

RESEARCH

Religion and Immigrant Incorporation in New York

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- **Dates:** 5/01–5/02

Abstract: In New York City, the settlement and rapid economic integration of West Africans along 116th Street in Harlem prompted many to label the area “Little Africa.” In 1999, there was intense media coverage of the neighborhood associated with the police killing of local resident Amadou Diallo, an innocent victim mistaken for an African-American serial rapist. When it was learned that Diallo was a devout Muslim, the ensuing media blitz also brought new attention to the area’s emerging West African Islamic community, describing much of his religious life and that of the community. Although much of the recent immigration literature has ignored the role of religion among immigrants, the media coverage reveals that West African life in New York

City cannot be fully understood by examining their entrepreneurial activities alone. This book chapter examines the religious life of West African Muslim immigrants—a group whose Islamic identity is often subsumed by their blackness and is thus invisible to outsiders. It illustrates that by interacting with their African-American co-religionists, establishing Islamic institutions, and participating in the annual Cheikh Amadou Bamba Day Parade, West African immigrants create Muslim “spaces” that mark their incorporation into the Harlem community. ■

Living between Two Countries and across Three: Second-Generation West Indians in New York, London, and Toronto

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$12,900
- **Dates:** Summer 2002–3

Abstract: This project explores identity formation and diasporic constructions of race, ethnicity, gender, and class among second-generation West Indian immigrants in New York, London, and Toronto. It proposes that second-generation immigrants problematize the concept of identity, which is generally treated by social scientists as static and unchanging. The findings suggest that second-generation immigrants change their identity fluidly and constantly, often within the same day. The mere fact that individuals in this group operate within two cultures—their parents’ home country and their host country—allows them either to choose one culture over another, or to adopt both. The research examines the instances where individuals choose the adoption of both cultures.

This three-country study also seeks to demonstrate the complexity of the social category of “blackness” in that the concepts of race and ethnicity have become conflated with regard to the African-American community in the United States, and have multiple meanings in the contexts of London and Toronto. In the U.S. social science literature, the African-American community is often treated as a monolithic racial group, with varying conceptions of ethnicity largely ignored. In London and Toronto, the ethnically African communities are seen as foreigners and defined out of what it means to be British or Canadian. What are the implications of these trends for the ways that “blackness” is conceptualized locally and nationally, specifically with regard to people from the Caribbean and the continent of Africa? On the basis of interviews with second-generation West Indians living in New York, London, and Toronto, this research will not only illuminate the fact that one’s ethnic identity has real implications for one’s livelihood but also examine the critical role that nationality plays in identity development, a role that has largely been ignored in immigration research. ■

“Wear a Slip, But Don’t Need a Man”: Construction of Womanhood among Second-Generation West Indian Immigrant Women in New York City

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Abstract: Scholars of the Caribbean have intensively documented the experiences of West Indian immigrants. However; it was not until the late 1990s and early 2000s that studies began looking at the experiences of the children of West Indian immigrants. Recent research has shown how one’s racial and ethnic identity often significantly impacts the second generation in terms of residential patterns, education, employment, and socioeconomic status. What is missing from this research is an adequate discussion of how the intersection of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality and class come to define the experiences of second-generation West Indians. Although most of the research has been conducted with both male and female participants, researchers have largely failed to examine gender-related differences between the experiences of second-generation West Indians. The fact that second-generation West Indian women experience social institutions differently from their male counterparts due to race–gender interaction has been largely ignored. This research seeks to address the gaps in the literature by examining how the construction of West Indian “womanhood” is being altered intergenerationally and played out in second-generation women’s daily lives. On the basis of dialogue with, and the teachings of, first-generation West Indian immigrant women, second-gen-

eration women are viewing themselves, and their life chances, within a male-dominated society in new and complex ways. This research argues that—combined with the migration stories of their mothers, grandmothers, aunts, etc., on how to be a West Indian woman—and their own experiences with gender, race, and ethnicity and class—second-generation women are redefining their own conceptions of “woman-ness.” Their experiences and stories further illuminate the complexities of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, and urban space in modern society. ■

Immigrant Performances: Revivalist Folklore and Portuguese Identity in Newark, New Jersey

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$10,000
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/02

Abstract: This project investigates the performance practices of Portuguese immigrants living in Newark. Newark boasts a thriving traditional Portuguese music scene, unparalleled in the United States. Revivalist folklore performances constitutes the core of this scene. Northern New Jersey supports more than 20 *ranchos folclóricos* or folklore troupes, and several professional folklore ensembles. This project examines the ways in which the practice of revivalist folklore performance forges and maintains cultural ties between the Portuguese immigrant communities in Newark and in Portu-

gal. Using ethnographic and archival research methods, the project examines the following questions: How and why were *ranchos* formed and maintained in the Portuguese immigrant community of Newark’s Ironbound? What purpose have *ranchos* served and how have they eased immigrants’ transition to a new geographical context? The hypothesis is that revivalist folklore, which often features songs and dances about rural life, helps immigrants process and reconcile urban existence in the United States with an agrarian past in Portugal. The performance of revivalist folklore is a survival tactic to guarantee not only the maintenance of ethnic identity but also to soften the disjuncture between rural and urban life. ■

Ironbound Oral History Project

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$5,000
- **Dates:** 11/02

Abstract: This project involves 40 Rutgers University undergraduate students enrolled in a course entitled “Oral History of Ironbound.” The project will produce 100 oral history transcripts dealing with the issue of immigration among the Portuguese and Brazilian communities of Newark. The transcripts and audio sources will be stored in a new archive soon to be located in the Camões Institute Center for Portuguese Language in Dana Library. ■

New Directions for Fair Housing Advocacy in the Newark Metropolitan Area: Creating Measures for Broker Performance and Understanding the Local Strategic Context

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$10,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: This project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between a faculty member in the Business School (who is a lawyer and also chair of a local fair housing organization), a faculty member in the Political Science Department (who has studied fair housing activism), and staff of the Morris–Union–Sussex–Essex Fair Housing Council. The project starts with the premise that the level of residential segregation in the Newark metropolitan area is persistently and distinctively high, especially between African Americans and whites. The project is devoted preliminarily to documenting high local segregation levels, and to developing new knowledge and fair housing strategies that may help lower segregation. The first part of the project is developing performance measures for brokers that could be employed by a fair housing agency, a court, or a real estate firm’s management. The second part describes the local fair housing environment and analyzes how key local actors understand fair housing. ■

Challenges Faced by Women Living with HIV

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$20,000
- **Dates:** Ongoing

Abstract: This project is concerned with symptom management by persons with HIV/AIDS. People living with HIV/AIDS are challenged to manage symptoms related to the disease, its treatments, and co-morbidities. Symptom management for people living with this disease includes the prevention, assessment, and treatment of symptoms. Studies on symptom management have utilized a variety of methods and sampled people at different points in the unfolding course of the illness. The overriding conclusions from these studies are that: (1) the quality of life decreases as the severity of symptoms increase; and (2) the experience of living with these symptoms can only be understood from the individual’s perspective. Self-care activities are a significant component of symptom management.

Utilizing a commonsense model of illness representation, the study is exploring the relationships among six constructs: person (demographics, environment, behavior, and health and illness), illness representation (illness perceptions, HIV medication side effects, and symptom experience), symptom self-care (activities), perceived effectiveness of self-care activities, adherence, and outcomes appraisal (quality of life). The research question is whether or not these theoretical relationships are observed in practice

among HIV-positive individuals. Structural equation modeling is utilized to explore the fit of the observed data with the hypothesized data.

Focus groups were held to ascertain the salient issues of concern and challenges faced by urban women living with HIV. A total of 26 women were interviewed in three groups. Sessions lasted 80 to 90 minutes and were audio taped and transcribed. The average age of participants was 36 years, and all were former injection-drug users. Major themes, in order of frequency, are as follows: self-acceptance and acceptance or abandonment by others; insufficient resources; coping with negative feelings and behaviors; health care needs; and, discrimination or stigmatization. The findings provide qualitative information about the challenges faced by a vulnerable population seldom studied and whose voice is rarely heard. ■

Women Living with HIV: A Psychoneuroimmunological Model

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■ **Dates:** Ongoing

Abstract: This research is concerned with the symptoms and quality of life of HIV-positive urban women. Women are the fastest growing group of people with AIDS, with HIV seropositivity equal among men and women in many tested populations, including armed service recruits, reservists, and some urban populations. During the past decade, advances in medical management and treatment for opportunistic infections have altered the trajectory of this disease to one of long-term illness. However, the quality of that time is usually

compromised by debilitating symptoms caused by the disease or treatment side effects, and also by the individual's inability to cope with these problems. The majority of HIV research up to this point has been conducted on gay white men. However, the changing face of the epidemic demands that nurses understand the patterns of this disease in women, particularly urban women. Research is needed to determine whether symptoms experienced by seropositive women are the same as those described in male HIV-positive cohorts. This study describes relationships among psychological variables (depression, anxiety, perceived stress, coping style) physical function, immune markers (cellular immunity and viral load) quality of life, and life satisfaction in urban HIV-positive women.

This study tests a psychoneuroimmunological model that hypothesizes relationships among psychosocial variables, symptoms, immune status, and quality of life in women living with HIV. The study employs a descriptive, correlational design with cross-sectional data. The sample consists of 79 women living with HIV recruited from urban outpatient clinics. Variables include perceived stress, coping with HIV, anxiety, depression, physical symptoms, quality of life, CD4+ lymphocyte count, CD4+CD8+ lymphocyte ratio, viral load, and selected sociodemographic variables. Data were collected from each participant in a face-to-face interview and a chart review.

Measures include the Perceived Stress Scale, Ways of Coping Questionnaire (emotion-focused and problem-focused coping with HIV as the specified focal encounter), Symptom Checklist-90 Anxiety Subscale, Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D), SF-36 Health Survey, Sickness Impact Profile Sleep/Rest subscale for fatigue, Quality of Life Inventory, laboratory results of immune measures and viral load, and a 16-item sociodemographic survey. Path analysis techniques are used to test the causal model.

Ages range from 25 to 61 years (median = 39.74, standard deviation = 7.62). Racial groups include 70% African American, 23% Hispanic, and 7% white.

The majority of participants (63%) have a high school education or greater, do not work outside the home (73%), and have an income of less than \$10,000 a year (77%). Twenty-four percent live alone, and 26% include injection-drug use as one of their risk factors for exposure to HIV. Cronbach's alpha coefficient for all measurement scales ranges from .77 (SIP Sleep/Rest subscale) to .92 (CES-D). All variables, except income and education, have at least one significant path and remain in the final model. An understanding of psychoneuroimmunological relationships can inform the development and testing of nursing interventions for symptom management, immune modulation, and improvement of quality of life for women living with HIV. ■

Greater New York: The Manhattan–North Jersey Axis

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Abstract: This project is a book manuscript to be submitted to the University of Pennsylvania Press for its Metropolitan Portraits Series. The book will examine the complex connections between Northeastern New Jersey and Manhattan, including the conflicting images of New Jersey that many New Yorkers (and many New Jerseyans) have. The book will identify economic, demographic, and political dynamics that animate this disjuncture, as well as the role of the mass media and the power of imagery. ■

Attracting Suburbanites to Newark: An Attitudinal Survey

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Abstract: This project involves a Random Digit Dialing survey, conducted in June 2002, to measure the attitudes of Essex County, New Jersey, residents about visiting downtown Newark for cultural and entertainment attractions. Its purpose is to identify some of the parameters that must be addressed by local and regional officials and organizations to increase suburbanites' participation in the renewal of the central city. ■

Race, Riot, and Rebellion: Urban Unrest in Newark and Detroit during the Summer of 1967

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$11,500
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: This project examines the riots of the 1960s and their consequences. The first part of the study looks at the riots of Newark and Detroit in the summer of 1967 by combining historical materials with statistical analyses of neighborhood change and riot-related violence. The second part of the study involves conducting interviews with people who witnessed the events that took place in the respective cities. These oral histories were recorded on videotape, which students from the Honors College at Rutgers–Newark are helping to edit. The project will produce an interactive website that presents research findings, including video footage, historical background, maps, and statistical analyses of riot deaths and property damage. Materials from this research will be incorporated into an exhibit at the New Jersey Historical Society in 2004 titled “Changed Lives, Contested Memories: American Urban Unrest in the 1960s.” A third component of this project examines post riot recovery efforts in Newark and Detroit—assessing the economic and cultural development strategies that both cities have employed in recent years to improve their quality of life and alleviate the stigma associated with past episodes of urban unrest. ■

E-Government in an Urban Context: Issues and Practices - A Case Study of Newark, New Jersey

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$7,000
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/02

Abstract: The objective of this project is to research and analyze Newark’s ongoing transition to e-government and how the city is addressing the relevant administrative, technological, and social issues. (“E-government” is primarily defined as using the Internet to improve citizen access to information and the delivery of public services.) The research will attempt to conclude whether or not e-government contributes to improved public-sector performance and increased citizen participation in Newark’s governing process.

E-government is now a permanent part of public service delivery from the federal government to rural municipalities. However, urban environments, with their diverse constituents and numerous businesses, are particularly suited for its multitude of applications. The expectations generated by e-government are considerable. It is widely accepted that the practice will transform—like no previous innovation or reform measure—how the public sector functions and the way citizens interact with government.

The research will focus on Newark’s implementation, management, and delivery of online services to both individual citizens and the business community. The research will analyze the type of online services currently being offered; examine e-administration, or the “back office” and how it functions; and most important, measure citizen response and participation. The analysis will be comparative in nature, using other analogous major metropolitan areas as reference points. ■

Curricula for Citizen-Based Performance Assessment of Local Services

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$530,000
- **Dates:** 7/1/01–8/31/04

Abstract: The purpose of this project—sponsored by the National Center for Public Productivity in the Graduate Department of Public Administration at Rutgers University–Newark—is to develop and disseminate educational and curricula models that will help educate and train graduate students and public administrators in the value and importance of including citizens in the deliberative process of state and local governments, specifically in the area of performance measurement. The overall goal of the project is to expand the ability of public administrators to adopt an ethic of citizen-based performance assessment as part of the local service delivery and service improvement process. ■

E-Governance Institute

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$62,000
- **Dates:** 2001 – 3

Abstract: The E-Governance Institute conducts research that examines how public organizations use information technology and the Internet to implement programs, manage organizations and deliver services. The Institute examines online services and issues related to administration, performance, citizen response and participation. The Institute is particularly interested in urban environments with their diverse constituents and numerous businesses, and issues related to equitable access to technology and the digital divide. The Institute's research agenda includes studies of Newark, and cities in South Korea, Taiwan and worldwide. The Seoul initiative is a collaborative effort between the Institute and Sungkyunkwan University, and it is funded by SROA and Sungkyunkwan University. The Taiwan initiative is a collaborative project between the E-Governance Institute and National Sun Yat-sen University. Funding proposals for the Taiwan project are being submitted jointly to the National Science Foundation (U.S.) and National Science Council (Taiwan). ■

Building Good Governance: Reforms in Seoul

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- **Dates:** 2002

Abstract: This book, *Building Good Governance: Reforms in Seoul*, published by the National Center for Public Productivity at Rutgers and the

Seoul Development Institute, contains as cases the reforms which Seoul planned and administered. It addresses the impacts of those reforms as well as difficulties and problems in the implementation process. As there has rarely been such analytical and comparative information available on reform cases in the Asian region, this book should prove to be an invaluable contribution to the countries, which plan to promote similar reforms. The book consists of four major sections: enhancing transparency, improving integrity, upgrading responsiveness, and increasing productivity. In the volume, there are discussions as to the background and the application process, the problems discovered in the application process, the efforts to overcome those problems, and the program effects of the specific reform project. ■

New Jersey Hate Crime Mapping Project

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$9,975
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/02

Abstract: This project examines the impact that hate crimes have on residential areas inhabited by members of minority communities in New Jersey. Using bias crime reports collected by the New Jersey State Police, 1995–99, researchers examine the distribution and concentration of these crimes in

the context of ethnic and racial distribution, economic stratification, and residential change. The study is informed by previous hate crime research. For example, some earlier researchers linked racially based gang violence to specific features of the Los Angeles City and County environments where they occurred. The hot spots that appeared in their analysis became the focal point of their inquiry. Using spatial analysis techniques linked through an application of geographic information systems, the primary product of this project will be maps of urban areas in New Jersey that have experienced high levels of hate crimes. These maps will also describe residential changes that coincide with these crimes. Additionally, the project will review policing policies for municipalities that encourage residential safety and reduce the impact that these crimes have on segregation in minority neighborhoods. ■

The Development of a Sexual Pressure Scale and Women’s Relative Sexual Risk Scale

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$6,000
- **Dates:** Ongoing

Abstract: AIDS and HIV infection affect a disparate proportion of urban residents in New Jersey. The main purpose of this study is the psychometric evaluation of the Sexual Pressure Scale (SPS) developed for use with women in the urban Northeast. The SPS is a culturally relevant and contemporary scale designed to assess women’s perceptions of their male partner’s non-

physical and physical pressures to have sex and not use condoms, reflecting traditional gender role expectations of the primacy of a male partner's sexual satisfaction over their own feelings of uncertainty, ambivalence, or imposition. A psychometrically sound instrument is needed to evaluate women's pressure to have sex without condoms, particularly in urban communities where HIV is endemic. A previous study of trust, sensation seeking, and sexual imposition with HIV risk behaviors conducted by the principal investigator found that, among a sample of 257 urban women of age 18 to 29 years, these variables contributed one-fourth of the variance in HIV sexual risk behaviors. Sexual imposition was supported by the data as the most important individual contributor to women's HIV sexual risk behaviors. The second aim of the proposed study is to continue the psychometric evaluation of the Women's Relative Sexual Risk Scale. Data will be anonymously collected using the audio computer-assisted self-interview technique among a sample of 300 urban women, age 18 to 29, who have had a male primary and/or nonprimary partner during the previous 3 months. ■

Searching for Conditional Locational Interdependence: A Study of Vehicle Theft in Newark

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Abstract: The School of Criminal Justice's Crime Mapping Research Lab has conducted research on the conditional locational interdependence of community facilities and crime. Of particular interest has been the relationship between vehicle theft and the location of schools, grocery stores, and bars. ■

Managing Conflict in an Urban Health Care Setting: What Do "Experts" Know?

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$6,800
- **Dates:** 2000–1

Abstract: Conflict within and among health care institutions is increasing as the result of major structural and economic shifts in the health care sector. The vast majority of these conflicts never reach the threshold of formal mechanisms for dispute management. Yet there is reason to believe that they often compromise the delivery of health care services and are a major source of stress for health care workers. This research sought to increase understanding of the nature and dynamics of health care conflict by focusing on a group of health care professionals with a reputation within an urban teaching hospital as skilled conflict interveners.

The research relied on a series of in-depth, semi-structured interviews with health care professionals at University Hospital in Newark. These professionals were nominated by colleagues based on their skill at dealing with conflict. Interviews were conducted with 17 such individuals: 7 of the respondents were nurses, 3 were physicians, and 7 were nonmedical personnel. The majority of the respondents had significant managerial responsibilities in a variety of hospital departments.

The findings reveal an institution being buffeted by significant interpersonal, organizational, and inter-institutional conflicts. These conflicts appear to result from a series of powerful interacting and evolving social forces that include aspects of medical and nursing practice and culture, organizational dynamics, the needs and characteristics of the hospital's patient population, and above all, the hospital's declining economic base.

The respondents function as a “hidden” but valuable resource for managing the tensions within the institution. Although most of them have had little formal training in conflict management, they appear to use intervention strategies very similar to those of professional mediators. Many of them also rely on highly organized, if implicit, cognitive schema, which may be triggered “automatically” at critical moments in the unfolding of a conflict. In a number of instances, the respondents are aided in their efforts at conflict management by informal, but useful, opportunities for people to raise and constructively confront important differences. ■

Crime Place Detection

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- **Dates:** Ongoing

Abstract: This research focuses on crime place detection. The plan is to develop layers of information for the major metropolitan areas of New Jersey, allowing the researchers to examine, among other things, neighborhood change, the concentration and intensity of social problems, and the quality of institutional performance in delivering services to these communities. With these spatial data, research can begin on a number of important urban issues, ranging from concentration of crime or health problems, to childhood experiences with schools, to urban outcomes of municipal services. ■

Post-1965 Asian Americans in New Jersey: A Pilot Study of Second-Generation Asian Indians

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$7,000
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/02

Abstract: A growing body of research indicates that academic achievement and schooling aspirations among second-generation children residing in areas of urban poverty greatly depend on the social and economic support of first-generation social networks and ethnic enclaves. While there has been compelling research on post-1965 Asian immigrants and their children in urban areas across the country, New Jersey has been consistently overlooked. This research is twofold: 1) analyze the changing demographic and settlement patterns among various Asian ethnic groups in New Jersey; 2) A pilot study of a second-generation Asian Indian students in Jersey City, New Jersey. Asian Indians represent one of the largest and fastest growing Asian groups in New Jersey. The study will examine how second-generation children negotiate their ties to first-generation immigrant networks and how this process affects their aspirations of education. ■

Pedestrian Fatalities, Motor Vehicle Occupant Fatalities, and Daylight Saving Time

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$3,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: The purpose of this research is to analyze the effects of daylight and daylight saving time on pedestrian and motor vehicle occupant fatalities in the United States. Multivariate analyses of county-level data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System for 2-week periods in 1998 and 1999 are used. The results show that a switch to full-year daylight saving time would be expected to reduce pedestrian fatalities by 343 during the 1998–99 period, or by 13% of all pedestrian fatalities in the time periods of 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. that are examined in this research. Motor vehicle occupant fatalities would be reduced by 390 (3%) during the same time periods. In metropolitan areas, full-year daylight saving time would be expected to reduce pedestrian fatalities by 255 in the 1998–99 period (12%), and would reduce pedestrian fatalities in nonmetropolitan areas by 81 (17%). In metropolitan areas, full-year daylight saving time would actually increase motor vehicle fatalities by 70 (10%), but it would reduce motor vehicle fatalities in nonmetropolitan areas by 364, or 8%. ■

Juvenile Crime and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment: A Study of Foster Care Children in Urban Areas of Colorado

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$7,000
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/02

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to examine the effectiveness of mental health and substance abuse treatment in reducing crimes committed by juveniles living in urban areas of Colorado. The observed high correlation between crime, substance abuse, and poor mental health suggests that the factors that reduce substance abuse and improve mental health may also be effective in reducing criminal activities. The project uses arrest data in conjunction with substance abuse and mental health treatment data for children enrolled in the Colorado state foster care program to analyze the impact of treatment in delaying or preventing this group of at-risk urban youth from engaging in criminal behavior. Results show a negative effect (i.e., longer duration before detention) for youth who receive treatment and for youth in areas with high treatment rates. ■

New Jersey Cities Performance and Benchmarking Project

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$10,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: This project—a financial data collection and benchmarking effort—investigated the financial condition of medium-sized New Jersey cities and their counterparts in the Northeastern United States. Using a financial condition model that emerged from the literature on city management, the project estimated the amount and source of financial stress faced by New Jersey cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000. The analysis employed a wide variety of data, including the latest national census data, financial balance sheet data, data collected by state agencies, and economic base data.

It is surprising that few statistically significant differences exist among the mean values of the financial condition ratios. In comparison with other cities in the Northeast, New Jersey cities have higher wealth and lower poverty levels. They also have higher population growth rates building on and contributing to more densely populated cities.

Despite this environment, statistical means differ for only three variables. New Jersey cities tend to rely more on one revenue source: the property tax. However, the ratio of property tax revenue collected to assessed value is lower in New Jersey. This is primarily because other states cap their assessment values, whereas New Jersey does not. For example, Connecticut is limited to 70% of market value, and Pennsylvania is limited to 50%. Finally, debt levels within statutorily defined debt limits are significantly higher.

The differences thus are related almost completely to state law. State law limits revenue sources significantly in New Jersey. New Jersey law limits debts more strictly as well. Given these very substantial differences, as well as the strong environmental differences, one can conclude that New Jersey cities despite greater reliance on the property tax use less of the fiscal capacity provided by this tax, and have higher debt levels, are in no better or poorer overall financial condition than their neighboring cities. ■

Fiscal Health in New Jersey's Largest Cities

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■ **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies

■ **Amount of Funding:** \$2,500

■ **Dates:** 8/00–7/01

Abstract: This study examined public financial data for Newark, Paterson, Jersey City, Elizabeth, and Trenton for 1998 and 1999. On many measures of fiscal stability, the City of Newark ranks at or near the top of New Jersey's five largest cities. Using standard measures employed by public finance professionals, the study found that Newark was particularly effective at managing its debt, while keeping its total tax burden per city resident relatively low. By not relying excessively on a single revenue source, such as property or payroll taxes, Newark also exceeded the other cities in the diversity of its revenue base. Newark had the second lightest total tax burden per resident after Paterson. And it ranked second only to Elizabeth in its level of budgetary surplus and in the amount of cash on hand for paying ongoing financial liabilities.

Newark ranked last among the five cities in the study in terms of the share of its total assessed valuation collected in property tax revenues. The study found that Newark had to levy about one-fifth of its potential revenues, the largest amount among the five cities. Further eroding Newark's fiscal soundness was its bottom ranking on fiscal delinquency. Newark is doing the poorest job of collecting property taxes. A third area of fiscal vulnerability for Newark is that it relies on its 10 largest taxpayers for almost one-fifth of its property tax revenues. ■

Fiscal Health in New Jersey's Counties Financial Condition Benchmarking Project

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- **Amount of Funding:** \$7,000
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/02

Abstract: The project, a financial data collection and benchmarking effort, will gather data on all New Jersey counties and comparable counties in the Northeastern United States. These data will allow us to make conclusions about the financial condition of each county on the basis of a comparison of available resources and existing commitments. The research will conclude the “relative” financial condition of New Jersey counties. ■

Urban Fiscal Health: How Do New Jersey Cities Compare to Other American Cities? Newark, Jersey City, Akron, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Toledo and Yonkers

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$2,500
- **Dates:** 8/00–10/01

Abstract: This research project examined public financial data for 11 cities for the years 1998 and 1999. In addition to Newark and Jersey City, the study examined Akron, Baltimore, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Rochester, Toledo, and Yonkers. All of these cities share several characteristics—they are among the nation’s older central cities and all are located in the nation’s frost belt. They are moderate-sized, with populations ranging from 196,000 (Yonkers) to 651,000 (Baltimore). In addition, their economies were once dominated by manufacturing industries. All have double-digit poverty populations. Unemployment in these cities ran in the range of 4% to 9%. Moreover, all but two experienced population losses from 1990 to 2000.

The study had 10 main findings. Using standard measures employed by public finance professionals, they can be expressed as follows. First, Newark has a moderate overall tax burden, an indicator of relatively good financial condition. Moreover, the city’s tax base has diversity, giving it the capacity to weather economic change better than any other city in the comparison group. Also, the lack of large, long-term debt commitments—such as those in Pittsburgh—yields flexibility for Newark in overcoming the immediate pressures from problems such as unemployment, poverty, and population loss. A significant reduction in the city’s unemployment rate and a near cessation of population losses offers hope for Newark’s future fiscal prospects.

Second, however, in almost every case, Newark ranked at the bottom of the 11 cities in the strength of its revenue base. The tax base is concentrated in too few taxpayers, and its collection rate is relatively low—both indicators of insecure financial conditions. Newark is using a greater share of its property tax values than any of the 11 cities except Yonkers. Furthermore, Newark is more dependent on intergovernmental revenues (i.e., revenue from outside its own borders, e.g., county, state, and federal grants and entitlements) than any of the comparison-group cities except Cleveland.

Third, Jersey City is comparatively wealthy. The city's disposable income per capita is the fourth highest, and it has a high collection rate for its property tax. Jersey City has a moderate direct and overlapping tax burden and does not rely as much as most other cities on intergovernmental revenues. The city's tax revenues are also less concentrated among a few taxpayers than for other cities. The city's unemployment rate showed the third most significant decline, and its population grew faster than any of the comparison cities, offering optimism for its fiscal future.

Fourth, Jersey City's fiscal commitments—both direct debt and overlapping debt (debt held by the city, county, school districts, and other levels of government)—nonetheless are high. Consequently, the city must continue to find resources to prevent its immediate and long-term commitments from overwhelming it. In short, Jersey City has achieved its turnaround at a high cost. Although greater financial and debt liabilities may be a necessary cost of revitalization, the city must steer clear of substantial new financial commitments to avoid undermining its gains.

Fifth, Toledo, Akron, and Pittsburgh had the lowest revenue burdens per capita of the 11 cities, whereas Jersey City, Baltimore, and Yonkers had the highest.

Sixth, among the cities least dependent on intergovernmental revenues were Baltimore and Akron. Yonkers was by far the most dependent, followed by Buffalo and Newark.

Seventh, Newark, Jersey City, and Yonkers had the most diverse revenue bases, whereas the bases of Toledo, Cleveland, and Akron were among the least diverse. In other words, the Ohio cities were heavily dependent on a single revenue source (usually the income tax).

Eighth, Cincinnati, Toledo, and Newark had the lowest debt per resident (per capita), whereas Jersey City, Rochester, and Pittsburgh had the high-

est. Of all the cities, only Jersey City had exceeded its own legal debt limit. Pittsburgh and Yonkers, in particular, struggle with debt; these two cities far exceeded the others in debt as a proportion of the value of all taxable property.

Ninth, the four Ohio cities (Akron, Toledo, Cincinnati, Cleveland) demonstrated the best property tax collection rates. The remaining cities ranged well below these four in the efficiency of their revenue-collection procedures.

Tenth, poverty rates in all of the cities in 1995 (the latest data available at the time) were high. But Newark, Jersey City, and Yonkers—all in the New York City region—showed the greatest decline in unemployment and the best record in reducing population loss. These trends offer hope that all three cities can strengthen their fiscal base. ■

Building Scientifically Valid Systems to Investigate the Prevalence and Impact of Child Exposure to Domestic Violence

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- **Funding Source:** David and Lucile Packard Foundation
- **Amount of Funding:** \$400,000
- **Dates:** 1/02–12/31/05

Abstract: This 3-year study represents a partnership between three university-based researchers and two police departments. The purpose of the study is to build scientifically valid systems to investigate the prevalence

and impact of childhood exposure to domestic violence. The study has seven objectives.

The first objective is to form a partnership with the Montgomery County (Maryland) Police Department (MCPD) to study the prevalence of childhood exposure to domestic violence and the costs of obtaining good-quality data using its established database on children exposed to domestic violence.

The second objective is to foster linkages among municipal agencies in Montgomery County that serve vulnerable children and families so as to consider mechanisms to provide exposed children with psychological assessment and treatment services subsequent to identification by law enforcement agencies, and also to investigate the concurrence of child exposure and maltreatment.

The third objective is—informed by empirical literature—to make improvements in the MCPD’s data-collection system that are deemed both feasible and cost effective by law enforcement professionals. These improvements should enhance the understanding of the nature of violent incidents, child and family characteristics, the dimensions of child exposure, and the feasibility of collecting child impact data across time.

The fourth objective is to form a partnership with a substantially larger and more diverse police department, the New Orleans Police Department, and to establish a pilot program to determine the degree to which the enhanced data-collection system can be used effectively there.

The fifth objective is to use the enhanced data collection system to obtain good-quality data in Montgomery County and in New Orleans.

The sixth objective is to form a network with other large urban police departments (e.g., Philadelphia, Chicago, and Los Angeles) so as to obtain

inputs on the feasibility of using the enhanced data-collection system in their departments.

The seventh objective is to develop a plan to use the enhanced data-collection system plus constructive input from the other consulting police departments to develop a National Institute of Justice grant proposal to study the prevalence and impact on child exposure to domestic violence across large urban centers. ■

Business Assessment - Clinton Avenue – Public Service Electric and Gas Company South Ward Urban Initiative

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■ **Funding Source:** Public Service Electric & Gas Foundation

■ **Dates:** 3/00

Abstract: This survey was designed to provide information on the conditions along the Clinton Avenue corridor in Newark from the perspective of business owners. The results reveal that there is significant mistrust in the business community of revitalization programs that do not make a conscious effort to include the local community. Results also indicate that a significant opportunity for the local business community to expand economic activity is lost because of concerns about the social conditions of the area. For these social concerns to be addressed, there must be a conscious and sustained effort by government to improve the social infrastructure.

For this initiative to survive in the Clinton Avenue area, local businesses

must be involved in all aspects of the effort. Establishing a liaison office to improve communication between the business community and governmental agencies would help to alleviate much of the mistrust among local business owners toward government agencies. There must also be a concerted effort to educate local business leaders on the basic techniques for operating a successful business. In doing this, both the university and the business community can play an active role. ■

Public Service Electric and Gas Company's Urban Initiative: A Collaborative Approach to the Economic Development of Inner City Newark

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- **Funding Source:** Public Service Electric & Gas Foundation
- **Dates:** 2000

Abstract: PSE&G commissioned this research to provide theoretical guidance to those interested in the economic development of inner cities. The research addresses three major goals. First, it discusses the theoretical underpinnings for PSE&G's Urban Initiative project to revitalize Newark's South Ward. Second, it describes the Urban Initiative. Third, it serves as a resource and conceptual framework for those interested in either becoming a partner in the Urban Initiative or in fostering economic development in other urban areas. ■

Evaluation of the HOPE Worldwide Family Resource Center

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- **Funding Source:** HOPE Worldwide Organization
- **Amount of Funding:** \$22,719
- **Dates:** 10/15/01–11/29/02

Abstract: HOPE worldwide—a faith-based social service organization located in Paterson, New Jersey—and its HOPE for Kids program approached the Cornwall Center to do an evaluation of their Family Resource Center (FRC). FRC is a demonstration project with funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. FRC provides a variety of arts and after-school programs for children of parents in the Alexander Hamilton public housing project. FRC also provides parents of these children with referrals to local social service providers. HOPE worldwide was especially interested in determining FRC's effectiveness in providing children with enjoyable programs, in meeting the needs of parents, and in using the program as a means of linking the parents of participating children with social service providers throughout the region. HOPE worldwide also asked the Cornwall Center to evaluate the replicability of the program, which it is considering expanding to other cities.

To conduct the evaluation, several surveys were created to collect information on the various FRC programs. FRC staff members were then trained to administer these surveys to parents and children using the services. Survey results were analyzed, and a final report was submitted to HOPE worldwide. ■

Performance-Based Accountability: Newark's Charter School Experience

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$10,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: Charter schools are intended to free school administrators and teachers from many of the demands of a centralized bureaucracy, which often places greater value on compliance with rules and regulations than on learning and achievement. In return, charter schools are expected to produce results. The proliferation of charter schools in Newark since 1997 has offered an opportunity to examine the realities of performance-based accountability, which the researches have studied from the perspective of both

the charter school and the authorizer (the New Jersey Department of Education, or NJDOE). This project examines the effect of the accountability system on charter success. Additionally, it assesses the extent to which charters balance the demand for accountability with the ideal of autonomy. As part of the study, the researchers ask: How effectively are individual charter schools developing internal accountability measures? Has the NJDOE put in place accountability standards and processes that reflect performance-based accountability? And what impact are these processes and standards having on the operation, expansion, and closure of charter schools? ■

Founding Mothers and Others: Women Educational Leaders during the Progressive Era

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- **Collaborator:** Susan Semel
- **Department:** City College of New York and City University of New York Graduate Center
- **Dates:** 4/02

Abstract: Interest in progressive education and feminist pedagogy has gained a significant following in current educational reform circles. The book *Founding Mothers and Others* examines the female founders of progressive schools and other female educational leaders in the early twentieth century and their schools or educational movements. All of the women led remarkable lives, and their legacies are embedded in education today. The

book examines the lessons to be learned from their work and their lives. The book also analyzes whether their leadership styles support contemporary feminist theories of leadership, which argue that women administrators tend to be more inclusive, democratic, and caring than male administrators. Through an examination of these women, the book looks critically at the ways in which the leaders' administrative styles and behaviors lend support to feminist claims. The book has a special focus on urban schools and movements and includes chapters on Margaret Naumburg and the Walden School, Caroline Pratt and the City and Country School, and Helen Parkhurst and the Dalton School, all in New York City; Flora Cooke and the Francis Parker School in Chicago; Margaret Haley, head of the Chicago Teachers Federation, and Ella Flagg Young, superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools; Laura Bragg and the Charleston Museum; and Susan Isaacs and the Child Study Unit at the University of London, Institute of Education. ■

Urban School Improvement: A Challenge to Simplistic Solutions to Educational Problems

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- **Dates:** 12/01

Abstract: This article examines the solutions to urban educational problems and argues that they are unlikely to succeed unless they include both policies aimed at external school factors (including economic development, and parent and community partnerships) and internal school factors (e.g., teacher quality, funding, comprehensive school reform, and leadership). Using Jean Anyon's *Ghetto Schools* as the focal point and the Newark Public Schools as a case study, the article explores the limits and possibilities of urban school reform. ■

The Million-Dollars-a-Day Cost of Being Black: A History of African-American, Catholic, and Jewish Struggles against Real Estate Speculation in Chicago, 1957–1981

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$10,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: In the 1950s, Chicago's African-American population expanded into white neighborhoods, which quickly deteriorated into slums. Most buildings in racially changing neighborhoods were sold to African Americans "on contract," which required little money down but had high interest rates. Moreover, if the buyer missed one payment, the building's title reverted to the seller. This project is a history of the battle against these contract sales and related practices of credit and real estate exploitation in Chicago. Chicago activists publicized the massive profits made on contract sales, and

the dire impact of these sales on black communities. By the late 1960s, their work bore fruit. Black homeowners united in a community organization called the Contract Buyers League, engaged in protests, and litigated court cases. These cases raised a fundamental question: Could the courts ensure that—as James Alan McPherson once put it—“a dollar in the hands of a black man [had] the same economic power as a dollar in the hands of a white man?” Chicago activists who battled contract sales directly challenged institutional racism. Their struggle complicates efforts to explain the causes of urban decline; relationships among urban Catholics, Jews, and African Americans; and the fate of the civil rights movement in the urban North. ■

Prisoners and Their Families

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$7,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: Urban areas and their minority and poor inhabitants are most affected by the increase in imprisonment in the United States. Since 1980, the number of prisoners in New Jersey has increased by about 600%. Estimates are that in Newark and surrounding communities 50–75% of the population is related to someone who is or has been in prison. Large numbers of children have a parent in jail or prison. It is expected that prisoners, when released, will return to productive “civilian” life. However, services that would help prisoners and their families deal with the stresses and dislocations connected

with imprisonment and release have been sporadic, poorly coordinated, and noncollaborative. This project develops a coordinated and collaborative approach to providing services for prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their families in the Newark area and to simultaneously providing a base for research. It also provides information to prisoners, their families, social agencies, and other service providers—including the New Jersey Department of Corrections—through the development of brochures and other written materials, a resource center, a public conference, and scholarly publications. ■

The Politics of Housing Discrimination: A Cross-National Study

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$5,300
- **Dates:** Summer 2001

Abstract: Changes in migration flows caused by a range of forces are increasing the diversity of populations in European cities. More and more, these cities are being forced to confront issues of housing inequality. Yet differences in political systems, histories, and race relations may produce policy solutions that are different from U.S. fair housing and community reinvestment programs. One example is the European Union’s focus on “social exclusion” as a problem plaguing cities, and the growing array of national and local policies to mitigate this problem. Additionally, the politics of housing is likely to differ across national contexts. In the United States, housing has proved to be an extremely

sensitive issue to address politically—because of racial cleavages, the strong relationship between housing and life chances, and housing’s status as a private commodity provided through the market. European nations typically have both a stronger tradition of government intervention in the housing market and also a commitment to provide housing to those in need. What are the civic consequences of policy differences across countries? Do policies generated by different political systems and traditions generate a different kind of local advocacy and a different kind of nonprofit sector? ■

Evaluation of Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership through Alliances

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- **Funding Source:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Dates:** 11/02–11/04

Abstract: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have funded seven state-based Domestic Violence Coalitions (DELTA grantees) to support community-based coordinated community response (CCR) groups—coalitions to prevent domestic or family violence that typically include local police departments, hospitals, court services, child protective services, battered women’s shelters. Evan Stark is working with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., in Princeton to design an appropriate instrument to monitor the program activities and facilitate cooperation among CDC, DELTA grantees, and local CCRs. ■

Race, Gender, and Woman Battering

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- **Dates:** 6/00–6/03

Abstract: This study reviews the racial dimensions of woman battering. There are four components to the work. The first involves an overview of debates about “black-on-black” violence, criticizing the limited attention given to domestic violence in the African-American community. The second component summarizes racial differences in the rates of domestic violence as well as in trends, demographics, dynamics, consequences, and interventions. The third component focuses on explanations for the unique configuration of battering in African-American couples, contrasting accounts that emphasize family pathology to cultural, historical, and political explanations. The fourth component considers possible sources of resilience and prevention in the black community. The preliminary results of this ongoing study appear in Evan Stark, “Gendered Violence in the Black Community,” in *Interpersonal Violence: The Ethnicity, Race, and Class Nexus*, edited by Darnell Hawkins (Cambridge University Press, 2002). ■

New York since 1945: Media, Memory and Community

- **Researcher:** Robert Snyder
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- **Dates:** Ongoing

Abstract: “New York since 1945: Media, Memory and Community” will be a cultural history of the transformation of New York neighborhood life from the Forties to the recent past, emphasizing the relationship among individual New Yorkers’ experiences on the streets, their representation in newspapers, television, magazines and film, and popular memory of the changes in the city’s demography and community life. The book will explore and compare the memories and media representations of African Americans, Latinos and New Yorkers of European ancestry. It will expand on research that was conducted at the Media Studies Center on crime reporting, an essay that was published on Irish life in northern Manhattan from the Forties to the Nineties, and Dr. Snyder’s most recent research on the journalist Murray Kempton. ■

Reinventing Downtown

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- **Funding Source:** Princeton University Center for the Arts and Cultural Policy Studies and John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
- **Amount of Funding:** \$22,000
- **Dates:** 6/02

Abstract: This study compares cultural, convention, and sports real estate developments to explain the distinctive political and economic forces behind these urban revitalization projects. It is designed to provide information on the sources of support and opposition for different kinds of facilities, financing, and institutional arrangements for these projects, and their contribution to the general goals of attracting visitors and spurring additional investment in central business districts.

The project analyzes demographic and socioeconomic data in all cities whose metropolitan areas have populations of more than 1 million. In addition, six to eight cities are selected for more intensive analysis. Thus far, research has begun in the first group of cities: Boston, Charlotte, Detroit, Philadelphia, and Seattle. Of particular interest to the case study research are the roles of business and governmental leaders in developing, securing approval for, and implementing convention, cultural, and sports projects. The project also examines the rationale for public involvement in cultural, sports, and convention facilities. This part of the study will review cost-benefit studies for such downtown development projects, analyze the distribution of benefits and costs for particular projects, and examine the role of intangible benefits such as prestige and visibility. The study—recognizing that downtown development competes with other activities and parts of the city for public funds—will also analyze the appeal and acceptability of each of the three downtown development activities in the context of competing demands, as well as the significance of these demands in different cities. ■

Performing Development

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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$9,475
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: In recent years, cultural policies and projects in the United States have more and more been undertaken as an explicit strategy of urban economic development. New alliances between arts advocates and place promoters are apparent at all levels, but are most prominent locally. This research investigates these new alliances and how they are facilitated by the changing interests of local officials and businesspeople. In some cities, entirely new organizational structures have sprung up to plan and implement projects that simultaneously serve cultural and economic development advocates. Such new institutions are most prominent in more economically disadvantaged cities. ■

Research on Neighborhood Contexts of Risk and Resilience

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- **Funding Source:** William T. Grant Foundation
- **Amount of Funding:** \$25,000
- **Dates:** 6/1/02–5/31/03

Abstract: This project involves secondary data analysis and writing on the subject of adolescent development in high-risk neighborhoods, examining developmental processes related to risk and resilience. Two problem behaviors are examined as they unfold within diverse urban neighborhood contexts: unplanned, out-of-wedlock childbearing; and violence. ■

Case Study of School Violence

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- **Funding Source:** National Research Council
- **Amount of Funding:** \$50,000
- **Dates:** 5/7/01–2/28/02

Abstract: The two-person research team gathered information and prepared a case study of an incident of school violence. The incident—selected by the National Research Council’s Committee on Case Studies of School Violence—was a shooting at Heritage High School in Rockdale County, Georgia. The case study was developed from interviews with key informants, official records, and media coverage of the incident. Key informants included individuals such as teachers, administrators, parents, peers, and community members. The type of information explored included early childhood and adolescent development; family and community influences; school context and environment; access to firearms; the relationship between the perpetrator and victims; cultural influences; and exposure to potentially harmful forms of media, video games, and content on the Internet. The team also collected such public information as court and police records. ■

Combining Drug Treatment with Law Enforcement

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- **Funding Source:** National Institute on Drug Abuse
- **Amount of Funding:** \$67,686
- **Dates:** 8/30/00–8/29/03

Abstract: The links between women (especially minority women), drug abuse, and the criminal justice system have become stronger and stronger during the past decade. Women's rates of drug addiction have increased dramatically just as the criminal justice system has intensified enforcement of and sanctions for drug offenses. This research examines the link between drug abuse and criminal activity in a sample of 56 drug-addicted prostitutes—primarily minority women. In-depth interviews are used to study individual trajectories of drug use, including the link between habitual drug use and entry into prostitution, and the effects of an intensive police crack-down on those offenses. The research also explores police intervention itself to determine whether it supported or hindered opportunities for reducing drug abuse and crime by channeling offenders to drug treatment and other services. Interviewees include offenders, law enforcement and court officials, and social service providers. ■

An International Comparative Study of Efforts to Deal with “Failing Schools”

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- **Funding Source:** Faculty Academic Study Program
- **Dates:** 11/1/02 to present

Abstract: This study, will compare the varied and long-term efforts in the United States and particularly New Jersey to deal with the problems of “failing,” or struggling, public schools, especially in urban districts, with related efforts in other countries. The United Kingdom and a number of other Commonwealth nations (Australia, Canada, and New Zealand) have been engaged in research and program implementation for years. Other countries also have plowed similar ground. The study will culminate in a report, long article, or book. ■

Reestablishing Local Control in State-Operated Districts

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■ **Funding Source:** New Jersey Department of Education

■ **Amount of Funding:** \$225,000

■ **Dates:** 1/01 to present

Abstract: This study compared New Jersey's approach to state takeover and operation of local school districts to national best practices, and made detailed recommendations for how New Jersey should close the substantial gap identified between the two. The research resulted in two lengthy reports, a preliminary one dated June 15, 2001, and a final one dated May 23, 2002. Paul Tractenberg, Alan Sadovnik, and consultant Brenda Liss are working with the New Jersey Department of Education to fashion statutory and regulatory proposals for reform. ■

Setting the Stage for Informed, Objective Deliberation on School Choice

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■ **Funding Source:** Prudential Foundation, Fund for New Jersey, Schumann Fund for New Jersey, MCI Foundation, and Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

■ **Amount of Funding:** \$237,456

■ **Dates:** 9/15/02 to present

Abstract: This project was initiated by a national invitational meeting of experts on November 22–23, 2002. (An earlier project, a national invitational conference hosted by the institute in January 2001, paved the way for the current school choice project.) It will involve two additional stages: a study of school choice policy issues, relating to both public and private school choice, and the issuance of a major report discussing those issues;

and a broad-scale dissemination and civic engagement process designed to ensure the best-informed discussion of these issues by policymakers and the public. The overriding purpose of this project is to establish a framework and forum for informed and objective consideration of the legal, fiscal, and educational policy issues related to school choice. ■

Identifying and Replicating Pockets of Educational Excellence in Newark

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■ **Funding Source:** Rutgers Strategic Resource and Opportunity Analysis Program, Shuchman Fund for Empirical Research, and Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies

■ **Amount of Funding:** \$16,400

■ **Dates:** 4/01–present

Abstract: This project seeks to identify successful schools in Newark (traditional public, charter, and private). The research then identifies the correlates and causes of success in each school, seeks out commonalities among those correlates and causes, and devises strategies for replicating those conditions in other, less successful schools. ■

Using National Best Practices to Improve New Jersey's Education Data Management System

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■ **Funding Source:** Rutgers Strategic Resource and Opportunity Analysis Program

■ **Amount of Funding:** \$25,000

■ **Dates:** 9/01 to present

Abstract: This study compared New Jersey's approach to education data management, primarily at the state level, to national best practices. In its report, issued in March 2002, it made detailed recommendations for how New Jersey should close the state's substantial gap, essentially by developing a new statewide data management system, preferably under independent auspices. Since the dissemination of the report, Paul Tractenberg, Alan Sadovnik, and institute consultant Brenda Liss have been working with Jun Choi, who heads a state-level effort to develop the new system. In all likelihood, they will be involved in fashioning specific statutory and regulatory proposals for reform. ■

Student Achievement and State Takeover of Public Schools

- **Researcher:** James Vanderhoff
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- **Funding Source:** Cornwall Center for Metropolitan Studies
- **Amount of Funding:** \$9,000
- **Dates:** 4/01–6/02

Abstract: This project evaluates the performance of Newark Public School students relative to other New Jersey public students on standard achievement tests. The models and statistical methods utilized in economic research are used to estimate the effect of state administration on achievement, controlling for other factors such as income, race, and parents' education. This study will contribute to explaining the factors that determine student achievement and to evaluating the role state administration has played in achievement. ■

Mental Health–Juvenile Justice Division Project

- **Researcher:** Bonita Veysey
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- **Funding Source:** New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- **Dates:** 2001

Abstract: Eleven counties participate in the New York State Mental Health–Juvenile Justice Division (MH/JJ) Project, a collaborative endeavor between county probation and mental health departments. Although awareness of the multiple challenges presented by youth involved in the justice system is increasing across the United States, few jurisdictions have considered comprehensive plans to address these challenges. This project offers a unique opportunity to further the state of knowledge regarding the effectiveness of diversion of youth with mental health and /or substance abuse problems. The MH/JJ Project is a system-level intervention designed to affect interorganizational interactions. The evaluation is based on the analysis of existing data on initial contact with the youth in question and on intervention strategies used at different sites. Comparisons between sites will be made to assess individual outcomes, particularly for placements by the Office of Children and Family Services and other out-of-area placements, recidivism, the self-efficacy of the child and the family, psychiatric symptomatology and/or drug use, and services engagement/utilization. ■

Female-on-Female Assault in an Urban Setting

- **Researcher:** Bonita Veysey
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- **Collaborator:** Nancy Hirschinger
- **Funding Source:** National Institute of Justice
- **Dates:** 2001

Abstract: The major goals of this project are to characterize the circumstances surrounding female-on-female urban violence and to develop and test the merits of a theory of intragender female assault. The study is based upon cases of female-on-female assault in a population of predominantly African-American women living in a low-income community in West Philadelphia. The study respondents originally were interviewed in hospital emergency departments after seeking medical treatment for intentional interpersonal injuries. This research is one the first studies to examine female-on-female assaults. It is well established that violence is a major health problem for African-American women, yet little is known about their involvement in assaults by other women. The research provides a descriptive body of information on assaults between women as well as an analysis of 322 cases of injury, with the goal of identifying differences in risk factors by gender of the antagonist. This research will contribute to the debate in the field of criminology by proposing a theory that integrates gender-specific and gender-neutral theories of violence that draw on situational theo-

ry, a structural-cultural perspective and sexual rivalry theory. The anticipated outcome that a distinct theory will be required to explain female-on-female violence compared with male-on-female violence has significant implications for intervention and prevention strategies offered by emergency departments, correctional facilities, schools, and community-based violence-reduction programs. ■