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Policy Research's 2022 Year in Review

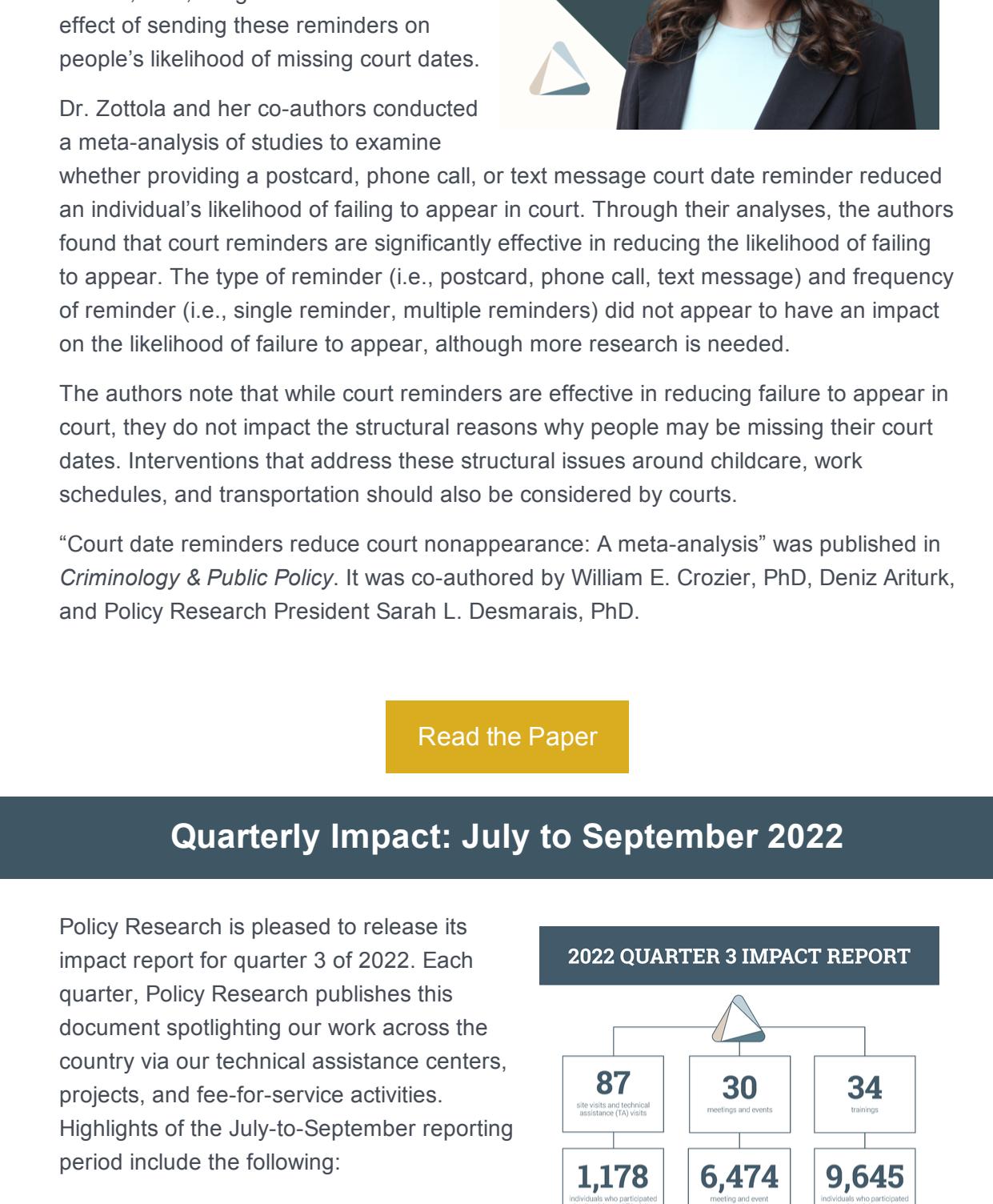


We've had a big year of positive social change and are excited to share it via our 2022 Year in Review! Our Year in Review shares a peek into what it is like to work at Policy Research. Topics highlighted include top accomplishments from each of the firm's substantive areas, what's on the horizon for 2023, selected publications and products, Policy Research in the press, staff events, and *much more!* Here's a sneak peek of our "big news" from 2022:

- Named Sarah Desmarais, PhD, as [Policy Research's President](#), effective May 2022. Dr. Desmarais and outgoing President Pamela Clark Robbins have worked hand in hand throughout their transition. Dr. Desmarais is building on Policy Research's success by creating a symbiotic relationship between the firm's technical assistance and research portfolios.
- Welcomed Elan Hope, PhD, to Policy Research as the firm's [Program Area Director for Research and Evaluation](#). In her role, Dr. Hope develops and provides oversight on research projects and uses her area's research findings to inform and strengthen Policy Research's technical assistance efforts.
- Awarded the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) multi-award Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity contract in Domain I: Feasibility, Pilot, and Evaluation Projects and Domain V: Technical Assistance and Training Projects.
- Co-authored peer-reviewed articles on topics including pretrial risk assessment, youth activism and well-being, and diversity & inclusion. These articles appear in journals including *Nature Human Behavior*, *Law & Human Behavior*, *Journal of Community & Applied Social Psychology*, *American Journal of Community Psychology*, and *The Handbook of Issues in Criminal Justice Reform*.
- Adopted a new, [equity-focused approach](#) to cost-of-living adjustments for staff, switching to administering a fixed dollar amount rather than a percentage of an employee's salary.

[See Our Year in Review](#)

SAMHSA's GAINS Center Presents at Maryland State Summit on Behavioral Health and the Justice System



In 2020, SAMHSA's GAINS Center hosted the [State Summit on Behavioral Health and the Justice System](#) in coordination with the Commission to Study Mental and Behavioral Health in Maryland. As a result of this Summit, [legislation was passed](#) establishing a Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence. This legislation was sponsored by State Senator Kate Fry Hester and State Delegate Josseline Peña-Melnyk. This Center of Excellence was tasked with supporting Maryland communities in reducing the incarceration of individuals with behavioral health needs and providing linkages to treatment. As part of the Center's regular activities, it must hold an annual summit to share best practices across the state.

In November 2022, the Center held its second annual Summit on Behavioral Health and the Justice System, with SAMHSA's GAINS Center providing support, facilitation, and subject-matter expertise. Senator Hester and Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services Executive Director Kunle Adeyemo provided opening remarks. GAINS Center Senior Project Associate Dan Abreu, MS, CRC, LMHC, was onsite at the Maryland State Summit, presenting on the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) and facilitating strategic plan development. His presentation, "The Sequential Intercept Model," introduced the SIM and its potential to transform criminal legal and behavioral health systems.

One hundred people from across Maryland attended the Summit and worked together to develop and refine a statewide strategic plan to divert people with mental illness from the criminal justice system and into treatment. The finalized plan will be used as a roadmap for Governor-elect Wes Moore's administration and the Maryland General Assembly to implement over the coming years.

Elan Hope Co-authors Article Analyzing University Efforts to Diversify Faculty, Provides Recommendations for Change

A new article coauthored by Program Area Director Elan Hope, PhD, highlights the discrepancies between university-sponsored commitments to diversify faculty and university practices for recruiting and retaining faculty of color. While universities have made public declarations of plans to increase faculty diversity, the data tell a very different story. The authors analyzed data from the U.S. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and found that the diversity of tenure-track faculty is not increasing faster than the diversity of the American public, and under current data trends, university faculty will never achieve demographic parity with the public.

Rather than universities working individually, the authors call for universities to work in collaboration with one another to enhance faculty diversity. Acknowledgment of the historical and present-day racist policies and attitudes that have brought us to this moment is critical for change and demographic parity. Sector-wide coordination to develop, implement, and evaluate interventions is needed to leverage underused faculty talent, grow the number of underrepresented faculty, and establish clarity and parity in the changing roles and responsibilities of tenured and tenure-track faculty.

"US universities are not succeeding in diversifying faculty" was published in *Nature Human Behavior*. It was co-authored by J. Nathan Matias, PhD, and Neil A. Lewis, Jr., PhD. An earlier version of this article, "[Universities Say They Want More Diverse Faculties. So Why Is Academia Still So White?](#)" was released in *FiveThirtyEight*.

[See the Article](#)

Samantha Zottola Co-authors Article Demonstrating the Impact of Court Date Reminders

Missing a court date can result in a range of consequences, including poorer case outcomes, costly fees, and pretrial detention. Some jurisdictions send reminders with the date and time of a person's upcoming court date to help reduce the chances of people missing court dates. A new research study, led by Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD, sought to evaluate the effect of sending these reminders on people's likelihood of missing court dates.

Dr. Zottola and her co-authors conducted a meta-analysis of studies to examine whether providing a postcard, phone call, or text message court date reminder reduced an individual's likelihood of failing to appear in court. Through their analyses, the authors found that court reminders are significantly effective in reducing the likelihood of failing to appear. The type of reminder (i.e., postcard, phone call, text message) and frequency of reminder (i.e., single reminder, multiple reminders) did not appear to have an impact on the likelihood of failure to appear, although more research is needed.

The authors note that while court reminders are effective in reducing failure to appear in court, they do not impact the structural reasons why people may be missing their court dates. Interventions that address these structural issues around childcare, work schedules, and transportation should also be considered by courts.

"Court date reminders reduce court nonappearance: A meta-analysis" was published in *Criminology & Public Policy*. It was co-authored by William E. Crozier, PhD, Deniz Arituk, and Policy Research President Sarah L. Desmarais, PhD.

[Read the Paper](#)

Quarterly Impact: July to September 2022

Policy Research is pleased to release its impact report for quarter 3 of 2022. Each quarter, Policy Research publishes this document spotlighting our work across the country via our technical assistance centers, projects, and fee-for-service activities.

2022 QUARTER 3 IMPACT REPORT

Highlights of the July-to-September reporting period include the following:

- Delivered 22 professional presentations to the field
- Hosted 34 trainings, training 9,645 people
- Facilitated 87 site visits and technical assistance visits, with 1,178 participants
- Released 19 new public products

Read the full quarter 3 impact report for more on the following featured topics:

- Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance Center Hosts Innovations Conference
- GAINS Center Presents at the CIT Conference on 988/911 Implementation
- Policy Research Convenes 57 Safety and Justice Challenge IMPACT Network Sites in Atlanta, Georgia

[View the Impact Report](#)

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