockwood, Matthew Kafafian, Isabella De Jesus, Anna Vasaturo, Tiffany Hidalgo, Teresa Kulig, Tara Richards, Joan Reid, Caralin Branscum, Michaela Benson-Goldsmith, Jamie Abernathy. A systematic review of the processes and impacts of multi-disciplinary teams addressing child sexual exploitation. PROSPERO 2025 CRD420251043055. Available from <https://www.crd.york.ac.uk/PROSPERO/view/CRD420251043055>.

REVIEW TITLE AND BASIC DETAILS

Review title

A systematic review of the processes and impacts of multi-disciplinary teams addressing child sexual exploitation.

Condition or domain being studied

Multidisciplinary teams responding to victimization of children, especially sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children.

Rationale for the review

A systematic review will be conducted to describe the current landscape of knowledge on multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) that respond to victimization and specifically MDTs that address child sexual abuse and exploitation. This review will synthesize what is known about the composition, function, process, and outcomes of MDTs formed to respond to sexual exploitation of children. Although systematic reviews have examined the outcomes and impacts of MDTs, they have not examined how MDTs function.

Review objectives

A systematic review will be conducted to describe the current landscape of knowledge on MDTs that respond to victimization and specifically MDTs that address child sexual abuse and exploitation.

The systematic review is guided by three research questions, two for narrative reviews and one systematic review:

- 1) What do we know about the process and effectiveness of MDTs that focus on victimization as a process?
- 2) What do we know about the process and effectiveness of MDTs as a process for children?
- 3) What do we know about the process and effectiveness of MDTs as a process to respond to child sexual exploitation?

Open Science – Remove Paywalls

HOME ARTICLES ▾ CONSORTIUM NEWS

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Welcome to CrimRxiv

Criminology's global open access hub + repository

A service of University of Manchester + Knowledge Futures

We are powered by the [CrimRxiv Consortium](#) and [PubPub](#). Our papers are categorized as [Postprints + Versions of Record¹](#) or [Preprints + Working Papers.²](#) Please [email us](#) for information on sharing other outputs (e.g., data, code, preregistration). We share submissions based on our [Moderation Policy](#). For how-to submit, watch [this video](#).

Follow us on [social media](#). Sign-up for CrimRxiv's weekly [digest email](#).

Crimversations: "Immigration and crime around the globe: key findings across a diverse range of contexts"

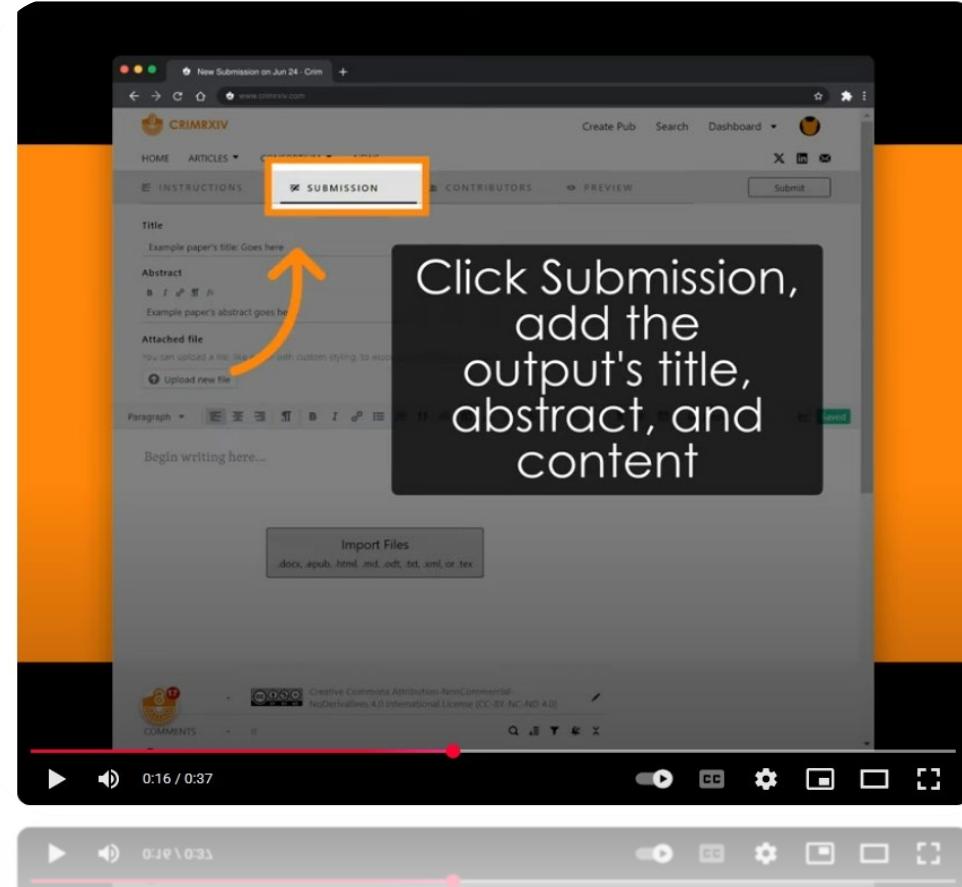
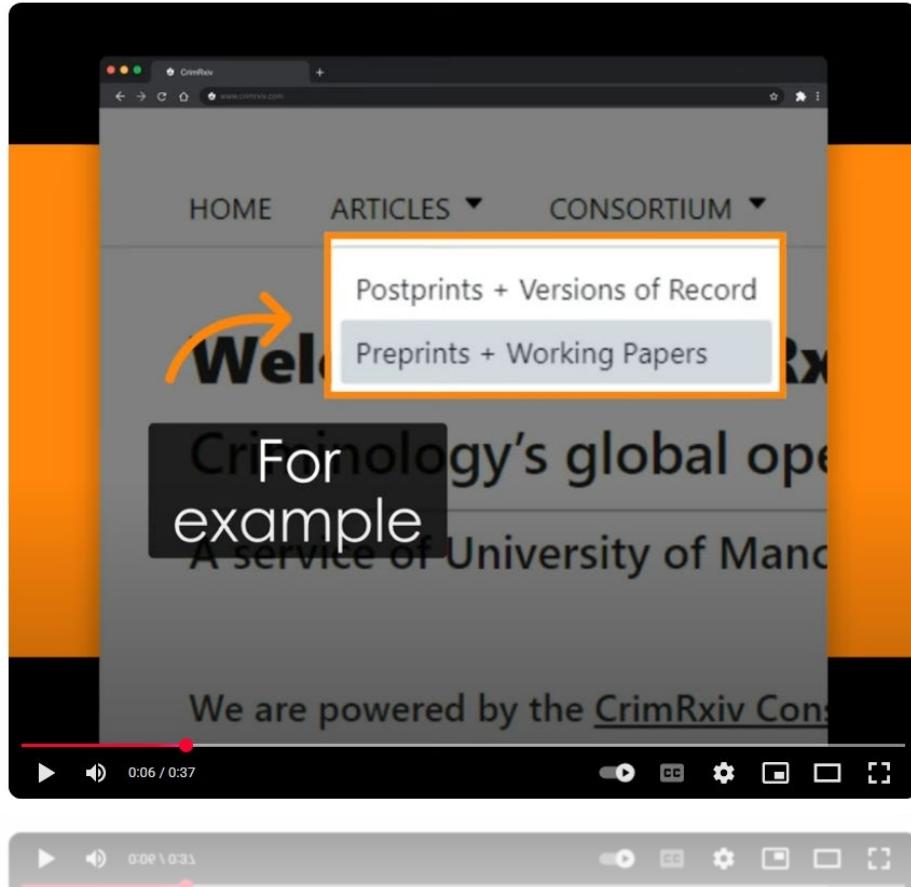
by CrimRxiv Consortium

Published: Sep 16, 2025

Immigration and crime around the globe: key findings across a diverse range of contexts

by Charis E. Kubrin and Elliot J. Alvarado

Open Science – Remove Paywalls



Open Science – Share Data and Code

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for the user 'jnixy' named 'replication-materials'. The repository is public and contains 36 commits across 1 branch and 0 tags. The commits are listed in reverse chronological order, with the most recent commit being 'switch to .md' by 'unopolicinglab'. The repository has 0 forks and 2 stars. The 'About' section describes the data and code as 'to replicate my published findings'. The 'Readme' section is present. There are sections for 'Activity', '2 stars', '0 watching', '0 forks', 'Report repository', 'Releases' (No releases published), 'Packages' (No packages published), and 'Contributors' (jnixy and unopolicinglab). The commits list includes:

Author	Commit Message	Date
unopolicinglab	switch to .md	f5d988c · last year
	ACLU_report_2020	5 years ago
	nam_et_al_JRCD_2022	3 years ago
	nix_blog_3	5 years ago
	nix_curious_ppl_talk	3 years ago
	nix_et_al_CAPP_2021	4 years ago
	nix_et_al_CRIM_2024	last year
	nix_et_al_JOEX_2019	5 years ago
	nix_et_al_JRCD_2020	5 years ago
	nix_et_al_PQ_2020	5 years ago
	nix_richards_PPR_InPress	4 years ago
	nix_shjarback_PONE_2021	4 years ago
	police-killings-regions	4 years ago
	sierra-arevalo_nix_CAPP_2020	5 years ago

Open Science - Talk to the Media



Researchers present new study on missing Indigenous people at major conference outside Santa Fe

★ Follow Nicholas Gilmore

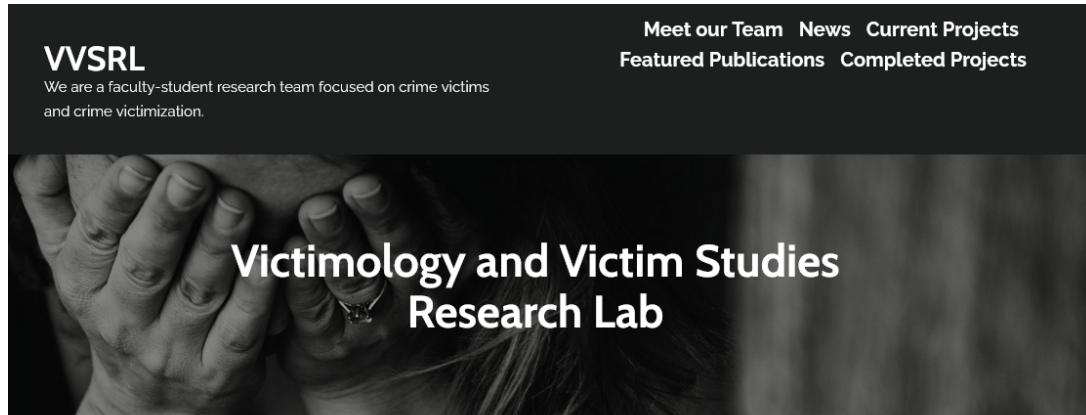
By Nicholas Gilmore ngilmore@sfnewmexican.com
Nov 20, 2024 Updated 17 hrs ago 3



Dr. Tara Richards, professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, presents findings completed by herself and Dr. Emily Wright during their presentation at the 19th annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation at Hilton Santa Fe Buffalo Thunder on Wednesday. The researchers combined missing persons lists from sources including the FBI, the Navajo Nation, the state Missing Persons Clearinghouse and open-source data such as

A collage of images. Top right: A presentation slide titled "THE PROBLEM" with bullet points about police legitimacy crisis and US government reliability. Middle right: A group of people seated at a table, identified as Dr. Tara Richards, Dr. Emily Wright, Juliette Bobrow, and others. Bottom right: A video frame of Dr. Tara Richards speaking, with text identifying her as "DR. TARA RICHARDS" and "ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE". Left side: A video frame of Justin Nix speaking in an office setting.

Open Science – Do it All, All in One Place



VVSRL
We are a faculty-student research team focused on crime victims and crime victimization.

Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab

The mission of the **Victimology and Victim Studies Research Lab (VVSRL)** in the [UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice](#) is to conduct high quality research related to crime victims and crime victimization, inform policy and practice, and help shape prevention and intervention efforts.

The **VVSRL** (1) Coordinates faculty efforts on research projects, grant proposals, and publications on the topic of victimology; (2) Promotes cross-teaching and cross-learning for faculty members and graduate students interested in victimology; (3) Creates opportunities for undergraduate students in UNO's Victimology and Victim Studies minor/concentration to engage in research; and (4) Works with system actors to translate research into practice and policy.



The VIPR Lab

Violence Intervention and Policing Research

The **Violence Intervention and Policing Research (VIPR)** Lab in the [UNO School of Criminology and Criminal Justice](#) is an interdisciplinary, collaborative effort that focuses on enhancing public safety by providing research, resources, and training that engages with state agencies, practitioners, and the community.

In addition to SCCJ faculty, research affiliates, and community partners, the VIPR Lab works with SCCJ undergraduate and graduate students to conduct data-intensive research, develop specialized skills, and connect with the public and practitioners in policy formation.

We invite you to explore our website for the latest news and information on upcoming events, recent publications, and more.



Open Science – Do it All, All in One Place

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Creating a Professional Website

Justin Nix

[Slides](#)

[Follow](#)



Abstract

A crash course on building a professional website.

Date	Dec 2, 2022
	1:00 PM — 2:00 PM
Event	SCCJ Grad Seminar Series
Location	Omaha, NE

For our SCCJ Grad Seminar Series, I put together this crash course on building a professional website in RStudio with [Wowchemy](#). I'm sharing it here in case others might be interested. Following these basic steps should get you up and running in less than an hour. If you think I've missed an important step, please [let me know!](#)

Click on the [Slides](#) button above to download a PDF of this presentation.

Creating a Professional Website (Part 1?)

Justin Nix

Distinguished Associate Professor
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice

Graduate Seminar Series
University of Nebraska Omaha
December 2, 2022



1

Navigating this new normal

Alternative Funding Sources

- State and local funding
- Private donors (e.g., AV)
- Internal funds
- Public/private partnerships

Get Back to Basics

- Symbiotic research-teaching-service agenda
- Applied research course component
- Research internships
- Capstone, theses, dissertations

Mentorship

- Open science = fundamental part of the research process
- Access open data, code
- Realities of changing funding landscape

Thank you!

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