

AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY /

Recent FoC Publications

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Video visitation in prison and father–child relationships

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released new research examining the use of video visitation in Australian prisons and its impact on father–child relationships. The study, by researchers from Sydney University, University of Wollongong and Western Sydney University, shows:

- There is significant support for the use of video visits, especially when used to complement in-person visits.
- Video visits improved the quality of father–child relationships, particularly by giving fathers access to the social world of the child via audiovisual connections.
- Benefits of the technology included reduced travel time and costs associated with in-person visits, the fact that children did not need to visit correctional environments with the consequent harms associated with screening and security, and the reduction in contraband associated with in-person visits. Barriers included the lack of physical/non-verbal communication with children, and the varied technical issues that affected the operation of the equipment.

Link to: [Video visitation in Australian prisons: Perspectives on father–child contact](#)

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New research examines perceived level of corruption among public officials

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released a new *Trends & issues* paper on community perceptions of corruption by public officials.

- According to a large online survey conducted prior to the commencement of the new National Anti-Corruption Commission, a sizeable minority of respondents believed that over half of public officials were involved in corruption.
- Younger, unemployed and First Nations respondents perceived higher levels of corruption, as did respondents with lower levels of education and those living in socio-economically disadvantaged areas.
- Perceptions of corruption were associated with diminished levels of perceived legitimacy of public officials, but this relationship was moderated by other factors. Perceived corruption and the legitimacy of public officials go hand in hand. Implementing measures to address one may help improve the other.

Link to: [Community perceptions of corruption by public officials](#)

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New research examines experience of dating app users who report sexual violence to dating platforms

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released new research examining the reporting of dating app facilitated sexual violence to online dating platforms, drawing on a survey of Australian dating app users.

- The study found overall positive experiences reporting to online dating platforms among victim-survivors, although experiences differed depending on gender and sexual identity. LGB+ women reported the lowest levels of satisfaction with platforms' responses and heterosexual men the highest.
- Victim-survivors who were satisfied with how online dating platforms responded to their reports, and who said the platforms had provided them with information about support services, were more likely to say they would report again in the future.
- Victim-survivors who said online dating platforms had given them information about support services were also more likely to report to the police.

Link to: [User experiences of reporting dating app facilitated sexual violence to dating platforms](#)

Predicting serious offending by outlaw motorcycle gangs

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released a new Research Report on predicting high-harm offending by outlaw motorcycle gang (OMCG) members using data from national police information systems.

- The research examined the replicability of a risk assessment model developed to identify high-harm OMCG targets in New South Wales. It found that, even with a limited pool of data from a national police information system, high-harm offending can be predicted with a relatively high degree of accuracy.
- It was not possible to reproduce the same prediction accuracy achieved in the original model. The model was better at predicting who would not go on to commit a high-harm offence than who would commit a high-harm offence.
- Findings show there are trade-offs in real-world applications of prediction models and consideration needs to be given to what data can be readily accessed by law enforcement agencies to identify targets for prioritisation

Link to: [Predicting high-harm offending using national police information systems: An application to outlaw motorcycle gangs](#)

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New research examines sexual offences by juveniles in Australia

The Australian Institute of Criminology has released a new Statistical Bulletin on recorded sexual offences among juveniles in Australia.

- This study examined trends in the rate of juveniles proceeded against for sexual offences across a 13-year period leading up to mid-2021.
- Recorded sexual offences among juveniles were consistently higher than the rate for adults per 100,000 Australians.

- While recorded assaultive sexual offences by juveniles decreased during these 13 years, recorded non-assaultive sexual offences increased notably.

Link to: [Recorded sexual offences among juveniles in Australia](#)

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