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RESEARCHERS EVALUATE THE FUGITIVE SAFE SURRENDER PROGRAM AND EXAMINE THE DETERRENT EFFECTS OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

TALLAHASSEE, FLA—Two unique and important studies were published in the August 2012 issue of *Criminology & Public Policy* (CPP) [Volume 11, Issue 3]. Researchers evaluated the Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS) program and examined the possible deterrent effects of capital punishment on homicides.

Professors Daniel Flannery and Jeff Kretschmar of Case Western Reserve University described the implementation and effectiveness of the Fugitive Safe Surrender (FSS) program. The program was conducted in 20 cities and over 35,000 individuals who had a warrant for their arrest were given the opportunity to surrender at a local church. From a policy perspective, the authors found the FSS program to be effective at clearing a significant number of open warrants without increasing the local jail population and at a reduced cost. The FSS program also appeared to be effective at encouraging a majority of those offenders with a court date to reappear for their hearings.

Professors Ken Land of Duke University, Raymond H.C. Teske Jr. of Sam Houston State University, and Hui Zheng of Ohio State University addressed the question of whether the death penalty is a deterrent for felony and non-felony homicides in the state of Texas. The authors concluded that executions in Texas do produce a short-lived deterrent effect on all homicides when taken together. These findings provide additional evidence that the deterrent effects of executions are modest and short term. However, the authors caution that there would be little, if any, deterrence of homicides in Texas if executions were not used as frequently as they are. Whether the modest, short-term deterrent effects of executions found in Texas occur in other states is an open question that should be further investigated.