

## **“Ask a Criminologist” Congressional Roundtable:** **Why Are Homicide Rates Rising?**

*Featuring Crime & Justice Research Alliance Chair Dr. Nancy La Vigne, Dr. Richard Rosenfeld and Washington Post reporter Tom Jackman*

**Thursday, July 7 at 1:30 PM**  
**2261 Rayburn House Office Building**  
**An ice cream station and coffee will be served**  
**[RSVP online](#)**

Please join the [Crime & Justice Research Alliance \(CJRA\)](#) and the [Consortium of Social Science Associations \(COSSA\)](#) for the first in a series of “Ask a Criminologist” Congressional roundtables with leading criminology experts from around the country exploring the most important topics in crime, justice, policing and national security. These briefings provide an opportunity for Congressional staff and key stakeholders to engage directly with the experts conducting research on a range of public safety and justice system topics.

The first roundtable will feature new research commissioned by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) exploring why homicide rates in the United States increased in 2015. Dr. Richard Rosenfeld, Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice at the University of Missouri – St. Louis, [recently completed a comprehensive study of the size, scope and explanations for homicide increases in 2015](#). The research found that “The homicide increase in the nation’s large cities was real and nearly unprecedented. It was also heavily concentrated in a few cities with large African-American populations.” Dr. Rosenfeld will discuss several possible factors leading to this increase in homicides, including an expansion of urban drug markets fueled by the heroin epidemic, reductions in incarceration resulting in a growing number of released prisoners, and a “Ferguson effect” impacting policing and community trust.

Dr. Nancy La Vigne, the Chair of CJRA and Director of the Justice Policy Center at the Urban Institute, will moderate the panel. She will be joined by Tom Jackman, a reporter with the *Washington Post* who covers criminal justice issues, who will discuss how the media reports on these crime trends and possible contributors to them.

**Please RSVP online using [this link](#) or by email to [thomas.culligan@brimleygroup.com](mailto:thomas.culligan@brimleygroup.com).**

**About CJRA:** *The Crime and Justice Research Alliance (CJRA) is a centralized resource of authoritative experts and scholarly studies created to provide policymakers, practitioners and the public direct access to relevant research on crime and criminal justice issues. Formed in 2015, CJRA is a collaborative partnership between the nation’s two leading criminal justice scholar associations, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and the American Society of Criminology (ASC), which represent more than 5,000 criminal justice scholars and research experts.*

**About COSSA:** *The Consortium of Social Science Associations is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to promote sustainable federal funding for social and behavioral science research and federal policies that positively impact the conduct of research. COSSA serves as a united voice for a broad, diverse network of organizations, institutions, communities and stakeholders who care about a successful and vibrant social science research enterprise.*