Session 8 | Evidence of Effect: Measuring and Reporting the Impact of Oversight
July 30, 2020
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT

As oversight practitioners, we strive to produce work that improves law enforcement in ways that enhance both public safety and public confidence in policing and corrections. Yet it can be a challenge to demonstrate the value and effectiveness of our work, due to the complexities of the environment in which oversight operates.

Measuring the impact of oversight often involves two sets of metrics: one which reports an effect on law enforcement operations and another which links oversight work to the observed effect. There are challenges in developing reliable metrics for each of these objectives, including a lack of quality data, difficulties in proving causality, and concerns of privacy and confidentiality.

This webinar panel will be a moderated discussion of oversight practitioners with experience in statistical analysis, crafting policy recommendations, monitoring misconduct investigations, and public reporting on institutional reform and oversight work. The discussion will focus on metrics and methodologies to measure the impact of oversight and best practices for reporting on impact.

Speakers:
- Miroslava Meza, Policy and Statistical Analyst, Office of Inspector General, Seattle, WA
- Kevin Strom, Deputy Monitor, Office of the Independent Monitor, Denver, CO
- Mike Vitoroulis, Research Fellow, NACOLE, Brooklyn, NY

Moderator
- Kari Pennington, Investigative Analyst, Office of the Inspector General, Chicago, IL

Speaker Biographies

Miroslava Meza | Miroslava is a Policy and Statistical Analyst for Seattle's Office of Inspector General for Public Safety. Her role at OIG is to implement systems theory, process improvement techniques, and utilize statistical methods in conducting and supporting policy analysis and audits that are informed by best practices.

Miroslava holds an M.S. in Mathematics from Claremont Graduate University and a B.S. and M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Monterey Technology and Science Institute. Before joining OIG she was a project manager and main data scientist for a Southern California Edison project predicting and minimizing volatility in Los Angeles power grid outages. She has conducted demographic and social research regarding public policies and its impact on gender issues in Mexico. She also was a statistics professor for 10+ years.

Kari Pennington | Kari Pennington is an Investigative Analyst for the Office of Inspector General, Public Safety section (PS-OIG) in Chicago, IL. Her primary role is reviewing police misconduct investigations to identify material deficiencies which would merit a recommendation to re-open an investigation, and to

make policy recommendations to inform and improve future investigations. Kari also designs and conducts evaluations concerning the police accountability system in Chicago. Kari is an Association of Inspectors General (AIG) Certified Inspector General Inspector/Evaluator (CIGE).

Prior to joining PS-OIG, Kari worked as a data analyst for the Cook County Sheriff's Office in Chicago, IL, conducting population research, statistical analysis, and program evaluation for initiatives and entities under the jurisdiction of the sheriff, including the Cook County Department of Corrections and the Cook County Sheriff's Police. She also worked as a criminal justice policy analyst for the Texas House of Representatives during the 85th Legislative Session. Kari earned an M.A. in Public Affairs from the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin and a B.A. in Urban Studies from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Kevin Strom │ In 2015, Kevin Strom joined the Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) in Denver, Colorado. In that role, Mr. Strom reviews and actively monitors investigations into alleged misconduct by members of the Denver Police and Sheriff Departments. Mr. Strom helps author the OIM's annual and special reports on critical incidents, discipline, and policy recommendations. With others at the OIM, Mr. Strom collaboratively authored policy recommendation papers related to the Denver Police Department's policy on shooting into moving vehicles, discipline related to the misuse of criminal databases, and the 2015 in-custody death of Michael Marshall. Prior to joining the OIM, Mr. Strom was a civil litigator, focusing on business and government enforcement matters at law firms in New York and Denver. He also served as an Assistant District Attorney in Kings County, New York. Mr. Strom received his J.D. from Northwestern University School of Law.

Michael Vitoroulis │ Mike Vitoroulis is a police oversight and accountability consultant based in New York City. He formerly served as the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement's (NACOLE) Research Associate, where he co-authored several forthcoming publications on effective oversight practices and the state of civilian oversight in the United States for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). He has trained oversight practitioners, community organizations, and law enforcement executives on the principles of effective oversight, analyzing law enforcement data and policies, and evaluating civilian oversight systems.

Mike also works with The Legal Aid Society's Special Litigation Unit (SLU). The Legal Aid Society is New York City's largest provider of legal services, serving predominantly to low-income communities and communities of color. The SLU engages in class action litigation to remedy systemic issues in policing and the criminal legal system, such as Davis v. The City of New York and New York City Housing Authority, regarding racially discriminatory stops, frisks, and arrests in New York City's public housing complexes.

Mike holds a B.A. in Economics and Sociology from Sarah Lawrence College.