



STRATEGIES IN FOCUS



Burlington County Prosecutor's Office

Burlington County is the largest county by area in New Jersey and has experienced an uptick in violent crime—especially non-fatal shootings—over the past few years. Unlike many other states, in New Jersey the County Prosecutor is the lead investigator in criminal cases, working closely with police departments. Capitalizing on this investigatory leadership role, the [Burlington County Prosecutor's Office](#) (BCPO) made it a priority to investigate all county non-fatal shootings as if they were homicides.

To do so, the BCPO used its Smart Prosecution/Innovative Prosecution Solutions (IPS) grant to expand their investigatory and coordination capabilities to support non-fatal shooting investigations. The BCPO hired a crime analyst to conduct social

network and digital investigations, liaise with law enforcement, and ensure a 48-hour turnaround on ballistic evidence. Grant funds also supported the purchase of forensic workstations and video forensic tools. Additionally, the BCPO trained law enforcement on how to properly collect cell phone data on scene and invested in several Automated License Plate Readers to enhance law enforcement's ability to conduct shooting investigations—strategically placing these units in areas of high crime, recurring violence, and sites of potential retaliatory shootings. Finally, the BCPO utilized the IPS grant to purchase and outfit a van as a mobile high-tech crime lab.

This targeted approach has enabled the BCPO to focus on and prevent potential fatal retaliation in response to non-fatal shootings. As a result of their efforts, the county went 19 months without a gun-related homicide, from July 2022 to February 2024.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

[Smith v. Arizona](#)

Issue: Whether the confrontation clause of the Sixth Amendment permits the prosecution in a criminal trial to present testimony by a substitute expert conveying the testimonial statements of a non-testifying forensic analyst.

Facts: In December of 2019, law enforcement officers in Arizona executed a search warrant on the Defendant's father's property. While on the property, they detected a strong smell of marijuana coming from a shed, and inside they found the Defendant along with various drugs and paraphernalia. The Defendant was charged with drug-related felonies, found guilty on several counts, and sentenced to four years in prison. The Defendant appealed the decision with a claim that his confrontation rights were violated. Upon their seizure, the drugs were tested to confirm that they were illegal substances. The expert who conducted that testing was no longer employed by the state, so a different expert testified using the initial expert's test results. In doing so, the testifying expert read "verbatim" the statements that were

made by the original expert and offered them as his conclusions. The appellate court affirmed the Defendant's conviction, stating that the testifying expert offered his own independent opinion based on an analysis prepared by the initial expert. That court also emphasized that the Defendant could have but chose not to subpoena the initial expert. While Arizona's Supreme Court denied review, SCOTUS granted writ of certiorari. Oral arguments took place on January 10, 2024, and the Court's decision is still pending.

Although their decision has not yet been handed down, it appeared during oral argument that a majority of the justices were sympathetic to the Defendant and inclined to agree that his confrontation rights were violated. Either way, this decision could have significant implications for prosecutions moving forward. A ruling for the State might lead to greater freedom for prosecutors to present analysis by forensic experts without requiring those experts to testify. Alternatively, a ruling for the Defendant could require that subsequent analysts and experts must retest evidence if the original testing expert is unavailable for trial. If retesting is not an option, then prosecutors might find themselves struggling to accommodate the initial expert in trial scheduling or unable to use the testing results if the analyst is entirely unavailable for trial. Further, the Court also entertained the possibility of making a determination in its opinion as to whether or not the initial expert's notes could be introduced independently without violating the Confrontation Clause. Such a decision would have clear implications for how prosecutors structure their cases for trial and the evidence and witnesses they choose to present.

NEW RESOURCES



AEQUITAS

PROSECUTOR GUIDE


TO JURY SELECTION IN CASES WITH LGBTQ+ VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND STALKING

A prosecutor's first opportunity to combat potential bias during a criminal trial is jury selection. Jury selection, also known as *voir dire*, provides an opportunity to address bias, correct misconceptions, and strive for fairness in the process. Jury selection is also an opportunity to educate the panel about the crime and parties, to obtain promises to follow instructions on the law, and to plant seeds about the concepts of fairness and justice in the context of the current case. For cases involving LGBTQ+ victims, a comprehensive *voir dire* strategy is key to ensuring that anti-LGBTQ+ bias does not determine the outcome of the trial.

This Guide, developed in partnership with [AEQUITAS](#) and the [American Bar Association](#), is designed to support prosecutors in drafting jury selection questions and related motions *in limine* to help address anti-LGBTQ+ bias among potential jurors.

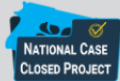
[Read Here](#)

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Agency Recruitment

Join BJA's National Case Closed Program



Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Case Closed Project is a nationwide program designed to support law enforcement agencies in improving their violent crime clearance rates, with an emphasis on fatal and nonfatal shooting cases. The project team actively partners with law enforcement agencies to identify effective and sustainable practices related to agency operations, agency resources, investigator capabilities, and community relations. Technical assistance and training resources are provided to partner agencies that can also be utilized by law enforcement agencies across the nation to improve their violent crime clearance rates.

BJA is still looking for agencies interested in joining the National Case Closed Project. This new nationwide effort will support law enforcement agencies in improving their violent crime clearance rates, especially in shooting cases.

Email caseclosed@rti.org



UPCOMING TRAININGS



Please join **SPARC** STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER & the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence for our upcoming presentation of

STALKING & ADOLESCENTS

Free Webinar
May 22, 2024
2:00 - 3:30 pm Eastern

SPARC STALKING PREVENTION, AWARENESS, AND RESOURCE CENTER

Idaho Coalition
 Against Sexual & Domestic Violence
 Engaging Voices, Creating Change

May 22, 2024, 2:00pm — 3:30pm ET / 11:00am — 12:30pm PT: Stalking & Adolescents

Presented by: [Stalking Prevention, Awareness, & Resource Center \(SPARC\)](#) of [AEquitas](#)

Stalking is a criminal, traumatic, and dangerous victimization that impacts people of all ages, although research suggests that adolescents experience higher rates of stalking victimization than adults. This webinar focuses on how stalking impacts teens; explores the dynamics and contextual nature of stalking; considers the diversity of stalking behaviors; highlights the intersections of stalking with bullying,

teen dating violence, and sexual violence; and offers strategies to better recognize and respond to victims and survivors.


By the end of this session, participants will be better able to:

- Identify stalking victimization in adolescent populations
- Recognize how stalking intersects with other victimizations, including teen dating violence and sexual violence
- Incorporate stalking education and response into existing programming.

[Register Here](#)

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The poster features a blue background with a photograph of a person's hands clasped in prayer. A green banner at the top contains the text 'UPCOMING WEBINAR'. Below it, the title 'Early Action, Lasting Impact: The Role of Early Intercept Diversion in Preventing Community Violence' is written in white. The date and time 'May 30, 2024 2:00 PM Eastern' and the registration link 'Register at AEquitasresource.org/trainings' are also present. Logos for the Office of the District Attorney, York County, Pennsylvania, and AEquitas are included.

UPCOMING WEBINAR

Early Action, Lasting Impact:
**The Role of Early Intercept
Diversion in Preventing
Community Violence**

May 30, 2024
2:00 PM Eastern
Register at [AEquitasresource.org/trainings](https://www.aequitasresource.org/trainings)

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
1749
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
YORK JUDICIAL DISTRICT

AE

May 30, 2024, 2:00pm — 3:30pm ET / 11:00am — 12:30pm PT: Early Action, Lasting Impact: The Role of Early Intercept Diversion in Preventing Community Violence

Presented by: [AEquitas](https://www.aequitasresource.org) and [York County District Attorney's Office](https://www.yorkcountypa.gov/district-attorney)

Meaningful violence prevention requires communities to intervene directly with youth at high risk for future violence. Family Group Decision Making (FGDM) and Family Team Meetings (FTMs) are promising practices for early intervention but may not be commonly leveraged as criminal justice innovations across the nation. As jurisdictions seek to prevent and intervene in violence, they should consider engaging family members of at-risk youth to ensure they receive proper

psychological, social, and educational support.


Please join us for this engaging presentation led by criminal justice practitioners at the York County District Attorney's Office in Pennsylvania. Presenters will discuss how criminal justice professionals can collaborate with community and government professionals, as well as the families of at-risk adolescents, to support the community's youth and mitigate the risk of future violent behavior. They will also explore strategies to leverage grant funding, research partnerships, and technical assistance to move violence prevention and intervention efforts forward.

As a result of this presentation, participants will be better able to:

- Incorporate Family Group Decision Making and Family Team Meetings as part of a broader violence prevention strategy.
- Identify risk factors for violent behavior and leverage protective factors to mitigate the risk of future violence.
- Evaluate and close gaps in the community's response to violence prevention.

[Register Here](#)

This project was supported by Grant No. 2020-YX-BX-K001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the SMART Office. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.



THE TRAFFICK REPORT
CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FIELD

Next Report: 5/29/24
Personal wellness and vicarious trauma in
the field

3-4:30pm ET / 12-1:30pm PT

Last Wednesday of Every Month

The Traffick Report: Conversations with the Field

May 29, 2024 from 3:00 PM ET — 4:30 PM ET / 12:00 PM PT — 1:30 PM PT

Join us for "The Traffick Report: Conversations with the Field," an online discussion held on the last Wednesday of each month, 3:00pm — 4:30pm ET / 12:00pm — 1:30pm PT. Professionals from various disciplines, including law enforcement, victim services, and medical professionals, come together to share insight, challenges, and successes in the fight against human trafficking.

The Traffick Report is a dynamic, interactive online conversation designed to foster collaboration and support among professionals dedicated to combatting human

trafficking. Our next conversation will be on May 29th from 3:00pm — 4:30pm ET / 12:00pm — 1:30pm PT. This month's guest speaker is Debra Rush, [Survivor and CEO of Breaking the Chains](#), and we will focus on vicarious trauma and personal wellness for professionals working with those who have experienced trauma.

Together, we can make a difference in the fight against human trafficking.

[Register Here](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

[OVW Fiscal Year 2024 Demonstration Program on Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Training for Law Enforcement on Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking \(Abby Honold\) Program](#)

The Demonstration Program on Trauma-Informed, Victim-Centered Training for Law Enforcement on Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking (Abby Honold Program) (Assistance Listing Number #16.058) supports efforts to improve law enforcement's response to allegations of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking from the time of a victim's initial report throughout the entire investigation, and to promote the efforts of law enforcement in improving the response to these crimes. The Abby Honold Program awards grants to law enforcement agencies to train officers to conduct trauma-informed and victim-centered investigations, with the goal of incorporating trauma-informed techniques designed to prevent re-traumatization of the victim and to increase communication between victims and law enforcement as well as stakeholders in a coordinated community response. This program's purpose is also to evaluate the effectiveness of the training. Applications are due **May 17, 2024 (Grants.gov)** and **May 21, 2024 (JustGrants)**.

[NIJ FY24 Field-Initiated Action Research Partnerships](#)

With this solicitation, NIJ seeks research partnership proposals that meet the needs and missions of local justice and service provider entities — including police, corrections, courts, victim services, forensic science service providers, and community safety and adult and juvenile justice entities — and the communities they serve. These partnerships should apply a data-driven, problem-solving

approach to challenges prioritized by agency partners; identify actionable and measurable responses; implement changes; and employ an action research evaluation approach to assessing the impact of interventions on desired outcomes that emphasizes scientific rigor and meaningful stakeholder engagement. These partnerships should also focus on developing the entity's capacity to adopt data-driven, problem-solving approaches to sustain effective practices and ongoing improvement in relevant safety and justice outcomes. Applications are due **June 17, 2024 (Grants.gov)** and **July 1, 2024 (JustGrants)**.

For more available funding opportunities, please visit grants.gov.



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