Overview

• 1: Why?
• 2: What?
• 3: How?
• 4: Recommendations
• 5: What next?
1: Why?

Federal context
State and local context
## Latest federal data on various topics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Most recent release/announcement</th>
<th>Data as of</th>
<th>Age of data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>July 2, 2021</td>
<td>June 30, 2021</td>
<td>.5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>June 24, 2021</td>
<td>March 31, 2021</td>
<td>3.5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>September 28, 2020</td>
<td>December 31, 2019</td>
<td>18.5 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimization</td>
<td>September, 2020</td>
<td>December 31, 2019</td>
<td>18.5 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Things we can’t accurately document:

• Public trust in the fairness of the justice system
• The degree to which discretion is fair and impartial at each step of engagement—such as whether to stop, whether to detain or search, whether to arrest, whether to charge and with what severity, whether to offer a plea and at what level
• The extent of violence, injury, harassment, discrimination, or disrespect that occurs in interactions between members of the public, or those in custody with officers and other employees of justice agencies
• How individuals are treated during their custodial sentences and how well they are prepared for success upon release
• How individuals are supported during non-custodial sentences (e.g. probation and parole) and how well services are tailored to individual needs
• How victims of crime are treated and how that experience shapes their lives
Harvard Law School report on MA

- At request of Supreme Judicial Court
- 3 Years of unfettered access to MA courts and CJIS data
- 24% of race data, 65% of ethnicity data missing
- Sentencing: “great deal of missing data”
- Prosecutor: “unable to obtain usable data”
Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Comprehensive Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gun Crime and Ensure Public Safety

JUNE 23, 2021 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

President Biden believes that the surge in gun violence that has affected communities across the country over the last year and a half is unacceptable, and his Administration is moving decisively to act with a whole-of-government approach as we enter the summer months when cities typically experience a spike in violence.
Now is the time to act. With the secondary consequences of the pandemic and the proliferation of illegal guns over the same period, we have seen increased violence over the past year and a half. Homicides rose 30%, and gun assaults rose 8% in large cities in 2020. The number of homicides in the first quarter of 2021 was 24% higher than the number of homicides in the first quarter of 2020, and 49% higher than in the first quarter of 2019. Black and brown Americans are disproportionately harmed by the direct and indirect consequences of gun violence.
Pandemic, Social Unrest, and Crime in U.S. Cities
2020 Year-End Update

PREPARED FOR THE COMMISSION AND ARNOLD VENTURES BY

RICHARD ROSENFELD
Curators’ Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri – St. Louis

THOMAS ABT
Senior Fellow & Commission Director, Council on Criminal Justice

ERNESTO LOPEZ
Graduate Research Assistant, University of Missouri – St. Louis
2021 study: snapshot of recruitment and training
Hiring and Retention of State and Local Law Enforcement Officers, 2008 – Statistical Tables

By Brian A. Reaves, Ph.D., BJS Statistician

In 2008, the United States had roughly 16,000 general purpose state and local law enforcement agencies, including local police departments, sheriffs’ offices, and the 50 primary state agencies. These agencies employed about 705,000 full-time sworn personnel (table 1).

From 1992 to 2008, the number of sworn personnel employed by general purpose agencies increased by about 141,000, or 25% (figure 1). The 1.6% average annual growth rate for the number of officers exceeded that of the U.S. population (1.2%). Sheriffs’ offices (34% overall, 2.1% annually) had a higher growth rate over the 16-year period than local police departments (23%, 1.4%) or state agencies (15%, 0.9%).

The agencies hired about 61,000 officers in 2008, but lost about 51,000 through resignations, retirements, and other types of separation for a net gain of about 10,000 officers (figure 2) or 1.4% (table 2).

Most agencies used specific strategies and policies designed to help them meet the challenges of recruiting, hiring, and retaining qualified sworn personnel. To better understand these efforts, a special survey was administered to a nationally representative sample of approximately 3,000 general purpose agencies as part of the 2008 BJS Census of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies (CSLEA). (See Methodology for details.)

Data is now 13 years old, collected when current candidates were in second grade.
Also in 2008….

- iPhone was one year old and had sold 11million phones – now over a billion
- App store launched
- Android phone launched
- Chrome web browser created
Candidates eligible to take the entrance exam today were in kindergarten when the data was collected.
State and Local Law Enforcement Training Academies, 2018 – Statistical Tables

Emily D. Buehler, Ph.D., BJS Statistician

A total of 681 state and local law enforcement training academies provided basic training instruction to 59,511 recruits in 2018. The average length of the core basic training program was 833 hours. Half of recruits were instructed using a training model with equal parts stress (i.e., military or paramilitary style) and nonstress (i.e., academic or adult learning) environments (figure 1). Nearly all recruits were instructed in report writing, defensive tactics, firearms skills, and ethics and integrity, and nearly all were instructed using at least one type of reality-based scenario.

Half (48%) of full-time instructors employed by law enforcement training academies were sworn officers who were permanently assigned to or employed by the academy. Twenty-five percent of academies required instructors to have a 2-year college degree or higher level of education, and 70% required law enforcement experience.

FIGURE 1
Recruits in basic training programs in state and local law enforcement training academies, by type of training environment, 2011–13 and 2018

Type of training environment:
- All or mostly stress
- Slightly more stress than nonstress
- Balanced stress and nonstress
- Slightly more nonstress than stress
- All or mostly nonstress

Percent of recruits

Note: Academies were asked about the degree to which their curriculum followed a stress model (i.e., military or paramilitary style), a nonstress model (i.e., academic or adult learning), or a combination of both models. See table 6 for estimates and appendix table 7 for standard errors.

*Comparison group.
†Difference with comparison group is significant at the 95% level.
Contacts Between Police and the Public, 2018 – Statistical Tables

Erika Harrell, Ph.D., and Elizabeth Davis, BJS Statisticians

Findings described in this report are based on data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ 2018 Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS), a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The NCVS collects information from a nationally representative sample of persons age 12 or older in U.S. households. The PPCS collects information on contact with police during the prior 12 months from persons age 16 or older.

U.S. residents were asked about instances where they sought help from police (resident-initiated contacts) and when police approached or stopped them (police-initiated contacts). Findings in this report are based on data from the PPCS and the NCVS.

Highlights

In the prior 12 months, as of 2018, among persons age 16 or older—

- About 61.5 million residents had at least one contact with police.
- Twenty-four percent of residents experienced contact with police, up from 21% in 2015.
- Whites (26%) were more likely than blacks (21%), Hispanics (19%), or persons of other races (20%) to experience police contact.
State of the nation’s CJ statistics
BJS ranks 10 of 13 federal statistical agencies in funding

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistical Agency</th>
<th>FY 2020 Appropriation ($ million)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of the Census</td>
<td>7558.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Labor Statistics</td>
<td>655.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Agricultural Statistics Service/USDA</td>
<td>180.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Health Statistics</td>
<td>160.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Information Administration</td>
<td>126.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Education Statistics</td>
<td>110.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Economic Analysis</td>
<td>108.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Research Service/USDA</td>
<td>84.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics</td>
<td>55.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Justice Statistics</td>
<td><strong>43.0</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSA Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics</td>
<td>38.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRS Statistics of Income</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau of Transportation Statistics</td>
<td>26.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
BJS funding decrease is larger than other agencies
BJS does remarkably well given funding constraints

• The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel in its 2008 review of BJS, said:

  *We conclude that BJS’s data collection portfolio is a solid body of work, well justified by public information needs or legal requirements and a commendable effort to meet its broad mandate given less-than-commensurate fiscal resources.*
BJS no longer a go-to source

Source: OJP Performance Report
State of recordkeeping at state and local level is a great unknown
Data quality is hard work!

Welp. We screwed up. Because of a reporting error we have not yet hit 70% on our adult vaccinations. I promised to admit our mistakes and hold us accountable. I hope you will forgive us—and know we have made changes to ensure it won’t happen again.

My fellow Utahns:

We screwed up. And I sincerely apologize.

When I became governor, I promised that I would hold myself and others in state government accountable and admit our mistakes. When we were told by our data team that we had reached 70% of adult Utahns receiving at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccines, we were surprised and excited and a little skeptical. Rather than announcing it, we decided to wait a few days to double- and triple-check the numbers. Every report came back that the numbers were accurate, so we went with it.

A couple days ago, we learned that there was a mistake in the way we had counted federal doses. It soon became clear that we had only reached 67.07%. While federal data sharing has been extremely difficult, this one is on us. Our data team is devastated and embarrassed. And we are.
The “why” in one sentence:

• “Unfortunately, criminal justice reform is made more difficult by data that is incomplete and fraught with error.”
2: What?

Arnold Ventures assignment
Assignment

• Explore: How to improve the quality and availability of criminal justice data for research and evidence-based policy making.
3: How?

Arnold Ventures roundtable
Report
Project overview: 2-session expert roundtable

50 interviews

140+ ideas distilled into

18 broad actions across 4 categories
Because the Road to Reform is Paved by Data

CAMPAIGN FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE DATA MODERNIZATION

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM AN EXPERT ROUNDTABLE, HOSTED BY ARNOLD VENTURES APRIL 2021
4: Recommendations
Summary of recommendations

1: Establish an accurate baseline of facts about the CJS, and envision a 21st century system

2: Radically increase accountability of the justice system through data transparency

3: Modernize the production and dissemination of criminal justice statistics

4: Improve the integrity of data used for decision-making, research, and policy

5: Make CJ data more actionable, by linking data for greater insight, and by building capacity to turn insight into action

6: Harness modern technology to equip decision-makers with more timely and accurate information
1: Establish facts, envision 21st c. system

- **Action 1.1:** The Biden administration should create a National Commission on Criminal Justice Data Modernization to envision timely accurate collection, validation, curation and dissemination of crime and victimization data along with data on the operations of the criminal justice system in a way that balances security with ease of access to researchers, policymakers, and the public.
  - **With the support of the Biden administration, ask BJS to publish a national snapshot of the current state of criminal justice data and operations.** This could take the form of a series of “State of...” reports that describe the current state of the courts, the state of jails and prisons, the state of law enforcement, prosecution, etc. This national snapshot could take inspiration from the 1983 national report published by BJS that for the first time brought together facts across the justice system into a single narrative, using graphics and meant to be understood by a wide audience—a report that shared new insights gained from comparing data across the system.
  - **Leverage existing efforts to document what is known about racial disparity in the criminal justice system, and use those findings to produce recommendations for closing gaps in data collection, accuracy, and completeness.** A national assessment by NAS of racial disparity in the justice system is under way. Findings from this work should be used by the Commission to develop recommendations to more accurately gather and analyze racial and ethnic data and to measure disparity, along with practical implementation advice for state and local agencies.
  - **With the support of the Biden administration, direct the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) at the Department of Justice to conduct a nationwide assessment of technology and data maturity of state and local justice agencies.** Even the best experts are unable to establish a baseline assessment of national criminal justice data and technological maturity at the local level. The national snapshot should define minimally acceptable standards for records accuracy, completeness, accessibility and timeliness, and should highlight best practices across types and sizes of agencies.
  - **Develop consensus on an updated definition of crimes to record.** The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program began in 1929, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was created in 1988. Many crimes of modern life (cyber crimes, fraud, identity theft, environmental crime) are not included in these measures but have a significant impact on daily life. A panel of experts should address the question, “What should the next generation of crime data look like?”
  - **After documenting current challenges, the Commission should describe a modern system, and create a roadmap for achieving it.** Produce a report that provides an ambitious roadmap for the future, similar to the report from the Johnson administration Commission that introduced significant modernization of police practices, and the final report of the Commission on Evidence Based Policy.

- **Action 1.2:** To continue the process of modernization, the Biden administration should revive and expand the OJP Science Advisory Board and should find new ways to tap external expertise.
2: Increase accountability w/ transparency

- **Action 2.1:** The Biden administration should publish a dashboard with ratings of police departments based on the amount of data they make public, and on the quality and timeliness of that data, including data on use of force incidents.
  - Define the minimum acceptable standard for transparency, with graduated levels leading to the highest rating for transparency.
  - Data should include key operational performance indicators, along with data about use of force by police on members of the public and the use of force against officers. Data on shootings by officers, complaints against officers and other evidence-based misconduct indicators, stop and frisk data, traffic stop data, behavioral crisis intervention data, and police force demographics should be included.
  - Agencies struggling should receive assistance, coaching, and support to meet basic thresholds of transparency and data quality. Funding could be used as an incentive to meet established thresholds. Over time, as compliance grows, withholding federal grant funds could be used as a penalty for noncompliance.

- **Action 2.2:** BJS should create standard questions for measuring criminal justice system legitimacy for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), and then promote use of those questions by criminal justice researchers.
  - Too little is known about how the public experiences the criminal justice system and what could be done to repair strains in the relationship.
  - BJS should expand the NCVS to include questions that can better document how the public experiences the system.

- **Action 2.3:** Federal agencies should lead in data transparency, setting an example for state and local government.
  - Across law enforcement, courts, corrections and prosecution, federal agencies should adopt modern practices and develop new approaches to inter-governmental data sharing, transparency about outcomes, and the use of data for internal accountability purposes, while preserving individual data privacy protections.

- **Action 2.4:** The Biden administration should create model state criminal justice data transparency laws and foster adoption among states.
  - Develop model legislation for states that balances incentives with sanctions, and requires annual public reporting of progress and results. Provide TA for adaptation and implementation of model statutes, and should consider providing incentive funding to accelerate initial data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
3: Modernize statistics function

- **Action 3.1: BJS should improve access to victimization survey data with a user-friendly platform.**
  - BJS should create a self-service platform for researchers to access NCVS data, and extend the platform such that researchers can more easily blend such survey data with administrative records for deeper insight. User input will be key to an effective redesign, perhaps aided by resources such as the U. S. Digital Service.

- **Action 3.2: DOJ should publish crime data more frequently and in a more timely manner, and should release all publications on a predictable schedule.**
  - DOJ should create a more timely method for releasing crime data, should examine best practices from other federal agencies, and should leverage the Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy for this purpose.
  - BJS should release all statistical series within six months of data collection, and should publish a regular schedule of releases.

- **Action 3.3: BJS should modernize its web site, adding direct access to data with real-time dashboards, maps, and data visualization tools for researchers, policy-makers, and the public.**
  - The effort by BJS to modernize its website should be informed by users of the data – such as researchers, open data enthusiasts, data journalists, big data experts, and community advocates seeking crime and victimization data.
4: Improve data integrity

• **Action 4.1: OJP should provide incentive funding to states that improve their criminal justice data quality via audits, TA to local jurisdictions advancing the use of standards, or the creation of data quality and transparency advisory boards.**
  - Build on current work (SEARCH) w CJIS
  - OJP incentive $ to states/locals to audit RMS/CAD data, bring researchers into conversation w the data
  - Fund data quality improvement strategies, training, data quality improvement teams
  - OJP could share best practices from state and local efforts to aid replication of effective measures.

• **Action 4.2: OJP should support scholarly work on key issues of data quality and availability.**
  - Establishing common nomenclature and standards regarding data quality, accuracy and error standards
  - Address new media for research and analytics such as images, videos, web-scraping tools, probabilistic matching of data, anonymization of data and fuzzing of geolocation data.
  - A single scholarly journal volume devoted to the topic, or a series of volumes, perhaps an ongoing effort between OJP and NAS

• **Action 4.3: OJP should fund researcher-practitioner partnerships to improve data quality and advance the state of knowledge.**
  - Partnerships can take the form of external academic, think tank, or analytics experts teaming with a jurisdiction, or embedding experts within justice agencies.
5: Make data actionable

- **Action 5.1: DOJ should create a secure, cloud-based platform linking federal criminal justice data sources, with permission-based access for researchers and policymakers.**
  - Link and allow analysis of various federal data sources, for example NCVS; crime data from (NIBRS); justice expenditure data; police-community survey data; corrections reporting data; law enforcement administrative data; and data collection series related to courts, probation, parole, jail, etc.
  - Leverage existing resources such as FedRAMP and the Federal Statistical Research Data Center network.

- **Action 5.2: OJP should fund regional, state, and local integrated data hubs that connect person-level data for criminal justice insight.**
  - Fund a limited number of sites, create case studies, replicable open source tools are shared on sites like GitHub.
  - Security and privacy protocols should allow person-level data to be linked and shared only with authorized users, with aggregate deidentified data available more widely. The goal would be to gain deeper insight by combining data sets, and protections should be put in place so individual-level data cannot be used for punitive purposes.
  - Include state and local data hubs that link criminal justice data to other government data, such as education, workforce, and public health, etc.

- **Action 5.3: OJP should fund data analytics centers of excellence that provide data services to state and local jurisdictions.**
  - On-demand resource funded by OJP would give them access to as-needed expertise and resources of a large university or think tank (e.g. CJARS).

- **Action 5.4: OJP should fund state and local data and analytics capacity within criminal justice agencies and develop a model and toolkit for broad replication.**
  - Grant-funded analytics teams in justice agencies (or regional collaboratives, or a federal service corps to deploy locally) could serve as an experimental testbed, with lessons learned from a set of grant investments informing a playbook and toolkit for local agencies seeking to increase their ability to use data and research.

- **Action 5.5: OJP should develop and share data literacy resources for state and local criminal justice agency staff.**
  - Teach data-informed decision-making to executives, (2) skills development analysts, and (3) training for data entry staff
  - National online learning platform supplemented with regionalized in person and virtual support through local academic and nonprofit organizations.

- **Action 5.6: OJP should publish guidance on how to share data while adhering to privacy laws.**
  - Documented case studies lower barriers to data sharing. Toolkit accelerates data sharing, empowering jurisdictions w/ roadmap and the rules of the road.
  - Resource hub for TA/expertise would advance data-sharing and would support jurisdictions as they engage with researchers and with their IT vendors.
6: Harness modern technology

• Action 6.1: The Biden administration should convene a task force of technologists, practitioners, researchers, and data experts to develop recommendations for improved data interoperability.
  • Define how to share data across silos in pursuit of better justice decision-making, define incentives
  • Recommend how to improve capture of racial and ethnic data, and measure racial disparities, leveraging NAS work
  • Advance user-centric systems design to reduce data entry error, via incentives
  • Assess current standards projects for federal funding incentive
  • Close gap between large urban and small rural jurisdictions in access to modern technology

• Action 6.2: DOJ should secure congressional appropriations to fund capacity building grants for growing tech talent in criminal justice field.
  • Enable tech innovators to advance technology via seed funding
  • Attracting leaders from other domains as well, via data science competitions, research fellowships, challenge.gov, etc.

• Action 6.3: OJP should mandate that software or systems created with federal dollars be able to export machine-readable data and have a standard open API (application programming interface) for sharing data across systems.
  • State and local justice agency IT systems typically do not employ common data schemas or have standard APIs that allow export of data for comparison of individual-level data across departments, agencies or jurisdictions.
  • OJP should require that all systems funded with federal grant dollars produce machine readable output with standard APIs. Further, OJP should prioritize funding of open source rather than proprietary systems.
In summary:

• It is time to reimagine the system. Reform is critically important, but a precondition of effective reform is the foundational data that can guide, fine tune, and measure the success of reforms. The data systems that support the operations of the nation’s criminal justice agencies must be improved and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the federal agency responsible for regular reporting of survey and administrative data, must be strengthened.
5: What next?

Advocacy
What next? Advocacy!

• Report promotion:
  • Upon release via Arnold Ventures channels
  • Via supporters, and their networks (e.g. JSRA, National Police Foundation)
  • Via speaking and writing

• Advocacy:
  • Joined ASA and COSSA briefings for hill staff
What you can do:

• Choose a favorite recommended action or two
• Share the message with your networks
• Write a blog or a press release
• Talk to your representatives in Congress
• Talk to incoming OJP team
For your reference:

• **Report**
• **AV Blog** by Stuart Buck
• **Background paper** on federal justice statistics
• How to find me:
  • Jane.Wiseman@gmail.com
  • Twitter: @JaneMWiseman
  • LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jane-wiseman/