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# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE ANNUAL REPORT

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**NIJ**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
810 Seventh St. N.W.  
Washington, DC 20531

**Loretta E. Lynch**  
Attorney General

**Karol V. Mason**  
Assistant Attorney General

**Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D.**  
Director, National Institute of Justice

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## To the President, the Attorney General and the Congress:

It is my honor to transmit the National Institute of Justice's annual report on research, development and evaluation for fiscal year 2015, pursuant to Title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and Title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy Rodriguez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a stylized "R".

Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D.  
Director, National Institute of Justice



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## Chapter 1: Strengthening Science

### Strengthening the Scientific Role of NIJ

In 2015, the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) released *Support for Forensic Science Research: Improving the Scientific Role of the National Institute of Justice*,<sup>1</sup> an NIJ-commissioned report reviewing NIJ's progress in advancing forensic science research since it issued the 2009 report *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*,<sup>2</sup> and the 2010 report, *Strengthening the National Institute of Justice*.<sup>3</sup>

In the 2015 report, NAS examined the ways in which NIJ develops its forensic science research priorities and communicates them to the scientific and forensic practitioner communities to determine the impact of NIJ forensic science research programs and how that impact can be enhanced.

NAS also found that NIJ had made considerable progress in addressing numerous challenges and noted that "NIJ has a unique and critical role" among the diverse federal agencies working to positively impact the progress of forensic science because, unlike other agencies, NIJ has a mission focus on forensic science research and development. The report also found that NIJ's efforts have:

- Restored authority that is appropriate for a science agency and addressed some previous concerns about NIJ's independence; and
- Contributed to the building of a research infrastructure necessary to developing and sustaining research that advances forensic science methods.

NIJ is committed to building on these successes to expand its capacity to support high-quality scientific research that addresses the needs and challenges faced by law enforcement, crime laboratories and other criminal justice actors every day. Research and development are critical to NIJ's mission, because through such efforts, new technologies and methods can be deployed to improve the accuracy, efficiency, and effectiveness of forensic evidence processing.

- **Learn more** about how NIJ is strengthening its role within the scientific community on NIJ.gov, keyword "Improving the Scientific Role of NIJ."

### Increasing Opportunities for Young STEM Researchers

The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (GRF-STEM) program strives to increase the number of researchers in STEM fields focused on providing solutions to criminal justice challenges, especially for researchers from diverse backgrounds. Through this program, NIJ funds innovative doctoral dissertation research in STEM fields that are relevant to providing solutions to better ensure public safety, prevent and control crime, and ensure the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.

This program, open to doctoral students in STEM fields of study, potentially provides up to three years of support over a five-year period, to fund innovative doctoral dissertation research that is relevant to providing solutions to better ensure public safety, prevent and control crime, and ensure the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States. This track is open to doctoral students in

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/21772/support-for-forensic-science-research-improving-the-scientific-role-of>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12589/strengthening-forensic-science-in-the-united-states-a-path-forward>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/12929/strengthening-the-national-institute-of-justice>.

STEM fields of study such as life sciences, chemistry, physics, geosciences, physical anthropology, materials research, engineering, computer science and mathematical sciences.

In 2015, NIJ awarded 20 research fellowships to STEM institutions of higher education to sponsor innovative doctoral dissertation research that addresses criminal justice challenges. The potential value of these awards over three to five years is \$3,000,000. Of the awards made, 32 percent went to support doctoral dissertation research by women.

- **Learn more** about women’s access to STEM education on NIJ.gov, keyword “Graduate Fellowship Program.”

## **Safety, Health and Wellness**

NIJ is dedicated to the development of tools and knowledge to promote safety, health and wellness for individuals and communities employed within, under the supervision of, or affected by the criminal justice system. As an example of this commitment, in 2012 NIJ funded two biomedical research projects that seek to determine the relationship between stress and unexplained in-custody deaths. In 2015, NIJ began research leading to better means of preventing officer suicides.

Some research suggests that the annual number of officer suicides rivals that of officers dying in the line of duty. Much is known about the causes of and indicators for officer suicides, with a growing body of work regarding potential suicide intervention strategies. However, research on how widely these strategies have been adopted and their efficacy is lacking. In 2015, NIJ entered into a cooperative agreement with the RAND Corporation to conduct a study examining how law enforcement agencies in the United States and Europe are attempting to prevent officer suicides and what is known about the success of those strategies. This project will entail a study to examine:

- How law enforcement agencies in the United States and Europe are attempting to prevent officer suicides.
- The rationale behind adopting a particular strategy.
- The efficacy of the strategies employed.

This project will serve as the basis for future research and development efforts to optimize those strategies.

- **Learn more** about causes of officer stress on NIJ.gov, keyword “Officer Stress and Fatigue.”

In 2015, NIJ formed a multidisciplinary safety, health and wellness working group, which it tasked with developing a strategic plan to further address NIJ’s commitment to guiding the research and practitioner communities. The plan would address the most pressing issues related to safety, health and wellness within the criminal justice system, and help to promote an effective and fair justice system.

The working group’s strategic plan, expected in 2016, will outline all current activities and the direction that NIJ should take for the next five years in the areas of safety and wellness. It will include issues affecting the safety and wellness of police and corrections officers, individuals under the supervision of the criminal justice system, and victims of criminal justice system encounters.

As part of their strategic plan, the working group hopes to accomplish the following goals:

1. Develop knowledge, systems and technologies that provide increased protection for criminal justice employees and individuals in the custody of the criminal justice system.
2. Develop standards and technologies that improve protection from a variety of threats while improving the ease of use, comfort and performance of equipment for use by police and correctional officers.
3. Provide support for police and correctional officers through the development, testing and evaluation of technologies that support safety and increased situational awareness, including body-worn cameras and less-lethal equipment.
4. Development of knowledge and the evaluation of programs to promote improved physical health of individuals and communities employed within, under the supervision of, or affected by the criminal justice system.
5. Understand the scope of mental health problems in the criminal justice system and increase the scientific knowledge of mental health issues as they pertain to the system.
6. Understand the impacts of criminal justice activities on the public.
7. Understand how families of officers and incarcerated individuals are affected by the criminal justice system.
8. Develop knowledge, systems and technologies that increase the safety and wellness of communities impacted by the criminal justice system.

➤ **Learn more** about how NIJ is increasing the safety of criminal justice on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword “Officer Performance and Safety.”

### **Enhancing Law Enforcement’s Ability to Process Digital Evidence**

Computers are used for committing crime and, thanks to the burgeoning science of digital forensic evidence, law enforcement now uses computers to fight crime.

Digital evidence is information stored or transmitted in binary form that may be relied on in court. It can be found on a computer hard drive, a mobile phone, a CD, and a flash card in a digital camera, among other places. Digital evidence is commonly associated with electronic crime, or e-crime, such as child pornography or credit card fraud. However, digital evidence is now used to prosecute all types of crimes, not just e-crime. For example, suspects’ email or mobile phone files might contain critical evidence regarding their intent, their whereabouts at the time of a crime and their relationship with other suspects. In 2005, for example, a floppy disk led investigators to the BTK serial killer who had eluded police capture since 1974 and claimed the lives of at least 10 victims.

To fight e-crime and to collect relevant digital evidence for all crimes, law enforcement agencies are incorporating the collection and analysis of digital evidence, also known as computer forensic science, into their infrastructure.

In 2015, NIJ continued its research and development efforts to provide improved tools to enable state and local law enforcement to better process digital evidence. This included releasing a solicitation for the development of tools to better enable the forensic processing of large-scale computer systems and networks. One award was made under this solicitation to Assured Information Security Inc., which proposed to modify a large-scale network incident (intrusion) response system it developed for the U.S. Air Force for civilian law enforcement application. This new tool, called WARDEN (Wide-scale, Agentless, and Rapid collection of Digital Evidence from Networks) will support the collection, analysis and reporting of evidentiary data from a variety of devices running within large-scale networks which will be

distributed to U.S. law enforcement free of charge for at least five years. It is hoped that this tool will become available to law enforcement agencies in 2017.

- **Learn more** about the use of data to fight crime on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword “Digital Evidence and Forensics.”

## Chapter 2: Law Enforcement

### Developing the Next Generation of Law Enforcement Leadership

To support the professional development of research-minded law enforcement officers, NIJ and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) launched the Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) program in 2014. Under LEADS, NIJ awards merit-based scholarships to sworn, mid-rank officers who have either partnered on a research project or infused research into policy development within their agency.

NIJ elected to provide scholarships exclusively to mid-rank officers as they are well-suited within law enforcement agencies to infuse research into policy and practice. They are responsible at times for policy development, and they regularly oversee policy implementation and operations. They are close enough to the line to observe and understand the effects of policies in the field, and far enough up-the-chain to effect change as needed.

Through LEADS, NIJ and IACP are helping to develop the next generation of law enforcement leaders. LEADS scholars attend the IACP Conference and Expo, where they network with law enforcement leaders, learn about the latest research, and see how other agencies and jurisdictions operate. They can then take the information they have gleaned from the conference back to their own agencies to strengthen policy and practice. Scholarship recipients also attend NIJ's IACP Conference research track, titled "What Works and What Matters in Policing"; participate in private roundtable events with NIJ, OJP and IACP leadership; and participate in the IACP Research Advisory Committee.

NIJ used the insight gained from the first year of the LEADS program to guide development for 2015, and to ensure that it continues identifying rising leaders in law enforcement and nurturing their professional growth. After two years, NIJ and IACP have built a strong group of 19 scholars who are committed to using evidence-based research to strengthen the adjudication of law enforcement within their jurisdictions. NIJ and IACP are currently working on techniques to further encourage collaboration between the scholars, and strengthen the program even further moving forward.

➤ **Learn more** on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword "LEADS."

### Applying Data to Fight Crime

Over the past two decades, the law enforcement business process has become increasingly data driven. Every day, law enforcement agency decision-makers make critical decisions regarding the use of data. Historically, the only guide they have had in making such decisions were the statutory requirements related to developing, retaining, and protecting data. In 2015, NIJ continued its efforts to enable law enforcement agencies to better use data to fight crime and ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice by releasing a solicitation for research to improve the understanding of the comparative value of data relevant to the law enforcement enterprise. One award was made under this solicitation to RTI International.

Through this project, RTI will employ an adaptive, mixed-methods approach intended to address five research questions:

1. How can law enforcement data be valued?
2. Which data sources are important to the law enforcement business process?
3. How do different sources of data influence these practices?
4. How do agency characteristics influence the consumption and production of data?

5. How are data sets connected and how does connectivity affect value?

Through this project, it is hoped that RTI will develop a valuation methodology framework that considers both the current value placed on the data and the potential future value of the data, leading to the development of a methodology to enable law enforcement executives to accurately assess the impact of different types of data on their agency's ability to ensure public safety, prevent and control crime, and ensure fair and impartial administration of justice given the cost associated with collecting, processing, analyzing, distributing, and storing those data.

➤ **Learn more** on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword "valuing law enforcement data."

## Chapter 3: Crime Prevention

### Sexual Assault Kits: Using Science to Find Solutions

Advances in science are making it possible for forensic labs to identify trace amounts of DNA from evidence. Science is also helping to identify more effective methods for supporting victims and provide evidence-based guidance on collecting evidence to improve investigation and prosecution.

NIJ supports a wide range of studies related to sexual assault, especially research related to processing and testing sexual assault kits (SAKs). NIJ scientists are building evidence-based knowledge on how to develop priorities for processing unsubmitted SAKs; following up on hits from the DNA database; and notifying victims of new developments in their cases.

In 2011, NIJ awarded “action-research” grants to the Houston Police Department and the Wayne County (Detroit) Prosecutor’s Office to conduct action research projects that would:

- (a.) Investigate the large number of SAKs that had not been submitted to a crime laboratory; and
- (b.) Use scientific methods to determine how best to proceed.

Information from this research was disseminated widely, including the “[Sexual Assault Kits: Using Science to Find Solutions](#)”<sup>4</sup> interactive webpage, which summarized findings from research on unsubmitted SAKs. This page provides an overview of the issues, describes the collection and processing of evidence in kits, explains how evidence might be used during an investigation, and summarizes findings from the SAK action research projects in Houston and Detroit, including evidence-based practices for notifying victims.

Also in 2015, NIJ and the FBI Laboratory partnered to further address the complex issues surrounding unsubmitted SAKs. This partnership was designed to gather information about the nature of unsubmitted SAKs in an effort to inform practices and protocols. State and local law enforcement agencies are invited to send previously unsubmitted kits to be tested free of charge. From these submissions, NIJ is analyzing data, and the FBI’s DNA lab is testing the evidence and entering eligible profiles into the national DNA database to aid investigations. This partnership has resulted in the processing of more than 600 SAKs, resulting in the extraction of more than 7,000 DNA samples, more than 250 uploads to the FBI’s Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), and 89 CODIS hits.

➤ **Learn more** about NIJ’s sexual assault kit research on [NIJ.gov](#), keyword “Sexual Assault Kits.”

### Indian Country Portfolio

NIJ’s Violence Against American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) Women research program works to document the prevalence and nature of violence against AI and AN women, including those living on sovereign tribal lands. The program is also designed to evaluate the effectiveness of federal, state, tribal and local responses to violence against AI and AN women and propose recommendations to improve the effectiveness of such responses.

In 2014, NIJ launched the Violence Against American Indian Women (VAIW) National Baseline Study (NBS) — the first national study conducted in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. The NBS is being conducted in geographically dispersed tribal communities across the U.S., with the primary aim to provide an accurate national victimization rate of violence committed against AI and AN women. The

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<sup>4</sup> <http://nij.gov/unsubmitted-kits/Pages/default.aspx>.

NBS is critical to quantifying the magnitude of violence and victimization in tribal communities and to understanding service needs.

In consultation with the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), NIJ collected data examining violence against AI and AN women living in Indian Country and Alaska Native villages. In conducting its research and analyses, NIJ focused its research on dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, stalking, and murder. The study also evaluated the effectiveness of responses to those crimes.

NIJ's VAIW research program also supports various extramural and intramural research and evaluation studies that will:

- Produce a deeper understanding of the issues faced by Native American women.
- Expand the body of criminal justice policy-relevant research.
- Help formulate public policies and prevention strategies to decrease the incidence of violent crimes committed against AI and AN women.

Results from all of these studies are anticipated to help establish and enhance justice systems that will successfully restore victim safety and promote healing.

- **Learn more** about NIJ's Indian Country portfolio on NIJ.gov, keyword "Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women."

### **Sentinel Events Initiative**

When bad things happen in a complex system, the cause is rarely a single act, event or slip-up. More often, bad outcomes are "sentinel events." Since 2011, NIJ has been investigating the feasibility of using a sentinel event review approach to learn from errors in the criminal justice system — a type of review that has been used successfully in medicine, aviation and other high-risk enterprises. The overarching goal of sentinel event review is a routine, culture-changing practice that can lead to increased system reliability and, hence, greater public confidence in a system's legitimacy. NIJ's Sentinel Events Initiative aims to determine the feasibility of a sentinel events approach for learning from errors in the criminal justice system.

Although most criminal justice agencies already have error-detecting procedures in place — police internal affairs reviews, for example, or prosecutors' professional ethics boards — these often become "gotcha" processes that focus on assigning individual blame. This can drive the reporting of errors underground, making future errors even harder to detect and correct.

Sentinel event review is based on three underlying principles:

- It is nonblaming.
- All stakeholders — systemwide — are involved in the review.
- It is an ongoing, routine practice.

Our Sentinel Events Initiative seeks to answer three empirical questions about using sentinel event reviews in the justice system:

1. Can it be done?
2. Does it have a positive impact, such as fewer errors and other public safety dividends, and increased public confidence in the nation's justice system?



3. Can it be sustained over time and incorporated into the routine activities of state and local justice processes?

Scientific research is key to developing evidence of how sentinel event reviews might be used to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. In 2015, NIJ made two research awards under the Sentinel Events Initiative:

- Researchers from Michigan State University — working with researchers from Indiana University and the director of the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission — are delving deeper into the ongoing gun homicide and nonfatal shooting review processes in Milwaukee, Detroit and Indianapolis, establishing multiagency teams to study issues such as privacy, resources needed, and the role of the facilitator.
- Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania’s Quattrone Center for the Administration of Fair Justice — in collaboration with the Philadelphia Police Department, District Attorney’s Office, Defender Association, and Court of Common Pleas — are evaluating the effectiveness of multidisciplinary review teams and creating a database of errors and near-misses (similar to the Aviation Safety and Reporting System used in the aviation industry) to help prioritize negative outcomes for sentinel event review.

➤ **Learn more** about NIJ’s Sentinel Events Initiative at [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword “Sentinel Events.”

### **Comprehensive School Safety Initiative**

NIJ’s Comprehensive School Safety Initiative (CSSI) aims to build science-based knowledge about the causes of school violence, and test innovative approaches for safeguarding our nation’s students and schools. In 2014 — the first year of the initiative — NIJ awarded more than \$68 million for more than 30 research projects and programs to improve school safety. In 2015, NIJ funded more than 30 additional projects valued at over \$69 million. Projects under CSSI feature partnerships among schools, scientists, law enforcement, mental health professionals and others. All contribute to one or more of the three primary goals of the initiative:

- Improve the safety of schools and students nationwide by developing, supporting, and rigorously evaluating school safety programs, practices, and strategies.
- Develop and test a comprehensive school safety framework for K-12 public schools that is based on research and evidence and may be adopted by a wide range of schools.
- Increase scientific knowledge about the incidence and root causes of school violence and other threats to school and student safety.

CSSI will provide objective and independent answers to the difficult school-safety challenges that the nation faces and produce findings that will help the field to make decisions about which interventions and programs are most effective — and most cost effective. For example, one early CSSI investment has already produced valuable information for practitioners and policymakers. Through NIJ’s [CrimeSolutions.gov](http://CrimeSolutions.gov) website, NIJ has reviewed existing research and made profiles available for more than 20 evidence-based school safety programs. The research efforts and pilot projects supported by CSSI will yield durable knowledge that will continue to inform school safety efforts for years to come as this initiative produces findings about programs, practices and policies that are effective in keeping our schools and students safe.

➤ **Learn more** about how NIJ is making schools safer on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword “Comprehensive School Safety Initiative.”

## Chapter 4: Standards and Technology

### Developing Criminal Justice Equipment Performance Standards

One of NIJ's missions is to ensure that needed equipment performance standards are developed and conformity assessment regimes are put in place to ensure that the unique equipment used by criminal justice agencies is safe and effective.

Since 1972, NIJ has published more than 60 Standards to help ensure that the equipment used by criminal justice agencies is safe, reliable, and performs according to established minimum requirements. Standards are developed by committees involving expert criminal justice practitioners, scientists, engineers and, as practicable, representatives of the vendor community through a consensus process. Even though NIJ standards are not regulatory, they are influential because they articulate best practices.

To speed up the introduction of standards and reduce the government resources needed to develop these standards, NIJ has adopted a strategy of partnering with private-sector standards development organizations.

NIJ first worked with private-sector organizations to develop standards in 2013 when the agency collaborated with ASTM International to publish *ASTM E2902-12: Standard Practice for Measurement of Body Armor Wearers*.<sup>5</sup> More recently, NIJ partnered with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to publish a draft of its standard for self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) — *NFPA 1986: Standard on Respiratory Protection Equipment for Technical and Tactical Operations*,<sup>6</sup> which was developed in large part to meet the needs of the law enforcement responder.

These strategic partnerships are evolving toward a model in which once NIJ has partnered with stakeholders to identify the need for a standard, it will encourage nongovernmental standards-developing organizations to develop the standards or to minimally test methods that may be incorporated into the standards.

➤ **Learn more** about standards at [NIJ.gov/Standards](http://NIJ.gov/Standards).

### The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Centers

During 2015, NIJ continued to support the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Centers (NLECTC). NLECTC serves to:

1. Help inform NIJ's technology research activities (including in the area of forensic science); and
2. Support the transfer and adoption of new or existing tools into practice with criminal justice agencies.

NLECTC also supports NIJ's development of performance standards for the unique equipment used by criminal justice agencies nationwide and associated conformity assessment activities. NLECTC's principal means of disseminating knowledge is through its website, JUSTNET.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.astm.org/Standards/E2902.htm>.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.nfpa.org/codes-and-standards/document-information-pages?mode=code&code=1986>.

Among other NLECTC activities is the NIJ-sponsored Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative — a research effort to assess and prioritize technology needs across law enforcement, courts, and corrections agencies to help inform NIJ’s research agenda. In 2015, five reports were released under this initiative, including *Visions of Law Enforcement Technology in the Period: 2014-2034: Report of the Law Enforcement Futuring Workshop*.<sup>7</sup> Additionally, NLECTC released the report *Test and Evaluation of Hand-held Cell Phone Detection Devices*, and continued development of a performance standard for the systems used to track offenders under community supervision *NIJ Standard 1004-00 Criminal Justice Offender Tracking System Standard*, initiating validation testing of the proposed test methods.

Among other efforts to ensure that the equipment sold to criminal justice agencies is safe and effective, NLECTC continued to test and identify police body armor that met the requirements of *NIJ Standard 0101.06 Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor*. In 2015, 103 new models of body armor were tested and 46 models were added to the NIJ Compliant Product List. NLECTC also conducted follow-up inspection and testing (FIT) of previously certified body armors. Of the 118 armor models tested, 3 failed FIT testing.

- **Learn more** about NLECTC on [JUSTNET.org](http://www.justnet.org). Learn more about FIT testing in the *NIJ Journal* <http://www.nij.gov/journals/271/pages/body-armor-inspection.aspx>.

## **Ensuring that Unmanned Aircraft Systems Are Operated in a Safe, Effective and Lawful Manner by Law Enforcement Agencies**

Unmanned aircraft systems assist in the development of policy to speed the safe, effective and lawful integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) operated by law enforcement agencies into the National Air Space.

For nearly a decade, NIJ has worked with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the development of UAS policy as it pertains to law enforcement agencies in the United States. In support of President Obama’s February 2015 memorandum, “Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems,”<sup>8</sup> and as part of the Institute’s ongoing support for these technologies, NIJ convened a UAS expert panel in 2015 involving all stakeholders, including law enforcement, civil rights and advocacy groups.

The knowledge gained from this meeting is expected to result in guidance published by NIJ for, among other matters, implementation and usage policy, privacy policies and community outreach.

- **Learn more** about unmanned aircraft on [NIJ.gov](http://www.nij.gov), keyword “Unmanned Aircraft Systems.”

## **Advancing Science and Technology**

All NIJ research and development grantees are expected to generate scholarly products, including patents as applicable. In 2015, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office issued 16 technology patents resulting from NIJ-funded technology research and development activities; bringing the total to 68 since 1997. These patents included, but were not limited to:

- Advanced antenna systems,
- Methods for rapid forensic DNA analysis, and

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<sup>7</sup> Read this report and others at <http://www.rand.org/jie/justice-policy/projects/priority-criminal-justice-needs/publications.html>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/15/presidential-memorandum-promoting-economic-competitiveness-while-safegua>.

- Precision location methods and systems.
- **Learn more** about patents stemming from NIJ activities on NIJ.gov, keyword: “Patents.”

## Chapter 5: Corrections

### Monitoring Offenders in the Community

Criminal justice agencies have long monitored the location of formerly incarcerated individuals under community supervision with mobile devices. Monitoring systems are most commonly used to track sex offenders, but some states use them to monitor other high-risk system-involved individuals. Currently, however, there is no equipment performance standard to help guide the agencies' procurement decisions concerning such devices. This puts the public at risk since the many devices on the market vary considerably.

The differences and variations of products makes it difficult for agencies to decide which systems best meet their needs. To assist agencies in making decisions regarding which systems to use, in 2009 NIJ began development of a standard to establish minimum performance requirements for offender tracking systems. In 2015, NIJ began validation testing of the draft standard following consideration of public comments prior to the anticipated publication in 2016.

In its September 2015 audit of this effort, *Electronic Monitoring: Draft National Standard for Offender Tracking Systems Addresses Common Stakeholder Needs*, the U.S. Government Accountability Office found that the draft standard addressed stakeholder needs and challenges. No shortcomings were noted.

A national standard will help officials make wiser purchasing decisions knowing that products that meet the NIJ standards will return reliable location information regardless of the conditions under which they are used.

- **Learn more** about the Criminal Justice Offender Tracking System Standard on NIJ.gov, keyword "Offender Tracking System."

### Restrictive Housing

In July 2015, President Obama asked Attorney General Lynch to review the use of solitary confinement across American prisons. Few data sources exist that speak to how widespread the practice is, or how and when it is used. Even less data are available about the long-term effects of solitary confinement on inmates — and the limited research on its impact often conflicts with popular notions.

To learn more about solitary confinement, NIJ is partnering with a wide range of practitioners, policymakers and researchers as well as sister agencies within OJP — including the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) — and the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to support this Administration priority. Working with this diverse group of stakeholders, NIJ will assess the scope of restrictive housing, determine how it is used, and identify safe alternatives.

To launch this effort, NIJ convened a diverse group of more than 80 experts from federal, state and local corrections agencies, advocacy groups, academia and research organizations in October 2015 to discuss:

- What we know and don't know about the types of inmates who are put into this type of housing.
- Issues related to the mental health of inmates, officer and inmate safety and wellness, civil rights, and safe alternatives to restrictive housing.
- Gaps in data collection efforts and the existing empirical literature.

In 2016, to capitalize on the momentum from this meeting and the growing interest in restrictive housing, NIJ will engage in a number of related activities. These efforts will include issuing a series of white papers on restrictive housing, launching a webpage and posting videos from the October meeting. NIJ also will release a funding opportunity on institutional corrections that will seek innovative research on the use of restrictive housing.

Examining this correctional strategy gives practitioners important information on how to use this policy in a way that ensures the safety of the facility and protects the well-being of the inmate.

➤ **Learn more** about NIJ’s research on restrictive housing on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword: “Restrictive Housing.”

## **Collateral Consequences**

Criminal conviction brings with it a host of sanctions and disqualifications that can place an unanticipated burden on individuals trying to re-enter society and lead lives as productive citizens. The impact of these “collateral consequences” is often discussed in the context of offender re-entry, but they attach not only to felonies and incarcerated individuals but also to misdemeanors and individuals who have never been incarcerated. Collateral consequences tend to last indefinitely, long after an individual is fully rehabilitated.

The Court Security Improvement Act of 2007 directed NIJ to carry out a national survey of collateral consequences. Through a competitive process, NIJ awarded a grant to the American Bar Association (ABA) to undertake the comprehensive, systematic collection of the collateral consequences of conviction for both state and federal offenses in each of the 50 states, the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

In 2012, the ABA launched an interactive database of sanctions and restrictions used across the nation: the National Inventory of the Collateral Consequences of Conviction (NICCC). Since its creation, the NICCC has compiled 44,368 separate and distinct collateral consequences of felony and misdemeanor convictions from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the federal government. A prosecutor or defense counsel can consult the NICCC database prior to plea negotiations to learn about, understand and appreciate the full scope of sanctions a conviction will entail. A judge also can instruct the accused to visit the NICCC prior to entering a plea. Finally — as Congress intended with its 2007 legislation — state policymakers can identify overly punitive or duplicative collateral consequences and revise those statutes or policies. Since inception, the NICCC has been visited by more than 40,000 individuals from over 100 different countries.

While the ABA is working to keep this service open to the public, in 2015 it was directed to make an archival search feature available to the public. Once complete, users will be able to see consequences from past years in the NICCC, adding valuable functionality for researchers and analysts who seek to evaluate the impact of policy changes to collateral consequences.

➤ **See the NICCC database** at [www.abacollateralconsequences.org](http://www.abacollateralconsequences.org).

## Chapter 6: Forensics

### Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence to Exonerate the Innocent

Since the advent of forensic DNA analysis, a growing number of Americans convicted of violent crimes have been exonerated through DNA analysis of evidence that was untested at the time of trial. New technologies have increased the likelihood of successful DNA analysis of aged, degraded, limited, or otherwise compromised biological evidence. As a result, crime scene samples once thought to be unsuitable for testing may now yield viable DNA profiles. Moreover, samples that had previously generated inconclusive DNA results may be amenable to reanalysis using newer methods.

NIJ's program, Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence to Exonerate the Innocent, provides funding to states to help defray the costs associated with postconviction DNA testing. These awards can be used for cases involving violent felony offenses in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. Funds may also be used to review cases and locate and analyze biological evidence associated with them.

This program is designed to:

1. Review appropriate postconviction cases to identify those in which DNA testing could prove the actual innocence of a person convicted of a violent felony offense as defined by state law.
2. Locate biological evidence associated with such postconviction cases.
3. Perform DNA analysis of appropriate biological evidence.

Though exonerations are not the sole measure of program success, NIJ's Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence to Exonerate the Innocent has led to the review of more than 54,000 cases contributing to 26 exonerations since 2009.

- **Learn more** about how NIJ's is helping to exonerate the innocent on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword: "Postconviction."

### Increasing the Capacity of Labs to Process DNA

NIJ assists public crime laboratories in their efforts to enhance their capacity and reduce the number of forensic samples awaiting analysis. This is accomplished both through short-term, immediate support to labs for processing and analyzing DNA evidence and long-term investment in research and development that leads to improved testing procedures and methods.

Since 2005, through the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction and Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants programs, NIJ has provided \$620 million in the form of more than 500 Coverdell awards and more than 700 backlog reduction awards to hundreds of law enforcement agencies and accredited forensic laboratories. This assistance is used to process, record, screen and analyze forensic DNA and DNA database samples and increase the capacity of public laboratories to process more DNA samples.

Projects funded under these programs have led to:

- The upload of more than 1,000,000 DNA profiles of convicted individuals to the CODIS database and the processing of over 550,000 DNA cases resulting in more than 247,000 CODIS uploads and 92,000 CODIS hits. Based on a cost estimate study of 2010 data, 761,609 offender profiles were uploaded to CODIS. At \$40 apiece, this cost the state and federal governments approximately \$30.5 million, but saved \$15.3 billion by preventing new crimes.

- Support for increased automation and improved testing procedures, hiring more personnel, and using overtime, resulting in laboratories processing 10 percent more forensic DNA cases in 2011 than in 2009.
- Improved quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services, including services provided by laboratories operated by states and units of local government, by providing more than \$115,000,000 in grant awards.

Through these activities, NIJ provides the knowledge and tools needed to improve the quality and practice of forensic science, leading to reduced crime and improved public safety.

- **Learn more** about how NIJ is working to improve laboratory efficiency on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword “Crime Laboratory Operations.”

### **Improving Forensic Science Quality**

NIJ is the federal government’s lead agency for forensic science research and development. It is the driving force behind innovation in the field because it enhances the capacity of the nation’s public crime laboratories and strengthens the accuracy and reliability of forensic science.

Through its work within the forensic science field, NIJ has revolutionized how law enforcement solves crimes using forensic technology. NIJ’s support for forensic science research and development has changed how the criminal justice system views the potential for wrongful convictions, how cases are investigated, and how forensic evidence is interpreted. After two decades of cutting-edge research, we are now realizing the cumulative impact of NIJ’s investment, which has led to innovations we never thought possible.

Since 2009, NIJ has invested more than \$150 million in forensic science research to:

- Develop highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective and rapid methods for the identification, analysis and interpretation of physical evidence.
- Transition new technologies into labs to encourage the use of new technology to facilitate the effective use of new and innovative techniques and methods for processing and testing forensic evidence.
- Evaluate existing protocols and inform the forensic community of best practices.
- Increase the pool of researchers in STEM fields who are involved in research relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice.
- Expand the scientific bases of forensic methods, develop quantifiable measures of the reliability and accuracy of forensic analyses, and facilitate a greater understanding of human factors that may affect forensic analyses and interpretation of results.

These investments have had an immense impact on the field, and have resulted in:

- Launching more than 300 projects involving numerous forensic science sub-disciplines including forensic DNA, impression and pattern evidence, trace evidence, forensic pathology, forensic toxicology, anthropology, crime scene investigation, controlled substances and forensic entomology.
- Support for more than 290 scientific publications, 760 presentations and 90 technical reports resulting from research and development projects.
- Partnerships with the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to promote innovation in forensic science — leading to the development



of best practices for preserving DNA and other biological evidence, investigator bios in fingerprint examination, and the creation of standards for examining various other evidence types.

- Distribution of NIJ-supported research through the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, which delivered technology assistance and web-based technology-transfer workshops to more than 25,000 practitioners from 2011 through 2014.

Strengthening science to improve justice is a key goal of NIJ. Just as medical research is crucial for advancing public health, sustained progress in the research underlying forensic science is critical for advancing public safety and the administration of justice.

- **Learn how** NIJ is strengthening forensic science on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword “Forensic Science Research and Development.”

### Support for Improved Identification of Bodies

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national centralized repository and resource center for locating and identifying missing persons and identifying previously unidentified human remains. NamUs assists a community of stakeholders that includes medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials, allied forensic professionals, (anthropologists, odontologists, DNA analysts and fingerprint examiners), families of lost loved ones and the general public.

NamUs comprises three databases:

- The **Missing Persons Database** contains information about missing persons that can be entered by anyone; however before it appears as a case on NamUs, the information is verified. NamUs provides a user with a variety of resources, including the ability to print missing persons posters and receive free biometric collection and testing assistance. Other resources include links to state clearinghouses, medical examiner and coroner offices, law enforcement agencies, victim assistance groups and pertinent legislation.
- The **Unidentified Persons Database** contains information entered by medical examiners and coroners. Unidentified persons are people who have died and whose bodies have not been identified. Anyone can search this database using characteristics such as sex, race, distinct body features and even dental information.
- The **Unclaimed Persons Database** contains information about deceased persons who have been identified by name, but for whom no next of kin or family member has been identified or located to claim the body for burial or other disposition. Only medical examiners and coroners may enter cases in the unclaimed persons database. However, the public may search the database by using a missing person's name and year of birth.

Since its development in 2007, NamUs has helped resolve nearly 600 unidentified person and 1,150 missing person cases. The NamUs Missing Person website alone has received almost 14 million visitors and approximately 24,500 missing person reports, and its Unidentified Person website has received almost 4.6 million visitors and almost 13,000 unidentified person reports, with new cases being added weekly.

- **Learn more** about how NIJ is helping to put names to the millions of missing persons in this country at [NamUs.gov](http://NamUs.gov).

## **Solving Cold Cases**

NIJ's Solving Cold Cases With DNA program has been a tremendous success since its inception, and has had an impact by giving law enforcement agencies resources focused specifically on cold case investigations. Since 2005, NIJ has awarded almost \$78,000,000 to 42 states through 213 awards.

In 10 years, more than 138,000 cases have been reviewed, producing more than 5,000 DNA profiles uploaded into the CODIS database and resulting in more than 1,900 CODIS hits and over 2,000 cases having been closed or solved due to work under this program. As a byproduct of the program, many agencies have been able to locate and organize case files and evidence resulting in non-DNA leads and evidence analysis and ancillary case closures.

In April 2015, NIJ hosted a meeting of cold case investigation experts to discuss cold case units and investigations in the United States. NIJ is now researching cold case units with the intention of producing resources to assist them in solving crime. The people who attended the initial meeting divided the group into three subcommittees that are researching cold case topics to report to NIJ. Topics include non-DNA forensic applications and emerging technologies to analyze cold case evidence. As part of these meetings, NIJ is also examining the impact of its Solving Cold Cases with DNA program using data collected over the past 10 years.

➤ **Learn more** about how NIJ is helping to solve cold cases on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword: "Cold Cases."

## Chapter 7: Highlights of Dissemination

During 2015, NIJ continued to integrate traditional and new media to disseminate research to the criminal justice community, using a variety of communication methods.

### ***The Impact of Forensic Science Research and Development***

Since 2009, NIJ has invested more than \$127 million in an R&D portfolio that makes it a global leader in the advancement of forensic science. In crime labs across the country, scientists and technicians are being armed with increasingly sophisticated technologies they can use to help bring criminals to justice and prevent the innocent from going to prison. Innovations from forensic science research and development are bringing new techniques to crime solving and increasing the reliability and efficiency of forensic testing.

- **Read** *The Impact of Forensic Science Research and Development* on NIJ.gov, keyword: “The Impact of Forensic Science Research and Development.”



### ***Paving the Way: Lessons Learned in Sentinel Event Reviews***

In 2014, as part of its Sentinel Events Initiative, NIJ asked jurisdictions from around the country to volunteer for an experiment — or beta test — of the sentinel event review process. Through a competitive process, three cities were selected: Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The three sites designed and conducted their own review of a justice error (a sentinel event) that had occurred in their jurisdiction. By successfully completing a sentinel event review, the three sites provided the first empirical evidence of the feasibility of adopting sentinel event reviews in the justice system.



Lessons learned from the sites’ experiences are summarized in the 2015 publication *Paving the Way: Lessons Learned in Sentinel Event Reviews*, which covers topics such as:

- Where does a jurisdiction start when thinking about performing a sentinel event review?
  - What kind of an event should be reviewed, including some of the benefits and challenges of selecting an older event?
  - Who should be on the sentinel event review team — and who should lead or facilitate the review process?
  - How can the important “nonblaming” component of sentinel event review be achieved?
- **Read** *Paving the Way: Lessons Learned in Sentinel Event Reviews* on NIJ.gov, keyword: “Paving the Way.”

## The *NIJ Journal*

The *NIJ Journal*, published twice a year, features a broad array of articles that translate NIJ's scientific studies into accessible information to help policymakers and practitioners use science to make informed decisions and stay abreast of new developments in their fields. The *NIJ Journal* presents findings from NIJ's portfolios of forensic science, social and behavioral science, and science and technology.

- **Read** the *NIJ Journal* on [NIJ.gov](http://NIJ.gov), keyword: "NIJ Journal."



## Sexual Assault Kits: Using Science to Find Solutions

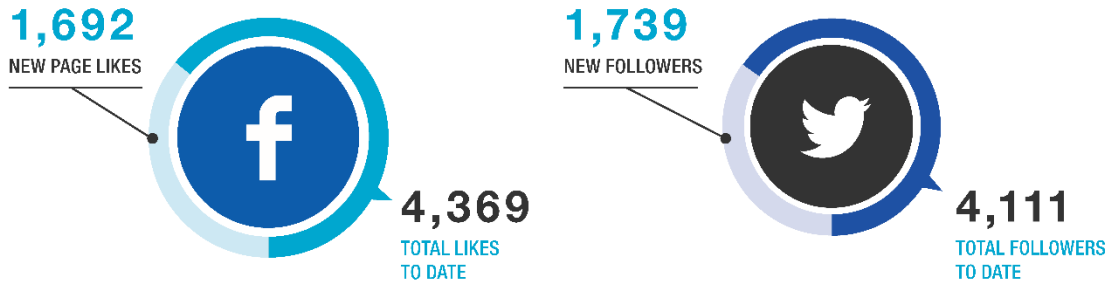


During 2015, NIJ launched an interactive website that synthesized what we know about how scientific advances have affected sexual assault kits — from the impact on victims to the impact on crime labs and prosecutors. Scientists are building evidence-based knowledge about how to develop priorities for testing unsubmitted sexual assault kits, following up on hits from the DNA database, and notifying victims of new developments in their cases. The site contains video and audio clips from many people who are leading the effort to solve sexual assault cases, charts that simplify complicated data, and a graphic that takes readers through the decisions involved in analyzing evidence in sexual assault kits.

## Social Media

For more than three years, NIJ has disseminated research via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. At the end of 2015, 4,369 people followed NIJ on Facebook and 4,111 people followed NIJ on Twitter — with both outlets showing significant growth over the year. NIJ published 577 posts on Facebook and 1,408 posts on Twitter in 2015. When combined, these posts appeared in more than 1.7 million feeds.

## HOW MANY PEOPLE CONNECTED WITH NIJ ON SOCIAL MEDIA?



## HOW MANY PEOPLE SAW NIJ'S SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS?

### FACEBOOK

**577**  
FACEBOOK POSTS REACHED  
**313,866**  
PEOPLE IN 2015

THAT'S AN AVERAGE OF  
**544 PEOPLE**  
REACHED  
PER POST

REACH INCREASED  
**21%**  
COMPARED WITH  
2014

### TWITTER

**1,408**  
TWITTER POSTS REACHED  
**1,436,845**  
PEOPLE IN 2015

THAT'S AN AVERAGE OF  
**1,021 PEOPLE**  
REACHED  
PER POST

REACH INCREASED  
**73%**  
COMPARED WITH  
2014\*

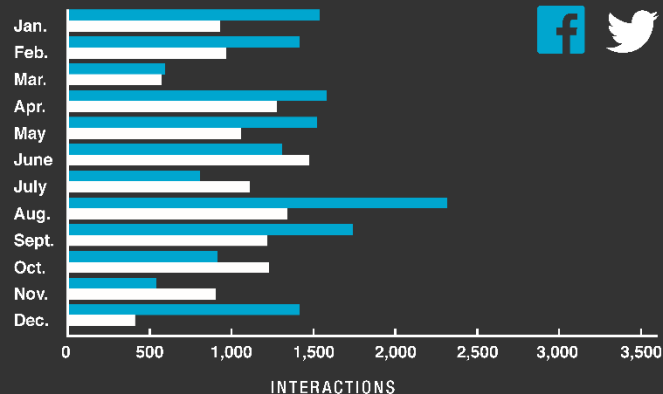
\*THIS DATA WAS COMPARED AGAINST AN INCOMPLETE YEAR, JULY–DECEMBER 2014.

## HOW DID PEOPLE ENGAGE WITH NIJ ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

**FACEBOOK**  
**15,596** INTERACTIONS  
(2% DECREASE  
COMPARED WITH 2014)

**TWITTER**  
**12,335** INTERACTIONS  
(52% INCREASE  
COMPARED WITH 2014)

NUMBER OF FACEBOOK AND TWITTER INTERACTIONS



## Appendix: Financial Data

### Exhibit 1: Funds Made Available Pursuant to P.L. 113-235

Type of Funds	Amount (in Millions)
<b>1. Research, Evaluation and Development</b>	
a. NIJ "Base" Appropriation	\$36.0
b. Evaluation Clearinghouse/What Works Repository (CrimeSolutions.gov)	0.0
c. National Commission on Forensic Science	1.0
d. National Institute of Standards and Technology*	3.0
<b>2. State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance</b>	
a. DNA-Related and Other Forensic Programs and Activities	
i. DNA Analysis and Capacity Enhancement Program and for Other Local, State and Federal Forensic Activities	\$117.0
ii. Postconviction DNA Testing	4.0
iii. Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program	4.0
b. Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants	12.0
c. Domestic Radicalization Research	4.0
d. Comprehensive School Safety Initiative	75.0
<b>3. Violence Against Women Prevention and Prosecution Programs</b>	
a. Analysis and Research on Violence Against Indian Women	1.0
b. Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women and Related Issues	3.0
<b>4. Reimbursements and Transfers From Other Federal Entities (including OJP Components)</b>	18.2
<b>5. Section 215 Set-Aside for Research and Statistics</b>	11.7
<b>6. Carry-Forward Funds From Prior Fiscal Years (including reimbursements)</b>	\$2.6
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$290.9</b>

\* P.L. 113-235 directed NIJ to transfer \$3 million to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

## Exhibit 2: Allocation of Funds

Type of Activity	Subcategory	Percent
Social Science	Research and Development*	35.7
	Training and Technical Assistance	0.7
Science and Technology	Research and Development*	3.6
	Technology Assistance/Test and Evaluation	2.8
Investigative and Forensic Science	Analysis and Capacity Enhancement**	28.7
	Research and Development*	10.8
	Training and Technical Assistance	3.8
Dissemination/Outreach/Program Support		3.7
Carve-Out for Section 215 Set-Aside for Research and Statistics		0.9
OJP Management and Administration (M&A)		7.4
Direct Transfer to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Pursuant to Public Law 113-235		1.0
Carryover (including reimbursements)***		0.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.0</b>

\* Per Section 200.87 of the new OMB Uniform Guidance: Cost Principles, Audit, and Administrative Requirements for Federal Awards (Omni-Circular): *“Research and development” means all research activities, both basic and applied, and all development activities that are performed by nonfederal entities. The term research also includes activities involving the training of individuals in research techniques where such activities utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities and where such activities are not included in the instruction function.*

*“Research” is defined as a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied. “Development” is the systematic use of knowledge and understanding gained from research toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design and development of prototypes and processes.*

\*\* Grants to states and units of local government to improve and enhance crime laboratories (including funds for analyses/backlog reduction).

\*\*\* NIJ received “no-year” funding for these programs in FY 2015 (funds that did not expire at the end of the fiscal year). “Carryover” funds are those that remained unobligated as of the end of the fiscal year. Depending on the provisions of future appropriations legislation, these funds may be subject to statutory rescission. Also included are funds received via Reimbursable Agreement from another federal agency (including an OJP component) that remained unobligated at the end of the fiscal year.

### Exhibit 3: Allocation of Funds for DNA-Related and Other Forensics Programs and Activities

The National Institute of Justice received \$117 million in the FY 2015 appropriation for DNA-related and other forensic programs and activities. No carryover funds from FY 2015 were available. Funds were used as follows:

<b>DNA Analysis, Capacity Enhancement, and Other Forensic Activities</b>	<b>FY 2015 Funds (in millions)</b>
<b>Awards That Directly Benefit State and Local Government Efforts to Build Capacity and Reduce Backlogs</b>	
Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program*	\$65.8
Using DNA Technology to Identify the Missing	3.4
DNA Arrestee Collection Process Implementation Grants Program	0.7
<b>Research and Development</b>	
Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes	23.3
Research and Development for Publicly Funded Forensic Science Laboratories to Assess the Testing and Processing of Physical Evidence	0.7
<b>Training and Technical Assistance</b>	
Training and Technical Assistance (including \$5.0 million for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs); and \$3.4 million for Operations and Maintenance of the Forensic Science Technology Center of Excellence)	9.5
<b>Other</b>	
Carve-Out for Section 214 NIJ/BJA Set-Aside for Research, Evaluation and Statistics	2.3
Office of Justice Programs Assessment for Management and Administration (M&A)	9.7
Dissemination/Outreach/Program Support	1.1
Peer Review of DNA Analysis, Capacity Enhancement, and Other Forensic Activities	0.5
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$117.0</b>



NIJ received \$4 million in the FY 2015 appropriation for Postconviction DNA Testing and Assistance. No carryover funds from FY 2015 were available. Funds were used as follows:

<b>Postconviction DNA Testing Assistance Program</b>	<b>FY 2015 Funds (in millions)</b>
Postconviction DNA Testing Assistance Program Grants	\$3.6
Office of Justice Programs Assessment for Management and Administration (M&A)	0.3
Peer Review of Postconviction DNA Testing Program Applications	0.03
Carve-Out for Section 214 NIJ/BJA Set-Aside for Research, Evaluation and Statistics	0.08
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$4.0</b>

NIJ received \$4 million in the FY 2015 appropriations for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program. No carryover funds from FY 2015 were available. Funds were used as follows:

<b>Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program</b>	<b>FY 2015 Funds (in millions)</b>
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Grants	\$3.6
Office of Justice Programs Assessment for Management and Administration (M&A)	0.3
Peer Review of Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program Applications	0.03
Carve-Out for Section 214 NIJ/BJA Set-Aside for Research, Evaluation and Statistics	0.08
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4.0</b>
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$125.0</b>

\* NIJ elects to administer the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program through an NIJ-established formula that is described annually in the solicitation document. The funds are discretionary in nature (i.e., there is no statutory requirement to administer them as a formula program).

## Exhibit 4: Solicitations by Title, Number of Applications and Awards, and Value

### Exhibit 4a: Competitive Awards

Solicitation Title	Awards Made	Value of Awards
1. Building and Enhancing Criminal Justice Researcher-Practitioner Partnerships	3	\$1,258,813
2. Collecting Digital Evidence From Large-Scale Computer Systems and Networks	1	276,431
3. Comprehensive School Safety Initiative	25	69,637,610
4. Continuations to Competitive Awards	31	28,945,976
5. DNA Arrestee Collection Process Implementation Grants Program	2	676,456
6. Data Resources Program 2015: Funding for Analysis of Existing Data	9	357,098
7. Developing a Method to Value Law Enforcement Data	1	494,976
8. Evaluation of the Office for Victims of Crime Supporting Male Survivors of Violence Demonstration	1	993,432
9. Evaluation of the Office on Violence Against Women's Sexual Assault Justice Initiative	1	999,724
10. Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	20	928,666
11. NIJ Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences	5	155,842
12. Competitive Awards Under Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, Fiscal Year 2015	22	2,733,411
13. Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence to Exonerate the Innocent	8	3,555,053
14. Postdoctoral Fellowship on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Teen Dating Violence and Stalking	0	0
15. Process Evaluation of the Firearm Locks Distribution and Safe Storage Program	1	199,607
16. Research and Development for Publicly Funded Forensic Science Laboratories to Assess the Testing and Processing of Physical Evidence	7	928,900
17. Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes	60	29,295,655
18. Research and Evaluation Examining Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women: Domestic Violence, Homicide, Intimate Partner Violence, Sex Trafficking, Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence	0	0
19. Research and Evaluation on Children Exposed to Violence	2	1,162,938
20. Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization to Violent Extremism	4	1,896,871
21. Research and Evaluation on Firearms Violence Reduction	1	622,432
22. Research and Evaluation on Justice Systems	3	1,876,744
23. Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons	6	3,680,226

24. Research and Evaluation on Victims of Crime	4	\$4,331,835
25. Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence	1	697,120
26. Research and Evaluation on White-Collar Crime and Public Corruption	2	817,086
27. Research and Evaluation on the Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation of Elderly Individuals	2	1,297,873
28. Research and Evaluation on the Investigation and Adjudication of Campus Sexual Assault	1	555,677
29. Research Into the Use of Suicide Prevention and Intervention Strategies by Law Enforcement Agencies	1	499,106
30. Research on Bias Crime Victimization	2	1,123,531
31. Research on Law Enforcement Use of Common Operational Picture (COP) Technologies	1	499,986
32. Research on the Efficacy of Different Contraband Interdiction Modalities Used in Correctional Facilities	1	499,999
33. Research on “Sentinel Events” and Criminal Justice System Errors	2	1,075,346
34. Secondary Analysis of the 2010 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) Data: General Population and American Indian and Alaska Native Samples	1	39,958
35. Social Science Research on Implementation, Dissemination, and Translation	4	863,722
36. Using DNA Technology to Identify the Missing	5	3,356,949
37. W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship for Research in Race, Gender, Culture, and Crime	1	144,329
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>\$166,479,378</b>

#### Exhibit 4b: Noncompetitive Awards

Solicitation Title	Awards Made	Value of Awards
1. DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program	122	\$65,777,030
2. Noncompetitive Awards Under Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program, Fiscal Year 2015	49	7,884,140
3. Nonsolicited Awards, Fiscal Year 2015	8	3,051,867
4. Continuations to Noncompetitive Awards	1	648,164
<b>Total</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>\$77,361,201</b>