

Form NSP-2
(5-27-97)

U.S. Department of Justice
Bureau of Justice Statistics

1996 NATIONAL SURVEY OF PROSECUTORS

Data supplied by

Name

Title

Telephone | Area code | Number | Extension

**FROM THE DIRECTOR
BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is conducting its biennial National Survey of Prosecutors. Your prosecutorial district is one of 308 selected to participate. Please find a copy of the survey attached. Also enclosed for your information are the results from the previous National Survey of Prosecutors and a letter from the National District Attorneys Association endorsing the survey.

In developing the 1996 survey, we reduced the number of questions to cover only areas such as staffing, budget, and workload measures, including juvenile cases, computer use, DNA evidence, and the risks associated with the role of the prosecutor. By reducing the number of questions, we have eased the burden in completing the survey. To provide timely results, we ask that you complete the survey by **July 11, 1997**.

The Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3732), authorizes the collection of these data. The request for information is in accordance with the clearance requirement of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980, as amended (44 U.S.C. 3507). Although your participation is voluntary, the cooperation of each prosecutorial district in the sample is essential to make the survey results accurate and comprehensive.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important data collection effort.

Sincerely,

Jan M. Chaiken, Ph.D.
Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics

| REFERENCE YEAR | | | | | |
|--|-----|------|--------|-----|------|
| BEGINNING | | | ENDING | | |
| Month | Day | Year | Month | Day | Year |
| 01 | 01 | 96 | 12 | 31 | 96 |
| REFERENCE YEAR (If different from above) | | | | | |
| BEGINNING | | | ENDING | | |
| Month | Day | Year | Month | Day | Year |
| | | | | | |

PLEASE CORRECT ANY ERROR IN NAME, ADDRESS, OR ZIP CODE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please mail your completed survey in the enclosed envelope by **July 11, 1997**, to the **Bureau of Justice Statistics, Adjudication Unit, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531** or FAX (all pages) to (202) **307-5846**.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing the survey, please call Carol DeFrances at (202) 307-0777 or e-mail: defran@ojp.usdoj.gov. The final report presenting these data will be sent to you when available.

BURDEN STATEMENT

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 20 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collected information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Adjudication Unit, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 633 Indiana Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20531; and to the Office of Management and Budget, OMB Number 1121-0149, Washington, D.C. 20503.

Section D WORKLOAD STATISTICS

Answer should refer only to reference year.

Note: Use the following definitions to complete item 7. If you can provide only estimates, please mark an asterisk () next to your answers.*

Case — A case refers to a defendant. A case with three defendants should be recorded as three cases but a case with one defendant with multiple charges should be counted as **one case**. If you are unable to provide defendant-based answers, specify in the "Note" section on page 4 the method used to provide counts for item 7.

Closed case — Any case with a judgment of conviction, acquittal, or dismissal with or without prejudice, entered by the court.

Felony case — Use your State definition of felony. If this term is not used in your State, please interpret "felony" to mean any case in which the defendant, if convicted, could be sentenced to more than 1 year in a State prison. Include as a felony case any defendant who had at least one felony filing charge.

Misdemeanor case — Any defendant who had only misdemeanor filing charges.

7. Complete the chart below by entering the following :

Total number of **felony cases** closed _____

Number of **felony cases** convicted _____

Total number of **misdemeanor cases** closed _____

Number of **misdemeanor cases** convicted _____

Total number of **felony jury trial verdicts** _____

Please mark (X) if the data are unavailable

Section E COMPUTERS

Answer should refer only to reference year.

8. Does your office have any of the following?

Mark (X) to all that apply

- Office e-mail
- Access to the Internet
- Home page on the Internet
Specify address: _____
- Electronic research capabilities (e.g., Lexis Nexis, Westlaw)
- Access to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC)

9. Is your office part of an integrated computerized system with other criminal justice agencies?

- No
- Yes — Mark (X) to all that apply
 - Law enforcement
 - Courts
 - Pretrial service agency
 - Public defender
 - Corrections
 - Statewide district attorneys offices
 - Other — specify: _____

Section F DNA EVIDENCE

Answer should refer only to reference year.

10a. In 1996, did your office use DNA evidence during plea negotiations or during felony trials?

- No — Skip to Section G
- Yes — Mark (X) to all that apply
 - Plea negotiations
 - Trials

b. For which type(s) of felony offenses did your office use DNA evidence during plea negotiations or at trial?

- Mark (X) to all that apply
- Murder, manslaughter
 - Sex offenses
 - Aggravated assault
 - Robbery
 - Burglary
 - Other — specify: _____

c. Which laboratory(ies) performed the DNA analysis?

- Mark (X) to all that apply
- Federal Bureau of Investigation
 - State operated forensic laboratory
 - Local agency operated forensic laboratory
 - Privately operated forensic laboratory

Section G JUVENILE MATTERS

Answer should refer only to reference year.

Section H RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROLE OF PROSECUTOR

Answer should refer only to reference year.

Note: Use the following definitions to complete items 11-13.

Juvenile — A young person who has not yet attained the age at which he or she should be treated as an adult for purposes of criminal law as defined by the statutes in your State.

Case — See definition of case in Section D, Workload Statistics. If you are unable to provide defendant-based answers, specify in the "Note" section on this page the method used to provide counts for item 11.

Juvenile cases proceeded against in criminal court — Include cases that reached criminal court by judicial waiver, statutory exclusion, direct filing by prosecutor's office, or any other mechanism available in your State.

11. In 1996, did your office proceed against any juveniles in criminal court? *If you can provide only an estimate, please mark an asterisk (*) next to your answer.*

- No
- Yes — How many? _____ cases

12. Does your office have a designated attorney(s) or a specialized unit that handles juvenile cases proceeded against in criminal court?

- No
- Yes

13. Does your office have written guidelines about proceeding against juvenile cases in criminal court?

- No
- Yes

Note: In item 14, "member" refers to the chief prosecutor, assistant prosecutors, and staff investigators.

14. In 1996, did any member of the prosecutor's office receive any work-related threats or assaults?

- No
- Yes — Mark (X) to all that apply

| <u>At least one:</u> | Chief prosecutor | Assistant prosecutor | Staff investigator |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Threatening letter | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Threatening call | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Face-to-face threat | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Battery/Assault | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Other — specify: | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Note: Please use this space for any explanations that may be essential for understanding your reported data.
