Utilizing a Cross-system Framework to Guide Research on Autism and Criminal Justice Intersections: Implications for Physical Health Outcomes

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Justice System Involvement and Physical Health Outcomes

- Individuals who are victimized experience worse physical health outcomes throughout their lives.
- Justice-involved individuals have high rates of co-occurring chronic health conditions.
- Mortality rates are higher for individuals who are involved in the justice system.
Incarceration and Reentry are Particularly Consequential

- Insurance disruptions
- Lack of continuity of care
- Limited options for exercise and healthy food
- Difficulties accessing housing and employment
Racial and ethnic disparities in health risks and outcomes are well established. The overrepresentation of people of color in the justice system compounds the risk of poor health outcomes.
The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)
The SIM has been used widely to drive research priorities and opportunities across the justice system.

Sequential Intercept Mapping: Developing Systems-Level Solutions for the Opioid Epidemic
Natalie Bonfine, Ph.D., Mark R. Munetz, M.D., Ruth H. Simera, M.Ed., L.S.W.
Psychiatric Services 69:11, November 2018

First-Episode Psychosis and the Criminal Justice System: Using a Sequential Intercept Framework to Highlight Risks and Opportunities
Tobias Wasser, M.D., Jessica Pollard, Ph.D., Deborah Fisk, L.C.S.W., Ph.D., Vinod Srihari, M.D.
Psychiatric Services 68:10, October 2017

Adverse childhood experiences among justice-involved youth: Data-driven recommendations for action using the sequential intercept model.
Lack of Research on Autism and Justice System Impacts

Possible drivers of poor health among autistic individuals include:

- High rates of justice contact as both victims and offenders
- Low rates of employment limit access to employee sponsored health care
- Reliance on Medical Assistance (or Medicaid) that can be disrupted through justice involvement
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Need for Increased Diversity in Autism Research

Increasing Diversity in Neuroscience and Autism Research

New findings suggest tools to help scientists recruit more diverse participants.

It is well-known that racial/ethnic disparities exist in both health status and health care in the United States. In the realm of autism, research suggests that White children are often diagnosed earlier and receive more services than Latino children. This is troubling given that early intervention has been shown to improve outcomes. In trying to learn more about why such disparities exist and how to close these gaps, researchers should make sure that study participants include individuals from underrepresented backgrounds.
Developing the Global Autism and Criminal Justice Consortium

Around the world, there is a call to action for more research on autism and justice system interactions.

INSAR funded the Policy and Analytics Center to produce a policy brief on autism and the justice system.

Includes autistic self-advocates, family members, and interdisciplinary experts.

Stakeholders from 10 nations regularly convene to highlight and share best and emerging practices.

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Global Autism and Criminal Justice Consortium Partners

Global Autism and Criminal Justice Consortium Partners:
- Australia
- Canada
- Ethiopia
- Ireland
- Norway
- Russia
- South Africa
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- United States

SIM Workgroup:
- Ethiopia
- Ireland
- South Africa
- United States
Utilizing a Cross-system Framework to Guide Research on Autism and Criminal Justice Intersections

Guiding Future Research on Autism and the Justice System

- Focus on equity, with particular attention on racial and ethnic disparities
- Include and elevate the voices and experiences of autistic individuals throughout all stages of research
- Build on existing frameworks to organize and propel research that focuses on outcomes
- Partner with policymakers to ensure translation of research into practice
- Share information across nations
Revising the SIM for Autistic Individuals

Developed a SIM workgroup within the Global Autism and Criminal Justice Consortium

Reimagines the model as a cyclical and interconnected process

Includes perspectives of victims

Centers community as a central point of contact for service needs

Offers exit ramps as diversion or intervention pathways

Splits the Jails/Courts Intercepts given the unique experiences of autistic individuals at each juncture
The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM)

The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) is a framework designed to identify and address points at which individuals at risk of entering the justice system can be intercepted to prevent or intervene in the process. This model is operationalized into five intercepts:

1. **Intercept 0**: Community Services (e.g., Crisis Lines, Local Law Enforcement).
2. **Intercept 1**: Law Enforcement (e.g., Initial Detention/Initial Court Hearings).
3. **Intercept 2**: Jails/Courts (e.g., Specialty Court, Dispositional Court).
4. **Intercept 3**: Reentry (e.g., Prison Reentry, Jail Reentry).
5. **Intercept 4**: Community Corrections (e.g., Parole, Probation).

The model emphasizes the importance of cross-system collaboration and the need for coordinated efforts to prevent individuals from moving through the justice system after the first intercept. This approach is particularly relevant when considering the intersections between autism and criminal justice, where early intervention and support can significantly impact outcomes.
Using the SIM to Advance Future Research

- Provides a comprehensive model of justice system involvement for victims and perpetrators
- Links research across siloed elements of the justice system to connect policy and practice
- Exit ramps signify where research is needed to steer individuals back to communities
- Systematically reviewing literature to organize priorities and identify outcomes and best practices

Utilizing a Cross-system Framework to Guide Research on Autism and Criminal Justice Intersections
Tracking New Advances in Healthcare Coverage within the Criminal Justice System

Initiating Medicaid Coverage In Prison 30-Days Prior To Reentry

Jacqueline Lantsman
NOVEMBER 24, 2021

Targeting Justice-Involved Populations through 1115 Medicaid Waiver Initiatives: Implementation experiences of three states

January 2020:

New SHADAC Report on States Serving Justice-Involved Populations through Section 1115 Waivers

Under a Research in Transforming Health and Health Care Systems grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, SHADAC recently conducted a study of the ways in which states are using Section 1115 transformation waivers to test new approaches to serving individuals with criminal justice involvement.¹

While each of the three states included in SHADAC’s study (Illinois, Texas, and Washington), faced unique financial, political, and economic dynamics when designing their respective 1115 waivers, states reported several similar factors that drove decisions to include justice-involved initiatives: 1) finding innovative ways to address the opioid crisis; 2) recognition of the justice-involved as a high-need, vulnerable population on which smaller scale initiatives could be piloted; and 3) recognition of justice-involved individuals as an important target for efforts to better integrate primary care and behavioral health.
Resources

Learn more about the Global Autism and Criminal Justice Consortium

- Highlighted resources
- Link to the Global Criminal Justice Survey


Check out the Policy Impact Project (@impact_policy)
Interactions Between the Police and the Autistic Community in Australia: Experiences and Perspectives of Autistic Adults and Parents/Carers

Vicki Gibbs¹ • Kaaren Haas¹

The Witness-Aimed First Account (WAFA): A new technique for interviewing autistic witnesses and victims

Katie Maras¹, Coral Dando², Heather Stephenson¹, Anna Lambrechts³, Sophie Anns⁴ and Sebastian Gaigg¹
Questions?
Thank you for attending!
A link to view the recording will be emailed to all registrants.
We hope to see you next month!

**Tuesday, December 14, 2021**
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET

**AIR-P Presents – Health at the Intersection of Autism and Poverty**
*By Kristy Anderson, PhD, Scientist, AJ Drexel Autism Institute*

- Describe income-based disparities across multiple health and healthcare outcomes, and by other demographic characteristics.
- Chart the health impacts of membership in combinations of marginalized social groups among autistic children.
- Spotlight COVID-19 vaccination receipt among autistic adults in the state of Pennsylvania

Register:
Contact Us: AIRP@mednet.ucla.edu

Feedback Survey: