

Anna Newell

Department of Sociology and Criminology
The Pennsylvania State University
646 Susan Welch Liberal Arts Building, University Park, PA 16802
akn5535@psu.edu

Education:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 2022 – 2027 (expected) | Pennsylvania State University
<i>Criminology Ph.D.</i> |
| 2022 – 2024 | Pennsylvania State University
<i>Criminology M.A.</i>
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
<i>Criminology/Criminal Justice B.A. and Psychology B.A.</i>
<i>Statistics minor</i>
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:

Midgett, 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., Midgett, 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 Midgett
The RAND Corporation, Arlington, V.A.

June – August 2025

Graduate Student Summer Associate

Advisors: Beau Kilmer and Greg Midgett
The RAND Corporation, Arlington, V.A.

June 2022 – present

Graduate Research Assistant

Advisor: Holly Nguyen
Department of Sociology and Criminology, Pennsylvania State University

January 2021 – May 2022

Undergraduate Research Assistant

Advisor: Greg Midgett
Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park

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 <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>
May – June 2024	Instructor Introduction to Criminology <i>Pennsylvania State University</i>
June – August 2024	Summer Undergraduate Research Experience Mentor <i>Eberly College of Science, Pennsylvania State University</i>
August – December 2021	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant <i>Department of Psychology, University of Maryland, College Park</i>
August – December 2019	Undergraduate Teaching Assistant <i>Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland, College Park</i>

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 <i>The RAND Corporation, End of Summer Presentation</i>
April 2025	From Pain Management to Street Crime: A County-Level Analysis of Opioid Dispensing Rates and Drug-Related Arrest Rates <i>Pennsylvania State University, 16th Annual Criminology Paper Competition Presentation</i>
October 2024	Opioids and Crime <i>Pennsylvania State University, Criminology 424 Guest Lecture</i>
April 2024	Social Learning Theory and Delta-8 Use Among Penn State Students

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