

PROPOSED PROJECT LIST

11/21/13

***(CANNABIS) Alcohol cross-elasticity** \$40,000

Use the natural experiment created by difference in marijuana policy between Western and Eastern Washington to measure the impacts of cannabis availability on alcohol sales and on health and public-safety outcomes.

***(CANNABIS) Outcome list and data-gathering plan** \$30,000

Identify key outcome dimensions to consider in evaluating legalization. Determine which are measurable and how to measure them, and identify those that need to be measured before the change takes place. Estimate the cost to carry out the urgent part of the data-gathering effort.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Online implementation tool for swift-and-certain sanctions programs** \$60,000

Create a website where a jurisdiction interested in implementing swift and certain sanctions for probation and parole violations could get all the information necessary to decide whether to do so, design a program, and design an evaluation. This would include a comprehensive review of the results of such programs in the past, including Hawaii HOPE, Texas SWIFT, and Washington State WISP, details on potential barriers to implementation, and promising areas for future research that sites might want to consider addressing in their evaluations.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Swift-and-certain mechanism study: self-command and procedural justice** \$65,000

Develop and field-test instruments to measure self-command, delayed gratification, and perceptions of fairness among offenders subject to swift-and-certain sanctions programs to determine which, if any, predict outcomes. The goal would be to elucidate the mechanisms underlying the success of such programs and thereby improve program design and management.

***(CANNABIS) Optimal taxation** \$25,000

Determine the optimal level and basis of cannabis taxation for states now legalizing, balancing considerations of health, public safety, revenue, and administrative feasibility.

***(CANNABIS) User-determined quotas** \$25,000

Cannabis legalization may bring with it the risk of substantial increases in problem cannabis use. Sweden had some success in the past with monthly quotas on alcohol purchases. An alternative that has never been seriously discussed would be to create a system of *user-set* quotas. The project would be to design such a system, identifying likely weak points and unwanted side-effects and proposing remedies.

***(CANNABIS) Book on cannabis legalization in Washington** \$20,000

Edit documents related to the Washington cannabis legalization initiative and its implementation, including the extensive reports made by the BOTEC/RAND team, into a book, with a new introduction and conclusion.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) New trials of swift-and-certain** \$50,000

Baltimore MD and Essex County MA are both committed to starting up programs using swift-and-certain sanctions for probation violations. We propose to assist with project design, implementation coaching, and evaluation at whichever site is ready first.

***(CANNABIS) Enforcement under legalization** \$55,000

Identify enforcement needs and options for states legalizing cannabis, using field interviews from Colorado and Washington.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Micro-nutrient trial** \$70,000

Conduct an experimental trial of the hypothesis that adding specific micro-nutrients to the diets of offenders can improve behavior and outcomes, including reduced offending and days-behind-bars. Past research provides strong evidence of efficacy, but we know of no current application of the idea.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Minimum effective sanctions** \$40,000

Conduct an experiment with decreasing levels of initial sanctions in a swift-and-certain program to find the minimum effective “dose.” Swiftness and certainty are known to be more important than severity, but the relationship between severity and efficacy at low levels of severity remains largely unexplored. In the 24/7 Sobriety program, an hour in a holding cell proved as effective as a night in jail. Reducing severity would improve both the operational feasibility and the political acceptability of swift-and-certain.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) GPS monitoring** \$70,000

Pilot-test GPS monitoring as part of a swift-and-certain-sanctions program. GPS monitoring could allow community corrections agencies to track offenders’ locations continuously, discouraging reoffending by making new crimes detectable. Location data would also facilitate the enforcement of curfews and stay-away orders, both as direct crime-prevention tools and as non-confinement sanctions for minor violations.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Drugs-and-violence book** \$35,000

Prepare a book manuscript for university-press publication analyzing the relationships between drug policy and violence and proposing specific violence-reducing policy innovations.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Journaling trial** \$55,000

Pilot-test a program of reflective journaling among offenders: prisoners, probationers, or juveniles. Reflective journaling has been shown to improve health-care and educational outcomes, but has not been tried with offenders. Per-participant costs are well below \$100, and the time required of the offender is under one hour, so if the process were to show any measurable efficacy it would be highly cost-effective.

***(CRIME AND INCARCERATION) Improving outcomes for offenders’ children 0-5** \$80,000

Develop and pilot-test an intervention to improve outcomes for the young children of offenders. The children of high-rate property, violent, and drug offenders are at very high risk of becoming criminally active themselves, as well as for a wide range of other bad life outcomes. Interventions aimed at changing parenting have been shown to be effective in improving outcomes for “at-risk” children, but that approach has never been adapted to parents selected from criminal-justice populations.