



Christy A. Visher, Ph.D.

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Director, Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies
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Education

Indiana University	Ph.D.	1982	Sociology
Indiana University	M.A.	1980	Sociology
Trinity University	B.A.	1978	Sociology (<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i>)

Career Brief

Christy A. Visher is Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at the University of Delaware and Director of the Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies, a research center within the department. Dr. Visher has over 25 years of experience in policy research on crime and justice issues. Her research interests focus on criminal careers, criminal justice evaluation, communities and crime, violence, and substance abuse. She has published widely on crime and justice topics, including prisoner reentry, crime prevention strategies, the arrest process, youthful offending, incapacitation, and use of drug testing in the criminal justice system.

Previously, Dr. Visher was science advisor to the Director, deputy director of research, and research associate at the National Institute of Justice, the research agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. She began her professional career at the National Research Council, Committee on Law and Justice, as a postdoctoral fellow and later, research associate, with the Panel on Criminal Careers. Her research has appeared in a variety of scholarly journals including Criminology, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Law & Society Review, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, American Sociological Review, Social Problems, and Justice Quarterly.

Professional Experience

June 2008 Professor, University of Delaware, Department of Sociology and Criminal
- Present Justice and Director, Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies

Director. Directs a university-based research center that conducts collaborative research on substance abuse with social and behavioral science faculty, professional staff, and graduate students. The Center provides a national research focus as well as service to the State of Delaware. Administratively housed in the university's Department of Sociology and

Criminal Justice, the Center is funded entirely through sponsored research grants and contracts. The principal mission of the Center is the production, dissemination, and utilization of scientific knowledge about substance abuse and other health risk behaviors among hard-to-reach populations of youth and adults

Principal Investigator, *Criminal Justice Drug and Alcohol Treatment Studies Center*. This project is a national collaborative research project of nine Research Centers funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. The principal focus is to develop a better understanding of the organizational and systems issues that can facilitate or undermine implementation of effective drug treatment and other services. The collaborative is studying how agencies, sites or programs adopt and implement evidence-based practices across different stages of criminal justice processing, and how the implementation of evidence-based programs and practices can be improved to yield better client outcomes and increased utilization of services.

2000-2008 Principal Research Associate, The Urban Institute

Co-Principal Investigator, *Multi-Site Evaluation of the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative*. The study evaluated a \$100 million federal initiative designed to fund innovative efforts to improve state and local prisoner reentry outcomes along criminal justice, employment, education, health, and housing dimensions. The 6-year evaluation included an implementation assessment, impact evaluation, and cost-benefit analysis. Sponsor: National Institute of Justice.

Principal Investigator, *Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry*. Developed and directed a multi-site, longitudinal study to examine prisoner reentry and reintegration from multiple dimensions – the individual trajectories of post-prison adjustment, the community and family context to which former prisoners return, and state reentry processes and other social and economic influences within Maryland, Illinois, Ohio, and Texas. Sponsors: John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Annie E. Casey Foundation, JEHT Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, and other funders.

Co-Principal Investigator, *Judicial Oversight Demonstration Evaluation*. Evaluated the impact of a coordinated court, justice system, and community response to domestic violence offenders that was intended to increase offender accountability, reduce recidivism, and enhance victim safety. Conducted an in-depth process and impact evaluation in three jurisdictions, including quarterly site visits and interviews with agency staff, and interviews and focus groups with victims, offenders, and comparison samples. Sponsor: National Institute of Justice.

1993-2000 Science Advisor, National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice

Provided advice and support to NIJ Director and Institute management on research issues, such as proposal assessment, publication review, and other technical research matters. Assessed final research products to determine quality of work and significance of results for criminal justice policy and practice and advised NIJ Director as to publication decision. Identified and recommended new research projects and programs. Served as NIJ's principal liaison to other Federal research agencies.

1992-1993 Deputy Director, Office of Criminal Justice Research, National Institute of Justice

Responsible for the identification and development of research projects and programs of national significance, particularly in the areas of violence and substance abuse. Directed the development of research solicitations. Managed the review and assessment of research proposals and critically evaluated proposals under consideration for funding. Assessed final research products to determine quality of work and significance of results for criminal justice policy and practice.

1987-1993 Research Associate, Office of Criminal Justice Research, National Institute of Justice

Designed, developed, and conducted in-house research projects alone and with other staff on a wide variety of topics. Projects included studies of juvenile recidivism patterns, drug use patterns among arrestees, and drug use as a predictor of pretrial re-arrest. Provided advice and support to the Director and Institute management staff on research issues, prepared research summaries, and evaluated the implications of research for criminal justice policy and practice.

1983-1987 Research Associate, National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences

Committee on Law and Justice: Planned workshops related to criminal justice policy issues, reviewing and synthesizing research, extensive report writing, and assisting the committee in developing and carrying out an agenda of scientific inquiry concerning criminal behavior and law enforcement policy. Management duties included daily interaction with agency administrators, scientists, criminal justice practitioners, and public officials.

1982-1983 Research Associate, University of Maryland, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice

Co-Project Director for an evaluation of a federal program designed to encourage cooperation among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Conducted telephone interviews with U.S. Attorneys, wrote reports summarizing the interview data, and analyzed empirical information on federal criminal cases filed in 1982.

Grants and Awards

“Implementing Effective HIV and Drug Treatment in Corrections – Mid-States Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Studies Center”, National Institute on Drug Abuse, \$2,570,000, 2009-2014.

“Decide Your Time”, National Institute of Justice, \$499,999, 2009-2012. (with co-PI Daniel O’Connell).

“Evaluation of the Workforce Development Program, U.S. Probation Office, District of Delaware”, U.S. Probation Office, \$25,000, 2009.

“Safer Return: Evaluation of a Community-Empowerment Reentry Initiative”, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, \$1,500,000, 2007 (with co-PI Shelli Rossman).

“Employment and Substance Abuse among Former Prisoners”, JEHT Foundation, \$112,986, 2007.

“Impact of Marriage and Family Relationships on Prisoner Reintegration”, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, \$100,000, 2007.

“Planning a Community-Based Reentry Initiative”, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, \$150,000, 2006 (with co-PI Shelli Rossman).

“Multi-site Evaluation of the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative”, National Institute of Justice, Subcontract from RTI International, \$3,029,427, 2003-2004. Total award: \$12M (with co-PI Pamela Lattimore).

“Returning Home: Understanding the Challenges of Prisoner Reentry”, various funders, \$6,200,000 (approx), 2001-2006.

Dissertation Fellowship Award, National Institute of Justice, \$20,000, 1982.

Publications

Journal Articles: 2000 to Present

Daniel O’Connell, **Christy Visher**, Steven Martin, Laurin Parker, and John Brent, “Decide Your Time: Testing Deterrence Theory’s Certainty and Celerity Effects on Substance-using Probationers”. Journal of Criminal Justice, 2011, forthcoming.

Christy Visher and Jeremy Travis, “Life on the Outside: Returning Home after Incarceration.” The Prison Journal, 2011, forthcoming.

Christy Visher, Nicole Smolter, and Daniel O’Connell, “Workforce Development Program: A Pilot Study of its Impact in the U.S. Probation Office, District of Delaware”. Federal Probation, Vol 74, No. 3, pp. 16-21, 2010.

Christy Visher, Sara Debus and Jennifer Yahner, “Employment after Prison: A Longitudinal Study of Former Prisoners”. Justice Quarterly, 2011, forthcoming.

Alfred Blumstein, Jacqueline Cohen, Alex Piquero, and **Christy Visher**, “Linking the Crime and Arrest Processes to Measure Variations in Individual Arrest Risk per Crime (Q)”. Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Vol. 26, pp. 533-548, 2010.

Pamela Lattimore, **Christy Visher**, and Danielle Steffey, “Prisoner Reentry in the Decade of the Twenty-First Century”. Victims and Offenders, Vol. 5, No. 3, 2010.

Christy Visher, Adele Harrell, Lisa Newmark, and Jennifer Yahner, “Reducing Intimate Partner Violence: An Evaluation of a Comprehensive Justice System-Community Collaboration”. Criminology and Public Policy, November 2008.

Christy Visser, "Returning Home: Emerging Findings and Policy Lessons about Prisoner Reentry." Federal Sentencing Reporter, Vol. 20, No. 2, December 2007.

Rebecca Naser and **Christy Visser**, "Family Members' Experiences with Incarceration and Reentry". Western Criminology Review, Vol 7, No. 2, 2006.

Pamela Lattimore, **Christy Visser**, Laura Winterfield, Christine Lindquist, and Susan Brumbaugh, "Implementation of Prisoner Reentry Programs: Findings from the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative Multi-site Evaluation". Justice Research and Policy, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 87-110, 2005.

Christy Visser, Laura Winterfield and Mark Coggeshall, "Ex-Offender Employment Programs and Recidivism: A Meta-Analysis". Journal of Experimental Criminology, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 295-316, Fall 2005.

Daniel Mears and **Christy Visser**, "Trends in Understanding and Addressing Domestic Violence". Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Vol. 19, No.9, pp. 1-8, September 2004.

Pamela Lattimore, John MacDonald, Alex Piquero, Richard Linster, and **Christy Visser**, "Studying the Characteristics of Arrest Frequency among Paroled Youthful Offenders". Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. 37-57, 2004.

Christy Visser, Nancy La Vigne and Jennifer Castro, "Returning Home: Preliminary Findings from a Pilot Study of Soon-to-be-Released Inmates in Maryland". Justice Research and Policy, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp. 55-74, 2003.

Christy Visser and Jeremy Travis, "Transitions from Prison to Community: Understanding Individual Pathways". Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 29, 2003.

Joel Garner and **Christy Visser**, "The Production of Criminological Experiments". Evaluation Review, Vol. 27, No. 3 (June, 2003).

Journal Articles: 1990 to 1999

"Identifying What Works: Recent Trends in Crime Prevention Strategies" (with David Weisburd). Crime, Law & Social Change, Vol. 28, pp. 223-242, 1998.

"Specialization in Juvenile Careers: Markov Results for a California Cohort" (with Pamela Lattimore and Richard Linster). Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Vol. 10, No. 4, pp. 291-316, 1994.

"Pretrial Drug Testing: Panacea or Pandora's Box?". The Annals, AAPSS, Vol. 521, pp. 112- 131, 1992.

"Dimensions of Delinquency: Exploring the Correlates of Participation, Frequency, and Persistence" (with Douglas Smith and Roger Jarjoura). Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Vol. 28, No. 1, 1991.

"Predicting the Recidivism of Serious Youthful Offenders Using Survival Models." (with Pamela Lattimore and Richard Linster). Criminology, Vol. 29, No. 3 (August), 1991.

"Linking Criminal Sanctions, Drug Testing, and Drug Abuse Treatment: A Crime Control Strategy for the 1990's". Criminal Justice Policy Review, Vol. 3, No. 4, 1990.

"Using Drug Testing to Identify High-Risk Defendants on Release: A Study in the District of Columbia". Journal of Criminal Justice. Vol. 18, pp. 321-332, 1990.

"A Survival Model of Pretrial Failure." (with Richard Linster). Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Vol. 6, June, 1990.

Journal Articles: 1980 to 1989

"Incapacitation and Crime Control: Does a 'Lock 'em Up' Strategy Reduce Crime?" Justice Quarterly, Vol. 4, Fall, 1987.

"Juror Decision Making: The Importance of Evidence." Law and Human Behavior, Vol. 11., Spring, 1987.

"The Impacts of Evidence and Extralegal Factors in Jurors' Decisions" (with Barbara Reskin). Law and Society Review, Vol. 20, Fall, 1986.

"Jurors' Responses to Victims' Behavior and Legal Issues in Sexual Assault Trials" (with Gary LaFree and Barbara Reskin). Social Problems, Vol. 32, April, 1985.

"Equity and Discretionary Justice: The Influence of Race on Police Arrest Decisions" (with Douglas Smith and Laura Davidson). Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, Vol. 75, Spring, 1984.

"Gender, Police Arrest Decisions, and Notions of Chivalry." Criminology, Vol. 21, February, 1983.

"Street-Level Justice: Situational Determinants of Police Arrest Decisions" (with Douglas Smith). Social Problems, Vol. 29, December, 1981.

"Sex and Involvement in Deviance/Crime: A Quantitative Review of the Empirical Literature" (with Douglas Smith). American Sociological Review, Vol. 45, August, 1980.

Books

Jeremy Travis and **Christy Visher**, eds., *Prisoner Reentry and Crime in America*. Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Book Chapters

Daniel J. O'Connell, Holly Swan, Steven S. Martin, Hilary L. Surratt, and **Christy A. Visher** ", An HIV Continuum of Care Model for Corrections". In W. Sanders and B. Deeds (eds.) *Crime, HIV and Health: Intersections of Criminal Justice and Public Health Concerns*, Springer Publishing Company, 2011, forthcoming.

Christy Visher and Jeremy Travis, "The Characteristics of Prisoners Returning Home and Effective Reentry Programs and Policies." In Joan Petersilia and Kevin Reitz, eds., *Handbook on Sentencing and Corrections*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

Christy Visher, Rebecca Naser and Shannon M.E> Courtney, "Incarcerated Fathers: Pathways from Prison to Home". In Vivian Gadsden and Philip Genty, Eds., *Incarcerated Parents, Their Children, and Their Families*. Lawrence Erlbaum Pub, 2011, forthcoming.

John Roman and **Christy Visher**, "Prisoner Reentry Programming." In David L. Weimer and Aidan R. Vining, Eds., *Investing in the Disadvantaged: Assessing the Benefits and Costs of Social Policies*. Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2009.

Kamala Mallik Kane and **Christy Visher**, "Reentry Experiences of Men with Health Problems". In Robert Greifinger, Ed. *Public Health Behind Bars: From Prisons to Communities*. Springer-Verlag, 2007.

Christy Visher and Vera Kachnowski, "Finding Work on the Outside: Results from the 'Returning Home' Project in Chicago." In Shawn Bushway, Michael A. Stoll, and David F. Weiman, Eds., *Barriers to Reentry? The Labor Market for Released Prisoners in Postindustrial America*. New York, NY: Russell Sage Foundation, 2007.

Jeremy Travis and **Christy Visher**, "Prisoner Reentry and the Pathways to Adulthood: Policy Perspectives". In *On Your Own Without a Net: The Transition to Adulthood for Vulnerable Populations*, a project of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Transitions to Adulthood. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

Christy Visher, "Career Offenders and Selective Incapacitation." In *Criminology: A Contemporary Handbook*, Joseph Sheley (ed.). Wadsworth Press, 1990, revised 1993, 2000.

Christy Visher, "The Rand Second Inmate Survey: A Reanalysis." In *Criminal Careers and Career Criminals*, Volume 2. Panel on Research on Criminal Careers, National Research Council. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1986.

Christy Visher and Jeffrey Roth "Participation in Criminal Careers". In *Criminal Careers and Career Criminals*, Volume 1. Panel on Research on Criminal Careers, National Research Council. Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1986.

Published Research Reports

Visher, Christy, Jennifer Yahner and Nancy G. La Vigne. *Life After Prison: Tracking the Experiences of Male Prisoners Returning to Chicago, Cleveland, and Houston*. The Urban Institute, May 2010.

Lattimore, P. K., and **Visher, Christy A.** *The Multi-site Evaluation of SVORI: Summary and Synthesis*. Research Triangle Park: RTI International, 2009.

Lindquist, C. H., Barrick, K., Lattimore, P. K., and **Visher, Christy A.** *Prisoner reentry experiences of adult females: Characteristics, service receipt, and outcomes of participants in the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation*. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International, 2009.

Lattimore, P. K., Steffey, D. M., and **Visher, Christy A.** *Prisoner reentry experiences of adult males: Characteristics, service receipt, and outcomes of participants in the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation*. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International, 2009.

Hawkins, S., Dawes, D., Lattimore, P. K., and **Visher, Christy A.** *Reentry experiences of confined juvenile offenders: Characteristics, service receipt, and outcomes of juvenile male participants in the SVORI Multi-site Evaluation.* Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International, 2009.

The Impact of Marital and Relationship Status on Social Outcomes for Returning Prisoners (with Carly Knight, Aaron Chalfin, and John Roman). The Urban Institute, February, 2009.

Pamela Lattimore, **Christy Visher** and Danielle Steffey. *Pre-Release Characteristics and Service Receipt among Adult Male Participants in the SVORI Multi-Site Evaluation.* RTI International and The Urban Institute, August 2008.

Employment after Prison: A Longitudinal Study of Releasees in Three States (with Sara Debus and Jennifer Yahner). The Urban Institute, October, 2008.

The Evaluation of the Judicial Oversight Demonstration: Findings and Lessons on Implementation (with Lisa Newmark and Adele Harrell). Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice, June, 2008.

Returning Home on Parole: Former Prisoners' Experiences in Illinois, Ohio, and Texas (with Jennifer Yahner and Amy Solomon), Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, July 2008.

Health and Prisoner Reentry: How Physical, Mental, and Substance Abuse Conditions Shape the Process of Reintegration. (with Kamala Mallik-Kane). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, February 2008.

Pretrial Innovations for Domestic Violence Offenders and Victims (with Adele Harrell and Lisa Newmark). NIJ Research for Practice Series. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. August 2007.

Cleveland Stakeholders' Perceptions of Prisoner Reentry (with Tobi Palmer and Caterina Gouvis Roman). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute. July 2007.

"Lessons Learned from SVORI: Program Director Perspectives on Implementing Reentry Programming" (with Christine Lindquist and Susan Brumbaugh). *Corrections Today*, Vol. 69, No. 2, Pp. 92-97, April 2007.

One Year Out: Experiences of Prisoners Returning to Cleveland (with Shannon M.E. Courtney). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute. April 2007.

Community Residents' Perceptions of Prisoner Reentry in Selected Cleveland Neighborhoods. (with Lisa Brooks and Rebecca Naser). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute. March 2006.

Ohio Prisoners' Reflections on Returning Home. (with Demelza Baer and Rebecca Naser). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute Press. January 2006.

Chicago Communities and Prisoner Reentry. (with Jill Farrell). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute Press. September 2005.

In Need of Help: Seriously Ill Prisoners Returning to Cincinnati. (with Demelza Baer and Jesse Vannetta). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute. March 2005.

Chicago Prisoners' Experiences Returning Home. (with Nancy La Vigne and Jennifer Castro). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute Press. November 2004.

A National Portrait of SVORI, the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative. Co-editor. Joint publication of RTI International and Urban Institute. July 2004.

Baltimore Prisoners' Experiences Returning Home. (with Vera Kachnowski, Nancy La Vigne, and Jeremy Travis). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute Press. 2004.

Illinois Prisoners' Reflections on Returning Home. (with Nancy La Vigne and Jill Farrell). Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute Press. 2003.

Pretrial Drug Testing. Research-in-Brief. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. September 1992.

A Comparison of Urinalysis Technologies for Drug Testing in Criminal Justice. Final Project Report. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. 1991.

"Randomized Field Experiments in Criminal Justice Agencies" (with Richard Lempert). Research in Action Series. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. October 1988.

"Policy Experiments Come of Age" (with Joel Garner). NIJ Reports, No. 211 (September/October), 1988. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice.

"Incorporating Drug Treatment in Criminal Sanctions". NIJ Reports, No. 221. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice. 1990.

Fellowships, Appointments, Honors

Most cited female scholar, 1996-2000
Analysis by Ellen Cohn and David Farrington
Journal of Criminal Justice Education
Volume 18, Issue 1, 2007

Committee Member
Committee on Law and Justice
National Research Council
National Academy of Sciences
2004-2009 (appointed)

Executive Council Member
Section on Crime, Law and Deviance
American Sociological Association
2003-2005 (elected by membership)

Vice-President
American Society of Criminology
2001-2002 (elected by membership)

Post-Doctoral Fellow
Committee on Law and Justice
National Research Council
National Academy of Sciences
Washington, DC, 1983

Graduate Research Fellowship
Dissertation Support from National Institute of Justice
Indiana University, 1982

Phi Beta Kappa, *cum laude*
Trinity University, 1978

Professional Associations

American Society of Criminology (1979 - present)
American Sociological Association (1979 - present)

Peer Reviewer, *Criminology*
Peer Reviewer, *Criminology and Public Policy*
Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*
Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*
Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*
Peer Reviewer, *Justice Quarterly*