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State Court Prosecutors in Large Districts, 2001

Carol J. DeFrances, Ph.D.
BJS Statistician

In 2001 State court prosecutors' offices that served districts with a population of 500,000 or more budgeted over \$2.9 billion for prosecutorial functions. Results from the 2001 National Survey of Prosecutors (NSP) indicate that these 114 offices in large districts closed more than 1 million felony cases and employed over 40,000 staff during the year. The median office budget for prosecution was \$14 million, and the median total staff size was 234.

The survey found that most offices in large districts had experience prosecuting computer-related crime (83%) and had implemented community prosecution by involving the community to help identify crime and other problem areas (81%). All the large district offices had used DNA evidence during felony trials, and all had prosecuted domestic violence and child abuse felony offenses in 2001.

The 2001 NSP collected data on all chief prosecutors that handled felony cases in State courts of general jurisdiction.¹ The survey did not include municipal attorneys or county attorneys who primarily operate in

¹The 1990, 1992, 1994, and 1996 NSP data collections surveyed a nationally representative sample of chief prosecutors that tried felony cases in State courts of general jurisdiction.

Highlights

	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Number of prosecutors' offices	114	34	80
Median			
Population served, 1999	772,425	1,478,630	680,854
Total staff size	234	456	195
Salary of chief prosecutor	\$125,350	\$136,700	\$118,656
Budget for prosecution	\$14,203,495	\$32,114,944	\$10,946,771
Felony cases closed in 12 months	6,347	12,079	4,921

- In 2001, 114 prosecutors' offices of the 2,341 offices nationwide served jurisdictions with a population of 500,000 or more. These 114 offices in large districts represented 45% of the Nation's population in 1999.
- Over 14,000 assistant prosecutors and supervisory attorneys who litigated cases were employed by prosecutors' offices in large districts. Overall there were 11 prosecutors per 100,000 residents in large districts.
- 58% of large district offices indicated problems with recruiting new staff attorneys and 72% experienced problems with retaining staff attorneys. The primary obstacle reported by a majority of offices with recruitment (81%) or retention (76%) problems was the amount of salary.
- Large district offices budgeted \$2.9 billion for prosecutorial functions in 2001. The annual amount budgeted per resident was about \$24. About 85% of the offices received grant funds.
- About three-fourths of prosecutors' offices in large districts had, during the previous 12 months, prosecuted computer crimes involving child pornography (75%) or credit card fraud (73%).
- Annually, prosecutors' offices in large districts closed over 1 million felony cases, with a median conviction rate of 85%. Office staff in large districts participated in over 27,000 felony trials with a jury verdict.
- During the previous 12 months, prosecutors' offices in large districts proceeded in almost 11,000 juvenile cases in criminal court.
- 65% of prosecutors' offices in large districts reported a threat or assault against an assistant prosecutor, 41% the chief prosecutor, and 22% a staff investigator.
- Excessive delays in getting DNA results from a laboratory were reported by 70% of large district offices and inconclusive DNA results by 43%.

courts of limited jurisdiction. This report focuses entirely on the 114 prosecutors' offices that served districts with a population of 500,000 or more.²

In 2001, 114 prosecutors' offices out of the 2,341 offices nationwide served districts with a population of 500,000 or more. Although these 114 offices comprised only 5% of all prosecutors' offices nationwide, they served 45% of the U.S. population in 1999. About two-thirds of Part I Uniform Crime Report (UCR) offenses reported to the police in 1998 occurred in the prosecutorial districts served by these offices.³

Half of these offices represented a district with a population of 772,000 or more. The majority (83%) of prosecutors' offices in large districts served one county. Three of the offices, in which the Attorney General had responsibility for prosecuting all violations of state law, had jurisdiction for their entire State (Alaska, Delaware, and Rhode Island).

While all the offices in this report served at least 500,000 or more residents, the size of the prosecutorial district varied considerably among the 114 offices. For example, the largest prosecutor's office, Los Angeles County, California served a population of over 9 million, while the prosecutor's office in Camden County, New Jersey, served a population slightly over 500,000. Since staffing, budget, and workload often differ according to the size of the prosecutorial district, this report presents information in the aggregate for all 114 offices and then by categories for offices that served a district with a population of 1 million or more and offices that served between 500,000 to 999,999.

The offices that served 1 million or more residents were generally different

²A report on all 2,341 State court prosecutors' offices is scheduled for spring 2002.

³Part I Uniform Crime Report offenses taken from Uniform Crime Reporting Program Data: County-Level Detailed Arrest and Offense Data, 1998, Part 4, Crimes Reported [computer file].

Table 1. Personnel categories for prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Percent of total personnel in prosecutors' offices in large districts
Total	100%
Chief prosecutor	0.3
Assistant prosecutors	31.9
Civil attorneys	2.4
Supervisory attorneys ^a	3.6
Managers ^b	1.8
Victim advocates	3.7
Legal services personnel ^c	6.6
Staff investigators ^d	9.9
Support staff ^e	35.9
Other	4.0
Number of personnel	40,043

Note: Detail may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Data on types of personnel were available for all 114 offices in large districts.

^aAttorneys in managerial positions who litigate cases.

^bAttorneys or non-attorneys in primarily managerial positions who do not litigate cases.

^cIncludes law clerks and paralegals

^dIncludes investigators on contract.

^eIncludes administrative staff, clerical staff, computer personnel, and fiscal officers.

from the other offices examined in this report. Prosecutors' offices serving 1 million or more had considerably more staff and larger budgets and caseloads. For example, for districts of 1 million or more, the per resident amount budgeted was \$28 compared to \$18 per resident of districts between 500,000 and 999,999. In prosecutors'

offices serving 1 million or more, the number of assistant prosecutors per 100,000 residents was 12.3, compared to 10.5 for offices serving between 500,000 and 999,999.

Staffing in large districts

In 2001 prosecutors' offices in large districts employed more than 40,000 staff including assistant prosecutors, paralegals, victim advocates, investigators, and support staff. About 4% of the total staff worked part time. Attorneys (assistant prosecutors, civil attorneys, and supervisory attorneys) responsible for felony prosecutions or civil litigation comprised about 38% of total staff (table 1). Support staff, including administrative staff and clerical staff, comprised about 36% of total staff.

The median total staff size for large district prosecutors' offices was 234, including the chief prosecutor (table 2). Half of the offices reported 79 or more assistant prosecutors and 8 or more supervisory attorneys. The median number of support staff was 69 and of staff investigators was 17. Overall, the ratio of assistant prosecutors (including supervisory attorneys) to investigators was 3.6 attorneys to 1 investigator; to victim advocates, 9.7 to 1; and to support staff members, 1 to 1.

Table 2. Median staff size in prosecutors' offices in large districts, by personnel categories, 2001

Staff members	Median for prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Total staff size ^a	234	456	195
Assistant prosecutors	79	151	59
Civil attorneys	0	4	0
Supervisory attorneys ^b	8	21	6
Managers ^c	4	5	3
Victim advocates	8	16	8
Legal services personnel ^d	11	22	6
Staff investigators ^e	17	43	14
Support staff ^f	69	145	59
Number of prosecutors' offices	114	34	80

^aIncludes the chief prosecutor.

^bAttorneys in managerial positions who litigate cases.

^cAttorneys or non-attorneys in primarily managerial positions who do not litigate cases.

^dIncludes law clerks and paralegals.

^eIncludes investigators on contract.

^fIncludes administrative staff, clerical staff, computer personnel, and fiscal officers.

Table 3. Problems of recruiting and retaining staff attorneys in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

Type of problem related to full-time position	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Recruiting new staff attorneys	58.2%	45.5%	63.6%
Retaining staff attorneys	71.6	66.7	73.7

Note: Data for the problem of recruiting new staff attorneys were available for 110 prosecutors' offices in large districts and the problem of retaining staff attorneys for 109 offices in large districts.

Annual salary for full-time assistant prosecutors and supervisory attorneys in large districts

In 2001 the median minimum annual salary for entry level assistant prosecutors in offices in large districts was \$40,000, and the median maximum annual salary was \$51,100 (table 4). For assistant prosecutors with 5 years of experience, the median minimum salary was \$54,000 and for supervisory attorneys the median minimum salary was \$70,000. Half of the offices reported that the maximum annual salary for assistant prosecutors with 5 years of experience was \$68,576 or more and for supervisory attorneys \$104,260 or more. In general, the median minimum and maximum salaries for assistant prosecutors and supervisory attorneys were higher in offices serving districts with a population of 1 million or more.

Term of office, length of service, and salary of chief prosecutor in large districts

During 2001 all 114 prosecutors' offices in large districts reported employing a full-time chief prosecutor. Most large district chief prosecutors were elected or appointed to 4-year terms (88%), with half serving 8 years or more (not shown in a table).

About 25% of chief prosecutors in large districts had served 15 years or more. In general, chief prosecutors representing districts with a population between 500,000 to 999,999 served longer in office (median of 8.3 years) than their counterparts representing districts with 1 million or more (median of 6.5 years).

Half of prosecutors' offices in large districts reported that the chief prosecutor earned \$125,000 or more per year. The chief prosecutor earned an annual salary of \$100,000 or more in 86% of the offices. The annual salary for chief prosecutors in large districts ranged from \$84,000 to \$190,000.

Attorney recruitment and retention in large districts

Problems with recruiting new staff attorneys were reported by 58% of large district prosecutors' offices (table 3). Eighty-one percent of prosecutors' offices with recruitment problems indicated that the primary obstacle was noncompetitive salaries (not shown in a table).

Problems with recruiting new staff attorneys was cited more often in offices serving districts with a population between 500,000 to 999,999 (64%) than offices serving districts with a population of 1 million or more (46%) (table 3). Retaining staff attorneys also was a problem for most prosecutors' offices in large districts (72%). Three-fourths of the offices with retention problems reported that the amount of the salary was the primary obstacle (not shown in a table).

Table 4. Annual salary for assistant prosecutors and supervisory attorneys in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

Full-time position	All offices in large districts	Prosecutors' offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Assistant prosecutor, entry level			
Median			
Minimum annual salary	\$40,000	\$44,260	\$38,250
Maximum annual salary	51,100	56,568	50,500
Assistant prosecutor, 5 years' experience			
Median			
Minimum annual salary	\$53,500	\$55,503	\$51,500
Maximum annual salary	68,576	76,800	65,000
Supervisory attorney			
Median			
Minimum annual salary	\$70,000	\$74,387	\$66,834
Maximum annual salary	104,260	121,720	99,670

Note: Data for minimum and maximum annual salary for entry level assistant prosecutors were available for 110 and 77 prosecutors' offices in large districts, respectively. Data for minimum and maximum annual salary for assistant prosecutors with 5 years' experience were available for 102 and 88 prosecutors' offices in large districts, respectively. Data for minimum and maximum annual salary for supervisory attorneys were available for 99 and 93 prosecutors' offices in large districts, respectively.

Budget of prosecutors' offices in large districts

In 2001 prosecutors' offices in large districts had total budgets of over \$2.9 billion for prosecutorial functions (table 5). Half of the offices reported an annual budget of \$14 million or more. The budget for large district prosecutors' offices ranged from \$1.4 million to \$373 million. The median annual budget for offices serving a district with population of 1 million or more (\$32 million) was almost 3 times the median annual budget for offices serving a district with a population between 500,000 to 999,999 (\$11 million).

Most of the offices indicated that staff salaries (99%), expert services (90%), and investigator services (90%) were included in their reported budget amounts. Three-fourths of large district offices reported that funds for interpreter services and for DNA testing were included. Funding for social services (38%) and child support enforcement (31%) were included by about a third of prosecutors' offices in large districts.

Half of the prosecutors' offices in large districts received 70% or more of their funding from the county government (not shown in a table). Forty-one

Table 5. Budget for prosecutorial functions in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	All offices in large districts	Prosecutors' offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Budget for prosecutorial functions (in thousands)			
Total	\$2,940,000	\$1,910,000	\$1,030,000
Median	\$14,203	\$32,115	\$10,947
Mean	\$25,822	\$56,223	\$12,901
Minimum	\$1,380	\$7,200	\$1,380
Maximum	\$373,000	\$373,000	\$53,351
Number of prosecutors' offices	114	34	80
Percent of offices in large districts where budget includes —			
Staff salaries	99.1%	100.0%	98.7%
Expert services	89.8	97.1	86.5
Investigator services	89.9	100.0	85.3
Interpreter services	74.8	73.5	75.3
Social services	37.6	38.7	37.1
Child support enforcement	31.4	37.5	28.6
DNA testing	74.8	70.6	76.7

Note: Data on total budget were available for all 114 prosecutors' offices in large districts. Data on percentage of prosecutors' offices in large districts where budget includes staff salaries were available for 111 offices, expert services 108, investigator services 109, interpreter services 107, social services 101, child support enforcement 102, and DNA testing 107.

percent of the offices did not receive State government funds and 17% did not receive county government funds. About 11% of the offices reported receiving some portion of their budget from the city government. Some amount of grant funds were received by 85% of the offices in large districts.

Types of cases handled by prosecutors' offices in large districts

Large district offices prosecuted a wide variety of felony offenses. In addition to felony criminal cases, 93% of prosecutors' offices in large districts also had jurisdiction for juvenile matters, 87% misdemeanor cases, 84% misdemeanor appeals, 64% felony appeals, 59% traffic violations, 46% child support enforcement, and 34% represented the government in civil lawsuits (table 6). Felony and misdemeanor appeals were handled more often in offices serving a district with population of 1 million or more (77%, 97%) than in offices serving a district with population between 500,000 to 999,999 (58%, 78%).

Table 6. Types of cases other than felonies handled in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Misdemeanor	87.4%	97.1%	83.1%
Misdemeanor (only associated with a felony)	10.8	8.8	11.7
Misdemeanor appeals	83.8	97.1	77.9
Felony appeals	64.0	76.5	58.4
Traffic violations	58.6	52.9	61.0
Juvenile matters	92.8	94.1	92.2
Child support enforcement	45.9	41.2	48.1
Represent government in civil lawsuit	34.2	41.2	31.2
Number of prosecutors' offices	111	34	77

Note: Five offices reported both a misdemeanor caseload and prosecuting misdemeanors only with associated felonies.

Special categories of felony offenses prosecuted in large districts

All large district prosecutors' offices reported they had prosecuted domestic violence and child abuse felony offenses during the previous year (table 7). Over 90% of offices indicated prosecuting illegal possession of a firearm (93%) and stalking (91%) offenses. Offenses related to health care fraud were prosecuted in 42% of the offices and telemarketing fraud in 36%. About 46% of prosecutors' offices in large districts also indicated that they prosecute use of excessive force offenses by the police.

Offices serving a district with 1 million or more were more likely than those offices serving between 500,000 to 999,999 to have prosecuted police use of excessive force (65%) health care fraud (56%) and telemarketing fraud (50%) offenses.

Computer related crime prosecuted in large districts

Over the previous year, 83% of large district offices reported prosecuting computer related crimes under their State's computer statutes (table 8). Three-fourths of the offices indicated prosecuting misdemeanor or felony computer related crimes dealing with the transmittal of child pornography

(75%) or credit card fraud (73%). Two-thirds of offices prosecuted identity theft (68%), cyberstalking (66%), and bank card fraud (66%) computer crimes. Computer sabotage

(29%), unauthorized copying or distribution of computer programs (25%), and theft of intellectual property (24%) computer crimes were prosecuted in about a quarter of the offices.

Table 7. Special categories of felony offenses prosecuted in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Hate crime	71.2%	91.2%	62.3%
Domestic violence	100.0	100.0	100.0
Elder abuse	84.7	97.1	79.2
Stalking	91.0	94.1	89.6
Child abuse	100.0	100.0	100.0
Health care fraud	42.3	55.9	36.4
Bank or thrift fraud	70.3	73.5	68.8
Telemarketing fraud	36.0	50.0	29.9
Illegal sale or possession of a firearm	92.8	97.1	90.9
Police use of excessive force	45.9	64.7	37.7
Number of prosecutors' offices	111	34	77

Table 8. Types of computer crimes prosecuted in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

Type of computer crime prosecuted	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Any computer related crime	83.3%	97.0%	77.3%
Credit card fraud	73.3	93.5	64.9
Bank card fraud ^a	65.7	83.3	58.0
Computer forgery ^b	53.4	63.0	49.2
Computer sabotage ^c	29.1	53.6	17.2
Unauthorized access to computer system ^d	42.7	60.7	34.4
Unauthorized copying or distribution of computer programs ^e	25.0	53.8	11.1
Cyberstalking ^f	66.0	76.7	60.9
Theft of intellectual property	23.5	40.7	14.8
Transmitting child pornography	75.0	87.1	69.6
Identity theft	67.7	80.0	62.3

Note: Data on prosecution of any computer related crimes under their State's computer statutes were available for 108 offices. Data were available on credit card fraud for 105 prosecutors' offices in large districts, bank card fraud 99 offices, forgery 88 offices, sabotage 86 offices, unauthorized access to computer system 89 offices, unauthorized copying or distribution of computer programs 80 offices, cyberstalking 94 offices, theft of intellectual property 81 offices, transmitting child pornography 100 offices, identity theft 99 offices.

^aATM or debit.

^bAlteration of computerized documents.

^cTo hinder the normal function of a computer system through the introduction of worms, viruses, or logic bombs.

^dHacking.

^eSoftware copyright infringement.

^fThe activity of users sending harassing or threatening e-mail to other users.

Table 9. Criminal cases closed and convicted during an annual period in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Median for prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of — 1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
All cases ^{a,b}	28,943	48,121	22,224
Percent convicted	80.2%	74.9%	81.2%
Felony cases ^c	6,347	12,079	4,921
Percent convicted	85.2%	87.2%	83.8%
Misdemeanor cases ^d	20,000	40,033	17,856
Percent convicted	81.1%	73.6%	83.3%
Felony jury trial verdicts	160	354	130

Note: Respondents were asked to provide caseload data for the previous 12 months. Accordingly not all data are for 2001. Data on total cases closed were available for 91 prosecutors' offices in large districts, misdemeanor cases closed 91 offices, and felony jury verdicts for 104 offices. Data on the number of felony cases closed were available for 106 offices in large districts and were estimated for the 8 offices not providing the information. Data on percentage of total cases convicted were available for 80 prosecutors' offices in large districts, percentage felony cases convicted 97 offices, and percentage misdemeanor cases convicted 81 offices.

^aCase was defined by the respondent.

^bClosed case means any case with a judgment of conviction, acquittal, or dismissal with or without prejudice, entered by the court.

^cEach respondent categorized cases as felonies according to their State statute.

^dMisdemeanor cases refer to cases in which criminal defendants had no felony charges against them.

Number of cases and convictions in large districts

Over the 12 months before the survey, prosecutors' offices in large districts closed more than 1 million felony cases and 3 million misdemeanor cases (not shown in a table). Approximately 823 felony cases were closed per 100,000 residents. Staff from offices in large districts participated in over 27,000 felony jury trials that resulted in a verdict. About 72 felony cases per assistant prosecutor were closed.⁴

Half of large district offices closed 6,347 or more felony cases (table 9). In at least half of the offices, 85% or more of felony cases resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction. The median number of felony jury trial verdicts per office was 160. Half of the offices serving a population of 1 million or more closed 12,079 or more felony

⁴This estimate was calculated by dividing the total number of felony cases closed by the number of assistant prosecutors, including supervisory attorneys. An assumption made in calculating the estimate is that all assistant prosecutors in large districts handled felony cases, which may not always be the case.

or more felony cases compared to 4,921 or more for offices serving between 500,000 and 999,999. The median number of felony jury trial verdicts for offices serving a district

with a population of 1 million or more (354) was almost 3 times the median number of felony jury trial verdicts for offices serving a district with population between 500,000 to 999,999 (130).

Juveniles proceeded against in criminal courts in large districts

All but one prosecutor's office in a large district proceeded against juveniles in criminal court (table 10). Over the previous 12 months large district offices reported proceeding against almost 11,000 juvenile cases in criminal court. Half of the offices proceeded against 38 or more juvenile cases in criminal court. The median number of juvenile cases proceeded against in criminal court by offices serving 1 million or more residents was 53 and for offices serving between 500,000 to 999,999 residents, 34.

Forty-two percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts reported a specialized unit for handling juvenile cases in criminal court, and 23% reported designated attorneys. Half of the offices maintained written guidelines about proceeding against

Table 10. Juveniles proceeded against in criminal court, by prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	All offices in large districts	Prosecutors' offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Total of juvenile cases*	10,951	4,581	6,370
Median number of juvenile cases, per office	38	53	34
Percent of offices in large districts with —			
Specialized unit	42.3%	35.3%	45.5%
Designated attorney(s)	23.4	35.3	18.2
Written guidelines for handling juvenile cases in criminal court	51.9%	58.8%	48.6%

Note: Respondents were asked to provide the number of juvenile cases proceeded against in criminal court for the previous 12 months. Accordingly, not all juvenile cases reported were proceeded against in criminal court during 2001. Data on number of juveniles cases proceeded against in criminal court were available for 109 prosecutors' offices in large districts and were estimated for the 4 offices not providing the information. One large district office reported not proceeding against any juveniles in criminal court. Data on percentage of all large districts with a specialized unit were available for 111 offices, percentage of all large districts with designated attorney(s) 111 offices, and percentage of all large districts with written guidelines for handling juvenile cases in criminal court 108 offices.

*Juveniles proceeded against in criminal court include cases that reached criminal court by judicial waiver, statutory exclusion, direct filing by a prosecutor's office, or any other mechanism available in the prosecutor's State.

juveniles in criminal court. A specialized unit for handling juvenile cases in criminal court was reported by 46% of offices serving a district with a

population between 500,000 to 999,999 compared to 35% of offices serving a district with population of 1 million or more.

Offices serving 1 million or more residents (35%) were more likely than their smaller counterparts (18%) to specifically designate attorneys to handle juvenile cases in criminal cases.

Work-related threats or assaults against staff in large districts

Seventy-one percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts indicated that a staff member experienced a work-related threat or assault (not shown in a table). The chief prosecutor was threatened or assaulted in 41% of the offices, an assistant prosecutor in 65%, and a staff investigator in 22% (table 11).

Over half of the chief prosecutors and over three-quarters of assistant prosecutors in offices serving 1 million or more received a work-related threat or assault. About 60% of assistant prosecutors and 34% of chief prosecutors employed in offices that served a district between 500,000 to 999,999 experienced a work-related threat or assault.

Security measures in prosecutors' offices in large districts

Prosecutors' offices in large districts employed a variety of security measures to protect their building and staff. Nearly three-fourths of the offices reported using building guards for protection, and two-thirds indicated the presence of metal detectors (table 12). About 57% of offices in large districts had electronic security systems. Police protection was used by 28% of the offices. Police protection was more likely to be used by offices serving 1 million or more (46%) than by offices serving between 500,000 to 999,999 (21%).

The chief prosecutor carried a firearm for personal safety or security in 20% of the large districts (not shown in a table). Thirty-seven percent of offices in large districts reported that an assistant prosecutor carried a firearm for personal safety, and 81% indicated a staff investigator did so.

Table 11. Work-related threats and assaults received by staff members in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Chief prosecutor	40.6%	56.3%	33.8%
Assistant prosecutor	65.1	78.1	59.5
Staff investigator	21.7	31.3	17.6
Number of prosecutors' offices	106	32	74

*Threat or assault includes a threatening letter or call, a face-to-face threat, and battery.

Table 12. Security measures used for protection by prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Police protection	28.2%	45.5%	20.8%
Building guards	73.6	87.9	67.5
Electronic surveillance	38.2	54.5	31.2
Metal detectors	66.4	75.8	62.3
Electronic security systems	57.3	63.6	54.5
Number of prosecutors' offices	110	33	77

Table 13. DNA evidence used by prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Use of DNA evidence			
Used during plea negotiations or felony trials	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Stage of case			
Plea negotiations	89.7%	81.3%	93.3%
Trial	100.0	100.0	100.0
Forensic laboratory performing DNA analysis			
FBI	24.5%	28.1%	23.0%
State-operated	76.4	65.6	81.1
Local agency	45.3	81.3	29.7
Privately operated	69.8	68.8	70.3
Problems with use of DNA evidence			
Improper collection of evidence by police	24.0%	21.9%	25.0%
Inconclusive results	43.3	46.9	41.7
Excessive delays in getting laboratory results	70.2	71.9	69.4
Difficulty in getting results admitted as evidence	2.9	3.1	2.8

Note: Data on use of DNA any time, during plea negotiations, and during felony trials were available for 107 prosecutors' offices in large districts. Data on FBI performing DNA analyses, state operated forensic laboratory, local agency operated forensic laboratory, and privately operated forensic laboratory were available for 106 prosecutors' offices. Data on improper collection of evidence by police, inconclusive DNA results, excessive delays in getting DNA results, and difficulty in getting DNA results submitted in court were available for 104 prosecutors' offices in large districts.

DNA evidence used by prosecutors' offices in large districts

The use of DNA evidence is a common practice in large district prosecutors' offices as 100% reported using DNA evidence during felony trials and 90% used it during plea negotiations (table 13). Three-fourths of the offices reported that a State-operated forensic laboratory performed the DNA analysis.

A privately operated forensic laboratory performed the DNA testing for 70% of the offices, a forensic laboratory operated by a local agency for 45%, and the FBI for 25%. Forensic laboratories operated by localities performed DNA analysis for 81% of the offices in a district serving of 1 million or more, compared to 30% of the offices serving between 500,000 to 999,999.⁵

When asked about problems in the use of DNA evidence, about 70% of large district offices reported at least one instance of excessive delay in getting laboratory results. A quarter of the offices indicated improper collection of evidence by the police. Difficulty in getting the DNA results admitted as evidence was experienced at least once by 3% of the large district offices.

Community prosecution in large districts

Community prosecution is a proactive approach used by prosecutors' offices to engage in community-based problem solving. Prosecutors' offices coordinate their work with law enforcement, residents, and agencies and organizations to improve public safety and quality of life.⁶

⁵For more information on DNA laboratories, see the BJS report *Survey of DNA Crime Laboratories, 2001*, December 2001, NCJ 179104.

⁶For more information on community prosecution see Elaine Nugent and Gerard A. Rainville, "The State of Community Prosecution: Results from a National Survey," *The Prosecutor*, March/April 2001, pp. 26-33, and the Office of Justice Programs website <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/prosecution/commlinks.htm>>.

Table 14. Community-related activities engaged in by prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

Community-related activities	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of — 1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Engage in any of the following —			
Involved the community to identify crime and/or problem areas	81.2%	87.5%	78.3%
Assigned prosecutors to specific geographic areas	63.6	65.6	62.7
Used tools other than criminal prosecution to address community problems	86.5	96.9	81.9
Formal and/or informal relationships with —			
Law enforcement agencies	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Other government agencies	97.3	100	96.1
Private organizations	83.6	90.9	80.5
Community associations	90.9	93.9	89.6
Member of office meets regularly with local community groups or organizations*			
Neighborhood associations	76.4%	81.8%	74.0%
Tenant's associations	40.9	39.4	41.6
Youth service organizations	71.8	81.8	67.5
Advocacy groups	85.5	87.9	84.4
Business groups	75.5	81.8	72.7
Religious groups	55.5	51.5	57.1
School groups	86.4	93.9	83.1
Office assigned prosecutors to handle community-related activities			
	75.0%	84.8%	70.7%

Note: Data on involving the community to identify crime and/or problem areas were available for 101 prosecutors' offices in large districts, assigning prosecutors to specific geographic areas 99 offices, and using tools other than criminal prosecution 104 offices. Data on formal and/or informal relationship with law enforcement agencies, other government agencies, private organizations, and community associations were available for 110 prosecutors' offices in large districts. Data on whether prosecutors' offices in large districts meet regularly with neighborhood associations, tenants' associations, youth service organizations, advocacy groups, business groups, religious groups, and school groups were available for 110 offices. Data on prosecutors assigned to handle community related activities were available for 108 prosecutors' offices in large districts.

*Member refers to the chief prosecutor, assistant prosecutors, staff investigators, or any other professional staff.

Over 80% of prosecutors' offices in large districts involved the community to help identify crime or problem areas and used tools other than traditional criminal prosecution to address community problems (table 14). About two-thirds of the offices indicated assigning prosecutors to specific geographic areas in the community. Three-fourths of the offices in large districts assigned prosecutors to handle community-related activities.

All large district offices reported a formal or informal relationship with law

enforcement agencies. Most offices also had formal or informal relationships with other government agencies (97%) and community associations (91%). About 84% of the offices reported a formal or informal relationship with private organizations.

Eighty-six percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts met regularly with school groups and with advocacy groups. About three-quarters of the offices also indicated meeting regularly with neighborhood associations (76%), business groups (76%), and youth

Table 15. Location, types of offenses handled, and caseload for prosecutors assigned to community-related activities in prosecutors' offices in large districts, 2001

Prosecutors handling community-related activities	Percent of prosecutors' offices in large districts with prosecutors assigned to handle community-related activities		
	All offices in large districts	Offices serving a population of —	
		1,000,000 or more	500,000 to 999,999
Location			
Inside central office	45.0%	50.0%	42.3%
Outside central office	55.0	50.0	57.7
Types of offenses handled			
Violent crime	63.2%	61.5%	64.0%
Property crime	75.0	69.2	78.0
Drug-related crime	73.7	65.4	78.0
Public order crime	53.9	38.5	62.0
Juvenile crime	59.2	69.2	54.0
Nuisance complaints	53.9	50.0	56.0
Caseload			
All had a full caseload	51.3%	67.9%	42.3%
All had a reduced caseload	18.8	10.7	23.1
Some had a full caseload, others a reduced caseload	11.3	0	17.3
None had a caseload	18.8	21.4	17.3

Note: Data on location of prosecutors were available for 80 of the 81 prosecutors' offices in large districts assigning prosecutors to handle community-related activities. Data on violent crime, property crime, drug-related crime, public-order crime, juvenile crime, and nuisance complaints were available for 76 of the 81 prosecutors' offices in large districts assigning prosecutors to handle community-related activities. Data on full or reduced caseload for prosecutors were available for 80 of the 81 prosecutors' offices in large districts assigning prosecutors to handle community-related activities.

service organizations (72%). Less than half (41%) of the offices met regularly with tenant's associations.

Of the offices assigning prosecutors to handle community-related activities, 55% reported that these prosecutors were located outside of the central prosecutors' office (table 15). Not shown in the table, of the offices placing prosecutors who handled community-related activities in outside locations, 47% reported prosecutors located in the police department and 47% in a community-based office. The types of offenses handled most often by prosecutors assigned to community related activities were property crime (75%), drug-related crime (74%), violent crime (63%), and juvenile crime (59%). Half (51%) of the large district offices that assigned prosecutors to community related activities indicated that these prosecutors carried a full caseload.

Methodology

Respondent selection

The 2001 National Survey of Prosecutors (NSP) was a census of 2,341 chief prosecutors in the United States that handled felony cases in State courts of general jurisdiction. In 2001 there were 2,341 prosecutorial districts in the Nation, each with one chief prosecutor. The Prosecutor Coordinator Office in each State was contacted and asked to provide the names and addresses of all chief prosecutors in their State and the counties for which these chief prosecutors served.

The 114 prosecutors' offices that served a district with a population of at least 500,000 or more residents are the basis of this first report from the 2001 NSP.

Data collection

The data collection for the 2001 NSP was conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) through a mailed questionnaire consisting of 35 questions on such topics as staffing, funding, special categories of felony prosecutions, caseload, juvenile matters, work-related threats or assaults, DNA evidence, and community related activities. The 2001 NSP questionnaire is available at the BJS website <<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/nsp01.pdf>>.

In May 2001 NORC mailed the 2001 NSP questionnaire to the 114 prosecutors' offices that served districts with a population of 500,000 or more. The remaining 2228 prosecutors' offices were sent questionnaires in June 2001. After the initial mailings, NORC engaged in an extensive follow-up to obtain a returned survey from each of the prosecutors' offices. The follow-up process involved phone calls, e-mail communication, re-mailing questionnaires, and sending follow-up letters. Staff of the National District Attorneys Associations as well as the Prosecutor Coordinator Office in each State assisted NORC in providing follow-up.

NORC conducted additional telephone, fax, and e-mail follow-up on completed surveys to obtain responses to unanswered items and to clarify responses to other items.

Survey response

The response rate for the 114 prosecutors' offices serving a district of 500,000 or more residents was 100%.

Data imputations

NORC used the simple hot deck method, in which a value was copied from a donor case having similar values or related variables, to impute

the data for the number of felony cases closed for 8 offices and for the number of juveniles proceeded against in criminal court for 4 offices. Specifically, NORC used prosecutorial district size

to sort the 114 completed cases (prosecutor office surveys) in descending order. A missing value for felony cases closed was imputed as the value of felony cases closed on the case that

immediately proceeded the case with missing data. Missing values for the number of juveniles proceeded against in criminal court were imputed in the same way.

Prosecutors' offices serving districts with a population of 1 million or more, 1994, 1996, and 2001

	Prosecutors' offices serving districts with population of 1 million or more		
	1994	1996	2001
Total number of prosecutors' offices	33	34	34
Total population served ^a	63,096,671	65,811,198	67,888,444
Total staff	20,539	21,084	23,191
Number of assistant prosecutors ^b	7,288	7,378	8,324
Number of victim advocates	454	491	694
Number of staff investigators	1,866	1,844	2,127
Number of support staff	7,466	7,131	8,413
Median number of staff per office	370	414	456
Total budget (in 2001 dollars)	\$1,101,004,626	\$1,351,251,104	\$1,910,000,000
Median budget per office (in 2001 dollars)	\$26,359,651	\$28,865,081	\$32,114,944
Total number of felony cases closed	427,563	438,047	498,619
Percent of offices —			
Using DNA evidence in felony trials	96.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Threats or assaults received by staff members ^c	77.4%	78.8%	81.3%
Chief prosecutor threatened or assaulted	45.2	51.5	56.3
Assistant prosecutor threatened or assaulted	67.7	72.7	78.1
Staff investigator threatened or assaulted	41.9	24.2	31.3
Jurisdiction over traffic violations	68.8%	61.8%	52.9%
Jurisdiction over child support enforcement	59.4	61.8	41.2
Jurisdiction over civil lawsuits	37.5	47.1	41.2

Note: From 1994 to 1996, Rhode Island dropped from the list of the prosecutors' offices serving 1 million or more and prosecutors offices in Clark County, NV, and Franklin County, OH, were included. From 1996 to 2001, St. Louis County, MO, dropped from the list of prosecutors' offices serving 1 million or more and the 15th Judicial Circuit, FL, was included. Overall, data for staffing were available for 32 offices in 1994 and 34 offices in 1996 and 2001. Data for total budget were available for 32 offices in 1994 and 34 offices in 1996 and 2001. Data for total felony cases closed were available for 26 offices in 1994 and 1996 and 34 offices (estimated for 1 office) in 2001. Data on DNA evidence were available for 32 offices in 1994 and 2001 and for 33 offices in 1996. Data on threats or assaults were available for 31 offices in 1994, 33 offices in 1996, and 32 offices in 2001. Data on types of cases handled were available for 32 offices in 1994 and 34 offices in 1996 and 2001.

^aTotal population served for 1994 uses 1992 estimates, the 1996 population uses 1996 estimates, and the 2001 population uses 1999 estimates.

^bIncludes supervisory attorneys who litigate cases.

^cStaff members refer to the chief prosecutor, assistant prosecutors, and staff investigators.

- Between 1994 and 2001 the number of total staff in prosecutors' offices serving 1 million or more residents increased 13%. In terms of specific staff members, the number of assistant prosecutors increased 14%, and the number of victim advocates grew 53%.
- The median number of total staff in these offices increased from 370 in 1994 to 456 in 2001, an increase of 23%.
- When 1994 budget amounts are adjusted for inflation, prosecutors' offices serving districts of 1 million or more had combined total budgets of over \$1.1 billion for prosecutorial functions. In 2001 these offices had combined total budgets of over \$1.9 billion, an increase of 73%.
- Between 1994 and 2001, the median office budget for these offices, when adjusted for inflation, increased from \$26 million to \$32 million, an increase of 22%.
- In 1994, 68% of prosecutors' offices serving a district of 1 million or more reported that an assistant prosecutor was threatened or assaulted compared to 78% in 2001. Similarly, the percentage of offices reporting a threat or assault on the chief prosecutor grew from 45% to 56%.
- Between 1994 and 2001 the percentage of offices serving a district of 1 million or more that reported jurisdiction over traffic violations dropped from 69% to 53%.

Appendix. Prosecutorial districts with 1999 population of 500,000 or more

Prosecutorial district	1999 population	Prosecutorial district	1999 population
CA Los Angeles County	9,329,989	CA Fresno County	763,069
IL Cook County	5,192,326	DE Entire State	753,538
TX Harris County	3,250,404	NJ Essex County	747,355
AZ Maricopa County	2,861,395	CA San Francisco County	746,777
CA San Diego County	2,820,844	CA Ventura County	745,063
CA Orange County	2,760,948	GA Atlanta Judicial Circuit	744,827
NY Kings County	2,268,297	FL 5th Judicial Circuit	743,134
FL 11th Judicial Circuit	2,175,634	MA Worcester District	738,629
MI Wayne County	2,106,495	TX Travis County	727,022
TX Dallas County	2,062,100	PA Montgomery County	724,087
NY Queens County	2,000,642	MD Baltimore County	723,914
CA San Bernardino County	1,669,934	NJ Middlesex County	717,949
WA King County	1,664,846	NY Monroe County	712,419
CA Santa Clara County	1,647,419	TX El Paso County	708,164
NY New York County	1,551,844	MA Essex District	704,407
FL 17th Judicial Circuit	1,535,468	CA San Mateo County	702,102
CA Riverside County	1,530,653	WA Pierce County	688,807
MA Middlesex District	1,426,606	KY 30th Judicial Circuit	672,900
PA Philadelphia County	1,417,601	FL 7th Judicial Circuit	664,611
CA Alameda County	1,415,582	CO 18th Judicial District	664,378
NY Suffolk County	1,383,847	MO Jackson County	654,484
TX Tarrant County	1,382,442	NC Prosectorial District 26	648,400
TX Bexar County	1,372,867	MA Norfolk District	643,580
OH Cuyahoga County	1,371,717	CA Kern County	642,495
NY Nassau County	1,305,057	MA Suffolk District	641,695
PA Allegheny County	1,256,806	OK 7th Judicial District	636,539
NV Clark County	1,217,155	OR Multnomah County	633,224
FL 6th Judicial Circuit	1,209,203	MD Baltimore City	632,681
NY Bronx County	1,194,099	CT Hartford Judicial District	630,324
CA Sacramento County	1,184,586	AK Entire State	619,500
MI Oakland County	1,179,978	IL Lake County	617,975
MN Hennepin County	1,064,419	FL 1st Judicial Circuit	611,557
FL 15th Judicial Circuit	1,049,420	NJ Monmouth County	611,444
OH Franklin County	1,027,821	GA Stone Judicial Circuit	596,853
MO St. Louis County	996,181	WA Snohomish County	596,598
RI Entire State	990,819	PA Bucks County	594,047
VA Fairfax County	976,358	NC Prosectorial District 10	586,940
FL 9th Judicial Circuit	967,802	GA Cobb Judicial Circuit	583,541
FL 13th Judicial Circuit	940,484	FL 12th Judicial Circuit	574,713
FL 4th Judicial Circuit	936,647	OH Montgomery County	565,866
CA Contra Costa County	933,141	CA San Joaquin County	563,183
NY Erie County	925,957	FL 10th Judicial Circuit	553,159
WI Milwaukee County	906,248	NJ Hudson County	552,819
NY Westchester County	905,572	MI Kent County	550,388
IL DuPage County	892,547	OK 14th Judicial District	548,296
TN 30th Judicial District	873,000	GA Gwinnett Judicial Circuit	545,632
HI 1st Judicial Circuit	864,571	PA Delaware County	541,502
NJ Bergen County	857,052	OH Summit County	537,856
MD Montgomery County	852,174	TX Hidalgo County	534,907
UT Salt Lake County	850,243	TN 20th Judicial District	530,050
OH Hamilton County	840,443	NM 2nd Judicial District	523,472
FL 18th Judicial Circuit	827,755	CO 4th Judicial District	521,222
IN 19th Judicial Circuit	810,946	AL 10th Judicial Circuit*	521,026*
AZ Pima County	803,618	MA Bristol District	520,258
MI Macomb County	792,082	District of Columbia	519,000
FL 20th Judicial Circuit	782,719	CO 1st Judicial District	513,696
MD Prince George's County	781,781	NJ Camden County	503,093

Note: Population estimates were taken from the Bureau of the Census website <http://www.census.gov/population/www/estimates/co_99_1.html>.
 *The prosecutor's office is associated with the Birmingham Division of the Alabama 10th Judicial Circuit. The 2000 preliminary population estimate was obtained from the Jefferson County, Alabama Board of Registrars.

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Carol J. DeFrances, Ph.D. wrote this report. At BJS, Sidra L. Gifford provided statistical review. David Carlis, Keonna Feaster, and Dorothea Proctor assisted in compiling the list of 2,341 chief prosecutors; Keonna Feaster also assisted in data collection.

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