



# Council on Crime and Justice

## **The Collateral Effects Project: Analyzing Prisoner Mobility and Prisoner Reentry in Minnesota Neighborhoods**

Two areas among collateral effects of imprisonment have recently gained increased attention: concentration of residents who enter and exit prison in one neighborhood („prisoner mobility“) and release from prison to family and society („prisoner reentry“).

Considering the vast increase in the use of imprisonment, both prisoner mobility and prisoner reentry are under-researched. Furthermore, they have so far been viewed separately, yet it becomes increasingly clear that they are related issues that should be studied together. The Collateral Effects Project will examine prisoner mobility and prisoner reentry within the same neighborhood and is likely to yield new, valuable knowledge that has statewide and national implications for criminal justice policy and practice.

The main objectives are to:

- 1) Assess the amount and quality of social capital (institutional resources, informal support, and informal social control) in each neighborhood,
- 2) Determine the effects of prisoner reentry on families and investigate their resources for adjustment in the selected neighborhoods,
- 3) Examine the interactions among community conditions, prisoner mobility, and families' reentry adjustment in the selected neighborhoods, and
- 4) Use participatory research methodology and evaluate its effects.

The project has used mapping techniques to select one neighborhood from Minneapolis (Hawthorne) that has a high proportion of minority residents, high prisoner mobility and high prisoner reentry. Additional mapping of structural, economic, and social data will be used to estimate institutional resources in the selected community.

Intensive interviews will supplement empirical mapping. We will interview families with children where one adult will soon be released from prison („reentry families“) and randomly selected households („households“). Data from reentry families will be used to estimate the effects of prison release on families. Data from households will be used to assess social capital and crime related needs and resources in each neighborhood. The project will interview 10- 15 reentry families and 30 households from Hawthorne.

A final analysis of findings will examine the neighborhood-level interaction among prisoner mobility, social capital, and prisoner reentry.

Evaluation of the participatory research process will provide more knowledge about the quality, sustainability, and obstacles of participatory research as well as its capability of creating social capital and sense of community among participants and within the selected neighborhoods.

To receive more information, please contact:

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