

ALEX J. BRENO

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EDUCATION

George Mason University, Fairfax, Va December 2019

Master of Science in Biostatistics

Research project: Comparing models of social, health, and economic factors impact on juvenile involvement rates

Course Work: data analytics (I and II), multivariate analysis, biostatistical methods, survival analysis, epidemiology, applied probability, statistical graphics and data exploration, and bioinformatics

The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA May 2016

Master of Science in Criminology

Activities: Philadelphia Public Policy Competition finalist

Thesis: The effect of National Football League Games on Crime in Host Cities

Course Work: Criminological theory, quantitative methods, statistics, learning R, and policy writing

Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA Aug 2015

Bachelor of Arts in Criminology, minor in Mathematics

Honors: Suma Cum Laude, Dean's List 2012-2015, Provost Scholar 2014-2015, Golden Key Honors Society 2013-2015, Alpha Phi Sigma Honors Society 2015

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia, *Research Associate* May 2016-Present

- Managed datasets by organizing, recoding, and manipulating them
- Acquire background knowledge and write professional pieces of literature
- Utilize statistical languages to perform statistical analyses
- Utilize high level statistical methods to analyze data and predict outcomes (linear and logistic regression, gap analysis, ROC analysis, and survival analysis)
- Write, organize, and review grant proposals
- Design, implement, and evaluate intervention studies
- Construct and validate a risk screening tool
- Perform evaluations of studies and projects
- Present at academic conferences and to partners and key stakeholders
- Establish and maintain relationships with government agencies

Same Day Process, Washington, DC, *Serving Intern* Summer 2015

- Served subpoenas, affidavits, restraining orders, and custody papers to corporations and private entities
- Drafted a proposal in response to a government contract
- Conducted court research by filing legal documents

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa, *Teacher's assistant* Aug 2015-May 2016

- Instructed students in course material regarding criminological theory and practices
- Demonstrated knowledge of theories and practices by writing assessments and critiquing students' work

PROJECTS

Development of a low risk screener: May 2016-Jan 2018

- Constructed a short screener aimed at quickly identifying individuals requiring a further assessment

- Developed and conducted a pilot study to assess the practical usage of the screener
- Made adjustments to the screener to incorporate information learned from the pilot study and validation procedures
- Assisted the agency in developing the policy detailing the usage of the screener

Risk, Need, Responsivity; Saint Louis:

Mar 2017-Aug 2017

- Performed an analysis between gaps in services versus the needs of the measured population
- Provided recommendations for tailoring services to better meet the needs of their community supervision and general populations
- Identified violence reduction strategies to combat the large subpopulation of violent offenders on community supervision

Second Chance Act Evaluation Team:

Jun 2017-September 2019

- Using Qualtrics, coded for an organizational survey for one of four staff types
- Assessed the surveyed data to better understand the perceptions of staff workers in the areas of agency culture and climate, evidence based practices, and cynicism to change
- Developing experiments to test different methods for effective handoff procedures between a probation department and a day reporting center.
- Analyzed administrative data to predict referral, enrollment, and successful completion patterns for participants in a day reporting center.

JCOINS

August 2019-Present

- Review and revise grant proposal
- Managed project tasks through online software Monday.com
- Participated in steering Committee meetings
- Wrote protocols for the project management software
- Implemented data management and data collection procedures for databases, data clouds, and data commons

Other minor projects:

- Working with National Australian data to assess how health factors influence criminal and health outcomes
- Working with criminal history data to assess whether arrests/charges resulting in stet or nolle prosequi influence recidivism
- Developing a sampling strategy for a survey and/or site observation to assess access to and quality of attorneys to juveniles
- Developing a screening tool to identify individuals at risk to commit domestic violence for a probation agency

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Taxman, Faye; **Breno, Alex.** (2017). “Alternatives to Incarceration.” In Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Ed. . New York: Oxford University Press.

Breno, A. J., Chowdhury, S., and Taxman, F.S. (2017, May) *Initial Classification Evaluation Tool Study Update*. Presented for lead staff at Maryland Division of Probation and Parole, Baltimore, Maryland.

Breno, A. J., Souza, K., Chowdhury, S., and Taxman, F.S. (2016, July) *Development and Validation of a Short Risk Screener*. Presented for lead staff at Maryland Division of Probation and Parole, Baltimore, MD.

Francis, Z., **Breno, A. J.,** and Taxman, F.S. (2017). *Risk, Need, Responsivity (RNR) in St. Louis City: A report to the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Collaborative*. Fairfax, VA: Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!), George Mason University. Unpublished report.

Breno, A. J. (2017, November) *Development of a Short Screener*. Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

Breno, A. J., Chowdhury, S., Thurman, T. (2018, January) *Risk Screeners: Checking in on the Validity of Risk Tools and the Use with a Third-Generation Tool*. Presented at the American Probation and Parole Association, Houston, Tx.

Murphy, A., **Breno, A. J.**, & Taxman, F.S. (2018, February 28) Risk and Needs Assessments, What do they really Mean for Law Enforcement. Innovations Suite Researcher-Practitioner Fellows Academy.

Debus-Sherrill, S., **Breno, A. J.**, & Taxman, F. (2018, November). *Alameda County Probation Department Second Chance Act Evaluation: Year 1 (June 2017-June 2018) Report*. Fairfax, VA: Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!), George Mason University. Unpublished report.

Breno, A. J., & Taxman, F.S. (2018, November) *Development of a Short Screener*. Presented at the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Breno, A. J., Routh, D., & Taxman, F.S. (2019, March) *A Step Forward to Improve Criminal Justice Agency Decision-Making: The Need for a National Commission for Risk-Needs Assessment Standards*. Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, Baltimore, MD.

Debus-Sherrill, S., **Breno, A. J.**, & Taxman, F. (2019, September). *Alameda County Probation Department Second Chance Act Evaluation: Final Report*. Presented for executive staff at Alameda County Probation Department headquarters, Oakland, CA.

Debus-Sherrill, S., **Breno, A. J.**, & Taxman, F. (2019, September). *Alameda County Probation Department Second Chance Act Evaluation: Final Report*. Fairfax, VA: Center for Advancing Correctional Excellence (ACE!), George Mason University. Unpublished report.

TRANSLATIONAL WORK

Breno, A. J., Chowdhury, S., Thurman, T., Weis, S., and Wilkins, T. (2016, October) *Initial Classification Evaluation*. Training given to probation and parole officers at study site, Frederick, MD.

Breno, A. J., Routh, D., and Taxman, F.S. (2018, November) *Discussion of Sampling Frame Issues: Juvenile Offending Rates per County*. Memorandum given to National Juvenile Defender Center, Washington, DC.

Breno, A. J., Routh, D., and Taxman, F.S. (2019, April) *Discussion of Sampling Frame Methods: Selecting our Sample*. Memo given to National Juvenile Defender Center, Washington, DC.

WORKING DRAFTS

Breno, A. J., & Taxman, F. (2018). *The construction and validation of a short risk screener*. Manuscript submitted for publication.

Taxman, F., **Breno, A. J.**, & Routh, D. (2018). *A step forward to minimize harms and improve criminal justice agency decision-making: The need for a national commission for Risk-Need Assessment standards*. Unpublished Manuscript.

Debus-Sherrill, S., **Breno, A. J.**, & Taxman, F. (2018). *What makes or breaks Evidence-Based Supervision?: Staff and organizational predictors of Evidence-Based Practice in probation*. Revise and Resubmit.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Carterque Bar-b-que, Mount Airy, MD, *Caterer, Busser* Mar 2011-Jan 2015

- Trained new employees to understand job etiquette and professionalism

Camp Nazareth, Mercer, PA, *Counselor* Summer 2013

- Counseled 16 kids per week demonstrating leadership and responsibility
- Organized and facilitated youth programs while maintaining a no child left behind mentality

Alpha Phi Sigma Honors Society, Indiana, PA, *member* Spring 2015

- Attended criminological conferences to acquire knowledge of current studies
- Participated in annual meeting to discuss business and demonstrate knowledge on criminology

LEADERSHIP AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

American Carpatho Russian Youth, Nationally, *President, Auditor* Sep 2008- Sep 2017

- Organized and administered business meetings to review previous year's advances
- Audit financial records to maintain a balanced budget
- Organized workshops and charity events such as toy drives, food drives, mission trips

Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Indiana, Pa, *President* Sep 2014-May 2015

- Organized gatherings and events attended by 15-50 people
- Participated in regional events and charity work designed to promote a Christian lifestyle

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Technical: Proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, and Powerpoint, Qualtrics, Monday.com, Zoom, Webex, Box, Dropbox, and Zotero

Software Languages: SPSS, R, STATA, SAS, Gpower

Personal: Public speaking, philanthropic work