



**NIJ**

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

**2008**

2009

NIJ ANNUAL REPORT

**U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs**

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Washington, DC 20531

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NCJ 227725

To the President, the Attorney General  
and Congress:

It is my honor to transmit the National Institute of  
Justice's annual report for fiscal year 2008, pursu-  
ant to Title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe  
Streets Act of 1968 and Title II of the Homeland  
Security Act of 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Rose", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristina Rose  
Acting Director, National Institute of Justice



The National Institute of Justice is the only federal agency devoted solely to bringing the benefits of scientific research and technology development to the nation's criminal justice system.

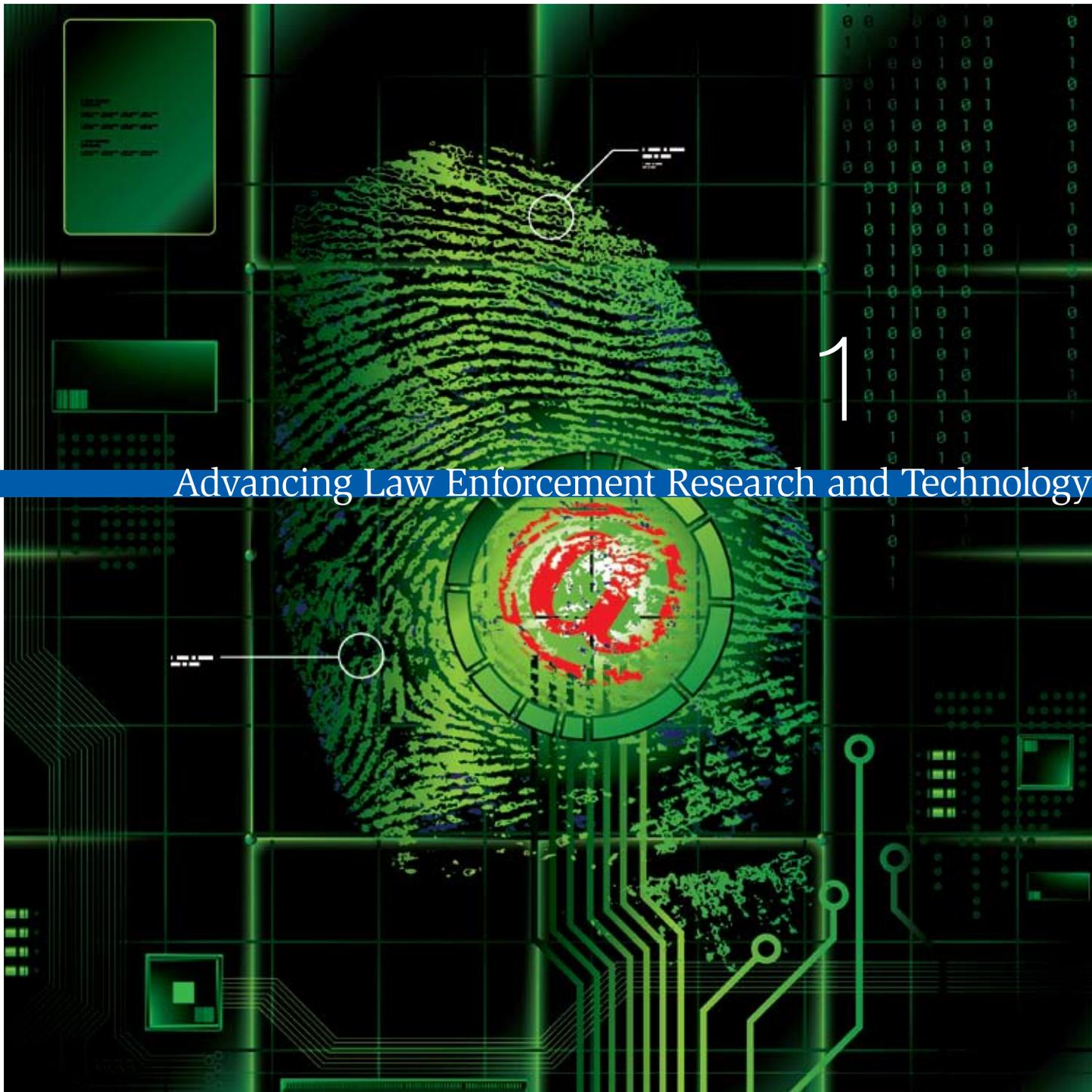
NIJ is the research, development and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. It helps criminal justice practitioners perform better on the job by assessing new technologies and programs, facilitating the adoption of innovations, and conducting research to learn what works and what does not work. NIJ applies a rigorous scientific approach to its endeavors. Researchers harness the power of science to make the American justice system more effective and equitable. Projects range from providing funds to measure the extent and describe the nature of emerging crimes (such as identity theft) to using modern DNA techniques to free wrongfully convicted prisoners and apply evidence-based principles to reducing violence. The Institute works closely with law enforcement organizations, corrections officials, courts, crime laboratories, and other criminal justice and allied organizations.



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# Advancing Law Enforcement Research and Technology

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Law enforcement is a labor-intensive enterprise through which people and technology converge in unique ways. NIJ's work ranges from examining the human side of running a police department to developing sophisticated technologies to combat crime.

In 2008 NIJ funded a variety of law enforcement research endeavors, including a study to gain insights into the day-to-day lives of new police recruits and projects to adapt new technologies for law enforcement use.

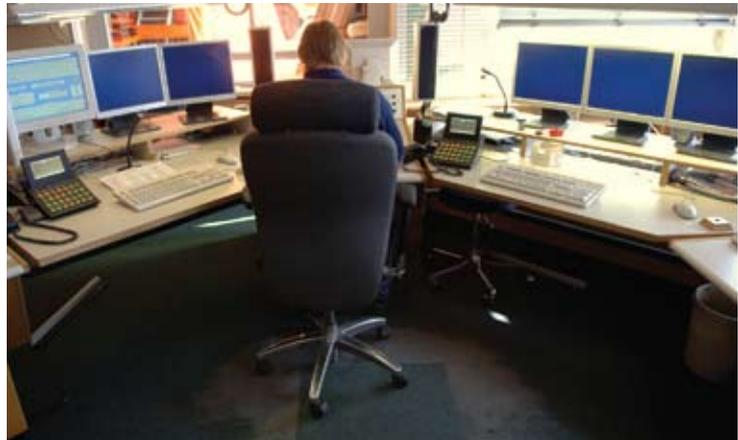
## Location Technology May Help Keep Police Officers Safer

Police officers often leave their vehicles to help people, investigate crimes or chase suspects. Many portable police radios are equipped with emergency buttons officers can push to signal for help while on foot. The current technology provides some information to the dispatcher, such as identifying the radio unit and police officer, but does not provide the officer's location. As a result, officers must communicate their location by voice, even in emergencies.

In August 2003, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department lost Deputy Stephen D. Sorenson, who was shot, dragged behind a vehicle and left to die in a remote area of the county. Several law enforcement agencies searched for hours before finding his body. This tragic incident prompted the department to seek technology that would provide better information about officers' locations.

NIJ is working with the department to begin testing and evaluating new technology that combines a global positioning system with existing commer-

cial cellular systems. The project involves a limited number of police districts in Los Angeles County. Evaluators will first test the technology to ensure it meets requirements and safety standards set by the department. Then the evaluators will focus on response time data to assess whether the technology reduces the time it takes to find a deputy who makes an emergency call for help. NIJ will share the results of the evaluation with other law enforcement agencies interested in using location technology.



## Study Will Examine Effects of Sept. 11 Terrorist Attacks on Police Departments

Many police departments across the country have made major organizational changes since Sept. 11. Local law enforcement agencies have shifted priorities, budgets and people as these agencies take on new counterterrorism and homeland security responsibilities. Law enforcement also must continue to provide traditional police services.

To assess how these additional responsibilities are affecting law enforcement agencies, NIJ is funding a study of five representative police departments. The study will examine the overall approaches departments took in making changes and how these efforts changed over time. Researchers will gather information about how these changes affected such areas as training, equipment, and recruiting and retaining police officers. Researchers also will determine whether the changes have affected local crime rates. Additionally, the study will examine how much money from law enforcement budgets has been redirected to new activities and what the costs and benefits of the changes have been.



## AmberView System for Finding Missing Children Has First Success

A photographic system that helps communities quickly find missing children scored its first success when it helped find a missing 14-year-old girl in Clarksburg, W.Va.

Law enforcement officials have found that in the first hours after a child disappears, distraught parents often have trouble quickly finding recent photographs of their children. To ease this burden, NIJ sponsored development of the AmberView system, which is now running in 54 of West Virginia's 55 counties. Officials encourage parents to voluntarily enroll their children in the program through the public school system. Children's photographs, taken on school picture day, are stored in a secure database kept by the West Virginia State Police. If a child disappears, the state's Amber Alert coordinator can send digital images of the child to police computers and cell phones within minutes. Photos are also delivered to news organizations and members of the public who have signed up to receive the alerts.

AmberView is now available across the country. Public school students comprise most of the participants, but children in private schools, those being home schooled and even younger children in day care centers can enroll in the program. Covington, Va., schools are currently testing the program, which was pioneered by the West Virginia High Technology Consortium Foundation and NIJ.

Interested law enforcement agencies and school systems can learn more at <http://www.amberview.org>.



## NIJ Launches Publication About Geography and Crime Mapping

Large police departments (and many smaller departments) now use sophisticated computer programs to analyze crime trends, identify geographic “hot spots” where crime rates are high or increasing, and readjust staffing levels to deploy police officers accordingly. To help these departments stay on the cutting edge, NIJ teamed up with the Department of Justice’s Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to start a quarterly bulletin titled *Geography & Public*

*Safety*. The new publication covers such topics as hot spots, traffic safety and the impact of rising mortgage foreclosures on crime rates. Police

departments can subscribe to print or electronic versions of the publication free of charge.



Meanwhile, NIJ has developed a new training program for its CrimeStat III computer program. CrimeStat is a spatial statistics program that helps police departments analyze crime incident locations. The software and the associated training program are available free to police departments.

More information about NIJ’s crime mapping program is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/maps/welcome.htm>.

CrimeStat is available at <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD/crimestat.html>.

## NIJ Launches Long-Term Study of Police Officers and Departments

Police chiefs and other police executives often tell NIJ they need to know more about what makes a good police officer. What education, training and experiences help a recruit become an effective officer? What can police departments do to ensure a rookie does not become a mediocre or ineffective officer? In a similar vein, what makes a good police organization, and which law enforcement programs and policies are most effective? Although police executives have many ideas and hunches based on their experiences, they want to know definitively what works best and what does not work.

To begin answering these questions, NIJ awarded a major grant to a consortium of researchers conducting a longitudinal study on three key areas: police officers, including new officers and new supervisors; police organizations and their life course; and testing methods of introducing innovation in police departments. The study will include large and small departments. The project team will conduct extensive surveys of new officers and supervisors before they begin training, immediately



following training, and at six and 18 months after completing training. Information from superiors, subordinates and official department records will supplement the survey data.

A second part of the study will examine police departments to learn what factors influence how well law enforcement agencies perform. For example, researchers will look at leadership styles, organizational culture and accountability standards. A third part of the study will evaluate how successful police departments are at introducing innovative changes into their programs.

## Medical Panel Reviews Conducted Energy Device Use

Conducted energy devices give police a less-lethal alternative to firearms, but these devices are not risk free. NIJ convened an expert panel of medical professionals to evaluate the risk of death or serious injury from the direct effects of Tasers and other CEDs. The panel's interim report found the risk of death or serious injury is low when

police use CEDs against healthy adults, but certain groups of people may have much higher risk. These groups include children, the elderly, pregnant women and people who have heart disease. Therefore, police officers should avoid using CEDs against these populations. The panel also found that people in a highly agitated state, sometimes called "excited delirium," may have a high risk of death whether or not they are shocked by a CED, so such situations should be treated as medical emergencies.



The panel's interim report found that many deaths following CED exposure are associated with continuous or repeated discharge of the CED. As a result, the panel recommended that police officers exercise caution in using multiple activations because the risks are unknown. A final report is pending.

## Harvard Executive Session on Policing

NIJ's Executive Session on Policing and Public Safety at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University brings together some of the nation's preeminent police executives and scholars to examine the most pressing issues facing law enforcement today. In 1985 a similar NIJ-Harvard executive session laid the foundation for the successful community policing movement throughout the country. Topics at the current executive session include the impact of terrorism on police work, evidence-based policing, relationships with minority communities and the unique role of detectives in police departments. The session gives NIJ valuable insights from police chiefs



and researchers that will help shape the Institute's research agenda. A series of papers will be published throughout the life of the session.

## Helping Police Officers Exchange Driver's License Photos

Police often need to confirm the identity of people who are not carrying a driver's license or other identification. Individuals may offer a name and birth date to an officer, who can then access basic information, including whether the person has a valid driver's license from any state in the union. However, without a photograph, police do not know if the person is being truthful. For example, a fugitive stopped for a traffic violation could offer the name and birth date of a family member who has an out-of-state driver's license and a clean record.

To overcome this obstacle, NIJ teamed up with law enforcement agencies in four states for a pilot

project that transmits driver's license photographs to an officer's computer across state lines within seconds of a request. The project, which includes North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina and Virginia, is the first significant advance in exchanging driver's license information since 1969, when states began making nonphotographic information accessible to police officers. This information typically includes an address, birth date, height, weight and ethnicity. Adding photos increases an officer's ability to make a positive identification and helps keep officers safe. Recent technical advances, including the development of XML, a computer programming language that eases the exchange of information on the Internet, have helped to make the exchange of photos possible.

NIJ and the Department of Homeland Security's Directorate for Science and Technology funded the pilot project. The International Justice & Public Safety Network, commonly known as Nlets, coordinates the image-sharing system. More information about Nlets and its communications programs is available at <http://www.nlets.org>.



## Missing Persons Web Site Opens to the Public

Thousands of people in the United States vanish under suspicious circumstances every year. In 2008 NIJ completed a major component of the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System: a searchable database of missing persons cases. This new database joined the existing database of unidentified dead reported by medical examiners and coroners, both of which are open to public searching at <http://www.namus.gov>.

Namus is unique because members of the public can search its content and use it to report a new missing persons case. In 2009 NIJ will join the two sites to allow for simultaneous database searches.

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NamUs National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

Home About NamUs Contacts

**Missing Persons**

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is the first national repository for missing persons and unidentified decedent records. Unidentified decedents are people who have died and whose bodies have not been identified.

**Unidentified Decedents**

NamUs consists of two databases that anyone can search. The Justice Department hopes that law enforcement officials and the public will use the databases to share information to solve cases.

**Missing Persons Database**

The **Missing Persons Database** contains information that can be entered by anyone. Before a missing persons case will appear on this web site, however, it will be validated. The site also provides links to state clearinghouses, medical examiners and coroners, victim assistance groups and pertinent legislation.

**Unidentified Decedents Database**

The **Unidentified Decedents Database** contains information entered by medical examiners and coroners. Anyone can search the database using characteristics such as sex, race, distinct body features and dental information.

In 2009, the two databases will be linked. Families, law enforcement agencies, medical examiners and coroners, victim advocates, and the general public will be able to search for matches between missing persons and unidentified decedent records.

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Advancing Corrections Research and Technology

NIJ's corrections work in 2008 has helped improve safety in prisons and jails and evaluate ways to make parole systems more effective. As the nation searches for ways to



reduce prison costs, NIJ research highlights safe, effective alternatives to incarceration.



## Advances in Technology Improve Safety of Prisons and Jails

To help corrections officials detect contraband and run safer facilities, NIJ is sponsoring several research projects and pilot programs to test an array of technologies. Scanning and detection devices can help spot forbidden items, such as cell phones and knives, and other devices can track prisoner and staff movements using radio waves.

One pilot program used a millimeter-wave imaging system to scan visitors at the Graterford State Correctional Institution, a maximum-security prison that houses about 3,100 inmates outside Philadelphia. The imaging system, called SafeView, can detect weapons, cell phones and other metallic and nonmetallic objects hidden under clothing. The Transportation Security Administration currently uses the system to scan passengers at airports. As a person steps into a portal, or booth, SafeView uses radio energy to scan for contraband.

The Graterford SafeView system completed between 400 and 600 scans in a typical week, and each scan took only seconds. SafeView's



manufacturer made the system available for free, and NIJ coordinated the pilot project. Overall, the system improved corrections officials' ability to intercept contraband at Graterford.

Corrections officials also need inexpensive, handheld devices that scan for contraband. NIJ is sponsoring development of a handheld device that can detect everything from cell phones to Plexiglas. Many correctional institutions have

good metal detection systems, but they face challenges in detecting nonmetallic objects, such as improvised weapons made of wood or hard plastics.

NIJ awarded a grant to Luna Innovations Inc., of Virginia to develop a new device that could spot contraband items made of any material. The Weapons and Non-permitted Devices Detector, or WANDD, scans individuals for contraband hidden under their clothing, including metallic and nonmetallic items. The device uses sound waves to detect objects in a manner similar to sonar. Engineers tested the prototype at the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail and found that WANDD works well with various clothing fabrics, including standard jumpsuits. The WANDD prototype detected such objects as cell phones, plastic knives, guns and credit cards.

Corrections officials are also experimenting with radio frequency identification technology, which uses small transponders called “tags” to track movement. Some correctional institutions have used RFID to provide information on prisoner movements. NIJ is working with RAND Corp. and the District of Columbia Department of Corrections to assess the effectiveness of an

RFID system for D.C. jails. The study will determine how well the system can detect potentially volatile situations and prevent violence. The evaluation will offer an objective view of RFID systems in correctional settings. The project also involves a nationwide survey of correctional institutions to learn how many use RFID technology.

In a similar effort, NIJ has teamed up with the Florida Department of Corrections to test a computerized system that predicts potential trouble spots within prisons. The Correctional Operational Trend Analysis System uses historical information and computerized number crunching to give supervisors a reading of the “climate” of a facility or part of a facility, right down to individual cells. COTAS uses information about prisoners, such as age, gang membership, escape attempts, violent incidents, and medical and psychological conditions, to predict trouble spots.

The Florida Department of Corrections developed the computerized system, and NIJ provided funding to test and expand its use. COTAS is currently available to administrators in Florida’s 137 correctional facilities and, if proven effective, will become available to correctional institutions outside Florida in 2010.

## Study of California Parole System Suggests New Efficiencies

California, like many other states, has high levels of parole violations and revocations, and this costly situation contributes to prison overcrowding. To determine the extent of the problem, an NIJ-sponsored study tracked every adult on parole in California for two years, examining parole violations and revocations. The project was the largest, most comprehensive and rigorous study of parole violations and revocations ever conducted.

Based on the study's findings, researchers developed various recommendations that could potentially reduce costs and make the parole system more efficient. The recommendations included concentrating supervision during the critical first six months of parole; expanding the use of early and earned parole discharge; and expanding mental health and substance abuse services for parolees. State officials are considering ways to implement the recommendations as they search for options to reduce criminal justice costs.

Although California's parole system is unique in some ways, the results from the study are useful for corrections officials in other states as well. The study is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/224521.pdf>.



## Progress on Prison Rape

*Strategies to Prevent Prison Rape by Changing Correctional Culture* explores successful programs for addressing the problem of sexual violence in state prisons. This NIJ publication presents promising initiatives and practices culled from interviews with prison officials in 45 states.

State corrections officials offered four primary recommendations:

1. Develop specific programs for inmate education; victim services; and the investigation, prosecution and accurate documentation of sexual assaults.
2. Work with prisoners, staff and management to win support for the programs.
3. Develop staff training that addresses prison rape and explains that staff will be protected against false allegations.



4. Educate inmates about laws prohibiting rape, inmate rights and ways to avoid assault.

The report acknowledges that carrying out these practices is challenging because of resistance by agency staff and inmates. Some prison administrators said staff members resisted changes because they feared an increase in false allegations against them if prisoners were encouraged to report assaults. Other administrators said the greater challenge was convincing inmates that rape reports would be taken seriously. The report includes suggestions about how to overcome such resistance.

It is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/222843.pdf>.



# 3

General Forensics and DNA



The volume of evidence flowing into the nation's crime laboratories has created significant backlogs as forensic scientists struggle to keep up with the workload. To ease this burden, NIJ sponsors research to improve the accuracy and efficiency of forensic investigations.



Although DNA identification has captured the attention of the media and the public, other forensic disciplines, especially toxicology, receive more requests and experience greater backlogs. A Bureau of Justice Statistics study in 2005 found that backlogs in controlled substances were five times greater than DNA backlogs. Similarly, latent fingerprint backlogs were twice the size of DNA backlogs.

## Forensics Research

### Study Finds DNA Analysis Solves Property Crimes.

DNA analysis has already helped authorities solve many cases of homicide and sexual assault. A new NIJ-sponsored study found that DNA technology increases the chances of making an arrest in burglaries as well. The study, conducted in five localities across the United States, found that collecting DNA samples in property crime cases dramatically increased the odds of catching a burglar. DNA collection also offers a cost-effective way to solve crime.

Researchers found that when officers analyzed DNA evidence in property crimes, suspect identification and arrest rates doubled compared with traditional investigations



that did not use DNA evidence, and twice as many cases were accepted for prosecution. In addition, DNA is five times more effective at identifying a suspect than fingerprints. Suspects identified by DNA had at least twice as many prior felony arrests and convictions as those identified by traditional means.

Researchers hope the study will lead to greater use of DNA testing to solve property crimes.

### Research May Extend Window for Gathering DNA Evidence in Sexual Assaults.

In many places throughout the United States, gathering DNA evidence in rape and other sexual assault cases is

the standard practice for up to three days after the assault takes place, but new research may extend

that window of time. In a small study, researchers at the University of Central Florida found that by focusing testing on the male Y chromosome, DNA evidence from sperm could still be gathered even five and six days after sexual intercourse. The finding could make investigation and prosecution more feasible for cases in which people delay reporting an assault to authorities.



### **Collarbones of Skeletons May Help Uncover Identification Secrets.**

Forensic anthropologists can examine skeletons and give investigators valuable information about victims, such as an estimate of a person's age, sex, ancestry and stature. However, some standards that anthropologists use in these efforts were developed from 19th century (or even earlier) samples.

NIJ-funded researchers hope to give the forensic community updated standards for age and sex determination by studying the William F. McCormick Clavicle Collection at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The collection includes modern autopsy samples of human clavicles from more than 2,000 people of all ages. On average, people today are taller and larger than their ancestors, and precise measurement of

collarbones could give anthropologists improved information about the current population.

### **Research Focuses on Finding Hidden Graves.**

Police sometimes receive vague tips about where a murder victim may lie hidden in a shallow



grave. Finding a hidden grave can be difficult, but forensic scientists can use tools such as ground penetrating radar and instruments that measure conductivity in the effort.

Researchers at the University of Central Florida set up eight experimental graves using pig cadavers to reproduce conditions found in confirmed homicides. For example, bodies have been wrapped in tarpaulins or blankets or covered with lime or rubble before the graves were filled. Scientists hope the research will improve geophysical detection methods used in searches for hidden bodies.

**Using Radioactive Carbon-14 to Determine When Someone Lived and Died.** Carbon-14 dating has long been used to learn the age of ancient objects. Researchers at the University of Arizona are developing a new method that could help forensic scientists evaluate human remains and determine when someone was born and when he or she died. Results show that such dating can be accurate to within one to four years.

Some carbon-14 enters the food chain naturally and eventually settles into human bones and tissues. However, the outdoor testing of atomic weapons in the 1950s and 1960s put much more carbon-14 into the earth's atmosphere. The level eventually declined as testing moved to underground sites. Increased levels of carbon-14 show that a person is old enough to have experienced high carbon-14 levels. Precise measurements can help establish the deceased's year of birth and year of death. Scientists are working to refine this new approach to dating human remains.

**Creating a Footwear Database.** Impressions of footwear are commonly found at crime scenes. Researchers at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, are developing new computational methods to help forensic scientists identify suspects by their footwear. The work includes developing a database of representative footwear print images and creating mathematical formulas that speed identification and matching.

## Forensics Assistance Programs

### **NIJ Grants Help States Free Wrongly Convicted Persons Through DNA Testing.**

More than 200 Americans convicted of serious crimes have been freed from prison after DNA testing showed they could not have committed the crimes. Often, DNA testing was not available when they were convicted. In addition, DNA testing has improved significantly in recent years, and new testing techniques can yield definitive results in cases that may have been inconclusive in the past.



NIJ's Post-Conviction Testing Assistance Program provides funding for DNA testing for cases in which testing could prove innocence. In 2008 NIJ awarded \$7.8 million to Arizona, Kentucky, Texas, Virginia and Washington for this purpose.

States that receive awards agree to comply with improved standards for storing biological evidence. States use the funding to expand the number of murder, manslaughter and rape cases they can review, including finding and analyzing evidence. It also helps cut case review backlogs by increasing the staff and equipment available to handle cases. The funding helps clear the innocent and can sometimes help investigators find the real perpetrator of a crime.

### **Crime Labs Reduce Their DNA Testing Backlogs.**

Crime laboratories throughout the nation continue to face increasing requests for DNA testing in criminal cases. Congress gave NIJ more funding to expand lab capacity and reduce backlogs. This funding — \$56.3 million in 2008 —

enabled crime labs to process evidence in more than 30,000 criminal cases.

The program helps labs improve their capacity in several ways, including updating instruments,

installing robotic systems that speed processing, buying supplies, and hiring and training forensic scientists. As a result, the nation's crime labs doubled the number of DNA cases handled in the past two years.

### THE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE PROGRAM

The Coverdell program helps state and local governments improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Funding, which rose to \$16.5 million in 2008, allows crime labs and medical examiners' offices to hire new personnel, pay overtime, buy needed equipment and supplies, and pay for the training or expenses involved in meeting laboratory accreditation standards, among other activities. State and local governments can use the awards to expand their capacity to reduce backlogs, improve overall quality, or both.

#### Coverdell Funding and Awards, FY 2004-FY 2008

	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008
Number of Grant Awards	77	92	87	88	99

For more information on the Coverdell program and a description of eligibility requirements, visit <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/topics/forensics/nfsia>.

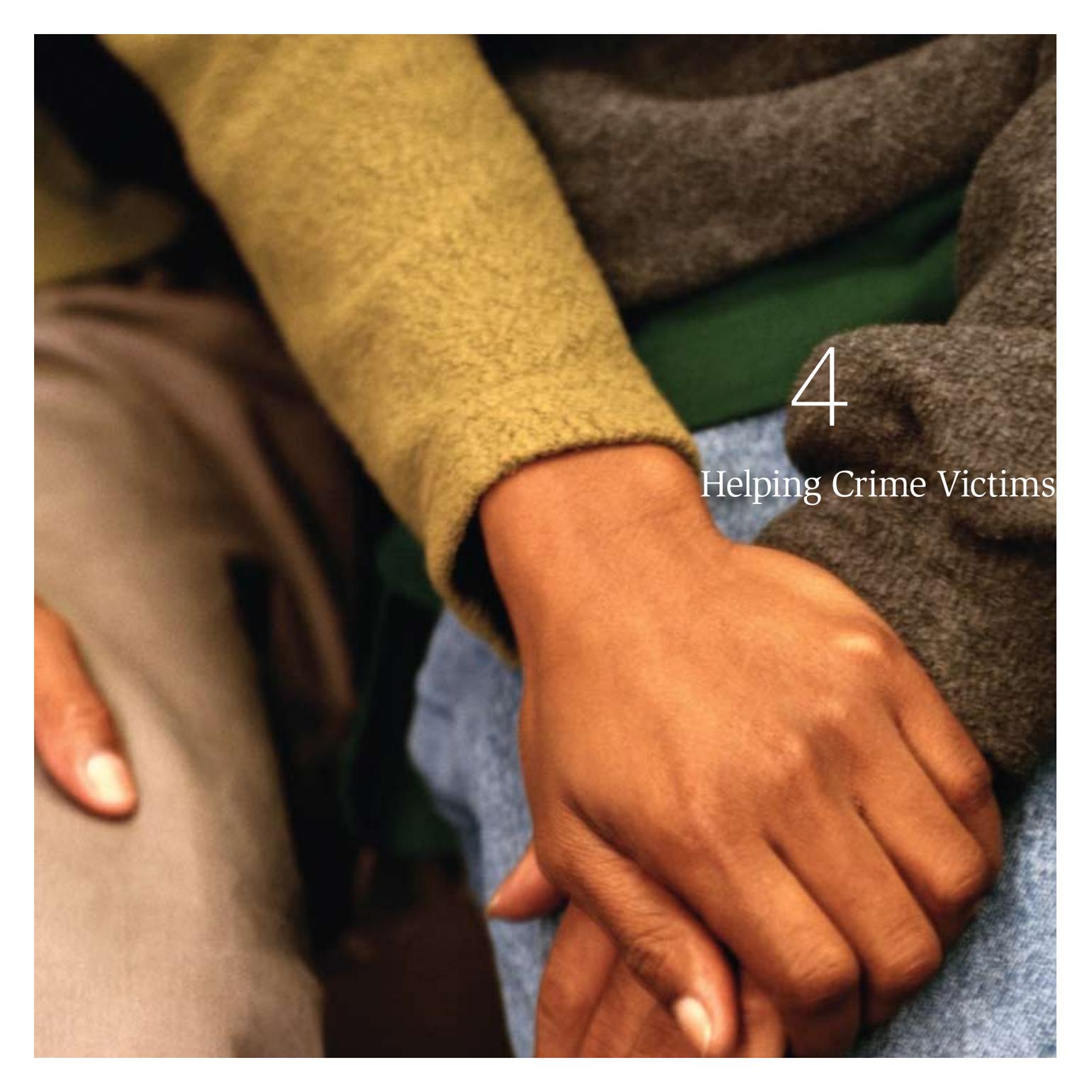
Meanwhile, a related initiative, the Convicted Offender and/or Arrestee DNA Backlog Reduction Program, helps states process DNA profiles for people arrested for or convicted of certain crimes. The profiles are placed in a national database and have sometimes helped police identify suspects in previously unsolved cases. In 2008 NIJ provided \$7.1 million to help states process more than 200,000 offender and arrestee DNA samples.



**Training Programs Help Police and Forensic Labs Solve Cold Cases.** NIJ training programs cover everything from crime scene investigations to sophisticated DNA analysis techniques. NIJ holds training sessions in various locations around the country, and others are available online. Sessions are free to all law enforcement professionals.

In 2008 NIJ held special training sessions for solving cold cases that have gone unsolved for years. The Institute also provided funding to state and local police departments to help solve cold cases using DNA evidence. As a result, police departments have solved many serious crimes, sometimes bringing people to justice decades after they committed the crime.

**NIJ Launches DNA Unit Efficiency Improvement Program.** To increase laboratory efficiency, a new NIJ program awarded more than \$3 million to public DNA laboratories in 2008 to encourage the creation and adoption of innovative process improvements. NIJ plans to publish reports of successful, carefully evaluated programs as models for other forensic science labs.



4

Helping Crime Victims



NIJ's research programs include efforts to identify and help people harmed by crime. Many programs are designed to learn exactly what works and what does not work in such areas as crime prevention and intervention.



## Learning More About Human Trafficking

Human trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation presents many challenges for law enforcement and prosecutors. NIJ supported several studies in 2008 that provide critical insights into the extent and nature of the problem.

A study by Georgetown University researchers focused specifically on trafficked children. The study found that since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act in 2000 through September 2007, only 142 children trafficked across international borders had received help from the federal government's Office of Refugee Resettlement. Many more (estimates ranged from 787 to 2,287), including many referred by social service agencies that serve migrants and refugees, did not receive benefits.

The researchers identified many different reasons trafficked children did not receive services.



Occasionally, federal law enforcement agents were not sympathetic to the children's plight or viewed them as victims of smuggling instead of trafficking. In some cases, children were reluctant to reveal details of their experiences, which led to inadequate evidence of trafficking. In other cases, the lack of evidence led to the children being deported.

The greatest number of children came from Mexico and Honduras, but others came from elsewhere in Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The children ranged in age from 2 to 17 years. Most were between 14 and 17 years old; 83 percent were girls. The study found that trafficking for sexual exploitation was common. A smaller number of children were trafficked solely for labor, including domestic servitude. Often the children's families had originally been involved in the trafficking.

The researchers made several recommendations, ranging from improving the identification of trafficked children in the United States to educating overseas parents about the dangers unaccompanied children can face. The complete report is



available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221891.pdf>.

In another study, researchers at Northeastern University surveyed 3,000 American law enforcement agencies to learn about their experiences with trafficking. Many smaller agencies said that trafficking in their areas was rare or nonexistent. More than half the agencies serving larger jurisdictions (with a population of more than 250,000) had investigated trafficking. More than 92 percent of the surveyed agencies reported a connection between human trafficking and other criminal networks, such as drug dealing and prostitution. Agencies that have identified human trafficking cases report using proactive investigative strategies, such as collecting information on human trafficking indicators while investigating other crimes. The complete report is available at <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/222752.pdf>.

## Teen Dating Violence Prevention

Knowledge about interpersonal violence among teens who are dating is limited. Many teenagers do not experience violence; however, for as many as one in 10 teens, physical violence is a real part of dating relationships. Even more teens report verbal or psychological abuse that occurs in romantic relationships.

NIJ is sponsoring an evaluation of a dating violence prevention program conducted in 50 middle schools in a large urban school district. The study will test a classroom-based program, another school-wide program and a third variation that combines the two approaches. A separate control group of schools will not participate in the dating violence prevention programming. Researchers hope to learn which approach, if any, is effective in changing attitudes about dating violence and reducing victimization and perpetration.



A separate pilot program by University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers will test the effectiveness of intervening with mothers of teenagers to prevent teen dating violence. Mothers who have gone to court to file a domestic violence protection order will receive a series of booklets and supporting phone calls to help them talk to their children about healthy relationships and teen dating violence.

## NIJ's Sexual Assault Forensics Training Highlighted at the United Nations

A thorough forensic examination conducted by a trained sexual assault forensic examiner is critical for assisting sexual assault victims. The forensic examiner treats the person for any medical injuries suffered and collects evidence that may be



used to arrest, prosecute and convict the attacker. NIJ and the Justice Department's Office on Violence Against Women teamed up with Dartmouth Medical School's Interactive Media Laboratory to create a state-of-the-art training program that uses a virtual clinic to teach medical professionals how to conduct a patient-centered exam and gather quality evidence. The DVD, titled *Sexual Assault: Forensic and Clinical Management*, was presented at the U.N. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. Participants from many countries were introduced to the training program and received copies of the DVD, which is widely used in the United States. The DVD and other information about sexual assault forensic examinations are available at <http://www.safeta.org>.



Setting Standards for Criminal Justice Equipment



NIJ supports the law enforcement and corrections communities by developing standards to ensure that critical equipment is safe, reliable and meets a minimum acceptable level of performance. NIJ standards are performance-based rather than technology- or design-based, which encourages innovation by manufacturers. NIJ also establishes conformity assessment requirements for each type of equipment to ensure that tested products meet the standards.



## NIJ Developing Standard for Bomb Suits

Bomb suits are critical equipment for bomb squad technicians who must approach and disable explosive devices. The suits must provide protection against explosive hazards but still allow a technician a high degree of mobility and situational awareness.

NIJ is working to complete the development of a new standard and certification program for bomb suits worn by public safety bomb technicians. The standard defines minimum performance requirements for bomb suits intended to provide protection against fragmentation, impact, heat and some blast overpressure associated with the explosion of



an improvised explosive device. This first version of the standard does not address all aspects of blast overpressure because research in this area is ongoing. An addendum or revision to the standard will be published when the necessary research is complete.

NIJ developed a draft bomb suit standard with the assistance of representatives from the National Bomb Squad Commanders Advisory Board and a host of federal agencies. In 2008 NIJ released the draft for public comment. All comments received were reviewed and will be considered in the final version of the standard.

## NIJ Unveils New Standard for Body Armor That Protects Law Enforcement Officers

Ballistic-resistant body armor has saved the lives of more than 3,000 police officers since NIJ introduced the first body armor standard in the 1970s.



Popularly (but inaccurately) known as “bulletproof vests,” body armor provides a measure of protection against some bullets but is not bulletproof.

In 2008 NIJ released a new standard (NIJ Standard-0101.06) that includes revised armor classifications, more rigorous performance requirements, modified test methods, and a new conditioning protocol that identifies design or material weaknesses. The changes provide greater assurance that armor worn by officers affords the protection they need.

## Protecting Police Against Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Hazards

In 2008 NIJ completed development of a draft CBRN Ensemble Standard for law enforcement officers. This standard will ensure that police responding to criminal incidents involving the potential for CBRN hazards have appropriate personal protective equipment. Officers responding to such incidents have different requirements than other first responders, including the need for stealth, dexterity, the ability to sight weapons and the ability to mitigate human threats. After releasing the draft standard for public comment, NIJ received more than 600 responses from a host of interested individuals.





RESOURCES

INITIATIVE

OVERSH

APPENDIX

Financial Data

Exhibit 1: NIJ's Research and Development Portfolio, Awards Made FY 1998-2008

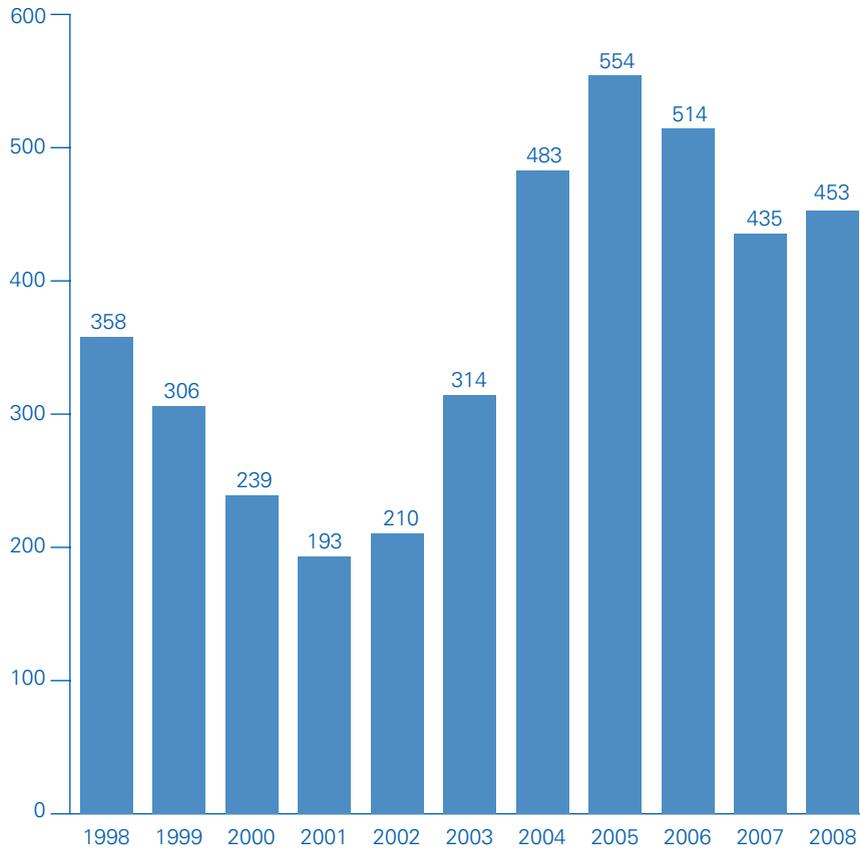


Exhibit 2: Sources of NIJ Funds, in Millions, FY 1998-2008

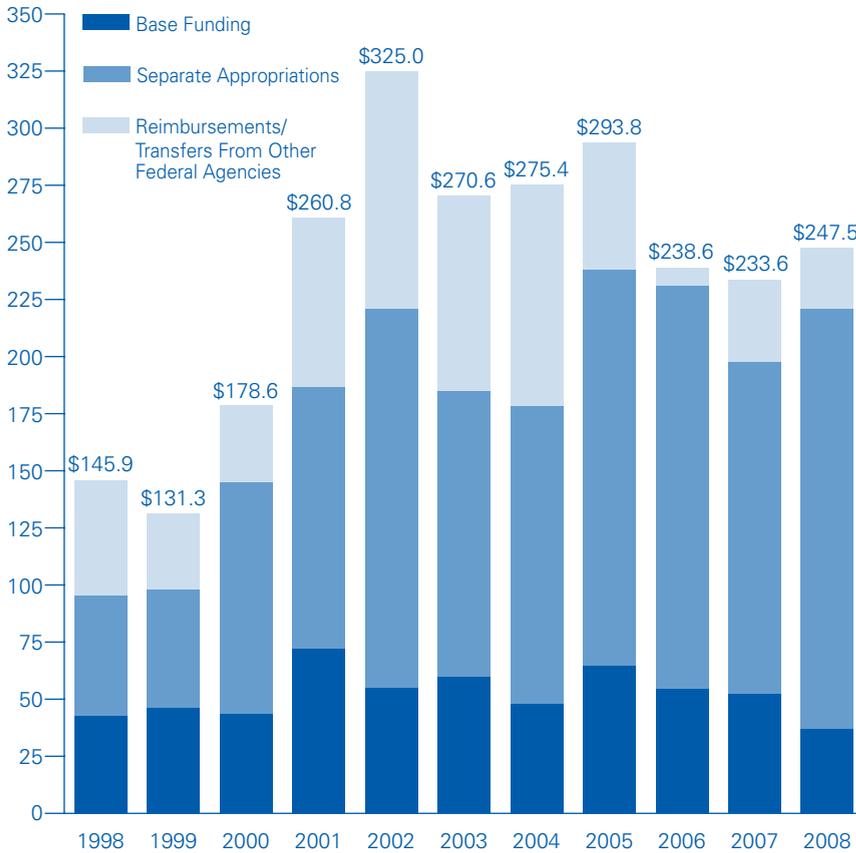


Exhibit 3: Allocation of NIJ Funds as a Percentage of Total Funding,\* FY 2008

<b>Social Science</b>	Research	10%
	Evaluation	8
	Research and Development	10
	Standards	8
	Technology Assistance	2
	Technology Evaluation	7
<b>Program Support</b>		0.5
<b>Dissemination</b>		0.9
<b>Other</b>		0.2

\*Total funding of \$247.5 million includes NIJ base appropriation of \$37.0 million plus separate appropriations and funds transfers.

\*\*Grants to improve and enhance crime laboratories.

## Exhibit 4: DNA Funding, FY 2008

The National Institute of Justice received \$152.3 million from the President's DNA Initiative.\* Funding breakdowns for major purpose areas are shown below.

Convicted Offender DNA Backlog Reduction	\$0
Training for the Criminal Justice Community	11,802,452
Identifying Missing Persons	5,209,120
Research and Development	17,790,339
Earmarks	N/A
Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction	53,245,922
Cold Case	16,119,105
Post-Conviction Testing	7,821,741
National Institute of Standards and Technology Testing	3,186,835

\*The cost in each DNA Initiative category includes both the cost associated with grants and program support as well as the peer review, consulting services and dissemination costs associated with each activity area.

The National Institute of Justice is the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ's mission is to advance scientific research, development and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety.

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Community Capacity Development Office; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

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