Overview of Bureau of Justice Statistics

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, victimization, and criminal justice at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. It—

- maintains more than 70 data collections

- conducts interviews on criminal victimization involving 240,000 persons in about 150,000 households

- counts persons under the care, custody, or control of federal, state, or local authorities

- interviews nationally representative samples of correctional populations

- analyzes the operations of thousands of law enforcement agencies

- conducts special collections and analyses in response to the data needs of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), president, policymakers, and criminal justice community

- financially aids states to improve their criminal history records

- features publications, data collections, data analysis tools, and funding opportunities on bjs.ojp.gov

- helps online users find statistics, interpret analyses, and understand methodologies

- provides financial and technical aid to increase incident-based crime reporting by local law enforcement, to improve national estimates.

Publications

In 2022, BJS published data on—

Corrections

- COVID-19 impacts in jails and prisons

- HIV in state and federal prisons

- characteristics of correctional facilities and jail, prison, probation, and parole populations

- the Prison Rape Elimination Act (P.L. 108–79)

- the First Step Act (P.L. 115–391).

Courts

- case processing in the federal criminal justice system, including investigations by U.S. attorneys, prosecutions and declinations, convictions and acquittals, and sentencing

- the pretrial release and misconduct of defendants

- the citizenship of suspects arrested and prosecuted for federal offenses

- tribal crime, courts, and justice.

Law enforcement

- deaths that occur during federal arrest, detention, and incarceration

- medical examiner and coroner offices

- national estimates and trends for personnel, equipment, operations, policies, budgets, and job functions of law enforcement at the federal, state, and local level

- policies and procedures adopted by law enforcement in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- agencies that employ school resource officers and demographics of the officers.

Victims of crime

- sexual assault, stalking, carjacking, and other violent and property victimizations

- trends and patterns in firearm violence

- indicators of fatal and nonfatal workplace violence

- violent victimization against persons who identify as lesbian, gay, or transgender

- the nation's two crime measures: the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) and the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program Summary Reporting System

- progress on the NCVS instrument's redesign.

Periodic data series

BJS fields a number of surveys and data collections on a periodic basis. Data are published on—

- sexual assault, hate crime, school crime, identity theft, and other violent or property victimization

- law enforcement characteristics, training, and contacts with the public

- firearm background checks

- correctional populations and recidivism

- jails, prisons, probation agencies, and parole agencies

- sexual victimization reported by persons in custody

- deaths during the criminal justice process (e.g., arrest, custody, incarceration, and capital punishment)

- forensic crime labs and medical examiner and coroner offices

- courts, case processing, prosecutors, public defenders, and victim services

- expenditures and employment in criminal justice programs

- other criminal justice and special topics.

Joint data collections

BJS works with—

- other DOJ statistical programs, such as the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program and National Incident-Based Reporting System

- the U.S. Census Bureau, which fields several BJS surveys on crime victimization, correctional facilities, supervised release, and more

- the U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, Executive Office for U.S. Attorneys, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, U.S. Sentencing Commission, and Federal Bureau of Prisons to collect data for the Federal Justice Statistics Program.

Data analysis tools

BJS provides criminal justice data and data analysis tools at bjs.ojp.gov/data/data-analysis-tools. In 2022, BJS released four new or updated data tools:

- the revamped Corrections Statistical Analysis Tool (CSAT) – Prisoners

- the NCVS Dashboard (N-DASH)

- the Law Enforcement Agency Reported Crime Analysis Tool (LEARCAT)

- the Justice Expenditure and Employment Tool (JEET).

Grant programs

For information on BJS funding programs, opportunities, and awards and how to apply, visit bjs.ojp.gov/funding. Grants are available for—

- assistance to state, tribal, and local governments

- data collection and processing

- statistical and methodological research.