

Anna Newell

Department of Sociology and Criminology

The Pennsylvania State University

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Education:

2022 – 2027 (expected)

Pennsylvania State University
Criminology Ph.D.

2022 – 2024

Pennsylvania State University
Criminology M.A.
Thesis: From Pain Management to Street Crime: A County-Level Analysis of Opioid Prescriptions and Drug-Related Arrest Rates
Departmental Best Thesis Award (Honorable Mention)

2018 – 2022

University of Maryland, College Park
Criminology/Criminal Justice B.A. and Psychology B.A.
Statistics minor
Honors thesis: A State-Level Analysis of Juvenile Justice Policy and Outcomes

Research Interests:

Drug policy, illicit markets, substance use, decision-making, quantitative methods

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles:

Newell, A. (2025). From Pain Management to Street Crime: A County-Level Analysis of Opioid Dispensing Rates and Drug-related Arrest Rates. *Journal of Drug Issues*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00220426251356928>

Evans, M., Graif, C., & **Newell, A.** (2025). Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation into the Spatial and Social Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10940-025-09612-y>

Nguyen, H., Rowan, Z., **Newell, A.**, Steinberg, L., & Cauffman, E. (2025). The (In)congruence between Stated and Revealed Preferences: The Role of Substance Use. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 181(1), 5-32. <https://doi.org/10.1628/jite-2025-0020>

Book Chapters:

Midgette, G., Scocca, J., & **Newell, A.** (2023). Drug Policies in Criminal Justice Settings, in Handbook of Evidence-Based Criminal Justice Practices, eds. E. Verona and B. Fox, New York: Routledge

Working Papers:

Newell, A., & Pierce, J. (in progress). “It sounds like fake weed to me”: Perceptions of Delta-8 Among Undergraduate Students in Pennsylvania. [in preparation for *International Journal of Drug Policy*]

Newell, A., Midgette, G., & Nguyen, H. (in progress). COPS as Drug Control: An Evaluation of the Anti-Heroin Task Force Grant Program. [in preparation for *Criminology & Public Policy*]

Newell, A. (in progress). Regional Variation in Associations Between Opioid Dispensing Rates and Drug-related Arrest Rates. [in preparation for *Criminology*]

Yu, D., **Newell, A.**, & Nguyen, H. (in progress). Youth Substance Use and Decision-Making Processes. [in preparation for *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*]

Research Experience:

August 2025 – present	Adjunct Researcher Advisors: Beau Kilmer and Greg Midgette <i>The RAND Corporation, Arlington, V.A.</i>
June – August 2025	Graduate Student Summer Associate Advisors: Beau Kilmer and Greg Midgette <i>The RAND Corporation, Arlington, V.A.</i>
June 2022 – present	Graduate Research Assistant Advisor: Holly Nguyen <i>Department of Sociology and Criminology, Pennsylvania State University</i>
January 2021 – May 2022	Undergraduate Research Assistant Advisor: Greg Midgette <i>Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park</i>
January 2019 – May 2021	Undergraduate Research Assistant

Lab coordinator: Natasha Cabrera
*Family Involvement Laboratory, University of Maryland,
College Park*

Survey Design and Data Collection:

September 2023 – January 2025 “THC Use and Purchasing Behaviors in an Evolving Legal Landscape” – designed by Anna Newell and Jordan Pierce, distributed at Pennsylvania State University

Teaching Experience:

August – December 2024 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
*Criminology Theory and Evidence
Pennsylvania State University*

May – June 2024 **Instructor**
*Introduction to Criminology
Pennsylvania State University*

June – August 2024 **Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Mentor**
Eberly College of Science, Pennsylvania State University

August – December 2021 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park

August – December 2019 **Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park

Posters and Presentations:

Kilmer, B. & Newell, A. Considering Cannabis Legalization with New Sources of Competition.
18th Annual International Society for the Study of Drug Policy Conference, Manchester, UK.
[oral presentation]

Evans, M., Graif, C., & Newell, A. Criminal Arrests and the Opioid Epidemic: An Investigation

into the Spatial and Social Network Spillover of Opioid Overdoses in Chicago. *Population Association of America 2025 Annual Meeting*, Washington, D.C. [poster presentation]

Newell, A., Yu, D., & Nguyen, H. Substance Use and Perceptions of Risks and Rewards of Offending. *American Society of Criminology 2024 Annual Meeting*, San Francisco, CA. [oral presentation]

Newell, A. From Pain Management to Street Crime: A County-Level Analysis of Opioid Dispensing Rates and Drug-Related Arrest Rates. *American Sociological Association 2024 Annual Meeting*, Montréal, Québec. [roundtable presentation]

Newell, A. Trends of Use and Perceptions of Delta-8 Products Among Pennsylvania State University Students. *Pennsylvania State Consortium on Substance Use and Addiction 2024 Annual Conference*, State College, PA. [oral presentation]

Newell, A. A County-Level Analysis of Opioids, Crime, and Health. *American Society of Criminology 2024 Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA. [oral presentation]

Newell, A., Midgette, G., & Nguyen, H. COPS as Drug Control: An Evaluation of the Anti-Heroin Task Force Grant Program. *National Institute of Justice 2023 National Research Conference*, Arlington, VA. [poster presentation]

Newell, A., Midgette, G., & Nguyen, H. A State-Level Evaluation of the Anti-Heroin Task Force. *Pennsylvania State Consortium on Substance Use and Addiction 2023 Annual Conference*, State College, PA. [poster presentation]

Newell, A. A State-Level Analysis of Juvenile Justice Policies and Outcomes. *University of Maryland 2022 Undergraduate Research Day*, College Park, MD. [poster presentation]

Invited Presentations:

August 2025

Cannabis Considerations in Indiana: Insights about Consumption and Neighboring States
The RAND Corporation, End of Summer Presentation

April 2025

From Pain Management to Street Crime: A County-Level Analysis of Opioid Dispensing Rates and Drug-Related Arrest Rates
Pennsylvania State University, 16th Annual Criminology Paper Competition Presentation

October 2024

Opioids and Crime
Pennsylvania State University, Criminology 424 Guest Lecture

April 2024

Social Learning Theory and Delta-8 Use Among Penn State Students

Pennsylvania State University, Criminology 249 Guest Lecture

Awards and Honors:

2025 – 2026	Prevention and Methodology Training (PAMT) Pre-Doctoral Fellowship <i>Edna Bennett Pierce Prevention Research Center, Pennsylvania State University Funded by the National Institute of Health</i>
2024	16 th Annual Criminology Paper Competition (2 nd place) <i>Pennsylvania State University Department of Sociology and Criminology</i>
2024	Departmental Best Thesis Award (Honorable Mention) <i>Pennsylvania State University Department of Sociology and Criminology</i>
2022 – 2023	University Graduate Fellowship <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>
2023	Travel Grant Recipient <i>National Institute of Justice</i>
2021	Maryland Summer Scholars Award <i>University of Maryland, College Park</i>

Professional Service

March 2025	Manuscript Reviewer <i>Journal of Quantitative Criminology</i>
March 2025	Recruitment Committee <i>Peer Mentor</i>
November 2024	Manuscript Reviewer <i>Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy</i>
March 2024	Recruitment Committee <i>Peer Mentor</i>

August 2022 – present

Social Events Committee
Chair

August 2022 – May 2024

Travel Committee
Member

Internship Experience:

January – May 2020

Research Intern
*Trauma Services Lab, DC VA Medical Center,
Washington, DC*

June – August 2019

Intern
Rozin Security, Minneapolis, MN