

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



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# **Bureau of Justice Statistics Fiscal Year 1997: At a Glance**

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**By Maureen A. Henneberg  
and Lisa Price-Grear**

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**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Bureau of Justice Statistics

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Director

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BJS staff are grateful to everyone who participates in our surveys.

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## About the Bureau of Justice Statistics

BJS, a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the U.S. Department of Justice, is the primary source for justice statistics in the United States. BJS collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates 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. This year BJS will —

- ▶ Interview almost 110,000 citizens in more than 50,000 households about any experiences they may have had as crime victims or in interactions with the police during the year.
- ▶ Describe characteristics and consequences of about 39 million criminal victimizations.
- ▶ Analyze operations of some 50,000 agencies, offices, courts, and institutions that together comprise the justice system.
- ▶ Count populations and conduct sample surveys among the more than 5.3 million adults who during an average day are subject to the care, custody, or control of criminal justice authorities.
- ▶ Maintain more than two dozen major data collection series from which it publishes and distributes reports nationwide.

Visit BJS's Internet site on the World Wide Web at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

BJS publishes data annually on —

- Criminal victimization
- Populations under correctional supervision
- Federal criminal offenders and case processing.

BJS periodic data series include —

- Felony convictions
- State court case processing
- Characteristics of correctional populations
- Prosecutorial practices and policies
- Administration of law enforcement agencies  
and correctional facilities
- Criminal justice expenditures and employment
- Civil cases in State courts
- Special studies on other criminal justice topics.

A description of the various BJS data series can be found under the topical sections of this report.

Many BJS data collection activities are carried out by the U.S. Bureau of the Census. BJS staff also coordinate with other Department of Justice statistical programs, such as the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program and National Incident-Based Reporting System.

BJS provides financial and technical support to State governments in developing capabilities in criminal justice statistics and improving their criminal history records and information systems.

## **New in fiscal year 1997**

### **Statistical efforts in partnership with OJP and other Justice Department components**

#### **Criminal Case -Tracking System for Tribal Jurisdictions**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), with funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Local Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, will fund up to two American Indian jurisdictions to develop and implement an automated criminal case-tracking system.

The case-tracking system will allow for better managed criminal justice resources and enhanced justice decision-making by integrating crime incident and arrest data with the rest of the criminal justice system, including the courts, corrections, and victim services. Tribal jurisdictions could track violent offenders, domestic abuse cases, the impact of drug testing, and probation and other forms of supervised release.

The developed case-tracking process will be compatible with the ongoing National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) that is being implemented by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Eligible tribal sites are those that maintain an operational NIBRS. Once the prototype system has been developed and tested by the demonstration site, it will be made available for all tribes to use.

## **National Survey of Indigent Defense Systems**

The National Survey of Indigent Defense Systems is a collaborative effort sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This project will develop, test, and implement a national level data collection program to measure the way in which States and localities provide legal services for indigent defendants, their caseload levels, related costs, policies, and practices.

Court-appointed legal representation plays a critical role in the Nation's justice system. Much has changed over the past decade as States and local defender systems are relying more on contract and private services. Currently, there is little information regarding the delivery of indigent defense services. The National Indigent Defense Survey will assist in developing a better understanding of the changing nature of public defender services in the United States. Data collection is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1997.

### **City-level victimization and citizen attitude surveys**

In 1997 BJS will be working with the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office to provide statistical support for its information and evaluation purposes. The COPS Office has provided funding to collect crime information for 10 cities, as well as their citizens' attitudes toward police programs. Information from this survey will be used to better understand public involvement with the police, perceptions of crime, and actual victimization experiences.

BJS will modify the existing National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) questionnaire to use random digit dialing and telephone interviews. Information collected will include violent and property crime victimization, relationship of victim to offender, offender characteristics, and the extent to which victims reported the crimes to police. The U.S. Bureau of the Census will conduct the survey fieldwork, which is scheduled to begin in the summer of 1997.

### **Community Policing Supplement to LEMAS Survey**

This year the BJS Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey will be enhanced, with support from the COPS office, to collect information from law enforcement agencies about their community policing activities, if any. The enhanced survey will, for the first time, gather information on community policing units, training activities, and policies related to community policing. Results from this data collection will be available in the summer of 1998.

## **Inventory of State and Federal Corrections Information Systems**

BJS, the National Institute of Justice, and the OJP Corrections Program Office are sponsoring the development of an inventory of corrections information systems. The inventory will be designed to assess the current status of offender-based information systems in State departments of correction and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

The Inventory of State and Federal Corrections Information Systems will help answer the questions raised by correctional administrators and researchers, identify obstacles to more complete participation in the BJS National Corrections Reporting Program, determine what assistance States may need to develop improved offender-based statistical data systems, and outline the factors underlying variations in completeness or consistency in data elements and definitions among participating jurisdictions. The Urban Institute will be working with BJS and the other components in carrying out activities in support of this project.

### **Data on police use of force**

BJS is conducting several efforts to collect data on police contacts with members of the public that result in the use of force by law enforcement officers.

- ▶ BJS has completed field testing a national household survey to assess the nature and circumstances of police-public contacts and the extent to which they result in use of force. The pretest collected information from approximately 7,000 people describing any recent

contact they may have had with the police and is the first comprehensive collection of information about all kinds of experiences in contacting the police, positive as well as negative. Some fraction of these contacts involved police use of force, permitting further analysis to ascertain the incidence and characteristics of police use of excessive force.

► BJS and NIJ are sponsoring the development of a national database on police use of force through a grant with the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Under this project, incident-level data will be directly collected from participating police agencies. An electronic data collection procedure has been developed and is being tested in seven pilot States. Findings from the national database project and the Police-Public Contact Survey will be included in the second annual report to Congress, as required by Section 210402 of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, scheduled for release in spring/summer 1997.

The first annual report, *National Data Collection on Police Use of Force*, published by BJS and NIJ, describes the findings about police use of force from existing research, ongoing activities on this issue, and problems associated with establishing a national data collection system.

## **State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program for Statistical Analysis Centers**

BJS continues to encourage the development and utilization of State-level statistical data by providing technical and financial support to State governments for the establishment and operation of Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice. In FY 1997 BJS expanded the SAC support from exclusive funding by BJS to a coordinated solicitation involving other OJP agencies.

A new program direction was also implemented. The Statistical Analysis Centers will analyze particular criminal justice issues identified by BJS in conjunction with other OJP components. These issues will be selected for nationwide consistency and interest across the States and will change every 6 months. During the first 6 months of FY 1997, BJS and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) are encouraging SACs to focus on juvenile violence, including juvenile offenders processed in the adult criminal system and the impact of trends.

Some SACs will be participating in the Safe Kids-Safe Streets program administered by OJJDP, the Weed and Seed Office, and the Violence Against Women Act grant office. BJS will be providing financial support to SACs to give technical assistance and guidance in data collection and evaluation to jurisdictions receiving funds under the Safe Kids-Safe Streets program.

Detailed program and application guidelines are available in *State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers: Program Application Guidelines Fiscal Year 1997*, released November 1996 (NCJ 163277).

## **Studies of crime reporting by law enforcement agencies**

### ***NIBRS implementation***

BJA is funding a study of NIBRS reporting in law enforcement agencies. The study is under joint BJA-FBI direction. NIBRS is the National Incident-Based Crime Reporting System, designed by the FBI to replace the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program that collects summary statistics each month from law enforcement agencies.

The study, guided by a steering committee composed of law enforcement and crime statistics experts, is examining the impediments to NIBRS implementation by collecting information from police agencies across the country. The FBI's Criminal Justice Information Systems Advisory Policy Board has unanimously endorsed recommendations the steering committee developed.

Key recommendations include:

- ▶ Seek Congressional support to assist local agencies to redesign and upgrade their records management systems and incorporate NIBRS reporting
  
- ▶ Demonstrate how local agencies can or are using NIBRS and NIBRS-like data at the local level for crime analysis, management and administrative reporting, and resource allocation
  
- ▶ Develop details of reconciliation of key elements, codes, and reporting requirements for NIBRS participation to determine whether some of the current mandatory data elements and/or reporting requirements

could be made optional as a means of bringing additional agencies into the NIBRS program

- ▶ Provide technical assistance to local departments in their transition to and adoption of NIBRS systems
  
- ▶ Document the experience of local law enforcement agencies implementing incident-based manual and automated records in which not all of the data elements or report sections must be completed for every offense or incident.

BJS and the FBI will undertake further work during FY 1997, again guided by the steering committee, to begin implementing the priority recommendations.

### ***Hate crime statistics***

BJS will be cooperating with other OJP bureaus and the FBI in examining hate crime statistics. The Hate Crime Statistics Act, reauthorized in June 1996, mandates the FBI to collect statistics and publish an annual report on hate crimes. The study to be conducted in FY 1997 will examine ways to improve participation by law enforcement agencies in collecting and reporting hate crime statistics to the FBI and will profile locality responses to hate crime. Efforts will also be undertaken to generate estimated national levels and trends in hate crime from available data. BJS will release a competitive solicitation to carry out the study.

### ***Domestic violence statistics***

BJS will initiate efforts to establish and promulgate model standards for definitions and data collection protocols

applicable to data describing domestic violence and sexual violence. The proposed definitions will be published in the Federal Register.

A task force and advisory group will be established, representing —  
    researchers  
    statisticians  
    local, State, and Federal agencies.

To provide administrative and substantive support for this effort, an award will be made in the summer of 1997.

### **National Study on Campus Sexual Assault**

A national baseline study will be conducted, as required by the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. The study will examine the scope of campus sexual assault and the efforts that post-secondary institutions are making to address this type of victimization.

Carried out at the University of Cincinnati, the study will use a questionnaire that both measures a broad range of sexual victimization and incorporates questions that define sexual victimization more explicitly than do other surveys of this type. A national sample of women enrolled at U.S. post-secondary institutions will be interviewed by telephone.

BJS is adapting its NCVS questionnaire to use as a component of the study, which is funded by NIJ. By adding the component based on the NCVS, the study will provide data collected by a different method but tied more closely to criminal victimization concepts. These data will allow con-

trolled comparisons of the effects of different methods on sexual victimization measures. They will also allow BJS to measure sexual victimization of college students with a sample that targets this population.

### **Comparing Federal case processing statistics**

BJS has taken the lead in an interagency effort to help clarify Federal criminal case processing statistics. Each of the participating agencies — Administrative Office for the U.S. Courts, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Federal Bureau of Prisons, and U.S. Sentencing Commission — publishes statistics about the numbers of Federal defendants or prisoners processed in each year. The statistics are not directly comparable because of differences in the defendants included, the definitions of offenses, and the time at which case filings and dispositions are recorded.

In 1996 the interagency group published *Comparing Case Processing Statistics*, which describes and clarifies the sources of disparities in case processing statistics. In FY 1997 work continues to refine a methodology that will facilitate comparing statistics across agencies and to begin developing a Federal criminal defendant case tracking number. Such a number will simplify future interagency comparisons and aid in reporting case dispositions for criminal history record systems.

# Ongoing BJS statistical series and programs

## Crimes and victims

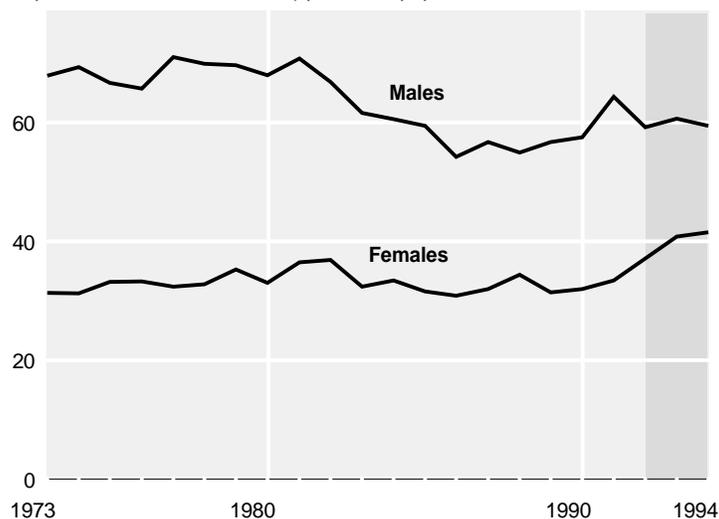
**The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)** is the Nation's second largest ongoing household survey. Survey data tell us how many rapes, sexual assaults, robberies, assaults, thefts, household burglaries, and motor vehicle thefts are experienced by U.S. residents age 12 or older and their households each year.

- ▶ In 1995 U.S. residents age 12 or older experienced approximately 39.6 million crimes. Twenty-nine million (74%) were property crimes, 9.9 million (25%) were crimes of violence, and 396,000 (1%) were personal thefts.
  
- ▶ The violent crime rate declined 10% from 1994 to 1995 after having been essentially unchanged since 1992. Property crime continued a 16-year decline.
  
- ▶ In 1995 for every 1,000 persons age 12 or older, the public experienced —
  - 2 rapes or attempted rapes
  - 2 assaults with serious injury
  - 5 robberies.

Initiated in 1973 and redesigned in 1992, the NCVS is the Nation's primary source of information on crime victimization and the victims of crime. It is the only national crime measure that includes both those crimes that people experience but do not report to law enforcement authorities and those that they do report. The survey redesign incorporated many

### From 1973 to 1994 the violent victimization rates of women and men converged

Rates of violent crimes (including murders, rapes, robberies, and assaults) per 1,000 population



The 1973-91 rates were adjusted for comparability to data collected under the redesigned survey method, 1992-94.

important changes to the questionnaire, including the following: additional ways to help survey participants recall incidents; more direct questions on rape, sexual assault, and other sexual crimes; and new questions to measure victimizations by nonstrangers, including domestic violence.

During a collection year, data are obtained in 6-month intervals from a nationally representative sample of roughly 49,000 households, comprising more than 100,000 persons, on the impact, frequency, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The survey enables BJS to estimate the likelihood of victimization by rape, robbery, assault, larceny, household larceny, household burglary, or motor vehicle theft for segments of the population such as

the elderly, city dwellers, or other groups. The NCVS is the only national forum for victims to describe consequences of crime and the characteristics of violent offenders.

Recent or forthcoming reports —

*Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1994*,  
forthcoming (NCJ 162126)

*Criminal Victimization, 1973-95*  
released 4/97 (NCJ 163069)

*Changes in Criminal Victimization, 1994-95*  
released 4/97 (NCJ 162032)

*Female Victims of Violent Crime: Selected Findings*,  
released 12/96 (NCJ 162602)

*National Crime Victimization Survey, 1995: Preliminary  
Findings*, released 9/96 (NCJ 162603)

*Criminal Victimization in the United States, 1993*,  
released 5/96 (NCJ 151657)

### **School crime**

BJS and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) collaborated to add a special supplement to the NCVS to collect data on aspects of school crime. Household members age 12 or older who attend school were asked questions about their school environment. These data represent an estimated 22 million students, age 12 to 19.

Information was obtained on availability of drugs and alcohol, existence of street gangs, prevalence of gang fights, presence of weapons at school, victimizations, and fear of being attacked or harmed. A joint BJS-NCES report summarizing the responses collected by the supplement will be published in the summer of 1997.

## **Hospital emergency department statistics on intentional violence**

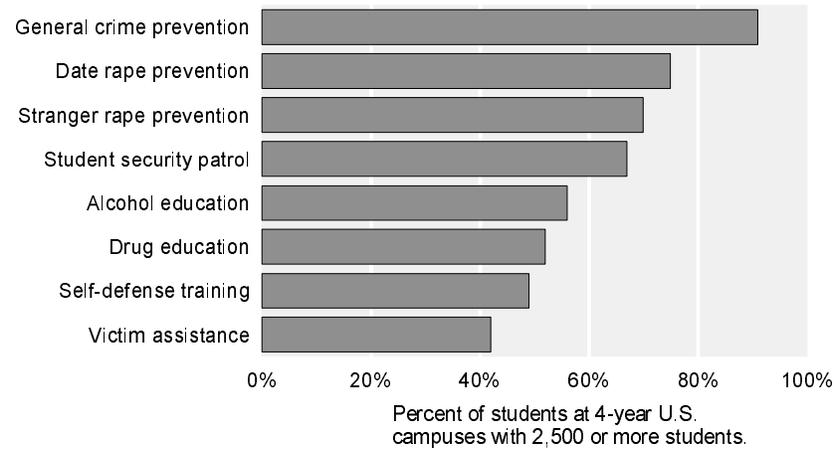
This data collection provides information on intentional injuries, such as domestic violence, rape, and child abuse, from a national sample of hospital emergency departments. Through the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, information is obtained on characteristics of the victim and perpetrator, victim-perpetrator relationship, alcohol/drug involvement in the incident, and a description of the circumstances of the injury. In 1995 BJS concluded a 27-month study using the CPSC's national sample of hospital emergency departments. This study represents a major new area for data collection about intentional violence. It is designed to supplement existing NCVS statistical information.

Data to be released in the summer of 1997 indicate an estimated 1.4 million people were treated in hospital emergency departments in 1994 for intentional or possibly intentional injuries. Of these injuries, about 7% were inflicted by a spouse or ex-spouse and an additional 8% were inflicted by another relative.

## **Measuring crime on campus**

BJS collects data as part of modifications to the NCVS to obtain sufficient data to learn about the various forms of criminal victimization affecting college students and employees. Preliminary analysis of these data revealed that most criminal incidents affecting students occur off-campus and occur at about the same per capita rate as found for other U.S. residents of the same age.

**At the Nation's 4-year universities and colleges enrolling 2,500 or more, most students have access to special crime reduction programs provided by their campus law enforcement agency**



BJS also published a new study of campus law enforcement agencies which examined the characteristics of these agencies in schools with 2,500 or more full-time students and obtained UCR-compatible crime counts for each campus. This study found that these 4-year schools have an average of about 7 serious violent crimes (murder, forcible sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated assault) and about 256 property crimes per year. The largest schools, those with at least 30,000 students, account for 4% of all 4-year schools with at least 2,500 students, 15% of all students attending such schools, and 14% of the violent crimes committed at these schools.

BJS also maintained regular contact with the National Center for Education Statistics, which in February 1997 released an administrative survey conducted on crime and security at 1,543 colleges and universities.

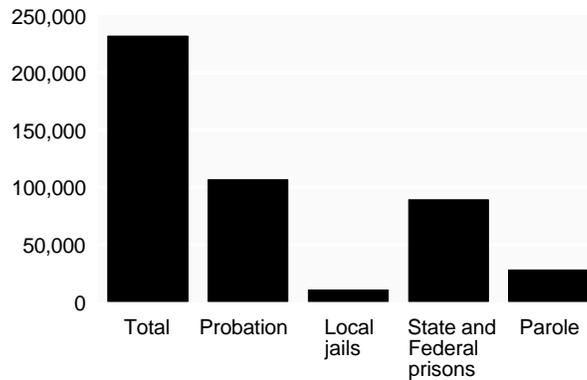
## **Criminal offenders**

BJS collects data about criminal offenders, particularly those serving time in prison or jail. Frequent statistical analyses of various national datasets describe offenders committing particular types of offenses, such as violent offenses, victimization of children, and sex offenses.

For example —

- ▶ An estimated 18.6% of inmates serving time in State prisons in 1991 for violent crimes, or about 61,000 offenders nationwide, had been convicted of a crime against a victim under age 18.
- ▶ 1 in 5 violent offenders serving time in a State prison reported having victimized a child.
- ▶ Convicted rape and sexual assault offenders serving time in State prisons report that two-thirds of their victims were under age 18, and 58% of those, or nearly 4 in 10 imprisoned violent sex offenders, said their victims were age 12 or younger.
- ▶ Four datasets (the FBI's UCR arrests, State felony court convictions, prison admissions, and the NCVS) all point to a sex offender who is older than other violent offenders, generally in his early thirties, and more likely to be white than other violent offenders.

**About 234,000 convicted sex offenders are under the care, custody, or control of corrections agencies on an average day. Nearly 60% are under conditional supervision in the community.**



BJS data collection programs, primarily related to corrections and courts and sentencing, provide a wealth of information on demographic characteristics of offenders, criminal histories, arrest offenses, criminal case processing, and sentencing, as well as data on offenders' drug and alcohol use, victims, and familial and economic backgrounds.

Recent reports —

*Sex Offenses and Offenders: An Analysis of Data on Rape and Sexual Assault*, released 2/97 (NCJ 163392)

*Sex Offenses and Offenders: Executive Summary*, released 12/96, (NCJ 163391)

*Child Victimizers: Violent Offenders and Their Victims*, released 3/96 (NCJ 153258)

## The justice system

### Law enforcement

BJS collects data about law enforcement agencies and their activities. Recent findings include —

#### Police and sheriffs' departments

- ▶ In 1993 local police departments in the United States had an estimated 474,072 full-time employees, 3% more than in 1990.
- ▶ About 80% of U.S. residents were served by a local police department at either the municipal or county level, and there were approximately 21 full-time local police officers employed for every 10,000 residents served.
- ▶ In 1993 sheriffs' departments in the United States had an estimated 224,236 full-time employees, 10% more than in 1990.
- ▶ Nearly all sheriffs' departments were responsible for performing court-related functions such as serving civil processes (97%) and providing court security (93%). About 9 in 10 investigated crimes (92%), responded to calls for service (91%), and provided routine patrol services (88%).

#### Campus law enforcement

- ▶ For 1995 BJS surveyed campus law enforcement agencies serving 4-year universities and colleges with 2,500 or more students. More than 9 in 10 public institutions used sworn police officers, compared to less than half of the private institutions.

- ▶ Most sworn campus police officers were armed, and overall about two-thirds of the campuses had armed officers.
- ▶ Law enforcement agencies serving private campuses had operating costs of about \$181 per student during fiscal year 1994, compared to \$94 per student on public campuses.
- ▶ Nearly all of the agencies operated a general crime prevention program, and about two-thirds had rape prevention programs. About half operated programs to combat drug and alcohol abuse. (See page 17.)

**The Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics (LEMAS) survey**, conducted every 3 to 4 years, collects data from over 3,000 agencies, including all those that employ 100 or more sworn officers and a nationally representative sample of smaller agencies. Data are obtained on the organization and administration of police and sheriffs' departments, including agency responsibilities, operating expenditures, job functions of sworn and civilian employees, officer salaries and special pay, demographic characteristics of officers, weapons and armor policies, education and training requirements, computers and information systems, vehicles, special units, drug enforcement activities, and employee drug testing policies.

Last conducted in 1993, data collection for the 1997 LEMAS survey will begin in the summer of 1997.

Published findings from the 1993 LEMAS survey include —  
*Sheriffs' Departments, 1993*, released 6/96 (NCJ 148823)  
*Local Police Departments, 1993*, released 4/96  
(NCJ 160802)

**Survey of Campus Law Enforcement Agencies** included campus law enforcement agencies from 4-year U.S. universities or colleges that had 2,500 or more students. The data collected describe nearly 600 of these campus law enforcement agencies in terms of their personnel, expenditures and pay, operations, equipment, computers and information systems, policies, and special programs. This is the first survey of campus law enforcement agencies conducted by BJS. It is the most comprehensive survey on campus law enforcement ever conducted in terms of subject areas covered and number of respondents. Findings from this survey were published in *Campus Law Enforcement Agencies, 1995* (NCJ 161137).

**Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies** provides national data on all State and local law enforcement agencies with arrest and firearms authority. Data collected include the number of officers working in the areas of criminal investigation and enforcement, police patrol and response, security and protection, court operations, and corrections, by agency and State. Latest data will be published in the summer of 1997 in *Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies, 1996*.

**The Federal Law Enforcement Agency Census**, conducted by BJS in 1993 and 1996, obtains data on Federal law enforcement officers with arrest and firearms authority. Data collected include the number of officers working in the areas of criminal investigation and enforcement, police patrol and response, security and protection, court operations, and corrections, by agency and State. *Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 1996*, with findings from the most recent census, is expected to be published in May 1997.

## Prosecution

BJS collects data on State and Federal prosecutors and the cases they prosecute.

For example —

► In 1994, 2,343 State court prosecutors' offices employed about 65,000 attorneys, investigators, and support staff; a 14% increase from 1992.

<b>Special types of State felonies prosecuted, 1994</b>	
Office during the year prosecuted at least one case of:	Percent of prosecutors' offices
<b>Case type</b>	
Domestic violence	88%
Stalking	68
Elder abuse	41
Hate crime	29
Environmental pollution	26
Gang membership	12
HIV exposure	10
<b>Child related</b>	
Child abuse	88%
Nonpayment of child support	57
Parental abduction of children	41
<b>Fraud</b>	
Bank/thrift fraud	34%
Health-care fraud	21
Computer fraud/tampering	16
Number of offices	2,336
Source: <i>Prosecutors in State Courts, 1994</i>	

► Half the prosecutors' offices in mid-1994 employed eight or fewer people. In about 30% of the offices, the chief prosecutor was a part-time employee.

► Half of the State prosecutors' offices had a staff person who had been threatened or assaulted.

► Federal prosecutors can use criminal statutes that mandate minimum terms of

imprisonment for defendants convicted of certain drug or weapons offenses. Almost a third of all Federal offenders sentenced in 1994 were subject to a mandatory term of imprisonment.

**National Survey of Prosecutors**, a biennial series, collects data on resources, policies, and practices of local prosecutors from a nationally representative sample of chief prosecutors who handle felony cases in State courts. The survey obtains basic information on staffing and operations and collects data on current topics such as the use of innovative prosecution techniques, intermediate sanctions, and work-related assaults and threats. The latest published findings are available in *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1994* (NCJ 151656).

Results from an analysis of State court prosecutors' handling of juveniles proceeded against in criminal court are available in *Juveniles Prosecuted in State Criminal Courts* (NCJ 164265).

### **Courts and sentencing**

BJS collects data about the Nation's court system, including information about both civil and criminal courts, the cases brought, and their outcomes.

For example —

- ▶ State courts convicted about 872,200 adults of a felony in 1994, an increase of 31% over 6 years. Among offenses, convictions for aggravated assault and drug trafficking had increased the most.

- ▶ The number of noncitizens prosecuted in the Federal system increased three-fold between 1984 and 1995. The increase in the number of noncitizens prosecuted was primarily the result of an increase in the number charged with drug offenses.
- ▶ At the Federal level, 40,765 defendants were convicted in 1994 — an increase of 16% over 6 years. The number of defendants convicted of drug and weapons offenses increased the most.
- ▶ From 1988 to 1994 the number of felony convictions at the State level increased faster than the number of arrests. Seventy-one percent of those convicted at the State level in 1994 were sentenced to incarceration. More than 77% of those convicted at the Federal level were sentenced to incarceration.
- ▶ Almost two-thirds of defendants charged with a felony in the 75 most populated counties in May 1992 were released from jail pending disposition of their case.
- ▶ A third of those who were released pretrial in the 75 most populated counties were re-arrested for a new offense, did not show up for a court date, or violated some other condition of their pretrial release. In contrast, 15% of those released pretrial in the Federal system violated a condition of their release.

**National Judicial Reporting Program**, conducted every 2 years, surveys a nationwide sample of felony trial courts in 300 counties, collecting detailed information on demographic characteristics of felons, conviction offenses, type of sentences, sentence lengths, and amount of time from arrest to conviction and sentencing.

**Sentencing to prison of felons convicted  
in State courts, 1988-94**

	Percent of convicted felons who received a prison sentence			
	1,988	1,990	1,992	1,994
<b>All offenses</b>	44%	46%	44%	45%
Murder	91	91	93	95
Rape	69	67	68	71
Robbery	75	73	74	77
Aggravated assault	45	45	44	48
Burglary	54	54	52	53
Larceny	39	40	38	38
Drug trafficking	41	49	48	48

Source: *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1994*

Recent and forthcoming publications include the following —

*State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 1994,*  
forthcoming

*Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1994,* released 1/97  
(NCJ 163391)

*Felony Sentences in the United States, 1992,* released 5/96  
(NCJ 153257)

*State Court Sentencing of Convicted Felons, 1992,*  
released 5/96 (NCJ 152696)

**State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS)** provides data on the criminal justice processing of persons charged with felonies in 40 jurisdictions representative of the 75 largest counties. These counties account for about half the serious crime nationwide. The program prospectively tracks felony defendants from charging by the prosecutor until disposition of their cases or for a maximum of 12 months. Data are obtained on demographic characteristics, arrest offense, criminal justice status at time of arrest, prior arrests and convictions, bail and pretrial release, court appearance

record, re-arrests while on pretrial release, type and outcome of adjudication, disposition, and type and length of sentence. Published findings from the 1994 data collection are expected in summer 1997.

**Survey of Civil Trial Cases in State Courts** collects civil trial caseload data for a 1-year period from a sample of counties representative of the Nation's 75 largest counties. Data include case type, outcome, jury awards, type of parties, legal representation, and dates of filing and disposition. Having last conducted a similar study in 1992, BJS will survey civil trial cases in 1997.

Latest findings are reported in —

*Civil Justice Survey of State Courts, 1992*, CD-ROM,  
released 7/96 (NCJ 157771)

*Contract Cases in Large Counties: Civil Justice Survey  
of State Courts, 1992*, released 2/96 (NCJ 156664)

*Civil Jury Cases and Verdicts in Large Counties: Civil  
Justice Survey of State Courts, 1992*, released 7/95  
(NCJ 154346)

*Tort Cases in Large Counties: Civil Justice Survey of State  
Courts, 1992*, released 4/95 (NCJ 153177)

**The Federal Justice Statistics** series provides annual data on workload, activities, and case outcomes in the Federal criminal justice system. Information is reported on all aspects of processing in the Federal justice system, including the number of persons investigated, prosecuted, convicted, incarcerated, sentenced to probation, released pretrial, and under parole or other supervision; initial prosecution decisions; referrals to magistrates; court dispositions; sentencing outcomes; sentence length; and time served.

Data are acquired from the Executive Office of U.S. Attorneys, the Pretrial Services Agency, the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Recent reports include —

*Juveniles in the Federal Criminal Justice System*,  
released 1/97 (NCJ 163066)

*Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1993*,  
released 10/96 (NCJ 160089)

*Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1992*,  
released 10/96 (NCJ 148949)

*Noncitizens in the Federal Criminal Justice System,  
1984-94*, released 8/96 (NCJ 160934)

*Comparing Case Processing Statistics*, released 8/96  
(NCJ 161133)

*Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1982-93, with Preliminary  
Data for 1994*, released 5/96 (NCJ 160088)

**Survey of State Court Organization**, conducted by the National Center for State Courts, provides basic descriptive information relating to the Nation's State court systems. Information is collected on trial courts — the role of grand juries, peremptory jury challenges, jury verdict rules; appellate courts — case selection, expedited procedures; governance of court systems — budgets, administration; judges and judicial selection — number of judges, mandatory judicial education; and processing of criminal cases — felony definition, mandatory minimum, habitual offender sentencing provisions. Latest data are available in *State Court Organization, 1993* (NCJ 148346).

## Corrections

BJS collects data about the Nation's correctional system, including information about prisoners and correctional facilities and agencies.

For example —

- ▶ State and Federal prisons held over 1.1 million prisoners at midyear 1996.
- ▶ Local jails held about 518,492 adults who were awaiting trial or serving a sentence at midyear 1996.
- ▶ 5.3 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at yearend 1995, nearly 2.8% of all U.S. adult residents.

The correctional system of the United States includes a range of agencies and populations. Adequate statistical accounts of the extent and nature of the system require diverse reporting programs:

- (1) annual counts and characteristics of persons entering or exiting probation or parole
- (2) annual and midyear counts of incarcerated persons in State or Federal prisons or local jails
- (3) annual statistics on persons admitted or released from State or Federal prisons and on persons released from parole supervision
- (4) annual counts and characteristics of persons sentenced to death
- (5) quinquennial surveys of national samples of prison and jail inmates and adult probationers
- (6) censuses of State and local correctional facilities and parole and probation agencies.

**Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities** provides detailed data on individual characteristics of prison inmates, current offenses and sentences, characteristics of victims, criminal histories, family background, gun possession and use, prior drug and alcohol use and treatment, and educational programs and other services provided while in prison. In 1997 BJS will conduct the survey with personal interviews of a nationally representative sample of 13,500 State prison inmates and 4,000 Federal inmates in about 270 State prisons and 40 Federal prisons. This effort represents the fifth in a series of national surveys of inmates conducted every 5 to 6 years. A fiscal year 1997 BJS report, *Lifetime Likelihood of Going to State or Federal Prison* (NCJ 160092), derives estimates from the latest survey using standard demographic life table techniques.

**Survey of Inmates in Local Jails** is periodically administered to collect data on the local jail inmate population that includes persons who belong to all parts of the criminal justice continuum — those awaiting trial, those sentenced to jail and serving their sentence, and those sentenced to prison and awaiting transfer. The survey obtains information on the personal and family characteristics of jail inmates, past drug and alcohol use, history of physical abuse, and history of contact with the criminal justice system.

BJS has just completed conducting the 1995 survey, which consists of personal interviews with a nationally representative sample of nearly 6,500 inmates. This set of interviews was the first BJS survey administered with laptop computers, a method that is expected to increase efficiency. Preliminary survey findings are expected to be released during 1997.

**Survey of Adults on Probation** obtains for the first time detailed information on the backgrounds and characteristics of a national sample of probationers representative of the 2.5 million adults under such supervision in the community. Specific areas of inquiry include criminal history, prior drug and alcohol use, participation in drug and alcohol treatment programs, use of firearms, victim characteristics, the conditions of supervision, and the extent of contact with probation authorities.

BJS is currently analyzing data collected from the 1995 survey, which included approximately 2,000 personal interviews with probationers and a review of administrative records in more than 150 probation departments. BJS expects to release initial findings in the summer of 1997 in *Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995*.

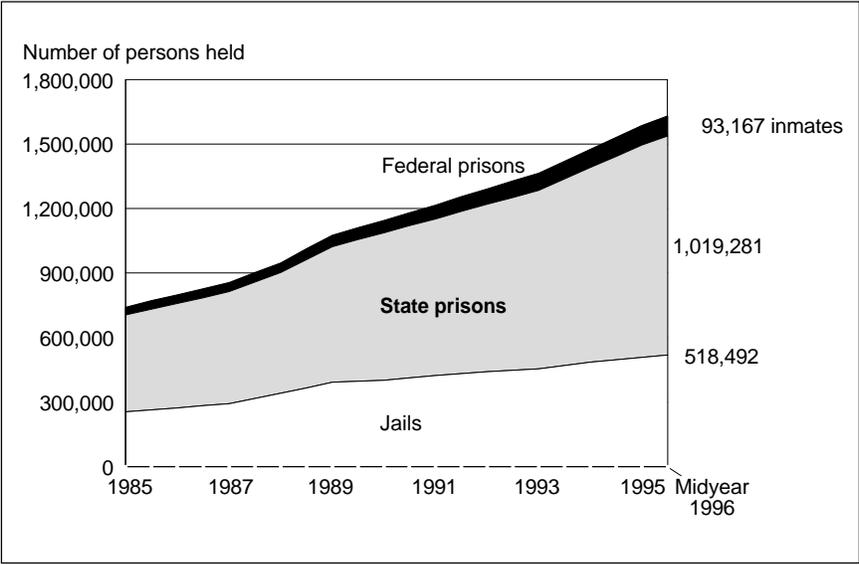
**Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities** is conducted every 5 to 6 years, providing detailed information on the types of inmates housed, facility age and type, security level, court orders, programs, health and safety conditions, confinement space, employment, and operating costs. The latest data were collected in 1995 from 1,390 public and 110 private facilities. Published findings will be available in *Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities, 1995*, expected to be released in the summer of 1997.

**Census of Jails** is conducted every 5 years, obtaining information on each facility, admissions and releases, court orders, programs that offer alternatives to incarceration, amount charged to hold an inmate for another jurisdiction, crowding and use of space, staffing, health care (including prevalence of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis), and drug testing

policies and practices. The census furnishes the sampling frame for the nationwide survey of jail inmates. The census was conducted in the following years: 1970, 1972, 1978, 1983, 1988 and 1993. Latest data are available in *Jails and Jail Inmates 1993-94: Census of Jails and Survey of Jails*, released 5/95 (NCJ 151651).

**Census of State and Local Probation and Parole Agencies**, last conducted in 1993, is a complete census of Federal, State, and locally operated probation and parole agencies. The census gathers data on the agency organizational location, staffing, expenditures, program operation and participation levels, and drug and HIV testing policies and programs. The census serves as the sampling frame for the national survey of adults on probation.

**The National Prisoner Statistics (NPS)** program produces annual and semiannual national and State-level data on the numbers of prisoners in State or Federal prison facilities.



Since 1926 the Federal Government has published data annually on the prisoner count in each State, the District of Columbia, and the Federal prison system.

Recent or forthcoming reports or releases include —

*Correctional Populations in the U.S., 1995*, forthcoming,  
(NCJ 163916)

*Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1996*, released 1/97  
(NCJ 162843)

**National Corrections Reporting Program (NCRP)** collects data annually on all prison admissions and releases and on all parole entries and discharges in participating jurisdictions. Demographic information, conviction offense, sentence length, minimum time to be served, credited jail time, type of admission, type of release, and time served are collected from individual prisoner records.

**Capital Punishment** series yields annual national and State-level data on persons sentenced to death and those executed. Data collected include offender demographic characteristics, prior criminal history, criminal justice system status at the time of the capital offense, and time spent on death row. Data are available on executions since 1930 and sentencing since 1974. The latest data were reported in *Capital Punishment 1995*, released 12/96 (NCJ 158023).

**Annual Survey of Jails** collects data that permit intercensal estimates of the number of inmates in the Nation's local jails and data on the relationship between jail populations and capacities. Information is provided on an annual basis starting in 1982, excluding the years 1983, 1988, and 1993, in which a complete census of U.S. local jails was conducted.

The latest data are available in *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear, 1996*, released 1/97 (NCJ 162843).

**National Probation and Parole Reporting Program** gathers annual data on State and Federal probation and parole counts and movements and the characteristics of persons under the supervision of probation and parole agencies. Published data include admissions and releases by method of entry and discharge. Demographic information, time served, and conviction offenses are collected from individual prisoner records. The latest data available are in *Probation and Parole Populations, 1995*, released 6/96 (NCJ 161722).

### **Expenditure and Employment**

BJS collects employment and expenditure data about the Nation's criminal justice system.

For example —

- ▶ In fiscal 1992 Federal, State, and local governments spent \$94 billion for civil and criminal justice, a 59% increase over 1987. For every resident, the three levels of government together spent \$368.
- ▶ 3.8 cents of every government dollar went for justice activities, including police protection, jails or prisons, and the courts.
- ▶ In fiscal 1992 State and local governments combined spent 85.5% of all justice dollars; the Federal Government spent the rest.

- Federal spending per capita for justice increased 132% from 1987 to 1992, more than twice as fast as the growth in State and local spending for justice.

**The Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment Program** collects, analyzes and publishes data on the cost of operating the Nation's criminal justice systems. Using data extracted from the Census Bureau's ongoing finance and employment survey series, BJS produces national estimates of expenditures and employment relating to major criminal justice activities, including police protection, prosecution, legal services, public defense, and corrections. The latest data are available in *Justice Expenditure and Employment Extracts, 1992*, released 1/97 (NCJ 148821). The 1993 Extracts are expected to be published in the summer of 1997.

<b>Expenditure for the justice system, by level of government, fiscal 1992</b>				
Activity	Government expenditure in thousands of dollars			
	All	Federal	State	Local
Total justice system	\$93,776,852	\$17,423,000	\$33,755,092	\$50,115,498
Police protection	41,326,531	7,400,000	5,592,791	29,658,955
Judicial and legal	20,988,888	7,377,000	7,722,882	10,052,330
Corrections	31,461,433	2,646,000	20,439,419	10,404,213

Note: Local government data are estimates subject to sampling variability. Federal Government data are for the fiscal period beginning October 1, 1991, and ending September 30, 1992.

## Firearms and crime

BJS publishes selected findings on firearms, crimes, and criminal justice drawn from several collections of national data.

For example —

- ▶ Weapons arrestees are predominantly male, age 18 or over, and white. However, weapons arrest rates per 100,000 population are highest for teens and blacks.
- ▶ Surveys of inmates show that they prefer concealable, large-caliber guns.
- ▶ In 1993, of the 4.4 million violent crimes, 1.3 million victims (29%) stated that they faced an offender with a firearm.
- ▶ Thirty-nine percent of Federal offenders involved with firearms, compared to 16% of those not involved, had been incarcerated in the past for at least 13 months.

BJS has published a series of reports on firearms and crime. The most recent publication, *Firearm Injury from Crime*, released 4/96 (NCJ 160093), presents available statistical information on fatal and nonfatal firearm injury that results from crime. Included are descriptions of the characteristics of the victims and the circumstances surrounding the crime. Data about the number of law enforcement officers injured by firearms, offender involvement in firearm injury, and the costs of firearm injury are also included.

**Who is arrested for weapons offenses?**

Of those persons arrested by State and local agencies for weapons offenses in 1993 —

- ▶ 92% were male
- ▶ 77% were age 18 or older
- ▶ 55% were white.

**Who are the victims of gunshot wounds from crime?**

Of those victims of nonfatal gunshot wounds from crime treated in hospital emergency departments during the 12 months before May 1993 —

- ▶ 90% were male
- ▶ 25% were age 19 or younger
- ▶ 49% were age 15-25
- ▶ 60% were black.

Other reports available —

*Guns Used In Crime: Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, released 7/95 (NCJ 148201)

*Weapons Offenses and Offenders: Firearms, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, released 11/95 (NCJ 157795)

*Federal Firearms-Related Offenses*, released 7/95 (NCJ 148950)

**International statistics**

**BJS' International Statistics Program** encourages universities and research centers to supply data tapes of crime statistics and criminal justice studies conducted in other countries to the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data at the University of Michigan. Annual statistical reports on crime and justice from statistical agencies in other countries are maintained through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). Translation of selected reports from

other countries and dissemination of these data to American scholars and researchers are also accomplished through the NCJRS.

**The World Factbook of Criminal Justice Systems**, developed under a BJS grant and available electronically through the Internet, provides narrative descriptions of the criminal justice systems of countries around the world. These descriptions are written to a common template so that comparisons of similar functions in different countries can be easily made.

### **General criminal justice statistics**

BJS produces a number of statistical documents and other products that cover more than one criminal justice topic.

**Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics**, first published in 1972, is compiled annually from more than 150 separate sources, presented with minimal text and extensive tables. Almost all data are nationwide in scope and, where possible, are displayed by region, State, and city for comparative analyses. The Sourcebook can now be accessed online at <http://www.albany.edu/sourcebook> and is updated as information becomes available.

**Criminal Justice Agency Survey List** is an updated listing of various State and local jurisdictions and criminal justice agencies from which sample surveys are selected.

## **State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers**

BJS offers technical and financial support to State governments for the establishment and operation of State-level Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to Federal, State, and local levels of government and to share State-level information nationally.

For FY 1997, BJS announced the State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers. Under this program, BJS, in conjunction with other Office of Justice Programs components, identifies particular criminal justice topics for in-depth analysis and encourages SACs to conduct research and publish findings on these issues. Detailed program and application guidelines are available in *State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers: Program Application Guidelines, Fiscal Year 1997*, released 11/96 (NCJ 163277).

Through the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), BJS offers technical assistance to the State SACs in the development, collection, analysis, use, and dissemination of criminal justice statistics. JRSA was organized in 1974 by the directors of the State SACs. The association was formed to promote cooperation and the exchange of information, statistics, and technology among States. In providing technical and liaison services to the SACs for BJS, JRSA maintains a criminal justice information clearinghouse; provides an automated Database of State Activities and Research; and conducts an annual conference on justice statistics, research, and policy analysis.

## **Visiting Research Fellowship Program**

The Visiting Research Fellowship Program promotes criminal justice statistical research among the academic and professional criminal justice community to meet the specific needs of the Department of Justice and BJS. Visiting Fellows participate in a specifically designed research project of particular operational relevance to the national or international justice system. The Fellowship Program offers criminal justice researchers an opportunity to have a significant impact on specific BJS projects as well as a chance to examine innovative approaches to the analysis and dissemination of BJS data.

## **Criminal record systems**

BJS supports several programs aimed at improving criminal records. Criminal history records are fingerprint cards or their electronic counterparts, linked with information about arrests, convictions and sentences, when available. Records are inaccessible electronically to other States if they are not automated or if a State does not participate in the national system, referred to as the Interstate Identification Index. Records without dispositions delay inquiries or handicap law enforcement or others in the identification of individuals with a prior conviction and those who are prohibited from purchasing a firearm, are subject to domestic violence protective orders, or are ineligible to hold positions of responsibility involving children, the elderly, or the disabled.

- ▶ Of the 52 million criminal history records in the United States, 56% are now accessible nationally — up from 50% a year ago.

► A third of the records are both accessible and include dispositions, an increase of almost 3 million records over a 2-year period.

**Criminal Records Data Quality Program** supports surveys, studies, conferences, and technical assistance on issues relating to criminal justice records. Primary emphasis is on accuracy and completeness of records, limitations on dissemination, commingling of juvenile and adult records, data auditing techniques, and the interstate exchange of records. Under this program, the 50-State Survey of Criminal History Information Systems is conducted, providing information on the technology, policy, and legislative status of criminal history records. The third update to the survey, reporting 1995 yearend data, will be released in May 1997.

In 1996 a major national conference was convened to address issues associated with the use of juvenile criminal records and their exchange with the adult criminal record system. On July 16-17, 1997, a conference will be held in Seattle to address the information impact of recent legislation focusing on sex offenders and establishment of the national sexual offender registry. A taskforce will also be convened with the National Center for State Courts to identify increased demands for court data created by recent legislation and to develop protocols to meet these needs.

**National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)** implements the grant provisions of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the National Child Protection Act of 1993 and selected provisions of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which relate to criminal history records.

The program assists States in improving the quality of their criminal history records and supports the timely development of the capability to perform adequate criminal background checks. A national criminal record system will permit the immediate identification of persons who are prohibited from purchasing a firearm, are subject to domestic violence protective orders, or are ineligible to hold positions of responsibility involving children, the elderly, or the disabled. The development of complete and accurate criminal records, which are immediately available on an interstate basis, is also critical to support law enforcement efforts to make determinations regarding pretrial release, career criminal charging, sentencing options, and correctional assignments. Background checks for national security and related purposes are also only as effective as the quality of the records on which they are based.

Under the 1995 NCHIP program, direct awards, totaling approximately \$80 million, were made to every State. This included approximately \$76 million to assist States in improving the quality and accessibility of criminal history records and the development of procedures to identify felons who attempt to purchase firearms. In 1996 a total of \$33 million was awarded to 48 States and the District of Columbia to continue the upgrade of their criminal record systems and to ensure the availability of complete and accurate records of felony convictions as well as to identify persons convicted of crimes involving domestic violence, crimes against children, the elderly, and the disabled, and persons subject to protective orders involving domestic violence.

The Program Announcement for FY 1997 NCHIP awards will be issued in the spring of 1997 and awards will be made in the summer/fall of 1997. Section 922 of the Federal Gun

Control Act was amended on September 30, 1996, to prohibit the sale of firearms to persons convicted of misdemeanors involving domestic violence. To implement this new requirement, NCHIP awards from 1997 funds will be used not only for previously established goals, but also to enable States to collect and automate misdemeanor information and to identify those misdemeanors that involve domestic violence.

Consistent with the Stalker Reduction provision of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, funds are being provided under the NCHIP program to assist State and local governments in improving the process for classifying and entering data regarding stalking and domestic violence into local, State, and national crime information databases. In fiscal years 1996 and 1997, BJS was appropriated \$1.5 million and \$1.75 million, respectively. In recognition of the importance of this effort, and pursuant to an OJP commitment to Congress, BJS solicited early applications from the States for these purposes; seven States applied and were awarded grants on December 1, 1996. All remaining States will receive funds from this component of the NCHIP program as part of its regular 1997 NCHIP awards.

For further information on the NCHIP program refer to *National Criminal History Improvement Program: FY 1996 Program Announcement*, released 5/96 (NCJ 161135).

**Firearm Inquiry Statistics (FIST)** program, a component of NCHIP, is designed to use relevant statistics to assess the impact of presale firearm checks as required under the Brady Act and related State legislation. The statistical data obtained by BJS under the program focus on the total

number of inquiries related to firearm purchases, the number of rejections, and the basis for the rejections. Data are also collected separately concerning the procedures followed by States and law enforcement officers in connection with presale checks under both the Brady Act and related State legislation.

In February 1997 BJS released *Presale Firearm Checks: A National Estimate* (NCJ-162787), which provides a national estimate of the number of presale background checks conducted in connection with proposed firearm purchases, the number and percent of rejections, and the basis for the rejections. The data show that on average during the 28 months between the effective date of the Brady Act (February 1994) and June 31, 1996, 6,600 attempted firearm purchases per month were blocked by the results of the presale check. Among the 32 States originally designated as "Brady States," the monthly average during this period was 3,100 rejections. The report is designed to permit the reader to estimate the total rejections to any given date by multiplying the monthly estimate by the relevant number of months.

Other FIST-related data are available in *Survey of State Procedures Related to Firearm Sales*, released 5/96 (NCJ 160763).

# How to use BJS services

## What's available on the Internet

The BJS World Wide Web site is located at  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

Providing BJS information on the Internet has proven to be the most efficient way BJS can make its data accessible to those who need it instantly. BJS information will be updated frequently. The BJS web site presents information by crime and justice topics. Summary findings, descriptions of the data collections, publications, and additional work by BJS staff are listed under each topic and subtopic. Links to related pages on the BJS site and to related sites are also included.

Visit these additional areas on the Web site —

**What's new at BJS** — The most recent information from BJS is highlighted in this section, including announcements, releases, solicitations, and the latest data.

**About BJS** — An overview of BJS is provided, describing its mission and responsibilities, criminal justice areas covered by data collection programs, grant programs, and dissemination programs maintained.

**Key facts at a glance** — Small versions of the charts and brief statements of findings are presented with links to full size charts, additional information about the charts and findings, and the data that support the chart.

**Publications** — Electronic versions of many BJS reports are also available on the net. To find the publication you are interested in, you can look under the appropriate criminal justice topic on the BJS home page. If you know the name of the publication, go to the publications list, which is in alphabetical order. In addition to this list of all publications, a list of periodic reports is available.

The electronic versions of our publications are presented in two formats: in ASCII without tables and graphics and in portable document format (.pdf) as published with graphics and tables. Many tables from our reports and some additional data are available in the .wk1 format, readable by most spreadsheet software. In many instances, the spreadsheets have been grouped and compressed into files using the .zip format to speed downloads. Except for ASCII documents, our products are in formats that require interpreter applications you need to install on your computer as plugins to web browsers or standalone applications.

**Press releases** — The most recent press releases from BJS are published on the net at the press release section of the BJS home page.

#### **Data to download**

**Crime & justice electronic data abstracts** — Aggregated data from a wide variety of published sources are assembled into spreadsheets. Intended for analytic use, the files include crime, justice, and sociodemographic variables. Many of the files contain data over time and by State, locality, and Federal district.

**Source data & codebooks** — BJS data files are archived, documented, and made available on the net through the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan.

BJS reports are linked to the raw data used in the report, which can be downloaded from the archive. Users can access over 43 gigabytes of data collected since the mid-1970's, covering the full range of criminal justice topics.

**Crime & justice data from other sources** — Provides links to data from other sources, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other Federal agencies. Also provides links to juvenile justice statistics and international crime statistics.

**Comments and inquiries from users** — BJS encourages all users of its homepage to send comments, suggestions, and information inquiries to [askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov](mailto:askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov). Hundreds of inquiries and useful comments have been received by BJS since the BJS Web site opened in February 1996.

### **Internet conference**

BJS and SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, will host the Internet and Online Resources for Criminal Justice Agencies Conference on November 3-5, 1997, in San Francisco. The sessions will explore the crucial issues surrounding the complexities of the Internet in providing the best possible service to the public. Specifically, the conference will take up the

technical, operational, policy, and management implications of sharing information within and among justice agencies.

## **Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse**

The BJS Clearinghouse, a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), provides information about crime and justice statistics. The clearinghouse offers products and services tailored to the needs of the criminal justice professional.

Clearinghouse staff who specialize in BJS statistical resources can assist you in locating data that best meet your particular information needs. BJS specialists can also direct users to a variety of other criminal justice data.

The NCJRS Justice Information Center can be accessed by Internet at <http://www.ncjrs.org>. By calling the BJS Clearinghouse at 800-732-3277, you can receive —

- ▶ BJS reports and BJS mailing list information
- ▶ Criminal justice statistics over the phone
- ▶ Custom literature searches of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)
- ▶ Database referrals to other sources of crime data
- ▶ Data assistance from information specialists.

The BJS Clearinghouse responds to data requests from a variety of audiences:

- ▶ Federal policymakers and practitioners
- ▶ State and local criminal justice practitioners
- ▶ private organizations
- ▶ faculty and students
- ▶ media and the public.

The Clearinghouse has developed several products to assist researchers, policymakers, and other professionals:

- ▶ CD-ROM's
- ▶ statistical information packages
- ▶ slide presentations
- ▶ topical searches
- ▶ topical bibliographies.

Contact the Clearinghouse to request information or to order publications and products.

Internet: <http://www.ncjrs.org>

Mail: BJS Clearinghouse/NCJRS  
P.O. Box 179  
Annapolis Junction, Maryland 20701-0179

Visit: BJS Clearinghouse/NCJRS  
1600 Research Boulevard  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Call: 1-800-732-3277

FAX orders: 1-410-792-4358

Access fax-on-demand system: 1-301-251-5550

Access the NCJRS Bulletin Board System via modem:

Telnet to ncjrsbbs.aspensys.com or by telephone  
at 301-738-8895 (set at 8N1, 9600 baud, select BJS)

Ask NCJRS questions via Internet:

askncjrs@ncjrs.org

**National Archive of Criminal Justice Data**, on behalf of BJS, archives data files, documents them, and makes them available to researchers, scholars, journalists, and other users. Established in 1978, NACJD headquarters are located with the central staff of Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

The central mission of NACJD is to facilitate and encourage research in the field of criminal justice through the sharing of data resources. Specific goals include —

- ▶ Providing machine-readable data for the quantitative study of crime and the criminal justice system through the development of a central data archive
- ▶ Supplying technical assistance in analyzing data collections and selecting the computer hardware and software for analyzing data efficiently and effectively
- ▶ Offering training in quantitative methods of social science research to facilitate secondary analysis of criminal justice data.

NACJD routinely receives data from four agencies within the U.S. Department of Justice: BJS, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Individual

scholars and researchers in the criminal justice field may also deposit data with NACJD, and interested individuals should contact NACJD staff for more information on this process.

Data files that are maintained by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data are available at no charge for search and download from the NACJD site on the Internet.

*<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/nacjd/>*

Write or call: National Archive of Criminal Justice Data  
ICPSR  
Institute for Social Research  
P.O. Box 1248  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106  
1-800-999-0960  
1-313-763-5011

Ask Archive staff questions via e-mail:

[cdunn@icpsr.umich.edu](mailto:cdunn@icpsr.umich.edu)

## **The United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network**

The United Nations World Crime Survey and other criminal justice data sets are available online from the United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN), which was established in 1989 and was supported by BJS from 1990 to 1995. UNCJIN's goal is to establish a worldwide network to enhance dissemination and the exchange of information concerning criminal justice and crime prevention issues. By August 1995 UNCJIN had attracted an enthusiastic membership from around the world and was transferred by BJS to the United Nations Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention Branch in Vienna, Austria.

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In addition to its World Wide Web page, UNCJIN maintains a ListServ on which anyone with an interest in international criminal justice can exchange information and participate in discussion groups. To join, send the following message:

```
Subscribe UNCJINL yourfirstname yourlastname  
to ListServ@Lserv.un.or.at
```

The ListServ program will respond to your mail with a welcome message and further instructions.

## **National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS)**

CJIS was created in 1976 to serve as a clearinghouse for information on criminal justice information system resources and to promote and facilitate the transfer of automated public domain criminal justice information systems. The clearinghouse —

- ▶ Disseminates information about public domain and proprietary criminal justice information systems
- ▶ Maintains an index of criminal justice software
- ▶ Facilitates communication among criminal justice practitioners nationwide.

BJS supports the clearinghouse, which is operated by SEARCH, the National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics, dedicated to improving the administration of justice through information technology.

A national resource to criminal justice agencies and professionals, the clearinghouse is accessible through —

— Internet at *<http://www.search.org/>*

- SEARCH Bulletin Board (BBS) at 916-392-4640/4641/4642
- telnet to search.org (set at 8N1, Full Duplex, terminal =VT100).

The Clearinghouse provides online access to —

- the FBI *Law Enforcement Bulletin*
- opinions of the United States Supreme Court
- all four volumes of FBI specifications for the National Incident-Based Reporting System
- publications from other agencies and associations.

Online databases available on the bulletin board include—

- the Automated Index of Criminal Justice Information Systems
- Calendar of Events
- Criminal Justice Bulletin Board Systems List
- National Employment Listing Service
- Planning Abstract Listing Service
- Training Facilities Database
- Training Consultants Database.

A library of hundreds of criminal justice shareware programs is online as well. For more information about the clearinghouse call 916-392-2550, or send e-mail to [webmaster@search.org](mailto:webmaster@search.org).

## **Database of State Activities and Research**

Maintained by the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), this database covers the activities of State criminal justice statistical agencies, including current Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) activities, research efforts and statistical programs, abstracts of SAC publications, information on publications in the JRSA library, and data from the SAC Skills Survey.

The JRSA staff can search the database for specific topics using key words and provide printouts of search results.

Contact JRSA by —

- Internet at <http://www.jrsainfo.org/>
- e-mail to [cjinfo@jrsa.org](mailto:cjinfo@jrsa.org)
- telephone: 202-842-9330

# To order BJS products

## Publications

You may order free paper versions of BJS publications through the Bureau of Justice Statistics Clearinghouse, a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). The latest BJS data releases are available 24 hours a day through the Internet and other electronic means.

### Order online

If you have a forms-compatible browser, you can place your order directly through the Internet at the Online Order Form.

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