



Maryland Crime Research & Innovation Center

MCRIC

Season's Greetings MCRIC Community,

With the closing of the calendar year before us, we reflect on another successful year at MCRIC. We continue to work with partners like you to conduct rigorous research, integrate data, and develop and evaluate innovative criminal justice strategies aimed at preventing and reducing crime. Read the **Project Spotlight** below to learn about active research assessing pretrial risk across Maryland jurisdictions. And get a glimpse into our **Embedded Analyst** program where talented students from the University of Maryland's #1 ranked Criminology & Criminal Justice PhD program provide data analysis support in local agencies. Read more about the recent projects that our MCRIC Research Affiliates are engaged in [here](#).

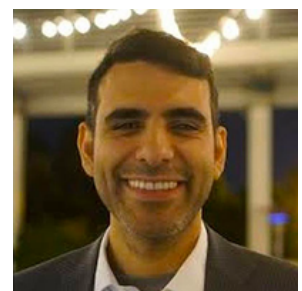
Wishing you a Happy and Safe New Year,
Bianca Bersani, PhD

Director, Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center

Project Spotlight: Assessment of Pretrial Risk across Maryland Jurisdictions

MCRIC was awarded a grant to study pretrial outcomes across Maryland jurisdictions from the Maryland Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, & Victim Services (GOCPYVS). The project draws on expertise from Criminology & Criminal Justice and the INFO College to provide important data necessary to understand the impact of past reforms in the state, such as the implementation of pretrial risk assessments in individual counties, and the potential for future reforms, such as a statewide bail reform effort. Building on prior work focusing on Baltimore City and Prince George's County, the research team will first construct a large, linked dataset of criminal cases across the state of Maryland that spans more than a decade.

This dataset will enable the research team to track cases from the initial hearing to final disposition. Drawing on methods from machine learning, criminology, and applied microeconomics, the team will then study the extent to which pretrial risk in Maryland is actually predictable, as well as the level of alignment between those risk predictions and decisions made by the court. Read the full description [here](#).



Dr. Zubin Jelveh
Principal Investigator



Dr. Emily Glazener
Investigator

MCRIC Research Team Spotlight



Meghan Kozerra
Embedded Analyst &
Research Affiliate

Since 2019, MCRIC has supported an embedded data analyst in partnership with the Baltimore Police Department (BPD). Learn more about this position from the analyst, [Meghan Kozerra](#).

Who are you: I'm a PhD candidate in the Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice. I've been an embedded analyst since February 2021. My dissertation research focuses on the intersection of behavioral health and policing.

What do you do as an embedded analyst: As an embedded analyst, I work collaboratively with sworn and civilian investigators to identify individuals and places at high risk for violence. Additionally, I evaluate enforcement initiatives and departmental policies that assist in strategic planning and data-driven

decision making. Finally, I act as a liaison between MCRIC and BPD to promote an ongoing research-practitioner partnership.

What opportunities does this provide: Working as an embedded analyst has afforded me the opportunity to conduct translational research with real-world, real-time implications.

What does BPD think of the partnership: "BPD is pleased to be a part of MCRIC's embedded data analyst partnership. As an agency we strive to develop evidence-based practices and this partnership helps achieve that goal while giving students the opportunity to increase their skills and better prepare them for a career." Director Shannon Sullivan (CDIU)

More News, Opportunities, & Announcements

- [UMD Research Focuses on Improving Police Community Relationships in Baltimore.](#) Informed by community interviews, this study aims to understand sources of community-police tensions and explore tangible ways of improving the delivery of services.
- [MPower Grant Funds New Research Focused on Comparing Firearm Violence from Trauma Units and Police.](#) The goal is to understand trends and community perceptions of lethal and non-lethal gun violence using a collaborative, community-based approach to inform the development of strategies for gun violence prevention and intervention.
- [UMD Research Advances Predictive Analytics for Community Safety and Public Health.](#) Leveraging local partnerships, this project aims to increase data-driven analytics to enhance existing proactive strategies to improve community health and public safety.

If you have funding opportunities, news, and/or events that you'd like to share with the MCRIC community, please send them to mcric-contact@umd.edu.

MCRIC Website: go.umd.edu/mcric

