



International Association for Correctional  
and Forensic Psychology

*Advancing the Voice of Psychology in Corrections*

An abstract, layered profile of a human head facing right. The profile is composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in various colors including dark blue, light blue, green, yellow, and brown. The background is a solid dark blue. A thick black curved line separates the white header area from the blue background.

# STRATEGY

## 2025–2031

[www.myiacfp.org](http://www.myiacfp.org)




The global population currently stands at **8.2 billion**, with an estimated **11.5 million** people incarcerated—a **24% increase** since 2000.

According to the World Prison Brief, 224 jurisdictions report imprisonment rates averaging **140 per 100,000 globally**, though this varies significantly across countries.

Research from the Global Community Corrections Initiative report estimates **12.5 million** people engaged with Community Correctional Services, making the global corrections population approximately **24 million**.

# Our Mission

IACFP supports correctional and forensic psychologists, as well as other helping professionals working with justice-impacted individuals. We aim to advance evidence- and practitioner-informed policies and practices, and to elevate psychology's role in correctional settings.



## Unique Approaches to Criminal Justice and Rehabilitation

Criminal justice systems vary widely, influenced by cultural, political, and legal factors. These differences impact priorities for rehabilitation versus security and attitudes toward those involved in the justice system. In relation to psychology in corrections, there is no comprehensive data on the number of psychologists working in the criminal justice system. Qualifications, practices, and approaches to rehabilitation differ across jurisdictions, as do the ratios of psychologists to prison populations.

## Common Challenges

Despite these differences, challenges shared globally include:

- Significant overcrowding
- Rising numbers of individuals with complex mental health presentations including major mental illness, complex trauma, neurodiversity, addictions, and dual-diagnoses
- Aging populations and chronic health concerns

- Difficulty recruiting, training, retaining, and ensuring the well-being of correctional staff
- Rising numbers of people incarcerated on remand/pre-conviction
- Providing appropriate interventions to those on short sentences

## Positive Improvements

Globally, there is a shift toward responding to addiction through a health-led rather than criminal justice-led approach. Additionally, trauma-responsive and recovery-oriented approaches are being incorporated into Risk-Need-Responsivity models to better address individual needs.

## The Vital Role of Correctional Psychologists

Working in correctional settings is demanding for all professionals. For psychologists, the demands go beyond direct therapeutic or clinical work. They may also support corrections and forensic work through their expertise in testing/evaluations, research, organizational challenges, crisis and risk management and legal/ethical consultation. This, coupled with a shortage of professionals, strains both staff well-being and the quality of care, hindering rehabilitation and increasing the risk of recidivism.

IACFP strives to support psychologists and other helping professionals through three pillars that have been adopted as the Association's strategic focus: Helping the Helpers, Research to Practice and Practice to Research, and Building a Resilient and Sustainable Association for the Future. These pillars are outlined in the following pages. Our goal is to drive systemic change and foster a positive correctional culture globally.



# Strategic Pillars

1



# Helping the Helpers

IACFP recognizes that correctional psychologists and other practitioners often work in isolation, or at most, in small teams. IACFP wishes to prioritize **connection** and **learning**.

Connection of correctional psychologists and other practitioners so they feel part of a much wider international community of professionals facing common challenges and opportunities.

**Learning** through Continual Professional Development opportunities which include:

- **ACCESS** to practical resources on contemporary issues
- **SUPPORT** for early-career psychologists and students
- **OPPORTUNITIES** to discuss complex issues in corrections
- A Mental Health **LEADERSHIP** Network for ongoing professional development

IACFP prioritizes connecting correctional professionals worldwide to foster engagement, share resources, and build a global community for correctional psychology.

# Strategic Pillars



## 2

### Research to Practice and Practice to Research

IACFP's journal, *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, is a top publication offering evidence-based and practitioner-informed resources for psychologists. IACFP members receive *CJB* monthly and have online access to over 100 psychology and criminology journals from SAGE Publishing. Our *IACFP Bulletin*, published every two months, bridges research and practice by summarizing current studies and showcasing international corrections initiatives.

IACFP appreciates how challenging it can be for correctional psychologists and other practitioners across the globe to engage in high quality research associated with unique and creative initiatives.

IACFP's vision is to:

- **SUPPORT** practitioners to engage in evidence-informed practice through **EFFECTIVE INTERPRETATION** of academic research





- Ensure high quality research articles **TRANSLATE** more easily into meaningful practice
- Provide a platform to **SHOWCASE** the work of practitioners to an international audience
- Deliver Continual Professional Development events to support practitioners' research practices

IACFP also sponsors the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) Distinguished Scholar Lecture and offers low-cost student membership and annual student research grants to support the next generation of professionals.

# Strategic Pillars





# 3

## Creating a Resilient and Sustainable Association for the Future

IACFP and CJB have demonstrated long-term relevance and impact, with an increasing international focus over the past decade. To continue this growth, we aim to:

- Improve **COMMUNICATION** among members
- Improve website **ACCESSIBILITY** and user **EXPERIENCE**, including **ACCESS** to literature and continuous professional development
- Strengthen international **PARTNERSHIPS** with correctional organizations, academic institutions, and other relevant groups

# IACFP Board



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## Become a Member:

Individuals whose professional activities and interests are in close affiliation with correctional and forensic psychology, and behavioral science graduate students, may become members. Membership benefits include subscriptions to our journal *Criminal Justice and Behavior* and *IACFP Bulletin*, and more.



# IACFP

Find our Strategy Roadmap and more  
information about our Strategic Plan at  
**[WWW.MYIACFP.ORG](http://WWW.MYIACFP.ORG)**