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Mission Control: What OJP is About

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I. The launching pad

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) in the Department of Justice (Department) works to enhance the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist crime victims. OJP partners with federal, state, and local agencies; researchers; and national and community-based organizations to develop, operate, and evaluate a wide range of criminal and juvenile justice programs. To accomplish this mission, OJP administers a mix of formula and discretionary grant programs, sponsors research and data collection and analysis, and provides training and technical assistance.

For twenty years, OJP has been both a supporter and a partner of U.S. Attorneys. It has not only provided U.S. Attorneys with guidance and assistance, but has also worked with them to shape a responsible and responsive criminal justice system. OJP has:

- funded positions in U.S. Attorneys' Offices (USAOs);
- connected them with local, state, and national resources;
- served as a conduit for information on "what works;"
- sponsored knowledge- and skills-building opportunities; and
- provided them with the latest research.

In turn, OJP has relied on the vast experience and insight of the staff in USAOs to guide it in forming policy and designing programs that meet the needs of criminal justice professionals on all levels of government.

OJP comprises five statutorily created bureaus and two program offices, as well as seven other offices that provide agency-wide support. It also operates the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, which provides information services in support of OJP. Though each of these components

has a discrete mission, they act collectively in furtherance of a single vision. OJP seeks to ensure that every program it administers complements all others, and that, being products of good federal stewardship, they do so without unnecessary duplication.

II. OJP strategies: lift off

There is no question that terrorism is the chief public safety concern in America today. What was once seen as a phenomenon confined to remote lands and unstable regimes is now an ever-present menace in our own country. President Bush has emphasized the importance of eradicating that threat and rooting out terror from its breeding ground, while taking great measures to protect citizens from future terrorist acts. At the same time, he has continued to pursue an aggressive assault on the crimes that have long plagued our homes, streets, and neighborhoods.

Three years ago, the President stated the importance of "a national strategy to assure that every community is attacking gun violence with focus and intensity." Remarks by the President on Project Safe Neighborhoods, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia (May 14, 2001) available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/05/20010514-1.html>. To that end, he announced Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nationwide effort to encourage and strengthen partnerships among all levels of government for the purpose of enforcing gun laws. To date, the Administration has devoted more than \$1 billion under this initiative to hire and train local, state, and federal prosecutors; update and automate criminal history records; implement violence reduction strategies targeted to both adults and juveniles; improve ballistics technology; and create a nationwide tracing system for guns used in crimes.

OJP has provided substantial support to USAOs under this initiative, particularly in making funds available to hire more than 200 new federal prosecutors to focus on gun violence. Working with the 300 additional agents hired by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), U.S. Attorneys filed a record 10,556 firearms cases in Fiscal Year 2003,

charging more than 13,000 defendants. An even greater measure of the program's success is the number of Americans spared from gun violence. There were 130,000 fewer victims of gun crime between 2001 and 2002 than between 1999 and 2000.

President Bush has also committed almost \$1 billion over five years to his initiative, Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology. A recent report commissioned by OJP's National Institute of Justice estimates a backlog of 221,003 unsolved cases of homicide and rape that may involve biological evidence. Because so many violent crimes are committed by repeat offenders, there is an urgency to the resolution of these cases.

Advances in the use of DNA evidence represent a quantum leap forward in the criminal justice system's ability to solve crimes. Unfortunately, its potential has been limited by inadequate laboratory capacity, outdated information systems, overwhelming caseloads, and a lack of training. OJP seeks to address these weaknesses through a multi-pronged effort encompassing research, technology enhancement, staffing support, and education.

Another effort instituted at the President's behest is the coordination of AMBER Alert plans to improve the recovery of abducted children. In October 2002, the Attorney General directed OJP to take the lead in developing a strategy that would strengthen the AMBER Alert System nationwide and increase the likelihood that abducted children would be recovered swiftly and safely. Since the first AMBER Alert plan was instituted eight years ago in Dallas, Texas, more than 135 children have been found and returned to their homes. More than 100 of those children have been recovered since the President issued his call in 2002 for the program to become a nationally coordinated effort. All fifty states have developed plans.

OJP, in conjunction with a national advisory group, is working to assess current AMBER Alert plans and technology, develop guidance on plan implementation, improve technological compatibility among systems, communicate lessons learned, and raise public awareness on how to protect children. A key component of the effort is the establishment and strengthening of partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies. Seventy-four percent of children who

are kidnapped and later found murdered are killed within the first three hours after being taken, and 99 percent are killed within the first twenty-four hours. These figures prove the urgency of a seamless network of communication.

Partnerships form the basis of another OJP initiative, Weed and Seed. Led by U.S. Attorneys partnered with community leaders, Weed and Seed's two-pronged strategy is aimed at reducing violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in high-crime neighborhoods across the country, while making those neighborhoods inviting places to live, work, and raise a family. The program's approach involves the cooperation of law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in "weeding out" criminals and the collaboration of multiple community players in "seeding" the area with prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Weed and Seed is the flagship of OJP's new Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO), created to project these community-driven, problem-solving methods onto other OJP programs. In addition to incorporating the Weed and Seed program, CCDO absorbs OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Affairs Desk, adapting the Weed and Seed model to tribal communities. CCDO applies this blueprint to, among other things, the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative. Every year, about 630,000 offenders are released from prison and returned to communities. Two-thirds of them are rearrested for a new offense within three years of release. OJP, in partnership with other federal agencies, is helping communities to develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to reduce the risk of serious and violent offenses by former prisoners. This program, too, is guided by community stakeholders.

OJP also strives to facilitate the flow of information among criminal justice agencies at all levels. As important as community investment and involvement are to the success of crime reduction strategies, effective problem solving depends on the ability of crime fighting professionals to gather, analyze, and share data quickly. OJP provides significant staff and financial support for the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global). Global is a federal advisory committee, made up of federal, state, local, and tribal agencies representing disciplines across the criminal justice spectrum, that advises the Attorney General on

information-sharing policy. The group seeks to create a seamless network of electronic information exchange, in large part by developing and promoting standards for managing technology. One example of the many benefits of such a network is instant access to criminal history information. With it, a routine traffic stop could lead to the safe apprehension of a suspected murderer.

In addition to helping prevent and control crime, OJP offers aid to victims. Here, USAOs play a unique and very important role. The fines and penalties collected from federal criminal offenders go into the Crime Victims Fund, which supports thousands of local victim assistance programs throughout the country and victim compensation programs in every state. Simply put, criminals foot the bill for victims. The Fund also supports training and technical assistance for victim-service providers, criminal justice professionals and their allies, as well as demonstration programs to promote best practices. Finally, the Fund contributes to a number of victim-related initiatives in the federal system, from automated victim notification to victim-witness positions in USAOs and other federal agencies.

Through its data collection and statistical functions, OJP provides U.S. Attorneys with valuable information on crime trends. The statistical analyses conducted by OJP run the gamut of issues addressed by the criminal justice system, from law enforcement operations to recidivism to victimization. A Federal Justice Statistics Program captures data on all stages of the federal justice system and relies on the Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys (EOUSA) for much of the information it analyzes. Through the program, U.S. Attorneys have access not only to information on numbers of individuals investigated, prosecuted, and convicted, but also to overviews of court dispositions, sentencing outcomes, and time served, among other quantifiable material. To help U.S. Attorneys with partnership building in their own communities, much of OJP's statistical information is available by state or large police agency.

These are but a few of the many important efforts being undertaken by OJP in fulfillment of its mission to prevent, control, and reduce crime. OJP offers a vast array of other programs as well, administered by its five bureaus and two program offices. Each entity is governed by its own statute

or agency mandate, but together they form a cohesive strategy for attacking crime.

III. Bureaus and offices: OJP satellites

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides leadership and assistance in support of local criminal justice strategies to achieve safe communities. BJA's goals are to reduce and prevent crime, violence, and drug abuse, and to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system. BJA administers formula grant programs, such as the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program and the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, discretionary grant programs such as the Drug Courts Program and Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, and payment and benefit programs such as the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program and Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), the official statistical agency of the Department, is the premier criminal justice statistical analysis center in the United States. BJS collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. BJS provides the President, the Congress, other officials, and the public with timely, accurate, and objective data about crime and the administration of justice. In addition, BJS provides financial and technical support to state, local, and tribal governments in developing their criminal justice statistical capabilities. This assistance targets the development of information systems related to national criminal history records, records of protective orders involving domestic violence and stalking, sex offender registries, and automated identification systems used for background checks.

The mission of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is to advance scientific research and develop technology and equipment to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ is the research and development agency of the Department and is dedicated to researching crime control and justice issues. NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of criminal justice, particularly at state and local levels. Major programs include social science research and evaluation, technology development, forensic laboratory capacity development, technology

assistance for state and local public safety agencies, and dissemination of information through printed publications, Web sites, and conferences.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) provides national leadership, coordination, and resources, to prevent and respond to juvenile delinquency and victimization. OJJDP supports states and communities in their efforts to develop and implement effective and coordinated prevention and intervention programs and to improve the juvenile justice system so that it protects public safety, holds offenders accountable, and provides treatment and rehabilitative services tailored to the needs of juveniles and their families.

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) is committed to enhancing the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and provide leadership in changing attitudes, policies, and practices to promote justice and healing for all crime victims. In this regard, OVC administers programs authorized by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-473, 98 Stat. 2170 (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C.), and the Crime Victims Fund authorized by this statute. The Fund is composed of criminal fines and penalties, special assessments, and bond forfeitures, collected from convicted federal perpetrators, as well as gifts and donations received from the general public. Money deposited in the Fund is used to support a wide range of activities on behalf of crime victims, including victim compensation and assistance services, training and technical assistance, and program evaluation and replication.

The Office of the Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education (OPCLEE) administers the Police Corps, a program that addresses violent crime by helping state and local law enforcement agencies increase the number of officers with advanced education and training assigned to community patrol. The program aims to motivate qualified young people to serve as police officers and sheriffs' deputies in municipalities, counties, and states that need them most. It offers federal scholarships on a competitive basis to college students who agree to serve at least four years on community patrol where needed. The Corps also provides scholarships to eligible dependents of officers killed in the line of duty.

The Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) brings into focus one of OJP's core missions: to work with local communities to analyze public safety and criminal justice problems, develop solutions, and foster local-level leadership to implement and sustain these solutions. Over the years, OJP has supported a number of community-based efforts. This new office, which will continue the many successes of the well-known Weed and Seed program, establishes a single organizational infrastructure that will provide a focus for these activities, offering robust training and technical assistance opportunities to help communities better help themselves. The mission of CCDO is to oversee OJP's community capacity development and sustainability efforts. Through the coordination of financial and programmatic resources and technical assistance focused on empowering local communities, CCDO will help federal agencies develop the capacity to address community-centered criminal justice problems.

The AI/AN Affairs Desk is a part of the CCDO. The mission of the AI/AN is to enhance access to information by federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes regarding funding opportunities, training, technical assistance, and other relevant information.

IV. OJP and United States Attorneys: returning home

The following articles are intended to provide U.S. Attorneys with information about some of the programs administered by OJP, as well as the vast array of training, technical assistance, and other resources OJP has to offer. The programs highlighted in this issue were selected because they hold particular value for USAOs. Though they represent only a part, albeit an important one, of the many current OJP initiatives, they span the vista of the OJP landscape to give readers a sampling of the many ways OJP can assist them.

The relationship between OJP and USAOs, however, is a reciprocal one, requiring ideas and feedback to enrich OJP programs. OJP depends on U.S. Attorneys to let it know what is and what is not working, and to guide OJP as it strives to fulfill its mission. U.S. Attorneys represent the vanguard of crime fighting in the nation, and the lessons and experiences they pass along to OJP will translate into benefits for criminal justice

professionals and their allies across the country. OJP values its relationship with USAOs, and it is proud to be partnered with U.S. Attorneys in their efforts to fight crime and keep America's communities safe. ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

❑ **Deborah J. Daniels** was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 21, 2001 as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. As Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Daniels is responsible for overall management and oversight of OJP, guides the development of OJP policy and priorities, promotes coordination among OJP Bureaus and program offices, and ensures that OJP policies and programs reflect the priorities of the President, the Attorney General, and the Congress. From 1988 to 1993, Ms. Daniels was the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. During her tenure as U.S. Attorney, Ms. Daniels accepted a detail to serve under the Deputy Attorney General as the first Director of the Executive Office for Weed and Seed. ❖

Partnerships for Safer Communities: Office of Justice Program Grants, Funding Opportunities, and Other Resources

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I. Introduction

Since its founding in 1984, the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) has provided federal leadership in developing the nation's capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist crime victims. It is the Justice Department's primary source of assistance for state and local criminal justice initiatives. OJP's bureaus and offices provide federal leadership, administer federal grants, provide training and technical assistance, support technology development and research, and gather and disseminate statistics.

OJP's grant programs are divided into two main categories: formula grants and discretionary grants. Formula grants are awarded to state and local governments based on a predetermined formula that might be based upon a jurisdiction's crime rate, population, or other factors. States are generally required to pass a significant portion of formula awards through to local agencies and organizations in the form of sub-grants.

Discretionary grants are awarded on a competitive basis to public and private agencies and private non-profit organizations. In addition, certain discretionary programs, such as funding to Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the National Crime Prevention Council, are awarded on a non-competitive basis, consistent with congressional earmarks.

In addition to direct financial assistance, OJP provides a vast array of training, technical assistance, and other resources to state and local units of government, courts, community and faith-based organizations, and corrections agencies to develop their capacity to prevent and control crime, administer justice, and assist crime victims. OJP supports its grant recipients through a variety of means including:

- **Regional Financial Management Training Seminars:** These seminars are sponsored by OJP's Office of the Comptroller and are free to recipients of Department of Justice funding. Topics include the application process, procurement, methods of payment, matching requirements, financial reporting, indirect costs, confidential funds, program income, up-to-date information on grant-related financial regulations and Office of Management and Budget Circulars, hands-on exercises, and more. Registration for these seminars is available on-line at <http://www.tech-res-intl.com/DOJ-OC> training.
- **Grant Writing and Financial Management Workshops:** These workshops are sponsored by OJP's Office of the Comptroller and are held at the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy. Police officials attending the National Academy can attend this workshop. For more information, visit the National Academy Web site at <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/td/academy/na/na.htm>.
- The **Office of the Comptroller's Customer Service Center** is available to assist any one involved in the financial administration of OJP formula or discretionary grant programs with questions and/or problems. Grant recipients can contact the Customer Service Center by e-mail at askoc@ojp.usdoj.gov or by telephone at 1-800-458-0786.
- **OJP's Web site** at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov> contains general information about OJP and its bureaus and offices, as well as downloadable versions of many OJP publications and application kits. The Web site also contains useful links to selected criminal justice Web sites. The page for each OJP bureau/office includes an e-mail address where visitors can write with specific questions and/or comments.

- OJP publications are available through the **National Criminal Justice Reference Service**. For ordering and other information, call 1-800-851-3420 or visit the Web site at <http://www.ncjrs.org>.

Following is a comprehensive list of the specific funding opportunities and training, technical assistance, and other resources available to communities through OJP. This list is arranged by subject area for easy reference.

II. Law Enforcement

OJP is an active partner with many law enforcement agencies at the state and local levels to combat crime and promote safer neighborhoods. Through a variety of formula and discretionary grant programs, training, and technical assistance, OJP works with states, communities, and tribes across the nation to ensure they have the resources necessary to provide effective law enforcement and to ensure the safety of their citizens. OJP assistance to the law enforcement community emphasizes local decision-making, and is rooted in the belief that federal dollars should support initiatives that work and that are backed by the communities they serve. OJP administers a wide array of programs and research to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement. Listed below are funding opportunities.

A. Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$24,739,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program, which is appropriated to the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), but is administered by OJP. The purpose of BVP is to help protect the lives of law enforcement officers by assisting states and units of local and tribal governments in equipping their officers with armor vests. For the BVP Program, "law enforcement officer" includes police, sheriff's deputies, correctional officers, parole and probation agents, prosecutors, judicial officials, and many others. Federal funds can be used to pay up to 50 percent of an applicant's total vest costs. Vests purchased after March 1, 1999 that meet National Institute of Justice (NIJ) ballistic or stab standards are eligible for funding.

Certain vests containing Zylon have been subject to a special replacement or upgrade program, due to a reported degradation of its ballistic qualities under certain environmental conditions. To learn more about this issue, please visit <https://vests.ojp.gov/index.jsp>.

Additional information is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/bulletproof.html>. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

B. Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program

(Formula Grant Program)

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$494,827,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Program (Byrne). Byrne is a partnership among federal, state, and local governments to create safer communities. Grants are awarded to states for use by states and units of local government to improve the functioning of the criminal justice system—with emphasis on violent crime and serious offenders—and to enforce state and local laws that establish offenses similar to those in the federal Controlled Substances Act.

Grants can be used to provide personnel, equipment, training, technical assistance, and information systems for more widespread apprehension, prosecution, adjudication, detention, and rehabilitation of offenders who violate such state and local laws. Grants also can be used to provide assistance (other than compensation) to victims of these offenders. Twenty-nine legislatively authorized purpose areas were established to define the nature and scope of programs and projects that may be funded under Byrne.

From the FY 2004 allocation, each state will receive a base amount of 0.25 percent of the total allocation or \$500,000, whichever is greater. Remaining funds will be allocated according to each state's population. For state administering agency information, go to www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/byrne.html.

Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

C. Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$222,672,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Program. LLEBG provides funds to units of local government to underwrite projects that reduce crime and improve public safety. LLEBG emphasizes local decision making and encourages communities to craft their own responses to local crime and drug problems. Of the \$222,672,000 available in FY 2004, Congress set aside \$79,166,000 for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America; \$9,895,000 for the LLEBG Technology Initiative; and \$2,950,000 for Citizen Corps. The remaining amount is available for formula grants to units of local government to: hire, train, and employ on a continuing basis new, additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel; pay overtime to presently employed law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel for the purpose of increasing the number of hours worked by such personnel; procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions; enhance security measures in and around schools and in and around any other facility or location that is considered by the unit of local government to have a special risk for incidents of crime; establish or support drug courts; enhance the adjudication process of cases involving violent offenders, including violent juvenile offenders; establish a multi-jurisdictional task force, particularly in rural areas, composed of law enforcement officials to prevent and control crime; and establish crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel in order to control, detect, or investigate crime or the prosecution of criminals. Funds also can be used to defray the costs of indemnification insurance for law enforcement officers.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/llebg_app.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

D. Community Gun Violence Prosecution Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$29,687,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Community Gun Violence Prosecution (GVP) Program, which is appropriated to the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), but is administered by OJP. The GVP Program is a key component of President Bush's Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative, a major federal, state, and local initiative to combat gun-related crime and violence in communities across America. This program provides funding directly to chief prosecutors to hire assistant prosecutors to focus on cases that involve violent crimes committed with guns and other violations of gun statutes that involve drug trafficking and gang-related crimes in high firearm-related violence areas.

Additional information about this program is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/gvp.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

E. Project Sentry

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$14,849,000

The purpose of Project Sentry is to support a federal-state partnership to better coordinate state, federal, and local efforts to identify and appropriately prosecute, punish, and supervise juveniles who violate federal and state firearms laws.

Project Sentry (1) allocates funding to increase a jurisdiction's capability to arrest/detain, prosecute, and provide post-adjudication supervision to juveniles involved in firearms-related crime (including firearms-related incidents in and around schools); (2) develops and implements training and technical assistance support to provide direct benefits to program grantees; and (3) shares with participating jurisdictions and the field practical, measurable, and descriptive information on methods and efforts employed to reduce firearms-related crime involving juveniles.

This funding initiative provides assistance to communities for juvenile prosecution and supervision projects with the goal of lowering gun

offenses and gun violence among youths. These grants will help to determine the extent and nature of juvenile gun offenses and gun violence in the community, and find the best or most innovative approaches to address the problem. Such approaches may include one, or any combination of, the elements of identifying and investigating juvenile gun crimes, and prosecuting and supervising the offenders.

Additional information about this program is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

F. Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$29,687,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative (SWBPI), which is appropriated to the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), but is administered by OJP. The SWBPI provides funds to eligible jurisdictions in the four southwest border states, using a uniform payment-per-case basis for qualifying federally initiated and declined-referred criminal cases that were disposed of after October 1, 2001. Eligible jurisdictions include the county governments and the four state governments in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

A federally initiated and referred criminal case is eligible if it was prosecuted by a state or county prosecutor and disposed of during one of the eligibility periods. Jurisdictions providing pre-trial detention for eligible case defendants also are eligible for funds. Each defendant represents a separate case. Federally referred cases that are declined and not prosecuted by state or county prosecutors are ineligible. Applicants participating in the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) are permitted to apply.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/southwest.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

G. Law Enforcement Tribute Act

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$250,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Law Enforcement Tribute Act. The purpose of this Act is to provide grants to help

eligible jurisdictions complete permanent tributes to honor the men and women of law enforcement and public safety who have been killed or disabled in the line of duty. Permanent tributes are broadly defined and may take many forms. Many memorials are fixed objects that require little maintenance. Others may include moving components, man-made or natural materials, water, plant materials, and electromechanical support systems. Law Enforcement Tribute Act grants are limited to providing funds for applicants to continue work on or complete permanent tributes. Grants cannot be used by jurisdictions that have completed a permanent tribute at the time of the award, and they cannot be used for land purchases or construction costs.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/letribute.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

H. Police Corps

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$14,844,000

The Office of Police Corps and Law Enforcement Education (OPCLEE) administers the Police Corps program, which is appropriated to the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), but is administered by OJP.

The Police Corps program is designed to address violent crime by increasing the number of officers with advanced education and training who serve on community patrol. The program has two major components: 1) providing scholarships of up to \$3,750 per academic year on a competitive basis to students who agree to earn their bachelor's degrees, complete approved Police Corps training, and then serve for four years on patrol, as assigned, with law enforcement agencies in areas of great need; and 2) reducing local costs of hiring and training excellent new officers by providing funds to states to develop and provide sixteen to twenty-four weeks of rigorous residential Police Corps training for each participant.

The Police Corps currently is not accepting new applicants and does not expect to expand its program at this time.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/opclee. Contact: AskOPC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

I. Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

FY 2004 Appropriation (Death Mandatory)—\$49,054,000

FY 2004 Appropriation (Disability)—\$2,968,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program. PSOB was designed to offer peace of mind to men and women seeking careers in public safety and to make a strong statement about the value that American society places on the contributions of those who serve their communities in potentially dangerous circumstances. The PSOB Program consists of the following components: 1) a one-time financial benefit to eligible survivors of public safety officers whose deaths were the direct or proximate result of injury incurred in the line of duty on or after September 29, 1976. The USA PATRIOT Act increased the base PSOB benefit to \$250,000, and the FY 2004 benefit is \$267,494; 2) a one-time financial benefit to eligible public safety officers who were permanently and totally disabled as a result of injury incurred in the line of duty on or after November 29, 1990. Injuries must permanently prevent officers from performing any gainful work in the future; 3) financial support for higher education to eligible spouses and children of public safety officers who were killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty on or after January 1, 1978. Education funds can be used for tuition and fees, room and board, books, supplies, and other education-related costs.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psob/psob_main.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 888-744-6513.

J. Weed and Seed

2004 Appropriation—\$57,926,000

The Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) administers a discretionary grant program to support the Weed and Seed Initiative. Operation Weed and Seed is a community-based initiative that is an innovative and comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization.

Communities that develop a Weed and Seed strategy in coordination with their U.S. Attorney's Office may submit an application for Official

Recognition (OR) to the Office for Weed and Seed (OWS) for review and approval. If the site is designated as Officially Recognized, it may receive preference in discretionary funding from other participating federal agencies, priority for participating in federally sponsored training and technical assistance, use of the Weed and Seed logo, and eligibility to apply for Department of Justice Weed and Seed funding, subject to the availability of funds.

Weed and Seed has a rich tradition of partnering with faith-based organizations (FBOs) in meeting many of the critical needs of America's citizens. In FY 2002, OWS included a step-by-step implementation guide in the special emphasis section of their grant application kit. The guide provides detailed information about how communities can ensure that FBOs are incorporated into local Weed and Seed strategies. The guide is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/fbguide.htm.

Weed and Seed also collaborates closely with other federal programs such as Project Safe Neighborhoods, the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, community courts, drug courts, and other community-based initiatives.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows. Contact: AskEOWS@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-1152.

K. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

National White Collar Crime Information Center

The National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) provides a nationwide support system for agencies involved in the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of economic and high-tech crimes, and to support and partner with other appropriate entities in addressing homeland security initiatives, as they relate to economic and high-tech crimes. The NW3C is a federally funded, non-profit corporation whose membership primarily comprises law enforcement agencies, state regulatory bodies with criminal investigative authority, and state and local prosecution offices. Although NW3C has no investigative authority itself, its job is to help law enforcement agencies understand and better use tools to combat economic and high-tech crimes. For additional

information, visit the Web site at www.nw3c.org/index.html.

Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center

The Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center (JRLETC) is a training and technical assistance program offered through the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). Named in memory of 9-year-old Jimmy Ryce, who was abducted and murdered near his Florida home in 1995, the JRLETC was established to enhance the investigative response to missing and exploited children cases. For additional information, visit the Web site at http://www.ncmec.org/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=404.

Law Enforcement Training Database

The BJA's Law Enforcement Training Database is a catalog of all federally funded and supported training available to state and local law enforcement officials. For more information about training providers, course descriptions, eligibility criteria, and contact information, visit the Web site at <http://bjatraining.aspensys.com/>.

Project Safe Neighborhoods

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is President Bush's nationwide commitment to reduce gun crime in America. The effectiveness of PSN is based on the ability of local, state, and federal agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive led by the U.S. Attorney (USA) in each of the ninety-four federal judicial districts across the United States. Through collaboration with federal, state, and local law enforcement, each USA will implement the five core elements of PSN—partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach, and accountability—in a manner that is contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems in that district. The goal is to create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence and sustaining that reduction. Project Sentry provides resources for state and local juvenile justice prosecutors to increase their ability to focus on gun crimes committed by juveniles, and the Reducing Community Gun Violence Program seeks to fund demonstration projects that consist of locally crafted, innovative responses to local needs to reduce gun violence. Funds are made available in a flexible manner that permits each jurisdiction to customize its approach, taking into

account the factors unique to that area. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psn.html>.

III. Corrections/Managing Offenders

According to a study conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), 6.7 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole at year end 2002. Recognizing the tremendous costs associated with incarcerating and monitoring these individuals, OJP is dedicated to helping state and local authorities manage their correctional populations. OJP provides direct funding to states for offender management through initiatives such as the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management. OJP also supports research to identify promising innovations in corrections and disseminates information on what works to state and local corrections authorities. The following funding opportunities are available.

A. Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$4,948,000

The Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative is supported by the Department of Justice's OJP and National Institute of Corrections (NIC), and their federal partners: the U.S. Departments of Education (ED), Health and Human Services (HHS), Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and Labor (DOL). The initiative is a comprehensive effort that addresses both juvenile and adult populations of serious, high-risk offenders. It provides funding to develop, implement, enhance, and evaluate reentry strategies that will ensure the safety of the community and the reduction of serious, violent crime. This is accomplished by preparing targeted offenders to successfully return to their communities after having served a significant period of secure confinement in a state training school, juvenile or adult correctional facility, or other secure institution.

Communities selected to participate in the Reentry Initiative will have the opportunity to develop state-of-the-art reentry strategies and to acquire knowledge that will contribute to the establishment of national models of best practices. The Reentry Initiative allows communities to

identify the current gaps in their reentry strategy and present a developmental vision for reentry that seeks to fill those gaps and sustain the overall strategy. Additionally, communities can enhance existing reentry strategies with training and technical assistance that will build community capacity to effectively, safely, and efficiently reintegrate returning offenders.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/learn.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-514-6638.

B. State Criminal Alien Assistance Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$296,896,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). SCAAP provides federal payments to states and localities that incurred correctional officer salary costs for incarcerating undocumented criminal aliens with at least one felony or two misdemeanor convictions for violations of state or local law, and incarcerated for at least four consecutive days during the reporting period.

If a person in state or local custody is considered an undocumented (illegal) alien and imprisoned for at least four consecutive days during the reporting period, applicant jurisdictions can count all inmate days attributed to this person during the reporting period if: 1) the offender is convicted of a qualifying felony or a second misdemeanor. In this case, the jurisdiction may count jail or prison time and any pretrial detention time leading up to the conviction; and 2) the offender has ever been convicted of a qualifying felony or two misdemeanors. In this case, all future pretrial detention and prison or jail time may be counted, regardless of the nature of the new charge. Qualifying offenses are violations of state or local law. Violations of federal law are excluded.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/scaap.html.

Direct Toll Free Phone Support:

Technical assistance is available, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. eastern time,

via the GMS Helpdesk at 1-888-549-9901, Option 3.

C. Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$4,905,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Comprehensive Approaches to Sex Offender Management (CASOM) Discretionary Grant Program to help jurisdictions implement comprehensive approaches to the effective management of sex offenders in the community or to enhance existing programs. Program funds are intended to increase public safety and reduce victimization. Although this program focuses on the continuum of activities and services for sex offenders, grant funds must be targeted for the community reintegration and community management of these offenders and not to institutional services.

Under this program, the Center for Sex Offender Management (CSOM) supports CASOM grant recipients by helping them develop sound sex offender management strategies. CSOM also provides non-grant jurisdictions with training and technical assistance, and acts as an information exchange medium to provide useful, current, and accessible information to the field. Further information about CSOM is available at www.csom.org.

Additional information about CASOM is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/casom.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

D. Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Discretionary Grant Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$20,000,000 (approximately)

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Protecting Inmates and Safeguarding Communities Discretionary Grant Program. This program awards grants to states to support efforts to protect male and female inmates in adult and juvenile correctional facilities from prison rape and safeguard the communities to which inmates return. This program is divided into two parts: 1) Protecting Inmates; and 2) Safeguarding Communities. Applicants can apply

for the Protecting Inmates portion, the Safeguarding Communities portion, or both. Within each part, specific goals and objectives are deliverable pursuant to the enhancement of control and support services for both victims and perpetrators of sexual assault and prison rape.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/04PrisonRape.pdf. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

E. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

Center for Sex Offender Management

Established in June 1997, the Center for Sex Offender Management's (CSOM) goal is to enhance public safety by preventing further victimization through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders who are in the community. The Center for Sex Offender Management is sponsored by OJP, in collaboration with the National Institute of Corrections, State Justice Institute, and the American Probation and Parole Association. CSOM is administered through a cooperative agreement between OJP and the Center for Effective Public Policy. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.csom.org/.

OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center

OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's (OJJDP) National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) provides a vast array of training and technical assistance to the juvenile justice field. The mission of NTTAC is to promote the use of best practices and support the delivery of high quality training and technical assistance (TA) that reflect the diversity of populations within the United States. The NTTAC accomplishes this mission by working with the juvenile justice field to facilitate access to training and technical assistance resources and by working with providers to build training and TA capacity. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.nttac.org.

IV. Juvenile Justice

Through comprehensive and coordinated efforts at the federal, state, and local levels, OJP's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) contributes to the reduction of youth crime and violence. OJJDP continues to strengthen the nation's juvenile justice system and supports prevention and early intervention programs that are making a difference for young people and their communities. Other OJP components, including the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Community Capacity Development Office, the National Institute of Justice, and the Office for Victims of Crime, also provide programming and research support for outreach to juveniles and their families. The following funding opportunities are available.

A. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Discretionary Grant Program-Part E*

2004 Appropriation—\$78,800,000

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the Part E Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Discretionary Grant Program. Of the \$78.8 million available in FY 2004, Congress has designated almost 100 percent of that amount for individual grant recipients for specific purposes.

More information is available at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/funding. Contact: OJJDP, Demonstration Programs Division. Phone: 202-307-5911.

B. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention: Formula Grant Program-Part B**

2004 Appropriation—\$83,156,000

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the Part B Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act Formula Grant Program. Congress appropriated these funds to be allocated through a formula basis to the states and territories for use in a variety of juvenile justice purposes, such as juvenile crime and drug prevention, improvement of juvenile justice system operations, and juvenile justice planning and

administration. Funds also can be used for research, evaluation, statistics, and other informational activities, and training and technical assistance. The formula is based on the states' and territories' proportionate population under age 18. At least two-thirds of the funds awarded to each state must be used for programs by local public and private agencies and eligible American Indian tribes.

Additional information is available at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/funding/funding.html>. Contact: OJJDP, State Relations and Assistance Division. Phone: 202-307-5911.

C. Title V: Incentive Grants

2004 Appropriation—\$79,196,000

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the Title V: *** Incentive Grants Program. For FY 2004, Congress has set aside funding to support the following programs:

Incentive Grants (\$18,809,000)

Funds units of local government through State Advisory Groups, to integrate six principles of building healthy communities. Additional information is available at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/funding/funding.html>.

Tribal Youth Program (\$9,900,000)

Funds tribal communities to develop juvenile delinquency prevention and control programs, reduce violent crime, and improve juvenile justice systems. Additional information is available at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/typ/overview.html>. (Also see Chapter 10.)

Gang Reduction Program (\$19,779,000)

Supports demonstration programs that address gang prevention, intervention, and suppression, as well as gang-related research and evaluation activities, training and technical assistance, and information dissemination.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (\$5,939,000)

Matches at-risk children with caring mentors.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (\$24,749,000)

Provides discretionary grants to states for programs and activities to enforce state laws

prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors or the purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, prevention and reduction of consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, and for technical assistance and training.

D. Juvenile Accountability Block Grant Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$59,397,000

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) Program. This program helps states develop programs that promote greater accountability among offenders and the juvenile justice system.

Additional information is available at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org/jaibg/index.html. Contact: OJJDP, State Relations and Assistance Division. Phone: 202-307-5911.

* Part E refers to Part E of the JJDP Act of 1974

** Part B refers to Part B of the JJDP Act of 1974

*** Title V refers to Title V of the JJDP Act of 1974

E. Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$20,000,000

The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program, previously administered by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), is now being administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), a component of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

G.R.E.A.T. is a life-skills competency program designed to provide students with the skills they need to avoid gang pressure and youth violence. G.R.E.A.T.'s violence prevention curriculum helps students develop values and practice behaviors that will help prevent destructive behaviors. The G.R.E.A.T. curriculum teaches students the facts about gangs and violence; roles in their families, schools and communities; goal-setting tips; how to make G.R.E.A.T. decisions; communication skills;

empathy for others; responses to peer pressure; anger management; and conflict resolution.

G.R.E.A.T. originated through a combined effort of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Phoenix Police Department. The program, congressionally supported as part of ATF's Project Outreach, originally began as a nine-lesson, middle-school curriculum. In early 1992, the first G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training was held, as well as the first summer component, in Phoenix. Expanded nationwide in 1993, the program added regional partners, a National Policy Board (NPB), and thousands of trained officers. In 2000, G.R.E.A.T. underwent a curriculum review as the result of a longitudinal study by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), to enhance the original program to 13 interactive lessons to reinforce key skills. The new curriculum was piloted in 14 cities nationwide with considerable success.

G.R.E.A.T. has developed partnerships with nationally recognized organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the National Association of Police Athletic Leagues, and the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office.

The application period for BJA's FY 2004 G.R.E.A.T. funding ended on July 9, 2004. BJA is currently reviewing applications for eligibility.

Additional Information about G.R.E.A.T. is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja.

Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: (202) 616-6500

F. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

Child Abuse Investigation and Prosecution

The Child Abuse Investigation and Prosecution program provides training and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and local jurisdictions to assist them in developing comprehensive, interdisciplinary approaches to investigating and prosecuting child abuse.

Court Appointed Special Advocates

The National Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program sub-grants funds to local programs to support court appointed special advocates in their efforts to assist overburdened

court officials and social workers. These trained volunteers, also known as guardians ad litem, perform court-supervised fact-finding in cases where there are charges of child abuse and neglect in dependency proceedings. The National CASA provides training and technical assistance to CASA program staff, volunteers, and board members and serves as a resource center, providing information dissemination services. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.ojjdp.ncjrs.org.

Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA)

Congress has designated funding for the following specific initiatives under this program:

- Regional Children's Advocacy Centers: \$2,003,000;
- Local Children's Advocacy Centers: \$7,205,423;
- Continuation grant to the National Center for Prosecution of Child Abuse: \$1,557,735 for technical assistance and training;
- Continuation grant to the National Children's Alliance: \$993,500 for technical assistance and training.

Project Childsafe

Project Childsafe is a nationwide program that helps ensure safe and responsible firearm ownership and storage. It is funded by a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance and is a component of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). From September 2003 through March 2004, Project Childsafe has distributed more than 19 million safety kits to forty-six states and has visited more than 13,000 communities. For additional information about this program, visit the Web site at www.projectchildsafe.com/.

G. Missing and Exploited Children

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) spearheads a national effort to prevent child abduction and exploitation and to return missing children to their families. For additional information, visit the Web site at <http://www.ncmec.org>.

The Jimmy Ryce Law Enforcement Training Center (JRLETC)

JRLETC is a training and technical assistance program offered through NCMEC. Named in memory of 9-year-old Jimmy Ryce, who was abducted and murdered near his Florida home in 1995, the JRLETC was established to enhance the investigative response to missing and exploited children cases. For additional information, visit the Web site at http://www.ncmec.org/missingkids/servlet/PageServlet?LanguageCountry=en_US&PageId=404.

Internet Crimes Against Children

The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Program helps state and local law enforcement agencies develop an effective response to cyber enticement and child pornography cases. This help encompasses forensic and investigative components, training and technical assistance, victim services, and community education. Task forces are being established throughout the nation. The ICAC Task Force Program 2004 application period is now closed. For additional information about ICAC, visit the Web site at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/Programs/ProgSummary.asp>.

AMBER Alert

AMBER Alert creates voluntary partnerships between law enforcement agencies, public broadcasters, and transportation agencies to notify the public when a child has been abducted. For additional information about AMBER Alert, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/amberalert/.

V. Victims of Crime

OJP's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) provides funding for some 3,700 victim assistance programs serving 3.1 million crime victims each year and state victim compensation programs that serve an additional 200,000 victims. Fines collected by U.S. Attorneys, the U.S. Courts, and the Bureau of Prisons are deposited into the Crime Victims Fund, which is supported solely by fines paid by federal criminal offenders, not taxpayers. These funds are available for grant awards the following year. Funds deposited into the Crime Victims Fund in FY 2001 totaled \$544 million, with \$550 million made available by Congress for FY 2002.*

* FY 2001 fund collections have been augmented by funds collected but not used in previous years. The following funding opportunities are available.

A. Discretionary Grants

Victims' Rights Compliance Project Discretionary Grant Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Victims' Rights Compliance Project Discretionary Grant Program. This program offers grants of up to \$75,000 for planning, developing, and implementing statewide programs that facilitate compliance with current victims' rights laws. Favorable consideration will be given to agencies in states that have enacted authorizing legislation related to victims' rights compliance, but which have not implemented a program due to lack of funding.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/dakit.htm. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Faith-based or Community Organizations and Victim Services Discretionary Mini-Grant Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Faith-based or Community Organizations and Victim Services Discretionary Mini-Grant Program. This program offers up to 20 grants of \$15,000 to faith-based or community organizations to enhance and expand existing victim assistance efforts to under-served victims of violent crime living in Weed and Seed communities and other high-crime areas. This mini-grant is also intended to promote coalition building between the faith and victim assistance communities. Note: Only faith-based organizations with established crime victim assistance efforts or a nonprofit community organization may apply.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/dakit.htm. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Action Partnerships With Membership and Professional Organizations Cooperative Agreement Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Action Partnerships With Membership and Professional Organizations Cooperative Agreement Program. This program offers grants of up to \$50,000 to national-scope professional and membership organizations for membership training and education that will develop or improve their capacity to advance victims' rights and improve services. OVC

welcomes applications from organizations with media and/or faith-based affiliations. Note: The scope of eligibility is broader than direct victim service providers and extends to any national-scope membership or professional affiliation group that has the capacity to advance victims' rights and services through training and public awareness and education efforts.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/dakit.htm. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Faith-based Counseling for Crime Victims in Indian Country Discretionary Grant Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Faith-based Counseling for Crime Victims in Indian Country Discretionary Grant Program. This program provides on-line registration and application instructions for discretionary grants of \$25,000 to provide counseling services to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities by linking faith-based organizations and victim service programs.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/dakit.htm. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Helping Outreach Programs to Expand

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Helping Outreach Programs to Expand (HOPE) Program, which provides up to \$5,000 in funding to grassroots community- and faith-based victim service organizations and coalitions to improve outreach and services to crime victims, through support of program development, networking, coalition building, and service delivery. Funds can be used to develop program literature, train advocates, produce a newsletter, support victim outreach efforts, and recruit volunteers.

Eligible organizations and coalitions must be operating for at least a year and must not receive federal VOCA victim assistance grant funding.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/expandinoutreach/welcome.html. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983

Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program, which is designed to provide timely assistance to jurisdictions to address victim needs in the aftermath of an act of terrorism or mass violence. Funds can be used to compensate and assist victims of terrorism and mass violence that occur within the United States, and/or to assist victims of terrorism and mass violence that occur outside the United States.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/fund/welcome.html. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983

Children's Justice Act Partnerships for Indian Communities Program

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has provided funding to American Indian tribes through the Children's Justice Act (CJA) Partnerships for Indian Communities grant program. These funds are used to help tribes develop, establish, and operate programs to improve the investigation, prosecution, and handling of child abuse cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse, in a manner that limits additional trauma to the child victim.

The goal of the CJA grant program is to improve the capacity of existing tribal systems to handle serious child abuse cases by developing specialized services and procedures that address the needs of American Indian child victims. The program focuses on developing strategies to handle cases of child sexual abuse, from the initial disclosure through investigation and prosecution to case resolution.

OVC currently supports up to twenty-five grants annually. Each grant requires an in-kind match to encourage tribal investment, thereby promoting the tribe's ability to establish a program that can endure when OVC funding is no longer available. The in-kind match can be in the form of staff time, facilities, office space and utilities, employee details or loans, and agency partnerships. Hard match, or cash, is allowable in lieu of an in-kind match.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/factshts/cja/welcome.html. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Services For Trafficking Victims Discretionary Grant Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$9,896,000

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) administers the Services For Trafficking Victims Discretionary Grant Program. In previous years, this grant program funded organizations to develop and enhance comprehensive services to develop and enhance comprehensive services to trafficking victims in a specific state or region. Services must include emergency medical attention; food and shelter; vocational and English language training; mental health counseling; and legal support. Funding also supports public outreach and awareness and training initiatives on the dynamics of trafficking and the needs of trafficking victims for law enforcement and community service providers. As statutorily required, some of the funding supports program administration, research and evaluation, and technical assistance initiatives.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Fighting Telemarketing Fraud Against Elders

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$1,979,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) supports a consortium of prevention, education, and prosecution projects working to thwart fraudulent telemarketers who prey on senior citizens. A major component of the project is the Telemarketing Fraud Training Task Force, a multi-agency committee led by the National Association of Attorneys General that includes the National District Attorneys Association through the American Prosecutors Research Institute, the National White Collar Crime Center, and the AARP Foundation.

The goals of the Task Force are to raise awareness of telemarketing fraud within the state and local prosecutorial and law enforcement communities; assess the needs of states and local communities to prevent and combat telemarketing fraud; identify how state and local law enforcement could best leverage their resources; and educate consumers about how to avoid becoming victims of telemarketing fraud.

Members of the Task Force provide training to five BJA-funded demonstration sites (Los Angeles; Atlanta; Raleigh, NC; Montpelier, VT; and the state of Illinois), which have implemented

innovative telemarketing prevention and enforcement programs.

Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

B. Formula Grants

Victim Compensation

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) awards Victim Compensation grants to all fifty states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Puerto Rico to establish and operate compensation programs for crime victims. These programs reimburse victims for crime-related expenses such as: medical costs; mental health counseling; funeral and burial costs; and lost wages or loss of support.

Although each state compensation program is administered independently, most programs have similar eligibility requirements and offer comparable benefits. Maximum awards generally range from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Compensation is paid only when other financial resources, such as private insurance and offender restitution, do not cover the loss. Some expenses are not covered by most compensation programs, including theft, damage, and property loss.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/factshts/companassist/fs_000280.html#2.

Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

Victim Assistance

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) awards Victims of Child Abuse (VOCA) funds to states to support community based organizations that serve crime victims. About 6,400 grants are made to domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, child abuse programs, and victim service units in law enforcement agencies, prosecutors' offices, hospitals, and social service agencies. These programs provide services including: crisis intervention; counseling; emergency shelter; criminal justice advocacy; and emergency transportation.

States and territories are required to give priority to programs serving victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse. Additional funds must be set aside for under

served victims, such as survivors of homicide victims and victims of drunk drivers.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/factshts/companassist/fs_000280.html#3. Contact: AskOVC@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-5983.

C. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

The Office for Victims of Crime's Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC)

OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) was established to support victim services across the country. The center assists victim service providers, advocates, and allied professionals in learning new skills and adopting best practices to enhance their continued success in providing quality victim services.

The mission of the TTAC is to bridge the gap between knowledge, experience, and the victim assistance practice to help the still evolving victim assistance field successfully meet the challenges of an increasingly complex service delivery environment. OVC TTAC offers both on-line and on-site training and technical assistance (TA) opportunities. For additional information about resources available through the TTAC, visit the Web site at www.ovcttac.org.

State Victim Assistance Academies

State Victim Assistance Academies (SVAAs) provide state-specific training in victim assistance issues. SVAAs are modeled after the National Victim Assistance Academy (NVAA) but tailor content to reflect the needs and laws of individual states. For additional information about resources available through SVAAs, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/assist/svaa.htm.

VI. Substance Abuse and Crime

A. Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

2004 Appropriation—\$6,928,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Named to honor the former Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and the Judiciary, the program is intended to help

prevent and detect the diversion and abuse of pharmaceutical controlled substances. This is particularly important for the retail sector where no other automated information collection system exists. Grants are awarded to states seeking to establish monitoring programs, including statewide data collection and analyses, and to states seeking to improve existing programs.

Additional information is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/prescripdrugs.html>. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

B. Drug Courts

2004 Appropriation—\$38,102,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Drug Court Discretionary Grant (DCDG) Program. This program provides financial and technical assistance to states, state courts, local courts, units of local government, and American Indian tribal governments to develop and implement treatment drug courts that effectively integrate substance abuse treatment, mandatory drug testing, sanctions and incentives, and transitional services in a judicially supervised court setting with jurisdiction over nonviolent, substance-abusing offenders. Programs funded by DCDG are required by law to target nonviolent offenders and must implement a drug court based on 10 key components. This program supports the following drug court activity: adult drug court implementation; juvenile drug court implementation; family drug court implementation; single jurisdiction drug court enhancement; and statewide drug court enhancement.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/drugcourts.html.

Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

C. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws

2004 Appropriation—\$24,749,000

Under the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Title V Incentive Grants for Local Delinquency Prevention Programs, Congress has designated the above indicated funds to OJJDP to administer the Enforcing Underage Drinking Law Program. Of this amount, OJJDP will award \$360,000 to each state, and \$6.64 million will be available for

discretionary grants to states, for programs and activities to enforce state laws prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors or the purchase or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, prevention and reduction of consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, and for technical assistance and training. Projects to be funded include:

- statewide task forces of state and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to target establishments suspected of a pattern of violations of state laws governing the sale and consumption of alcohol by minors;
- public advertising programs to educate establishments about statutory prohibitions and sanctions; and
- innovative programs to prevent and combat underage drinking.

In FY 2004, Congress also directed OJJDP to make an award to the Alaska Federation of Natives to develop an underage drinking prevention program in rural Alaska that includes assessment and education as well as a focus on the children of alcoholics.

Contact: OJJDP, Demonstration Programs Division. Phone: 202-307-5911.

D. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

The National Drug Court Training and Technical Assistance Program (NDCTTAP)

BJA sponsors the NDCTTAP, which supports the Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program by increasing the knowledge and skills of drug court practitioners to plan, implement, and sustain effective drug court programs. It also builds capacity at the state and local level to provide comprehensive practitioner-based training and technical assistance. NDCTTAP has three components: 1) the Drug Court Planning Initiative (DCPI) provides communities with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to implement a drug court. Particular emphasis is placed on learning new roles, cross training, and developing both a team and a coordinated strategy across justice and treatment systems; 2) the Drug Court Training Initiative (DCTI) provides state-of-the-art training on a variety of subjects to operational adult, juvenile, family, or tribal drug courts and state agencies; and 3) the Drug Court Technical

Assistance Initiative (DCTAI) provides technical assistance on a variety of subjects to operational adult, juvenile, family, or tribal drug courts and state agencies. For more information, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/drugcourts.html.

VII. Terrorism and Domestic Preparedness

Terrorism within the borders of the United States has been a focus of attention for emergency response agencies since the bombings of the World Trade Center in 1993 and the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City in 1995. Under President Bush's leadership, the U.S. Attorney General has, since September 11, 2001, made building the capacity to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks a high priority. State and local agencies are drawing on resources to address their needs from a number of sources, including several grant programs administered by OJP. OJP resources that can be used by state and local jurisdictions to prepare and respond to domestic terrorism are available primarily through OJP's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), National Institute of Justice (NIJ), and Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). In addition, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collects and analyzes statistical data and provides financial and technical support to state governments in developing state capabilities in criminal justice statistics and data.

A. Funding Opportunities

BJA's **Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Formula Grant Program** funds can be used to support counterterrorism initiatives. For more information visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/byrne.html.

BJA's **Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program** funds can be used to procure law enforcement equipment and to support multi-jurisdictional terrorism task forces. For more information, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/llebg_app.html.

The Department of Homeland Security's **Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP)** (formerly OJP's Office for State and Local Domestic Preparedness Support) focuses on training, equipment acquisition, technical

assistance, and support for national, state, and local exercises. Information about ODP grants and other resources, and State Administering Agency (SAA) points of contact is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/state.htm.

B. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

NIJ works with other federal agencies in the development of technologies and equipment to assist in the preparation for and response to terrorist incidents. For more information, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij.

Office for Victims of Crime (OVC)

The OVC plays an active role in assisting victims of mass casualty terrorist crimes. In 2001, OVC created the Terrorism and International Victims Unit (TIVU). TIVU is responsible for developing programs and initiatives that assist victims of terrorism and victims of crimes involving transnational dimensions, such as commercial exploitation, international trafficking of women and children, and international child abduction. TIVU staff is responsible for coordinating OVC resources and funding for victims of terrorism and other transnational crimes, as well as administering a new compensation program for victims of international terrorism. TIVU also seeks to further integrate crime victim issues into international discussions related to the response to crime. For more information, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/factshts/tivu/welcome.html.

State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training Program (SLATT)

The Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) SLATT provides training in detecting, investigating, and prosecuting extremist criminal activity, including activity that is inspired by international events. This focus distinguishes SLATT training from first responder training and related weapons of mass destruction training, as well as nuclear, biological, and chemical response training provided to emergency service personnel. In response to the September 11 attacks, SLATT expanded its training and research on foreign-inspired terrorism to include specific organizations believed to be involved in the attacks. SLATT is a joint effort of the Institute for

Intergovernmental Research (IIR) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). For more information, visit the Web site at <http://ncjrs.org/html/bja/slatt/index.html>.

VIII. Technology to Fight Crime

OJP funds development of new technology to help ensure public safety, as well as helping state and local communities better use existing technology. Technology helps improve public safety in several ways, for example, enhanced criminal records and identification systems keep high-risk individuals from obtaining weapons or positions of trust, closed-circuit television allows young victims or witnesses of crime to testify in a less-intimidating setting, bulletproof vests and less-than-lethal weapons mitigate risk to law enforcement officers, DNA technology advances justice by solving crimes and protecting the innocent, and crime mapping allows law enforcement to target crime hot spots. OJP has also launched an initiative to develop information-sharing capacity across the criminal justice system. The OJP Information Technology Executive Council coordinates funding and technical assistance to ensure that technology is deployed in a manner that allows information-sharing across agencies.

A. Crime Identification Technology Act

FY 2004 Appropriation (COPS)—\$23,971,000

OJP administers the Crime Identification Technology Act (CITA). This program provides assistance to state governments and tribes to establish, integrate, or upgrade criminal justice information systems and identification technologies. Tribes and states, in conjunction with local governments, can use CITA funds awarded under CITA to improve or expand criminal justice technology efforts in eighteen specified areas: 1) improving adult and juvenile criminal history record information systems; 2) creating automated fingerprint identification systems that are compatible with standards established by the Commerce Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and are interoperable with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Integrated Automated Fingerprint System; 3) establishing finger imaging, live scan, and other automated

systems to digitize and communicate fingerprints consistent with NIST standards and ensure interoperability with print systems operated by the states and the FBI; 4) augmenting state and local participation in the Interstate Identification Index of the National Crime Information System; 5) improving systems to allow any compact relating to the Interstate Identification Index to participate fully in the National Crime Information System; 6) enhancing systems to support state and local participation in the FBI's National Instant Check System (NICS); 7) creating an integrated criminal justice system, so that law enforcement agencies, courts, prosecutors, and corrections agencies have access to the same information; 8) improving non-criminal history record information to determine eligibility to purchase firearms under NICS; 9) developing court-based criminal justice information systems that integrate with other criminal justice information systems and promote the reporting of dispositions to central state repositories and to the FBI; 10) accessing ballistics identification programs and technology that are compatible with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives' National Integrated Ballistics Network; 11) enhancing the capabilities of forensic science laboratories and medical examiner programs; 12) improving sex offender identification, tracking, and registration systems; 13) creating systems to track and share information about domestic violence offenders; 14) supporting fingerprint-supported background checks for noncriminal justice purposes; 15) developing criminal justice information systems that provide research and statistical analysis; 16) establishing multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional communications systems among the states to share information among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies; 17) enhancing the capability of the criminal justice system to deliver timely, accurate, and complete criminal record information to child welfare agencies, organizations, and programs that are engaged in the assessment of risk and other activities related to the protection of children, including protection against child sexual abuse, and placement of children in foster care; and 18) counterterrorism purposes.

B. CITA—National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP)

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$32,634,000

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) administers this discretionary grant program to provide direct awards and technical assistance to states to improve the quality and accessibility of the nation's criminal history records and records of protective orders involving domestic violence and stalking, to support the development and enhancement of state sex offender registries, and to facilitate the interstate exchange of such records through national systems. The appropriation amount includes \$2.95 million for the domestic violence and stalking component of NCHIP provided under the OJP appropriation.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/nchip.htm.

C. President's DNA Initiative

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$98,957,000

On March 11, 2003, Attorney General Ashcroft announced the President's commitment to a five-year comprehensive national strategy using DNA technology to solve crime and to protect the innocent with the release of *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology* (See http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/dnapolicybook_cov.htm). DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system. It can be used to speed the prosecution of the guilty, while protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution. *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology* is a five-year, \$1 billion federal initiative that will strengthen and improve the current federal and state DNA collection and analysis systems. The President's DNA Initiative is a comprehensive strategy designed to maximize the use of forensic DNA technology to solve crimes, save lives, and protect the innocent. The initiative includes formula grants to state and local laboratories to: 1) reduce the nationwide backlog of DNA casework (crime scene and rape samples); 2) reduce the nationwide backlog of convicted offender DNA samples; and 3) increase the capacities of DNA laboratories to efficiently and effectively manage DNA evidence and prevent future DNA backlogs. These activities are consistent with those authorized under section 2(a) of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (Pub. L. No. 106-546).

To maximize the use of DNA technology, the initiative calls for the development of training and assistance regarding the collection and use of DNA evidence to the wide variety of

professionals involved in the criminal justice system, including police officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, forensic scientists, medical personnel, victim service providers, and probation and parole officers. In addition, the initiative provides for education, training, and additional support to ensure that DNA forensic technology is used to its full potential to identify human remains to aid in solving missing persons cases.

Additional information is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/welcome.html>. Contact: askost@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-307-0645.

D. Regional Information Sharing Systems

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$29,684,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) funds the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) program, which supports federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts to combat criminal activity that extends across multi-jurisdictional boundaries. Six regional RISS centers provide a broad range of information exchange and related investigative support services to member criminal investigative agencies nationwide. The RISS centers focus primarily on violent crime, gang activity, organized crime, and narcotics trafficking. The program now serves more than 6,600 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Canadian provinces. Also, after the September 11 attacks, RISS expanded its coverage beyond traditional law enforcement, as a secure, on-line mechanism to enhance counterterrorism information and intelligence.

Additional information is available at www.iir.com/riss. Contact: Phone: 850-385-0600.

E. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

Information and Technology Initiatives

OJP's Information and Technology Initiatives is an information-sharing resource for the justice and public safety communities. This Web site includes a variety of information related to information technology initiatives; the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global), the Justice Standards Clearinghouse; and the Global Justice XML Data Model. Global has spawned the

National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP), a blueprint for the sharing of criminal intelligence among law enforcement agencies throughout the country. The Attorney General has enthusiastically endorsed the NCISP, and OJP provides significant staff and financial resources in support of it. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://it.ojp.gov/index.jsp>.

Communications Technology Program (CommTech)

The National Institute of Justice's (NIJ) CommTech Program has a mission to focus on the needs of law enforcement, with a view to all of public safety; focus on research, development, testing, and evaluation; and reflect law enforcement's need for improved information sharing and intelligence. CommTech was formerly known as the Advanced Generation of Interoperability for Law Enforcement (AGILE) Program. Like AGILE, CommTech will work to inform the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's SAFECOM program activities. Unlike AGILE, CommTech will not play a primary role in coordinating the public safety community's interoperability policies or do other work that may be duplicative of SAFECOM's responsibilities. For more information on CommTech and NIJ's restructuring of the AGILE Program, visit the Web site at www.agileprogram.org/.

IX. Research, Statistics, and Evaluation

Research is critical to the development of sound criminal justice policy, as well as to the development of advanced technologies that support the work of law enforcement agencies. Sound evaluations of methods and existing OJP grant programs are necessary to the wise expenditure of taxpayer dollars. As the primary research, development, and evaluation agency of the Department of Justice, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is engaged in innovative research and development of 21st century technology that can enhance the work of law enforcement, assist in prosecutions, and serve the cause of justice for victims and offenders. Other bureaus and offices also participate in these activities, often in concert with NIJ, and all grantees are required, within the terms of their award, to complete an outcome evaluation of their project, adding to the body of knowledge on effective programs. National scope evaluations are also in progress on a number of OJP grant programs.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is the statistical arm of the Department of Justice. BJS collects, analyzes, publishes, and disseminates information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operation of justice systems at all levels of government. Impartial, timely, and accurate statistical data are essential to guide and inform federal, state, and local policy making on crime and the administration of justice, and to improve the quality of and access to information used for decision making. The BJS Web site provides a wealth of information for use by all types of audiences including every publication released by BJS since 1995, downloadable datasets and spreadsheets, online analytic capabilities, and graphical presentations. Visit the BJS Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>.

State Justice Statistics Program for Statistical Analysis Centers

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$2,300,000

The State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program is designed to maintain and enhance each state's capacity to address criminal justice issues through collection and analysis of data. The SJS Program provides limited funds to each state to coordinate statistical activities with the state, conduct research as needed to estimate impacts of legislative and policy changes, and serve a liaison role in assisting BJS to gather data from respondent agencies within their states.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/. Contact: askbjs@ojp.usdoj.gov.

X. Tribal Justice

OJP administers grant programs, supports research and evaluation projects, and provides training and statistical and technical assistance for Indian tribes. These programs are designed to enhance and support Indian tribes' ability to address crime, violence, and victimization in tribal communities and native villages. JP's American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Affairs Desk has been established to enhance access to information by federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes regarding funding opportunities, training and technical assistance, and other relevant information. For more information about OJP resources for Indian Country, visit the Web site at

[www.ojp.usdoj.gov/americanative/
indian_cntryresource.htm](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/americanative/indian_cntryresource.htm)

A. Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$4,948,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program. The purpose of this program is to reduce crimes associated with the abuse of alcohol and distribution of controlled substances in tribal communities. Under the program, tribes will develop new or enhance existing strategies that prevent, interdict, and treat alcohol and drug use by members of tribal communities.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/indian.html.

The Indian Alcohol and Substance Abuse Program 2004 application period is now closed.

Contact: Phone: 202-616-6500.

B. Tribal Courts

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$7,917,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers grants to support the development, implementation, enhancement, and continuing operation of tribal judicial systems. For FY 2004, tribes can apply under three separate categories:

- **Category I: Planning and Implementing an Intertribal Court System for Smaller Service Populations.** Applications are sought from consortia of tribal governments (at least two), each of whom serves a population of less than 1,000 people, to plan, develop, and implement a tribal court system where none currently exists. This category focuses on smaller tribes located contiguous to or near other tribal governments where it is economically and administratively feasible for the creation of an intertribal court. Grant funds can be used to facilitate the development and initial implementation of an intertribal court system that will be designed to meet the needs of more than one tribe in the same geographic region.
- **Category II: Planning and Implementing a Single-Tribe Court System.** Applications are sought from tribal governments for the

development and initial implementation of a tribal court that will be designed to meet the needs of their tribal government. Tribal governments, each with a service population equal to or exceeding 1,000 people, may apply for grant funds to facilitate the development and initial implementation of a tribal court system where none currently exists.

- **Category III: Enhancing and Continuing the Operation of Tribal Courts.** Applications are sought from tribal communities, regardless of the size of their service populations, to enhance and/or continue the operation of existing tribal courts. Initiatives may include, but are not limited to: establishing a core structure for a tribal court, improving case management, training court personnel, acquiring additional equipment and/or software, enhancing prosecution and indigent defense, supporting probation diversion and alternative sentencing programs, accessing services, focusing on juvenile services and multi disciplinary protocols for child physical and sexual abuse, and for structuring intertribal or tribal appellate systems.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/tribal.html.
Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

C. Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands Program

FY 2004 Appropriation—\$1,979,000

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) administers the Correctional Facilities on Tribal Lands Program. This program provides funds to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to construct correctional facilities on tribal lands for the incarceration of offenders subject to tribal jurisdiction. Grantees will be responsible for fully supporting, operating, and maintaining these correctional facilities. Technical assistance will be provided as necessary for needs assessment, facility planning, and project management.

Additional information is available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/tribal_correction.html. Contact: AskBJA@ojp.usdoj.gov. Phone: 202-616-6500.

D. Tribal Youth Program

FY 2004 Appropriation-\$9,900,000

The Office for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) administers the Tribal Youth Program, which supports accountability-based sanctions, training for juvenile court judges, strengthening family bonds, substance abuse counseling, and other efforts to improve justice operations in Indian Country.

Additional information is available at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/typ/overview.html>.

E. Training, Technical Assistance, and Other Resources

The Tribal Justice Statistics Assistance Center

This is sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, provides training and technical assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes to improve the quality and use of justice statistics in those communities. For more information, call 877-727-9919, or visit the Web site at <http://www.tjsac.org/>.

The National Tribal Justice Resources Center

This is the central clearinghouse of information about American Indian and Alaska Native tribal justice systems. For more information, call 877-976-8572, or visit the Web site at <http://www.tribalresourcecenter.org>.

Tribal Resource Guide

In July 2002, OJP and the National Institute of Corrections published the Tribal Resource Guide. This document provides a brief synopsis of program objectives, applicant eligibility, eligible beneficiaries, kinds of assistance available, and contact information for federal grants and resources. For a copy of this document, visit the Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/americanative/tribalresourceguide.pdf.

XI. Other Resources

A. Electronic Libraries

National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS)

All OJP publications plus a criminal justice abstract database that contains summaries of more than 150,000 criminal justice publications,

including federal, state, and local government reports, books, research reports, journal articles, and unpublished research. www.ncjrs.org.

Online Resource and Information Center (ORIC)

OJP's electronic librarian.
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ORIC

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics

Data about all aspects of criminal justice in the United States presented in more than 600 tables from more than 100 sources. A criminal justice statistics one-stop shop.
www.albany.edu/sourcebook.

Partnerships Against Violence Network (PAVNET)

Virtual library of information about violence and youth-at-risk, representing data from seven different federal agencies and includes an online, searchable database about current federally-funded research on violence. www.pavnet.org.

Justice Technology Information Center

A gateway to technology information and services of interest to the law enforcement and corrections communities including a comprehensive database of law enforcement products and technologies. www.nlectc.org.

B. Federal Partners

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), www.cops.usdoj.gov.

Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, www.fletc.gov.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, www.fincen.gov.

National Drug Intelligence Center, www.usdoj.gov/ndic/.

National Institute of Corrections (NIC), Community Corrections Division, www.nicic.org.

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov.

State Justice Institute www.statejustice.org.

C. Community Partners

National Criminal Justice Association
www.ncja.org.

Community Policing Consortium
www.communitypolicing.org.

National Center for White Collar Crime Center
www.nw3c.org/index.html.

National Fraud Information Center
www.fraud.org.

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)
Program www.iir.com/riss/default.htm.

Center for Sex Offender Management
www.csom.org.

National Crime Prevention Council
www.ncpc.org.

American Prosecutors Research Institute
www.ndaa-apri.org.

Community Justice Exchange
www.communityjustice.org/exchange.asp.

National Association of Drug Court Professionals
www.nadcp.org.

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data
www.icpsr.umich.edu/NACJD.

Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center
<http://fjsrc.urban.org/index.cfm>.

National Center for State Courts
www.ncsconline.org.

National Clearinghouse for Criminal Justice
Information Systems (CJIS)
www.search.org/it-clearinghouse/temp.asp.

Justice Research and Statistics Association
(JRSA) www.jrsainfo.org.

American Jail Association
www.corrections.com/aja.

American Probation and Parole Association
www.appa-net.org.

Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators
www.cjca.net.

National Juvenile Detention Association
www.njda.com.

The American Correctional Association
www.aca.org.

National CASA Association
www.nationalcasa.org.

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court
Judges www.ncjfcj.org.

National District Attorneys Association
www.ndaa.org.

International Association of Chiefs of Police
www.theiacp.org.

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement
Executives www.noblenatl.org.

National Sheriffs Association www.sheriffs.org.

National Association of Attorneys General
www.naag.org.

National Association of Counties
www.naco.org.

National Governors Association
www.nga.org.

The United States Conference of Mayors
www.usmayors.org/uscm/home.asp.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
www.madd.org/home/.

National Center on Elder Abuse
www.elderabusecenter.org.

National Center for Victims of Crime (National
Victim Center)
www.ncvc.org/ncvc/Main.aspx.

National Children's Alliance (Formerly National
Network of Children Advocacy Centers)
[http://moniker.qsrch.com/dpark?s=NNCAC.ORG
&ppt=mnkrol&pptype=mopk](http://moniker.qsrch.com/dpark?s=NNCAC.ORG&ppt=mnkrol&pptype=mopk).

National Organization For Victim Assistance
www.try-nova.org.

National Indian Justice Center
www.nijc.indian.com ❖

The Community Capacity Development Office: Helping Communities Prevent Crime and Promote Revitalization

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I. Introduction

In 2004 the Office of Justice Program's (OJP) Community Capacity Development Office (CCDO) was established to advance the Bush Administration's commitment to strengthening community crime-fighting efforts and revitalizing neighborhoods. The CCDO brings into focus one of the main purposes of OJP—to work with local communities to help analyze public safety and criminal justice problems, develop solutions, and foster local-level leadership to implement and sustain these solutions. The mission of CCDO is to oversee OJP's community capacity development program and program sustainability efforts through coordination of financial and programmatic resources. Additionally, CCDO is tasked to provide technical assistance focused on empowering local communities to develop the capacity to address local criminal justice problems. This mission is a dynamic and unprecedented approach to assisting state, local, and tribal governments with the development of sustainable public safety strategies, by leveraging public and private human and financial resources.

Over the years, OJP has supported a variety of community-based efforts. The CCDO incorporates the well-known and highly successful Weed and Seed initiative, as well as the American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) Affairs Desk, to create a single organizational infrastructure. This infrastructure offers robust training and technical assistance opportunities, while helping communities to better help themselves. The new office also enables OJP to more fully address the

crime control issues of urban, rural, and tribal communities, throughout the country.

In announcing the new office, Assistant Attorney General Deborah Daniels noted that:

President Bush is committed to help[ing] strengthen communities across our nation by preventing crime and other ills that can pull them down. The Community Capacity Development Office is an exciting concept that brings into focus our agency's core mission of working with local communities to develop solutions that deter crime, promote economic growth, and enhance quality of life.

Nelson Hernandez at the Law Enforcement Weed and Seed Conference in Buffalo, N.Y. (May 18, 2004) *available at* www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ccdo/ccdomessage2.htm. Daniels, who heads OJP, said that the new office incorporates "Weed and Seed's proven crime reduction strategy into other prevention initiatives as well as community revitalization efforts." *Id.*

II. Weed and Seed

The Weed and Seed initiative is foremost a strategy which aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. Weed and Seed sites range in size from several neighborhood blocks to several square miles.

The strategy involves a two-pronged approach:

- Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" criminals who participate in violent crime and drug abuse, attempting to prevent their return to the targeted area; while
- "Seeding" brings human services and economic development to the area,

encompassing prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood revitalization.

A community-oriented policing component bridges weeding and seeding strategies. Officers obtain helpful information from area residents for weeding efforts, while aiding residents in obtaining information about community revitalization and seeding resources.

A key factor in the success of the Weed and Seed strategy is collaboration with U.S. Attorneys' Offices throughout the United States. The Weed and Seed strategy is an extension of the U.S. Attorneys' law enforcement coordination role. As the chief law enforcement officer in a federal judicial district, the U.S. Attorney coordinates the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies with private sector and community efforts to maximize the impact of existing programs and resources. The U.S. Attorney serves as chair or co-chair of the Weed and Seed Steering Committee and helps ensure that the Weed and Seed site is a good investment for funding. Additionally, the U.S. Attorney communicates the Department's message regarding appropriate Weed and Seed strategies; reviews Official Recognition applications and recommends support of the Weed and Seed site and strategy; approves the hiring of the Weed and Seed site coordinator; and provides public information and statistics to nonprofit organizations in order to educate them on the role of federal law enforcement in further advancing the success of the Weed and Seed effort.

Since 1991, the Weed and Seed initiative has demonstrated how crime can be deterred when federal, state, and local government agencies join forces, share resources, set common goals, partner with community groups, and work together strategically to address troubled areas in neighborhoods. The principles of Weed and Seed—pooling resources; developing a comprehensive strategy; creating partnerships among community residents, government, and the private sector; and unifying dedicated people behind a strategic plan—guide CCDO's efforts as well.

The evaluation of potential Weed and Seed sites is very important to OJP. CCDO accepts applications for new sites by encouraging the mixing and matching of resources. When CCDO reviews applications, they look more favorably

upon applications that demonstrate coordination and leveraging.

With more than 300 Weed and Seed sites in operation across the country, the program has had numerous success stories. According to a study by the Justice Research and Statistical Association, sixty-one percent of the Weed and Seed sites surveyed showed positive outcomes relating to crime control. Those outcomes include:

- reduction in crime greater than that experienced by the overall jurisdiction in which the Weed and Seed site is located;
- reductions in homicides; and
- statistically significant reductions in crime in the Weed and Seed areas.

Weed and Seed Program Data Collection/Analysis available at www.jrsa.org/programs/weedseed.html.

Evaluations were conducted by CCDO in early 2004 to measure the impact of community policing at sixteen Weed and Seed sites. This was accomplished primarily through surveys that examined resident perceptions of community safety, police performance, police presence, or other measures relating to crime and safety in the community. Thirteen of the sixteen evaluated sites noted positive results.

CCDO has undertaken other steps to measure performance in the Weed and Seed initiative such as engaging researchers to help develop meaningful performance measures that are outcome based. At meetings in Buffalo in May 2004 and in Indianapolis in July 2004, CCDO conducted focus groups with Weed and Seed practitioners to solicit ideas and suggestions regarding performance and sustainability measures that can be incorporated into the ongoing evaluation of Weed and Seed sites throughout the country.

Over the years, the Weed and Seed operation has provided several captivating stories that reflect the mission's success. An example of a personal success story comes from the Saole Family in Hawaii:

Elton Saole was one of the first drug dealers arrested in the Kalihi-Palama/Chinatown area when it was designated as Hawaii's first Weed and Seed site five years ago. He was dealing to feed his addiction to ice, and it landed Saole in federal prison. At the same time,

Saole's first son was born. "I had to change," he said. "I didn't want to be in prison while my son was out here." In prison, Saole got clean. Now, he has a job and a new life with his family. He has the Weed and Seed program to thank.

"Since we launched the site, crime in the Kalihi-Palama/Chinatown area has dropped more than 70 percent," said Maile Kanemaru, Weed and Seed director. She further states that "Aloha United Way played a key role in that success." Saole's mother, Milo, says the change in the community is easy to see. "Before, I was afraid to walk down the street because of so many fights and gangs," she said. "Now, kids are outside playing and people aren't afraid anymore."

Aloha United Way Web site *available at* www.auw.org/community/stories/saole.asp.

The program has been so successful that the Kalihi-Palama/Chinatown site is expanding. U.S. Attorney Ed Kubo announced in August 2003 that the program would extend west into Kalihi Valley and east into the Ala Moana area.

Another intriguing success story comes from Huntsville, Alabama. The Terry Heights Weed and Seed Program was very successful. This site became an officially recognized Weed and Seed site in 1998 and received funding for its program from 1998 to 2003. The community is located in northwest Huntsville, Alabama. The crime rate there has been significantly reduced due to the collaborative efforts of local, state, and federal law enforcement. A newspaper article reported that residents state that the area is a better place to live and that they can see positive results from the program. Below are a few of the highlighted successes:

- The Weed and Seed Program provided residents with substance abuse education, adult computer literacy training, educational enrichment, mentoring for youth, recreational activities for all ages, and mental health programs.
- Weed and Seed donated funds to help establish the HEALS Clinic (Health Establishment at Local Schools) located at Terry Heights Elementary School. This clinic opened in September 2001 and provides free family medical care to the residents.

- In 2003 the Domestic Violence Intervention Project was implemented within the Terry Heights neighborhood and won a National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials Merit Award. This project is a joint venture by employees and volunteers from Crisis Services of North Alabama, the Madison county Sheriff's office, and the Huntsville Police Department. The goals and objectives of this project are to provide follow-up service to victims of domestic violence/family abuse, reduce recidivism, prevent minor incidents from escalating into major crimes, identify current problems existing within the home, and provide intervention.
- Some of the programs that were implemented from 1998 to 2003 have continued under the supervision of the Terry Heights/Hillendale Neighborhood Association.

Web site for the Weed and Seed (N.D. AL) *available at* www.usdoj.gov/usao/aln/Pages/weedandseed.htm.

On the CCDO Web site, Assistant United States Attorneys (AUSAs) will find various publications such as the Site Coordinator's Training Guide. This guide is designed to be uniform and consistent with the Office of Weed and Seed Implementation Manual. It provides the site coordinator with the tools necessary to successfully carry out the day-to-day operations of the Weed and Seed program. AUSAs will also find the site coordinator's Interactive Training Manual, a multi-media instructional tool designed to illustrate the basic roles and responsibilities of a site coordinator and steering committee member. Also on the Web site is the 2004 "Official Recognition Guidelines" and "Letter of Intent." An application for Official Recognition is an overview of the strategy that a prospective site develops to address crime and other problems in its community. The application is submitted to the CCDO for review. It is not an application for funding. Additionally, information on the CCDO Transitional Housing Case Study and Best Practice: Evaluation-based Series is available online at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/eows/publications.htm>.

Looking ahead, CCDO is searching for recognition of Weed and Seed sites by other federal agencies and funding entities, such as major foundations. When these entities develop

and review solicitations, look for examples of local collaboration, or simply need a vehicle by which to reach and engage local communities in pursuit of community development, CCDO hopes that they will turn to the Weed and Seed model. In short, federal agencies and foundations looking for a distribution system designed to revitalize communities do not need to create one; one already exists in the form of Weed and Seed.

Although the Weed and Seed program will be the flagship operation in the new office, CCDO will expand that collaborative, community-driven approach to other programs such as the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative. Through training and technical assistance, CCDO will help communities develop solutions to crime that fit the community's specific needs and aspirations, as well as develop the leadership to implement and sustain those solutions. CCDO focuses on providing information, training, and technical assistance, funds and sponsors training, and will continue to do so in the future. Therefore, CCDO hopes to consolidate these responsibilities and constantly evaluate the effectiveness of both training and trainers. In addition, the CCDO Web site will continue to be enhanced with information regarding present and future CCDO services.

III. American Indian and Alaska Native(AI/AN) Affairs

The AI/AN Affairs Desk is also a part of the CCDO. The mission of the AI/AN is to enhance access to information by federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, regarding funding opportunities, training, technical assistance, and other relevant information. The AI/AN provides leadership to OJP in coordinating services and assistance in Indian Country. Through funding and technical assistance opportunities, OJP is a partner in empowering AI/AN communities to improve the quality of life for Indian peoples and to build strong, healthy communities.

Current funding opportunities within the AI/AN include the Fiscal Year 2004 Tribal Juvenile Accountability Discretionary Grant Program; the Fiscal Year 2004 Tribal Criminal History Record Improvement Program; the Solicitation for Crime and Justice Research; the Graduate Research Fellowship 2004; the Data Resources Program 2004; and the Funding for the Analysis of Existing Data. These programs can be

found on the CCDO Web site at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/americanative/funding.htm>.

Other resources are available throughout the Department of Justice (Department) to support activities in Indian Country. Department components that assist Indian tribes in their effort to respond to crime and promote justice in Indian Country include the Civil Rights Division, the Community Relations Services, Office of Community Oriented Policy Services (COPS), and U.S. Attorneys' Offices.

IV. Conclusion

The work of CCDO represents a unique approach to enhancing the partnership of the federal government with state and local governments through community-based organizations. The office directly reflects OJP's strong commitment to helping communities help themselves and promoting revitalization and public safety in those communities. CCDO's work fortifies OJP's efforts to reduce crime and enhance the nation's quality of life. ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

□ **Nelson Hernandez** was named Director of the Community Capacity Development Office in April 2004. He came to OJP from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) where he directed the FDIC's national community reinvestment, community development, and public outreach efforts. Previously, he was Area Coordinator in the Los Angeles office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. He has served as the Assistant Director of Economic Development and Senior City Planner for the city of Montebello, California and worked at the Southern California Association of Governments. ❖

AMBER Alert—Making America Safer For Our Kids

*Cheri Nolan
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Few things strike fear into the hearts of families more than the news that a child is missing or has been abducted. The news has been filled with stories of high-profile child abductions for the past two years. Increasingly, however, such news is accompanied by an America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER) Alert, and parents across America can take comfort in the fact that the AMBER Alert System, which helps to recover abducted children, is becoming a more integrated network that covers the entire country. AMBER Alert is a systematic and coordinated approach to helping law enforcement recover abducted children quickly and safely. AMBER Alerts are broadcast when law enforcement determines that a child has been abducted and is in imminent danger.

Great strides have been taken to aid in the recovery of abducted children across the United States since the AMBER Alert System has been in place. Today, all fifty states have AMBER Alert plans, creating a seamless network. In addition, seventeen regional and thirty-two local Alert plans have been established throughout the country. Such vast implementation of AMBER Alert programs marks a successful joint effort between the federal and state governments to establish a nationwide alert system. This system is essential to ensure the safety of our nation's children. Since AMBER Alert began in 1996, 135 children have been recovered. More than 100 of these recoveries have occurred since October 2002, when the President called for making the AMBER Alert a coordinated national effort. This represents three-quarters of the total number, and provides evidence that when communities, states, and jurisdictions work together as part of a national strategy to bring abducted children home, lives are saved.

AMBER Alert was created in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help

find abducted children. The plan was created as a legacy to nine-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. The alerts are an important tool to help law enforcement track down kidnappers. As Attorney General John Ashcroft said, "Few things grip law enforcement with more urgency than finding a missing child ... rapid response is vital in abduction cases." Press Release, (Oct. 2, 2002) *available at* http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2002/October/02_ag_571.htm.

An AMBER Alert can go into effect immediately when police have reason to believe a child has been abducted and is in danger of bodily harm. The alert mobilizes the entire community to help search for the child. Alerts can be local, statewide, or cover multiple states. They quickly employ various tools for getting the message out to the public, including broadcasters, highway signs, Internet alerts, even information instantaneously printed on lottery tickets in some states. The broadcasts include information about the child and the abductor, such as physical descriptions, as well as information about the abductor's vehicle, which could lead to the child's recovery.

The AMBER Alert plan is a highly effective method of quickly getting information to a vast number of people. In addition, utilizing the plan is free, and it encourages cooperation between the media, law enforcement, and the public. Such a system is an effective response to a time-critical situation, sends a powerful message to potential predators, and saves lives.

President Bush hosted the first-ever White House Conference on Missing, Exploited and Runaway Children in October 2002. The President recognizes the need to protect the nation's children, and said, "When a child's liberty and innocence are taken, it is a terrible, terrible loss . . . those responsible have committed a terrible crime . . . [and] our society has a solemn duty to shield children from exploitation and danger." *Available at* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/10/20021002-4.html>.

Attorney General Ashcroft appointed Assistant Attorney General Deborah J. Daniels to serve as the first national AMBER Alert Coordinator at that time. That role was codified into federal law in April 2003, when the President signed the PROTECT Act, Pub. L. No. 108-021, 117 Stat. 650 (2003). The Act strengthens law enforcement's ability to prevent, investigate, prosecute, and punish violent crimes committed against children. The PROTECT Act authorizes the Coordinator to help eliminate gaps in the AMBER network, support development of state plans and efforts, provide regional AMBER coordination, facilitate network development, and establish guidance on criteria for issuing an AMBER Alert.

The President and Congress agreed that to fully protect children, every state must have an AMBER Alert plan in effect, and every state must establish protocols with neighboring states for issuing regional AMBER Alerts in cases where abductors are suspected of crossing state lines. After the conference and the passage of the PROTECT Act, a national AMBER Alert strategy was developed and implementation began.

First, an AMBER Alert coordinating group was convened. The group was composed of victims, law enforcement officials, broadcasters, and officials from the Departments of Justice (Department) and Transportation, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. One of the first tasks undertaken was to assess current AMBER activity (the number of local, statewide, and regional plans). Plan operations were then compared with AMBER Alert criteria, and available technology was evaluated. Next, it was agreed that a coordinated AMBER network must be created. Guidance on criteria for issuing an AMBER alert needed to be developed, and federal, state, and local partnerships needed to be established. In addition, it was necessary to promote technological compatibility among communication systems.

The final strategy in the plan was to communicate "lessons learned." This means working with law enforcement and broadcasters on missing children issues and the proper issuance of AMBER Alerts. Focus was placed on helping states and communities develop and enhance their AMBER plans, and there was an effort to raise public awareness on how to protect children and prevent abductions. Part of the strategy included the creation of the Department's Office of Justice

Programs (OJP) AMBER Alert Web site, which can be accessed at www.ojp.usdoj.gov. The site features messages from the Coordinator, information and publications about keeping children safe and preventing abductions, a list of state AMBER Alert coordinators and contact information, ideas for making each AMBER program work effectively, and training opportunities.

Additional work remains to be done. For example, law enforcement personnel at the local and state levels do not always remember to enter data immediately and properly into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database. OJP is working closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to change that and accomplish other goals related to speedy dissemination of AMBER Alerts.

The success of an established nationwide AMBER Alert network is well documented. The network of AMBER Alert plans that exists in all fifty states means that if a state issues an AMBER Alert for a child who is abducted in one state, but may be transported across state lines, other states will agree to issue an Alert as well. The effectiveness of such a systematic, coordinated approach to AMBER Alert was evidenced on May 7, 2003, in St. Cloud, Minnesota. An eleven-year-old girl was reported missing by her mother, along with a twenty-one-year-old man who had been staying with the family. The girl was believed to be in danger because of her age and the time and nature of her disappearance. An AMBER Alert was issued in Minnesota as well as Utah when authorities learned that the suspect had ties there. A Utah Highway Patrol trooper heard the Alert and began using his laptop to calculate the drive time from St. Cloud, Minnesota to Utah when he saw a car matching the description in the AMBER Alert. The trooper pulled over the car, arrested the suspect, and the girl was safely returned to her family.

The establishment of a nationwide AMBER Alert network is a landmark achievement. It is a tribute to the states, broadcasters, and law enforcement agencies across America, all of whom have worked together to create effective partnerships. The AMBER Alert coordinating group has been working with many partners to help states improve their programs through conferences, training, and technical assistance. The coordinating group is also working with law enforcement, broadcasters, and other public and

private organizations, to strengthen the strong nationwide AMBER Alert network. Children's lives depend on the ability of law enforcement to get its message out instantaneously and broadly. Research has shown that the first few hours are critical to the safe recovery of an abducted child. Seventy-four percent of children who are kidnapped and later found murdered are killed within the first three hours after being taken, and 99 percent are killed within the first twenty-four hours.

AMBER Alerts have saved lives during the past several years. In November 1998 Steve and Patricia Bradbury of Arlington, Texas left their two-month-old daughter, Rae-Leigh, in the care of their trusted babysitter, Sandra Fallis. The Bradburys became concerned when Fallis had not returned their daughter at 6:30 p.m. as promised. The Bradburys notified the police, and after discovering that Fallis had a history of illegal drug use, the police considered Rae-Leigh to be endangered and immediately issued an AMBER Alert. Less than half an hour after the AMBER Alert was issued, a motorist notified the police that the vehicle described in the Alert was in front of him on the highway. A patrol car cornered Fallis within minutes and Rae-Leigh was safely returned to her parents. Fallis was found guilty of kidnapping and received ten years probation.

AMBER Alerts can prevent further tragedy from occurring, as was the case in Georgia earlier this year. On January 8, 2004, a man allegedly murdered his three former in-laws and his ten-month-old daughter before abducting his two daughters, ages three and four, and his ten-year-old stepdaughter. He called his ex-wife, told her about the killings, and threatened the lives of the girls. An AMBER Alert was issued. A motorist recognized the vehicle from the Alert and contacted police. Authorities were quickly at the scene, apprehended the suspect, and safely recovered the three children.

The all-too-familiar tragedy of children who are abducted and later found dead provides stark evidence that the thin blue line of law enforcement alone cannot possibly be everywhere at once. The use of the AMBER Alert, however, draws in an army of citizen volunteers, eager to help return children to their homes safely. The Department has recently seen case after case where the perpetrator has let the child go after learning that an AMBER Alert has been issued. On September 28, 2000, an AMBER Alert was

issued in Lafayette, California, after authorities learned that a man had beaten his former girlfriend and abducted their fourteen-month-old son. The man heard the AMBER Alert on his radio and left the child at a family member's house the next day. The family member immediately called the child's mother, and the child was safely returned to her.

The close cooperation among states, which the Department is working hard to enhance, has resulted in the recovery of more children in the last year than in all previous years combined. The AMBER Alert system makes a difference and gives our children a real chance for a brighter and safer future. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

□ **Cheri Nolan** has had a long and distinguished career in the criminal justice field. She has served four Attorneys General and three Presidents and was appointed as a Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the OJP in July 2001. Her responsibilities include oversight of the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. In addition, she led the development and release of the Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, a government-wide initiative to help reduce recidivism. Prior to her appointment at OJP, Ms. Nolan was affiliated with the television show *America's Most Wanted*. Ms. Nolan's extensive work in the justice field was preceded by service on the White House staff of President Reagan and in various Cabinet agencies. ❧

The President's DNA Initiative: Helping to Solve Crimes

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I. Introduction

The President's DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Initiative is a comprehensive strategy designed to maximize the use of forensic DNA technology to solve crimes, save lives, and protect the innocent. DNA technology is increasingly vital to ensuring accuracy and fairness in the criminal justice system, and can be used to speed the prosecution of the guilty while protecting the innocent from wrongful prosecution. Fingerprints revolutionized twentieth century law enforcement, and DNA holds even greater promise for the law enforcement future. It aids in solving crimes that would otherwise be unsolvable, exonerates the innocent, and focuses criminal justice resources on holding the guilty accountable for their crimes.

DNA has been amazingly successful in solving some of America's most serious crimes. For example, in 1990, a series of brutal attacks on elderly victims occurred in Goldsboro, North Carolina, by an unknown individual dubbed the "Night Stalker." During one such attack an elderly woman was brutally raped and almost murdered. The suspect fled when the victim's daughter arrived home early. In July 1990 another elderly woman was brutally raped and murdered in her home. Three months later, a third elderly woman was raped and stabbed to death, and her husband was also murdered. Their house was burned in an attempt to cover up the crime, but fire/rescue personnel pulled the victims from the house before it was engulfed in flames.

Although DNA analysis of rape evidence from each victim showed that the same perpetrator had committed all three crimes, there was no suspect. During the investigation, the crime lab entered the DNA profiles into North Carolina's DNA database. More than ten years after these crimes were committed, a search of the DNA database resulted in a "cold hit." The perpetrator of the rapes and murders was previously convicted of shooting into an occupied dwelling,

an offense that requires inclusion in the North Carolina DNA database. When confronted with the DNA evidence, the suspect confessed to all three violent crimes.

The power of this kind of scientific evidence thrusts many prosecutors into the world of forensic science. Prosecutors are struggling to understand new scientific techniques, put them into a legal context, and make it all understandable to a jury. What follows is the information every prosecutor should know about DNA.

II. "DNA 101"

DNA analysis is a powerful tool because each person's nuclear DNA is unique (with the exception of identical twins). Therefore, DNA evidence collected from a crime scene can implicate or eliminate a suspect, similar to the use of fingerprints. It also can be used to analyze unidentified remains through comparisons with DNA from relatives. Additionally, when evidence from one crime scene is compared with evidence from another crime scene, through the National DNA database, it can be linked to the same perpetrator locally, statewide, and/or nationally.

DNA is also a powerful tool because it can be obtained from evidence that is decades old. Previously unsolvable cases—often homicides and sexual assaults—can contain critical DNA evidence that can identify the perpetrator, even when the victim cannot.

DNA does more than identify the source of the sample. It can place an individual:

- at the crime scene;
- in a drug dealing location; or
- in a place where the suspect claims not to have been.

It can also:

- refute an alibi or a claim of self defense; or
- put a weapon or drug paraphernalia in a suspect's hand.

Since only a few cells are necessary to obtain useful DNA, the list below identifies some common items of evidence that can be collected, the possible location of the DNA evidence, and the biological source of the cells.

Identifying DNA Evidence

Evidence	Possible Location of DNA on the Evidence	Source of DNA
Bandanna, hat, mask	Anywhere (inside or outside)	Dandruff, hair, saliva, sweat
Baseball bat or similar weapon	End, handle	Blood, hair, skin, sweat, tissue
Bite mark	Clothing, skin	Saliva
Blanket, pillow, sheet	Surface area	Blood, hair, saliva, semen, sweat, urine
Bottle, can, glass	Mouthpiece, rim, sides	Saliva, sweat
Cotton swab, facial tissue	Surface area	Blood, ear wax, mucus, semen, sweat
Dirty laundry	Anywhere	Blood, semen, sweat
Envelope, stamp	Licked area	Saliva
Eyeglasses	Ear or nosepiece, lens	Hair, skin, sweat
Fingernail, partial fingernail	Scrapings	Blood, sweat, tissue
Ligature, tape	Inside/outside surface	Blood, skin, sweat
"Through and through" bullet	Outside surface	Blood, tissue
Toothpick	Tips	Saliva
Used cigarette	Cigarette butt	Saliva
Used condom	Inside/outside surface	Rectal or vaginal cells, semen

III. Recent DNA technology advancements

Recent advancements in DNA technology have improved law enforcement's ability to use DNA to solve old cases. Previous analysis methods required large amounts of biological material, and often failed to yield results with degraded or contaminated samples. Current DNA analysis techniques, however, can provide results

from biological evidence so minute it is invisible to the naked eye, such as skin cells left on ligatures or weapons.

DNA advances can help identify missing persons through hair, bones, and teeth analysis, and can provide much needed closure for grieving families. DNA results can also now be obtained from severely degraded samples, as evidenced by the remarkable success in identifying the victims of the World Trade Center disaster.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is another form of DNA that can be used for identification purposes. Mitochondrial DNA is found outside of the cell's nucleus in the surrounding area of the cell. Unlike nuclear DNA, mtDNA is inherited directly through maternal lines. An individual's mother and siblings, as well as all other maternally related family members—even those separated by many generations—have identical mtDNA profiles. Mitochondrial DNA is also more abundant than nuclear DNA. Shed hairs, which are commonly recovered as critical crime scene evidence, as well as teeth, contain insufficient nuclear DNA, but have been successfully analyzed by mtDNA testing.

Mitochondrial DNA analysis has been used to identify skeletal remains from casualties of the Vietnam War, and was also used to identify the skeletal remains of Tsar Nicholas Romanov, the last Tsar of Russia, and his family. In 1918 Nicholas, his wife Tsarina Alexandra, and their five children were secretly executed by a firing squad. In 1991 nine skeletons were recovered from a shallow grave. The skeletons were tentatively identified by Russian forensic authorities as the remains of Tsar Nicholas, Tsarina Alexandra, and three of their five children. Mitochondrial DNA analysis later revealed an exact match between the putative Tsarina, the three children, and a living maternal relative—Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the maternal grandnephew of Alexandra.

Plant and animal DNA also hold investigatory potential. It is almost impossible to enter a house in which a domestic animal lives without being contaminated by the animal's hair. Animal hairs collected from a crime scene can, therefore, be indicative of a perpetrator's presence at the scene or provide evidence of a connection between a victim and a perpetrator. Various kinds of plant material may also be collected as evidence. In some cases leaf fragments and twigs are found on the clothing of a victim or suspect. In the case of a large-scale marijuana operation, DNA analysis of marijuana plants seized from different locations can establish that they originated from the same source.

Scientists also are now using DNA information found on the Y chromosome in order to improve the ability to identify male perpetrators in sexual assault cases. Since the Y chromosome is present only in males, it is easier to develop a suspect DNA profile even when the evidence

contains a very small number of the perpetrator's cells.

In addition, scientists are working to develop DNA analyzers that work faster, cheaper, and better. The goal is to develop cost-effective, portable DNA analyzers that can be used at the crime scene. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has supported development of DNA microchips that can analyze DNA samples using nanotechnology to simultaneously and quickly analyze numerous DNA samples.

IV. DNA for cold cases

Although focused on DNA's future, one must not forget its enormous potential to solve old crimes. Every major law enforcement department throughout the country has unsolved rapes and homicides. Many could be solved with DNA technology.

In Austin, Texas for example, an investigator knowledgeable about DNA technology was able to solve the rape of a local college student. The investigator requested DNA testing on the phone cord used to choke the victim. He realized that in the course of choking someone, enough force and friction is applied to the rope or cord that the perpetrator's skin cells may be left on the ligature.

In spite of the attacker's attempt to avoid identification through DNA evidence by wearing both a condom and rubber gloves, a reliable DNA profile was developed from the evidence. During the struggle, the attacker was forced to use one hand to hold the victim down, leaving only one hand to pull the phone cord tight. The attacker had to grab the remaining end of the cord with his mouth, thereby depositing his saliva on the cord. Although the developed profile came from saliva rather than skin, DNA not only solved the case in Austin, but also linked the perpetrator to a similar sexual assault in Waco, Texas.

Today, police departments throughout the country are reexamining unsolved rape and homicide cases and looking for usual and unusual sources of DNA. Recently, a Department of Justice (Department) grant of \$111,000 for investigator and forensic analyst overtime led to the clearing of nine rapes and twenty-two homicides in Kansas City.

V. How can DNA databases aid investigations?

DNA databases have greatly enhanced law enforcement's ability to solve old and new cases with DNA. These databases allow law enforcement to rapidly search thousands of DNA profiles from crimes with known suspects and convicted offenders to develop critical investigative information.

Every state and the federal government have statutes that require the collection of DNA samples from convicted offenders. Some states have expanded collection statutes to require DNA collections from arrestees or juveniles adjudicated delinquent for certain offenses. Popularly known as "offender databases," they store hundreds of thousands of potential suspect DNA profiles for states and the FBI. A computer software system known as CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) operates local, state, and national databases of DNA profiles from convicted offenders, unsolved crime scene evidence, and missing persons.

Crime scene DNA profiles are constantly searched against existing and newly entered convicted offender profiles. Given the recidivistic nature of many crimes, especially sexual assault and burglary, these convicted offender profile databases are solving many serious, and otherwise unsolvable, crimes like the Goldsboro Night Stalker murders.

States with large convicted-offender databases are solving a much higher percentage of crimes than states with small convicted-offender databases. In addition, CODIS constantly compares crime scene DNA profiles against other crime scene DNA profiles seeking to link what otherwise might appear to be unrelated crimes. The linkage of these crimes often allows investigators to combine investigative information to solve serial cases.

VI. DNA backlogs

The recent influx of DNA evidence and related technologies into forensic science has led to an unprecedented use of physical evidence in the adjudication of crime. The demand for DNA evidence analysis, however, has put a strain on crime laboratories as they struggle to analyze samples from convicted offenders and casework evidence. DNA backlogs are greatly impairing

prosecutors' ability to use DNA evidence to its full potential.

Although the popular press refers to a DNA evidence backlog, there actually are two components of the backlog:

- **Convicted-Offender Backlog:** Unanalyzed samples from offenders convicted of crimes requiring that their DNA be submitted to a database.
- **Forensic-Casework Backlog:** Unanalyzed evidence at crime labs and evidence from cases that law enforcement agencies have not submitted to crime labs.

Preliminary estimates place the number of collected, untested convicted-offender samples at between 200,000 and 300,000. It is also estimated that between 500,000 and 1,000,000 convicted-offender samples are owed, but not collected. *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology*, 2003, White House, *available at* http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/justice/dna_initiative-toc.html.

Researchers have estimated that the forensic casework sample backlog is over one-half million. Of that number, evidence from about 52,000 homicide cases, 169,000 sexual assault cases, and 264,000 property crime cases is still in the hands of law enforcement agencies. The remainder consists of unanalyzed DNA cases reported by local crime labs (about 34,700 at state labs and 22,600 at local labs). *National Forensic DNA Study Report*, Asplen, Christopher H.; Gaffney, Michael J.; Hurst, Linda H.; Johnson, Charles L.; Lovrich, Nicholas P.; Pratt, Travis C.; Schellberg, Timothy M. (December 2003).

VII. Getting to this point

Why does the backlog exist? To answer that, researchers surveyed local and state forensic laboratories, law enforcement agencies, and prosecutors, and found the following:

A. Success breeds demand: broader offender collection statutes

Crime labs have made enormous progress in reducing the number of unanalyzed convicted-offender samples. However, they are deluged with new requests as more states require collection of samples from more categories of

non-violent crimes. Based on responses from crime labs in states without statutes requiring DNA collection from all convicted felons, the expansion to all convicted felons in the databases would add 2,281,000 offender profiles in the first year, with 504,484 profiles added in subsequent years. (The first year number assumes retroactive statutes that would include offenders still serving sentences.) National Forensic DNA Study Report, Asplen, Christopher H.; Gaffney, Michael J.; Hurst, Linda H.; Johnson, Charles L.; Lovrich, Nicholas P.; Pratt, Travis C.; Schellberg, Timothy M. (December 2003).

The answer to this backlog is not to slow down convicted-offender collections. Evidence has shown that states with broad collection statutes are solving far more crimes than those with narrow collection statutes. Having non-violent offenders in the database clearly can lead to the arrest of violent offenders. For many years, the Virginia Division of Forensic Science has reported that more than 80 percent of the hits on the state's DNA database would have been missed if only violent offenders were in the database. *Id.* The Department strongly recommends that states collect DNA profiles from all convicted felons to ensure an effective DNA system.

B. Forensic casework backlogs

Delays in processing cases at crime laboratories contribute substantially to the forensic casework backlog. Why the delays? In general, laboratories at all levels suffer from an inadequate number of trained forensic scientists and insufficient resources, leading to an overall lack of the infrastructure needed to accommodate the increased DNA caseload. DNA casework analysis is also time consuming and expensive when compared to other important crime lab work such as latent fingerprints, firearms comparisons, trace evidence, and drug analysis.

Notably, most of the forensic casework samples awaiting DNA analysis are not found at the crime labs. The vast majority of these samples remain in law enforcement agencies. These agencies are often reluctant to submit evidence to the lab. The most commonly cited reason for not submitting DNA evidence is that law enforcement agencies see DNA as a tool for prosecution, not for investigation. More than 30 percent of responding agencies indicated that they do not

submit DNA evidence for cases in which a suspect has not been identified. Unfortunately, this approach fails to maximize the stunningly effective crime fighting potential of the DNA databases. *Id.*

In addition, many law enforcement agencies do not submit evidence for DNA analysis when they believe that the case can proceed without DNA evidence. More than 10 percent of agencies decline to submit samples when a suspect has been identified, but not yet charged, and 14 percent do not submit DNA evidence when a guilty plea is expected. *Id.* Although this approach is understandable, given current limited crime lab resources and the need to prioritize cases, this practice is not the best long-term approach.

Postconviction DNA testing is necessary to correct erroneous convictions, but experience also points to the need to ensure that postconviction DNA testing benefits innocent people rather than guilty criminals who wish to "game" the system or retaliate against their crime victims. Usually, the results of postconviction testing sought by prisoners confirm guilt, rather than establish innocence. (The Innocence Project screens inmate petitions, selecting only those that seem to offer the best chance of exoneration. Sixty percent of the cases chosen for representation result in the DNA test confirming the inmate's guilt.) In these cases, justice resources are squandered and the system has been misused to inflict further harm on the crime victim.

In one St. Louis case, the DNA postconviction test confirmed that the victim had been raped in 1985 (when she was fifty-nine years old) by the man convicted. The post-conviction confirmation required the investigators to collect the victim's saliva sample (to analyze her DNA). The investigators also had to inquire about her sexual past, in order to be sure that the semen found in her home was not from a consensual partner. Her family reported that this experience was very traumatic and resulted in her falling into a severe depression requiring antidepressant medication. Understandably, the reopening of cases for postconviction DNA testing usually implies that the victim has mistakenly identified her assailant and likely causes new trauma and potential privacy invasions.

VIII. The future of DNA with the \$1 billion initiative

Although progress has been made in reducing the backlog and increasing the capacity of crime laboratories, a comprehensive strategy is essential to ensure that the use of this technology is maximized. The President has called upon Congress to support a five-year, \$1 billion DNA initiative. This initiative calls for:

- the elimination of casework and convicted offender backlogs;
- the improvement of crime lab capacity (through automated systems, robotics, and laboratory management systems);
- training for all stakeholders in the criminal justice system, including forensic scientists, police, corrections officers, probation and parole officers, lawyers and judges, and crime victims;
- postconviction DNA testing grants for states to develop appropriate testing programs that focus on inmates that are likely to be innocent;
- the discouragement of frivolous testing; and
- the provision of victims services and missing persons identification programs.

To improve criminal justice use of DNA technology, under the President's initiative, NIJ will continue to stimulate research and the development of new and improved methods of analyzing samples. The goal of this research program is to make DNA analysis faster, cheaper, and better. This is essential in order to ensure that DNA is an affordable and timely investigative technique for all crimes. NIJ hopes to establish demonstration projects to study the public safety and law enforcement benefits of fully integrating the use of DNA technology to solve crimes. *Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology*, 2003, White House, *available at* http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/justice/dna_initiative-toc.html. These demonstration projects will help state and local governments make informed decisions about how and when to invest in forensic services as part of their overall crime-fighting strategy.

The President has also called for the creation of a National Forensic Science Commission. This commission, comprised of leaders from the scientific and criminal justice communities, can

help prepare both the forensic community and the federal government for the future by providing national policy guidance to ensure that all existing and newly discovered forensic techniques (including DNA analysis) are used to their full potential. The commission will help the forensic community identify its future needs such as staffing, technology, and laboratory capacity, and will help the federal government effectively plan for the future by targeting its crime-fighting dollars.

Preventing crimes, protecting the innocent, and bringing the guilty to justice—those are the promises of a comprehensive, national forensic DNA strategy. An aggressive program that ensures timely analysis and entry of offender DNA samples into DNA databases is essential to reaching that goal. The nation is confronted with cases where horrendous crimes could have been prevented if DNA samples had been collected and tested in a timely manner. One recent report catalogued thirteen rapes by one offender that could have been prevented through timely DNA testing. The National Forensic DNA Study Report (Dec. 12, 2004) *available at* http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/pdf/dna_studyreport_final.pdf.

Timely and appropriate DNA testing means greater justice and public safety. It is going to take the efforts of everyone in the criminal justice system to realize the DNA database's full potential—from correctional staff collecting samples from convicted offenders, to the forensic scientists that will analyze the samples, to the law enforcement investigators who use DNA information to link the offender to an unsolved crime. The possible benefits DNA can bring makes the work involved worth the effort. ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

❑ **Sarah V. Hart** was sworn in as Director of the National Institute of Justice on August 7, 2001. NIJ is the Research and Development agency of the U.S. Department of Justice and its mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. NIJ provides objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of crime and justice, particularly at the state and local levels. Before coming to NIJ, she served as chief counsel for the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and,

before that, as a prosecutor for sixteen years in the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office. In that capacity, she served as lead counsel for nine years in federal litigation involving the Philadelphia prison system. Ms. Hart previously served as vice chair of the Legal Affairs Committee of the American Correctional Association, chairman of the Sentencing and Corrections Subcommittee of the Federalist Society, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Crime Victims Law Institute. ❧

Project Safe Neighborhoods: Building Partnerships and Promoting Public Safety



*Domingo S. Herraiz
Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance
Department of Justice*

I. Introduction

In 2001 President George W. Bush created an aggressive, comprehensive gun violence reduction strategy called Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). By linking federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as research partners, community engagement partners, and community leaders, PSN provides a multifaceted approach to deterring and punishing gun crime. It represents a nationwide commitment to reducing gun crime by providing locally-based programs with the tools and resources they need to succeed.

PSN is committed to building effective federal, state, and local partnerships by: using research tools to assist with guiding local

strategies and measuring their impact; providing comprehensive training; conveying the initiative's priorities, message, and results to the community and the media; and building a strong and lasting coalition with citizens so they will be agents of change in their own communities. Federal agencies involved in this partnership include:

- components of the U.S. Department of Justice (Department);
- the Department's Criminal Division;
- the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF);
- the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services;
- the U.S. Marshals Service;
- the Office of Justice Programs (OJP);
- the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA);
- the National Institute of Justice (NIJ);
- the Office for Weed and Seed; and
- the Executive Office for United States Attorneys.

The program has also partnered with national constituent organizations including the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the National Crime Prevention

Council (NCPC). In addition to the federal and national partners, Michigan State University (MSU), American University, the American Parole and Probation Association, and Hobson & Associates, among others, provide training and technical assistance to PSN.

Project Safe Neighborhoods stands as the President's foremost criminal justice initiative, and the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$1 billion to PSN in its first four years. The funds have been used to hire new federal, state, and local prosecutors; provide training; support research and community outreach programs; and develop and promote effective prevention and deterrence programs. As a result of these efforts, virtually all types of federal gun crime prosecutions have increased since PSN's inception. Federal prosecutions of gun crimes have increased 68 percent in the past three years.

Two districts where innovative programming has led to strong progress include the Southern District of Indiana and the District of Massachusetts. The Southern District of Indiana has a strong PSN initiative that combines an innovative program—the Indianapolis Violence Reduction Partnership (IVRP)—with partnerships of federal, state, and local law enforcement and faith-based organizations. Through IVRP, the district has created a program of prevention and prosecution to deter felons from possessing firearms and ammunition. Through its faith-based approach, ministers and religious leaders have assisted with outreach and prevention efforts that have greatly enhanced the district's interaction with the community, developed a ready network of support for families at risk of firearm violence, and provided unique opportunities to deliver the PSN message.

Boston was one of the pioneers in gun violence reduction, and lessons learned from its Project Ceasefire initiative formed the foundation upon which PSN was built and has expanded. The District of Massachusetts continues to implement PSN strategies that are tailored to address the issues facing its communities. As part of its PSN initiative, the district has expanded its programs to bring the most successful elements of Project Ceasefire to other major cities in the district, including Brockton, Lowell, Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, New Bedford, and Fall River. District Attorneys' offices in these areas collaborate with the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO) to discuss strategies for proactive

investigations, confer on cases, and refer firearms-related cases for potential federal prosecution when viable. Target cities also have been encouraged to identify hot spots of firearms violence and to use their data to design strategies to combat violence. In 2003 the District of Massachusetts teamed with its PSN media outreach partner, federal and state law enforcement agencies, and community-based service providers, to launch a media campaign to target previously convicted felons. The campaign is meant to serve as a reminder to felons of the mandatory sentences faced if they are found in possession of firearms.

At this stage in PSN's implementation, it is important to review the work accomplished to date, and more important, outline additional resources available to support each of the PSN district gun crime reduction strategies.

II. BJA's role in establishing PSN across the country: 2001-2004

A. Grants

At the time that each USAO was working with law enforcement and other state and local officials to establish a task force to address gun crime, BJA was working with numerous agencies at the national level to develop and implement a series of supporting grant programs. Based upon the lessons learned from earlier model firearms programs, such as Project Exile in Richmond, Virginia and Operation Ceasefire in Boston, the Department worked to expand upon these successes by giving all United States Attorneys a framework for creating an effective gun violence reduction program. The Department identified a number of elements as critical to the success of any local effort: partnership, strategic planning, training, community outreach and public awareness, and accountability.

In FY 2001 BJA initiated the Community Gun Violence Prosecution Program to hire state and local prosecutors across the country to focus on gun-related crimes. This program provided additional manpower at the local level and emphasized coordination with the U.S. Attorney's PSN Task Force. In FY 2002 four new grant programs were added under PSN: two were coordinated at the district level by the PSN Task Forces, and two were administered at the national level by BJA. The Research Partner/Crime

Analyst and the Media Outreach and Community Engagement programs were grants in which the state and local members of the PSN Task Forces reviewed and selected proposals. The media/community engagement grants directly support the core PSN elements of partnership building and community outreach. The research grants support the strategic planning and accountability elements by adding analysis capability at the state and local level. The two nationally administered programs were Project Sentry (juvenile-related funding) and a nationwide competition to find innovative ideas from the field called Reducing Community Gun Violence.

Once the core implementation functions were funded for each district's gun violence reduction strategy, BJA received feedback from the field that suggested broader support might be needed in order to move forward. Taking into consideration the vast differences in how the ninety-three districts were approaching PSN, a more flexible funding stream was needed. Therefore, in FY 2003 BJA changed how it allocated grant funds, and instead of creating additional nationwide competitions, BJA provided funds directly to the PSN Task Forces by way of a population-based allocation available for local projects. To administer these funds, each district chose a fiscal agent to enter into subgrants or contracts with individual organizations to carry out the goals and objectives of the PSN Task Force strategy. In this way, task forces would have more freedom to craft their gun crime reduction strategies to meet local needs. BJA will administer FY 2004 PSN funds in the same manner.

One exciting addition to the program this year is BJA's work with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). BJA is using HUD funds to supplement the strategies of nine U.S. Attorney districts focused on the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of violent crime and drug crime in public and federally-assisted housing, including Native American housing. BJA is coordinating this project with OJP's American Indian and Alaska Native Affairs Desk in an effort to increase attention on gun crime reduction in public housing in general and, where appropriate, in tribal population centers.

Finally, reflecting the fact that the Weed and Seed program also engages communities in violence reduction measures, BJA has been working with OJP's Community Capacity Development Office (which now oversees the

Office of Weed and Seed) to promote using Weed and Seed as a platform to coordinate the PSN initiative in many districts. Seven districts that have been particularly successful at coordinating the PSN initiative with their Weed and Seed programs were selected to participate in a PSN/Weed and Seed focus group meeting in January 2004 in Washington, D.C. The successful strategies identified by focus group members will be used to train other districts on coordination issues.

B. Technical assistance

As with BJA's grant programs, the initial PSN training and technical assistance plan focused on establishing core training and technical assistance support for all districts. We worked with a number of national organizations to cover key task force start-up needs. In partnership with the NIJ, MSU provided training and technical assistance on strategic planning, problem solving, and data analysis to all district teams. This technical assistance occurs in a variety of formats including site visits, Web-based resources, and telephone and e-mail consultation. For example, when New York State criminal justice officials considered linking PSN to a statewide crime reduction initiative, U.S. Attorney Glenn Suddaby (Northern District of New York) requested that MSU bring its strategic problem training workshop to the state. The MSU team provided training to law enforcement teams from twenty counties. A similar workshop was held for PSN teams throughout the District of Maryland. Additionally, MSU has worked with a number of districts to pull together resources that can be used by other district task forces. Thus, the Western District of New York provided a CD on conducting incident reviews, and the Eastern District of Missouri provided a survey instrument for potential use with offenders in jail or prison. The District of Montana provided a training video for law enforcement on federal gun laws and the Southern District of Indiana provided a video on offender notification meetings. Finally, the Northern District of Iowa and the Northern District of Alabama provided videos used by inmates to prepare them for their return to the community. These and additional resources are now available to other PSN task forces through MSU.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance also teamed with the NDAA and its American Prosecutors Research Institute (APRI) to provide training and

technical assistance support to state and local prosecutors. Two courses that have been well received across the country in the last two years include APRI's *Fundamentals of Firearms Training* and *Hitting the Mark*. Robert Barton, Supervising Deputy District Attorney in Kern County, CA, attended this training in 2002 and reports that the training and publications provided were very valuable, even though he has eighteen years experience as a prosecutor. Following APRI's training, the Kern County District Attorney's Office was able to use this knowledge to develop an aggressive inter-agency approach to firearms prosecution by using the resources of the ATF and their USAO. Through PSN grant funds, the office subsequently developed a firearms prosecution unit and is now able to refine and specialize in prosecuting gun violence such that all agencies funnel their firearms cases to the District Attorney.

BJA partnered with four organizations to support the needs of local law enforcement. Together with the ATF, the IACP and the NCPC, BJA sponsor a series of training classes entitled *Project Safe Neighborhoods Enforcement Training*. BJA also worked with the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) to implement two major initiatives, Project ChildSafe (detailed below) and the *Don't Lie for the Other Guy* program, which educate both the public and the retail network concerning straw purchasing activities. Hobson & Associates also provides a well-received seminar, *Gun Recovery and Enforcement Training*, to law enforcement agencies throughout the states and territories.



Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program intended to promote the safe handling and storage of firearms, with an emphasis on preventing children from accessing firearms in the home. In

2003 Project ChildSafe launched a tour to distribute free firearm safety kits to citizens in communities across the United States. In addition to educational materials on gun safety, the kits contain a cable-style gun lock. BJA encourages each task force to coordinate with NSSF when Project ChildSafe comes to their state. The Project ChildSafe distribution schedule can be found at www.projectchildsafef.org. From September 2003 through May 2004 Project ChildSafe has distributed more than 19 million safety kits to fifty states and has visited some 13,000 communities.

III. Supporting PSN now and in the future—2004 and beyond

One of the primary ways to ensure the ongoing success of PSN is to put in place the appropriate mix of training and technical assistance support for the field. With the core grants and training in place, BJA sought to be responsive to the range of future needs across the country. As the ninety-three districts have moved from establishing their initial strategies to pursuing a more comprehensive approach to gun crime reduction, the range of needs varies significantly and the challenges become more complex.

To identify and fill the evolving training and technical assistance needs, BJA sought input from the field to identify key implementation issues. BJA obtained the information by working with American University to conduct a needs assessment of the most recent PSN Task Force progress reports and technical assistance inquiries. The analysis provided a snapshot of overall program development activities in the districts. Four common areas where additional assistance would have the most impact on the field were identified: stronger law enforcement and media/community partnerships; establishing better working relationships with probation and parole agencies; improved juvenile programming; and establishment of a PSN clearinghouse function. BJA is working to fulfill these needs in 2004.

A. Strengthen the ability of the task forces to partner with local law enforcement, prosecutors, and communities targeted for PSN enforcement activities

BJA is working to address this need in two distinct ways. Through a national competition, it

has selected two additional national technical assistance partners for both the media outreach and community engagement expertise areas. These organizations will join those providers already working with the Department to offer coordination support and technical assistance to each district on their engagement strategies. In addition, BJA is working with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Community Policing Consortium to help districts develop and sustain the partnerships that are critical for PSN implementation. The Consortium will help districts develop partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and the prosecutors with whom they work, and engage community stakeholders. The COPS Office will promote the availability of both on-site technical assistance and regional training through the Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs) located across the country. Specific law enforcement related problem solving, public housing, cultural diversity, tribal, and rural-focused courses are planned for the RCPI network.

B. Increase involvement of state and local probation and parole agencies in PSN

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) recently joined the PSN network to promote district-level outreach to probation and parole agencies and to develop model protocols to improve the supervision of offenders placed in the community. In addition to being available to help districts partner with their constituents, APPA will work with the Department to develop guidelines to increase awareness of existing federal firearm prohibitions. This year, APPA will conduct a comprehensive survey of existing probation and parole-based programs and other initial baseline work to form future training and technical assistance decisions. This work is being coordinated with OJP's Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative, a government-wide initiative to help reduce recidivism, and the Police/Probation Partnership program at Sam Houston University in Huntsville, Texas.

C. Provide additional help to the districts in developing and implementing the juvenile gun violence portion of their program

Funding for juvenile-related gun violence activities represents about 30 percent of each district's FY 2003 and FY 2004 PSN block grants. Because a large part of funding must be dedicated to this program area, BJA will provide support to teams as they plan juvenile programming in their districts. In addition, many districts expressed a desire to receive help on the topic of gangs and guns. To address these needs, BJA is partnering with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). OJJDP will support the districts through a combination of regional training and individual site support. It is anticipated that this technical assistance will be conducted through the National Training and Technical Assistance Center operated by Caliber Associates. In addition, OJJDP will work with the IACP to tailor a course specifically for PSN task force members using their existing *Gangs, Guns, and Drugs* curriculum. Current plans call for pilot testing the revised class in the fall of 2004 and then making it available to district teams soon thereafter.

D. Establish a clearinghouse function for all PSN-related materials

The Bureau of Justice Assistance recently expanded the duties of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) to include support to the PSN Web page and the establishment of a PSN clearinghouse. NCJRS will update and maintain the Web site and offer a central location for PSN grantees and partners to contact for information to support PSN strategies. NCJRS plays the same role in supporting a number of OJP components, and as a result, its role as the PSN clearinghouse also provides access to other Department criminal justice-related information, much of which could be useful to the PSN task forces.

IV. Conclusion

The Bureau of Justice Assistance will continue to play a major role in supporting districts in their efforts to reduce gun crime and in effectively implementing PSN. Questions may be directed to Todd Brighton, Senior Policy Advisor,

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at (202) 616-3879 or Todd.Brighton@usdoj.gov. ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

□ **Domingo S. Herraiz** was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as BJA's new Director on March 8, 2004. Before joining BJA, he was the Director of the Ohio Office of Criminal Justice Services, the state criminal justice planning agency. From 1986 to 2000, Mr. Herraiz was the Executive Director of the Ohio Crime Prevention Association. While in that position, he served as Executive Committee Chair of the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, where he designed a national crime prevention model and the McGruff the Crime Dog campaign for the Department and the National Crime Prevention Council. ☒

Information-Sharing Efforts That Help to Reduce Crime and Respond to Emergencies

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I. Introduction

"Connecting the dots" is a phrase that has been used a great deal since the attacks of 9/11. Many believe that if America had been able to "connect the dots," the country might have averted the terrorist attacks. There have been countless examples of how improved data sharing and analysis may have led to the apprehension of most or all of the terrorists involved in the events of 9/11.

In a February 2003 speech, President Bush pledged to make information sharing at the local law enforcement level an important tool in the nation's war on terror. He said:

All across the country we'll be able to tie our terrorist information to local information banks so that the front line of defeating terror becomes activated and real, and those are the local enforcement officials. We expect them to be a part of our efforts; we must give them the tools necessary so they do their job.

President George W. Bush, New Terrorist Threat Integration Center (February 14, 2004) *available at* <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030214-5.html>.

Although much of the recent attention has focused on inadequate response to terrorism, inadequacies in responding to domestic crime have also been scrutinized. For example, in the fall of 2003, two snipers terrorized the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. The investigation, involving numerous law enforcement agencies in six states, was hampered by an inability to share information quickly.

It is far too easy to focus only on the major crimes when, in fact, all types of criminal investigations would benefit from increased information-sharing initiatives. Lack of information sharing is evidenced at all levels. It is not unusual for judges to sentence offenders based on outdated or incomplete criminal history records. Despite advances in digital technology, many police officers must still wait too long to get basic information about a stopped vehicle or person. In some states, criminal warrants do not get into state-wide databases immediately. These delays create serious officer and public safety issues.

II. Why can't we share?

In the Fall 2000 issue of TechBeat (*available at <http://www.nlectc.org/techbeat/fall2000/PatchFixFall2000.pdf>*), the National Institute of Justice noted that, "It is more than obvious that something is wrong when the only way for police officers from neighboring departments to communicate with one another is to pull their cruisers side by side and roll down their windows."

One of the biggest challenges facing public safety agencies today is attempting to manage the avalanche of information available that is relevant to solving crimes and managing resources. The inability of most agencies to share information easily and effectively with one another constitutes a major roadblock to providing effective, coordinated responses to crime.

This problem may appear insurmountable. However, every day America tracks billions of transactions throughout the world that move money from one bank to the next. Therefore, why is it so difficult to track a criminal moving from Ohio to Illinois? Every night, express shipping companies track thousands of packages and are able to tell where a shipment is. Why then is it nearly impossible to construct a complete criminal record in a single court system?

Despite America's vaunted technological prowess, information on local police computer systems that might help a federal agency prevent terrorist acts may not be readily accessible to anyone outside of that agency. Even if a criminal is convicted of child abuse and placed into the database in one county in America, many other counties may never know about it. If an individual is suspected of being a serial killer in one state,

the police arresting him in another state may not be aware of it.

Today, America is confronting a serious problem with information sharing in conjunction with homeland security and the administration of justice throughout the nation. Information sharing in law enforcement and other justice agency computer systems is extremely inadequate. Many police, public health entities, parole officers, and courts, are operating with outdated information technology.

III. Key efforts addressing the issues

Significant efforts are underway to correct the information-sharing problem. The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) is actively participating in and facilitating the standards-based electronic information exchange throughout the justice and public safety communities. OJP engages the skills and talents of those in the Bureau of Justice Assistance and National Institute of Justice, in partnership with federal, state, and local law enforcement throughout the country. The broad scope of this effort is fundamental and crucial to the success of the information-sharing initiative. Public and practitioner safety is best secured when all parties in the system, including patrol officers, prosecutors, court officials, and corrections personnel, have ready access to timely and accurate information.

A. Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative

Quickly recognizing the need to increase information sharing in the aftermath of 9/11, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) held a Criminal Intelligence Sharing Summit in 2002. Based on the recommendations emanating from the Summit, OJP established the Global Intelligence Working Group to help promote and coordinate the efficient sharing of criminal intelligence among criminal justice agencies throughout the United States. The Working Group is a subcommittee of the Global Justice Information Sharing Advisory Committee, which advises the Attorney General in this important area.

The Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) is a "group of groups," representing more than thirty independent organizations spanning the criminal justice

spectrum, including law enforcement, the judiciary, and corrections. This influential group works to address the many policy, privacy, connectivity, and jurisdictional issues that hamper effective justice information sharing. Member organizations participate in Global, sharing the responsibility and the belief that, together, they can bring about positive change in interorganizational communication and data sharing. Global's mission is to promote the efficient sharing of data among justice entities.

Global aids its member organizations and the people they serve through a series of important initiatives. These include the facilitation of the Global working groups, development of technology standards, creation of white papers on data sharing issues, and the dissemination of information via the Global Web site. All of these efforts share a common objective—developing and assisting in the deployment of technology that allows seamless sharing of information when needed.

In a short time period, Global has recorded several major successes, including the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan (NCISP), Integrated Justice, and the Global Justice XML Data Model.

The NCISP, developed by the Global Intelligence Working Group, and enthusiastically endorsed by Attorney General Ashcroft, is a guide that helps agencies establish criminal intelligence-sharing policies, procedures, standards, technologies, and training. NCISP sets forth standards for sharing data and handling security, a policy and procedure blueprint for administrators, and technology architecture for sharing Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information. NCISP offers a framework for achieving OJP's goal of strategic, intelligence-driven policing, as called for in the 2002 IACP Summit.

Through Global, the Department of Justice (Department) is also seeking to develop a standards-based approach for an integrated justice information system (Integrated Justice). The system would allow efficient sharing of information at critical decision points throughout the criminal justice system "pipeline," from law enforcement and prosecutors to courts and corrections.

A major component of this standards-based approach to information sharing is the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM). Developed

by Global and OJP, the GJXDM defines more than 2,500 kinds of data objects used throughout law enforcement. The Extensible Markup Language (XML) schema outlines the data format and its definition. By standardizing the data formats in this manner, XML eliminates interoperability issues associated with data sharing. Furthermore, by the use of XML, the software development community is able to utilize standards-based software and protocols for exchanging data. This reduces the time and cost for implementing data-sharing systems. In layman's terms, this means that disparate computer systems will be able to exchange and understand each other's data, and that a police department, prosecutor, or court system will not have to pay for the development of an entire new data-formatting system in order to achieve this goal.

The Department as a whole, recognizing the significance of Global's work in developing the NCISP and related information-sharing tools, has launched its own initiative in support of that work. The Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program (LEISP) is a Department-wide plan to facilitate law enforcement collaboration across agency and jurisdictional boundaries. Its key components are enhancing access to law enforcement information for authorized users; improving information sharing within the Department and among the Department's federal, state, and local law enforcement partners; and coordinating information-sharing projects.

Perhaps the most significant change represented by LEISP is that, for the first time, all the Department enforcement components have agreed that sharing information will no longer be an obscure concept—it will be the norm. The components have agreed that only in certain narrowly-defined circumstances will Department law enforcement agencies be permitted to withhold information from each other, or from their state and local law enforcement partners.

B. NIJ Information Sharing and Integrated Justice Programs

In addition to Global and related interoperability and information-sharing initiatives, several other efforts are underway at OJP to improve the nation's capacity for information sharing and integrated justice. Most

of these initiatives are occurring within the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

NIJ, a component of OJP, is the research, development, and evaluation arm of the Department. NIJ is dedicated to researching crime control and criminal justice issues and providing objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to meet the challenges of criminal justice. The primary focus of these efforts is to enhance the effectiveness of state and local law enforcement agencies. In the information and integrated justice programs arena, NIJ supports research and development of cost-effective technologies to improve communications and information sharing and access for public safety agencies.

NIJ is collaborating on several projects with the Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), an integrated criminal justice network used by fifty local, state, and federal agencies in the San Diego area. The ARJISNet secure intranet contains a variety of regional criminal justice data. ARJIS joins more than 10,000 users and is used for tactical analysis, investigations, statistical information, and crime analysis. It enables law enforcement agents to receive electronic notification if another agency or officer obtains information related to an individual, location, or vehicle. ARJIS is truly a "single point of entry" for access to all regional justice data.

Another collaborative project is the Domestic Violence Communication System (DVCS). DVCS links systems at Child Protective Services (CPS), law enforcement, batterer counseling, shelters, victim counseling, and the courts. It provides a single repository of domestic violence-related data across the region that connects everyone in the justice system involved in domestic violence cases. It is Web-based, with easy access and a user-friendly interface. DVCS permits users to gain timely, on-line access to the latest progress reports and alerts, and allows law enforcement to be notified when offenders are not in compliance. DVCS is a "win" for both law enforcement and those in treatment.

Another exciting project is the ARJIS PDA Pilot Program. This program provides wireless field access to critical law enforcement data via hand-held Personal Data Assistants (PDAs). The information available in this format includes wanted persons, warrants, restraining orders,

terrorist alerts, motor vehicle records, ARJIS Officer Alerts, and booking photos.

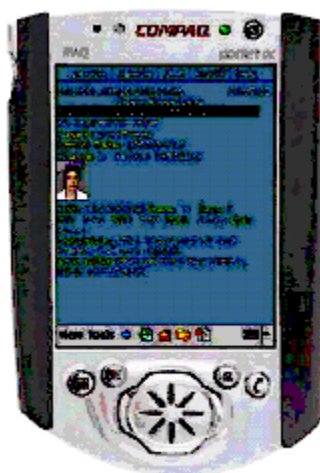


Figure 1: Sample from ARJIS PDA Pilot Program

The impact of this program is best gauged by feedback from the users themselves. A San Diego Beach Team officer said:

We called dispatch for a records check and were put on hold. We ran the check on the subject using the PDA, and got a warrant hit and booking photo before our turn at inquiry ever came up. This definitely speeds up our access to critical information and saves a lot of time for both the field officer and dispatch.

Quote provided by Pam Scanlon, Executive Director of ARJIS, May 2004.

The ARJIS PDA Pilot Program incorporates not only local agencies, but also federal agencies, including the Border patrol and FBI, who are realizing the benefits of the program as well. A San Diego Border Patrol officer said,

I ran a warrants check on a subject using the PDA and located a felony warrant from 1989. The subject was shocked and said he had been stopped several times before, but no one had been able to locate the warrant. The PDA saves us a tremendous amount of time in the field.

Quote provided by Pam Scanlon, Executive Director of ARJIS, May 2004.

NIJ is also supporting Project SeaHawk, created as a benchmark project to enhance the

protection, security, and infrastructure of seaports nationally. Administered by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of South Carolina, Project SeaHawk is focused on the Port of Charleston, South Carolina, the second largest container port on the east coast and fourth largest in the nation.

Project SeaHawk has four elements:

- a unified law enforcement task force and intelligence section to conduct proactive operations to deter and prevent acts of terrorism;
- a "fusion" operations center to provide intermodal and maritime domain awareness;
- data sharing and interoperability to establish an intermodal risk assessment management system; and
- a think tank to be used to examine innovative concepts, initiatives, and equipment.

The goal of Project SeaHawk is to create an operational task force that becomes a model that is easily replicated by other ports in the United States. Ultimately, Project SeaHawk is intended to be the prototype for unified port security and protection efforts throughout the nation.

Another NIJ-supported project is the Capital Wireless Integrated Network (CapWIN), which began in 1999 as a partnership between the states of Maryland and Virginia and the District of Columbia. The project was developed to respond to the inability of neighboring jurisdictions in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region to communicate at incident scenes. This inadequacy has been a topic of discussion for more than twenty years, since an airplane crashed on take-off into the 14th Street Bridge during a blizzard in January 1982. The lack of effective communication among public safety agencies and personnel hampered the rescue effort. Other incidents since then have highlighted the problem.

The purpose of CapWIN is to develop an integrated criminal justice and transportation information wireless network. Once implemented, this project will integrate transportation and public safety communication systems (data and voice) in the two states and Washington, D.C. The primary goal of this project is to have multiple mobile data platforms communicating seamlessly across the network, regardless of jurisdiction or geographical location. CapWIN's targeted users include federal,

state, and local police; fire; and EMS vehicles, as well as state Department of Transportation service patrols. The system will provide critical information to transportation and public safety agencies during major incidents as well as during daily operations in this area. This project has the potential to become a model or a foundation for networks throughout the nation.

Finally, the Whatcom County Data Integration Project was developed in order to create an "information-sharing network" for justice system practitioners. This project will lay the foundation for a fully integrated adult and juvenile justice system that has its offender-based processes linked together and supported by a smooth flow of information.

This system, once fully implemented, will result in real-time sharing of data throughout the justice system. This will, in turn, enhance public safety and eliminate processing bottlenecks. Justice system practitioners within the county government will be able to share data entry responsibilities and verify and edit data. In addition, practitioners will be able to share data used for day-to-day operations, and aggregate justice system data to enable proactive planning and budgeting. In short, the system will allow fast, efficient sharing of much of the information needed by each justice agency for the day-to-day processing of offenders in the criminal justice system. It will create tangible benefits for communities by allowing criminal justice agencies to work together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operations by using information technology.

III. Conclusion

Each of the Department's Strategic Goals for 2003-2008 can be furthered by effective, efficient information sharing from the local to the federal level. When justice information systems are improved, criminal justice agencies benefit. For example, as a condition of parole, a gang member might be forbidden to associate with known gang members. A law enforcement officer from a different jurisdiction might stop a vehicle with the parolee and other gang members. Without integrated justice information sharing, this officer, and the justice system in general, has no way of knowing that the individual is violating parole. However, when information is shared across the

justice enterprise, the officer can view the parole order and arrest the offender for violating parole.

The goal of each of OJP's information-sharing initiatives is to make law enforcement more effective. OJP's hope is to have more projects that generate feedback, such as that from Sgt. Steve Sutt of the Carlsbad Police Department and the ARJIS PDA Pilot Program. He said, "Having easy access to ARJIS information in the field allows me to be more efficient and effective in protecting the public." Quote provided by Pam Scanlon, Executive Director of ARJIS, May 2004.

The very real potential for harnessing America's public safety resources in the fight against terrorism is to empower local law enforcement to know that a person stopped in Santa Fe, New Mexico for running a red light has been indicted in New York for conspiracy to commit terrorist acts. The technology to achieve this goal is close at hand. Together, with partners throughout the justice community, the Department is striving to make this vision an achievable reality. ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

❑ **Deborah J. Daniels** was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on September 21, 2001 as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. As Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Daniels is responsible for overall management and oversight of OJP, guides the development of OJP policy and priorities, promotes coordination among OJP Bureaus and program offices, and ensures that OJP policies and programs reflect the priorities of the President, the Attorney General, and the Congress. From 1988 to 1993, Ms. Daniels was the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana. During her tenure as U.S. Attorney, Ms. Daniels accepted a detail to serve under the Deputy Attorney General as the first Director of the Executive Office for Weed and Seed.

❑ **John S. Morgan** is the Science Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General for the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, and Assistant Director for Science and Technology of the National Institute of Justice. Dr. Morgan holds a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering. ❖

Helping Hand: OJP Programs to Assist Victims of Crime

John W. Gillis
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I. Introduction

Established by an amendment to the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) of 1984, Pub. L. No. 98-473, 98 Stat. 2170 (codified as amended in scattered sections of 42 U.S.C.), the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) supports state crime victim and assistance programs, services for victims of federal crime, and training and technical assistance to improve victim services. OVC also funds programs to improve the

investigation and prosecution of child abuse, provides assistance and compensation for victims of terrorism, and supports victim-witness staff in U.S. Attorneys' Offices (USAOs), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and other federal agencies. OVC is dedicated to enhancing the nation's capacity to assist crime victims and help change attitudes, policies, and practices in order to promote justice and healing for all victims of crime.

Funds for OVC's programs do not come from taxpayer dollars, but rather from federal fines, penalties, and bond forfeitures imposed by U.S. courts and collected by USAOs and their federal criminal justice counterparts. Since its inception,

OVC has addressed the needs of crime victims in the federal criminal justice system by allocating funds to tribal victim assistance programs, emergency assistance programs for federal victims, and victim-witness coordinators in a number of federal agencies. These resources, and others in OVC not solely dedicated to federal crime victims, are intended to help federal professionals meet their responsibilities to the victims with whom they come into contact. These assets have supported USAOs, both in responding directly to victims, such as paying for counseling costs for a bank robbery victim who is suicidal, and in improving their capacity to meet victims' needs, such as providing training sessions on notification, allocution, and restitution.

The Victim and Witness Protection Act (VWPA) of 1982, Pub. L. 97-291, 96 Stat. 1248, which delineates certain rights for crime victims in the federal justice system, also encourages the federal government to do all that is possible within the limits of available resources to assist victims and witnesses without infringing on the constitutional rights of defendants. To implement the provisions of the VWPA, Congress directed the Attorney General to issue guidelines for Department of Justice (Department) officials responsible for the detection, investigation, and prosecution of federal crimes. These guidelines describe responsibilities for implementing provisions of the VWPA and key provisions of subsequent legislation.

Attorney General Ashcroft has mandated an update of the guidelines to facilitate victim involvement in the criminal justice process, taking into account new legal developments and crimes identified in legislation such as the USA PATRIOT Act, Pub. L. No. 107-56, 115 Stat. 272 (2001), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, 22 U.S.C. § 7105 (2000). That update is anticipated by the end of the year. Further, the Attorney General has set forth an aggressive Victims' Rights Policy Agenda that focuses on a variety of issues, from hiring victim-witness coordinators with specialized expertise, to improving the effectiveness of the federal Victim Notification System (VNS).

OVC acts in support of the Attorney General's mandate by offering support through several major initiatives.

A. Crime victim assistance funds

OVC makes funds available to a number of federal agencies including, but not limited to, the FBI, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Department's Civil Rights Division, and the Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Investigation and Customs Enforcement. These funds are intended to assist victims of federal crime in exercising their rights or seeking services when no other resources are available. These funds have been used to assist victims with transportation, emergency housing, crisis intervention counseling, medical services, child care, and the costs associated with forensic medical examinations. The program helped support victims of the 1986 hijacking of Pan Am 73 in Karachi, Pakistan and their family members. Thanks to EOUSA's Crime Victim Assistance Fund, some of the 380 passengers and crew members, as well as family members of the twenty who were murdered, were able to attend and give statements at the sentencing of the plane's lead hijacker.

B. Tribal Victim Assistance grant program

Each year, OVC provides funding to American Indian tribes under federal jurisdiction, to support delivery of services and assistance to crime victims in Indian Country. This program closely mirrors support provided to state and local victim service programs authorized under the VOCA victim assistance formula grant program. Funding is used by tribes to support court accompaniment, advocacy, counseling, crisis intervention, and training for law enforcement. Under the program, the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana adapted a model of coordinated law enforcement and human services to help victims of elder abuse. The Blackfeet project combines law enforcement, victim, and senior services resources, with guidance from tribal elders, to create a comprehensive network of services. The Tribal Victim Assistance program also funds an extensive training and technical assistance effort to help tribes start and sustain victim service programs. Recently, OVC expanded funding to tribes covered under Public Law 280, 18 U.S.C. § 1162, 28 U.S.C. § 1360 (1953) (State Jurisdiction Over Offenses Committed By or Against Indians in the Indian Country) thus allowing all federally recognized tribes, not just

those that fall under federal criminal jurisdiction, to participate.

C. National Symposium on Victims of Federal Crime

OVC convenes a forum for more than 1,000 representatives from many sectors of the federal government to develop strategies for better serving crime victims. Typically, the Symposium covers topics such as the roles and responsibilities of those who address victims' rights and services in the federal system, to more specialized issues such as human trafficking and slavery, jurisdictional issues in international and military cases, and terrorism. The next Symposium is scheduled to take place in Atlanta, Georgia in March 2005.

D. Children's Justice and Assistance Act of 1986

OVC administers this grant under Public Law 99-401, which is intended to help tribal communities conduct the investigation, prosecution, and overall handling of child abuse cases, particularly cases of child sexual abuse, in a manner that increases support for, and reduces additional trauma to the victim. Tribes can use funding to: support tribal code revisions; provide child advocacy services for children involved in court proceedings; develop reporting protocols and procedures; train prosecutors, judges, investigators, and victim advocates; and cover expenses of case management and treatment services. Wiconi Wawokiya, Inc., in Fort Thompson, South Dakota developed an approach for providing telemedical support for maltreated children on the Crow Creek Reservation. The program funded a nurse practitioner and a forensic interviewer to evaluate children who had been severely physically and sexually abused.

E. OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center

Through its Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC), OVC supports the delivery of quality training and technical assistance to meet the continuing and emerging needs of victim service providers, advocates, and allied professionals. Dedicated resources are made available for federal criminal justice professionals,

as well as tribal and military personnel who work with victims of federal crimes. TTAC maintains an annual training calendar that advertises comprehensive skill-building and educational training opportunities to victim service providers nationwide. TTAC also maintains a database of expert consultants who are adept in the areas of training, technical assistance, and mentoring. Mentoring topics include strategic planning, program development and evaluation, adult learning principles, vicarious trauma, and assisting specific victim populations, such as victims with disabilities.

F. District-specific training program

OVC provides resources to support a district-specific training program designed to help USAOs comply with federal victim's legislation and improve the response of federal criminal justice personnel to the rights and needs of victims of federal crime. Training sessions are generally designed by the requesting USAOs to address an unmet training need. Funding for this effort is administered by EOUSA.

G. Publications

OVC's resources are also available to support the efforts of the U.S. Attorneys' Law Enforcement Coordinating Committees (LECC). OVC publishes and distributes bulletins and monographs on victim-related issues targeted at law enforcement, as well as guides for law enforcement professionals on responding to victims. Its *First Response to Victims of Crime* and *First Response to Victims of Crime Who Have a Disability* are designed as field guides for law enforcement personnel, to teach them how to approach victims immediately following a crime. Publications such as *Establishing Victim Services Within a Law Enforcement Agency: The Austin Experience* provide information on how law enforcement can best serve victims. These publications are available on OVC's Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/welcome.html.

OVC has supported numerous independent initiatives with USAOs to address a myriad of issues and interests. OVC also provides other resources including:

- the OVC Resource Center—a national information clearinghouse on victim issues,

available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ovcres/welcome.html;

- the Online Directory of Crime Victim Services—a centralized, searchable database of service providers who can address various victim needs, *available at* <http://ovc.ncjrs.org/findvictimservices/>;
- the OVC Web site—a compilation of information about initiatives and activities in progress or completed by OVC and its grantees, and an extensive collection of links to other valuable resources on victims' rights and services, *available at* www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/; and
- the soon-to-be-released OVC Web Forum—a means to link victim service providers and allied professionals with colleagues across the nation who face similar challenges and experiences.

II. OVC is broken down into five divisions/units of operation

A. American Indian/Alaska Natives and Federal Assistance Division

The American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) and Federal Assistance Division provides advocacy, leadership, and policy development guidance to federal agencies and Indian tribes, to assist them in developing direct services for victims of federal crime.

The Division:

- identifies service needs of federal crime victims and recommends strategies and program activities to address these needs;
- develops training and technical assistance programs for staffs of federal law enforcement agencies, USAOs, and AI/AN organizations, to enhance their capacity to respond to crime victims;
- funds demonstration programs with federal agencies that have criminal justice responsibilities and Indian tribes/tribal organizations to develop promising practices that can be replicated;
- encourages coordination between victim services provided by federal agencies and victim services offered by the states' victim compensation and assistance programs;

- encourages coordination between victim assistance programs in the military, the FBI, and USAOs, to provide resources and improve services to victims of crime on military installations;
- monitors the law enforcement agencies of the Department, the Department's Litigating Divisions, and the USAOs, for compliance with the AG Guidelines;
- monitors federal law enforcement agencies outside of the Department to encourage adoption of guidelines consistent with those issued by the Attorney General; and
- analyzes, reviews, and comments on proposed federal legislation regarding crime victims.

B. Program Development and Dissemination Division

The Program Development and Dissemination Division develops national-scope discretionary grant initiatives that promote the development and replication of promising practices, provide training and technical assistance, and establish demonstration projects in support of improved treatment for crime victims. The Division serves a broad range of constituent groups that include crime victims and their advocates, criminal justice personnel, allied professionals, and the general public.

To advance OVC goals, the Division:

- identifies emerging issues and supports dialogue between practitioners and policymakers. The Division translates the recommendations gained from these dialogues into grant solicitations;
- networks with national and international criminal justice and victim assistance organizations, as well as other organizations, to promote institutional changes on behalf of crime victims;
- develops OVC's annual Discretionary Grant Program Application Kit, which includes training, technical assistance, and demonstration grant solicitations that address emerging issues. It also manages the review of these applications to ensure objective selection and funding of high-quality proposals;
- monitors and provides technical assistance to grantees in an effort to promote effective and

responsive projects. Promising practices, grant products, and training and technical assistance resources, are available on OVC's Web site;

- designs national-scope demonstration grant initiatives to promote replication of promising practices;
- collaborates with national and state leaders from the victim services field to establish individual and organizational practice standards to enhance the quality of services available to crime victims; and
- supports projects that expand victim services resources into the faith, law enforcement, judicial, medical, academic, and other communities.

C. State Compensation and Assistance Division

The State Compensation and Assistance Division administers grants that respond to the special needs of all victims of crime through support of state crime victim compensation and assistance programs.

The Division:

- makes annual awards of compensation and assistance grant funds to states in accordance with the VOCA implementing guidelines and the OJP Financial Guide;
- develops and revises guidelines and policies regarding the implementation of the VOCA victim assistance and crime victim compensation grant programs to advance program development;
- conducts training and technical assistance, as well as meetings and conferences, for VOCA subgrantees;
- monitors state and local implementation of the victim assistance and compensation formula/block grants and initiates corrective actions when deficiencies are noted;
- prepares reporting forms to capture and disseminate accomplishments and deficiencies in the implementation of the VOCA formula/block grant programs and provides data for the biennial report to the President and Congress on the impact of the VOCA victim assistance and compensation grant programs;

- recommends legislative amendments to VOCA pertaining to the crime victim assistance and compensation grant programs, as well as other aspects of VOCA;
- encourages the development and funding of programs serving under-served victims of crime;
- makes recommendations and initiates actions to improve the coordination of victim compensation and assistance services to crime victims at the federal, state, and local levels, and provides consultation to states on program planning, funding, and development; and
- makes recommendations and critiques OVC's annual program plan and develops internal procedures to ensure the timely award of VOCA formula/block grants to states.

D. Training and Information Dissemination Division

The Training and Information Dissemination Division is responsible for developing, disseminating, and offering information that supports victim service providers and allied professionals. This important mission is achieved through four teams.

- OVC Resource Center (OVCRC) is the field's primary source of crime victim information. As a component of the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), OVCRC has access to the most comprehensive criminal justice library in the world. OVCRC produces, collects, maintains, and disseminates information and resources for victim service providers and allied professionals. When OVCRC is asked for help, knowledgeable information specialists will tailor a response based on the specific needs presented, using regional and national victimization statistics, research findings, and a network of victim advocates and organizations. OVCRC staff attends local, state, and national conferences and displays literature at the OVCRC exhibit table. In addition, OVCRC provides publications and resource materials for training workshops, seminars, and conferences, upon request.
- Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) helps build and enhance the skills needed to provide victim-sensitive services. TTAC's staff, mentors, and expert consultants

can identify and secure speakers for conferences and workshops, provide state-of-the-art training on victims' issues, find facilitators for focus groups and strategic planning meetings, expand understanding of victims' issues, and offer technical assistance for new and growing programs.

- Education and Outreach Team supports various initiatives and dissemination strategies to maximize the field's access to OVC products and resources. This is accomplished by coordinating OVC's marketing strategy in an effort to distribute useful and timely information. The outreach team also organizes OVC's conference support functions worldwide through OVCRC and maintains OVC's conference calendar on the Web site to announce upcoming conferences and new publications and products. In addition, this team is responsible for OVC's Web-based training initiative and the State Victim Assistance Academy initiatives.
- Publications Team produces documents written primarily by grantees and coordinates the dissemination of these documents through OVC and OVCRC. The team offers editorial and prepublication support and provides OVC's discretionary grantees with guidelines they must follow before submitting publications.

E. Terrorism and International Victim Assistance Division

The Terrorism and International Victim Assistance Division develops programs and initiatives regarding assistance to victims of terrorism and other transnational crimes, such as international child abductions and crimes against tourists.

The Division:

- administers OVC's Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program;
- provides information, benefits, and services to U.S. nationals who are victims of terrorism abroad;
- helps victims access services, travel to participate in trials and briefings, and obtain information on the criminal justice process;

- identifies appropriate resources and coordinates OVC funding for victims of terrorism from crisis response stages through post-trial proceedings;
- works closely with the FBI, USAOs, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Issues (formerly INS), the National Transportation Safety Board, the Bureau of Consular Affairs within the Department of State, the Center for Mental Health Services, and other federal agencies on issues related to victims of terrorism and transnational crimes;
- updates and maintains an International Crime Victim Compensation Program Resource Directory to help link victims who may be far from home with the resources they need in the aftermath of a crime;
- develops informational materials for victims of terrorism and transnational crimes. Develops training and educational materials for victim services providers, mental health professionals, law enforcement officials, and emergency responders, demonstrating how to formulate effective responses to victims of terrorism and transnational crimes;
- coordinates the development of federal protocols to ensure a more effective and timely response to victims of crime and terrorism;
- helps fund efforts to find and rescue children abducted and taken across international borders;
- assists parents with inadequate resources in traveling abroad and accompanying their children back to the United States;
- serves as OVC's liaison to the United Nations Crime Commission and other international bodies; and
- provides technical assistance and briefings to visitors from around the world who are interested in victim assistance efforts in the United States.

III. Conclusion

OVC is committed to identifying and replicating promising practices in victims' rights and services. To this end, OVC is also supporting efforts to replicate state and local crime victims' initiatives at the federal level. For more

information about any of the resources described in this article, visit the OVC Web site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc, call the Resource Center at 1-800-851-3420 (TTY 1-877-712-9279), or call the TTAC at 1-866-682-8822 (TTY 1-866-682-8880).

OVC is grateful to all U.S. Attorneys and their staffs for holding perpetrators of federal crime accountable for their actions, for their aggressive prosecution and collection efforts, for giving victims in the federal criminal justice system a voice, and for treating them with dignity and respect. ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

□ **John W. Gillis** was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the Director of the Office for Victims of Crime in September 2001. He retired from the Los Angeles Police Department after twenty-six years of service at the rank of lieutenant. He also is the survivor of a homicide victim. His daughter, Louarna, was murdered as part of a gang initiation. ❖

The Bureau of Justice Statistics: The Statistics Arm of the Department of Justice

Lawrence A. Greenfeld
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Department of Justice

I. Overview of the Bureau of Justice Statistics

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) was established on December 27, 1979, under the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979, 28 C.F.R. 42.201, an amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3789d. Previous criminal justice statistical efforts were authorized within the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration created by the 1968 Act. As the statistics arm of the Department of Justice (Department), BJS is responsible for the collection, analysis, publication, and dissemination of statistical information on crime, criminal offenders, victims of crime, and the operations of justice systems at all levels of government.

During a typical year, BJS:

- maintains more than three dozen major data collection series from which it publishes and distributes reports nationwide;

- interviews approximately 76,000 citizens in 42,000 households about any experiences they might have had as crime victims during the year;
- describes the characteristics and consequences of about 23 million criminal victimizations that occur each year;
- analyzes the operations of some 50,000 agencies, offices, courts, and institutions that together comprise the justice system;
- counts populations and conducts sample surveys among the more than 6.7 million adults who, during an average day, are subject to the care, custody, or control of federal, state, and local criminal justice authorities;
- undertakes special data collections and analyses to respond to programmatic, policy, and legislative needs of the Department, the Administration, Congress, and the criminal justice community; and
- maintains a Web site and data archive that is accessed and used by scholars, students, policy makers, the media, and others around the world, up to 18,000 times a day.

BJS's statistical series cover each stage of the criminal justice system. Data are published annually on criminal victimization, populations under correctional supervision, and federal criminal offenders and case processing.

Periodic data series include:

- administration of law enforcement agencies and correctional facilities;
- school crime;
- state court case processing;
- characteristics of correctional populations;
- civil case processing in state courts;
- criminal justice expenditure and employment;
- felony convictions;
- prosecutorial practices and policies; and
- special series addressing emerging topics such as workplace crime, racial profiling, identity theft, and computer crime.

BJS provides financial and technical support to state and local governments in:

- developing capabilities in criminal justice statistics;
- implementing the National Incident-Based Reporting System;
- improving the accuracy, utility, and accessibility of criminal history records; and
- enhancing records of protective orders involving domestic violence and stalking, sex offender records, and automated identification systems.

Providing information on the Internet is the most efficient way BJS can make its data accessible. Visit these continuously updated areas, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>

- **Statistics:** Summary findings, including statistical graphics, publications, selected statistics, and related sites are presented by crime and justice topics.
- **Key Facts at a Glance:** The justice system and special topics, such as drugs and crime, homicide trends, and firearms and crime are set forth here.
- **What's new at BJS:** This section highlights the most recent information from BJS, including new publications and products.

- **Publications:** All publications released after 1994 are available electronically. Over 10,000 spreadsheets for tables in most publications are available.
 - **Press releases:** All BJS press releases since 1994 are preserved.
 - **Funding:** This site provides a listing of the current solicitations, applications and forms, as well as funding program information.
 - **Justice Records Improvement Program:** This site provides information on funding programs to assist state and local agencies to improve criminal records and local statistics.
 - **Data for analysis:** Spreadsheets, data sets, and online tabulation capabilities can be accessed from this section of the Web site.
 - **Data online:** This site allows users to extract the data they specify for states and localities of interest. Data are available on crime trends for the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, homicide trends and characteristics, and law enforcement management and administrative statistics.
 - **Spreadsheets:** Crime and Justice Electronic Data Abstracts containing data from a wide variety of published sources, usually by jurisdiction and over time, can be accessed from this section of the Web site.
 - **Data sets and code books:** BJS data collections are archived, documented, and made available over the Internet for secondary analysis.
 - **Data from other sources:** The BJS Web site provides links to data from other sources, including the FBI and other federal agencies. It also provides links to juvenile justice statistics and international crime and justice statistics.
 - **Related sites:** This section provides links to related federal government sites and BJS partners.
 - **About BJS:** This site provides data quality standards and principles.
- BJS encourages all its Internet users to send comments and information inquiries to askbjs@usdoj.gov.

II. Key crime and justice facts

A. Violence

Criminal victimization: Serious violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) has continued to decline as measured through both victim accounts and the number of incidents reported to law enforcement agencies. Overall violent and property crime rates in 2002 were the lowest since 1973 when BJS began collecting data from crime victims. In 2002 U.S. residents age twelve years or older experienced about 23 million crimes, according to findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey. Of these victimizations, 23 percent (5.3 million) were crimes of violence; 76 percent (17.5 million) were property crimes; and 1 percent were personal thefts.

Homicide: The per capita rate of homicide in 2002, about 5.6 per 100,000 persons, has declined to a level not seen since the mid-1960s.

Firearms and crime: In an estimated 353,880 violent crimes in 2002, the victim faced an offender armed with a firearm. This accounted for about 7 percent of all violent crime. Of incidents involving offenders with firearms, from 1993 to 2001, about 3 percent of the victims received non-fatal gunshot injuries. Another 8 percent were intended as targets, but did not suffer an injury.

In 2002 an estimated 10,808 murders were committed with firearms, about 67 percent of all murders that year.

Intimate partner violence: Intimate partner violence by current or former spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends made up 20 percent of all non-fatal violence against females age twelve years or older in 2002.

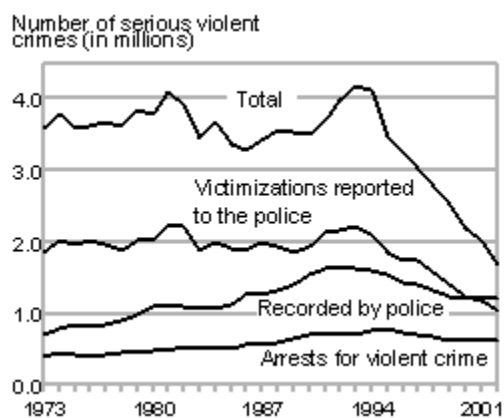
School crime: During 2001 an estimated 161,000 serious violent crimes were committed against children (twelve to eighteen-year-olds) while at school and an estimated 290,000 were committed away from school. Between 1992 and 2000, the violent crime rate at school declined 42 percent and the rate away from school declined 61 percent.

Drugs and crime: Local law enforcement agencies determined that about 5 percent of murders in 2002 were drug-related (*Crime in the United States, 2002*, FBI). In 2002 about one in ten victims of non-fatal violence believed the

offender had been using drugs at the time of the offense. Offenders often report drug use at the time of the offense: 14 percent of probationers, 33 percent of state prisoners, 22 percent of federal prisoners, and 36 percent of local jail inmates.

Victimizations reported to the police: Reporting of violent crime to the police, increased between 1993 and 2002 (from 43 percent to 49 percent).

The total number of murders, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults declined from 1993-2002



B. Law enforcement

State and local law enforcement: In 2000 about 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies nationwide employed more than 700,000 full-time law enforcement officers.

BJS data collected over the last decade on the nation's state and local law enforcement agencies portray a changing component of the justice system. Changes from 1992 to 2000 include an increase of 17 percent, or about 173,000, in the number of full-time state and local law enforcement employees. More women, minorities, and college graduates serve as sworn officers. Departments increasingly apply the latest technology-enhanced 9-1-1, in-field computers, and protective armor.

Federal law enforcement: In 2002 federal law enforcement agencies employed more than 93,000 persons with arrest powers and authority to carry a firearm.

C. Courts and sentencing

Criminal case processing: In 2000 state courts convicted an estimated 924,700 adults of a felony. Federal courts convicted a little more than 59,000 defendants, bringing the combined U.S. total to almost 984,000 felony convictions. State courts accounted for 94 percent of the national total. Violent felonies processed in state courts accounted for about 19 percent of the total conviction caseload, property offenses composed 28 percent of all felony convictions, drug offenses made up 35 percent of those convicted of felonies, and weapons offenses were just above 3 percent. An estimated 95 percent of persons who are convicted of a felony in state courts pleaded guilty. Trial convictions accounted for the remaining 5 percent.

Criminal sentencing: In state courts the median time between arrest and sentencing for a felony offense is about five months. Of those convicted of felonies, 40 percent are sentenced to prison, 28 percent to a term in a local jail, and 32 percent to probation. The average state court sentence to local jail was six months.

Civil trials in state courts: Civil cases disposed of by trial in state courts of general jurisdiction, located in the nation's seventy-five largest counties, declined 47 percent from 22,451 trials in 1992 to 11,908 trials in 2001. From 1992 to 2001, plaintiff win rates remained stable in civil trials in these sampled counties. About half of the plaintiffs who litigated a civil case at trial prevailed. In 2001 the median amount awarded to plaintiff winners in jury trials was \$37,000. This represents a decline of 43 percent from 1992 when the median award amount in jury trials was \$65,000.

D. Corrections

Correctional population: At the end of 2002, 6.7 million people were on probation, in jail or prison, or on parole. About 3.1 percent of all U.S. adult residents, or one in every thirty-two adults, was under correctional supervision at year-end 2002, compared with 2.7 percent of the population in 1995.

Prison population: The total number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of federal and state adult correctional authorities was 1,460,920 at midyear 2003. From midyear 1995 to midyear 2003, the nation's prison population grew an

average of 3.2 percent a year. There were an estimated 480 prison inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents, up from 411 at year-end 1995. Population growth during the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2003, was lower in state prisons (up 1.8 percent) than in local jails (up 3.9 percent) and federal prison (up 7.1 percent).

Sources of growth in state prisons: In 2001 an estimated 49 percent of state inmates were violent offenders, 20 percent were drug offenders, and 19 percent were property offenders. Between 1995 and 2001 violent offenders accounted for 63 percent of the total growth of the state prison population. Fifteen percent of the total growth was attributable to drug offenders. At the end of 2001 more than 5.6 million U.S. adult residents had served time in state or federal prison, including confined adults and living former prisoners. At year-end 2001 an estimated 2.7 percent of adult U.S. residents had served time in prison during their lives, up from 1.3 percent in 1974.

Capital punishment: The number of prisoners under sentence of death at year-end 2002 decreased for the second consecutive year, the first decreases in this population since capital punishment was reinstated in 1977. At year-end 2002, thirty-seven states and the federal prison system held 3,557 prisoners under sentence of death, twenty fewer than at year-end 2001.

Jail population: In 2003, 691,301 inmates were held in the more than 3,300 local jails nationwide. From 1990 to 2003 the number of jail inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents rose from 163 to 238.

Probation and parole population: The 1.8 percent growth in the probation and parole population during 2002, an increase of almost 84,242 during the year, was almost half the average annual growth of 3.4 percent since 1995. At the end of 2002, among the 3,995,165 offenders on probation, 50 percent had been convicted of a felony offense. Among the 753,141 adults on parole, 40 percent were drug offenders, 26 percent were property offenders, and 24 percent were violent offenders.

Parolees: In 2002, 45 percent of state parole discharges successfully completed their term of supervision, which is relatively unchanged since 1995. About 41 percent were returned to jail or prison, and 9 percent absconded. Among state inmates entering parole in 2002, 39 percent had

received a discretionary release from prison by a parole board.

Recidivism: BJS studied the rearrest, reconviction, and reincarceration of 272,111 former inmates who were tracked for three years after their release from prison in 1994. The former inmates, in fifteen states, represented two-thirds of all prisoners released in the U.S. Within three years, 68 percent of the released prisoners were rearrested and 47 percent were reconvicted. The 272,111 offenders discharged in 1994 had accumulated 4.1 million arrest charges before their most recent imprisonment and 744,000 other charges within three years of release. As part of the study, BJS tracked 9,691 male sex offenders. Within three years after their release, 5.3 percent of men who had committed rape or sexual assault were rearrested for another sex crime.

E. Tribal justice

American Indians experience violent crime at a much higher rate than members of any other racial group in the United States. The average annual violent crime rate among American Indians from 1992 to 2001 (101 per 1,000 persons age twelve or older) was about 2.5 times the national rate (41 per 1,000 persons).

F. Federal criminal justice

Criminal case processing: In 2002 U.S. Attorneys opened matters for investigation against 124,335 suspects. Of these, 31 percent were investigated for drug offenses, 9 percent for weapons offenses, and 5 percent for violent offenses. About 14 percent of all suspects were investigated for immigration violations. During the year, criminal cases were commenced against 87,727 defendants in district courts. Among federal defendants whose cases terminated during the year (80,424), 89 percent were convicted. Among those convicted, 96 percent pleaded guilty or no-contest.

Criminal sentencing: Among convicted defendants in 2002, 75 percent received a sentence of imprisonment. The average prison term imposed was fifty-seven months. During 2002 the Federal Bureau of Prisons received a little more than 50,000 inmates from district courts and more than 17,400 from other sources, including supervision violators.

G. Fairness in the criminal justice system

In 1999 an estimated 44 million persons age sixteen or older had contact with a police officer. About half those with contacts indicated the reason for the contact was a traffic stop. An estimated 10 percent of white drivers, 12 percent of black drivers, and 9 percent of Hispanic drivers experienced at least one traffic stop during the year. Following the stop, black and Hispanic drivers were more likely to be searched or to have their vehicles searched than white drivers.

H. Justice-related expenditure and employment

In 2001 federal, state, and local governments spent \$167 billion for operations and outlay of police protection, corrections, and judicial and legal activities. This represents a 366 percent increase from \$36 billion in 1982 (a 165 percent increase in constant dollars). In 2001 the federal expenditure of \$30 billion on the justice system accounted for 18 percent of the total. In 1982 the federal share was 12 percent.

I. Criminal history records

Between FY 1995 and FY 2003 BJS distributed almost \$440 million to the states under the National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP). The grants supported enhancements of state records systems to permit participation in national background check systems for presale firearms transfers, sex offender registries, national protection order files, and automated fingerprint identification systems.

Improved records: At the end of 2003 the states and the FBI maintained criminal history records on an estimated 68 million individuals. Of these, more than 50 million records were available for interstate background checks.

III participation: Since 1993 the number of states participating in the FBI's Interstate Identification Index (III) grew from twenty-six to forty-seven.

New identification technologies: A total of forty-eight states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands, now participate in the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS).

National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS): The NICS is supporting almost 8 million checks annually at the presale stage of firearms transfers. From the inception of the Brady Act, Pub. L. No. 103-159, 107 Stat. 1536 (1993), from March 1, 1994 to December 31, 2002, almost 46 million applications for firearm transfers were subject to background checks. About 976,000, or 2.1 percent of all applications, were rejected, primarily because of a prior felony conviction.

Sex offender registries: All fifty states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands have provided records to the FBI's National Sex Offender Registry (NSOR). As of May 2004, NSOR maintained registry records for more than 336,000 sex offenders nationwide.

Domestic violence and protection orders: Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, and the Virgin Islands now submit data to the FBI's NCIC Protection Order File. As of May 2004, the file included nearly 860,000 protection order records.

J. Material for speeches

U.S. Attorneys and their staffs often speak to community groups. These speeches help to strengthen the alliances between the public and the team of professionals devoted to reducing crime. If an Assistant United States Attorney needs statistics to anchor what is said about the work in his district, consider BJS's easily accessible resources.

Crime rates or numbers: Visit the BJS Web site, look for **Data for Analysis** and click "Data Online." You can choose one state (or large police agency) or many, one crime or more, and one year or many. Nothing could be easier.

Graphs: Visit the BJS Web site and click on **Key Facts at a Glance**. Many speakers use the graphs in PowerPoint presentations. Others double-click on the graphs, copy the numbers, and make their own graphs.

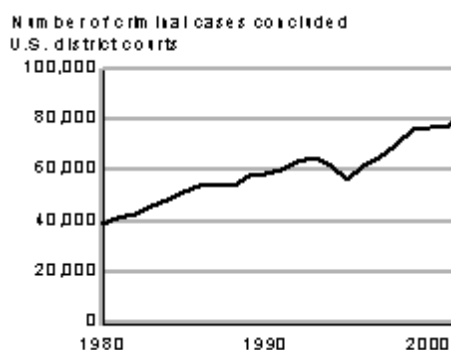
Federal Justice Statistics Program: Some of the information one can gather from the Center for Federal Justice Statistics is outlined on this site. The center is a convenient way to find statistics by U.S. Code section.

Publications: All BJS publications released after 1994 are available on the Internet. One can extract findings from their highlights and use their

charts. BJS reports provide objective measures and wide-ranging reviews of all aspects of issues. For topics, visit the BJS Web site and use the search engine.

Subscribe: To get the latest report that might be perfect for an upcoming speech or presentation, subscribe to the JUSTSTATS, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/juststats.htm>.

The number of criminal cases concluded in U.S. district courts more than doubled between 1980 and 2002



K. Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center

The Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center enables persons to find and interpret statistics on data assembled from seven federal agencies. The Executive Office for United States Attorneys (EOUSA) has been a key source of data for over fifteen years.

The Center's Federal Justice Statistics Program, supported by BJS, collects data annually on all stages of processing in the federal justice system, accounting for the number of persons:

- investigated;
- prosecuted;
- convicted;
- incarcerated;
- sentenced to probation;
- released before trial; and
- under supervision.

Center visitors can gain an overview of:

- initial prosecution decisions;
- referrals to magistrates;
- court dispositions;
- sentencing outcomes;
- average sentence length; and
- average time served.

Users can also learn about the processing and outcomes of civil cases in federal courts.

Federal Justice Statistics Resource Center gives a means to find specific statistics such as the number of federal drug defendants convicted, or to create numeric tables restricted to selected federal court districts. Users who are interested in how the federal justice system has responded to particular violations can search by statute number from 1994 to 2002. *Available at* <http://fjsrc.urban.org/index.cfm>.

Federal Justice Statistics Program data are archived on CD-ROMs and reported in the *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics*. The *Compendium* is available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cfjs02.htm>. To use the numbers from a *Compendium* table, click on and select "Spreadsheets (zipped)." Download the file to a computer for use of detailed spreadsheets.

BJS regularly publishes two to twelve-page reports that analyze the data to isolate trends and explain characteristics of important criminal justice issues. The following are on the Web and in printed form:

Money Laundering Offenders, 1994-2001 presents data on Title 18 and Title 31 cases. It draws on information from EOUSA, the U.S. Sentencing Commission, the Criminal Division of the Department, and the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, as well as the Department of the Treasury. It highlights the districts in which most enforcement of money laundering occurs and provides a non-technical review of federal legislation. *Available at* <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mlo01>.

Immigration Offenders in the Federal Criminal Justice System, 2000 accounts for the record increase in the number of persons suspected of immigration violations. That increase followed passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of

1996. Pub. L. No. 104-208 Div. C, 110 Stat 3009-597, 3009-625 (1996). The report profiles how immigration laws are enforced, the nature of the offenses committed, and the characteristics of the offenders. *Available at* <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/iocfjs00.htm>.

Look for the following two reports, which will be released soon:

Federal Criminal Justice Trends, 1994-2002 emphasizes the statistics measuring change in the federal system and uses charts and small tables to clearly delineate those changes.

Intellectual Property Thefts, 2002 provides a statistical sketch of matters referred, seizures made, and convictions obtained, concerning copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, and electronic communications. ♦

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

□ **Lawrence A. Greenfeld** has been the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, since his Senate confirmation on July 31, 2002. Mr. Greenfeld began his career in criminal justice as a probation and parole officer thirty-five years ago and came to BJS in 1982 as a statistician with primary responsibility for the analysis of data on the administration of justice throughout the United States. During the next two decades, he assumed increasing responsibility for the oversight and management of BJS statistical series and programs, culminating in his selection as the Principal Deputy Director in 1996. He served twice as the Acting Director of the agency during Presidential transitions (January 1993-September 1994 and January 2001-July 2002). ✕

NOTES



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