

Appendix I

To: OJP Science Advisory Board
From: Rick Rosenfeld, Chair of the BJS Subcommittee
Subject: Subcommittee Report
Date: January 16, 2012

Since the last SAB meeting, the BJS Subcommittee has held a meeting by conference call and is scheduled to meet with Director Lynch on Thursday, January 19th.

During the conference call the Subcommittee focused on two BJS initiatives: the compilation and analysis of UCR data by BJS staff and the availability of area-identified data from the National Crime Victimization Survey. Regarding the former issue, we discussed whether the BJS might begin to compile and disseminate selected UCR data for a national sample of law enforcement agencies with a good track record of timely and accurate reporting to the UCR program. Regarding the area-identified NCVS, we discussed whether BJS and Census might make small-area (county- or tract-level) data publicly available with some data suppression to safeguard confidentiality. Currently, the area-identified NCVS data may be used by researchers only at designated Census data centers. Longitudinal NCVS data for 40 metropolitan areas are available from ICPSR.

Neither of these discussions resulted in recommendations to the SAB and will be pursued further at our upcoming meeting with Director Lynch.

During the conference call the Subcommittee also discussed the staffing needs of the BJS. The agency is currently restricted to hiring personnel employed by OJP. We talked about submitting a recommendation to the SAB that the BJS be permitted to hire from the outside to fill critical staffing shortages, especially of experienced statistical and research scientists. We will continue this discussion at our meeting with the Director. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, the subcommittee may submit a formal recommendation at the full meeting of the SAB on January 20th.