



United States
Department of Justice

Bureau of Justice Statistics

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) was first established on December 27, 1979, under the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-157) which was an Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-351). Our mission is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. These data are critical to federal, state, and local policymakers in combating crime and ensuring that justice is both efficient and evenhanded.

BJS released the following publications and data analysis tools in FY 2011:

Gang Units in Large, Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 2007	Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program, 2010
Criminal Victimization, 2009	Jail Inmates at Midyear 2010 - Statistical Tables
Background Checks for Firearms Transfers, 2009 - Statistical Tables	Characteristics of Suspected Human Trafficking Incidents, 2008-2010
Federal Justice Statistics, 2008 - Statistical Tables	National Corrections Reporting Program, 2009
Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 2010	Criminal Victimization in the United States, 2008 - Statistical Tables
Local Police Departments, 2007	PREA Data Collection Activities, 2011
Capital Punishment, 2009 - Statistical Tables	Hate Crime, 2003-2009
Crime Against People with Disabilities, 2008	Prisoner Recidivism Analysis Tool
Victims of Identity Theft, 2008	Tribal Data Collection Activities, 2011
Probation and Parole in the United States, 2009	Tribal Law Enforcement, 2008
Correctional Populations in the United States, 2009	Summary: Tribal Youth in the Federal Justice System
Prisoners in 2009	State Prosecutors' Offices with Jurisdiction in Indian Country, 2007
National Corrections Reporting Program, 2008	Compendium of Tribal Crime Data, 2010
National Corrections Reporting Program, 2007	Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 2008
Sexual Victimization Reported by Adult Correctional Authorities, 2007-2008	Use of Victim Service Agencies by Victims of Serious Violent Crime, 1993-2009
Jails in Indian Country, 2009	Arrest in the United States, 1980-2009
Punitive Damage Awards in State Courts, 2005	Arrest in the United States, 1980-2009 –Data Analysis Tool
Workplace Violence, 1993-2009	Criminal Victimization, 2010

During the fiscal year, approximately 2,500 media reports cited information in these publications. Nearly 90,000 copies of BJS reports were disseminated during the year at conferences and to data users who request to receive the information.

INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH

BJS continues to be the leading provider of national crime and justice data to government agencies, research organizations, advocacy groups, the media, and the general public. BJS makes data available in hardcopy and electronic publications, data spreadsheets, and online data access tools.

BJS continues efforts to disseminate dynamic data query tools that enable users to explore the patterns and trends of criminal justice data in far more detail than could be found in any published report. Users can produce customized tables and graphs and download data in various formats, such as Excel tables and PDF files, for subsequent uses. BJS has released the *Prisoner Recidivism Analysis Tool (PRAT)* and *Arrest Data Access Tool (A-DAT)* and will release a *National Crime Victimization Survey Analysis Tool* in November 2012.

- The *PRAT* enables the public to explore the recidivism patterns of persons involved with the criminal justice system. This tool defines recidivism in a variety of ways and enables users to choose the one measure of recidivism that best fits their needs or to compare the various measures of recidivism for the same group of offenders released from prison.
- The *A-DAT* draws a wide audience of users who for the first time can create custom graphs of arrest estimates using specific information not previously available in any other resource. The tool can be used, for example, to generate national arrest trends for young women charged with aggravated assault, which can then be used by local law enforcement agencies, the media or advocates to compare to local trends. The data tool also contains local arrest counts for law enforcement agencies that report arrest data to the FBI for the complete 12-month period in the reporting year.
- The *NVAT* allows users to create standard tables with detailed data on major items measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), including crimes of violence (rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault), property crimes (household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft), and personal theft (pocket picking and completed and attempted purse snatching). Users can analyze victimization rates by demographic characteristics of victims, time and place of occurrence, weapon use, injury and medical care, victim-offender relationship, offender characteristics, and crimes reported and not reported to police.

VICTIMIZATION STATISTICS

Redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey - BJS continues its intensive efforts to rebuild the core National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) program and to conduct research towards improving survey methodologies and reducing costs of data collection. The redesign also addresses the long-standing request by NCVS users to provide data on victimizations at the sub-national level (e.g., states and municipalities). Efforts to rebuild the core survey include reinstating sample that had been reduced in 2007 because of budget cuts, conducting refresher training of NCVS interviewers at the U.S. Census Bureau, and instituting a comprehensive set of performance metrics to monitor and evaluate field staff performance. In addition, BJS and the Census Bureau are developing a methodological research program to explore issues of concern and provide the framework for continual improvement in the quality of NCVS data. BJS initiated a study to develop and evaluate a cost effective sub-national companion survey of victimization towards enabling production of state or city level estimates of crime victimization. This major project entails conducting surveys in a number of metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) using a lower cost methodology than the national NCVS and developing statistical means to blend the data from the sub-national and national surveys. Another project, originally initiated in 2009 to refine the sample design, was extended to develop the capability to produce subnational estimates from the NCVS through strategic boosts in sample and modeling techniques. Finally, BJS has asked the Committee on National Statistics of the National Research Council to determine the optimum design for the collection of self report data on sexual violence and to assess whether these procedures can be employed within the current NCVS design.

CORRECTIONS STATISTICS

Sexual Violence in Correctional Facilities—BJS continues to meet data collection and reporting requirements under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (PREA) using a multiple-measure, multiple-mode data collection strategy. BJS issues an annual report on the status of the various PREA collections at midyear. The most recent, *PREA Data Collection Activities, 2011*, summarizes all the ongoing work:

- The *Survey of Sexual Violence (SSV) in Correctional Facilities* collects data annually on the incidence of sexual violence in adult and juvenile correctional facilities. This administrative records collection, first conducted in 2004, measures four different types of sexual violence and is administered to a sample of at least 10 percent of the nearly 8,700 correctional facilities covered under the act. *Sexual Violence Reported by Correctional Authorities, 2007-08* was released in January 2011. The 2011 data collection is currently in the field.
- The *National Inmate Survey (NIS)* collects data directly from inmates in a private setting using Audio Computer-Assisted Self Interview (ACASI) technology with a laptop touch-screen and an audio feed to maximize inmate confidentiality and minimize literacy issues. The most recent findings from the second iteration of the survey (NIS-2) were published in *Sexual Victimization in Prisons and Jails Reported by Inmates, 2008-09* in August 2010. The NIS-3 began in January 2011 and will run through early 2012. The survey was expanded to include a

sample of persons under the age of 18 held in adult facilities and modified to include measures of physical and mental health indicators of facility safety and security.

- The *National Survey of Youth in Custody (NSYC)* includes a sample of state facilities and large locally or privately operated facilities housing adjudicated youth. After obtaining either individual parental consent or *in loco parentis* from the facility, a sample of youth in each selected facility was interviewed in a private setting using ACASI. Facility rankings from Year 1 were released in *Sexual Victimization in Juvenile Facilities, 2008-09* in January 2010. Since then, the NSYC has been modified to include more small facilities and contract facilities, information on each facility and living unit, and methods to improve response rates. Year 2 of the NSYC has received approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Recruitment of survey participants, state and local reviews, and logistical planning are underway. Interviews are expected to begin in February 2012.
- The *Former Prisoner Survey (FPS)* provides a national estimate of the incidence of sexual victimization based on reports of former state prison inmates. Between January and November 2008, BJS conducted the FPS in a sample of 285 parole offices with nearly 18,000 former inmates using ACASI technology. The survey collects data on the totality of the prior term of incarceration, including any time in a local jail, state prison, or community correctional facility prior to final discharge. The methodology of the FPS is not conducive to facility ranking but will provide substantial data on the characteristics of sexual victimization across facility types and over time, as well as effects of victimization following release from prison. BJS is currently working on a final report, expected to be released in 2011.
- *Clinical Indicators of Sexual Violence in Custody (CISVC)* is a feasibility study conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Medical staff, using a surveillance form, collects data on adult male inmates who make an allegation of sexual violence or display specific conditions indicative of sexual violence. In April 2011, CDC completed the 12-month data collection period in 19 participating prisons and 11 jails. BJS, NIJ, and CDC are currently working on a joint report, expected to be released in early 2012.

Deaths in Custody - The *Deaths in Custody Reporting Program (DCRP)* collects information on an annual basis on deaths occurring in prisons, local jails, juvenile facilities, and in the process of arrest. Through the collection of these individual-level data, BJS is able to perform detailed analyses of comparative death rates across demographic categories, offense types, and facility and agency characteristics. Also, BJS obtains data on deaths of inmates in the custody of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and plans to release a report in 2012 on the characteristics of inmates who died while being held in ICE facilities.

Probation and Parole - BJS continues to collect national and state level data on the probation and parole populations through the Annual Probation and Parole Surveys (P&P). Also, in collaboration with community corrections practitioners and experts, BJS is developing and testing the *Census of Adult Probation Supervising Agencies (CAPSA)* and a related supplement on *Community Corrections Officers Killed and Assaulted (CCOKA)*. These data collections are planned for FY 2013.

Jails - BJS enhanced its *Annual Survey of Local Jails* to obtain data on staffing and assaults against correctional officers. BJS added a supplement to its *Survey of Jails in Indian Country* to obtain information about programs offered by Indian country jail facilities.

Prisons - Through its *National Prisoners Statistics (NPS)*, BJS continues to track and report on changes in U.S. prisoner populations. In 2009, BJS reported the first decline in state prison populations since the early 1970s. The *National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP)* collects annual individual records of admissions to and releases from state prison, on the stock population at yearend, and on releases to parole. BJS plans to enhance NCRP to cover all states, collect data more efficiently, and gather information on state policies and definitions. State-specific policies and definitions are needed to explain and overcome some of the challenges in comparing states. BJS also plans to build an interactive NCRP data analysis tool that will aid in making state-to-state comparisons. A BJS Visiting Fellow is working on projects to link and weight the NCRP data to improve national estimates and track recidivism. BJS held a workshop in March 2011 which brought together representatives from several states to discuss the enhancement of the NCRP collection. This opportunity was also used to learn details about the state-level information system capabilities that impact other collections, such as NPS and the *Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities*.

Through the *National Survey of Prison Healthcare* (NSPH), BJS is collaborating with the National Center for Health Statistics to leverage respective areas of expertise to improve statistics on correctional health care.

BJS continues to re-tool the *Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities*, last conducted in 2005. BJS plans to conduct the survey in two phases: Phase I will collect the core items—such as inmate counts and facility type—needed to draw a sample for the *Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities* (scheduled for Spring 2012), and Phase II will collect information on special topics. BJS has solicited feedback from researchers and practitioners on topics of interest and the ability to submit data extracts or electronic data files to ease reporting burden. BJS will be submitting a review package for Office of Management and Budget approval to conduct the next census.

Omnibus Inmate Surveys - BJS maintains a number of recurring national surveys of prison and jail inmates. BJS is re-designing the *Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities* (SISCF), last fielded in 2004, and the *Survey of Inmates in Local Jails* (SILJ), last fielded in 2002. BJS plans to conduct the surveys in 2012. Personal interviews are conducted with a nationally representative sample of offenders. The surveys collect a wide range of data on the personal and criminal histories of prison and jail inmates, including topics such as childhood experiences, family structure, educational background, prior criminal activity, substance abuse experiences, mental and physical health problems, and conditions of their current confinement. Along with NIS, these surveys provide the only national-level estimates of the specific characteristics of prison and jail inmates.

RECIDIVISM, REENTRY, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

Recidivism/Reentry - BJS continues to provide practitioners and policymakers with data needed to better understand recidivism and reentry. BJS has established a comprehensive program of statistical research designed to assess and monitor recidivism across a wide range of persons involved with the justice system. Five recidivism projects are currently underway:

- Recidivism rates of persons convicted of felonies in state courts (expected released 2012)
- Recidivism of persons convicted in state courts of either a felony or a misdemeanor domestic violence offense (expected released 2011)
- Recidivism of persons released from state prisons in 2005 and their interactions with the criminal justice system for a five years. Thirty-two states are participating in the study with a total sample of more than 70,000 released prisoners (expected released 2012).
- Recidivism of persons placed on federal probation between 2004 and 2009 (expected released 2012)
- The extent and nature of the adult criminal careers of a large sample of persons who were arrested at age 16 or 17 between 1975 and 2005 (expected released in 2013)

Currently, other planned recidivism studies included 1) tracking a nationally representative sample of persons who were processed by adult courts for crimes they committed when they were under the age of 18, and 2) reassessing the criminal careers of persons released from prison in 1994.

BJS recently developed a data collection infrastructure that expands the capacity to conduct recidivism studies. This infrastructure enables BJS to efficiently collect and process information housed in the state criminal history repositories. It enables BJS to request individual electronic rap sheets for large samples of persons, and in a short period of time, these rap sheets are received, restructured, and standardized to produce an analytic database that supports recidivism research. A process that once took years to complete can now be accomplished in months.

Federal Justice Statistics - The *Federal Justice Statistics Program* (FJSP) has been a core function of BJS since its inception in 1984. The project collects data from a wide range of federal justice agencies, including the U.S. Marshals Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and the Bureau of Prisons. FJSP prepares the submitted data files for analysis by standardizing units of count and coding options. In the past year, the project has made significant improvements to the software used to link case information across agencies. This allows BJS and other researchers to produce hybrid databases that support research which is not possible using the agency-specific databases. BJS plans a series of training programs for federal justice agency staff and outside researchers to demonstrate the capabilities of the new file linkage tools. In addition to the annual reports, BJS is preparing studies on organizational defendants in the federal justice system, the federal prosecution of child pornography offenders, immigration offenders in the federal criminal justice system, and federal cocaine offenders. Also, with funds from the Office of Juvenile Justice

and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), this year BJS published a report detailing the processing of tribal youth in the federal justice system.

Analysis of UCR Data - BJS continues to work cooperatively with the FBI on the use of data collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. This year, BJS obtained arrest data at the law enforcement level for all reporting departments for 1980 through 2009. From these data, BJS prepared annual national estimates of arrests and arrest rates for all persons and subpopulations defined by age, gender, race and offense. These estimates have been used as the basis for responses to information requests and for the new web-based ADAT. BJS has also updated the national homicide data on the BJS Web site, carefully reviewing the underlying estimation procedure and developing recommendations for future work. BJS has also established a new publication series that exploits the information found in the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Reports currently in underway include studies of elder abuse, sexual assault, street crime, and the effect of homicide characteristics on clearance rates.

PROSECUTION AND ADJUDICATION STATISTICS

Redesign of National Judicial Reporting Program (NJRP) and the State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS) Data Collections - BJS regularly collects data on court processing, adjudication, and sentencing of felony defendants charged in state courts. These data have traditionally been collected through two ongoing efforts: the *State Court Processing Statistics* (SCPS) program and the *National Judicial Reporting Program* (NJRP). SCPS and NJRP have been conducted biennially for more than 20 years. BJS completed the first stage of the SCPS redesign in 2010 and is now in the process of collecting information on jurisdictional reporting capabilities to support a nationally representative SCPS data collection. Also, the ongoing process will examine whether more specific information related to pretrial release and misconduct outcomes is available in the surveyed counties. The case level data collection component for SCPS is also being fielded, and it is expected to be completed in late 2011. The NJRP redesign was also completed, resulting in recommended methodologies to enhance the NJRP coverage beyond the 300 sample counties to statewide estimates of convictions and sentencing. BJS has built on findings from these redesign activities and recently awarded funds to field an updated NJRP to provide more comprehensive and informative case-level statistics on the sentencing of convicted felons in state courts.

State Prosecutors Offices - BJS is currently fielding the 2010 *National Survey of Prosecutors* (NSP-2010) offices. This survey has been periodically conducted by BJS since 1990 in order to collect data on the resources, policies, and practices of local chief prosecutors in state court systems. The information collected covers staffing and operations, innovative prosecution techniques, felony and misdemeanor caseloads, prosecution of computer-related crimes, juvenile offenses, and use of DNA evidence. Data from the survey should be available in late 2012 or early 2013. BJS is also developing a national prosecutor survey on human trafficking. This piloted survey will gain information on local, county, and state prosecutors' knowledge and experience with human trafficking crimes.

Indigent Defense Systems - Indigent defense systems typically provide representation through some combination of three methods— public defenders, assigned counsel, and/or contract attorneys—and can be administered or funded at the county or state level, or through some combination. Prior BJS data collections on the provision of indigent defense services were either restricted to public defender offices or did not provide nationally representative data on the provision of indigent defense in the United States. BJS recently awarded funds to field a 2011 *National Survey of Indigent Defense Systems* (NSIDS). The 2011 NSIDS will provide a census of the diverse ways indigent defense services are delivered at the state and local levels.

State Court Organization - Since 1980, BJS has sponsored a data collection examining the organizational characteristics of state courts nationwide. The *State Court Organization* (SCO) data collection series serves as the primary source for detailed information on the structure and framework of state trial and appellate courts. SCO obtains organizational, operational, governance, staffing, and budgetary information for the trial and appellate courts of the nation's 56 court systems located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. territories. BJS has currently fielded a new project to examine the organizational characteristics of state trial and appellate courts for calendar year 2011. Results should be available in 2012.

Survey of Juveniles in Adult Criminal Courts - More than ten years ago, BJS collected data on juveniles charged with a felony in adult courts in a sample of the nation's 75 most populous counties. Recognizing the limitations of this earlier data collection and the need for more current statistics, BJS solicited applications to conduct a *Survey of Juveniles in Adult Criminal Courts* (SJACC). The goal of this data collection is to generate accurate and reliable case processing statistics for youths charged as adults in a national sample of counties. The SJACC will examine the

various ways that youths may be charged in adult criminal courts and the jurisdictional complexities and variations involved in the process. The SJACC is currently undergoing development and should be fielded in early 2012.

Civil Justice Survey of Trials on Appeal - Civil litigation in state courts represents a major component of total court workloads. In addition to court workload, civil litigation generates a significant level of public policy interest including tort reform. Recently, BJS completed collecting data for the *Civil Justice Survey of Trials on Appeal* (CJSTA) project. The CJSTA examined civil trials concluded in a national sample of state trial courts in 2005 that were subsequently appealed to an intermediate appellate court or court of last resort. Among other data, the CJSTA included information on the characteristics of general civil bench and jury trials appealed; the frequency with which appellate courts affirmed, reversed, or modified trial court outcomes; and the length of time it took to dispose of civil trials on appeal. Findings from the CJSTA were released recently in *Appeals of Civil Trials Concluded in 2005*.

Survey of State Court Criminal Appeals - BJS sponsors several data collection series that focus on criminal case processing in the nation's trial courts, including State Court Processing Statistics and the National Judicial Reporting Program. Neither of these programs track convicted persons who decide to file an appeal in the nation's intermediate appellate courts or courts of last resort. BJS has sought to address this gap by sponsoring the *Survey of State Court Criminal Appeals* (SSCCA) project. The SSCCA captures key components of criminal appellate litigation, including case type litigated on appeal, whether the appeal was dismissed prior to being decided on the merits, the appellate court's decision to affirm, reverse, or modify trial court outcomes, and legal or factual issues raised on appeal. The SSCCA are currently being collected and should be available in late 2012.

National Survey of Tribal Court Systems - BJS recently awarded funds to implement the 2011 National Survey of Tribal Court Systems (NSTCS). The NSTCS is part of a multifaceted effort by BJS to expand statistical activities related to American Indian and Alaska Native crime and justice issues. The goal of the NSTCS is to provide baseline information upon which to build a tribal court statistics infrastructure that will improve the nation's understanding of the organization and operational characteristics of courts in Indian country.

Justice Employment and Expenditures - Since 1980, justice expenditure and employment data have been extracted from the Census Bureau's Annual Government Finance Survey and Annual Survey of Public Employment. This series includes national and state estimates of government expenditures and employment for the following categories: police protection, judicial services (including prosecution, courts, and public defense), and corrections. It also includes federal data and data for the largest local governments for the same categories. A variety of analyses are being conducted with these data, including a report examining trends in justice employment and expenditures and an analysis of state corrections expenditures.

LAW ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Arrest-Related Deaths - During FY 2011, BJS completed the collection of detailed information on 2,014 arrest-related deaths that occurred from 2007 through 2009. BJS plans to release a comprehensive study and statistical tables on 4,700 deaths that occurred during the seven year period from 2003 through 2009. The study will expand prior reporting of the nature and types of arrest-related deaths to include comparisons of the numbers of law enforcement agencies, number of law enforcement officers, the number of arrests by law enforcement officers, and the number of arrest-related deaths by type and size of law enforcement agencies. During 2011, BJS revised the 2010 and 2011 Arrest-Related Deaths data collection instrument and completed a successful competitive review process to obtain a national data collection agent for the 2011-2013 Arrest-Related Deaths Program. During FY 2012, BJS plans improvements in the 2011 and 2012 arrest-related deaths data collections and anticipates releasing additional reports on the characteristics of police homicides from 2007 through 2009.

Local Police Departments - During FY 2011, BJS released *Local Police Departments, 2007*, which presents data collected from a representative sample of local police departments nationwide on a variety of agency characteristics. Based on the 2007 Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey, the report provides national estimates on staffing levels, operating costs, race and gender of officers, officer salaries and special pay, screening methods used in the officer selection process, and training requirements for new officer recruits. The report also examines the types of weapons authorized, use of in-car video cameras and computers, community policing efforts, task force participation, and emergency preparedness activities.

Survey of Law Enforcement Agencies - During FY 2011, BJS initiated a re-design of the *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics* (LEMAS) surveys. The new *Survey of General Purpose Law Enforcement*

Agencies (SGPLEA) will explore a smaller range of issues as part of a program that conducts shorter, more-timely surveys focused on a limited number of issues facing American policing. BJS anticipates that the 2011 SGPLEA will be implemented during FY 2012 and will be completed early in FY 2013.

Police Public Contact - During FY 2011, BJS made revisions to the survey instrument for the 2011 *Police Public Contact Survey* (PPCS) to improve the initial screener defining contact with the police and to enhance the section that focused on street stops by law enforcement officers. With the inclusion of tests for determining the effects of these changes on rates of contact, stops, searches or uses of force, BJS began collecting new data on police public contacts in July 2011. BJS anticipates the release of the findings from the 2011 PPCS during FY 2012.

Private Security - During FY 2011, BJS completed an effort to assess the design of appropriate methodologies and the feasibility for conducting one or more surveys of private security firms in the United States. Existing estimates suggest that there are 3 to 10 times more private security guards than publicly funded law enforcement officers. This effort resulted in the report *Private Security Industry: A Review of the Definitions, Available Data Sources, and Paths Moving Forward* (Strom, K., et al., 2010) that provided a comprehensive review of what is known and not known about the size and scope of private security services in the United States and the relationship of private security to the operations and capabilities of public sector law enforcement agencies.

Tribal Law Enforcement - During FY 2011, BJS produced a report on the characteristics of 178 tribal law enforcement agencies, based on data from the Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 2008. Tribal law enforcement agencies operate in 28 states and have 4,600 employees, of whom about 3,000 are sworn law enforcement officers. This report was included in the BJS *Compendium of Tribal Crime Data, 2011* and is part of the BJS tribal data collection efforts.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program - The State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program maintains and enhances each state's capacity to address criminal justice issues through collection and analysis of data. The SJS Program provides limited funds to each state to coordinate statistical activities within the state, conduct research as needed to estimate impacts of legislative and policy changes, and serve a liaison role in assisting BJS to gather data from respondent agencies within their states. All awards under the SJS Program are made as cooperative agreements to a Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). SACs are units or agencies at the state government level that use operational, management, and research information from all components of the criminal justice system to conduct objective analyses of statewide and system-wide policy issues. In FY 2011, BJS made awards to 47 SACs totaling approximately \$3 million.

National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) - The National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) is instrumental in ensuring that accurate records, including qualifying mental health records and sex offender registry requirements, are available for use by federal, state, and local law enforcement. The program helps support the immediate identification of persons who are: 1) prohibited from firearms purchases; 2) ineligible to hold positions involving children, the elderly, or the disabled; 3) subject to protective orders; or 4) wanted for or convicted of stalking and/or domestic violence. Interstate access to complete and accurate criminal records is necessary for criminal justice decisions on pretrial release, career criminal charging, sentencing, and correctional assignments. To date, more than \$556 million has been made available in direct awards to every state, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories.

The amount of available funds in FY 2011 was \$9.2 million for NCHIP and an additional \$2.4 million for activities aimed at improving the flagging and reporting of protection orders and misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence. BJS made 38 awards totaling over \$11 million which will be used by the recipients for, among other things, the following: 1) updating and automating case outcomes from courts and prosecutors in state records and the FBI's criminal history file; 2) automating access to information concerning persons prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm, including persons who have been adjudicated as a mental defective or have been committed to a mental institution, are unlawful users of or addicted to any controlled substance, are the subject of protection or restraining orders, or have been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence; 3) transmitting relevant state records to files in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System Index, particularly the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Protection Order file and/or the NCIC National Convicted Sexual Offender Registry file; and 4) participating fully in the Interstate Identification Index (III).

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Improvement Program - In connection with the

Department's implementation of the provisions of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007, BJS announced the NICS Record Improvement Program (NARIP) solicitation to assist states, state courts, and tribal governments. In FY 2011, about \$26.2 million was available to states, state courts, and tribal governments to assist recipients in providing certain information to the FBI NICS to ensure all records of persons prohibited from firearm purchase or possession are available nationally. BJS was able to make 12 awards totaling approximately \$20 million under this program for such efforts.

BJS developed and disseminated an information collection request to the states for estimates of potentially disqualifying records that are available to the NICS. The estimates will be used to gauge the completeness of state reporting to the national record systems. BJS received complete estimates from 40 states and one territory for the three year collection; however, BJS is still conducting follow up to obtain additional responses. To assist with assessing the validity of the estimates received and developing estimates for states that did not provide any, BJS secured the services of the National Center for State Courts (NCS). NCS will submit a final report and state-by-state assessment of the Year 2 estimates submitted to BJS by the states this Fall.

Further information is available on the BJS website at: <http://www.bjs.gov/>

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