FSU | CENTER FOR CRIMINOLOGY & PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report
2025–2026



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Center for Criminology & Public Policy Research

2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. Introduction

The Center for Criminology and Public Policy Research (Center) was founded in 2004 as the research arm of the Florida State University (FSU) College of Criminology and Criminal Justice (College). The Center is designated as a Type II Research Center by the FSU Office of the Provost and secures and expends both public and private research funds. The Center is designed to fulfill the College's translational research mission of "Research Brought to Life." The Center's primary purpose is to expand the influence of scholarship on public policy and to promote evidence- informed criminal justice policy and practice at the local, state, and national levels. The Center facilitates and supports data collection and research initiatives that simultaneously advance the academic discipline of criminology and inform juvenile and criminal justice policy and practice.

Specifically, the Center's objectives are to:

- Obtain and maintain external funding that supports policy research,
- Conduct rigorous and empirical policy research,
- Contribute to the discipline of criminology through theoretically relevant and methodologically sound research and peer-reviewed publications,
- Disseminate and promote research that informs policy and practice at the national, state, and local levels, and
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in translational research and policy activities.

To better assist in meeting these objectives, the Center established research and policy institutes representing areas of expertise, experience, and interest among the College faculty. The institutes reflect critical areas of juvenile and criminal justice where research translates into effective public policy aimed at reducing the pain and suffering associated with crime.

As of June 2026, fourteen research & policy institutes were housed within the Center. The institutes and directors are listed in Table 1 on the next page.

Table 1: Research & Policy Institutes	
Institute	**Directors, Co-Directors, & Faculty Affiliates**
Aging Adult Fraud Research & Policy Institute	Thomas Blomberg Julie Brancale
Biosocial Criminology Research & Policy Institute	Kevin Beaver Joseph Schwartz
Corrections Research & Policy Institute	Daniel Mears William Bales
Hate Crime Research & Policy Institute	Brendan Lantz Marin Wenger Sylwia Piatkowska
International and Comparative Criminology Research & Policy Institute	Sylwia Piatkowska Cecilia Chouhy
Jail Research & Policy Institute	Jennifer Copp Thomas Blomberg
Juvenile and Adult Correctional Education Research & Policy Institute	Thomas Blomberg George Pesta
Juvenile Justice Research & Policy Institute	Carter Hay Sonja Siennick
Life Course Research & Policy Institute	Megan Augustyn Sonja Siennick Jennifer Copp
Native American Crime and Justice Research & Policy Institute	Thomas Blomberg William R. Latchford
Policing Research & Policy Institute	Thomas Blomberg Darrel Stephens Keller Sheppard Nicolas Swagar
Crime and Social Control Research & Policy Institute	Patricia Warren
Violence and Victimization Research & Policy Institute	Emma Fridel Jillian Turanovic
Real Time Crime Center Research & Policy Institute	Thomas Blomberg Brian Stults Julie Brancale Young-an Kim

The institutes are led by members of the College faculty who serve as directors, co-directors, and faculty affiliates. These faculty are experts in the substantive area of their institute, where they pursue funding opportunities, manage research projects and grants, support student learning, and coordinate institute activities with Center staff, College faculty, research partners, and funding sponsors. Through the development of translational curricula, institute faculty actively incorporate their research into their teaching practices, develop specialized courses, and provide students with opportunities for dissertation and thesis research, directed individual studies, and research practicums. As the research and policy institutes become more established and develop sustainable funding sources, the roles and responsibilities of institute directors will continue to evolve.

With a focus on translational research, in FY2026, the Center maintained sixteen (16) active research collaborations with practitioner and university partners, including U.C. Berkeley Law School, Criminal Law and Justice Center; CU Boulder; Bowling Green State University; the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; the Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission (PBCCJC), Walton County Sheriff's Office; Leon County Sheriff's Office; Tallahassee Police Department; FSU Police Department; the Seminole Tribe of Florida; the Invisible Wounds Foundation; Research Triangle Institutes; FSU Health and Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare.

As part of these collaborations, faculty involved in the Center provided twelve (12) translational presentations to criminal justice policymakers, practitioners, and sponsors; and thirteen research reports and briefs were submitted to criminal justice agencies and funding sponsors. From a marketing and communications perspective, the previous year saw increased media coverage of research conducted in the Center. In particular, research from the Aging Adult Fraud Research & Policy Institute earned placement in Scientific American and the AARP Bulletin, the nation's highest circulation magazine.

2. Funded Research

Research Proposals—FY2026

Table 2 provides information on research proposals submitted and contracts pursued for FY2025 (July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026). As shown in Table 2, 13 proposals, letters of

interest, and negotiated contracts totaling **$6,943,132** were submitted by 18 College and Center faculty for funding consideration.

Table 2: Proposals & Contracts Pursued

Proposal Title	Sponsor/ Partner	Faculty	Submit Date	Amount
A Mixed-Methods study of the determinants and outcomes of juvenile prosecutors' decision-making	NIJ	Siennick Anderson Pesta	06/16/2026	$513,390
Translational Research on Emerging Technologies in Policing: A Longitudinal Mixed-Methods Study	NIJ	Stults Brancale Blomberg Kim	06/15/2026	$1,943,448
Correctional Officer Understaffing in Prisons: Causes, Consequences, and Solutions	NIJ & FDC	Anderson Mears Pesta	06/03/2026	$957,588
Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Security Assessment	FSU Health	Blomberg Mears	05/27/2026	$50,274
Reducing Fraud and Financial Exploitation of Older Adults through an Educational Program to Increase Self-Efficacy	NIJ	Blomberg Brancale Pesta Nathan	05/26/2026	$1,598,691
BJS-FDLE SAC Research 2026	BJS/FDLE	Swagar	2/18/2026	$209,937
Law Enforcement Trust Fund	PBSO	Copp	1/26/2026	$25,000
Florida Juvenile Pre-arrest Diversion Program: A Process Evaluation of Statewide Variation in Implementation for Domestic Violence Offenders (LaunchPad)	FSU CRC	Sheppard Pesta Ichplani	12/01/2025	$22,843
Anti-Discrimination Policies in Practice: Institutional Responses to Bias-Motivated Behavior Across Diverse School Contexts (SRS Grant)	FSU CRC	Piatkowska	11/10/2025	$20,000
Research and Evaluation of the Leon County Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative 2025	LCSO/BJA	Blomberg Davidson Holmes	10/31/2025	$324,873
Reducing Violence and Victimization of Youth Involved with Child Protective Services: The Role of Public and Private Support Services	OJJDP/ CSW	Mears	10/27/2025	$690,964
Understanding Bias in K–12 Schools: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Victimization, Policy, and Structural Influences	Spencer Foundation	Piatkowska Lantz Wenger	09/29/2025	$489,900
Safety and Well-Being within the Justice System for Individuals and Correctional Staff	OVW/UC	Anderson	09/23/2025	$96,224
Total				**$6,943,132**

Active Research Projects—FY2026

Table 3 lists the research projects that were awarded or active for any amount of time in FY2026. There were 21 projects with operating budgets totaling **$8,975,361.** The projects involved 20 College and Center faculty and three faculty affiliates. Funded projects included sponsors from nine federal agencies, one private foundation, one state agency, five local agencies, and five internal sources of research from FSU.

Table 3. Active Projects in 2025-2026

Project Title	Sponsor/ Partner	Faculty	Amount
A Focused Deterrence Program for Juveniles with Firearm Offenses: A Randomized Controlled Trial and Process Evaluation	NIJ	Sheppard Siennick	$1,255,241
Persistence and Desistance across Generations: A Longitudinal Investigation	NIJ/BGSU	Copp	$87,077
The Consequences and Impacts of Hate Crime and Post-Victimization Experiences: The Longitudinal Hate Crime Victimization Survey (LHCVS)	NIJ	Lantz Wenger Piatkowska	$942,512
Evaluation of the Leon County Smart Reentry: Expanding Collaborative Efforts in the Community for More Successful Reentry	LCSO	Copp	$79,611
A Mixed-Method Examination of the Effectiveness of Money Bail and other Pretrial Release Options	NIJ	Copp Blomberg	$560,195
Life-course and intergenerational effects of crime and criminal justice involvement: Identifying risks and the search for resilience	NIJ	Augustyn Holmes	$1,372,994
Evaluation of Walton County's Jail and Reentry Program	WCSO	Blomberg Copp Brancale	$386,818
Adaptation of the STAIR-NT Intervention to Respond to Psychological Health Conditions for First Responders with a History of Traumatic Brain Injury	DOD	Schwartz Renn	$377,227
Assessment of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Restrictive Housing Practices	BOP/RTI	Mears Copp Schwartz Siennick	$882,690
Evaluation of the Impacts and Implementation of Florida's Risk Protection Order (RPO) Law on Suicide, 2018-2023	NCGVR	Fridel Turanovic	$361,060
Bias-Motivated Victimizations and Observed Hate: Unraveling the Contextual Effects Using Data from the National Crime Victimization Survey: School Crime Supplement	FSU Seed	Piatkowska	$84,947
Florida Juvenile Pre-arrest Diversion Program: A Process Evaluation of Statewide Variation in Implementation for Domestic Violence Offenders	FSU Seed	Sheppard Pesta Ichplani	$22,843
A Mixed Methods Evaluation of the Impacts and Implementation of Florida's Risk Protection Order (RPO) Laws, 2018-2023	NIJ	Fridel Turanovic	$700,224
Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Security Assessment	FSU Health	Blomberg Mears	$50,274

Assessing the Prevalence and Exploring Community-Level Correlates of Fraud and Financial Exploitation of Older Adults	FSU Seed	Brancale Blomberg Pesta Kim	$95,446
BJS-FDLE Statistical Analysis Center Research	BJS/FDLE	Swagar	$210,000
Tallahassee-Leon County ALLin Community Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative	BJA & LCSO	Blomberg Norman Davidson Fridel	$357,815
First Appearance Utilizer Project	PBCCJC	Copp Blomberg	$242,629
A Randomized Controlled Trial of the HeartMath Resilience Program: Exploring the Impact of Stress on Jail Staff Performance and Retention	NIJ	Schwartz Renn	$498,491
Addressing Violent and Gun Crime in Tallahassee and Leon County, Florida Through the Multi-Agency Capital Region Real Time Crime Center: Operational and Research Partnership	BJA/LCSO	Stults Blomberg Brancale Kim	$137,267
Evaluation of the Capital City Real Time Crime Center	FSU	Blomberg Stults Brancale Kim	$270,000
Total			**$8,975,361**

Figure 1 below shows trends in the number of Center proposals and dollar amounts each fiscal year from 2013-2014 through 2025-2026. The Center proposals in 2013 through 2014 initially had eleven proposals, with a peak of thirty-one proposals in 2021 and 2022 through 2023 and now at thirteen in 2025 through 2026. From 2013 to 2026, the Center proposal dollar amounts have increased by sixty-two percent.

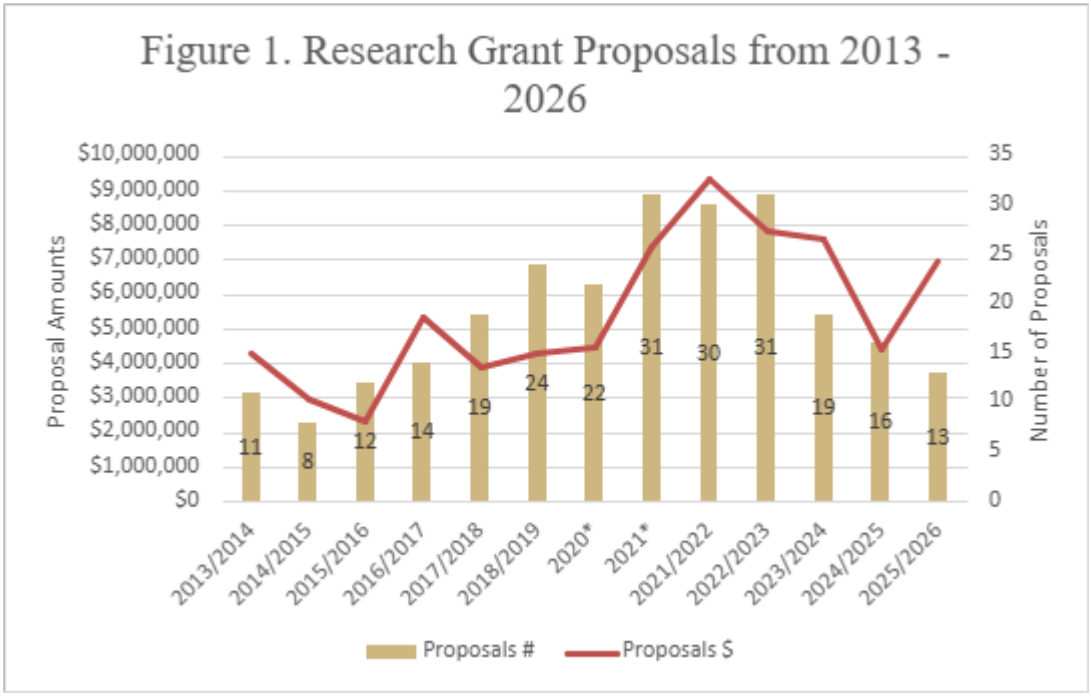
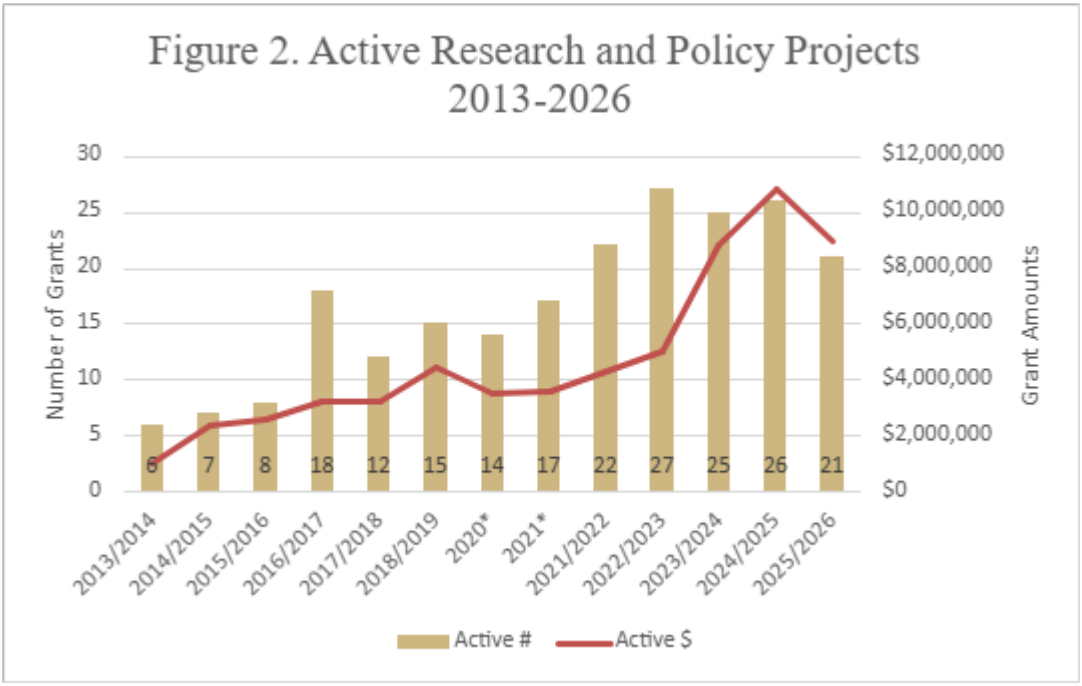


Figure 2 shows trends in the number of active projects and dollar amounts each fiscal year from 2013-2014 through 2025-2026. The Center's active projects in 2013 through 2014 were at six active projects, with a peak in 2022 through 2023 of twenty-seven active projects. In 2025-2026, the Center had 21 active projects, with an increase in active project dollar amounts of seven hundred and fifty-seven percent by 2025 through 2026.



Peer-Reviewed Publications from Center Research Projects

Nine academic publications listed below originated from Center Projects in the 2025-2026 fiscal year. The publications included contributions by eleven faculty members, eight graduate students, and four project partners (i.e., faculty in other departments at FSU, faculty at other universities, and criminal justice agency staff).

Allen, Samantha. L., & Schwartz, J. A. (2025). Correctional officers with more service time are more likely to experience persistent mental health problems. *Criminal Justice and Behavior, 52*(9), 1303-1322. https://doi.org/10.1177/00938548251343825

Billmeier, Alex., Stults, B., Brancale, J., Caswell, J., Kim, Young-An, & Blomberg, T. G. (2026). Evolving Technologies in Law Enforcement: Documenting the Continued Growth of Real-Time Crime Centers. *The Police Journal: Theory, Practice, and Principles*. https://doi.org/10.1177/0032258X261436634

Copp, Jennifer. E. (2025). Cash bail and pretrial compliance: Evidence from a COVID-19 era policy shock. *Criminology & Public Policy, 24*(4), 601-622.

Hoover, Ashton., Lantz, B., & Wenger, M. R. (in press). Coping with victimization: Belief in conspiracy theories as an adaptation to crime victimization. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.

Lantz, Brendan., Piatkowska, S. J., & Hoover, A. (in press). Group threat and power-differential theories as differential predictors of religion-motivated hate crimes and the construction of local hate crime statistics. *Social Science Research*.

Lantz, Brendan., Vanden Bosch, M., Wenger, M. R., & Malcom, Z. T. (2026). Punishing hate: Examining variation in individual support for hate crime legislation. *Crime & Delinquency, 72*(6-7), 1408-1441.

Mears, Daniel. P., Pesta, G. B., & Aranda-Hughes, V. (2026). Prison personnel solutions for reducing and improving the appropriate use and effectiveness of extended restrictive housing. *Crime & Delinquency, 72*(2), 466-495.

Pesta, George, Brancale, J., & Blomberg, T. G. (2025). A problem-solving court for crimes against older adults. *Laws, 14*(3), Article 40. https://doi.org/10.3390/laws14030040

Piatkowska, Sylwia. J., Lantz, B., & Mills, J. M. (2026). Police bias units and hate crime reporting: Insights from the geocoded version of the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Journal of Criminal Justice, 102*, 1-14.

Piatkowska, S. J., Lantz, B., & Wouters, S. R. (2026). Social disorganization or defended neighborhoods? New evidence from area-identified National Crime Victimization Survey data. *Social Problems*. https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spag015

Schwartz, Joseph. A., Granger, D. A., Calvi, J. L., Jodis, C. A., & Steiner, B. (2025). The implications of stress among correctional officers: A summary of the risks and promising intervention strategies. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology, 70*(4), 287-308. https://doi.org/10.1177/0306624X231213316

Presentations at Academic Conferences

Twenty-four presentations at academic conferences originated from Center projects in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, listed below. Conferences are attended by Center researchers and research assistants, including, among others, the American Society of Criminology and the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences.

American Society of Criminology

Allen, Samantha L. and Schwartz, J.A. (2025). The Importance of Dimensionality: Examining the Impacts of Critical Incident Exposures on PTSD Symptom Dimensions. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Billmeier, Alex., Stults, B., Brancale, J., Caswell, J., & Blomberg, T. (2025). Exploring the Landscape of Real-Time Crime Centers: Identifying Operational Types and Key Characteristics. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Casey, William, & Copp, J.E. (2025). "Cash Bail and Communities." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Cassity, Christopher, Piatkowska, S.J., and Lantz, B. (2025). "Understanding Disability-Motivated Hate Crimes: The Role of Disability, Economic Exclusion, and Group Threat Theory." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Caswell, Jonathan., Brancale, J., & Stults, B. (presented 2025, November). Factors Influencing Law Enforcement Personnel Use of Technology from Real-Time Crime Centers. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Cowell, Dequan., Stults, B., & Brancale, J. (presented 2025, November). Enhancing Real-Time Crime Centers: The Role of Multi-Agency Collaboration in Regional Crime Intelligence. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Faulkner, Lexi, Lantz, B., and Wenger, M.R. (2025). "Vicarious Victimization, Network Saturation, and Mental Health Outcomes" Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Galvan, Abigail, & Copp, J.E., (2025). "Evaluating the Efficacy of the Palm Beach County's Court Reminder Notification System." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Hoover, Ashton, Piatkowska, S.J., and Lantz, B. (2025). "Expanding the Scope of Hate Crime Research: Utilizing the NCVS and FBI Hate Crime Statistics to Examine Hate Crime Motivated by Perceived Religion" Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Jodis, Christopher A., and Schwartz, J.A. (2025). Examining the Amplification Effects of Exposure to Violence on the Relationship between Perceived Work Stress and Mental

Health Problems among Correctional Officers. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Kramer, Kari L., and Schwartz, J.A. (2025). The Combined Impact of Critical and Medical Incident Exposure on Correctional Officers' Mental Health. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Laurel, Daniela, Lantz, B. and Wenger, M.R. (2025). "They Spit on Me in My Homeland": How Foreign-Born Status Impacts Anti-Latino Bias Crimes" Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Laurel, Daniela, Siennick, S.E., and Augustyn, M.B. (2025). The interrelationships between co-residence and criminal justice involvement and the implications for collateral consequences. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Mann, Caitlyn E., and Schwartz, J.A (2025). Sleep Disruption Stemming from Traumatic Brain Injury in Correctional Officers. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Mears, Daniel P., Montes, A.N. and Pesta, G.P. (2025). Juvenile Justice in Schools: A Litany of Impediments. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Mills, Jack, Piatkowska, S.J., and Lantz, B. (2025). Police Bias Units and Hate Crime Reporting: Insights from National Crime Victimization Survey. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Pesta, George., Brancale, J., & Wilson, M. (2025). Exploring Differences in Judicial Decision-Making for Juvenile Arrests in School Versus in the Community. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Siennick, Sonja E., and Turanovic, J.J. (2025). A mixed-methods examination of the unique root causes of school violence. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Stults, Brian., Brancale, J., & Caswell, J. (2025). Exploring Public Support for Law Enforcement Technologies: The Role of Victimization and Moderating Factors. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Vogel, Kayla R., and Schwartz, J.A. (2025). The Effects of Non-Workplace Violence and Occupational Violence on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder among Correctional Officers. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Wouters, Sarah R., Wenger, M.R., Lantz, B. and Piatkowksa, S.J. (2025). "Neighborhood contextual effects on victim reporting and help-seeking behaviors" Presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC.

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Labrecque, Ryan M., Mears, D.P., Myers, T.J., and Tosto, S.A. (2026). Supermax Confinement: A Review of State Correctional Policies. Presented at the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice, Philadelphia, PA.

3. Translational Criminology

The following section illustrates the Center's efforts to conduct translational research, work with policymakers and practitioners, and inform policy and practice with rigorous research findings. These translational and dissemination efforts primarily include presenting research findings to our practitioners and policymaker partners, presenting at practitioner conferences, publishing research reports and research briefs, and marketing our research findings through the web, news outlets, and social media.

Presentations to Policymakers and Practitioners

Listed below are translational presentations to criminal justice policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders for Center research projects during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. There were four total presentations, with one presentation to an international agency, two for state and local agencies, and one for other organizations.

Brancale, Julie. (2025). Financial Fraud of Older Adults. Keynote presentation. Elder Law Clinic Moot Court Competition. Florida State University College of Law. Tallahassee, Florida.

Lantz, Brendan, Wenger, M.R., and Wouters, S. (2025). "The Longitudinal Hate Crime Victimization Survey" *OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Network of Experts on Hate Crime Victim Support Speaker Series*, Warsaw, Poland.

Schwartz, Joseph A. (2025). Traumatic Brain Injury and Criminal Behavior: A Biosocial Perspective. Presented at the Biosocial Criminology Continuing Education Event hosted by Seattle University. Seattle, WA.

Swagar, Nic (2025). "Violent police-suspect interactions." Presented to executive leadership at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Tallahassee, FL.

Research Reports & Briefs

The list below includes research reports submitted to partner organizations and funding sponsors during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. There were twelve total research reports and briefs, with six submitted to federal agencies and nine submitted to state or local agencies.

Brancale, J., Noorman, K., Copp, J., & Blomberg, T. (2025). Florida State University and the Walton County Sheriff's Office Partnership: Phase 1 Final Report. Walton County Sheriff's Office.

Brancale, J., Stults, B., Caswell, J., Blomberg, T., Kim, Young-An, Billmeier, A., & Cowell, D. (2025). Use and Perceptions of Technology and Real Time Crime Centers in Tallahassee and Leon County, 2025. Capital Region Real Time Crime Center

Copp, Jennifer E. (2025). Examining the Efficacy of the Public Defender's Program: A Preliminary Interim Report. Palm Beach, FL: Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission.

Galvan, Abigail, and Copp, J.E. (2025). Evaluating the Effectiveness of the "Next Steps" Pilot Program: An Addendum Recidivism Report and Final Recommendations. Palm Beach, FL: Palm Beach County Criminal Justice Commission.

Labrecque, Ryan M., Mears, D.P., Cortina, H.G., Siennick, S.E., Meyers, T.J., Schwartz, J.A., Tosto, S., Copp, J.E., and Athimuthu, P. (2025). Assessment of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Restrictive Housing Practices: Attempted and Completed Suicide Addendum Report. Washington, D.C.: National Institute of Justice.

Labrecque, Ryan M., Mears, D.P., Cortina, H.G., Siennick, S.E., Tosto, S.A., Schwartz, J.A., Allen, A.M., Copp, J.E., Meyers, T.J., Jasperson, N., Corder, N.M., Muentner, L., Athimuthu, P., Boden, M.L., Thomas, N.J., and Inkpen, C. (2025). Assessment of the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Restrictive Housing Practices: Final Interim Report on Short-Term Recommendations. Washington, D.C. National Institute of Justice.

Lantz, Brendan, Wenger, M.R., Fridel, E.E., and Faulkner, L. (2025). "The individual, situational, and contextual risk factors for violent firearm injury and firearm homicide." National Institutes of Health.

Siennick, S., Turanovic, J., Biro, S., Brancale, J., Fridel, E., and Pupo, J. (2025). A Mixed-Methods Examination of the Unique Root Causes of School Violence. United States National Institute of Justice.

Stults, B. J., Brancale, J., Kim, Y.-A., Caswell, J., Billmeier, A., Cowell, D., and Blomberg, T. (2026). Addressing violence and gun crime in Tallahassee and Leon County, Florida through the Multi-Agency Capital Region Real Time Crime Center: An operational

and research partnership (Final report to the Bureau of Justice Assistance Smart Policing Initiative). Real Time Crime Center Research & Policy Institute, College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida State University.

Stults, B. J., Brancale, J., Caswell, J., Billmeier, A., Kim, Y.-A., & Blomberg, T. (2025). Community attitudes toward the use of technology in law enforcement. Real Time Crime Center Research & Policy Institute, College of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida State University.

Swagar, Nic (2025). "Violent police-suspect interactions." Completed for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Tallahassee, FL.

Wouters, Sarah R., Wenger, M.R., Lantz, B., and Piatkowksa, S.J. (2025). "Neighborhood contextual effects on victim reporting and help-seeking behaviors" Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington DC.

Marketing & Dissemination

Marketing and communications efforts on behalf of the Center and its institutes continue to draw on translational research. In the past year, research conducted in the Center has seen faculty featured in a range of prominent national media, including PBS, AARP, Gothamist and regional media including, The Orlando Sentinel, WTXL, WCTV and the Tallahassee Democrat. In each instance, the expertise and research presented, reflected the College's broad aim of "research brought to life."

With the College set to expand its operations through the renovation of the Kellogg Building, and the College's impending 75th anniversary commemoration set to begin January 2027, marketing and dissemination efforts will be accelerated through the next year. In its role as the administrative structure responsible for implementing the college's translational research, the Center will continue to be a key factor in this work.

Publications emanating from the Center's institutes mentioned above, faculty awards (such as Brendan Lantz and the Hate Crime Research and Policy Institute earning the 2025 Eva Lassman "Take Action Against Hate" Award, presented by Gonzaga University), and media mentions are proven tools in the College's work toward reputation building. To that end, the Center continues to use a faculty questionnaire implemented in FY 2023-2024 to gather research and project-related information from Institute Directors and Principal Investigators focused on capturing the salient research and policy activities within the Center's institutes.

The questionnaire provides another opportunity to identify and elevate research papers, reports, and presentations that warrant being nationally disseminated. Ultimately, the questionnaire provides the College and Center with an additional source from which research stories, social media posts, student spotlights, and plans for upcoming work can be drawn.

Research marketing and dissemination include actionable stories, social media content, and efforts to highlight how College and Center research translates into policy and practice. Marketing and dissemination work will continue to include publicizing faculty research, writing alumni profile stories, highlighting faculty attendance at national conferences, generating press releases on faculty publications, and publishing notices of grant awards through news stories published on the College and Center website and supported by direct media outreach and social media distribution.

Examples of this work include Brendan Lantz being interviewed by Gothamist Magazine for his expertise in hate crime reporting; Julie Brancale and Thomas Blomberg's expertise gaining prominent placement in a feature story in the AARP Bulletin; Emma Fridel being interviewed by PBS on the decline in mass killings in the U.S. in 2025. Communications from the Center and institutes continue to be regularly featured in University Communications' Daily News Digest newsletter, reaching an audience of approximately 5,000 throughout higher education, state and local politics, and FSU alumni. The College's rankings continue to be a point of pride with the most recent example being Niche Social's ranking the CCCJ No. 2 in the nation among colleges offering criminal justice degrees.

The College and Center's social media presence is also growing as Instagram and X both indicate increased engagement with students and alumni with greater regularity, helping to build the Center's online profile beyond the website. Social media channels remain a fixture of regular outreach and connection between the Center, its stakeholders, peer institutions, government agencies, and students.

4. Student Engagement

The Center is committed to providing the College's graduate and undergraduate students with opportunities to have transformative and empowering educational experiences in which they not only acquire knowledge through traditional classroom learning but learn to create and apply knowledge through hands-on research and policy experiences. Beyond funding for graduate students and the opportunity to collaborate with faculty on research projects, the Center

also provides experiential learning opportunities through directed individual study (DIS) courses, dissertations, theses, and area papers. The number of DIS and supervised research activities during FY 2025-2026 are listed below.

- Twenty-three graduate research assistants were funded for 52 semesters to work on various Center research projects.
- Thirty undergraduate students worked on funded, institute-related projects in the center (i.e., DIS, UROP, IDEA grants, OPS, honors, and volunteers) during fiscal year 25-26.
- Thirteen students were employed as part-time Research Assistants in the Center.

One graduate student completed area papers or master's theses with project-related data:

Mann, Caitlyn E. Traumatic Brain Injury among Correctional Officers: An Examination of Prevalence, Sources, and the Impact on Perceptions of Workplace Victimization and Danger Conclusion. Area paper defended in Spring, 2026.

One graduate students completed their dissertations with project-related data:

Vanden Bosch, Matthew "Measuring Misconceptions, Myths, and Stereotypes about Hate Crimes: Developing and Validating the Hate Crime Myth Acceptance Scale" Dissertation defended in Spring 2026.

5. Future Directions

Over the past twelve years, the Center has experienced measured growth in terms of college faculty involvement, the number of proposals submitted for funding, the number of research projects awarded, and the total amount of awarded research funding. Central to this development and growth has been establishing and fostering research partnerships. Partnerships are critical for sustaining funding and informing policy and practice through translational criminology.

Due to federal funding uncertainty, this year saw a decline in the number of proposals submitted to sponsors. To address this shortfall, it is critical that Center staff and faculty seek other funding sponsors from the philanthropic sector, private industry, and research endowments from donors. Maintaining and expanding partnerships with Florida government agencies will also be more critical in sustaining the Center's translational research efforts.

By all other metrics, the Center continues to grow. The number of projects and amount of

funding managed in FY2026 remained at an all-time high. In addition, research productivity increased to thirty peer-reviewed publications. Twenty-eight graduate students worked on funded research projects. Undergraduate involvement included seventeen students enrolled in DIS courses, twenty students supervised through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), and nineteen were employed as part-time research assistants.