



Background

What is the Anti-Heroin Task Force?

- **Competitive award program through the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office**
- **Funds allocated for the purpose of investigating illicit activities related to heroin and other opioids, such as fentanyl and prescription painkillers**
- Approximately \$35 million available every year
- The award lasts three years and agencies can receive up to \$4 million

Who is eligible for the AHTF?

- State law enforcement agencies in jurisdictions with high treatment admission rates for opioid addiction
- Treatment admissions criterion is based on data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Figure 1. AHTF funding descriptive statistics.

Fiscal Year	Applications	Grants Awarded	Total Grant Value	Average Grant
2015	15	6	\$5,784,427	\$964,071
2016	19	6	\$5,729,478	\$954,913
2017	21	8	\$7,190,000	\$898,750
2018	21	17	\$27,865,277	\$1,639,134
2019	20	19	\$27,760,000	\$1,461,053
2020	16	14	\$29,731,251	\$2,123,661

Research Questions

- 1) Are AHTF grants awarded based on the outlined criteria?
- 2) Has there been an effect on arrests, overdoses, and drug seizures?

Methods

Outcomes

- Drug arrests and seizures (Uniform Crime Reports)
- Treatment admission rates (SAMHSA)
- Overdose mortality (CDC)

Independent variable

- AHTF grants (COPS office)

Control variables

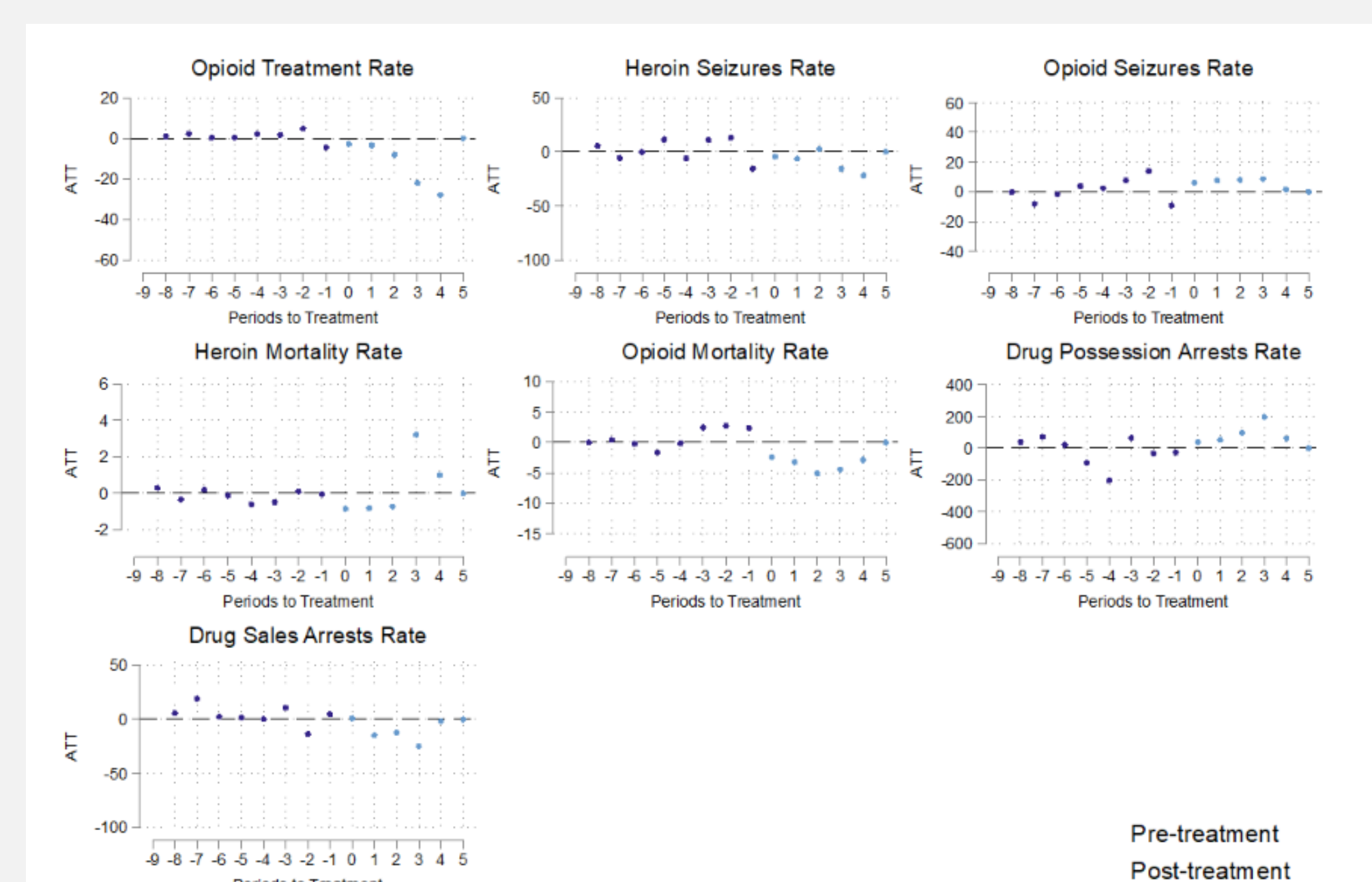
- Police spending
- Unemployment rate
- Mean household income

Analytic Strategy

- Differences-in-differences
- Comparison of grant recipients to other states

Results

Figure 2. Measures before and after grant.



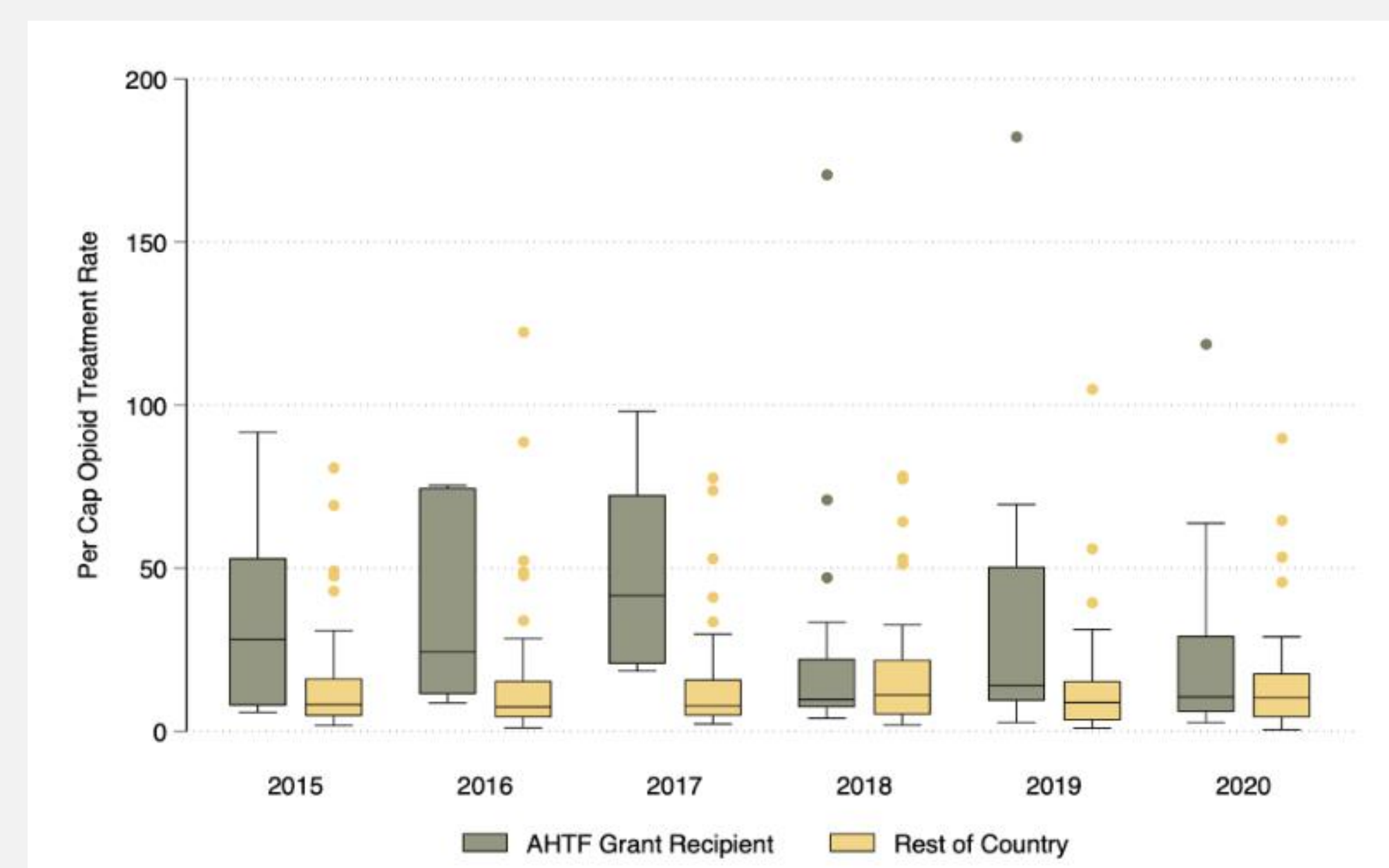
We find a moderate reduction in:

- Opioid treatment admissions
- Opioid overdoses

We find no effect on:

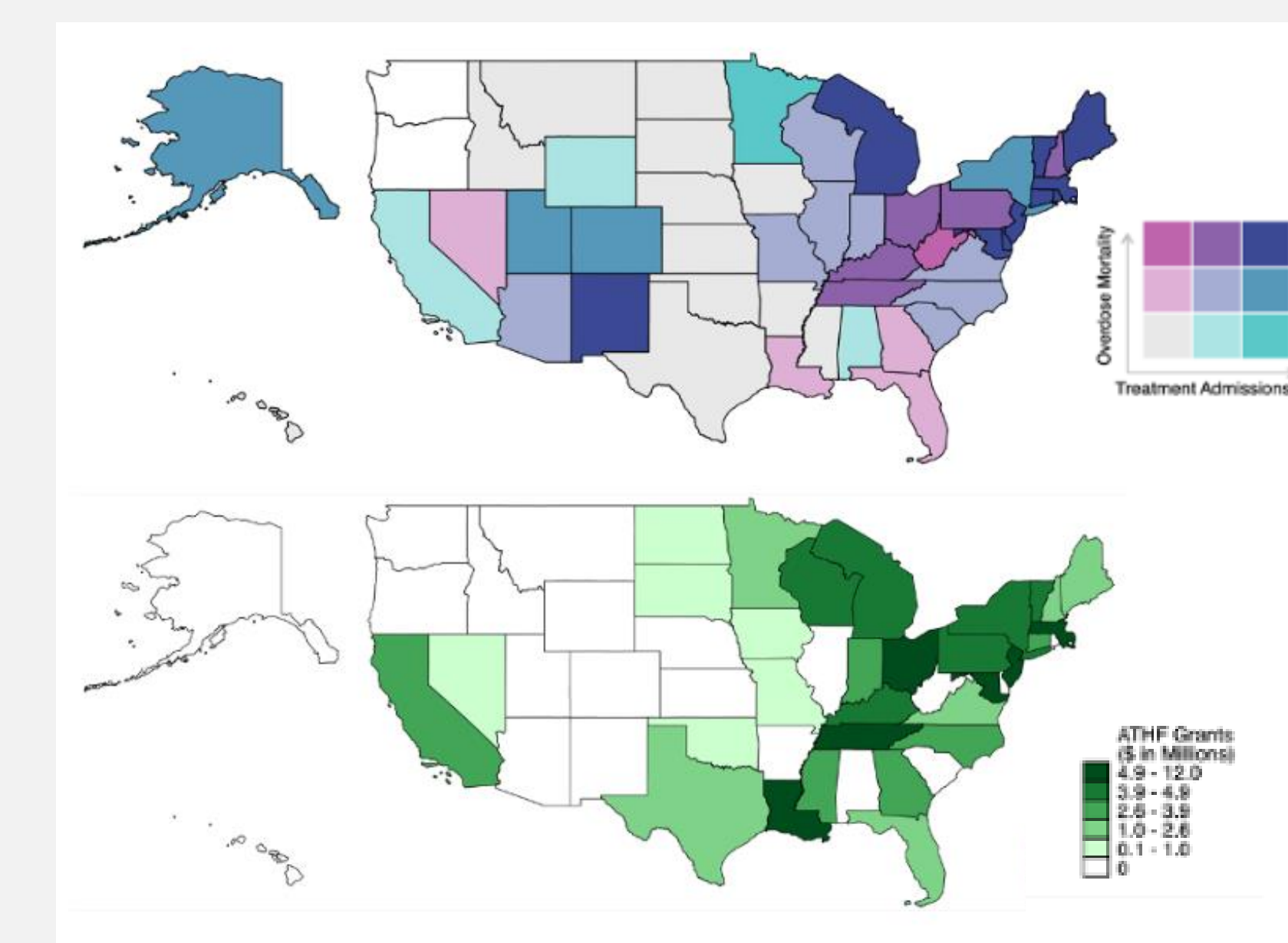
- Drug seizures
- Drug sale arrests

Figure 3. Treatment admission rates.



Results

Figure 4. Treatment and AHTF grant heat maps.



Funding allocation:

- Treatment admissions two years prior was a strong predictor of receiving a grant
- However, treatment admissions can indicate treatment accessibility rather than opioid-related problems.
- Treatment admissions also have not been evaluated as an outcome prior to this study.

Discussion/Conclusion

Key Takeaways:

- *Funding is allocated based on the program criteria*
- *Opioid crisis is a dynamic and multifaceted issue*
- *Treatment admissions are an important but limited measure*

Recommendations:

- *Expand criteria to include public health and safety measures*
- *Focus on growing fentanyl crisis*
- *Perform systematic evaluation each year assessing the impact of grants on crime and health-related*

References

Email akn5535@psu.edu for more information! See the following QR code for works cited:

