

BreAna J. Bell-Freeman

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Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice
University of Maryland - Lefrak Hall
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Education

- Present **M.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice**, University of Maryland, College Park (Expected: Spring 2026)
Relevant Coursework: Seminar on Qualitative Analysis; Fundamentals for Criminological Research;
Seminar in Criminal Justice
- 2022 **B.A. in Criminology & Criminal Justice**, University of Maryland, College Park
Minor: Law & Society
Relevant Coursework: Seminar on Offender Re-Entry; Race, Crime, & Criminal Justice; Criminal Justice
Research Methods; Law & Legal Institutions; Corrections; Marijuana, Law, & Society

Research Interest

Race; Youth & Crime; Sentencing; Education Disparities; Public Health & Safety; Mixed Methods

Awards & Honors

- 2020 - 21, -24, -25 **State Delegate & Senatorial Scholarship**
- 2021 - 22 **Dean's List**

Research Experience

- 2024 - Present **Baybrook Violence Reduction Plan Implementation and Expansion**
Project Goal: Assess the overall impact of the violence reduction program by analyzing changes in objective measures of disorder and changes in perceptions of safety.
Lead: Dr. Lauren Porter, Sarah Silberman, B.A., M.S.
Role: Research Assistant - Conduct systematic self-observations (SSO's) of high-risk areas in Baybrook and its surrounding areas for further analysis. Recording pre-treatment observations that display public safety perceptions (e.g., needles, trash, broken windows, etc.).
- Evaluation of the Baybrook Community-Based Group Violence Intervention Program**
Project Goal: Reduce violence, provide resources to high-risk individuals, and reduce recidivism of those who utilize suggested resources.
Lead: Dr. Bianca Bersani
Role: Research Assistant - Gather literature to decide best course of action for follow-up interviews of high-needs youth in the Baybrook community.

Professional Experience

- 2024 - Present **Maryland Crime Research and Innovation Center- Baltimore Police Department**
Role: Embedded Analyst in Consent Decree Unit - Provide analytical support to the unit by cleaning qualitative and quantitative data (e.g., removing duplicates, categorizing interview and survey responses, filtering date and time, etc.), and providing reader-friendly visuals for weekly and quarterly reports. Extract and analyze data to ensure U.S. Department of Justice compliance.
- 2022 - 24 **Maryland General Assembly - Delegate Nicole Williams**
Role: Chief of Staff - Analyze relevant data from state agencies, elected officials, external state legislation, and case law to strengthen the Delegate's legislation and testimony. Work alongside organizations and elected officials to ensure the legislative effectiveness of each proposed policy.
- 2021 - 22 **Department of Justice**
Role: Pathways Student Trainee - Assist attorneys with deposition preparation by organizing and analyzing case-related information. Coordinate with attorneys to assemble, close, and send litigation case files to necessary governmental agencies. Perform classified research on individuals of interest by collaborating with IRS agents and collecting information from the LexisNexis database to assist attorneys with active civil cases.

Skills

- Qualitative Dedoose (proficient), NVivo (beginner)
- Quantitative SPSS (beginner), Stata (proficient), R (intermediate), ArcGIS (beginner)
- Other Adobe Acrobat (proficient) , Canva (expert), LexisNexis (proficient), Google Workspace (expert), Microsoft Office (expert)