



KNOWLEDGE TO  
MEET THE CHALLENGE OF  
CRIME AND JUSTICE

## National Institute of Justice

**Jeremy Travis**  
Director

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## Director's Message

The publication of this issue of the *NIJ Journal* happens to occur in the same month I conclude my tenure as director of NIJ. It's a happy coincidence because this issue of the *NIJ Journal* truly exemplifies the many ways NIJ fulfills its mission to help policymakers and practitioners.

The stories in this issue illustrate NIJ's commitment to disseminate research-based information to the field. Charles Wellford and James Cronin, for example, present findings from their study of homicide clearance rates and offer specific steps law enforcement agencies can take to increase the number of homicide cases they close. Laurence Steinberg discusses youth violence in the context of schools, families, and parenting. He reminds us that despite recent media attention of several horrific incidents, research shows us that schools are among the safest places for children. Nora Fitzgerald and Jack Riley, on the other hand, point out what we don't know—that research-based investigation revealed very little hard evidence about the prevalence and incidence of drug-facilitated rape. But based on what we do know, Gail Abarbanel was able to provide some practical guidance and recommendations for law enforcement and victim advocates.

The findings in this issue were made possible for the most part by using Federal dollars to apply the principles of scientific inquiry to investigate issues and solve problems. To enhance this aspect of NIJ's mission, the Department of Justice recently proposed to Congress that one percent of the Office of Justice Programs budget (which in fiscal year 2000 is \$4 billion) be set aside for research and development. Such a significant commitment would boost funding for criminal justice research and development closer to the levels found in many other national-level scientific endeavors. It would increase NIJ's ability to help State and local policymakers and practitioners develop programs and policies based on research.

As I leave and watch from a distance NIJ's progress, I will see the seeds that were planted during the past 6 years begin to bear fruit—especially in the areas of violence against women, technology development in general and DNA technology in particular, and in our understanding of policing organizations. With expanded resources and growing support from the fields of research and practice, I am confident that the findings from vigorous scientific inquiry can make an even greater contribution to producing safe and just communities.

**Jeremy Travis**  
Director