

Appendix G:

Support Letters from Correctional Agencies



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Arkansas Department of Correction

Dear colleagues:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the National Survey of Correctional Contraband (NSCC) on behalf of the Arkansas Department of Correction. Our agency participated in a pilot test of the NSCC and believe the research will be highly relevant to the field of corrections management and contraband interdiction. In particular, this project will help correctional agencies across the country understand the scope of contraband issues and identify promising policies, practices, and technologies for improving contraband interdiction.

This project is being led by the National Institute of Justice, the Urban Institute, and the American Correctional Association. As leaders in the respective fields of criminal justice and correctional research, policy, and practice, we believe these organizations are well-suited to lead this effort. Their findings will fill a critical gap in the availability of relevant, comprehensive data on the type and extent of contraband in correctional facilities. This will serve agencies in setting benchmarks for controlling contraband and implementing interdiction modalities.

An important part of our mission statement at the Arkansas Department of Corrections is to provide safe and humane environments for staff and inmates. The presence of contraband in our facilities directly opposes this mission. Thus, we are committed to supporting a project like this that aims to collect detailed information about the types and extent of contraband in correctional facilities, as well as the strategies that could help us fight back against contraband and contraband-related issues.

For these reasons, we fully support this project and its aims.

Sincerely,

Dexter Payne, Deputy Director of Institutions



COLORADO
Department of Corrections
Office of the Director of Prisons

Travis Trani
Director, Prison Operations
1250 Academy Park Loop
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
P (719) 226-4712
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September 19, 2017

Dear colleagues:

I am writing to convey my full support for the National Survey of Correctional Contraband (NSCC), led by the National Institute of Justice, the Urban Institute, and the American Correctional Association. I believe this project will inform correctional policy and practice in the management of contraband by providing the field with a systematic understanding of contraband issues and identifying ways to keep contraband out of correctional facilities.

As a participant in the pilot test of the NSCC, the Colorado Department of Corrections believes that this research can help corrections agencies set benchmarks for controlling contraband and serve as a guide to identify interdiction modalities for their facilities. Our agency's mission is to protect the citizens of Colorado by holding offenders accountable and engaging them in opportunities to make positive behavioral changes and become law-abiding citizens. An important part of this mission, then, is to prevent and remove contraband from our facilities. Given the security risks that contraband poses in correctional facilities, this research is also valuable for promoting the safety and wellbeing of staff and inmates across the country.

As an agency, we are aware of the lack of data currently available on the types and spread of contraband. This research has the opportunity to fill this gap and provide the field with timely and needed information. If successful, these findings will help inform best practices on correctional management and contraband interdiction.

We are pleased to offer our support for this important project and for the opportunity to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Travis Trani
Director of Prisons
Colorado Department of Corrections





Department of
Rehabilitation & Correction

John R. Kasich, Governor
Gary C. Mohr, Director

September 25, 2017

Dear Colleagues:

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is pleased to offer this letter of support for the National Survey of Correctional Contraband (NSCC), led by the National Institute of Justice, the Urban Institute, and the American Correctional Association. This project seeks to inform correctional policy and practice in the management of contraband by providing the field with a systematic understanding of contraband issues and identifying promising contraband interdiction modalities.

The NSCC aims to collect detailed information from a comprehensive sample of correctional facilities about contraband issues, which will provide highly useful information about the types and extent of contraband found across facilities as well as the policies used to remove contraband. The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction participated in a pilot test of the NSCC and can thus attest to the importance of this survey for the field. Findings from this research will help corrections agencies set a benchmark for controlling contraband in their facilities and serve as a guide to identify interdiction modalities that best suit their operational needs.

Since one of the primary concerns of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction is the welfare of inmates and staff at our facility, as well as that of the public, we are aware of the lack of data currently available on contraband in correctional institutions. The need for such data is particularly acute because of the threat contraband poses to the safety and health of inmates and staff. If successful, the NSCC will be an invaluable resource on contraband and contraband interdiction in correctional facilities.

We believe the NSCC will provide crucial information to the field and will address the limitations with respect to contraband data collection. For this reason, this project has our full support, and we have enjoyed being a part of it.

Sincerely,

Gary Mohr, Director

Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction



**Denver Sheriff Department
Office of the Sheriff**

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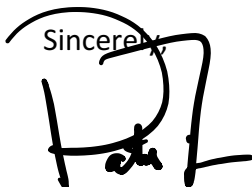
September 18, 2017

Dear colleagues:

I am writing this letter in full support of the National Institute of Justice, Urban Institute, and American Correctional Association to launch the National Survey of Correctional Contraband (NSCC). There is a critical gap in the field in terms of understanding the scope of contraband and the security issues that accompany it. This is particularly true among jails, where data on contraband is not as systematically collected or shared. As a participant of a pilot test of the NSCC, the Denver County Sheriff's Office believes this project will be of critical importance to correctional practice and management by providing agencies with detailed data on contraband and by identifying promising strategies for contraband interdiction.

One of the aims of our agency is to protect the safety and welfare of our staff and inmates in our facility, as well as the public. Contraband is a serious concern for us, as its presence in our jail is a threat to security. For this reason, there is a pressing need for comprehensive data on contraband, contraband-related issues, and the policies and practices that agencies can use to find and remove contraband from their facilities. The NSCC seeks to meet these needs by collecting information on contraband and contraband interdiction from a nationally representative sample of both prisons and jails.

We support the NSCC and believe it will be an invaluable resource for prison and jail administrators alike. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this important project.

Sincerely,


Patrick Firman
Sheriff, City and County of Denver