

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

Program Name: Criminal Justice Statistics Program -- Victimization Statistics

Approximate Funding: Between FY 2011 and FY 2015, a total of \$188.7M was awarded.*

*Includes funds from the Criminal Justice Statistics Program (BJS base) appropriations and any transfers to BJS from other federal agencies.

Program Description

Purpose: To measure criminal victimization and victim help-seeking behaviors in the United States including estimates of level and change of victimization; characteristics of victims, offenders, and incidents; and reporting to law enforcement and victim service providers to inform criminal justice decision-making, policy, and practice.

Authorizing Legislation: The Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979

Administering Agency: Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)

DOJ Strategic Objective 3.1: Promote and strengthen relationships and strategies for the administration of justice with law enforcement agencies, organizations, prosecutors, and defenders through innovative leadership and programs.

Violent and property victimization, 1993–2014



Program Goals:

1. Expand the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to include estimates for 22 states and select metropolitan statistical areas, large cities, and counties in addition to the national-level data. This will enhance the utility of the NCVS to the Justice Department, policymakers, and other stakeholders by providing state and local area estimates of crime victimization experiences.
2. Enhance data on the crimes of rape and sexual assault, fraud, and stalking through ongoing research, testing, and development activities.
3. Enhance the quality, accessibility, and relevance of the victimization statistics collections.
4. Create an integrated system of indicators at the local level to include measures of victimization, crimes known to the police, and other measures of community well-being.

Accomplishments: In 2015, BJS:

1. Conducted the NCVS with a nationally representative sample of about 90,000 households, including nearly 160,000 persons, on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization both reported and not reported to police. In addition, BJS conducted two supplements to the NCVS:
 - o [Police Public Contact Survey](#)
 - o [School Crime Supplement to the NCVS](#)
2. Released the following reports:
 - o [Crime Against Persons with Disabilities, 2009–2013](#),
 - o [Criminal Victimization, 2014](#)
 - o [Rape and Sexual Assault Among College-Age Females, 1995–2013](#)
 - o [Victims of Identity Theft, 2014](#)
3. Developed the next version of the stalking supplement to the NCVS to be fielded in 2016.
4. Continued to test various approaches to generate [state and local estimates](#) with the NCVS.
5. Collaborated with the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) on several victim service provider initiatives, including the Census of Victim Service Providers and the [National Survey of Victim Service Providers](#).
6. Completed the [Campus Climate Survey Validation Study](#) to better understand the prevalence and incidence of rape and sexual assault on college campuses. A report will be published in early 2016.

7. Conducted an assessment of the Arrest-Related Deaths (ARD) program and released three reports focusing on the collection's [quality](#) and [coverage](#) in addition to a [technical report](#). BJS is currently conducting a pilot study to examine the use of open source information to identify potential cases of homicides by police to improve coverage. Results from the pilot redesign test are forthcoming in early 2016.
8. Provided two online tools for the public to analyze victimization statistics: [NCVS Victimization Analysis Tool](#) which had 7,812 user sessions between November 2014 and November 2015; and the [Annual Criminal Victimization Tool](#) which had 1,618 user sessions between November 2014 and November 2015.

FY 2017 Proposed Policy Changes to the Program: N/A

FY 2017 Proposed Funding Changes to the Program: \$6.0M from the \$17.0M increase to the Criminal Justice Statistics Program will support the maintenance and enhancements to the NCVS. This includes supplements, such as identity theft, stalking, and police–public contacts as well as the survey's major redesign efforts focused on generating state and metropolitan area estimates, and improving the measurement of rape and sexual assault.

For additional information, please visit: [BJS Victimization Statistics](#).