

Nebraska Crime Commission



Nebraska Crime Commission Justice System Needs Assessment

Updated October 11, 2024

Prepared by the National Criminal Justice Association

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Executive Summary

The Nebraska Crime Commission (NCC) conducted a comprehensive Justice System Needs Assessment Survey intending to gather valuable input from a wide spectrum of criminal justice professionals and community stakeholders. The primary goal of this survey was to inform the update of the state's five-year strategy for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and as well as planning for Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) funding. Spanning from May to September 2024, this survey gathered 251 responses from diverse sectors, including law enforcement, courts, victim services and community organizations. Importantly, it also sought input from justice-impacted individuals and crime survivors, ensuring a holistic and inclusive approach to understanding the needs of the community.

The information collected through this survey is expected to play a pivotal role in guiding resource allocation and pinpointing critical gaps in Nebraska's criminal justice system. Specifically, the survey aimed to shed light on areas such as technology, mental health, juvenile justice and community-based crime prevention. By leveraging the insights garnered from this comprehensive survey, the Nebraska Crime Commission aims to develop targeted strategies to enhance the state's criminal justice system and address the identified areas of concern.

About the Survey

The assessment was conducted to meet the Nebraska Crime Commission's requirement to update the state's strategy under the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG program. The survey aimed to address the criminal justice system needs in Nebraska, including law enforcement, corrections, courts and mental health programs. Stakeholders involved in the survey included judges, prosecutors, law enforcement, community corrections and non-justice community service providers.

The survey was distributed statewide through various channels such as email and QR codes, ensuring broad reach across different counties and sectors. Responses were collected from May 1, 2024, to September 3, 2024. The survey's objective was to gather data that would help shape the state's approach to public safety funding and strategies to address unmet needs within the justice system.

Survey Context

The survey was sent to stakeholders representing a variety of sectors of the criminal justice system and across social service agencies. It should be noted, however, that respondents working in victim's services and law enforcement represented a large majority of all survey respondents. The survey was part of Nebraska's ongoing effort to tailor its criminal justice initiatives to emerging needs and challenges. Nebraska's Crime Commission is the primary

administering agency for federal funds aimed at supporting state and local criminal justice initiatives. The insights collected are meant to assist in optimizing the allocation of JAG and SCIP funding by reflecting real-time concerns from criminal justice professionals and community members.

The survey's context lies in the broad collaboration across justice and non-justice sectors. With participation from statewide to local levels, the findings are particularly relevant to agencies grappling with issues such as workforce recruitment, retention, mental health services, technology integration and juvenile justice programming. Additionally, this survey was critical for identifying gaps in system-level resource sharing and opportunities for inter-agency collaboration. The survey responses also highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for innovative solutions to address challenges related to crime, substance misuse and mental health crises.

Themes

The survey results revealed several overarching themes:

1. **Technological Infrastructure and Data Sharing:** Many agencies lack the necessary resources to efficiently share and manage data. Around 45% of respondents indicated they have automated data systems, but a notable portion reported difficulties in accessing or analyzing information. Modernizing technological systems was identified as a priority, particularly for enhancing decision-making, collaboration and program evaluation.
2. **Mental Health and Substance Misuse:** Mental health services were consistently highlighted as a major challenge, with over 60% of respondents indicating this as a critical area of need. The lack of resources for mental health crisis intervention, substance misuse treatment and co-occurring disorders was frequently mentioned, underscoring the necessity for enhanced behavioral health programming within the criminal justice system.
3. **Juvenile Justice and Reentry Programs:** The need for juvenile delinquency prevention, reentry services and diversion programs emerged as key themes. Respondents noted the importance of addressing juvenile mental health issues, substance misuse and educational support. A focus on community-based interventions and youth-specific services was prevalent throughout the survey.
4. **Workforce Recruitment and Retention:** Respondents emphasized difficulties in hiring and retaining qualified staff, particularly in law enforcement, probation and community services. The impact of burnout, low wages and high turnover rates were noted as significant issues, with a call for workforce development programs to improve the resilience and capacity of the criminal justice system.

5. **Community-Based Crime Prevention:** The survey responses highlighted a need for more robust community-based programs to address issues such as gang violence, intimate partner violence and school-based bullying. There was a strong emphasis on engaging schools, faith-based organizations and community groups in crime prevention and early intervention efforts.

Key Considerations

- The findings in this survey analysis are intended to provide a snapshot of stakeholder perceptions and priorities. They reflect a desire for justice system reform focused on public safety, community well-being and the protection of future generations.
- Subjective responses highlight the diversity of perspectives, from those advocating for more punitive measures to those calling for restorative justice approaches. These varied viewpoints reflect the complexity of policymaking and the need for a balanced approach that addresses both immediate and long-term community needs.
- There are limitations to consider, including the subjective nature of opinion-based responses and the potential for biases due to emotional reactions, misinformation, or lack of expertise in crime trends and program evaluation. Readers are encouraged to interpret the results within this broader context. Despite these limitations, the survey results are reliable and remain valid as they reflect unique sentiments specific to Nebraska.
- Disclaimers:
 - Note: Some responses have been abbreviated for the graph. Please refer to the survey in the Appendix for the complete responses.
 - Please be aware that open-ended responses are transcribed verbatim to maintain authenticity, and as a result, may contain spelling and grammar errors.
 - It is important to note that no formal logic was applied to the survey design, and the low response rate to the law enforcement identification question may suggest that many respondents did not see it as relevant to their role or agency. Of the 33 respondents who identified as law enforcement, only 29 answered the question, while others skipped it, possibly indicating the question's limited applicability to non-law enforcement participants.
 - There are 9 purpose areas, referred to as program areas in the survey and analysis. Only 8 of the 9 purpose areas were assessed.

In conclusion, the Nebraska Crime Commission will use these findings to inform its strategy for allocating JAG and SCIP funding, with a focus on addressing the most pressing

needs in mental health, data sharing, workforce development and juvenile justice. The insights gained from this survey underscore the importance of a collaborative, multi-system approach to enhancing public safety across the state.

Survey Responses

Please note that “n” represents the number of respondents that answered a question. That will be reflected in each chart.

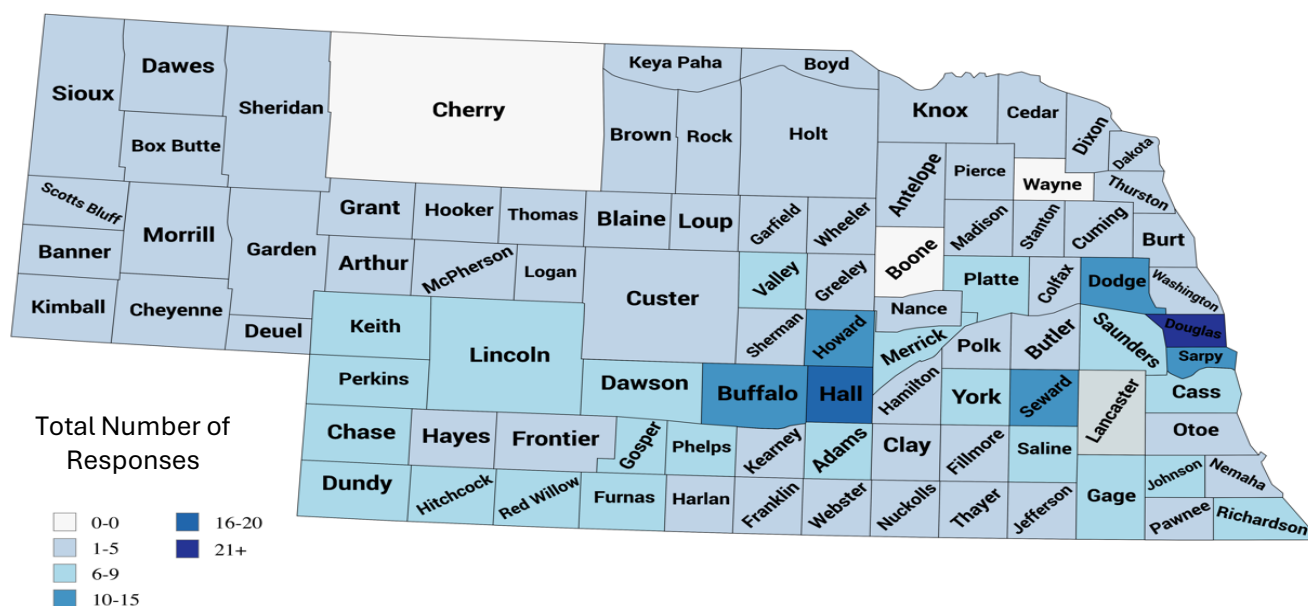
Respondent Demographics

Q1: County/Counties Primarily Served by Your Agency

Out of the 251 respondents, around 17% represented agencies serving the entire state. The second-highest number of responses came from individuals in Lancaster County, with approximately 15% of respondents indicating that their agency served that county, followed by Douglas County with almost 12% of respondents indicating that their agency served this county. Please refer to the chart provided in the appendix for a comprehensive representation.

There was at least one response from 90 counties throughout NE. The only counties with no responses were Boone County, Cherry County and Wayne County. Counties with no response may indicate the need for targeted outreach and areas of improvement for future engagement.

Below is a map that provides a visual representation of the counties with the highest responses, offering an overall context of Nebraska’s geographical layout. Please keep in mind that this map indicates individual county responses and not those indicated statewide. Nearly 17% of respondents stated that they served the entire state, making this the largest representation from respondents, followed by Lancaster and Douglas Counties.



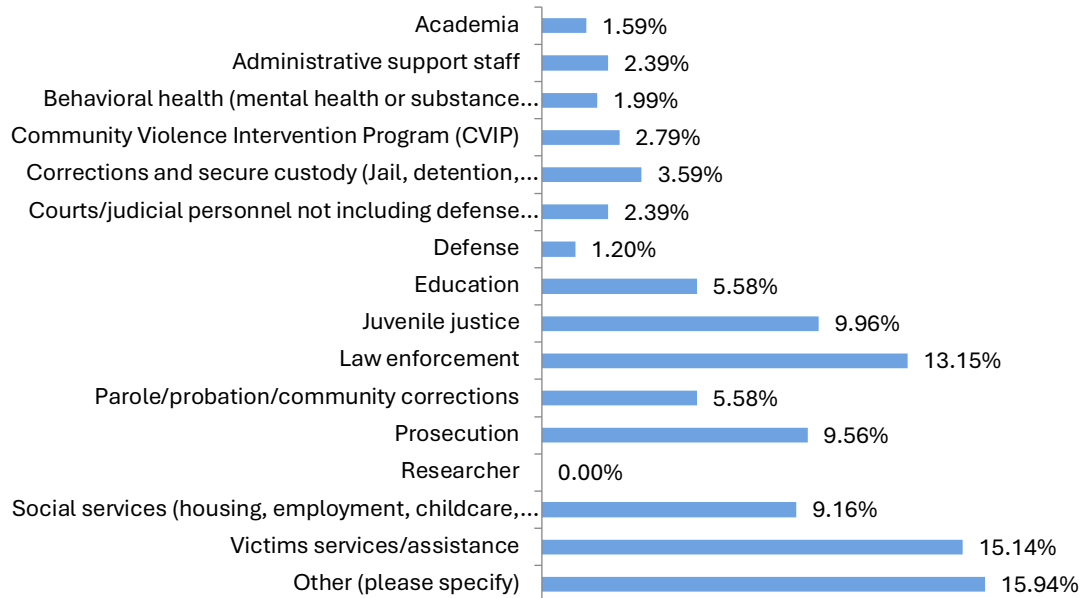
Q2: Role within the Nebraska Criminal Justice System

The survey inquired about the role of the respondents within the criminal justice system in Nebraska.

In addition to the open-ended responses, many respondents opted to write in their roles. The primary respondents reported working in the victim services sector, followed by law enforcement, juvenile justice, prosecution and social services. The respondents held diverse roles, with 16% identifying as "Other," indicating the involvement of non-traditional criminal justice actors such as Child Advocacy Centers and community-based organizations. Law enforcement (15%), victim services (13%) and juvenile justice (10%) were also well-represented.

While open-ended answers provide valuable insights, some responses were vague, potentially impacting the ability to target outreach and engagement effectively. The responses revealed that the participants held positions such as district court clerks, reentry specialists, funders, legal aid providers, community members, grants departments, juvenile diversion and mediation service providers, grant administrators, probation administrators, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) representatives, child advocacy center staff, financial grant specialists, county veteran services personnel, healthcare professionals and individuals with lived experience seeking to improve the justice system through prevention and engagement.

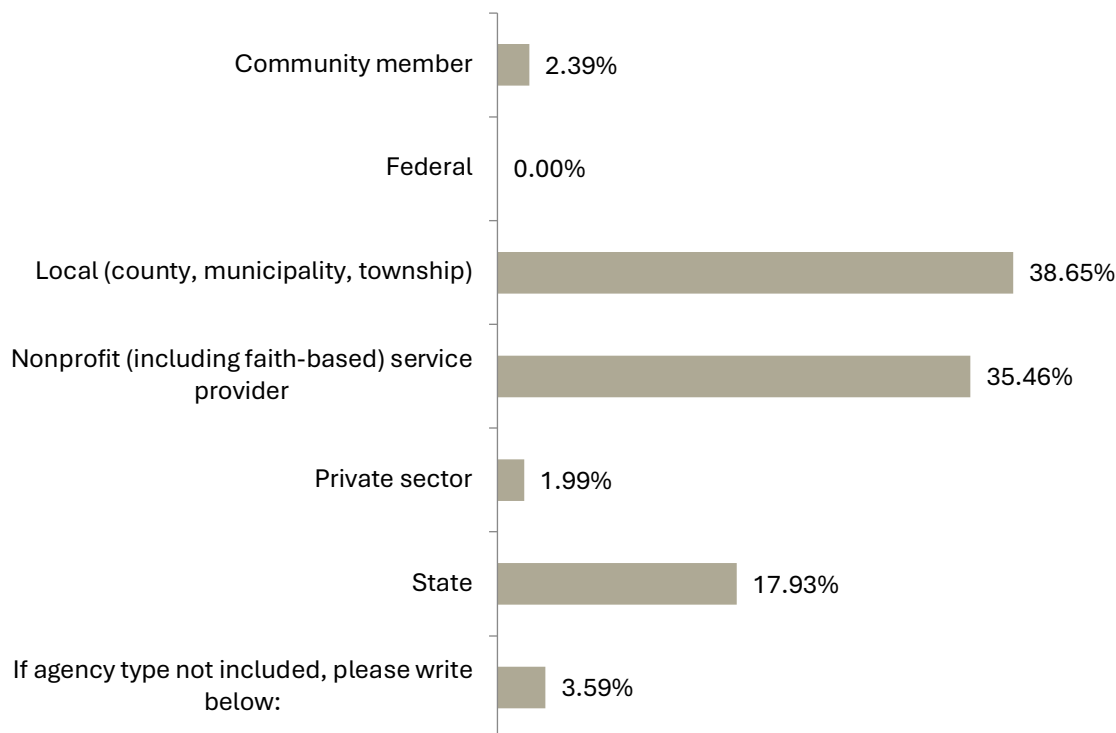
Please identify your role within the criminal
justice system (select only one category):
(n=251)



Q3: Organization Type

Local-level organizations represent the highest number of respondents (approximately 39%), underscoring the importance of grassroots criminal justice initiatives at the county or municipal level. Following local-level agencies, nonprofit service provider representation followed with approximately 35% of the respondents indicating they work in that sector. Community member participation was relatively low, representing just over 2% of respondents. Because this survey was not directly targeted to community members, the low community member participation was expected but represents an opportunity for engagement for future efforts. Other agencies represented in the open-ended answers show respondents identified as working for Nebraska State Probation, a tribal agency and academia.

What best describes your organization type? (Select one) (n=251)



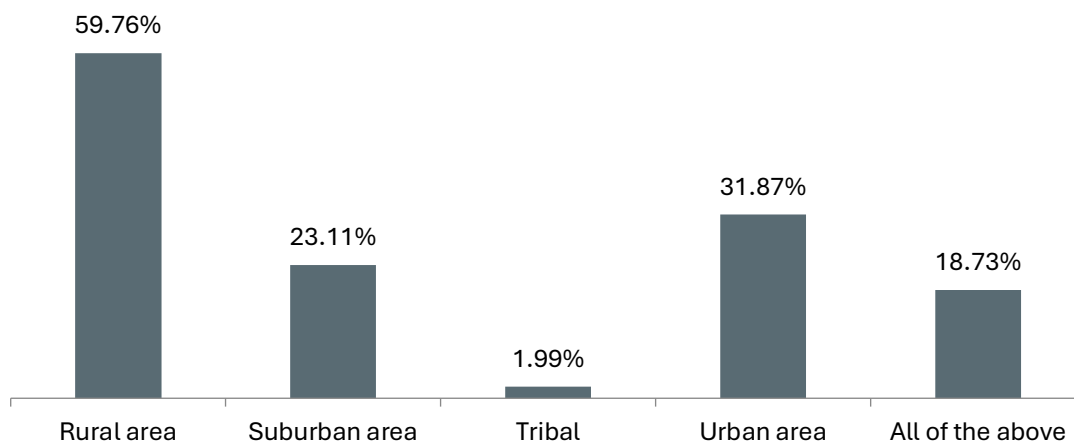
Q4: Primary Areas Served by Your Agency

Respondents were asked to indicate the primary area(s) served by their agency, selecting all that applied. The majority of agencies (almost 60%) reported serving rural areas, reflecting Nebraska's predominantly rural landscape. This indicates that a significant portion of resources and services are directed towards rural communities, which often face distinct challenges compared to urban centers.

Approximately 32% of respondents serve urban areas and nearly 19% reported serving suburban areas. Additionally, 2% of respondents indicated that they serve tribal communities, highlighting the presence and importance of justice services in Nebraska's tribal regions.

This question underscores the broad geographic diversity of the Nebraska justice system and the necessity of tailoring solutions to fit the unique needs of these different areas.

Please select the primary area(s) served by
your agency: Select all that apply
(n=251)



JAG Program Areas

Data, Information Sharing and Technology

Q5: Adequate Resources for Information Sharing and Technology

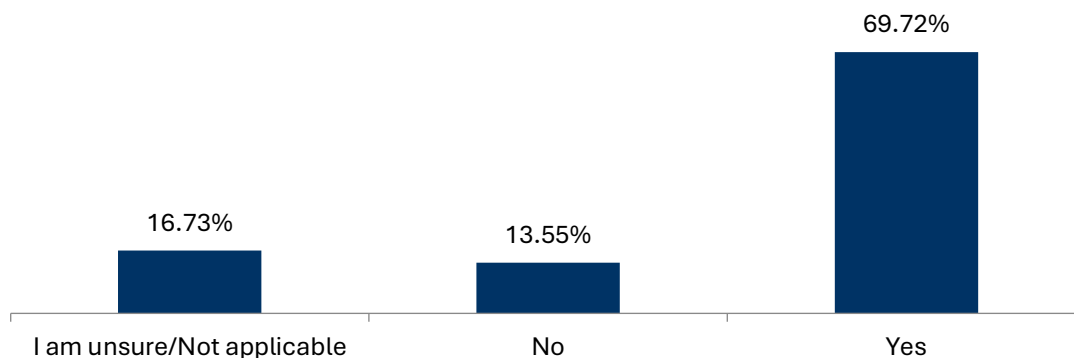
Question 5 asked respondents whether their agency has adequate resources for information sharing and technology, which is critical for data-driven decision-making. The results show that almost 70% of respondents indicated that their agency does have adequate resources. Additionally, approximately 14% stated that they do not and approximately 17% were unsure or felt it was not applicable to their agency.

While it is notable that a large majority of respondents indicated having adequate resources for information sharing, agencies facing these challenges in information sharing and technology often struggle to share data effectively, both internally and across the justice system, which can hamper operations such as case tracking, collaboration with other agencies and the ability to measure outcomes.

These findings suggest a need for improved technological infrastructure, training and resource allocation to ensure that all justice system stakeholders in Nebraska can access and utilize data efficiently. Expanding access to modern, integrated systems will be

essential for enhancing collaboration and promoting evidence-informed practices across the state's criminal justice system.

Accurate data is essential to data driven decision making. Does your agency have adequate resources for information sharing and technology?
(n=251)



Q6: Adequate Resources for Information Sharing and Technology

Respondents who indicated not having adequate resources for information-sharing and technology were asked to indicate what the most pressing technology or information-sharing need was for them or their agency. Twenty-seven respondents answered, and their responses are below:

Open-Ended Responses
Computer programming
More resources and education
A connected technology exchange between all State, City and County law enforcement and Prosecuting authorities
Improved system / database to reduce strain on staff time but that is affordable for a small Nonprofit
We have youth that are both state wards and on probation and we don't have a common System to be able to use. We are able to speak, but not access information

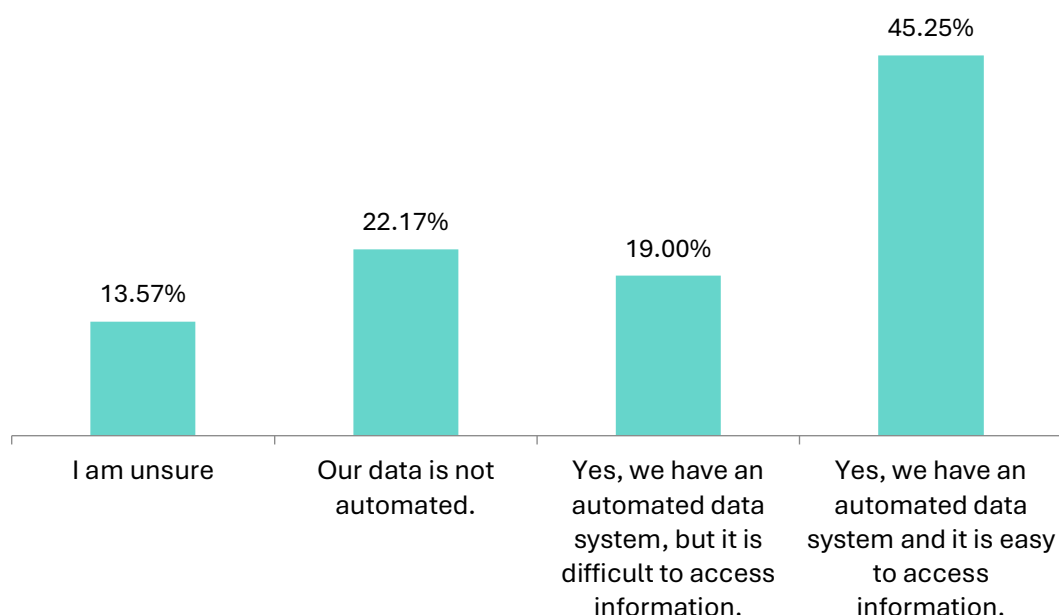
Criminal justice agencies are unable or unwilling to share information about shared clients. To know someone's history from start to current is difficult to establish especially when trying to determine previous services provided.
An updated database as well as new computers, etc... All of our computer equipment is over 5 years old
An improved case management/data collection program.
New server; updated system to automatically log calls and more efficiently document client Contacts and services.
Sharing information between law enforcement agencies and the county attorney's office, especially digital evidence such as videos, photographs and other information in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner.
Data resources and community input
Computers able to process Cellebrite/Axiom records
Data collection, electronic records
The current information management systems don't interface or communicate with each other. The local information management system does not communicate with the with the state System and within our own local area the clerk's system, the jail's system and our community Correction's systems don't communicate. It is extremely difficult to get data out of the various Systems to make programming decisions.
Up to date data
A fully operational and paperless case management system that can manage information Sharing from law enforcement to the court system and others essential to a coordinated Approach to juvenile, criminal, mental health, death records, etc. Case management. I need \$50,000 to get there.
Updated CAD system that all of our agencies can use
The ability to share information from different databases as well the resources to exploit the data once obtained.
Our resources are adequate but staff time for data collection and analysis is limited.
Program to share and get information from the Sheriff's Office
We don't have the staffing to track data.
Sharing of police reports, probation reports, juvenile case plans/court reports, discovery or even CAPstone videos, when court orders authorize, is all done via email. This makes it extremely difficult to monitor, make sure everything is copied, printed or transferred to appropriate case files or shared with defense attorneys or other parties quickly and efficiently. Having a central system where this information could be uploaded and accessed when appropriate by all relevant parties would help everyone to ensure quick, efficient and accurate access to information in cases.

Besides the use of NCJIS and JDS, I only have email and spreadsheets for the use of sharing Information. I have requested software for case management, but my county does not have the Funds to purchase the software.
We have to outsource for phone dumps and as far as the technology goes, we do not have the expertise or manpower within our department to effectively perform crime analysis involving large amounts of data and computer/internet-based investigations.
We are in the build process of a CAD/RMS system to track our data and have the ability to generate reports other than manually pulling paperwork.
Personnel and ease of system to pull data from.
Infrastructure to create and connect which includes a unified identifier across agencies and branches of government.

Q7: Data Evaluation and Planning

Forty-five percent of respondents have automated data systems, but of those, 19% find them difficult to access. Additionally, 22% of agencies reported not having automated systems and 14% indicated they are unsure, indicating a slight gap in technological infrastructure. These responses are consistent with the above open-ended answers.

Does your agency have access to automated data to help you plan, evaluate and determine outcomes of your program?
(n=221)

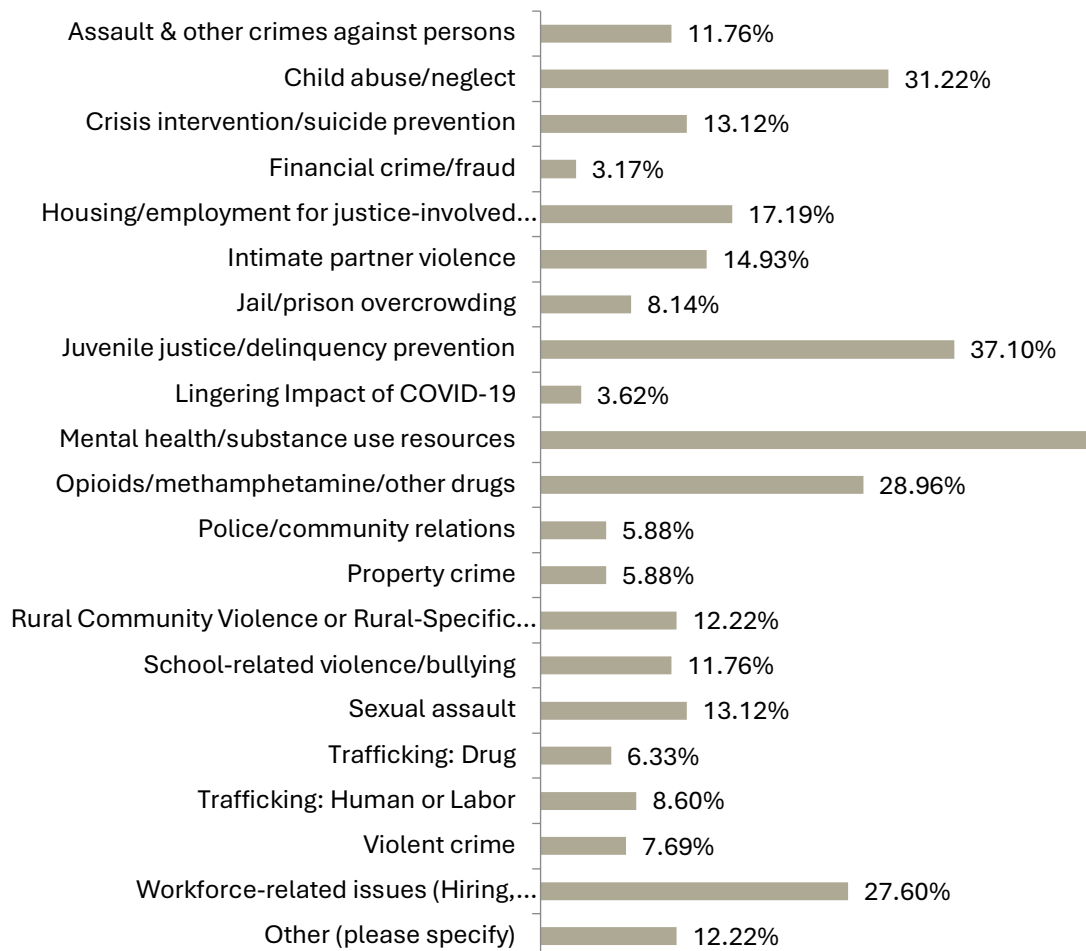


Challenges and Prioritized Areas of Investment

Q8: Most Challenging Issues Facing Agencies

Respondents were asked to indicate the top three challenges for their agency. Mental health and substance use resources were identified as the most significant challenges, with approximately 62% of respondents selecting this option. Other top concerns included juvenile justice (37%), child abuse/neglect (31%) and opioids/methamphetamine/other drugs (29%).

The most challenging issues facing my agency
currently include the following (select the top 3)
(n=221)



Twenty-seven respondents elected to write in their response, and with their responses listed below. Common themes for the open-ended responses include crimes related to juveniles, juvenile delinquency such as truancy, poverty, and intersecting social welfare issues including transportation and rural barriers.

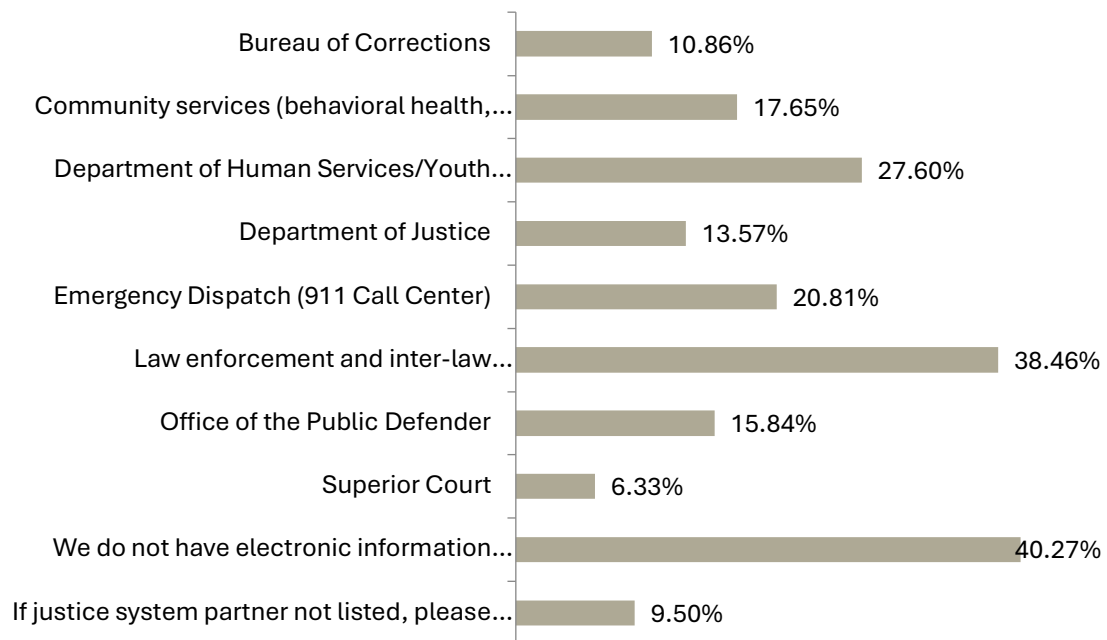
Open-Ended Responses
Dealing with costs to support or challenge forensic evidence
Justice-involved veterans

Youth starting to use marijuana, nicotine and vape devices at earlier and earlier ages
Truancy
Vaping
To give context to rural-specific challenges- not violence, but transportation is the issue
Transportation concerns for clients
Truancy
Housing
Law enforcement training
Diversion rather than incarceration
We have very little court activity
Funding
Budgetary and access to quality/research-supported services to refer to
Detention statutes ignored; school truancy (thanks Covid)
Funding to hire adequate staff
Don't have access to this information
School truancy
DUI
Poverty
Truancy
Ability for former criminals to rehabilitate their criminal record and get a fresh start
Inadequate affordable housing
Truancy
Truancy no consequences
Young and Emerging adults with serious crimes
Fatality reduction

Q9: Data Exchange with Justice System Partners

Respondents were asked to select all the justice system partners that exchange data electronically with your agency. Law enforcement agencies were the most common partners in data exchange, with almost 40% of respondents indicating collaboration. However, another 40% reported that they do not exchange data electronically with any partners, underscoring the need for integrated systems across the justice system.

Please select all the justice system
partners that exchange data electronically
with your agency:
(n=221)

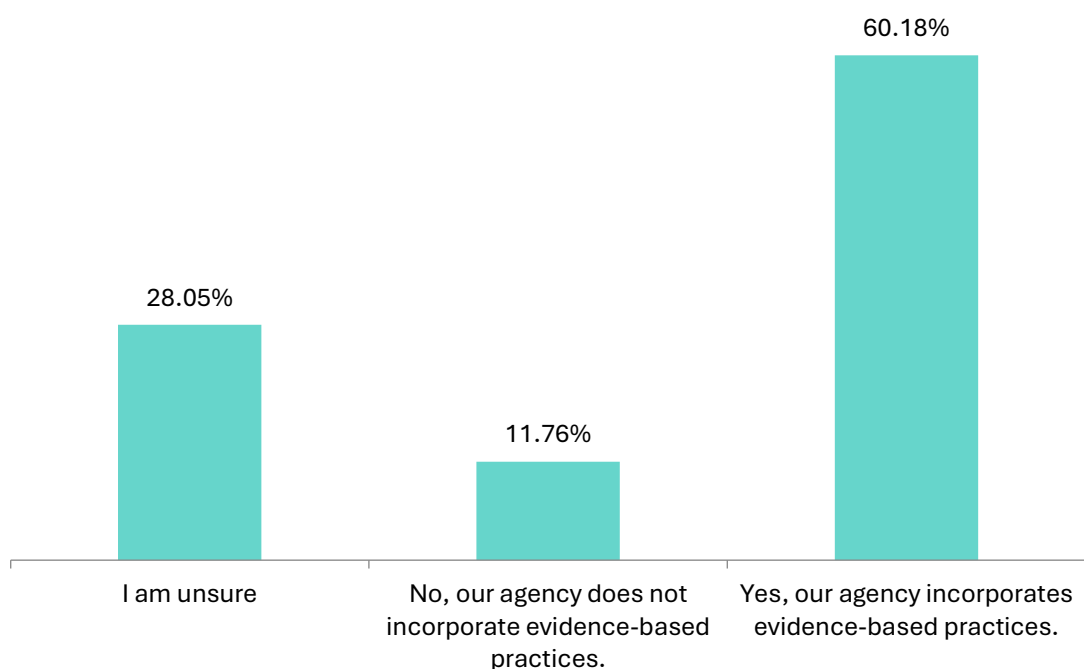


Implementing Evidence-Based Practices

Q10: Evidence-Based Practices and Service Efficiency

The adoption of evidence-based practices for program and service delivery is a key priority for JAG. Survey participants were requested to specify whether their agency integrates evidence-based practices to assess the efficacy of services. Most respondents (60%) confirmed the utilization of evidence-based practices for program and service delivery within their agency. A smaller percentage (approximately 12%) indicated otherwise, while around 28% expressed uncertainty. This overall suggests that the justice system partners in Nebraska are leverage current and past research to manage their programs and provide services supported by research.

Use of evidence-based practices for program and service delivery is a JAG priority. A program is “evidence-based” when the program effectiveness has been demonstrated and obtained through one or more outcome evaluations. Please indicate whether your agency



Q11: Evidence-Based Practices and Service Efficiency

Respondents who indicated they used evidence-based practices in their agency were asked to provide examples. See below for some of the open-ended responses on the evidence-based practices being used across Nebraska. Responses include common threads such as the implementation of treatment courts, problem-solving programs, and restorative justice practices.

Open-Ended Responses
Evidence-based data provided by our national organization
Emergency Operations Planning, Suicide Prevention and Digital Media best practices
Forensic Interview protocol used by Forensic Interview Specialists is an evidence-based protocol.

Key Model for Reentry and Well-Being Development; clinical treatment services;
Check and connect
DVIP program
It provides direct professional advocacy trauma-informed services to child victims.
Training
In our higher ed environment, we use data to assess success rate of students as well as tracking course offerings, enrollment trends, graduate employment and feedback from those employers
Restorative Practice
Case load management - conflict of interest checks - managing budget
We are implementing the Green Dot prevention program. We also follow the trauma informed care model.
After school program mentoring for middle school youth
Treatment Courts - Drug - Veterans – DUI
Problem-solving programs.
Diversion and truancy reduction programs in several counties. We are also Victim Youth Conferences.
Our program utilized program materials from The Change Companies
Utilization of a sworn presence in the Problem-Solving Courts. Data Driven response to traffic and crime suppression, recruitment/retention. Behavioral health-Peer support programming.
We get funding based on what the data says
CLFC, WRAP
Mapping of drug seizures, weapon seizures, opioid overdoses. TraCS is used. Data from our Crime Lab is reported.
Trauma informed care
We use evidence based/informed practices regarding working with family, youth, entrepreneurship, education, mental health, classroom format
Juvenile Diversion Programs use evidence-based practices.
EMDR, CBT, TF-CBT, DBT, Motivational Interviewing and other additional therapeutic
Interventions
We use Evidence-based practices via JAC, NCJIS data platforms/bases
Motivational Interviewing
Restorative Justice
Our agency currently utilizes Structured Decision Making (SDM) and Safety Organized Practices (SOP).
Cognitive Groups (MRT/DBT and T4C)

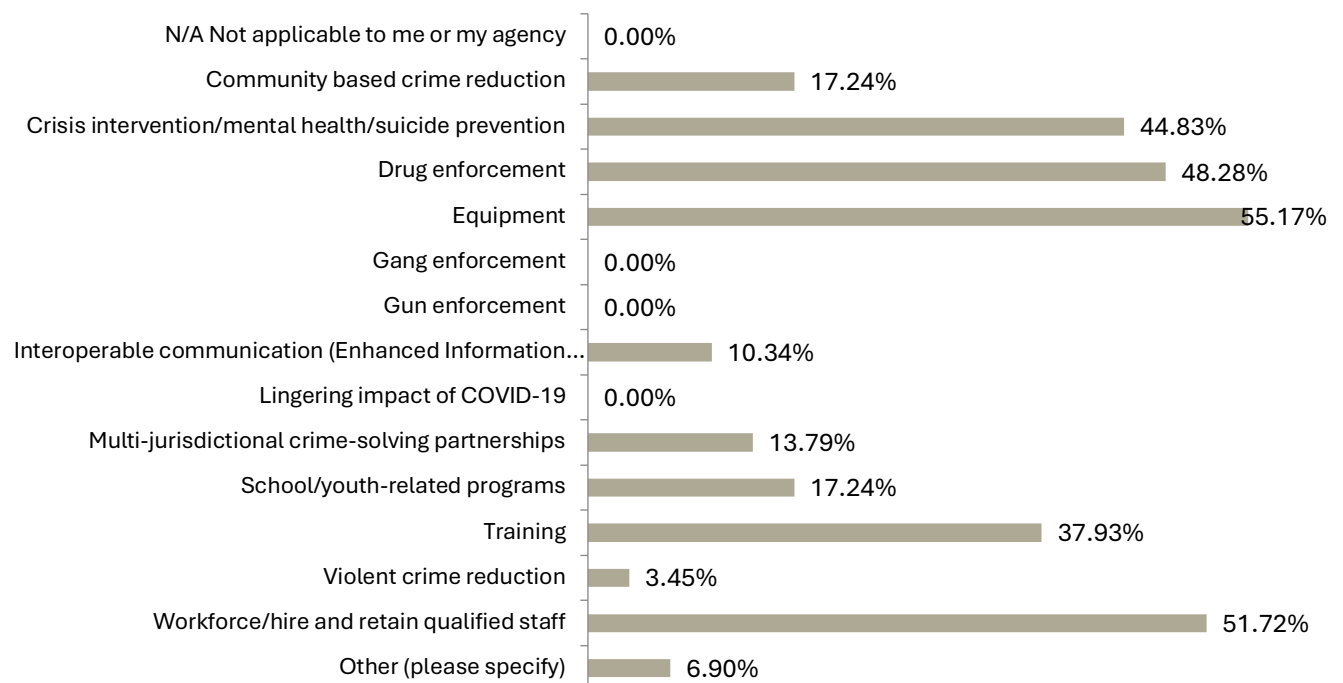
Purpose Area 1: Law Enforcement Programs

Q12: Areas of Need in Law Enforcement Programs

Respondents were asked to select their top three areas of need for law enforcement. Equipment (55%), workforce/hiring and retaining qualified staff (52%), and drug enforcement (48%) were selected as the highest areas of need.

It's important to mention that the survey design didn't involve any formal logic, and the low response rate to the law enforcement identification question suggests that many respondents may not have considered it relevant to their role or agency. Out of the 33 respondents who identified as law enforcement, 29 answered the question, however others skipped it, possibly indicating that the question had limited applicability to non-law enforcement participants. This could indicate an opportunity for follow-up related to law enforcement needs.

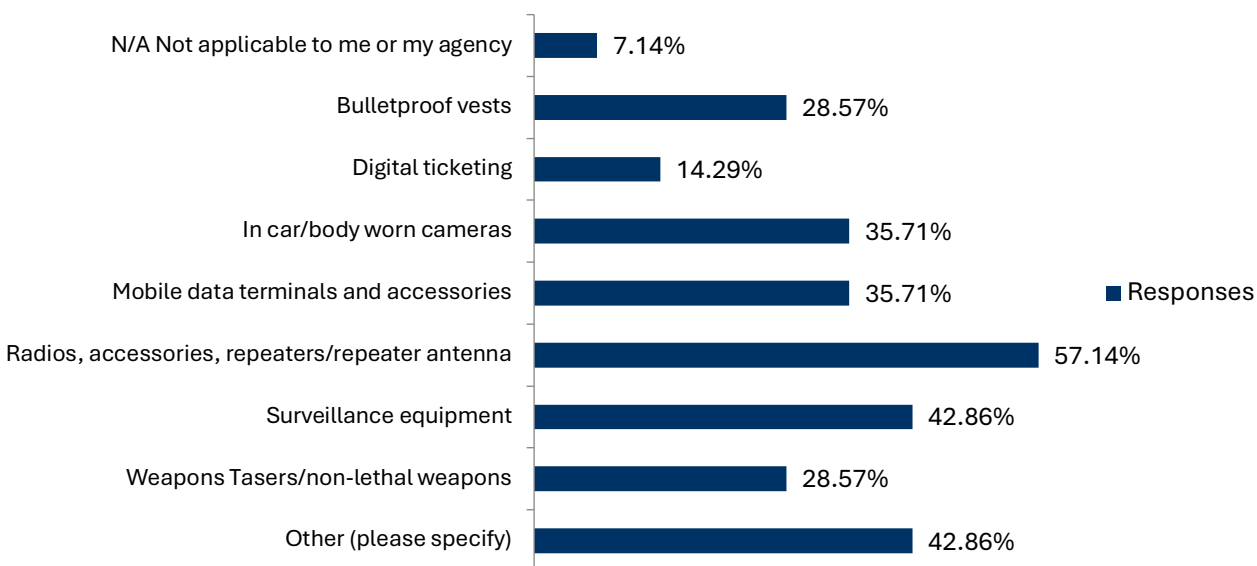
Other than general program funding, please select the
top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 1 – Law
Enforcement Programs:
(n=29)



Q13: Areas of Need in Law Enforcement Programs

Respondents were asked about their specific funding needs for equipment. Equipment varying from radios, accessories, repeaters/repeater antenna (57%) and surveillance equipment (43%) were indicated as the top two needs. Open-ended responses (43%) such as AFIS upgrades and Crimelite auto cameras for investigations, ALPR systems, drones/night vision and vehicles. Mental health services for officers were also mentioned.

Within the law enforcement purpose area, what additional equipment would you like funding for that your agency needs: Select all that apply
(n=14)

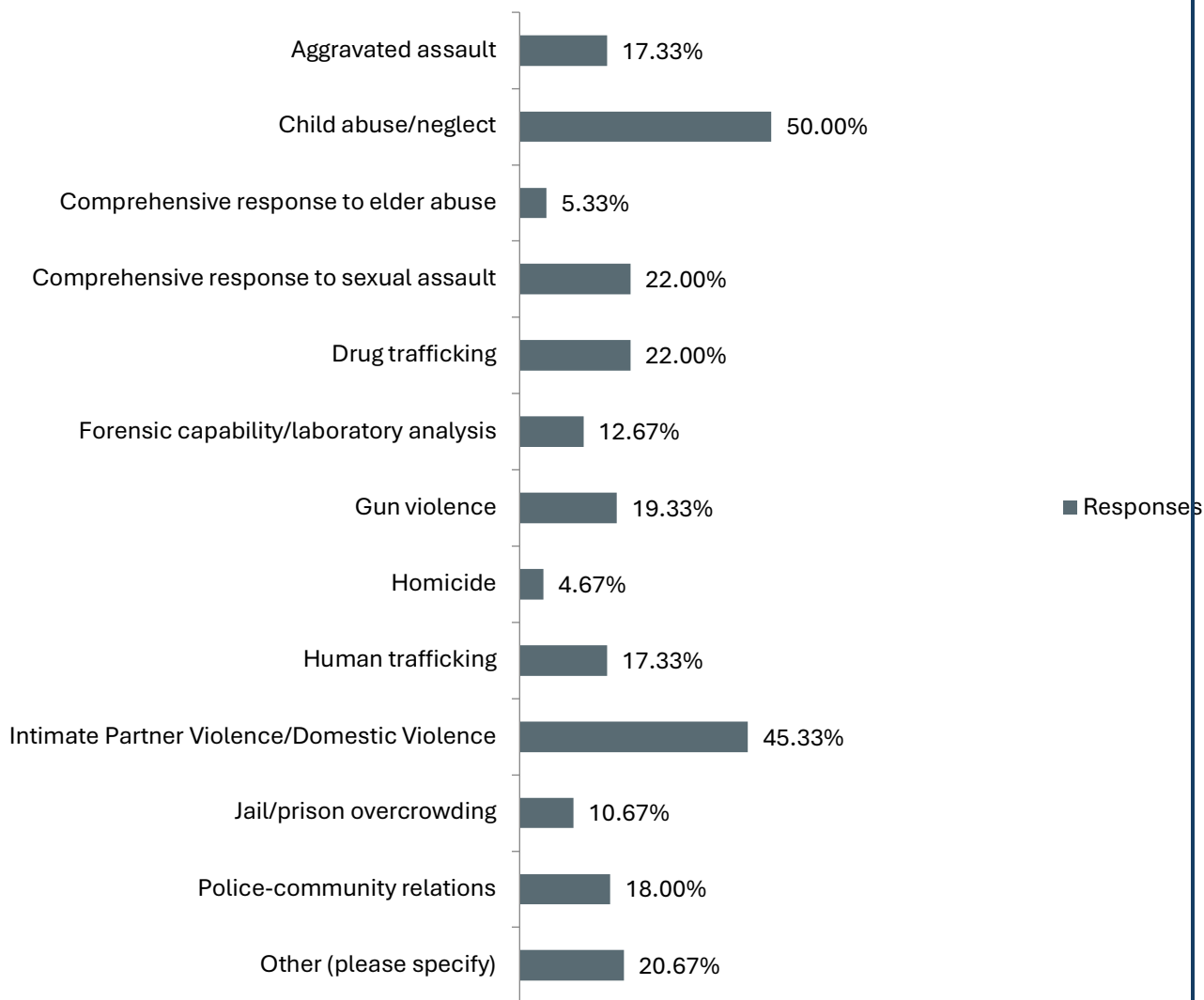


Q14: Most Challenging Violent Crimes

According to the survey, half of the respondents identified child abuse and neglect as the most pressing challenge. Intimate partner violence and domestic violence were also highlighted by approximately 45% of the respondents. Additionally, drug trafficking and comprehensive responses to sexual assault were noted as significant emerging issues, each mentioned by 22% of the respondents.

Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing
your agency related to violent crimes.

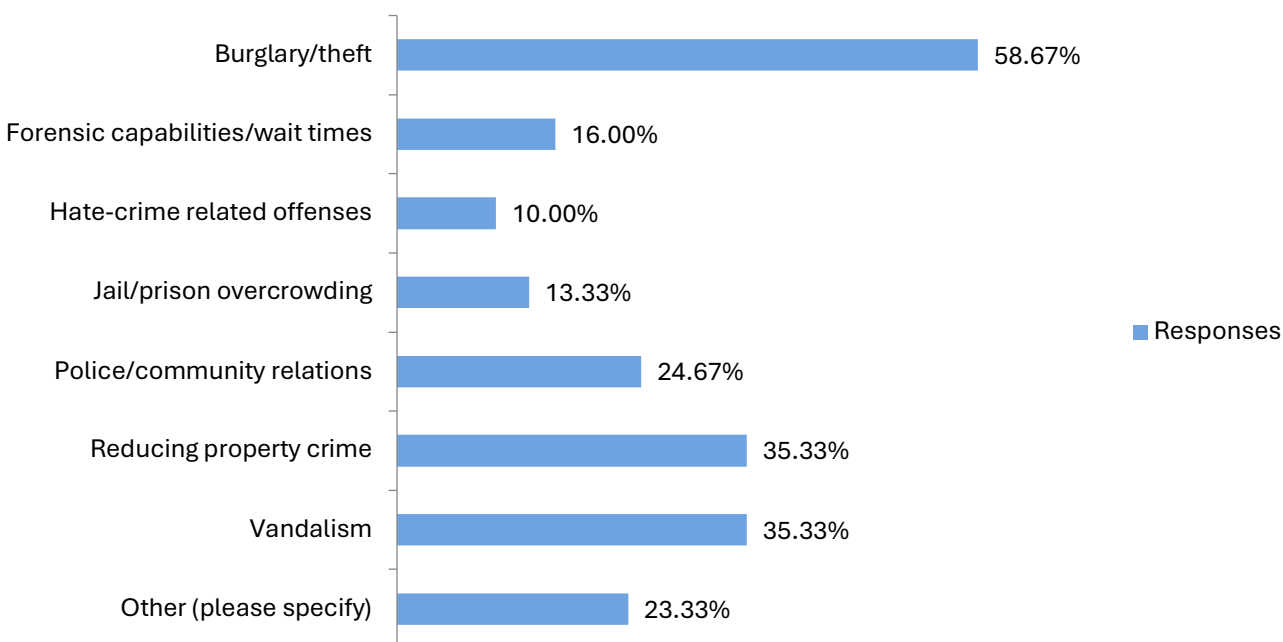
(n=150)



Q15: Most Challenging Property Crimes

Respondents were asked to identify the most challenging property crimes. The results showed that burglary/theft was the top challenging property crime, with a response rate of approximately 59%. Vandalism and general property crime reduction had an equal response rate of 35%, followed by other types of property crimes.

Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing
your agency related to property crime.
(n=150)



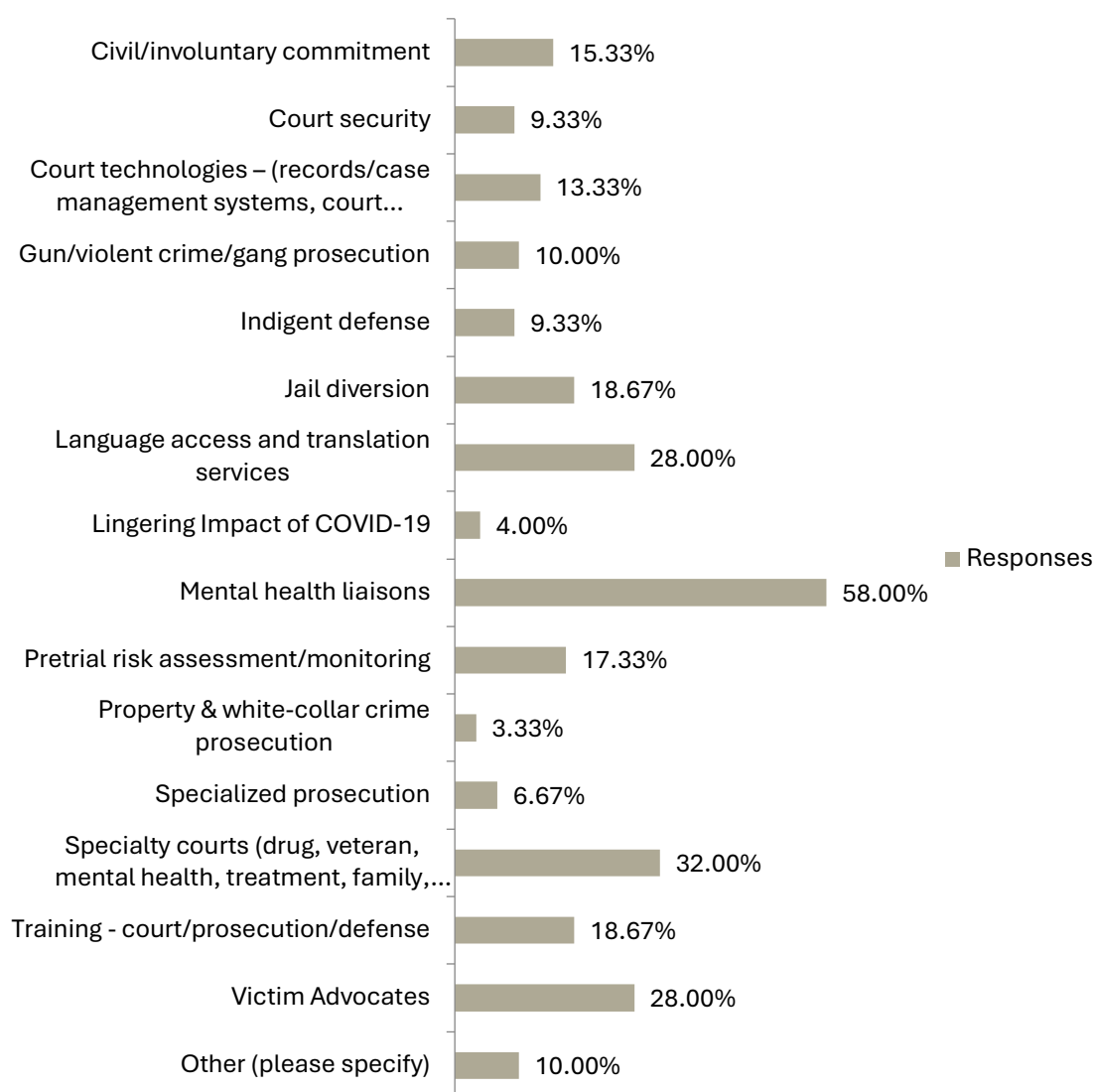
Purpose Area 2: Prosecution, Court, Defense and Indigent Defense

Q16: Areas of Need in Prosecution, Court, Defense and Indigent Defense

Respondents were asked to select their top three areas of need for prosecution, court, defense and indigent defense. Mental health liaisons in the courts were indicated as the most emerging need (58%). Specialty courts (drug, veteran, mental health, treatment, family, youth) and language access and translation services had an equal response rate of 28%.

Other than general program funding, please
select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 2
- Prosecution, Court, Defense and Indigent

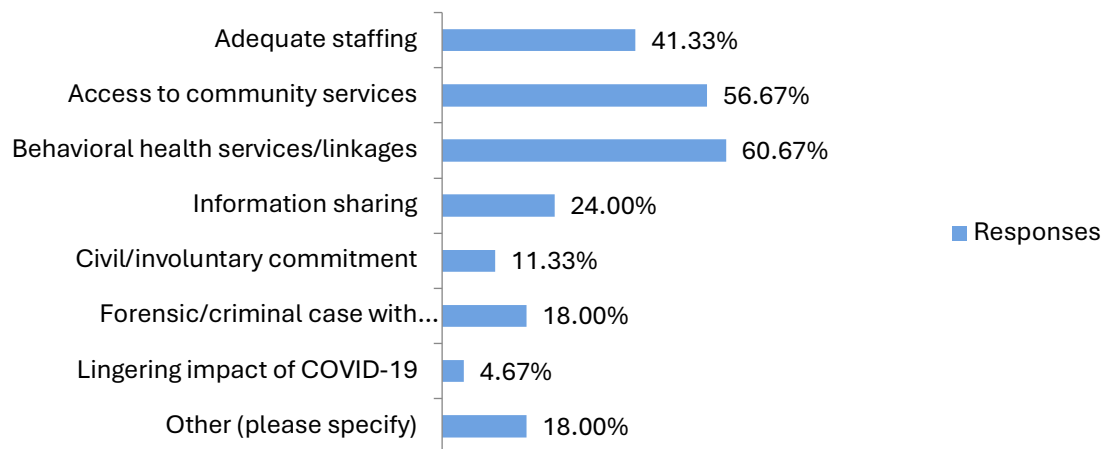
Defense:
(n=150)



Q17: Top Challenges for Indigent Defense Services

The survey respondents identified behavioral health services/linkages as the most significant challenge, with approximately 61% indicating this. Access to community services was the next most cited challenge, with almost 57% of respondents noting this as an obstacle to delivering indigent defense services. Lastly, approximately 41% of respondents indicated that adequate staffing was another challenge.

Please indicate the top 3 greatest challenges
when delivering indigent defense services:
(n=150)

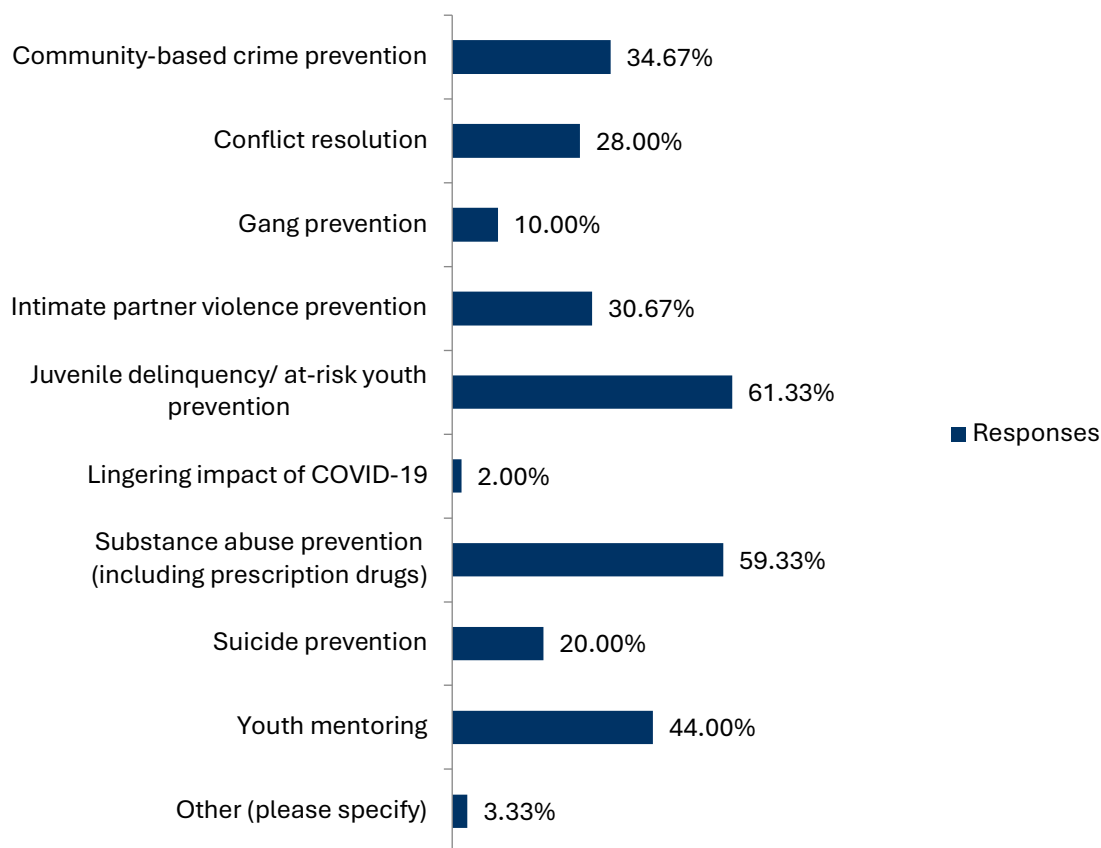


Purpose Area: 3 Prevention and Education

Q18: Areas of Need in Prevention and Education

The survey asked respondents about the most important areas for prevention and education. The results showed that the top area of need was juvenile delinquency/at-risk youth prevention, with approximately 61% of respondents identifying it as an issue. Following that, 59% of respondents indicated that substance abuse prevention (including prescription drugs) was a key area of need. Additionally, 44% of respondents identified youth mentoring as another important area for prevention and education.

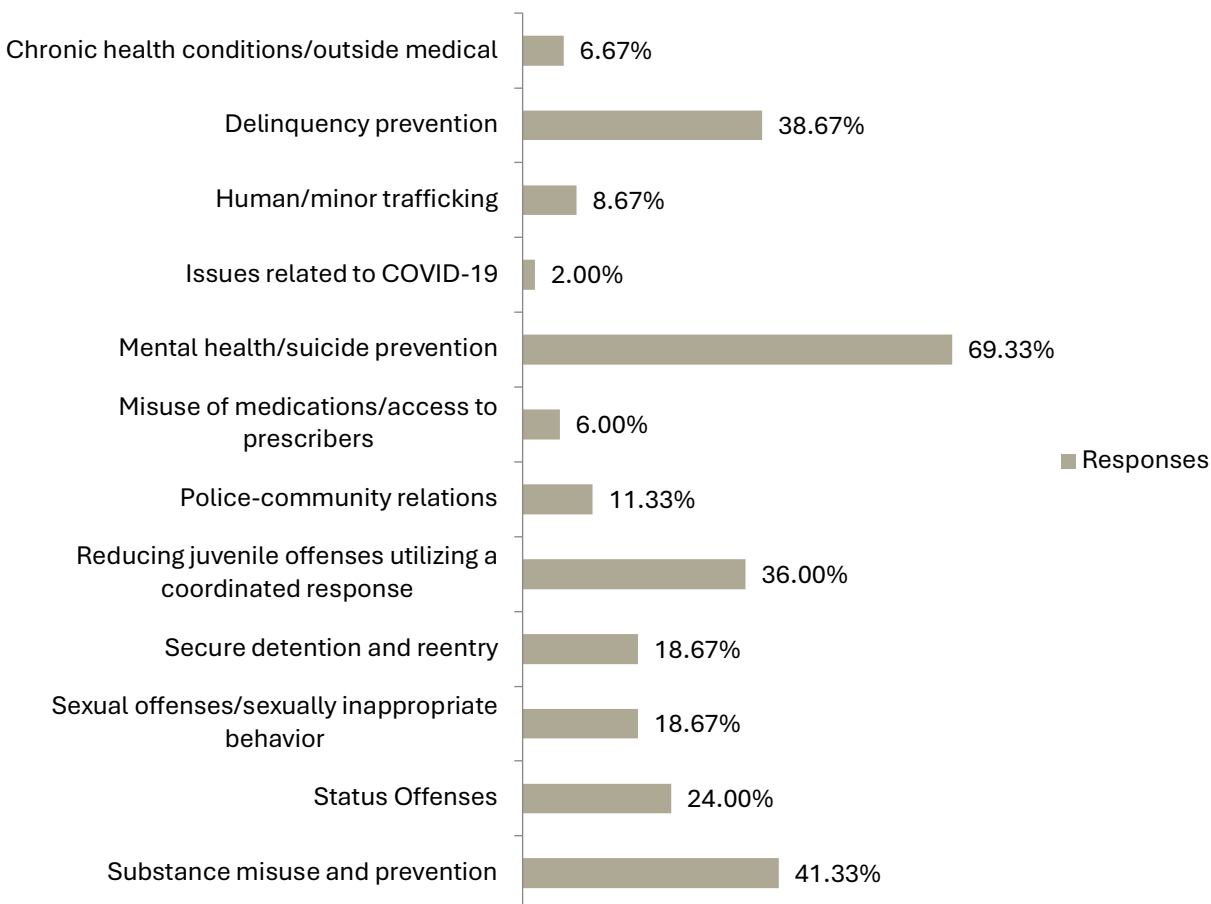
Other than general program funding, please
select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 3
Prevention and Education:
(n=150)



Q19: Top Challenges Related to Juvenile Offenses

The survey revealed that mental health and suicide prevention were identified as the most significant challenges related to juvenile offenses, with approximately 69% of respondents indicating this. Substance misuse and prevention were the second highest concern, with around 41% of respondents identifying it as a top challenge. Following that, delinquency prevention was mentioned by approximately 39% of respondents as a significant challenge.

Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues
facing your agency related to juvenile offenses.
(n=150)



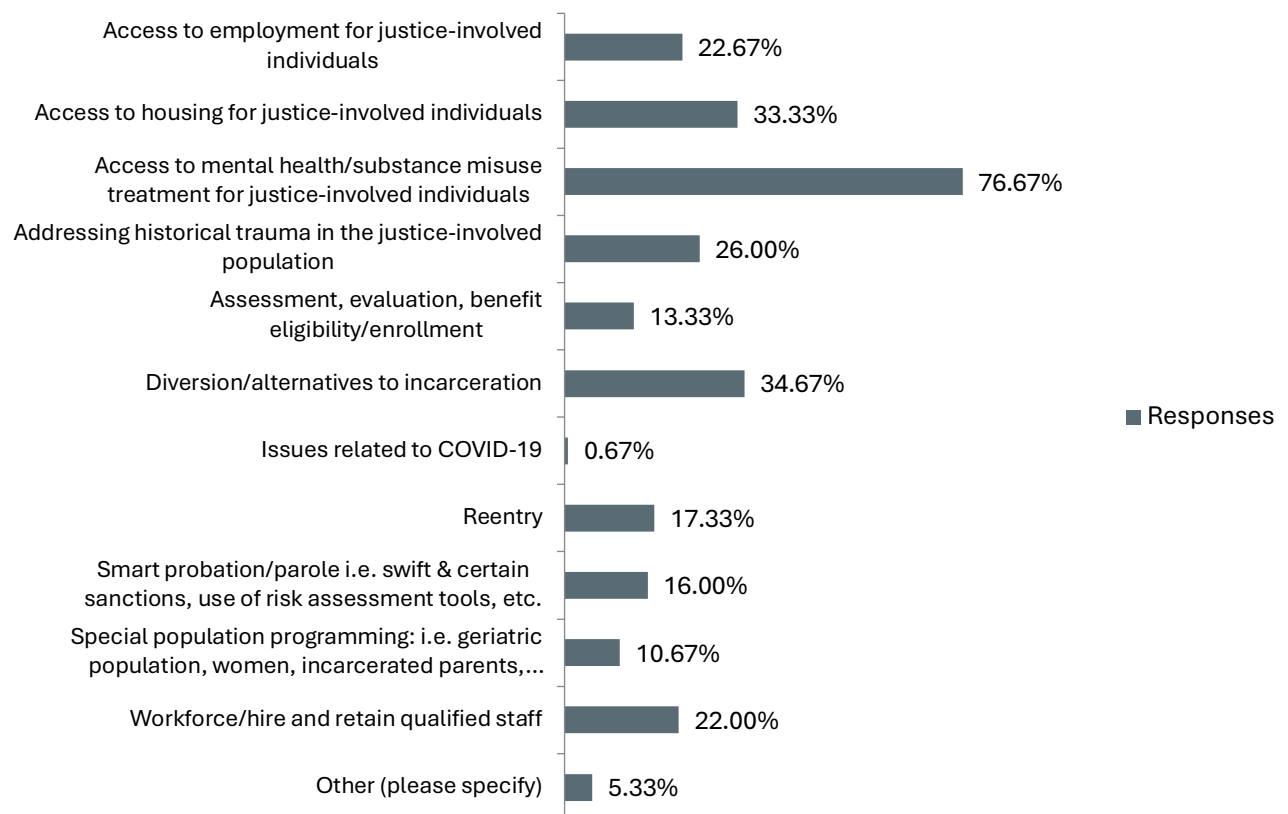
Purpose Area 4: Corrections/Community Corrections

Q20: Areas of Need for Corrections/Community Corrections

Survey participants were asked to identify the top three areas of need for corrections and community corrections. Most respondents (approximately 77%) highlighted the importance of access to mental health and substance misuse treatment for individuals involved in the justice system. Following that, near a quarter of respondents indicated the need to address historical trauma in the justice-involved population. This reflects a commitment to being trauma-informed within the system and among its employees, potentially leading to the adoption of evidence-informed practices to tackle criminal

behavior. Approximately 22% of respondents identified access to employment as a barrier for justice-involved individuals.

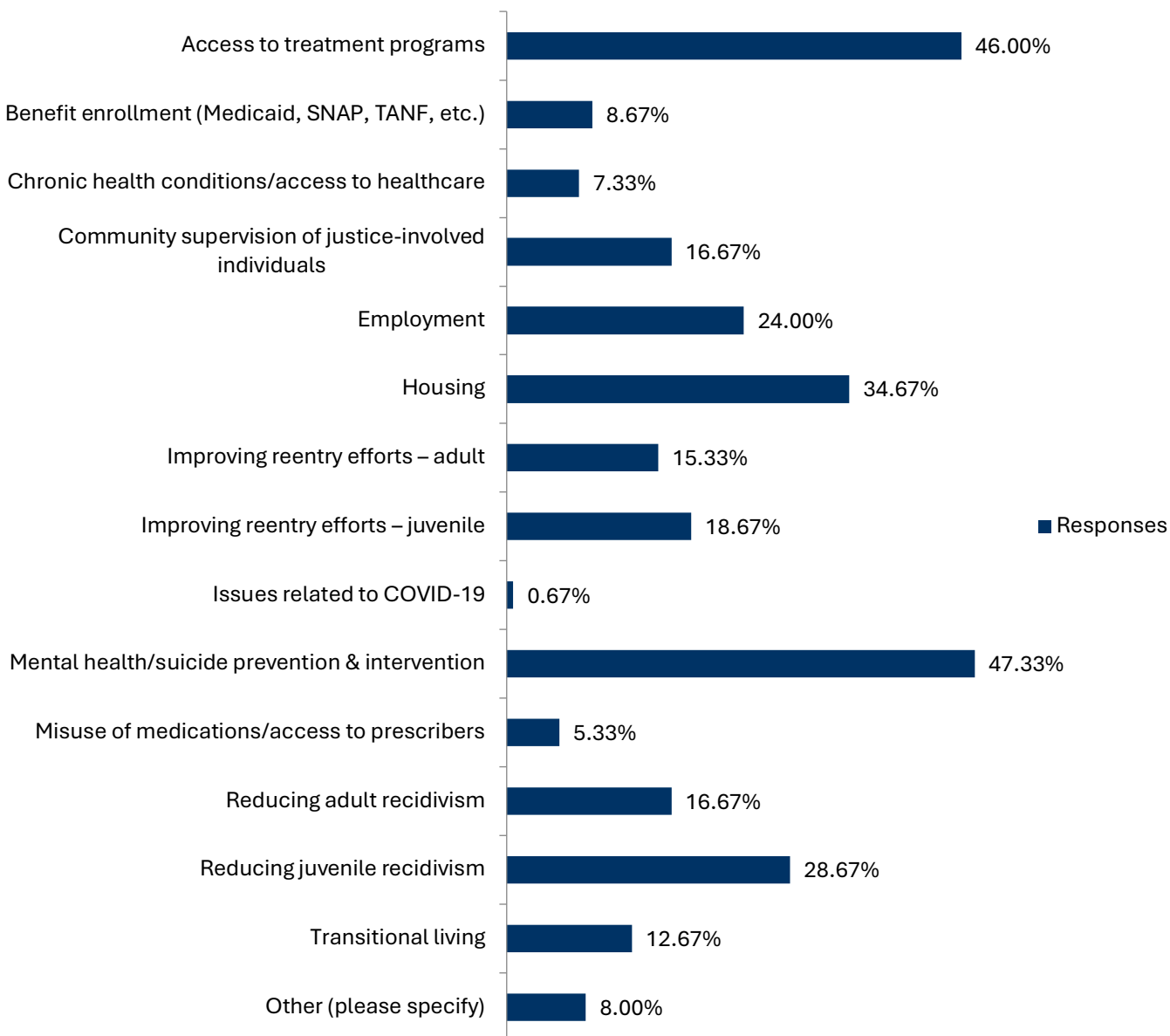
Other than general program funding, please select the
top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 4
Corrections/Community Corrections:
(n=150)



Q21: Top Challenges Related to Recidivism and Reentry

Nearly half (47%) of the respondents identified mental health and suicide prevention/intervention as an emerging challenge in relation to recidivism and reentry. Around 35% of the respondents cited housing as a challenge, followed by reducing juvenile recidivism, which 29% of the respondents indicated as a challenge in relation to recidivism and reentry.

Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing
your agency related to recidivism and reentry efforts.
(n=150)

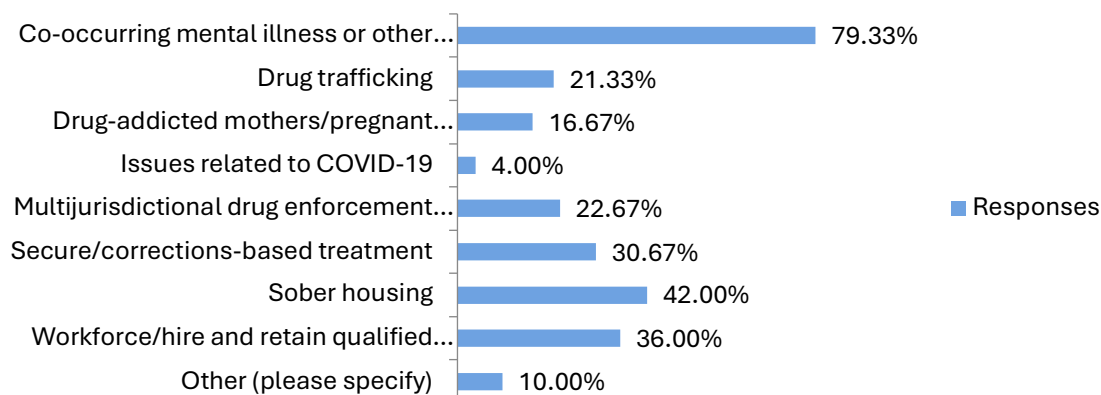


Purpose Area 5: Drug Treatment and Enforcement

Q22: Areas of Need for Drug Treatment and Enforcement

Respondents were asked about emerging areas of need related to drug treatment and enforcement. Approximately 79% of respondents indicated that co-occurring mental illness or other chronic health conditions is a major area of need. Forty-two percent of respondents indicated sober housing as an area of need, followed by 36% indicating the need to hire and retain qualified staff in this sector.

Other than general program funding, please
select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 5
Drug Treatment and Enforcement:
(n=150)

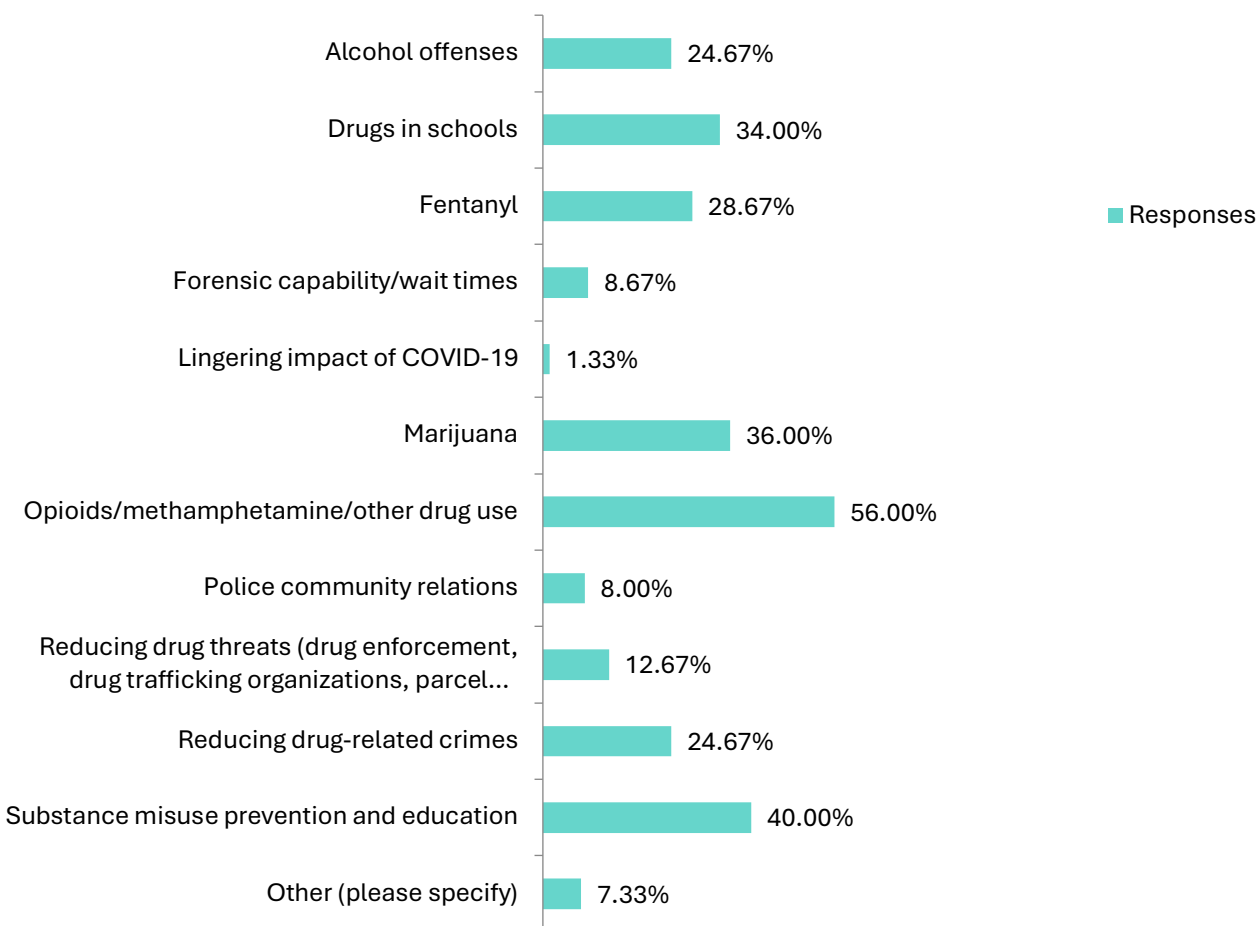


Q23: Top Challenges Related to Drug Threats and Drug-Related Crimes

Over 56% of respondents reported opioid/methamphetamine/other drug use as the top challenge, followed by substance misuse prevention and education at 40% and marijuana at 36%.

Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues
facing your agency related to drug threats and drug-
related crimes.

(n=150)



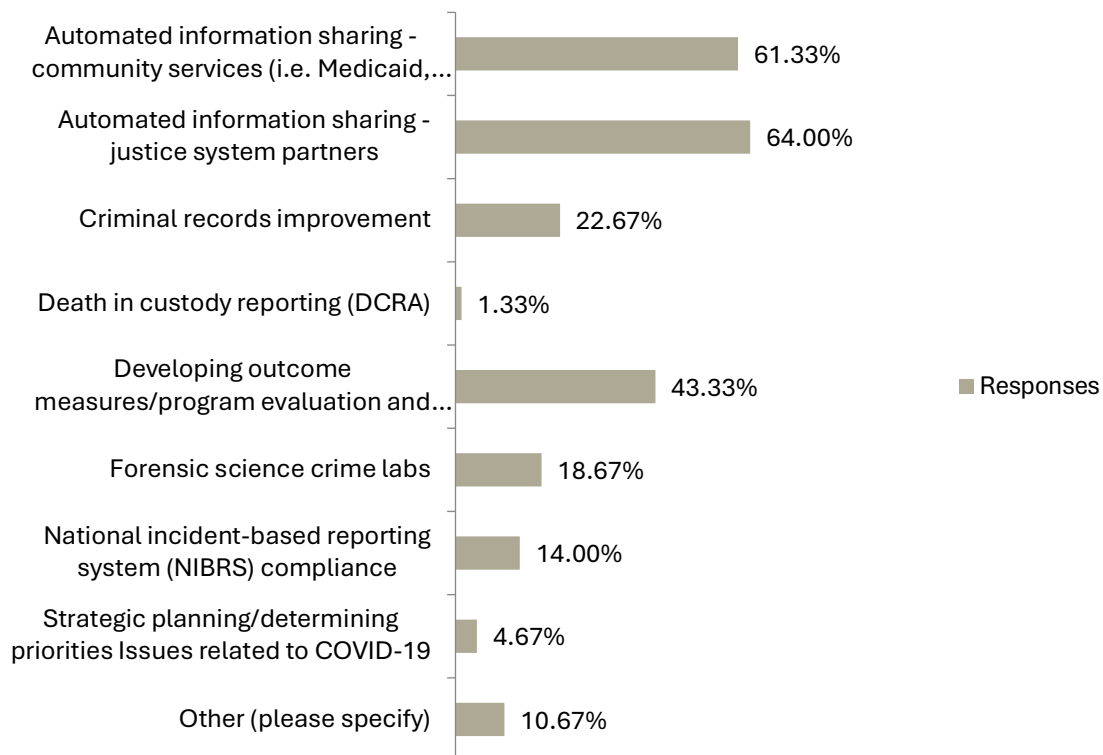
Purpose Area 6: Planning, Evaluation and Technology

Q24: Top 3 Areas of Need for Planning, Evaluation and Technology

Survey participants were asked to identify the key areas requiring attention in planning, evaluation and technology. The results showed that 64% of respondents highlighted the need for automated information sharing with justice system partners, while approximately 61% emphasized the importance of automated information sharing with community services such as Medicaid, mental health, employment and housing. Additionally, around

43% of respondents identified the development of outcome measures, program evaluation and research as crucial areas requiring attention.

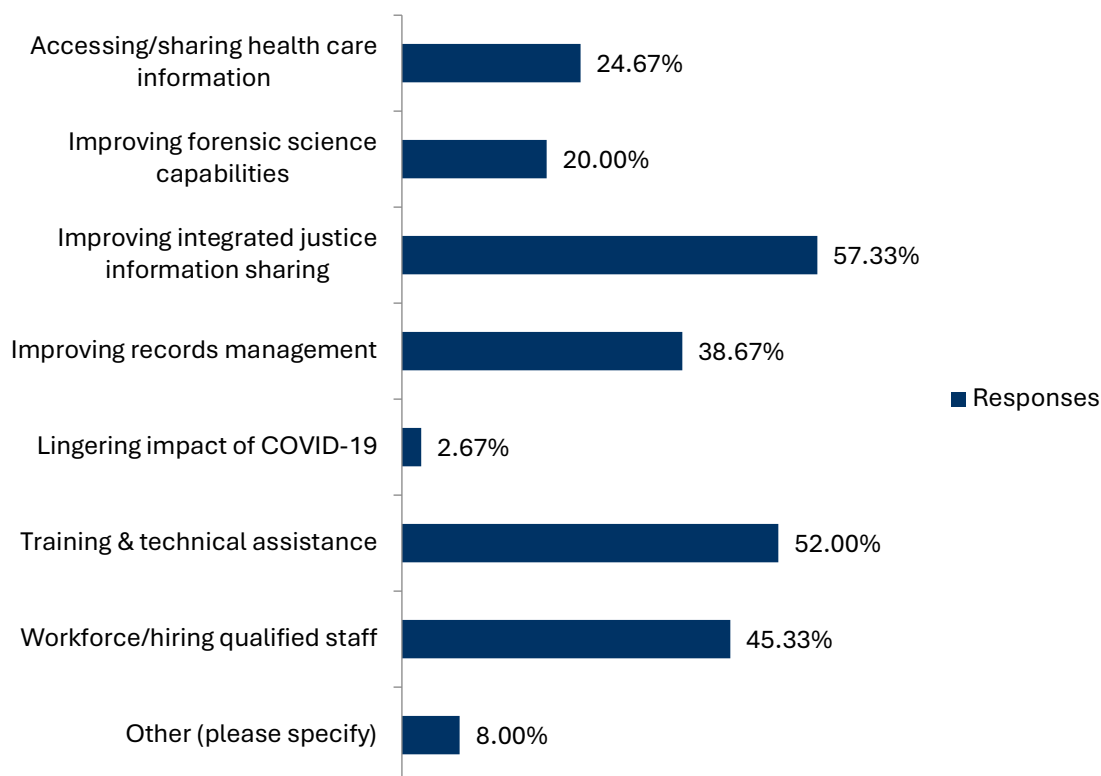
Other than general program funding, please
select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 6
Planning, Evaluation and Technology:
(n=150)



Q25: Challenges for Technological Improvement

Fifty-seven percent of survey participants identified enhancing integrated justice information sharing as a major challenge. Additionally, 52% of respondents pointed to training and technical assistance as a significant challenge, and approximately 45% highlighted workforce/hiring qualified staff as an emerging issue.

Please indicate the top 3 most challenging
issues facing your agency related to
technological improvement.
(n=150)

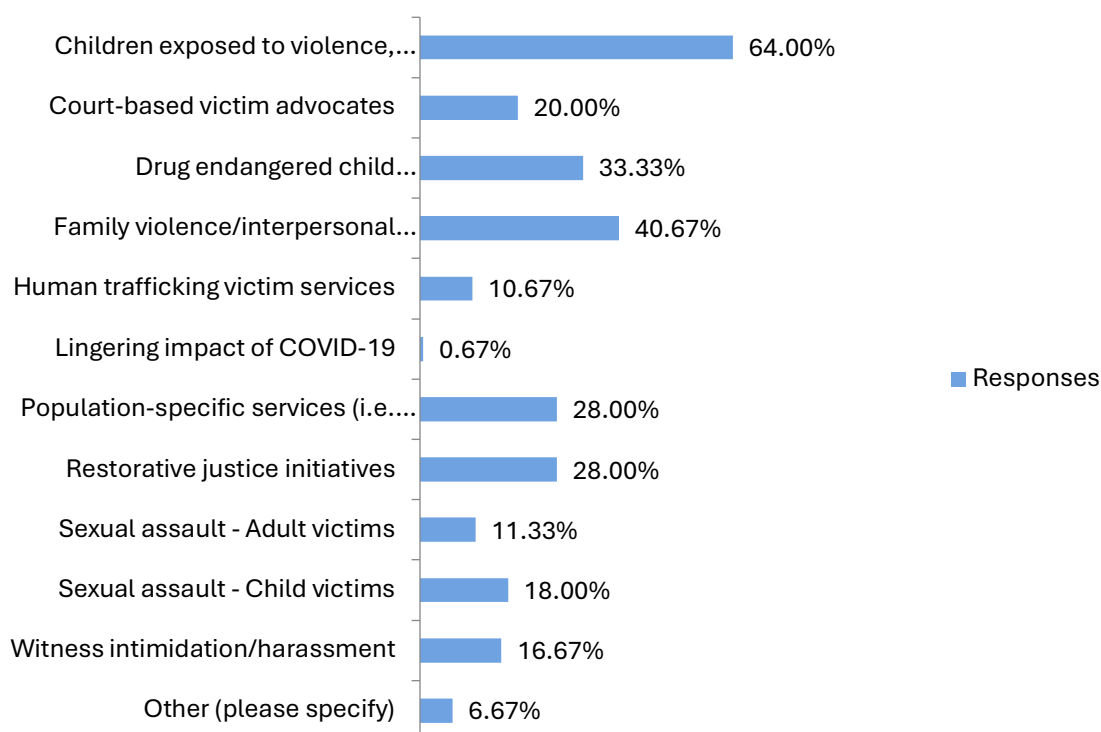


Purpose Area 7: Crime Victim and Witnesses

Q26: Areas of Need for Crime Victims and Witnesses

When asked about crime victims and witnesses, 64% of respondents indicated that children exposed to violence, physical abuse and neglect were seen as an emerging challenge. Forty-one percent of respondents identified family violence/interpersonal violence advocacy and 33% indicated drug-endangered child abuse/neglect services and family justice centers as emerging challenges.

Other than general program funding, please
select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 7
Crime Victim and Witness within your
community
(n=150)



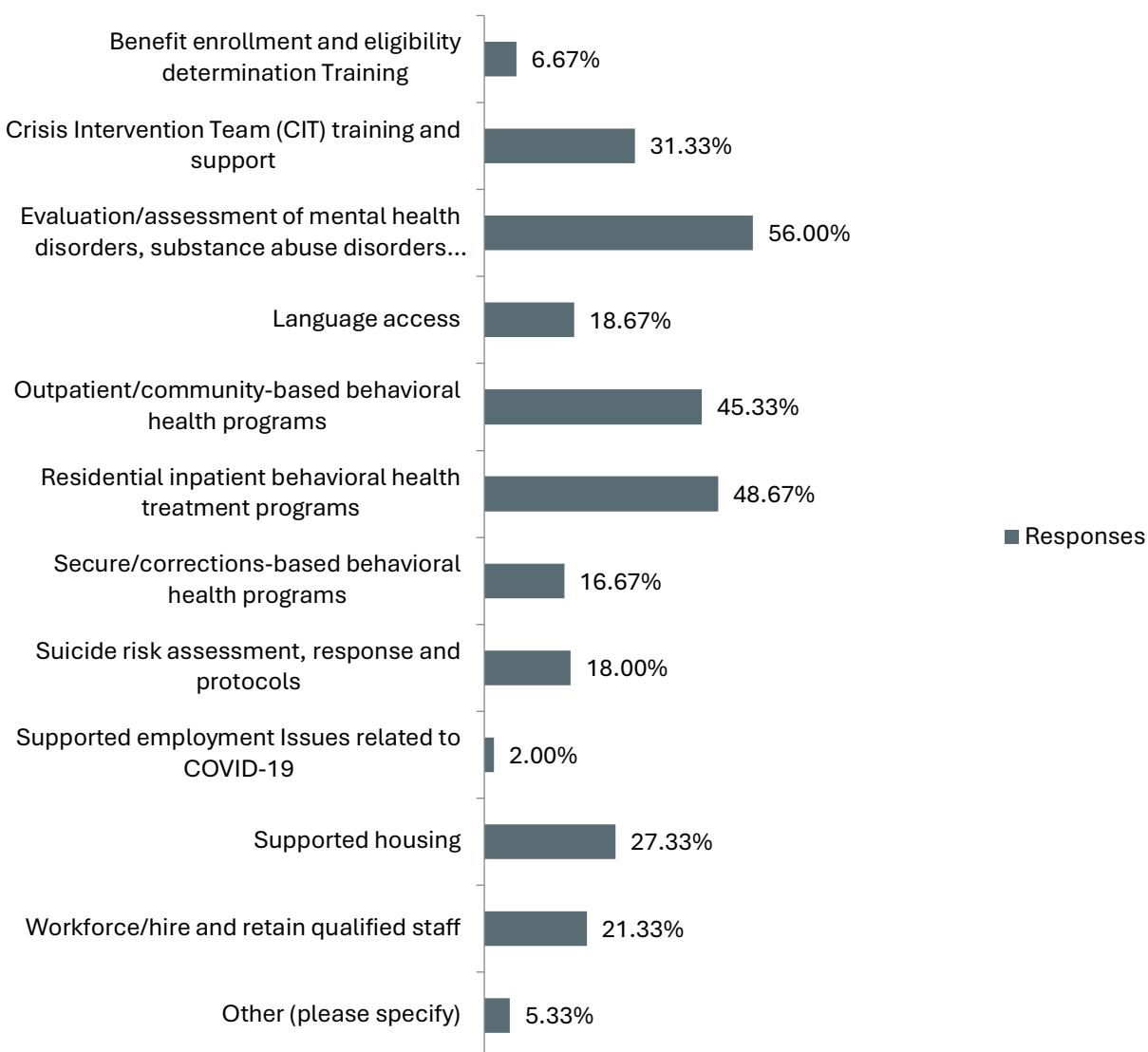
Purpose Area 8 - Mental Health Programs and Related Law Enforcement and Corrections Programs, Including Behavioral Programs and Crisis Intervention Teams

Q27: Areas of need for Mental Health Programs and Related Law Enforcement and Corrections Programs, Including Behavioral Programs and Crisis Intervention Teams

Over half (56%) of respondents indicated that evaluation/assessment of mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders and co-occurring disorders was an emerging issue. Approximately 49% of respondents indicated residential inpatient behavioral health treatment programs as an area of need followed by 45% that reported outpatient/community-based behavioral health programs as an area of need

Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 8 - Mental Health Programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams:

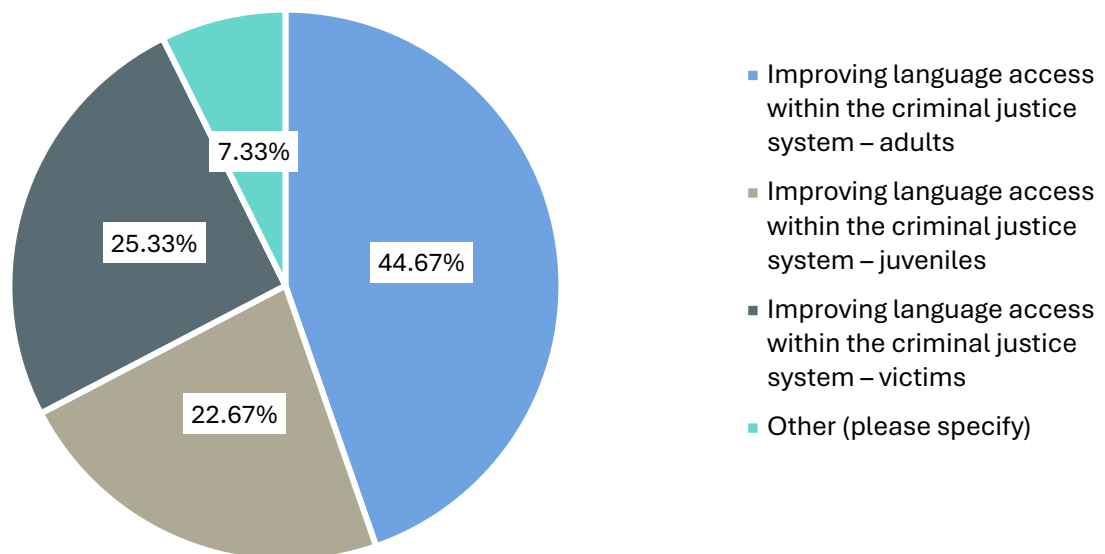
(n=150)



Q28. Language Access

The survey takers were asked to indicate the most challenging issues their agency faces related to language access for their agency. Approximately 45% of respondents indicated improving language access within the criminal justice system for adults was a challenge, followed by a quarter that indicated improving language access within the criminal justice system for victims being a need.

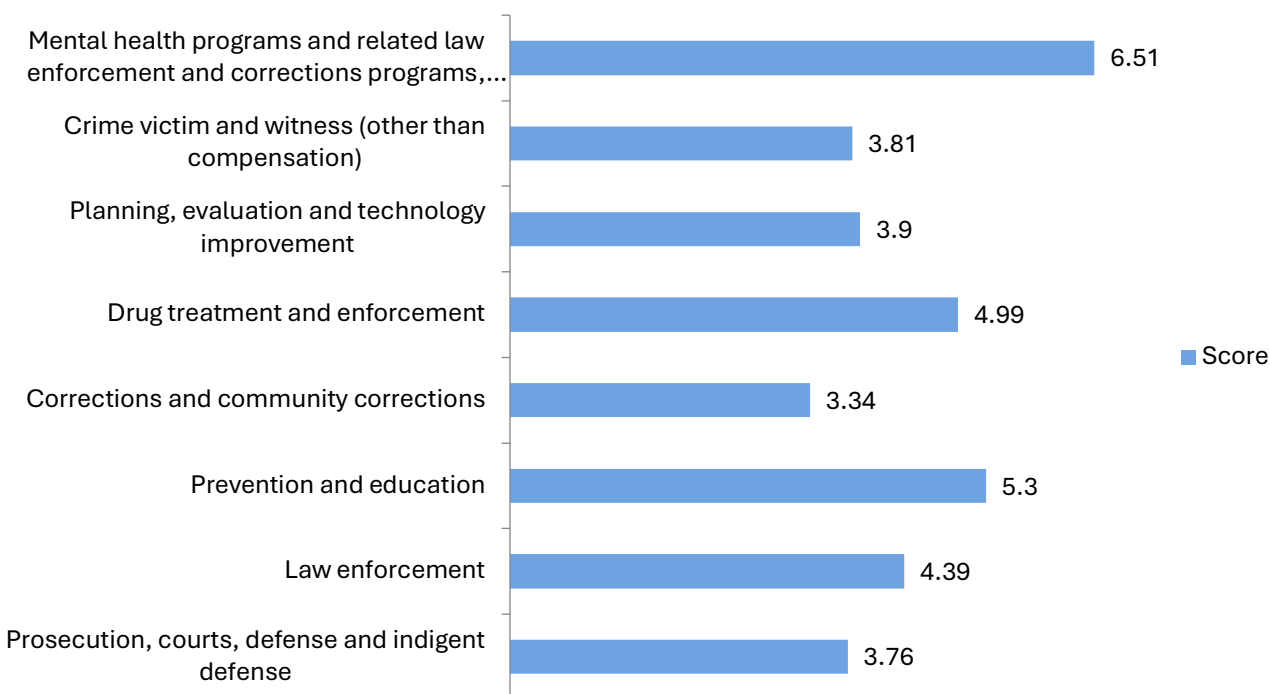
Please indicate the most challenging issues your agency faces related to language access.
(n=150)



Q29: Ranking the 8 JAG Purpose Areas

Respondents were asked to rank the 8 purpose areas based on the needs most relevant to their agency or the community/communities they serve. Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams were ranked first, followed by prevention and education being second and drug treatment and enforcement being third most important. Please note that for all ranking questions, respondents were allowed to select more than one answer hence responses will not equal 100%.

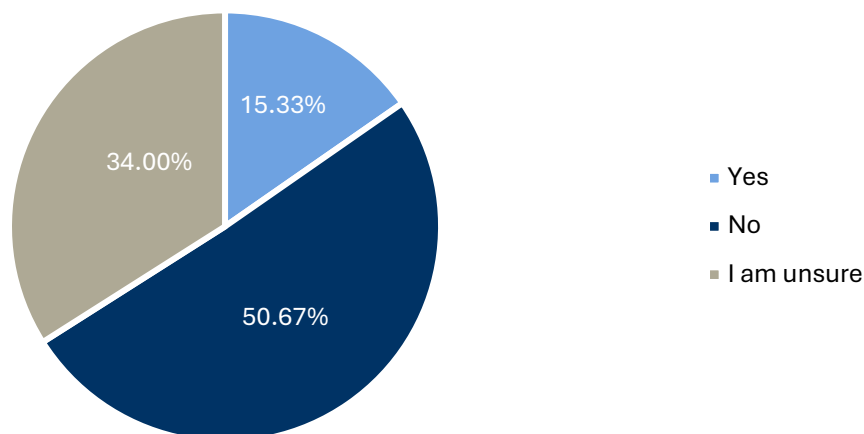
Please rank the 8 JAG Purpose Areas in order of
importance for your community. 1 = Most Important and
8 = Least Important
(n=150)



Q30: JAG Funding

The survey asked respondents about their previous JAG funding applications. Just over half of respondents said they had not applied to JAG. This information is important for the state administering agency to assess gaps in funding and rewards. Approximately 15% indicated yes, while the remaining 34% were unsure.

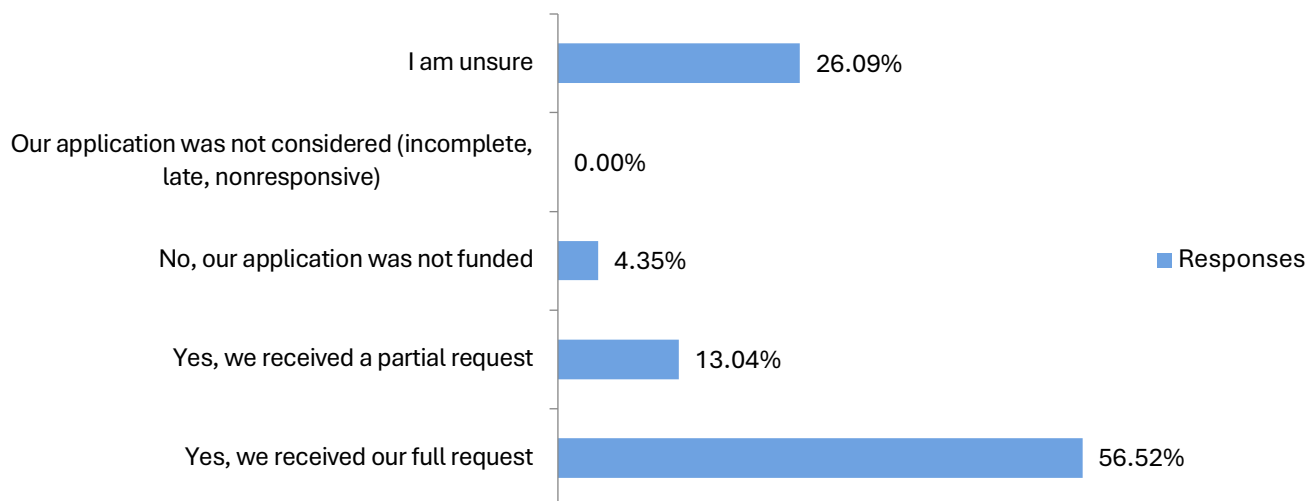
In the past three years, has your agency
applied for JAG funding?
(n=150)



Q31: JAG Funding

For those who applied for funding, they were asked if they were awarded. Of the individuals who responded, over half (57%) were granted and received the full request.

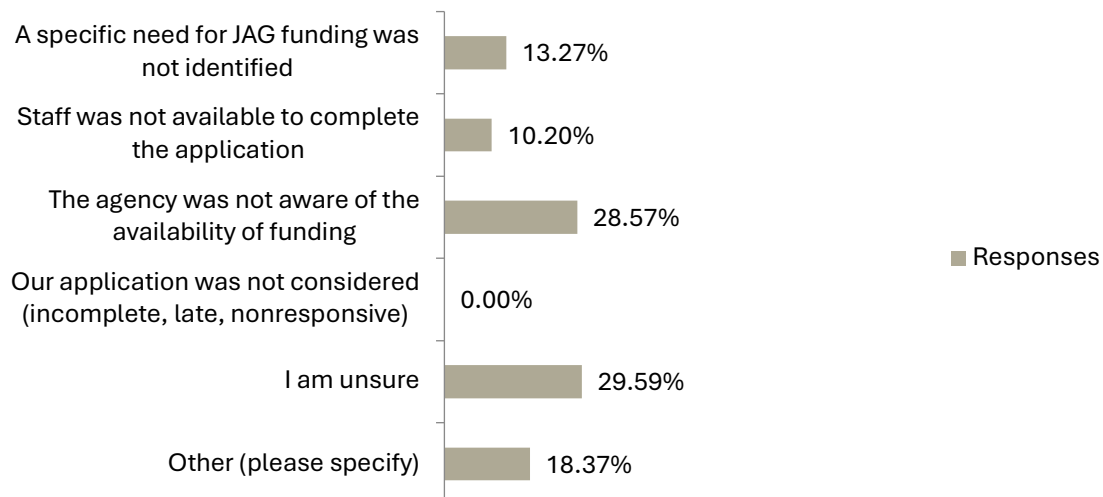
If you did apply, were you awarded JAG funding?
(n=23)



Q32: JAG Funding

It's important to not only recognize those who have received JAG funding but also to understand the barriers that prevented others from receiving funding in the past. Nearly 30% of respondents expressed uncertainty about why their agency did not receive funding, while 29% stated that their agency was unaware of the funding opportunities. These responses can assist NCC in customizing their funding opportunity announcements and improving communication regarding the reasons for funding denials.

If you did not apply, please indicate the reason.
(n=98)



SCIP Areas for Investment

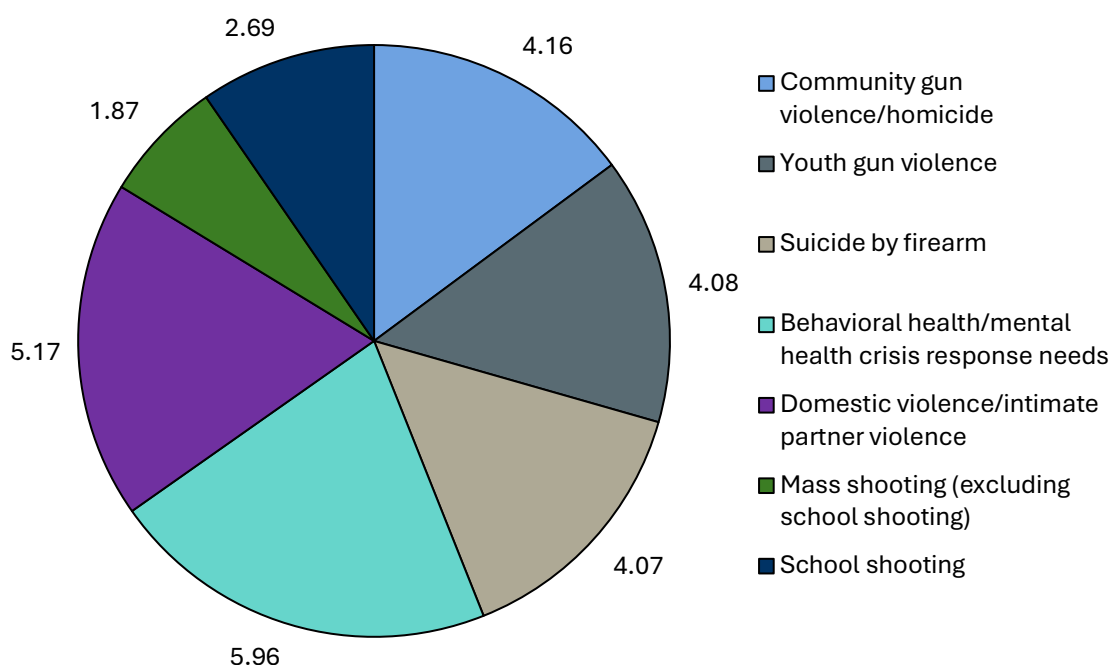
The Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP) is a federal grant program that was authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 to help reduce gun violence and crime. The SCIP provides formula funds to states to implement programs and initiatives that address gun violence and behavioral health crises. The Nebraska Crime under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 asked the following questions to better assess funding needs for SCIP and the development of their SCIP Advisory Board.

Gun Violence-Related Challenges and Areas of Investment

Q33: Most Challenging Gun Violence Issues

Respondents were asked to rank their most challenging gun violence issues. The most pertinent issue relating to gun violence was behavioral health/mental health crisis response needs ranked highest, followed by domestic violence/intimate partner violence ranked as the second most pertinent issue and suicide by firearms as the third top challenge.

From 1-7, please rank the most challenging or pertinent issues facing the area(s) served by your organization related to gun violence. 1 = Most Challenging and 7 = Least Challenging
(n=140)



Q34: Other Emerging Gun Violence Issues

Respondents were asked about any other emerging issues as it relates to firearms. The following is a summary of some of the responses:

Open-Ended Responses
Gun control and 2 nd amendment laws being taken away
Obtaining guns in rural communities
Community education about guns
Gun trafficking
Black market gun purchase/ghost guns
Access to guns for those with felonies
Domestic abusers and those living with mental health disorders accessing and using guns
There are very limited resources around qualified and credible gang intervention. There is a need for collaboration between schools, law enforcement, community corrections, community agencies for a united approach. We cannot punish this out of youth, we need a solution for communities and agencies that aren't afraid to go into homes and neighborhoods. There are many credible messengers willing to do the work, but they have no funding to start up agencies, especially since gang intervention models struggle to reach EBP since they are individualized for communities and may not be easily replicated.
Intertribal violence among African refugee youth
Possession of firearms by juveniles

Q35: Gun Violence Policies/Practices

Respondents were asked what policies or practices their county/city/state implemented to reduce firearm violence as related to intimate partner violence/domestic violence.

Open-Ended Responses
Schools are required to have a policy regarding dating violence and inform parents of this policy
More aggressive policing toward underserved populations.
State statutes
Law enforcement works proactively with the county attorneys and our local cities and municipalities to make sure current laws are enforced
Work of coordinated community response team, lethality assessments completed by law enforcement and local victim service agency
Free gun locks, handouts, community education

Q36: Areas of Investment for Gun Violence Prevention and Reduction

Respondents were asked about their possible areas of prioritized investment.

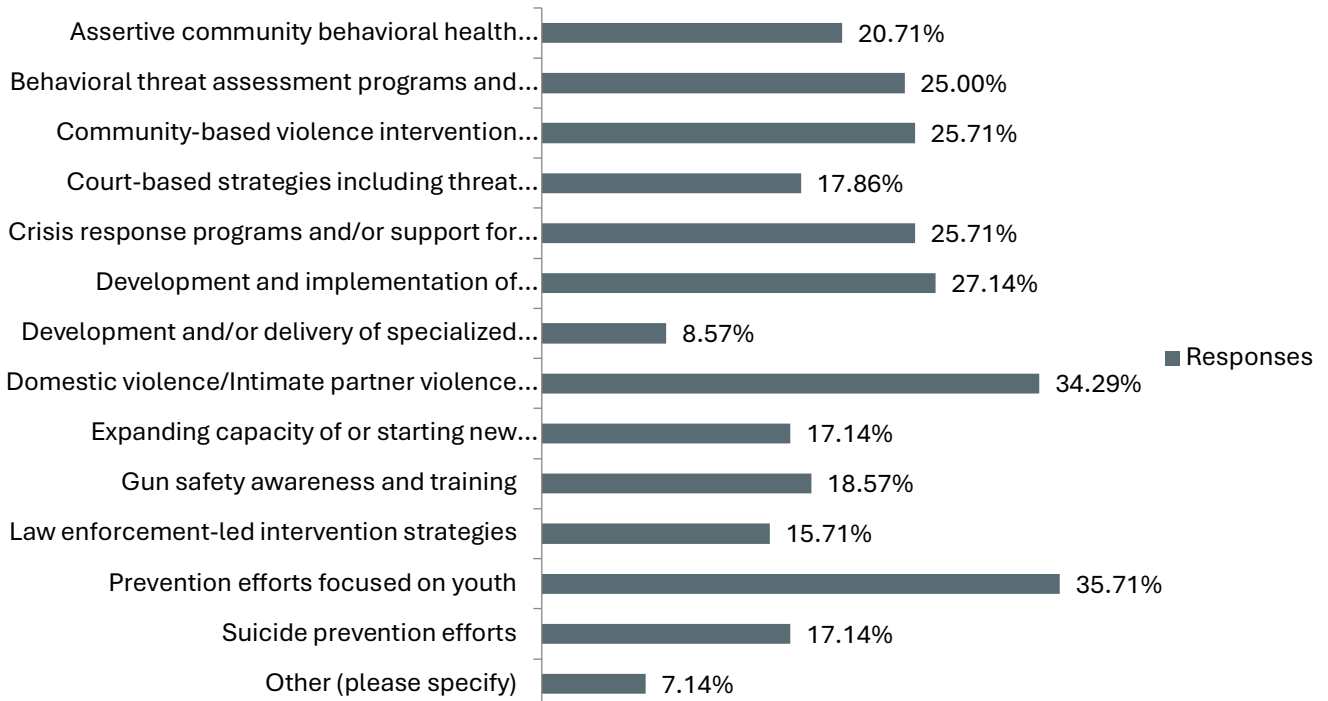
Approximately 36% of indicated prevention efforts focused on youth, followed by domestic

violence/intimate partner violence prevention strategies with approximately 34% in responses. Lastly, the development and implementation of validated gun violence risk assessment tools, service case management and navigation programs to assess the risks and needs of clients and connect them to critical services to mitigate their risk of gun violence and enhance their access to effective interventions received a response of 27% making it the third most prioritized area of investment for gun violence prevention and reduction.

These results are significant as the purpose of this question is to inquire about areas of investment for SCIP, and they are consistent with results from the JAG areas of investment, priorities and or challenges for the respondents.

Please select the top 3 potential areas of investment that you would identify as having the biggest impact on gun violence prevention and reduction in your state.

(n=140)



Q37: Additional Comments

In the final section of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to express any remaining concerns, comments, or questions relevant to their state or organization. Participation in this section was optional and most responses consisted of "N/A,". As a result, the thematic variables yielded a relatively low turnout. The predominant thematic variables included crimes committed out of necessity and the relationship between crime, poverty and broken family units (three responses); mental health services (two responses); rehabilitation as opposed to incarceration in both the juvenile and adult justice systems (two responses); education and training for judges and judiciary staff; the implementation of a trauma-informed approach throughout the system, emphasizing a people-centered and needs-based approach with cross-sector referrals and collaborative services; and the unique needs of rural communities, particularly in addressing mental health and behavioral health challenges. The remaining thematic responses echoed concerns, ideas and sentiments expressed in the preceding open-ended questions. See below for a few of the highlighted open-ended responses and the remainder of the responses in the appendix.

Open-Ended Responses
Focus on how digital sphere affects youth crime and focus on education and prevention
Poverty is the cause of violent crime. It is a human right to be served in ones community without removal and family separation.
We must keep pushing for trauma informed focused services to be provided to our community. This training needs to be given to all professionals that serve children and families.
Thank you for the work you do.
80% of our current criminal justice ills could be significantly mitigated by investments in rural mental health, substance abuse and forensic science infrastructure. The investments in mental health and substance abuse would decrease prison population, recidivism rates, and relieve pressures on the courts and those issues caused by lack of available qualified personnel to fill jobs in every segment of the criminal justice system, particularly in rural areas of the State (i.e. law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices, public defender's offices, probation offices, corrections).
Addressing Homelessness
Most crimes are committed out of survival necessity. When the community meets the needs

of the people, crime rates plummet. Safe, Affordable, housing, access to food, access to safe socializing spaces, and transportation needs being met have proven to be the most effective way to reduce crime.

Less funding for incarceration, more funding for rehabilitation. More trainings on de-escalation

for police officers and stricter use of any kinds of arms. Appropriate use of interpretation and translation services

Rehabilitation over incarceration

Key Considerations and Conclusions

The state of Nebraska's state administering agency, the Nebraska Crime Commission, has distributed this comprehensive statewide survey that will play a pivotal role in shaping the allocation of public safety funding and resources. The analysis of this survey offers valuable insight into the level of awareness among system partners, criminal justice stakeholders and community members.

The survey revealed several key themes. Many agencies struggle with inadequate technological infrastructure, with around 45% reporting automated data systems, though many face difficulties in data access and analysis. Modernizing these systems is seen as crucial for improving decision-making, collaboration, and program evaluation. Mental health and substance misuse were highlighted as major challenges, with over 60% of respondents citing a lack of resources for mental health crisis intervention and substance misuse treatment, underscoring the need for stronger behavioral health programs within the justice system. Juvenile justice and reentry services also emerged as important, with a focus on preventing delinquency, supporting youth mental health, and providing community-based interventions. Workforce recruitment and retention posed significant challenges, particularly in law enforcement and probation, with burnout, low wages, and high turnover rates contributing to staffing shortages. Respondents called for workforce development programs to strengthen the system's resilience. Lastly, community-based crime prevention programs were emphasized, with a need for greater involvement of schools, faith-based organizations, and community groups in addressing issues such as gang violence and school bullying.

It's important to highlight that for questions 14 through 31, there was a consistent response rate of 150 participants, with 101 skipping these questions. This could suggest that certain program areas, challenges, or investment priorities were not relevant to those respondents' professional roles, or it could indicate incomplete survey participation, as

the survey lacked logic-based branching or separate tracks. Overall, this is a key consideration when deciding which questions should be mandatory in the future.

The narrative data provided reflected common priorities and concerns from a wide range of survey respondents, including justice professionals and practitioners across various sectors. While frustrations arose from different gaps within the criminal justice system (as well as differing paradigms) most respondents expressed a shared commitment to achieving efficient justice for the benefit of their communities.

Due to the subjective nature of opinion-based responses and their limited generalizability, these findings are not intended to fully represent the views of Nebraska residents, establish causal links, or recommend specific policy actions.

Moving Forward

The NCJA Center for Justice Planning would like to thank all the system partners, practitioners and the public of Nebraska for their participation in this statewide public safety assessment survey. Data from this survey and this survey analysis can be used to provide input for the NCC in their planning process for future use JAG, SCIP and other public safety funding. While JAG and SCIP funds represent a small portion of criminal justice spending nationally, these dollars represent an opportunity to fund collaborative, multi-system initiatives that can enhance public safety and if used effectively, will ultimately reduce justice system costs, reduce violence and improve community health and well-being. NCJA anticipates collaborating with NCC on further engagement initiatives to help create a strategic plan that encompasses the program areas where findings indicate the needs should be prioritized. This strategic plan will enable the state of Nebraska to foster joint solutions, harness resources and optimize impact across the entire state.

Appendix A – Survey

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Nebraska Crime Commission Justice System Needs Assessment

The Nebraska Crime Commission is the state administering agency for the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (SCIP), federal sources of criminal justice funding. Our agency is in the process of updating our five-year state strategy, as required by the JAG formula grant program, which will guide spending under this grant program. Your input is critical to developing a comprehensive plan to address needs and challenges within and among the various sectors of the criminal justice system.

We are seeking input from criminal justice professionals and other interested parties from across the state to assist in the development of the state's strategy. The stakeholders involved in this strategy development will include both state and local governments, as well as judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel, corrections personnel, providers of indigent defense services, victim services, juvenile justice delinquency prevention programs, community corrections, reentry services, and other non-justice affiliated community service providers. We aim to diversify how JAG funds are spent to reach the most critical needs of our state's justice system. We encourage you to share this survey with your colleagues within these justice system sectors.

We are asking for your help to establish priorities for spending and identify unmet system needs. This survey will ask you to consider the criminal justice system needs within the following grant purpose areas, as noted below:

- Law enforcement
- Prosecution and court programs
- Prevention and education
- Corrections and community corrections
- Drug treatment and enforcement
- Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams
- Implementation of state crisis intervention programs, including mental health courts, drug courts, veterans' courts and extreme risk protection order programs

Answers to the survey are confidential and anonymous. No personal information will be requested, and no efforts will be made to identify any respondent. Your answers will be stored in secure servers and accessible only by authorized personnel. The survey is estimated to take less than 15 minutes of your time.

If you are having technical difficulties with the survey or if there is any accommodation needed for accessibility, feel free to contact Demaxia Wray at

* 1. Please select the county/counties primarily served by your agency:

Select Statewide if you regularly work across the state

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Statewide | ☐ Frontier County, NE | ☐ Nemaha County, NE |
| ☐ Adams County, NE | ☐ Furnas County, NE | ☐ Nuckolls County, NE |
| ☐ Antelope County, NE | ☐ Gage County, NE | ☐ Otoe County, NE |
| ☐ Arthur County, NE | ☐ Garden County, NE | ☐ Pawnee County, NE |
| ☐ Banner County, NE | ☐ Garfield County, NE | ☐ Perkins County, NE |
| ☐ Blaine County, NE | ☐ Gosper County, NE | ☐ Phelps County, NE |
| ☐ Boone County, NE | ☐ Grant County, NE | ☐ Pierce County, NE |
| ☐ Box Butte County, NE | ☐ Greeley County, NE | ☐ Platte County, NE |
| ☐ Boyd County, NE | ☐ Hall County, NE | ☐ Polk County, NE |
| ☐ Brown County, NE | ☐ Hamilton County, NE | ☐ Red Willow County, NE |
| ☐ Buffalo County, NE | ☐ Harlan County, NE | ☐ Richardson County, NE |
| ☐ Burt County, NE | ☐ Hayes County, NE | ☐ Rock County, NE |
| ☐ Butler County, NE | ☐ Hitchcock County, NE | ☐ Saline County, NE |
| ☐ Cass County, NE | ☐ Holt County, NE | ☐ Sarpy County, NE |
| ☐ Cedar County, NE | ☐ Hooker County, NE | ☐ Saunders County, NE |
| ☐ Chase County, NE | ☐ Howard County, NE | ☐ Scotts Bluff County, NE |
| ☐ Cherry County, NE | ☐ Jefferson County, NE | ☐ Seward County, NE |
| ☐ Cheyenne County, NE | ☐ Johnson County, NE | ☐ Sheridan County, NE |
| ☐ Clay County, NE | ☐ Kearney County, NE | ☐ Sherman County, NE |
| ☐ Colfax County, NE | ☐ Keith County, NE | ☐ Sioux County, NE |
| ☐ Cuming County, NE | ☐ Keya Paha County, NE | ☐ Stanton County, NE |
| ☐ Custer County, NE | ☐ Kimball County, NE | ☐ Thayer County, NE |
| ☐ Dakota County, NE | ☐ Knox County, NE | ☐ Thomas County, NE |
| ☐ Dawes County, NE | ☐ Lancaster County, NE | ☐ Thurston County, NE |
| ☐ Dawson County, NE | ☐ Lincoln County, NE | ☐ Valley County, NE |
| ☐ Deuel County, NE | ☐ Logan County, NE | ☐ Washington County, NE |
| ☐ Dixon County, NE | ☐ Loup County, NE | ☐ Wayne County, NE |
| ☐ Dodge County, NE | ☐ Madison County, NE | ☐ Webster County, NE |
| ☐ Douglas County, NE | ☐ McPherson County, NE | ☐ Wheeler County, NE |
| ☐ Dundy County, NE | ☐ Merrick County, NE | ☐ York County, NE |
| ☐ Fillmore County, NE | ☐ Morrill County, NE | |
| ☐ Franklin County, NE | ☐ Nance County, NE | |

* 2. Please identify your role within the criminal justice system (select only one category):

- ☐ Academia
- ☐ Administrative support staff
- ☐ Behavioral health (mental health or substance misuse)
- ☐ Community Violence Intervention Program (CVIP)
- ☐ Corrections and secure custody (Jail, detention, prison)
- ☐ Courts/judicial personnel not including defense attorneys and prosecutors
- ☐ Defense
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Juvenile justice
- ☐ Law enforcement
- ☐ Parole/probation/community corrections
- ☐ Prosecution
- ☐ Researcher
- ☐ Social services (housing, employment, childcare, insurance benefits, etc.)
- ☐ Victims services/assistance
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 3. What best describes your organization type? (Select one)

- ☐ Community member
- ☐ Nonprofit (including faith-based) service provider
- ☐ Federal
- ☐ Private sector
- ☐ Local (county, municipality, township)
- ☐ State
- ☐ If agency type not included, please write below:

* 4. Please select the primary area(s) served by your agency:

Select all that apply

- ☐ Rural area
- ☐ Urban area
- ☐ Suburban area
- ☐ All of the above
- ☐ Tribal

* 5. Accurate data is essential to data driven decision making. Does your agency have adequate resources for information sharing and technology?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am unsure/Not applicable

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Nebraska Crime Commission Justice System Needs Assessment

* 6. If your agency does not have adequate resources for information sharing and technology, what is the most pressing technology or information-sharing need?

* 7. Does your agency have access to automated data to help you plan, evaluate and determine outcomes of your program?

- ☐ Yes, we have an automated data system and it is easy to access information.
- ☐ Yes, we have an automated data system, but it is difficult to access information.
- ☐ Our data is not automated.
- ☐ I am unsure

* 8. The most challenging issues facing my agency currently include the following (*select the top 3*)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Assault & other crimes against persons | ☐ Opioids/methamphetamine/other drugs |
| ☐ Child abuse/neglect | ☐ Police/community relations |
| ☐ Crisis intervention/suicide prevention | ☐ Property crime |
| ☐ Financial crime/fraud | ☐ Rural Community Violence or Rural-Specific Challenges |
| ☐ Housing/employment for justice-involved individuals | ☐ School-related violence/bullying |
| ☐ Intimate partner violence | ☐ Sexual assault |
| ☐ Jail/prison overcrowding | ☐ Trafficking: Drug |
| ☐ Juvenile justice/delinquency prevention | ☐ Trafficking: Human or Labor |
| ☐ Lingering Impact of COVID-19 | ☐ Violent crime |
| ☐ Mental health/substance use resources | ☐ Workforce-related issues (Hiring, recruitment, retention, and capacity) |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

* 9. Please select all the justice system partners that exchange data electronically with your agency:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Bureau of Corrections | ☐ Law enforcement and inter-law enforcement agency communication |
| ☐ Community services (behavioral health, housing, employment, benefit eligibility) | ☐ Office of the Public Defender |
| ☐ Department of Human Services/Youth Rehabilitation Center | ☐ Superior Court |
| ☐ Department of Justice | ☐ We do not have electronic information exchange with our partners |
| ☐ Emergency Dispatch (911 Call Center) | |
| ☐ If justice system partner not listed, please write below: | |

* 10. Use of evidence-based practices for program and service delivery is a JAG priority. A program is “evidence-based” when the program effectiveness has been demonstrated and obtained through one or more outcome evaluations.

Please indicate whether your agency incorporates evidence-based-practices that measure the effectiveness of services.

- ☐ Yes, our agency incorporates evidence-based practices.
- ☐ No, our agency does not incorporate evidence-based practices.
- ☐ I am unsure

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Nebraska Crime Commission Justice System Needs Assessment

* 11. If yes, please describe the evidence-based practices your agency is currently implementing.

* 12. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 1 - Law Enforcement Programs:

- ☐ Community based crime reduction
- ☐ Crisis intervention/mental health/suicide prevention
- ☐ Drug enforcement
- ☐ Equipment
- ☐ Gang enforcement
- ☐ Gun enforcement
- ☐ Interoperable communication (Enhanced Information Sharing)
- ☐ Lingering impact of COVID-19
- ☐ Multi-jurisdictional crime-solving partnerships
- ☐ School/youth-related programs
- ☐ Training
- ☐ Violent crime reduction
- ☐ Workforce/hire and retain qualified staff
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ N/A Not applicable to me or my agency

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Nebraska Crime Commission Justice System Needs Assessment

* 13. Within the law enforcement purpose area, what additional equipment would you like funding for that your agency needs:

Select all that apply

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Bulletproof vests | ☐ Radios, accessories, repeaters/repeater antenna |
| ☐ Digital ticketing | ☐ Surveillance equipment |
| ☐ In car/body worn cameras | ☐ Weapons Tasers/non-lethal weapons |
| ☐ Mobile data terminals and accessories | |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |
| <input type="text"/> | |
| ☐ N/A Not applicable to me or my agency | |

* 14. Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing your agency related to violent crimes.

- ☐ Aggravated assault
- ☐ Child abuse/neglect
- ☐ Comprehensive response to elder abuse
- ☐ Comprehensive response to sexual assault
- ☐ Drug trafficking
- ☐ Forensic capability/laboratory analysis
- ☐ Gun violence
- ☐ Homicide
- ☐ Human trafficking
- ☐ Intimate Partner Violence/Domestic Violence
- ☐ Jail/prison overcrowding
- ☐ Police-community relations
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 15. Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing your agency related to property crime.

- ☐ Burglary/theft
- ☐ Forensic capabilities/wait times
- ☐ Hate-crime related offenses
- ☐ Jail/prison overcrowding
- ☐ Police/community relations
- ☐ Reducing property crime
- ☐ Vandalism
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 16. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 2 - Prosecution, Court, Defense and Indigent Defense:

- ☐ Civil/involuntary commitment
- ☐ Court security
- ☐ Court technologies - (records/case management systems, court security, video arraignment/conferencing)
- ☐ Gun/violent crime/gang prosecution
- ☐ Indigent defense
- ☐ Jail diversion
- ☐ Language access and translation services
- ☐ Lingering Impact of COVID-19
- ☐ Mental health liaisons
- ☐ Pretrial risk assessment/monitoring
- ☐ Property & white-collar crime prosecution
- ☐ Specialized prosecution
- ☐ Specialty courts (drug, veteran, mental health, treatment, family, youth)
- ☐ Training - court/prosecution/defense
- ☐ Victim Advocates
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 17. Please indicate the top 3 greatest challenges when delivering indigent defense services:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Adequate staffing | ☐ Civil/involuntary commitment |
| ☐ Access to community services | ☐ Forensic/criminal case with significant mental health challenges |
| ☐ Behavioral health services/linkages | ☐ Lingered impact of COVID-19 |
| ☐ Information sharing | |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

* 18. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 3 Prevention and Education:

- ☐ Community-based crime prevention
- ☐ Conflict resolution
- ☐ Gang prevention
- ☐ Intimate partner violence prevention
- ☐ Juvenile delinquency/ at-risk youth prevention
- ☐ Lingered impact of COVID-19
- ☐ Substance abuse prevention (including prescription drugs)
- ☐ Suicide prevention
- ☐ Youth mentoring
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 19. Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing your agency related to juvenile offenses.

- ☐ Chronic health conditions/outside medical
- ☐ Delinquency prevention
- ☐ Human/minor trafficking
- ☐ Issues related to COVID-19
- ☐ Mental health/suicide prevention
- ☐ Misuse of medications/access to prescribers
- ☐ Police-community relations
- ☐ Reducing juvenile offenses utilizing a coordinated response
- ☐ Secure detention and reentry
- ☐ Sexual offenses/sexually inappropriate behavior
- ☐ Status Offenses
- ☐ Substance misuse and prevention

* 20. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose

Area 4 Corrections/Community Corrections:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Access to employment for justice-involved individuals | ☐ Issues related to COVID-19 |
| ☐ Access to housing for justice-involved individuals | ☐ Reentry |
| ☐ Access to mental health/substance misuse treatment for justice-involved individuals | ☐ Smart probation/parole i.e. swift & certain sanctions, use of risk assessment tools, etc. |
| ☐ Addressing historical trauma in the justice-involved population | ☐ Special population programming: i.e. geriatric population, women, incarcerated parents, adolescents, and veterans |
| ☐ Assessment, evaluation, benefit eligibility/enrollment | ☐ Workforce/hire and retain qualified staff |
| ☐ Diversion/alternatives to incarceration | |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

* 21. Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing your agency related to recidivism and reentry efforts.

- ☐ Access to treatment programs
- ☐ Benefit enrollment (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF, etc.)
- ☐ Chronic health conditions/access to healthcare
- ☐ Community supervision of justice-involved individuals
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Housing
- ☐ Improving reentry efforts - adult
- ☐ Improving reentry efforts - juvenile
- ☐ Issues related to COVID-19
- ☐ Mental health/suicide prevention & intervention
- ☐ Misuse of medications/access to prescribers
- ☐ Reducing adult recidivism
- ☐ Reducing juvenile recidivism
- ☐ Transitional living
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 22. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 5 Drug Treatment and Enforcement:

- ☐ Co-occurring mental illness or other chronic health conditions
- ☐ Drug trafficking
- ☐ Drug-addicted mothers/pregnant mothers
- ☐ Issues related to COVID-19
- ☐ Multijurisdictional drug enforcement partnerships
- ☐ Secure/corrections-based treatment
- ☐ Sober housing
- ☐ Workforce/hire and retain qualified staff
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 23. Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing your agency related to drug threats and drug-related crimes.

- ☐ Alcohol offenses
- ☐ Drugs in schools
- ☐ Fentanyl
- ☐ Forensic capability/wait times
- ☐ Lingering impact of COVID-19
- ☐ Marijuana
- ☐ Opioids/methamphetamine/other drug use
- ☐ Police community relations
- ☐ Reducing drug threats (drug enforcement, drug trafficking organizations, parcel interdiction, etc.)
- ☐ Reducing drug-related crimes
- ☐ Substance misuse prevention and education
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 24. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 6 Planning, Evaluation, and Technology:

- ☐ Automated information sharing - community services (i.e. Medicaid, mental health, employment, housing)
- ☐ Automated information sharing - justice system partners
- ☐ Criminal records improvement
- ☐ Death in custody reporting (DCRA)
- ☐ Developing outcome measures/program evaluation and research
- ☐ Forensic science crime labs
- ☐ National incident-based reporting system (NIBRS) compliance
- ☐ Strategic planning/determining priorities Issues related to COVID-19
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 25. Please indicate the top 3 most challenging issues facing your agency related to technological improvement.

- ☐ Accessing/sharing health care information
- ☐ Improving forensic science capabilities
- ☐ Improving integrated justice information sharing
- ☐ Improving records management
- ☐ Lingering impact of COVID-19
- ☐ Training & technical assistance
- ☐ Workforce/hiring qualified staff
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 26. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 7 Crime Victim and Witness within your community

- ☐ Children exposed to violence, physical abuse, and neglect
- ☐ Court-based victim advocates
- ☐ Drug endangered child abuse/neglect services family justice centers
- ☐ Family violence/interpersonal violence advocacy
- ☐ Human trafficking victim services
- ☐ Lingering impact of COVID-19
- ☐ Population-specific services (i.e. culturally specific and underserved Populations, such as LGBTQ, elderly, Hispanic, etc.)
- ☐ Restorative justice initiatives
- ☐ Sexual assault - Adult victims
- ☐ Sexual assault - Child victims
- ☐ Witness intimidation/harassment
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 27. Other than general program funding, please select the top 3 areas of need for Purpose Area 8 - Mental Health Programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams:

- ☐ Benefit enrollment and eligibility determination Training
- ☐ Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and support
- ☐ Evaluation/assessment of mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders and co-occurring disorders
- ☐ Language access
- ☐ Outpatient/community-based behavioral health programs
- ☐ Residential inpatient behavioral health treatment programs
- ☐ Secure/corrections-based behavioral health programs
- ☐ Suicide risk assessment, response and protocols
- ☐ Supported employment Issues related to COVID-19
- ☐ Supported housing
- ☐ Workforce/hire and retain qualified staff
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 28. Please indicate the most challenging issues your agency faces related to language access.

- ☐ Improving language access within the criminal justice system - adults
- ☐ Improving language access within the criminal justice system - juveniles
- ☐ Improving language access within the criminal justice system - victims
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 29. Please rank the 8 JAG Purpose Areas in order of importance for your community.
1 = Most Important and 8 = Least Important

- ≡

Prosecution, courts, defense and indigent defense
- ≡

Law enforcement
- ≡

Prevention and education
- ≡

Corrections and community corrections
- ≡

Drug treatment and enforcement
- ≡

Planning, evaluation and technology improvement
- ≡

Crime victim and witness (other than compensation)
- ≡

Mental health programs and related law enforcement and corrections programs, including behavioral programs and crisis intervention teams

* 30. In the past three years, has your agency applied for JAG funding?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I am unsure

Bryan Tuma, Executive Director

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* 31. If you did apply, were you awarded JAG funding?

- ☐ Yes, we received our full request
- ☐ Yes, we received a partial request
- ☐ No, our application was not funded
- ☐ Our application was not considered (incomplete, late, nonresponsive)
- ☐ I am unsure

* 32. If you did not apply, please indicate the reason.

- ☐ A specific need for JAG funding was not identified
- ☐ Staff was not available to complete the application
- ☐ The agency was not aware of the availability of funding
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- ☐ Our application was not considered (incomplete, late, nonresponsive)
- ☐ I am unsure

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Nebraska Crime Commission Justice System Needs Assessment

Byrne SCIP State Crisis Intervention Program

As authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) provides formula funds to implement state crisis intervention court proceedings and related programs or initiatives, including, but not limited to, extreme risk protection order programs that work to keep guns out of the hands of those who pose a threat to themselves or others, mental health courts, drug courts, and veterans treatment courts.

The Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) will administer the Byrne SCIP grant program. The funds will be distributed by BJA to the State Administering Agency (SAAs) in each state, as designated by the governor. Each SAA must be guided in their work by an advisory committee representing a broad cross-section of the justice system and with expertise in firearm violence prevention and crisis intervention strategies. Read BJA's program fact sheet [here](#).

Your input is critical to ensuring that these Byrne SCIP funds are put to the best possible use. We are asking you to share your views about current gun violence prevention efforts in the state, the areas of greatest need for Byrne SCIP investment, and what challenges you see ahead.

If you have technical difficulties with the survey, feel free to contact Demaxia Wray at dwrap@ncja.org.

If you have program-related questions, please contact Edward Williams at edward.williams@nebraska.gov or 531-510-3960.

* 33. From 1-7, please rank the most challenging or pertinent issues facing the area(s) served by your organization related to gun violence.

1 = Most Challenging and 7 = Least Challenging

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
|  |  | Community gun violence/homicide |
|  |  | Youth gun violence |
|  |  | Suicide by firearm |
|  |  | Behavioral health/mental health crisis response needs |
|  |  | Domestic violence/intimate partner violence |
|  |  | Mass shooting (excluding school shooting) |
|  |  | School shooting |

* 34. Is there any other gun violence issue area that is a challenge that is not mentioned above that should be included? Please include here:

* 35. What policies or practices has your county/city/state implemented to reduce firearm violence as related to intimate partner violence/domestic violence?

* 36. Please select the top 3 potential areas of investment that you would identify as having the biggest impact on gun violence prevention and reduction in your state.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Assertive community behavioral health treatment | ☐ Domestic violence/Intimate partner violence prevention strategies |
| ☐ Behavioral threat assessment programs and related training | ☐ Expanding capacity of or starting new specialty courts (drug, mental health, veterans treatment, domestic violence, etc.) |
| ☐ Community-based violence intervention strategies | ☐ Gun safety awareness and training |
| ☐ Court-based strategies including threat assessment training for prosecutors, judges, law enforcement, and public defenders | ☐ Law enforcement-led intervention strategies |
| ☐ Crisis response programs and/or support for 988 implementation/coordination with behavioral health agencies | ☐ Prevention efforts focused on youth |
| ☐ Development and implementation of validated gun violence risk assessment tools, service case management, and navigation programs to assess the risks and needs of clients and connect them to critical services to mitigate their risk of gun violence and enhance their access to effective interventions | ☐ Suicide prevention efforts |
| ☐ Development and/or delivery of specialized training and overtime for officers to attend training | |
| ☐ Other (please specify) | |

* 37. Is there anything else you would like to add to inform criminal justice priorities? If so, please write below: