



# Criminal Justice Weekly

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## NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Registration is Now Open for Ohio Two Days In May 2011 Conference:** The Attorney General's Office is pleased to announce that online registration for the 20th Annual Two Days In May Conference on Victim Advocacy is now open. Make plans to join fellow victim service providers from across Ohio May 16-17 at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. This year's conference promises to be two days full of useful information and workshops to increase your ability to help victims.

Details about the conference, including hotel information, workshop descriptions and online registration, can be found at [www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TDIM](http://www.OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov/TDIM).

Registration for the conference is open until May 1, but workshops fill up fast. So make sure to register today to give yourself the most workshop options!

If you have questions or concerns, please e-mail us at [TDIM@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov](mailto:TDIM@OhioAttorneyGeneral.gov)

**Block by block - Zeroing in on Crime Trends:** Police and researchers have long focused on crime at the neighborhood and precinct levels. More recently, law enforcement agencies have been finding that identifying and focusing on "hot spots" is a fruitful approach to crime prevention.

A new study shows that it may be even more effective to take such approaches down to the level of individual city blocks.

Researchers studied block-by-block crime incidents in Seattle from 1989 to 2004. They identified 24,023 "street segments" (the streets at both sides of an intersection) and 1,697,212 crime reports. They found that crime rates declined in Seattle as a whole during the study period (as they did in many American cities) but that at the micro-level of city blocks, crime trends could vary from citywide and even neighborhood trends.

The research team also assembled block-level information to answer two research questions related to social disorganization theory and opportunity theories of crime. The first was whether or not hot spots of social disorganization and crime opportunities existed and varied at the street-segment level. The second was whether or not social disorganization and crime opportunity hot spots coincided with, and could explain, known crime hot spots.

Social disorganization theory is based on the idea that relationships among people and institutions within an ecological unit (like a neighborhood) are generally organized. When they become disorganized due to the absence or breakdown of certain communal and social characteristics (such as

supervision of teenagers, physical order and engagement in community affairs), crime is more likely to occur. The theory is usually applied at the neighborhood or community level. The researchers in this study were interested in seeing if it could be meaningfully applied to an even smaller unit, the street segment. In particular, they wanted to know if the characteristics of social disorder varied systematically at that level and if this variation was related to concentrations of crime.

Opportunity theories of crime suggest that when offenders want to commit a crime, they look for an opportunity or a practical target. The researchers examined, among other things, routine activity theory, which they identified as a type of opportunity theory. Routine activity theory suggests that crime occurs when a motivated offender, a suitable target and the lack of a capable guardian converge in the same place at the same time. Criminals choose or find their targets within the context of their routine activities, such as traveling to and from work.

To read the entire article, visit: <http://ncja.informz.net/admin31/content/template.asp?sid=23219&brandid=3027&uid=759987652&mi=1095452&ptid=55>

## TRAINING/RESOURCES

**Free Grant Writing Seminars:** OCJS is hosting free Grant Writing seminars in 2011. OCJS's grant trainings provide an overview of identifying grant sources, analyzing program objectives, creating a budget, seeking letters of support, and writing proposals. Federal and state grants available to criminal justice professionals are discussed. Attendees also receive the

OCJS publication, *Grant Writing: Identifying and Applying for Funding in a Competitive Market*. Trainings take place on the following dates: **March 22, April 26, May 3, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 22, October 12, November 7 and December 14**. Please visit [http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/GrantTraining\\_2011.pdf](http://www.ocjs.ohio.gov/GrantTraining_2011.pdf) to view class ti-

ties. All trainings are held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Ohio Department of Public Safety's Motorcycle Classroom, located at 1970 W. Broad St., Columbus, on the first floor. To download and print a training registration form, visit: [http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs\\_TrainingForm.pdf](http://publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ocjs_TrainingForm.pdf)

## TRAINING/RESOURCES CONT.

**Sexual Assault Awareness Month Conference:** The purpose of this conference is to raise awareness around the issues teens are currently facing regarding sexual and dating violence as well as sex trafficking. The goal is to increase the competence of healthcare professionals and service providers working with teens who encounter these issues.

This conference is open to advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, SANE's and other service providers working with victims of interpersonal violence in Ohio.

When: Wednesday, April 13 from 9a.m. - 4p.m.

Where: Ohio Department of Transportation/ Ohio Department of Public Safety Auditorium, 1980 W. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio

This is a free event. The deadline for registration is April 7. Space is limited. Those interested are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Lunch will be on your own but a cafeteria is on-site. CEUs are pending for this training.

To receive the registration form, email [mruss@ohiohealth.com](mailto:mruss@ohiohealth.com). This training is pre-

sented by the Central Ohio Sexual Assault Task Force (COSATF).

**Helpline Human Trafficking Training:** Sponsored by HelpLine, this workshop offers 2 free CEU's for counselors and social workers and is open to the public to increase awareness on a local level. Brent Currence, Director of the Ohio Missing Children's Clearinghouse at The Ohio Attorney General's Office, will be the featured presenter as a person with an extensive background in law enforcement and is currently on the frontlines of this fight against human trafficking. Attendees will learn to recognize indicators to identify possible victims and the recommended model to address Human Sex Trafficking at a local level. Learn first hand what issues we are facing in Ohio on this topic.

When: Tuesday, April 26 from 6-8p.m.

Where: Delaware County Board of Developmental Disabilities, 7991 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, 43035 (use parking and entrance in the back of the building)

To register, please call the Connections Volunteer Center at 740.363.5000 or email [spin-gry@helplinedelmor.org](mailto:spin-gry@helplinedelmor.org).

**Two-Day Anti-Bullying Conference:** The Center of School-Based Mental Health Programs at Miami University is pleased to announce a two-day anti-bullying conference for educators, administrators, health and mental health professionals, law enforcement and others who care about keeping kids safe at school. Both continuing education credits (12 hours of credit) and graduate credit (1 credit) options are available.

Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education, Dr. Patti Agaston of Cyber Bullying and Stan Davis of Youth Voice Project will be the keynote speakers.

When: June 10-11

Where: Miami University's Voices of America Learning Center, West Chester, Ohio.

To register online, visit: [www.muohio.edu/csbmhp](http://www.muohio.edu/csbmhp) (follow the Professional Development link). For more information, contact Dr. Dawna Cricket-Martita Meehan, Coordinator of School Mental Health Projects at 513.529.4247.

## GRANTS/FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**OVW FY 2011 Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program:**

**DEADLINE:** April 6, 2011, 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time.

**OVERVIEW:** The Services, Training, Education and Policies to Reduce Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, and Stalking in Secondary Schools Grant Program, hereafter referred to as the STEP Program, was created by the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005) to support middle and high schools to develop and implement effective training, services, prevention strategies, policies, and coordinated community responses for student victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking.

**ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:** 1) Public, Charter, Tribal, or Nationally Accredited Private Middle or High Schools; 2)

Schools administered by the Department of Defense; 3) Groups of middle and/or high schools (2 or more); or 4) School Districts

**AWARD INFORMATION:** Individual Applicants: up to \$350,000 over a 36 month period Consortia Projects: up to \$550,000 over a 36 month period.

**CONTACT:** OVW at (202) 307-6026

**Smart Policing Initiative FY 2011 Competitive Grant Announcement:**  
**DEADLINE:** April 21, 2011, 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time.

**OVERVIEW:** This FY 2011 grant announcement seeks to build upon data-driven, evidence-based policing by encouraging state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to develop effective, economical, and innovative responses to precipitous or extraordinary increases in crime, or in a type or types of crime within their jurisdictions

**ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:** Applicants are limited to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

**AWARD INFORMATION:** For law enforcement agencies serving populations of less than 500,000, the maximum award is \$300,000; for law enforcement agencies serving populations greater than 500,000, the maximum award amount is \$500,000. The project period will be 24 months in length

**CONTACT:** The BJA Justice Information Center at (877) 927-5657 or [JIC@telesishq.com](mailto:JIC@telesishq.com). The BJA Justice Information Center hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. eastern time on the solicitation close date.

### OCJS CONTACT

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