

PRA ENEWS

SEPTEMBER



Policy Research Holds First Spanish-Language Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshop

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On June 15 and 16, 2023, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) GAINS Center, operated by Policy Research, hosted a [Sequential Intercept Model](#) (SIM) Mapping Workshop in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The workshop was conducted in Spanish. This was the first SIM Mapping Workshop Policy Research conducted in a U.S. territory and in a language other than English. The SIM informs communities by mapping resources, opportunities, and service gaps at key intercept points that people with mental and substance use disorders experience in the criminal legal system. Once a cross-systems map has been generated, local working

partners, with the help of facilitators, develop strategic action plans designed to address areas identified for growth. The 21st Century Cures Act identified the SIM as a critical method of promoting community-based strategies to reduce the criminal legal system involvement of people with mental and substance use disorders.

When the San Juan SIM Mapping Workshop was first awarded through SAMHSA's GAINS Center, Policy Research held multiple internal conversations regarding the importance of cultural awareness. While most of the workshop participants would be bilingual, local planning partners were asked at an early preparatory stage if they would prefer the workshop to be conducted in Spanish. They responded affirmatively. This led to a “comfortable and safe” environment, according to Michelle Espinosa-Clark, MPA.

Keep Reading

New *Data Points* Episode Highlights Effective Framing and Format for Suicide Prevention Public Service Announcements on YouTube

We've released a new episode of the *Data Points* podcast series in honor of Suicide Prevention Month. This episode of *Data Points*, “It's All in the Framing: Suicide Prevention Public Service Announcements and YouTube,” features Senior Project Associate Don Harris, MBA. In this episode, he discusses key takeaways from his recently published paper, “Exploring the Association Between Suicide Prevention Public Service Announcements and User Comments on YouTube: A Computational Text Analysis Approach.”



In this episode, Mr. Harris discusses the following topics:

- YouTube's role in suicide prevention public service announcements (PSAs), highlighting its reach and bidirectional nature
- Types of PSA formats (narrative and argument) and framing (gain and loss)
- The ways in which the format and framing of PSAs influence YouTube comments
- Research methodology, including video and comment collection, PSA classification, and analysis of sentiment and help-seeking language

Data Points is a podcast series produced by Policy Research that translates research into key takeaways that you can use to enhance your work and advance positive social change.

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

Listen to the Episode

If you're thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved one, or would like emotional support, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 across the United States. Call 988 or visit <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>.

Research and Evaluation Area Staff Publish Chapter in *Handbook on Prisons and Jails*



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People with frequent jail contact can compose up to half a jail's annual census. Communities across the nation are looking at ways to reduce frequent jail contact; however, little is known about this population's demographics and potential needs. A chapter in the recently published *Handbook on Prisons and Jails*, authored by Policy Research staff members, provides information and context on this population.

Their chapter, "Understanding and Preventing Frequent Jail Contact," expands on the work of the [Understanding the Population of People with Frequent Jail Contact](#) project released earlier this year. The chapter provides an overview of the characteristics and needs of people with frequent jail contact, as well as factors contributing to frequent jail contact and interventions to address them. The authors also provide suggestions for future research to identify strategies that reduce system involvement.

This chapter was authored by Samantha Zottola, PhD, Brandon Morrissey, JD, MA, Sarah Desmarais, PhD, Elan Hope, PhD, Lisa Callahan, PhD, Isolynn Massey, Anthony Fortuna, and Richard Van Dorn, PhD. *Handbook on Prisons and Jails* was published by Routledge.

Upcoming Webinars

[Understanding the Population of People with Frequent Jail](#)

[Contact](#)

September 29, 2023, 1:00–2:30 p.m. ET

In this webinar, Drs. Sarah Desmarais and Samantha Zottola will share findings from a mixed-methods project that examined the characteristics and experiences of people with frequent jail contact in three counties across the United States. The speakers will discuss county-level strategies to reduce frequent jail contact and the impact of those strategies on people of color and people with behavioral health conditions.

[SOAR: Understanding the Steps to Completing SOAR-Assisted](#)

[SSI/SSDI Applications](#)

October 17, 2023, 3:00–4:30 p.m. ET

Join to hear tips from SAMHSA SOAR TA Center staff on how to get started on your first SOAR-assisted SSI/SSDI application. Encourage your SOAR-trained colleagues to register for this webinar, too, so you can work together on submitting quality SOAR-assisted SSI/SSDI applications!

Policy Research at an Event Near You

[New York State Conference of Local Mental Hygiene Directors](#)

[Fall 2023 Full Membership Meeting](#)

October 25–27, 2023; Watkins Glen, New York

Senior Research Associate **Lisa Callahan, PhD**, will discuss national trends in addressing competence to stand trial. Her session will take place October 27 from 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Recent Stories From the Policy Research Blog



*Two Sequential Intercept Model
Mapping Workshop Firsts*



*Celebrating 12 Years of ARDRAW, and its Next
Steps*



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