



2016-2017 Academic Year
1 - Research Assistantship (Doctoral Students only)
Office of Research and Evaluation
Placement ID: **CEV**

Topic Area: Children Exposed to Violence (CEV) encompasses a broad area that includes children as both direct victims and as bystanders or observers of various forms of violence in the home, school, or community (including, but not limited to, peer victimization/bullying/harassment, child maltreatment, domestic violence, and community violence). Typically exposure to media violence (e.g., television, movies, music, and video games) is excluded.

Program Overview:

Research indicates that early exposure to violence has a significant impact on a child's behavior and ability to learn and develop coping strategies. It is associated with increased delinquency as well as later academic failure, aggression, substance abuse, adult criminality, depression, and other mental health issues. Research also shows that positive outcomes are associated with the disruption of violence, and that intervention to improve parent-child functioning can interrupt negative impacts and improve a child's development.

The Research and Evaluation Program on Children Exposed to Violence is a part of NIJ's larger program on violent victimization research. The overall goals of that program of research are to promote safety for victims of crime and violence and to increase efficiency and effectiveness in the criminal justice system's response to violence and victimization. The goals of the CEV program specifically are to support research that will increase our understanding of the complex dynamics of childhood exposure to violence that will ultimately inform the development and enhancement of programs, practices, and policies designed to prevent violence and/or reduce the impact of violence on children and youth. Currently, the CEV program primarily invests in extramural research and evaluation projects to accomplish this goal, but also uses expert working groups, intramural research, and coordination with other research and program agencies to supplement investments.

As with the larger violent victimization research program, a broad, public health approach to violence and victimization is taken in addition to the traditional criminal justice approach. As such, the CEV program works in partnership with the multiple stakeholders, including but not limited to researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in the fields of criminal justice, education, public health, psychology/behavioral health, and social services (e.g., child welfare, victim services) as well as the advocacy communities.

Research Assistant Duties and Responsibilities may include but are not limited to:

- Reviewing ongoing and final products stemming from grants awarded under the "Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence" program area and suggest dissemination strategies for products and findings (e.g., publications, presentations, research briefs, grantee meetings).
- Updating and managing NIJ web topic pages on CEV.
- Providing support for ongoing intramural research and cross-agency activities including an evaluation of a multi-site system of care demonstration project in partnership with the Office for Victims of Crime and similar projects. This may include:
 - Participation on technical research working groups and project planning meetings.
 - Reviewing products and making recommendations for dissemination activities (e.g., drafting articles for NIJ's journal and website, articles for academic peer-reviewed journals, talking points for NIJ leadership, or articles for program office dissemination outlets).
 - Conducting independent data analysis for a specific paper or presentation.



- Participating on interagency meetings and working groups on CEV, including the Women and Trauma Working Group, Federal Interagency Workgroup on Child Abuse and Neglect, and the Partners in Bullying Prevention.
- Assisting in program development activities related to CEV that may include:
 - Conducting literature reviews and writing annotated bibliographies.
 - Participating in research meetings and workshops.
 - Developing conference presentations and/or papers for publication on CEV topics.
 - Creating one-page overviews/research in brief materials.
- Providing support in maintaining a federal-wide research agenda on CEV, including a synthesis of current federal efforts and identification of significant research gaps.
- Conducting literature reviews and synthesizing information related to developmental approaches to intimate partner violence and links between research on dating violence in adolescence and the transition to adulthood (e.g., ages 18-24).

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

- Demonstrated knowledge of the U.S. criminal justice system ***preferred***.
- Demonstrated knowledge of research and evaluation methods and analysis ***required***.
- Demonstrated experience in social or behavioral science related to victimization or crime ***preferred***.
- Demonstrated experience in or knowledge of social and behavioral science related to child development, adolescence, juvenile justice, or related topics ***required***.

General Required Qualifications

- **Education and/or Experience**: Doctoral students working toward a terminal degree (e.g., Ph.D., D.P.A., Dr.PH., D.H.Sc., D.S.W., Psy.D., Ed.D.).
- **Mathematical Skills**: Very good to advanced understanding of statistical principles and research methods (quantitative and qualitative).
- **Computer Skills**: Working knowledge of computers and standard software such as Adobe Professional, Excel, Internet Explorer, Outlook, Windows operating systems, Word, and PowerPoint required. Proficiency using , SPSS, SAS, or Stata. Knowledge of Access, ATLAS.ti and other statistical or geospatial software a plus.
- **Reasoning Ability**: Ability to work independently, accurately, and in a timely manner.
- **Communication Skills**: Ability to communicate orally and in writing to prepare comprehensive research reports, proposals, and presentations and make recommendations to accomplish and enhance project objectives.
- **Certifications, Licenses, Registrations**: Human Subjects (HS) Protection training is required. NIJ research assistants must take annual HS training onsite at the Office of Justice Programs. RAs also must successfully complete **CITI training** prior to participating on any studies.
- **Background Check**: Candidates must complete all required U.S. Department of Justice profile and pre-screening paperwork with all security reviews and background investigations (such as credit and criminal investigations) resulting in a favorable adjudication.
- **Citizenship**: Candidates must be U.S. citizens.

Work Location: Primary work location will be at [NIJ's offices in Washington, D.C.](#) Minimal local travel in the [National Capital Region](#) may be needed to attend meetings and visit offsite research facilities.