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Presentation to SEARCH/JRSA/NCJA Annual Meeting
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Great to be in Long Beach, CA!
Statistical Coverage of the Criminal Justice System

Violence & Offender Estimation

Crime & the Justice Process

National Crime Victimization Survey
NCVS Supplemental: Fraud, Identity Theft, Police-Public Contact, School Crime, & Stalking
National Census of Victim Service Providers
National Survey of Victim Service Providers

Age, Sex, Race & Ethnicity of Persons Arrested: Data Estimation
Crime History Patterns of State Prisoners
Felony Inmate Statistics
National Incarcerated Reporting System
Supplemental Homicide Reports: Data Estimation

Capital Punishment
Federal Deaths in Custody
Recidivism of State Prisoners

Annual Probation/Parole Survey
Annual Survey of Jails
National Corrections Reporting Program - National Prisoner Statistics
National Inmate Survey Prison Jails (NPSA)
National Survey of Youth In Custody (NYC)
Survey of Inmates in Local Jails
Survey of Jails in Indian Country
Survey of Prison Inmates
Survey of Sexual Victimization (REVA)

Sentencing & Disposition

Arrest
Filing
Indictment
Trial
Conviction & sentencing
Guilty plea
Probation
Parole

National Survey of Indigent Defense Systems
National Survey of Customs Enforcement Officials
National Survey of Tribal Court Systems
Survey of Juveniles Charged as Adults in Criminal Courts
Survey of Public Defenders
Survey of State Attorneys General Offices

Justice Expenditure & Employment: Extract Series

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Department of Justice
The Bureau of Justice Statistics

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is one of 13 principal statistical agencies housed in the U.S. government. Each of these 13 agencies has statistical activities as their core mission.
- BJS’ mission is to collect, analyze, publish, and disseminate information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of the justice system at all levels of government.
- BJS also provides financial and technical support to state, local, and tribal governments to improve both their statistical capabilities and the quality and utility of their criminal history records.
My Priorities

- Modernization
- Engagement
- Elevation
- Collaboration
The Data Reach of BJS

• Police data collections (Census)
• Courts (Processing, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys)
• Corrections (Survey of Prison Inmates, Recidivism, Census)
• Victimization (NCVS)
• New Data Collections (Maternal Health within Institutions, Real-Time Crime, Officer Wellness)
• New Crime Type Analyses
New Publication Series, Just the Stats

• Focused on 1-page style reports
• Topics have included: carjacking, female homicide victimization, juvenile incarceration trends, race/ethnic differences in victimization, and victim services
• [https://bjs.ojp.gov/victim-service-providers-us-counties-2017](https://bjs.ojp.gov/victim-service-providers-us-counties-2017)
Rate of nonfatal carjacking victimization per 1,000 persons age 16 or older, 1995–2021 (3-year moving averages)
International Footprint

• Meetings with INEGI, UNODC
• Engagement with Stats Canada & their BJS-equivalent, Canadian Centre for Justice and Community Safety Statistics
• Just Stats—Greece
  • In 2023, Greece established the Office of the Collection and Processing of Judicial Statistics (JustStat), for the collection of statistical data within each judicial unit of the country. Prior to JustStat, Greece was not systematically collecting national criminal justice data. The U.S. Department of State has begun working with JustStat and other criminal justice officials to help establish a robust national statistics program, including the collection of crime data. BJS invited to assist on this task because of its expertise in the collection of national crime, victimization, and criminal justice statistics.
• International Crime Classification
• Importance of Cross-National Statistics & Research
The NCVS Turns 50

BJS
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50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 1973 2023
Why re-design the NCVS?

• The NCVS instrument was last redesigned in 1992
• The current instrument flow is not efficient or responsive to respondent answers
• Limitations have been identified in the measurement and classification of certain crimes
• Engage non-victim respondents and collect more contextual information by adding questions on police performance and community safety
Two new periodic modules

**Police Performance:**
contact with police and opinions about police performance

**Community Safety:**
indicators of community issues related to crime and neighborhood safety

- Questions asked of all respondents
- Administer police questions in Jan–June and community in July–Dec
- Items engage the respondents who have no crimes to report
- Measures have utility for small area estimation and understanding patterns of reporting to police
Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety

Sec. 18(c)(i) Collecting Comprehensive Criminal Justice Statistics

“Within 365 days of the date of this order, the [Criminal Justice Statistics] Working Group and the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy shall issue a report to the President that assesses current data collection, use, and data transparency practices with respect to law enforcement activities, including calls for service, searches, stops, frisks, seizures, arrests, complaints, law enforcement demographics, and civil asset forfeiture.”
Criminal Justice Statistics Interagency Working Group

Office of Science and Technology Policy
Office of Management and Budget
Domestic Policy Council, Gender Policy Council, White House Counsel
Office of National Drug Control Policy
GSA
United States Census Bureau
Education Department
Equity and Law Enforcement Data Collection, Use and Transparency

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STAKEHOLDER RESEARCH AND SYNTHESIS

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Public and Expert Input From Across Sectors

**January:**
Launch with 18 federal agencies/components

**February-March:**
9 Listening Sessions with 60+ participants
IACP, FOP, IADLEST, researchers, civil society, and data experts.

**March:**
Vendor Engagement Session with 40+ software vendors

**April:**
Report Co-Drafting with FBI, BJS, DEA, CDC, and other agencies

**May 25:**
Report Delivery to the President
Guiding Principles

1. **Promote Accountability and Transparency**: public data reporting enables public trust

2. **Prioritize Equity**: prioritizing equity starts with identifying and addressing disparities, including in rural, Tribal, territorial communities

3. **Protect Privacy**: data practices must protect victim, offender, and officer privacy in accordance with state and local laws

4. **Use a Whole-of-Government Approach**: collaborate and coordinate actions to build trust in government
Policing data gaps

To have a complete picture of public safety, more agencies need to report to federal data collections.

Police datasets often do not include demographic, geographic, or other variables needed to understand how to deliver more fair and just policing outcomes.

More agencies should publish detailed data on police activities, like calls for service, searches, stops, frisks, arrests, and complaints.

For example:

- Tennessee, Minnesota, and Oregon require federal data reporting
- California and Texas require detailed stop data that includes race and ethnicity
- Baltimore, MD, Seattle, WA, and Portland, OR publish 911 calls and officer-involved shootings
Barriers to policing data

1. Absence of National Data Standards & Guidance
2. Lack of Law Enforcement Capacity & Challenges in Using Vendor Systems
3. Fear of Inaccurate Conclusions by the Public and Media
4. Policing Data is Not Always Easy to Access
5. Inconsistency of State Data Reporting Mandates

“Greatly simplifying the reporting process in virtually every category of reporting would result in more data being submitted.”
- Jerry Garner, Corinth, TX (Chief of Police and 53-year law enforcement veteran)

“In recent years law enforcement has shown to be very open to collecting new data. …We need to somehow learn to incorporate accurate and robust data collection into the common workday of law enforcement.”
- North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission
Data needs to be shared locally and reported nationally.

Local Dashboards and Downloadable, Detailed Data

Federal Reporting of NIBRS and Use-of-Force Incidents

- Elected Officials
- Crime Analysts
- Academics
- City Planners
- Community Members
- State and Federal Policymakers
- Local Media
- Advocacy Organizations
- National Media
- National Media
Types of detailed data to include:

- Age
- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- National origin/language spoken
- Religion
- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Geography (including police districts or neighborhoods)
- Veteran status
- Disability
- Substance use disorders or mental health needs
- Housing status
Five actions to improve data about policing

1. Local Leaders: Should encourage law enforcement to collect detailed data, use it to design more equitable policies, and regularly share data to promote accountability.

2. States: Should mandate and support detailed data collection and sharing about police activities.

3. The Federal Government: Should simplify, standardize, and modernize the collection of law enforcement data.

4. Law Enforcement Agencies: Should build the technical capacity to consistently and transparently report data to federal collections and share data with communities.

5. All Levels of Government: Should recruit data and technical experts and civil society representatives, as appropriate, to inform decision-making about law enforcement data collection and sharing.
1-year roadmap of federal actions

**Equity and Law Enforcement Data Collection, Use and Transparency**

- **Near-Term Actions**
  - BJA 1-pager on using federal funds to build data capacity
  - Convenings on Equitable Data in Law Enforcement
  - DOJ guide for de-risking police software procurement

- **Medium Term-Actions**
  - OMB and BJS will assess the total burden of data collection
  - Collaborate with the APB to add a member to the UCR subcommittee
  - Grantmakers explore giving priority considerations for data reporting
  - Federal agencies take steps to increase access to federal statistics
  - Federal agencies further standardize data collection, usage, and sharing practices

- **Longer-Term Actions**
  - Interagency identifies mechanisms to support state-level data centers
  - Engage with leaders like Congress and the Conference of State Legislatures to increase reporting
“This report to the President of the United States is a groundbreaking effort, aided by experts within and outside the federal government, to assess current data collection, use, and transparency practices with respect to law enforcement activities. With a keen focus on expanding the collection and reporting of disaggregated data, support for the roadmap outlined in the report will help ensure the use of the data to advance effective, accountable policing across the country. The American people deserve nothing less.”
Accurate, Reliable, Timely, Credible Data

- Too many fears and misconceptions about crime trends and patterns
- BJS data are respected and cited often
- The more we can use these data to help inform crime policy, the better off we will all be