

**BJA's Evaluation Program:  
Initiatives, Activities and Accomplishments,  
1990-2000**

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Prepared by:

Justice Research and Statistics Association  
777 North Capitol Street, NE  
Suite 801  
Washington, DC 20002

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# BJA's Evaluation Program: Initiatives, Activities and Accomplishments, 1990-2000

## Introduction

For over a decade the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) has worked in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance to enhance the capacity of the State Administrative Agencies (SAAs) to monitor and evaluate programs funded under the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program. The project began as the "National Consortium to Assess Drug Control Initiatives Strategies," and focused on helping the SAAs develop capabilities to monitor the performance of state efforts designed to reduce drug crime. As the purpose of the Byrne Program expanded to include violent crime, the focus of the project did as well.

The need to evaluate Byrne-funded programs led to a gradual expansion of the activities aimed at assisting states. In 1992, the project became the "State Reporting and Evaluation Program," with emphasis on the need to enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities in the states. It finally evolved into the "State Evaluation Development Program."

Activities carried out over the years spanned a wide range, including development of reporting and monitoring mechanisms; training workshops; symposia and regional meetings allowing state to state exchange of experiences and information; coordination of national conferences; single and multi-state technical assistance workshops; publications aimed at highlighting best practices or "what works"; proceedings of workshops and conferences; bulletins and briefs focused on specific programs or events; reports featuring analysis of special topics; an evaluation handbook series; monographs on effective programs; and the creation and implementation of a comprehensive BJA Evaluation Web Site containing an "Electronic Roadmap to Evaluation," a glossary, and resources.

This report highlights the accomplishments of the program carried out by JRSA under cooperative agreements with the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

## Publications

### Innovative State and Local Programs

*Violent Crime and Drug Abuse in Rural Areas: Issues, Concerns, and Programs.* September 1993.

*Understanding and Combating Violence: Materials and Analysis.* May 1994.

*State and Local Programs: Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Education.* June 1994.

*State and Local Programs: Understanding and Combating Violence.* July 1994.

*State and Local Programs: Preventing Drug Abuse and Violent Crime.* August 1994.

*State and Local Programs: Focus on What Works, Volume I.* September 1994.

*Innovative State and Local Programs: Volume II.* July 1995.

*Responding to Juvenile Drug Abuse and Violent Crime: Innovative State and Local Programs.* April 1995.

*Successful Collaborative Programs: Improving the Criminal Justice System.* May 1995.

*Focus on the Role of Courts in the Criminal Justice System: Innovative State and Local Programs.* May 1995.

*Youth, Drugs, and Violence.* June 1995.

*Innovative Courts Programs.* July 1995.

*Responding to Victim Services Needs: Selections from What Works Working Meetings.* January 1996. (This report was prepared for the Office for Victims of Crime.)

*Successful Native American Programs.* February 1996. (This report was prepared for the American Indian and Alaska Native Desk, Office of Justice Programs.)

*Revitalizing Communities: Innovative State and Local Programs, Monograph.* June 1997.

*Innovative Criminal Justice Programs: Programs in Correctional Settings.* February 1998. (This report was primarily developed as material for a workshop on "Using the Internet in

the Assessment of Corrections Programs” conducted at the *National Workshop on Assessing the Effectiveness of Corrections Programs* sponsored by the Corrections Program Office, Office of Justice Programs, February 10-12, 1998, in Chicago, Illinois.)

*Innovative Criminal Justice Programs: Treatment, Rehabilitation, and Prevention*. April 1998. (This report was primarily developed for the American Society of Addiction Medicine 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Medical-Scientific Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana, April 16-18, 1998.)

*Programs in Correctional Settings: Innovative State and Local Programs*. June 1998.

### **Assessment and Evaluation Handbook Series**

*Assessing the Effectiveness of Criminal Justice Programs*. Bureau of Justice Assistance Assessment and Evaluation Handbook Series Number 1. January 1994.

*Developing Performance Measures for Criminal Justice Programs*. Bureau of Justice Assistance Assessment and Evaluation Handbook Series Number 2. February 1994.

*Report Formatting: Issues of Content and Graphic Design*. Bureau of Justice Assistance Assessment and Evaluation Handbook Series Number 3. December 1994.

*Documenting the Extent and Nature of Drug and Violent Crime: Developing Jurisdiction-Specific Profiles of the Criminal Justice System*. Bureau of Justice Assistance Assessment and Evaluation Handbook Series Number 4. December 1994.

### **Monitoring and Reporting Publications on the Formula Grant Program**

*Analysis of 1986 Anti-Drug Abuse Act Annual Project Reports*. February 1993.

*Analysis of 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Act Annual Project Reports*. February 1993.

*Analysis of Annual Project Reports for the 1986 and 1988 Anti-Drug Abuse Acts*. October 1993.

*1993 State Annual Reports: An Assessment of State Documentation*. A matrix of summary information from the 1993 State Annual Reports. February 1994.

*1993 State Annual Reports: Executive Summaries.* A compilation of executive summaries from the 1993 State Annual Reports. February 1994.

*Domestic and Family Violence: Highlighted Programs from the State Annual Reports.* September 1994.

*Prosecutorial Response to Drug Abuse and Violent Crime: Highlighted Programs from the State Annual Reports.* November 1994.

*1994 State Annual Reports: Executive Summaries.* A compilation of executive summaries from the 1994 State Annual Reports. February 1995.

*Treatment and Rehabilitation: Highlighted Programs from the State Annual Reports.* July 1995.

*1995 State Annual Reports: Executive Summaries.* A compilation of executive summaries from the 1995 State Annual Reports. February 1996.

*1996 State Annual Reports: Executive Summaries.* A compilation of executive summaries from the 1996 State Annual Reports. April 1997.

*Impact Statements and Research and Evaluation Reports from the 1997 State Annual Reports, Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program.* A compilation of impact statements and a list of research and evaluation reports from the 1997 State Annual Reports. April 1998.

#### **Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation**

*1990 Evaluating Drug Control Initiatives,* June 20-22, 1990, Washington, DC: Conference proceedings. [Funded under a grant from the National Institute of Justice.]

*1998 Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: Viewing Crime and Justice in a Collaborative Perspective,* July 26-29, 1998. *Summary of BJA Sessions.* Prepared for the OJP Conference in Washington, DC.

*The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: Enhancing Policy and Practice,* July 18-21, 1999. *Summary of Featured and BJA-Sponsored Sessions and Workshops.* Prepared for the OJP Conference in Washington, DC.

## **National Consortium for Drug Strategy Impact Assessment**

*Drug Control and Use Surveys: A Potential Tool for Developing State Drug Control Strategies.* A Report of the Bureau of Justice Assistance National Consortium to Assess State Drug Control Initiatives. February 1990.

*The Consortium for Drug Strategy Impact Assessment: A State-Federal Partnership for Policy Analysis.* James "Chip" R. Coldren, Jr. and Allan Barnes. "Building Information Partnerships Conference Proceedings", National Governors' Association Center for Policy Research. May 1990.

*Drug Control and Use Surveys: Methodology and Implementation Strategies.* A Special Technical Assistance Report of the Bureau of Justice Assistance National Consortium to Assess State Drug Control Initiatives. September 1990.

*Multijurisdictional Drug Control Task Forces 1988-1990: Critical Components of State Drug Control Strategies.* A Report of the Bureau of Justice Assistance National Consortium to Assess State Drug Control Initiatives. April 1992.

*Multijurisdictional Drug Control Task Forces: A Five Year Review, 1988-1992.* October 1993.

## **Special Analysis Reports**

*Multijurisdictional Drug Enforcement Task Forces: Accomplishments Under the State and Local Formula Grant Program.* Bureau of Justice Assistance Special Analysis. June 1992.

*Demonstration Analyses: Felony Drug Offender Processing Data, State Crime Laboratory Data, County Drug Enforcement Data.* A Special Technical Assistance Report of the Bureau of Justice Assistance National Consortium to Assess State Drug Control Initiatives. July 1992.

*Bureau of Justice Assistance Inventory of Established and Demonstration Programs: A Program Briefing Report of the State Reporting and Evaluation Program.* September 1992. *A Report to the Attorney General, Multijurisdictional Task Forces Use of Overtime and Related Issues FY 1994.* February 1996.

*Assessing the Impact of Federal Assistance on State and Local Criminal Justice Systems.* A Report of the Symposium on the Impact of Federal Funding for Drug Abuse and Crime, Denver, Colorado, May 1999.

### **Focus on What Works Series**

*Law Enforcement Task Force Evaluation Projects: Results and Findings in the States.* Bureau of Justice Assistance Focus on What Works. April 1992.

### **Bureau of Justice Assistance Newsletters**

*BJA Brief.* A newsletter of the Bureau of Justice Assistance. Reports on BJA activities. January 1995.

### **Evaluation Desk Reference Manual Series**

*Volume 1: Orientation to Program Evaluation.* BJA Evaluation Desk Reference Manual Series. March 1999.

### **Guidelines and Criteria for Identifying Effective Programs**

*Multijurisdictional Task Forces: Ten Years of Research and Evaluation, A Report to the Attorney General by the Bureau of Justice Assistance.* September 1997.

*Improving the Nation's Criminal Justice System: Findings and Results from State and Local Program Evaluations,* Effective Programs Monograph No. 1. December 1997.

*Creating a New Justice System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Findings and Results from State and Local Program Evaluations,* Effective Programs Monograph No. 2. April 2000.

### **Model Evaluation Projects Grant Program**

*Improving the Capacity to Identify Effective Criminal Justice Programs: Guidelines and Criteria for the Nomination of Model Programs.* June 1996.

*Improving Efforts to Identify Effective Criminal Justice Programs,* Model Evaluation Program Initiative. June 1996.

*Model Evaluation Projects Grant Program, A competitive solicitation for BJA Formula Grant Planning Agencies.* 1996.

## Symposia, Regional Meetings, and Conferences

### State to State Exchange

*Symposium on the Use of Evaluation by State Planning Agencies*, Chicago, Illinois, August 1995.

*Regional Meeting of the Central States*, Madison, Wisconsin, November 1996.

*Regional Meeting of the Western States*, San Francisco, California, February 1997.

### State and Local Innovative Programs Workshop Series

*Violent Crime and Drug Abuse in Rural Areas: Issues, Concerns, and Programs*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 1993.

*Treatment, Rehabilitation and Education*, San Francisco, California, April 1994.

*Understanding and Combating Violence*, Seattle, Washington, May 1994.

*Preventing Violent Crime and Drug Abuse*, Chicago, Illinois, June 1994.

*Successful Collaborative Programs: Improving the Criminal Justice System*, Memphis, Tennessee, February 1995.

*Youth, Drugs and Violence*, Mesa, Arizona, April 1995.

*Innovative Courts Programs*, Portland, Oregon, May 1995.

*Revitalizing Communities*, Santa Fe, New Mexico, September 1995.

*Programs in Correctional Settings: Innovative State and Local Programs*, Longmont, Colorado, November 1995.

- Workshop publication developed primarily as preparatory material: *Responding to the Needs of the Correctional System, Innovative State and Local Programs*. October 1995.

## **Single State Development Projects on Assessment and Evaluation**

*Statewide Technical Assistance Workshop on Developing Assessment and Evaluation Designs for Family Violence Programs*, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 21-24, 1994.

*Technical Assistance Workshop on Criminal Justice Program Development and Evaluation for the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services*, Albany, New York, November 1995.

- Workshop publication developed primarily as preparatory material: *Focus on What Works: Documenting Innovative Programs in New York*. November 1995.

A special assessment and evaluation development project, entitled *Tribal Strategies Against Violence (TSAV) Program*, was conducted for two Indian tribes in Montana and South Dakota in May 1996. The tribes were the Fort Peck Tribe, Assiniboine and Sioux, and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

*Technical Assistance Workshop on Assessment and Evaluation of State and Local Programs*, Sacramento, California, May 1997.

- Workshop publication developed primarily as preparatory material: *Innovative Criminal Justice Programs in California, Focus on Effective Programs*. May 1997.

*Technical Assistance Workshop on Assessment and Evaluation of State and Local Programs*, Providence, Rhode Island, June 1997.

- Workshop publication developed primarily as preparatory material: *Innovative Criminal Justice Programs: Rhode Island, Focus on Effective Programs*. June 1997.

*Multijurisdictional Task Forces: Documenting Accomplishments*, San Francisco, California, January 1998.

## **Multi-State/Territory Focused Technical Assistance and Training Workshops**

*Pilot Technical Assistance Workshop on Developing Assessment and Evaluation Designs for State and Local Programs*, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 1994.

*Technical Assistance Workshop on Developing Assessment and Evaluation Designs for State and Local Programs: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, and Utah*; Missoula, Montana, April 1994.

*Multi-State Technical Assistance Workshop on Assessment and Evaluation of State and Local Programs: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma; St. Louis, Missouri, June 1997.*

- Workshop publication developed primarily as preparatory material: *Innovative Criminal Justice Programs: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Focus on Effective Programs.* June 1997.

*Benchmarking as a Link Between Strategies, Implementation & Evaluation: Hawaii, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); Honolulu, Hawaii, June 1997.*

*Best Practices in Assessing and Evaluating Task Forces, Denver, Colorado, November 1997.*

- Workshop publication developed primarily as preparatory material: *Innovative Criminal Justice Programs: Multijurisdictional Law Enforcement Task Forces. Focus on Best Practices.* November 1997.

*Defining Program Development and Evaluation Technical Assistance Needs for Native American Programs, San Francisco, California, April 1998. (Sponsored by BJA, the National Indian Justice Center, and JRSA.)*

### **Assessment and Evaluation Handbook Series Meetings**

*Understanding Crime and the Criminal Justice System: Roadmap for Evaluation, Annapolis, Maryland, March 1998.*

*Understanding Crime and the Criminal Justice System: BJA Evaluation Web Site and Desk Reference Manuals, Annapolis, Maryland, March 1999.*

*BJA Planning and Discussion Sessions, Washington, DC, July 18, 1999. (Reviewed and assessed findings and recommendations from the meetings in Annapolis in March and Denver in May 1999.)*

### **State and Local Participation**

*Central Branch States Regional Cluster Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, August 1992. (Staffed by SREP.)*

*New England Strategic Planning and Program Evaluation Workshop, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, August 1992. (Staffed by SREP.)*

*South Region State Strategic Planning, Reporting, and Evaluation Technical Assistance and Training Meeting*, Tampa, Florida, March 1993. (Staffed by SREP.)

*West Region State Strategic Planning, Reporting, and Evaluation Technical Assistance and Training Meeting*, Denver, Colorado, April 1993. (Staffed by SREP.)

*Central Region State Strategic Planning, Reporting, and Evaluation Technical Assistance and Training Meeting*, Madison, Wisconsin, May 1993. (Staffed by SREP.)

*East Region State Strategic Planning, Reporting, and Evaluation Technical Assistance and Training Meeting*, Saratoga Springs, New York, May 1993. (Staffed by SREP.)

*JRSA/BJS 1996 National Conference*, San Antonio, Texas, October 1996. (Staff and consultants conducted workshops on program evaluation methods for states and locals.)

*National League of Cities Annual Conference*, San Antonio, Texas, December 1996. (Staff and consultants conducted workshops on program evaluation methods for states and locals.)

*Evaluation Training for the Executive Office of Weed and Seed*, Washington, DC, December 1996. (The training was designed for Weed and Seed sites and focused on evaluation methods and tools for determining impact of Weed and Seed initiatives.)

*Symposium on the Impact of Federal Funding for Drug Abuse and Crime*, Denver, Colorado, May 1999.

### **Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation**

1995 *What To Do About Crime: The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation*, July 10-12, 1995, Washington, DC. Conducted workshops on evaluation and using surveys for criminal justice planning and participated in a roundtable discussion on state evaluation issues, held in conjunction with the conference, attended by representatives from NIJ, BJA, and other state planning agencies.

1996 *Building a Safer Society: The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation*, August 1996, Washington, DC. Assisted the National Planning Group with a workshop on evaluation methods and reports on research and evaluation findings.

1997 *Meeting the Challenges of Crime and Justice: The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation*, July 20-23, 1997, Washington, DC. Assisted BJA

with the coordination of evaluation workshops and roundtables and participated in conference sessions.

- 1998 *The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: Viewing Crime and Justice from a Collaborative Perspective*, July 26-29, 1998, Washington, DC. Staffed BJA-sponsored panels. Prepared a newsletter highlighting the panels. Demonstrated the BJA Evaluation Web Site.
- 1999 *The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: Enhancing Policy and Practice*, July 18-21, 1999, Washington, DC. Assisted BJA with planning for the conference that included using BJA-sponsored evaluations for panel development, attending BJA-sponsored panels/workshops and producing a newsletter about them, and coordinating conference roundtable discussion sessions.

### **BJA National Conference**

*Bureau of Justice Assistance Conference on State Drug Control Initiatives: Developing Programs and Evaluating Performance*, New Orleans, Louisiana, December 6-7, 1990.

- Conference publication (*Justice Assistance Bulletin*, a newsletter of the Bureau of Justice Assistance): A report of the *Bureau of Justice Assistance Conference on State Drug Control Initiatives: Developing Programs and Evaluating Performance*. January 1991.

*Bureau of Justice Assistance Second National Conference on Violent Crime and Drug Control Initiatives*, San Francisco, California, November 13-16, 1991.

- Conference publication (*Justice Assistance Bulletin*, a newsletter of the Bureau of Justice Assistance): A report of the *Bureau of Justice Assistance Second National Conference on Violent Crime and Drug Control Initiatives*. February 1992.

*State and Local Violent Crime and Drug Control Programs: Past Success and Future Direction Conference*, San Antonio, Texas, December 2-5, 1992. (JRSA coordinated the conference. Additionally, SREP staff demonstrated the Progress Reporting (PR) Analytical System and conducted workshops on surveys and the PR System.)

- Conference publication: *Bureau of Justice Assistance State and Local Violent Crime and Drug Control Programs: Past Successes and Future Direction, San Antonio, Texas, Conference Summary*. June 1993.

*State and Local Conference on Responding to Change and Meeting Future Needs*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 3-6, 1993.

- Conference publication: *Bureau of Justice Assistance State and Local Conference on Responding to Change and Meeting Future Needs, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Conference Summary.* March 1994.

*State and Local Conference on Violent Crime and Drug Abuse: Reinforcing Government and Community Partnerships, Jacksonville, Florida, December 7-9, 1994.*

- Conference publication: *Bureau of Justice Assistance State and Local Conference on Responding to Change and Meeting Future Needs, Jacksonville, Florida, Conference Summary.* March 1995.

*Today's Criminal Justice System. Approaching the Year 2000: The Changes, The Challenges, The Choices.* BJA National Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, November 29-December 1, 1995.

- Conference publication: *Ten Years of Innovation: Pioneering BJA Programs.* Atlanta, Georgia 1996.

### **Miscellaneous**

*Bureau of Justice Assistance National Consortium to Assess State Drug Control Initiatives, Mobile, Alabama, April 1992.*

*National Assessment of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 Working Group Meeting, Washington, DC, June 1993.*

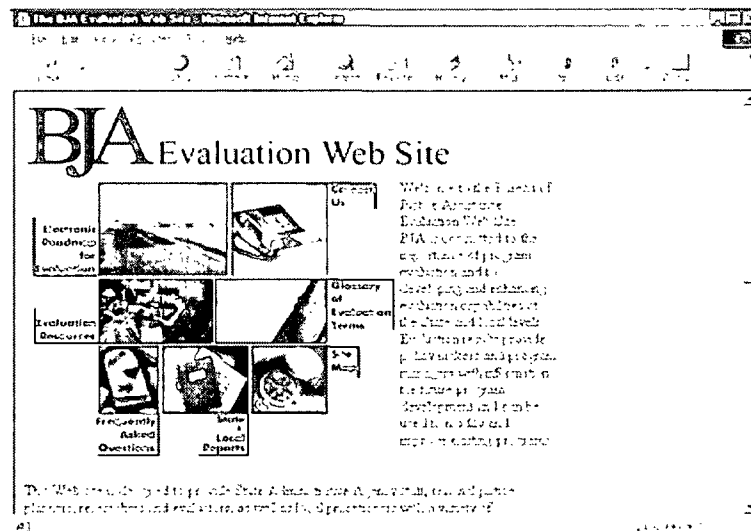
*Program Development Workshop: Plans, Projects and Products, Washington, DC, January 1994.*

JRSA National Computer Center Training, Washington, DC, March 1994.

## BJA Evaluation Web Site

Development of the BJA Evaluation Web Site began in 1997 as a new component of the project. The Web site, which became active in July 1998, is designed to provide State Administrative Agency staff, criminal justice planners, researchers and evaluators, as well as local practitioners with a variety of resources for evaluating criminal justice programs. The site includes:

- an *Electronic Roadmap for Evaluation*, which provides instructional materials to assist in planning, designing, and conducting evaluations of criminal justice programs;
- a *Glossary* of evaluation terminology;
- *Evaluation Resources*, which includes a bibliography of evaluation materials organized by specific evaluation topics;
- *Evaluation Reports* on assessment, evaluation, and research, as well as the State Annual Reports;
- *Useful Links* directs you to other evaluation sites and materials that will be useful to you as you develop and enhance your evaluation capabilities;
- a *Site Map* listing all destinations on the site; and
- *Contact Us*, which provides a way to contact BJA with questions about evaluation or comments about the Web site.



A. The BJA Evaluation Web Site was previewed at the following BJA-sponsored or regional meetings in 1998:

- Annapolis, Maryland—*Understanding Crime and the Criminal Justice System: Roadmap for Evaluation* (March)
- Savannah, Georgia—BJA Regional Meeting (April)
- Louisville, Kentucky—BJA Regional Meeting (May)
- Oakland, California—BJA Regional Meeting (June)

B. The BJA Evaluation Web Site formally went on line July 30, 1998.

C. Overview of the Web Site presented at the following meetings:

**1998:**

- Las Vegas, Nevada—National Criminal Justice Association 1998 Annual Membership Meeting (July)
- Washington, DC—*The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: Viewing Crime and Justice from a Collaborative Perspective* (July)
- Austin, Texas—BJA Regional Meeting (August)
- Providence, Rhode Island—BJA Regional Meeting (August)
- San Diego, California—Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Research and Statistics Association National Conference (September)

**1999:**

- Annapolis, Maryland—*Understanding Crime and the Criminal Justice System: BJA Evaluation Web Site and Desk Reference Manuals* (March)
- Washington, DC—The 1999 Bureau of Justice Assistance National Partnership Meeting, *Working Together for Peace and Justice in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (April)
- Washington, DC—The Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation: *Enhancing Policy and Practice* (July)
- Washington, DC—National Institute for Government Innovation, *Workshop on Measuring and Improving the Performance of Grants Programs* (October)
- Toronto, Ontario, Canada—Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology (November)
- Orlando, Florida—Annual Meeting of the American Evaluation Association (November)

- Harrisburg, Pennsylvania—Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Council on Crime and Delinquency (November)

**2000:**

- Gallaudet University, Washington, DC—National Institute for Government Innovation, *Workshop on Law Enforcement Outcomes Performance Measurement for Government Grants* (March)
- New Orleans, Louisiana—Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting (March)
- San Francisco CA—National Association of Drug Court Professionals Annual Conference (June)

- D. BJA Evaluation Web Site Bookmarks printed during 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 1999 and disseminated at meetings since that time to the present.
- E. BJA Evaluation Web Site mouse pads printed in 1999 and disseminated at several meetings prior to and including the National Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation conference in July.

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