Detailing the State of Knowledge on Crime and Justice

This summer NIJ will release four volumes detailing the current state of knowledge concerning crime, social control, and the means society uses to suppress prohibited behavior. The volumes, which were commissioned by NIJ, will be released at the Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation, July 16–19, 2000, in Washington, D.C.

Below is a list of each volume’s essays, including the volume title and essays’ authors.

Volume 1: The Nature of Crime: Continuity and Change

Describes how changes and continuities in the social, cultural, economic, and physical fabric of society are linked to crime and crime policy.

- “The Changing Nature of Crime in America,” by Gary LaFree, University of Maryland, College Park; Robert J. Bursik, Sr., University of Missouri, St. Louis; James Short, Washington State University; and Ralph B. Taylor, Temple University.
- “Change and Continuity of Crime in Rural America,” by Ralph A. Weisheit, Illinois State University, and Joseph F. Donnermeyer, Ohio State University.
- “Dynamics of the Drug-Crime Relationship,” by Helene Raskin White, Rutgers State University, and D.M. Gorman, Texas A&M University.

Volume 2: Boundary Changes in Criminal Justice Organizations

Describes the fundamental changes in criminal justice agencies, their policies, and their interrelationships.

- “A Century of Changing Boundaries,” by Charles M. Friel, Sam Houston State University.
- “The Internationalization of Criminal Justice,” by Richard H. Ward, Sam Houston State University.
- “Brick by Brick: Dismantling the Border Between Juvenile and Adult Justice,” by Jeffrey A. Butts and Ojmarrh Mitchell, The Urban Institute.
- “The Changing Boundaries Between Federal and Local Law Enforcement,” by Daniel C. Richman, Fordham University, School of Law.

Volume 3: Policies, Processes, and Decisions of the Criminal Justice System

Describes the changes in discretion and decisionmaking resulting from changes occurring within and among criminal justice agencies.

- “Policies, Processes, and Decisions of the Criminal Justice System,” by Julie Horney, University of Nebraska.
- “Prison Use and Social Control,” by James P. Lynch, American University.
New Book Highlights Crime Mapping Technologies and Analysis

Law enforcement agencies are increasingly realizing the benefits of using geographic information systems (GIS) to analyze local crime trends. With GIS, they can identify locations of crime concentrations and see how they relate to other characteristics of the physical and social environment. The development of more effective crime control and prevention strategies are thereby supported.

Using the New York Police Department’s (NYPD’s) crime data as a test bed, Analyzing Crime Patterns: Frontiers of Practice draws on the experiences of 12 experts to outline the techniques involved in spatial analysis; examine how the use of mapping can help to define, understand, and predict crime “hot spots”; and explain the applications of available GIS software packages. The book provides a basic overview of crime mapping analytic techniques, both for law enforcement agencies new to such methods as well as for those agencies interested in exploring more advanced applications.

Specific topics in Analyzing Crime Patterns include:
- An assessment of various analytic methods and software tools employed in crime mapping.
- The ways in which mapping supports the COMPSTAT process.
- The use of repeat address mapping to identify hot spots.
- Data analysis using SpaceStat, a spatial statistics software program.
- Kernel smoothing estimation as a method for identifying hot spots.
- The spatial relationship among schools, rapid transit stations, and public housing and crime.

The genesis for this book stems from an NIJ-funded Locally Initiated Research Partnership grant, which partnered the Center for Urban Research, the City University of New York’s Center for Applied Studies of the Environment, and the NYPD to examine the different mapping techniques and software available to support the NYPD’s COMPSTAT program. This partnership formed the basis for Analyzing Crime Patterns.

Volume 4: Measurement and Analysis of Crime and Justice
Describes current knowledge, trends, and future directions in the measurement and analysis of crime and the criminal justice system.

- “Measurement and Analysis of Crime and Justice: An Introductory Essay,” by David Duffee and David McDowall, University at Albany; Lorraine Green Mazerolle, University of Cincinnati; and Stephen D. Mastrofski, George Mason University.


- “Measurement and Explanation in the Comparative Study of American Police Organizations,” by Edward R. Maguire, University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Craig D. Uchida, 21st Century Solutions.


- “Standards and Measures of Court Performance,” by Ingo Keilitz, Sherwood Consulting.


- “Spatial Analyses of Crime,” by Luc Anselin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Jacqueline Cohen, Carnegie Mellon University; David Cook, Greensboro Police Department; George Tita, The Rand Corporation; and Wilpen Gorr, Carnegie Mellon University.

- “Theory, Method, and Data in Comparative Criminology,” by Gregory J. Howard, Western Michigan University; Graeme Newman, University at Albany; and William Alex Pridemore, University of Oklahoma.

Copies of each volume will be available at the Annual Conference on Criminal Justice Research and Evaluation. Information about ordering copies is forthcoming. To register for the conference, visit NIJ’s Professional Conference Series Web site at http://www.nijpcs.org/upcoming.htm, or contact the Institute for Law and Justice at 703–684–5300 or nijpcs@ilj.org.

New & Noteworthy

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The NIJ Journal is published quarterly. Each issue contains several feature stories, as well as brief summaries of NIJ activities.

The articles discuss a wide range of criminal justice policy issues and concerns and are geared to the busy decisionmaker, policymaker, researcher, practitioner, and community leader.

The NIJ Journal focuses on the practical applications of research findings rather than the more technical or scholarly methodology.

Recent NIJ Journal features include:

- Peter Reuter on drug use measures and what they tell us
- Christopher Stone on race, crime, and the administration of justice
- Peter Finn on putting exoffenders back to work
- Jan Chaiken on crime and incarceration at the end of the millennium
- Jan van Dijk and Kristiina Kangaspunta on comparing crime across countries...and other articles about police officer stress, a new way to detect interpersonal violence, how insects are being used as investigative tools, and using telemedicine in prisons.

Like all NIJ publications, the NIJ Journal is available online. Visit us at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/journals.
Thinking About the Economy, Mexican Immigrants, and Crime and Justice

Every year, December through May, NIJ brings prominent thinkers to Capitol Hill for the Perspectives on Crime and Justice Lecture Series. The lectures, which are free, always provoke considerable thought and discussion. In February and March, policymakers and practitioners learned about the impact of the economy on crime and about the criminal behavior of Mexican immigrants.

Does the booming economy help explain the fall in crime? In the 1990’s, unemployment in the United States fell by approximately 3 percent and real wages rose modestly, while income inequality roughly stabilized. Were these changes enough to have affected crime in a substantial way? The short answer, according to Harvard economist Richard Freeman, is: “Yes, but the evidence is not unequivocal.”

At the February NIJ Perspectives lecture, Freeman discussed the relationship between falling crime rates and rising wages and full employment. He presented data showing trends in crime, victimization, employment, and wages and explained how potentially confounding factors—such as cultural mores, policing practices, and changes in the drug trade—appear also to play important roles in the explanation of falling crime rates.

He discussed the theoretical and empirical issues that introduce uncertainty about his conclusion, but noted that the preponderance of studies support the claim that the booming economy has indeed helped reduce crime.

Criminal behavior of Mexican immigrants. Despite media depictions of Mexican immigrants and crime, research shows that Mexican-born immigrants have lower offending rates, use or abuse drugs less frequently, and are less likely to carry a weapon than U.S.-born Mexican-Americans.

At the March Perspectives lecture on Capitol Hill, these findings and their policy implications were discussed by William A. Vega, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry at the Robert Wood Johnson Medical School—University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. Vega’s findings are based on an epidemiological survey of 4,000 Mexican immigrants and Mexican-Americans living in urban and rural sections of Central California. The study was supported by the National Institute of Mental Health and National Institute on Drug Abuse.

The next Perspectives lecture, on May 5, will feature Heather Weiss, director of the Harvard Family Research Project. Her topic is “Reinventing Evaluation to Build High-Performance Child and Family Interventions.”

Papers by Richard Freeman and William Vega will be included in the next edition of the Perspectives lecture collected papers. Previous volumes feature lectures by Randall Kennedy, Joan Petersilia, Cathy Spatz Widom, James Q. Wilson, and others.

The three volumes are available instantly at the NIJ Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij or via mail from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service at 1–800–851–3420.


For more information about the Perspectives lectures, visit NIJ’s Professional Conference Series at http://www.nijpcs.org and click on “Past Conference Materials” or contact the Institute for Law and Justice (ILJ) at 703–684–5300, e-mail: nijpcs@ilj.org.
Nine States to Initiate Reentry Court Program

Attorney General Janet Reno in February announced a new initiative to establish reentry courts.

The reentry courts program will assist nine States in the development and implementation of special courts that employ judicial authority to more closely track recently released offenders and offer vital assistance for offenders’ smooth reintegration into society.

The program will be implemented by the States with technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP). Although each jurisdiction will modify the program to fit State and local needs, the following six key elements will be incorporated into all nine programs:

- Offender assessment and planning, which will bring together all involved judicial parties (such as the judge and parole or probation officer) to discuss the program with the offender and determine his or her specific needs after release.
- Active oversight of offenders, which requires regular judicial review.
- Community accountability, which entails the establishment of local initiatives to hold released offenders responsible to both victims and the community.
- Predetermined sanctions, which can be employed quickly and universally, for release restriction violations.
- Access to support programs for issues such as drug abuse, job training, employment, housing, and community service.
- Positive reinforcement from the judicial system for following the release restrictions.

The nine State jurisdictions competed to participate in the new reentry court initiative, though there is no government funding for the program. OJP will assist the States in using existing Federal, State, and local resources to help fund the initiative. In addition, President Clinton has requested an additional $60 million for OJP’s fiscal year 2001 budget to expand reentry initiatives, including $10 million for reentry courts. The $60 million OJP request will be combined with the President’s request for $75 million for the Department of Labor to help with the necessary job-related programs and $10 million for the Department of Health and Human Services to expand drug abuse and mental health programs for offenders participating in the reentry program.

The nine participating jurisdictions are Broward County, Florida Drug Court; State of Delaware, Superior Court; El Paso County, Colorado, Pikes Peak Mental Health Association; State of Iowa, Department of Corrections; State of Kentucky, Administrative Office of the Courts; State of New York, Division of Parole; Richland County, Ohio, Adult Probation Department; San Francisco County, California, Sheriff’s Office; and State of West Virginia, Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety.

For more information on the initiative, contact Liz Pearson in OJP’s Office of Congressional and Public Affairs, 202-616-7510, pearson@ojp.usdoj.gov. Information also is forthcoming on the OJP Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov.

Developing More Effective Strategies to Stop Drug Markets

Despite consistent increases in law enforcement expenditures, domestic drug distribution continues to plague America’s cities, suburbs, and rural areas.

In February 2000, NIJ brought together a group of highly recognized scholars and practitioners for a day and a half to discuss domestic drug markets and reexamine law enforcement strategies to intervene in those markets. Those discussions will help to shape a research agenda that better supports local, State, and Federal drug-related law enforcement efforts.

Participants explored the following topics:

- Identification and measurement of drug markets.
- Dynamics of drug markets at the community level.
- NIJ research on drug markets: ADAM and other data.
- Consequences of controlling drug markets.
- Effectiveness of current drug enforcement strategies.
- Reevaluation of law enforcement goals and strategies.
- Current Federal and local partnerships.
- The next generation of research and demonstration.

The moderator was Michael E. Smith, professor, University of Wisconsin Law School; the keynote speaker was Thomas Carr, director of the Washington/Baltimore High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

The papers and discussions will guide NIJ’s agenda and serve as a focal point for researchers and law enforcement professionals as they work together to design more effective drug market intervention strategies for the next 5 to 10 years.

For more information, contact Brett Chapman, 202–514–2187, chapmanb@ojp.usdoj.gov.
Solicitations & Awards

Forecast for 2000–2001

NIJ funding opportunities are announced regularly on NIJ’s Web site at http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij and throughout the year in the Federal Register and Commerce Business Daily. Information about solicitations also is available from the Department of Justice Response Center at 800–421–6770, or 202–307–1480 from the Washington, D.C., area. Interested applicants may find it helpful to consult Building Knowledge About Crime and Justice: the 2000 Research Prospectus of the National Institute of Justice, which is available on NIJ’s Web site.

Below is a listing of a few of the upcoming solicitations for fiscal year 2000 and 2001. This list is not complete. Visit NIJ’s Web page for updates (http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij).

- **Evaluation of Comprehensive Indian Resources for Community and Law Enforcement (CIRCLE) Project**
  - The CIRCLE Project is a 3-year Federal initiative designed to empower American Indian communities to more effectively fight crime, violence, and substance abuse. In collaboration with the Office of Community Policing Services and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NIJ is supporting the national evaluation of the CIRCLE project. The project is planned to fund one award for a 4-year effort to examine the development, implementation, and outcomes of the CIRCLE Project. The first phase will be funded for 18 months.
  - **Award Amount:** $300,000
  - **Applications Due:** Anticipated June 2000

- **School Safety Research and Evaluation**
  - In cooperation with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, NIJ is supporting this solicitation to request research and evaluation projects on aspects of school safety and school violence, especially the role of law enforcement and security in school settings.
  - **Award Amount:** $1,000,000
  - **Applications Due:** Anticipated June 2000

- **Training Simulation Technologies for Law Enforcement and School Safety Officers**
  - This solicitation will support the development and demonstration of training and simulation technologies that can be used by law enforcement and school safety officers to help keep schools safe.
  - **Award Amount:** $500,000
  - **Applications Due:** Anticipated late summer 2000

- **Forensic DNA Research & Development**
  - Forensic DNA is heralded as the most powerful and discriminating method of identifying the source of biological evidence available to the criminal justice system. Forensic DNA testing has evolved both in the technologies it uses and in its protocols to promote reliability and courtroom admissibility. This solicitation strives to continue this evolution by supporting all areas of research and development that enhance or increase the capacity, capability, applicability, and/or reliability of DNA for forensic uses.
  - **Award Amount:** Approximately $2 million
  - **Applications Due:** Anticipated end of June

- **Evaluation of the Domestic Violence Victims’ Civil Legal Assistance Program**
  - NIJ, in collaboration with the Office of Justice Programs’ Violence Against Women Grants Office (VAWGO), is soliciting proposals for a national evaluation of the Civil Legal Assistance Program.
  - **Award Amount:** Grants and cooperative agreements are usually limited to a maximum period of 12 to 36 months. NIJ anticipates supporting one grant under this solicitation of up to $800,000.
  - **Applications Due:** Anticipated summer 2000

- **National Evaluation of Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campuses**
  - The first national evaluation of the Grants to Combat Violent Crimes Against Women on Campuses is planned to fund one award to examine the impact of Federal funding on encouraging institutions of higher education to adopt comprehensive, coordinated responses to violence against women, including sexual assault, stalking, and domestic violence. In addition to assessing the impact of this program, the evaluation should provide an overview of the types of policies, protocols, and coordinated responses campuses have developed to address violence against women, victim services, victim safety, and offender accountability.
  - **Award Amount:** $800,000.
  - **Applications Due:** Anticipated summer 2000
Graduate Research Fellowships
NIJ’s Graduate Research Fellowship Program provides dissertation research support to outstanding doctoral students undertaking independent research on issues in crime and justice. Students from any academic discipline are encouraged to apply. NIJ encourages diversity in approaches and perspectives in its research programs. It awards these fellowships to expand the pool of research talent by attracting doctoral students who can contribute critical and innovative thinking to pressing justice problems.

Award Amount: A $15,000 stipend will be awarded to successful applicants for costs associated with the doctoral dissertation. It is anticipated that up to 15 awards will be made annually.

Applications Due: September 15, 2000; January 2001

Data Resources Program: Analysis of Existing Data
NIJ is seeking applicants to conduct original research using data from the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data, especially data from previously funded NIJ projects.

Award Amount: Awards of up to $35,000 will be made to support research to be conducted within a 9-month period. Indirect charges for these awards will be limited to 20 percent of direct costs.

Applications Due: September 2000; January and May 2001

2001 Solicitation for Investigator-Initiated Research
Under NIJ’s investigator-initiated program, applicants may submit proposals to explore a wide range of research and evaluation topics relevant to criminal justice policy or practice, supporting NIJ’s broad portfolio of both basic and applied studies.

Award Amount: Awards are usually 1- to 2-year grants ranging between $25,000 and $300,000. Proposals seeking funding of less than $50,000 are considered “small grants,” which are available for the same research areas appropriate for larger grants.

Applications Due: Anticipated winter 2001

Crime Mapping Research Center Fellowship Program
The Crime Mapping Research Center’s Visiting Fellowship Program offers research opportunities to geographers, geographic information system specialists, criminologists, and others who are interested in the criminal justice applications of mapping. Visiting Fellows study mapping topics while in residence at NIJ for 6 to 18 months. The Crime Mapping Research Center seeks candidates with extensive experience in criminal justice, geography, and GIS technology.

Award Amounts: Funding allocations for this program are based on the quality of the proposals received and the extent to which they are related to ongoing research, evaluation, or science and technology priorities.

Applications Due: No deadline; open for 2000

Visiting Research Fellowships
The NIJ Visiting Fellowship Program supports research and development on high-priority topics that enhance the capabilities of criminal justice systems to combat crime, violence, and substance abuse. The Visiting Fellowship Program offers criminal justice professionals and researchers an opportunity to undertake independent research on criminal justice issues relevant to NIJ and public policy. Through the program, Fellows may investigate new approaches for resolving operational problems and become involved in NIJ’s criminal justice research national program.

Award Amounts: Funding allocations for this program are based on the quality of the proposals received and the extent to which they are related to ongoing research, evaluation, or science and technology priorities.

Applications Due: No deadline; open for 2000. (The start date for new Fellows is no earlier than January 2001)