



Crisis Response and Intervention Training Toolkit: Free Resource Available On Demand



The Academic Training to Inform Police Responses is pleased to announce the release of the Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT)! This **FREE training curriculum** is available for on-demand download and is designed to be customized to the needs of your community.

The CRIT is a 40-hour training program designed to enhance police officers' responses to people experiencing crises related to behavioral health conditions and intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The curriculum covers topics related to mental health, substance use, effective responses to behavioral health crises, IDD, and effective responses to people with IDD.

The CRIT is designed for law enforcement officers who have not been trained in crisis intervention skills or who would like to update their training. The curriculum is a mix of presentations and scenario-based learning, in which officers apply the skills they are learning to real-life situations they may experience in the field.

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Just Released: New Episode of *Data Points* Examines Pretrial Risk Assessment Results and Racial Bias



We've just released a new episode of the *Data Points* podcast series! *Data Points* translates research into key takeaways that you can use to enhance your work and advance positive social change.

This episode of *Data Points*, "When Pretrial Risk Assessment Results and Release Recommendations Don't Add Up," features Research Associate Kamiya Stewart, PhD, and Senior Research Associate Samantha Zottola, PhD. Drs. Stewart and Zottola discuss their in-press study "Pretrial Risk Assessment, Risk Communication, and Racial Bias." Their study will be published by *Criminal Justice and Behavior*.

In this episode, Drs. Stewart and Zottola discuss the following:

- What happens during an initial appearance, and the potential outcomes for a person appearing
- How pretrial risk assessments can be used to support judicial decision-making during the initial appearance
- If the presentation of pretrial risk assessment results impacts pretrial court actors' decisions
- Whether a person's race influenced decisions made by the pretrial court actors

Listen to the episode to hear the answers, and subscribe to the Policy Research podcast today! *Data Points* is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), [Stitcher](#), and [Soundcloud](#).

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[Download the Transcript](#)

Examining North Carolina's Citation-in-Lieu-of-Arrest Policy: Final Report Finds Limited Success

Policies promoting citation in lieu of arrest have been highlighted as a potential method to reduce unnecessary pretrial detention, enhance police-community relationships, and promote public safety, among other possible benefits. However, there have been few evaluations of their success in achieving these outcomes. A new report co-authored by Policy Research President Sarah Desmarais, PhD, examines the implementation of a model citation-in-lieu-of-arrest policy in four cities across North Carolina.

The evaluation found the following:

- **There was limited patrol officer buy-in for the model policy.** While there was significant and consistent support from leadership, limited patrol officer buy-in and challenges with implementing the policy widely and consistently led to difficulties in analyzing the model policy's impact.
- **Citation rates did not increase.** There was no increase in the use of citations in policy-relevant encounters. In two sites, the use of citations decreased.
- **Racial disparities did not improve.** In three sites, Black people were overrepresented and white people were underrepresented in misdemeanor encounters with the police before and after the policy was implemented. In all sites, at least one non-white racial/ethnic group saw its share of misdemeanor encounters grow from pre- to post-implementation.
- **Using citations saved officers an average of 90 minutes per encounter.** However, this finding cannot be applied broadly due to the low completion rates of required documentation.

The Citation Project Final Stakeholder Report was co-authored by Eva McKinsey, PhD; Ethan Rex, MPP; and Jessica Smith, JD. The North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, the University of North Carolina School of Government Criminal Justice Innovation Lab, Policy Research Associates, and North Carolina State University partnered in this project.

[Read the Report](#)

Upcoming Webinars

HHRC: Housing Supports for Older Adults Experiencing Homelessness

April 19, 2023, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

This webinar will present an overview of factors impacting older adults experiencing homelessness and share strategies to support their housing needs.

GAINS: Making the Connection: Improving the Referral Pathways to Family Treatment Court

April 25, 2023, 1:30–3:00 p.m. ET

In this webinar, presenters from the Center for Children and Family Futures will discuss strategies to effectively and efficiently identify eligible parents for family treatment courts and share ways to engage them in services.

SOAR: Building and Sustaining SOAR Relationships With SSA and DDS

May 9, 2023, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

The webinar will spotlight SOAR providers who have formed strong working relationships with their local, area, and regional SSA and DDS offices.

HHRC: Introduction to Psychotic Disorders

May 10, 2023, 2:00–3:30 p.m. ET

This webinar aims to provide education and introduce several skills and techniques for working with individuals experiencing symptoms of psychosis.

Policy Research at an Event Near You

American Association of Suicidology's 56th Annual Conference

April 19–22, 2023, Portland, Oregon

Attending #AAS23, the American Association of Suicidology's 56th Annual Conference? Join Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Technical Assistance (SMVF TA) Center Project Associate **Philip Paty, MPA**. Mr. Paty will present on the panel *Crisis Intercept Mapping for Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families: Applications and Updates*. This session will take place on April 21, 2023, from 10:30–11:15 a.m. PT.

Suicide Research Symposium

April 26–28, 2023, Virtual Event

Attending the Suicide Research Symposium? Join SMVF TA Center Assistant Director **Donald Harris, MBA**, for the presentation "Crisis Intercept Mapping for Community-Based Suicide Prevention: Implications for the Rollout of 988" during session 2, *Suicide Risk Recognition, Treatment Linkage, and Crisis Services*. His presentation will take place on April 27, 2023, from 3:25–4:25 p.m. ET.

2023 National Tribal Health Conference

May 1–5, 2023, Anchorage, Alaska

Going to the National Indian Health Board's National Tribal Health Conference? Join SOAR TA Center Assistant Director **Abigail Kirkman, MA**, and SOAR Project Associate **Alisha Fletcher, MA**, for the session *Homeless to Housed: Walking the Journey of Accessing Mainstream Benefits*. This session will take place on May 4, 2023, from 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. AK.

NatCon23

May 1–3, 2023, Los Angeles, California

Attending the National Council for Mental Wellbeing Conference this May? Join SMVF TA Center Assistant Director **Donald Harris, MBA**, and Senior Project Associate **Ben Barrowman, MBA**, for the session *Preventing Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and Their Families Through Interagency Teams*. Their session will take place on May 2, 2023, from 2:15–3:15 p.m. PT in 403 B, Level 2, LACC.

Careers at Policy Research

Do you want to join a company that puts people first? Do you want coworkers committed to transforming systems to create positive social change? If so, join Policy Research—we're hiring!

Data Scientist—Research & Evaluation

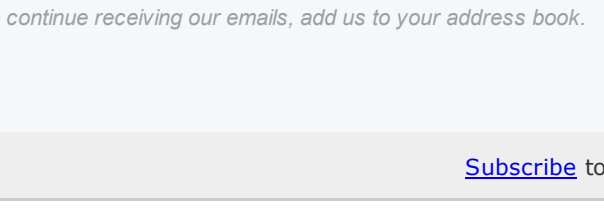
The full-time Data Scientist will provide statistical expertise, direction, and data analysis support for projects focused on mental health diversion programs and understanding outcomes and pathways for adults within the criminal legal system who are found incompetent to stand trial.

Administrative/Operations Specialist

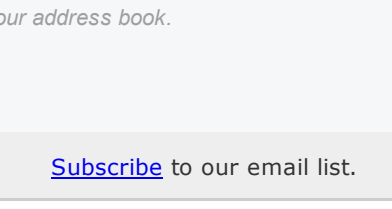
PRA seeks a candidate interested in settling in and making a long-term commitment to facilitating the business operations of an organization dedicated to improving the lives of others. Reporting to the Director of Administration, the Administrative/Operations Specialist will perform tasks essential to the smooth operation of our business.

[Join the Team](#)

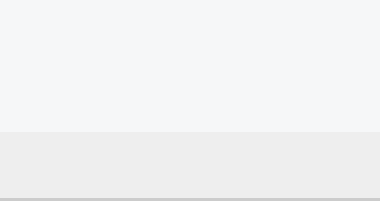
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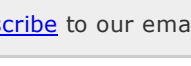
Lost in Vermont: A Story of Mental Health, Nature, and Me



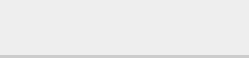
If I Knew Then What I Know Now: How Empathy Changed Me



How a Virtual Book Club Reignited My Love for Reading



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