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Office of Justice Programs  
National Institute of Justice



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE  
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**U.S. Department of Justice**  
**Office of Justice Programs**  
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The National Institute of Justice is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ's mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety.

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

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# About the National Institute of Justice

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. We are dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science. NIJ's core mission is to provide objective, independent, evidence-based knowledge and tools to inform the decision-making of the criminal justice community to reduce crime and advance justice, particularly at the state and local levels. NIJ is committed to supporting the development of rigorous and independent research that crosses scientific disciplines and leverages the expertise of both researchers and those working within the criminal justice system. Investments in science allow us to better understand the challenges facing the U.S. criminal justice system and to develop and test effective solutions.

NIJ's work is conducted primarily through competitive extramural grants, agreements with other federal agencies, and contracts. By providing these funds, NIJ continues to support high-quality research on crime, crime control, and the fair administration of justice by engaging and supporting researchers and disseminating evidence and practical solutions in response to the challenges of crime and justice.

NIJ also engages with other federal and private sector science agencies to develop needed technology solutions that leverage investments and infrastructure, thereby increasing the impact of NIJ's finite resources and the pace of needed technology solutions being introduced to the field.

As a science agency, NIJ's primary mission is to generate high-quality research that is rigorous, inclusive, and embraces technology. NIJ seeks to promote research with mixed-methods approaches that capture both numbers and narratives; the numbers are important because they are the empirical evidence, but without the narratives of the people who are closest to the issues, research fails to grasp the context. To be truly inclusive, research must recognize the issue of racial inequality in the criminal justice system and be intentional in looking at structural inequalities that may generate disparate outcomes based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, or citizenship status. Infusing technology research with a strong implementation science component strengthens the understanding and interpretation of research findings. NIJ strives to communicate these findings in a manner that helps practitioners, ensuring that research evidence is translated into actionable information to promote change in the field.

# Understanding, Preventing, and Reducing Crime

NIJ supports research and evaluation across a wide variety of criminal and juvenile justice issues focused on the causes and correlates of crime. Violence prevention and response to victimization are research areas of particular interest.

NIJ supported research under the following topics in fiscal year (FY) 2022.

## Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism

NIJ sought applications for rigorous research and evaluation projects targeted toward developing a better understanding of the domestic radicalization phenomenon and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention.

Research sought in the NIJ FY 2022 solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism](#)” fell into four focus areas:

- Research to inform terrorism prevention efforts.
- Research on disengagement, deradicalization, and reintegration.
- Evaluations of programs and practices to prevent terrorism.
- Studies on the use of misinformation (that which is false), disinformation (that which is false and deliberately created to discredit an entity), and malinformation (that which is based on reality but used to ignite or inflict harm).

In FY 2022, NIJ funded two projects totaling \$1.26 million to continue this research. The first will use machine learning to examine social media conversations to understand domestic extremist strategies for financing illegal activities. By using machine learning to develop a tool to analyze data from mainstream and fringe online platforms, the study will explain how platforms are connected, whether particular types of unlawful financial activity are linked to specific platforms, and to what extent connections between online domestic extremist communities and external funding platforms exist.

The second project will study the full spectrum of behavior among those motivated by left-wing or environmental extremist ideologies. The study will:

1. Create a new open-source database of pre-incident behaviors, failed/foiled plots, nonterrorist criminal incidents, and terrorist attacks committed within the U.S., as motivated by an extremist left-wing or environmental ideology.
2. Assess the operational capacity of left-wing and environmental violent extremists with a focus on indicators of malevolent creativity, innovation, and criminal expertise.



## Dissemination Highlights

### **Event – The Changing Threat Landscape of Terrorism and Violent Extremism: Implications for Research and Policy**

NIJ hosted a panel that provided an overview of the current terrorist threat landscape, how it has changed in the last five to 10 years, and strategies to best address this threat at the local and national levels. The panel emphasized how several key events in 2021 shaped the way we think about research and policy regarding radicalization and extremism. Panelists provided data on fluctuations in the most imminent terrorist threats posed to the U.S. over the last 10 years, why and how possible changes to the threat landscape have taken place, and ways the current terrorist threat should be combatted.

[Watch the recorded event.](#)

### **Podcast – Social Media and Domestic Radicalization**

Social media has become a potent tool for spreading extremist beliefs and promoting violent extremism. NIJ Social Science analyst Aisha Javed Qureshi discussed how scientific research helps law enforcement and other agencies understand and address this growing concern.

[Access the podcast episode.](#)



## Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women

NIJ strives to support objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women. For 40 years, NIJ has invested more than \$130 million in research and evaluation to study violence against women, a significant portion of which has come from the DOJ Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).

NIJ's Violence Against Women and Family Violence Research and Evaluation Program covers a broad range of topics. This includes public health and safety topics as well as criminal justice challenges, including the availability of legal and victim support services, the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs, and the impact of such crimes over time.

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation "[Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women](#)" to invite research and evaluation projects examining the crimes of domestic and family violence, homicide, intimate partner and dating violence, and rape and sexual assault, along with the associated criminal justice system responses, procedures, and policies.

NIJ funded six awards for a total of \$4.98 million, \$2.3 million of which was transferred to NIJ from OVW:

- Project Safe Transitions for Teens, which aims to develop knowledge on teens and parents involved in transitional housing for adolescents exposed to intimate partner violence.

- A study exploring how various social statuses affect and transform the experience and response to violence and how discrimination increases the risk for victimization and is a barrier for Latinas seeking help.
- A research project to inform actions that promote justice and enhance criminal justice outcomes for domestic violence victims with brain injuries.
- An analysis to explore sexual and interpersonal violence experiences and overall campus climate at historically Black colleges.
- A project to adapt the Fourth R curriculum — an innovative, universal prevention approach to educating adolescents about safety and risk in a school setting — for implementation within Indigenous populations.
- A study to examine the scope and context of missing and murdered Indigenous persons in New Mexico, identify gaps in current data collection, and recommend ways to improve long-term data collection and sustainable data reporting for cases of missing and murdered Indigenous persons in New Mexico.

## Research and Evaluation on School Safety

NIJ has funded numerous initiatives over the years that evaluate school safety practices. These efforts range from preventing tragic incidents like school shootings to promoting a positive school environment where day-to-day challenges, like bullying and harassment, can be reduced.

In FY 2022, NIJ invited proposals under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on School Safety](#)” for rigorous research and evaluation projects to study the root causes of school violence, including the impact and effectiveness of grants made under the STOP School Violence Act. NIJ was particularly interested in examining understudied approaches to improving school safety.

NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$1.75 million. The first of these projects will study impulsivity as a root cause of school violence. Specifically, the researchers will identify studies documenting longitudinal associations between impulsivity and subsequent outcomes related to school violence. The results will provide new insights to researchers, educators, and policymakers seeking to incorporate impulsivity into existing screening and threat assessment efforts to promote school safety.

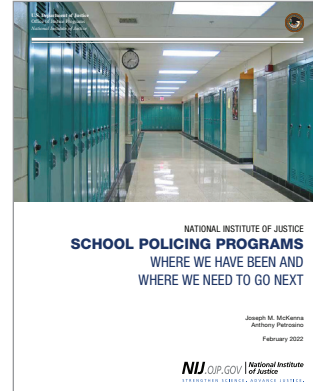
The second funded project will examine the long-term impacts of the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines model. Schools across 51 diverse school districts in five states will use the guidelines to document and track each threat that arises and follow case outcomes for three years following the assessment.

The third project will examine the impact of policy decisions to remove school police officers from a sample of middle and high schools in California. The study will look at the policy reform’s effect on student-reported safety in terms of bullying and other violent victimization; student behavior, including substance use and weapon carrying; and student well-being. Researchers will also look at exclusionary discipline and referrals to law enforcement and how those actions vary by student race and ethnicity.

## Dissemination Highlights

### **Report – School Policing Programs: Where We Have Been and Where We Need To Go Next**

In 2019, NIJ was directed to provide Congress with a report on the state of school policing in the United States that examined the current role of police in schools and provided recommendations on how they can better serve the needs of students. To address this directive, NIJ engaged two consultants to conduct a comprehensive literature review and examination of data sources, facilitate four days of expert panel discussions, and synthesize the results from these data collection efforts. This report is the result of those efforts.



[School Policing Programs: Where We Have Been and Where We Need to Go Next](#)

### **Podcast – The Science of School Safety**

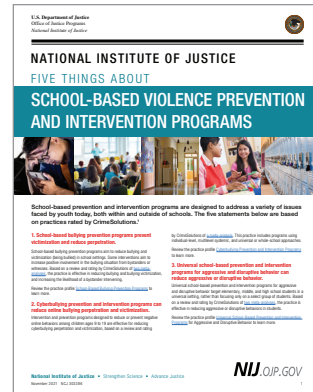
Gun violence may be the most-discussed topic surrounding school safety, but it is by no means the only one. Bullying, school climate, and mental health affect students across the country and are some of the many other research topics that NIJ sponsors. In this episode, Mary Poulin Carlton, NIJ social science analyst, discusses these and other important school safety issues.



[Access the podcast.](#)

### **Five Things About School-Based Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs**

School-based prevention and intervention programs are designed to address a variety of issues faced by youth today, both within and outside of schools. In FY 2022, NIJ compiled five things we know about these programs based on practices rated by CrimeSolutions.



[Access Five Things About School-Based Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs.](#)

## Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons

NIJ continues to build upon its research and evaluation efforts to better understand, prevent, and respond to trafficking in persons in the United States. With the FY 2022 solicitation [“Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons,”](#) NIJ sought proposals for research projects addressing three priority areas: trafficking prevention, strategies to intervene and respond to trafficking, and other understudied areas of research on human trafficking. NIJ funded two awards for a total of \$2.89 million, \$1 million of which was transferred from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).

In one project, researchers will validate the rapid Human Trafficking Screening Tool in a mixed-methods, multisite project. Law enforcement officers and victim advocates use this tool to identify potential adult labor and sex trafficking victims for subsequent assessment and services. Beyond evaluating the reliability and validity of the screening tool, researchers will estimate the prevalence of labor and sex trafficking for each site at which they administer the screening tool, to enhance understanding of the extent of trafficking victimization among populations interacting with law enforcement.

In the second project, researchers will conduct a 48-month, mixed-method process and outcome evaluation of task forces engaged in the Enhanced Collaborative Model to combat human trafficking. The project’s goal is to build understanding of how the task forces impact the investigation and prosecution of sex and labor trafficking cases and the services provided to and outcomes of survivors of human trafficking.

## Research and Evaluation on Hate Crimes

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Hate Crimes](#),” seeking research and evaluation projects that inform efforts to prevent and combat hate crimes and their effects. NIJ was particularly interested in funding research to understand and prevent hate crime offending and reoffending; identify strategies that improve the reporting, investigation, and prosecution of hate crimes; and address the needs of victims of hate crimes and their communities.

NIJ granted three awards for a total of \$2.89 million. Funded research projects include:

- An investigation of the context of anti-LGBTQ hate crime reporting and classification from diverse perspectives, with the goal of increasing reporting and processing of such incidents.
- A project to develop effective hate crime investigation and prosecution strategies for prosecutorial offices that often lack the knowledge and cultural, material, and structural capacity to flag, investigate, and prosecute most hate crimes.
- A multidisciplinary project to increase understanding of the impact of experiencing bias-motivated crime among the Latino community, particularly on service-seeking and health outcomes.

## Evaluation of OJP Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative Projects

A premier new Office of Justice Programs (OJP) effort in 2022 was the [FY 2022 Office of Justice Programs Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative](#). NIJ has an important role in this initiative, supporting research and evaluation of community-based violence initiatives in general and seeking proposals specifically to evaluate expansion and enhancement project sites under the Office of Justice Programs solicitation.

NIJ released the FY 2022 solicitation “[Evaluation of OJP Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative \(CVIPI\) Projects](#),” and ultimately funded two awards for a total of \$1.42 million, which was transferred to NIJ from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA).

One project will evaluate a community-focused violence intervention and prevention program in Greensboro, North Carolina, that emphasizes police and community resource partnerships — including healthcare, education, employment, and reentry — to address community needs at multiple levels. (NOTE: The program is an expansion of an existing program using funding from the OJP solicitation.) The evaluation will measure changes in violent and other crimes, perceptions of safety and police legitimacy, and related outcomes at the individual and neighborhood levels. It will also examine whether the program helps to improve police-community relations and resident attitudes toward police.

A second research team will study the Bronx-Osborne Gun Avoidance Program (BOGAP), a community-based diversion program in New York City. The program assists individuals ages 16-30 with open criminal cases involving first-time felony charges of loaded-gun possession and incorporates employment training, therapeutic services, mentorship, and other services. Over the course of the four-year study, researchers aim to understand the degree to which successful completion of BOGAP results in improved conflict resolution skills, mental health and resilience, social support, and community connections, among other goals.

## **Research and Evaluation on Violent Crime and Firearm Violence in the Community**

NIJ seeks to fund rigorous research and evaluation projects to advance understanding of community violence, including firearm violence, and to support evaluations of policies, legislation, and practices to include those targeted at firearm violence. The FY 2022 solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Violent Crime and Firearm Violence in the Community](#)” resulted in three awards for a total of \$3.3 million.

One funded project aims to deepen our understanding of youths’ experiences of community violence in the District of Columbia (DC). The project will provide youth living in neighborhoods with deep concentrations of community violence with opportunities to examine the compounding factors that have led to disproportionate rates of this violence, identify policy and practice opportunities to address these factors, and work with key decision-makers in DC to implement their research-based recommendations for advancing justice in DC.

Another study will examine the changing dynamics of homicide in Los Angeles from 1990 through 2022 to discern the situational dynamics driving a recent increase in homicides; how these dynamics fit within larger spatial, temporal, and socio-demographic trends; and what levers can prevent these situational factors from driving crime even higher.

In a third project, researchers will partner with the Tampa Police Department to estimate the effect of services and enforcement in facilitating desistance among people who repeatedly perpetrate violent offenses in Tampa, Florida. The study will center on focused deterrence, a part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods community- and policing-based violence prevention initiatives.

## Dissemination Highlights

### **National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention**

In FY 2022, NIJ joined a group of federal agencies and public and private organizations as sponsors of the 2022 National Research Conference on Firearm Injury Prevention, hosted by the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research. This conference focused on highlighting the current state of the science and research on firearm injury prevention across the lifespan.

[Learn more about this event and view the agenda.](#)



### **Mass Attacks Defense Toolkit**

RAND researchers, funded by [an NIJ award](#), created this tool to advance efforts to prevent and reduce intentional, interpersonal firearm violence and public mass attacks in the United States. The goal of this tool is to provide practical strategies and guidance on deterring, mitigating, and responding to mass attacks for a variety of audiences, including public safety experts, practitioners, policymakers, community groups, and the general public.

[Access the toolkit.](#)

### **Article – The Fight Against Rampant Gun Violence: Data-Driven Scientific Research Will Light the Way**

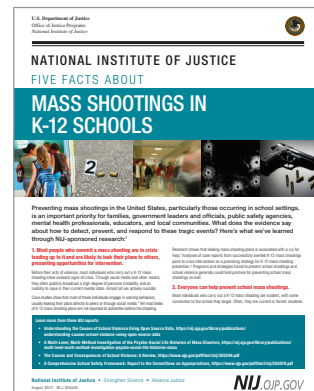
A quarter-century of studies supported by NIJ make clear that multifaceted, data-driven, strategic approaches to firearms violence research have the potential to stem gun trafficking, reduce shootings, and save lives. In several communities, they have already done so. This article first selectively focuses on results of more recent gun violence research managed by NIJ. It then concisely reviews representative lessons gained from NIJ-supported firearms violence research begun in the 25 years from 1991 to 2016, highlighting scientific evaluations of the original Project Safe Neighborhoods and other program models found to be promising in combatting gun violence. It concludes by reflecting on the lessons broadly drawn from both research that focuses on individual perpetrators and victims and that which centers on high-level cross-collaborations that can drive policy and practice reforms and make a systemic impact on gun culture.

[Access the article.](#)

### **Five Facts About Mass Shootings in K-12 Schools**

Preventing mass shootings in the United States, particularly those occurring in school settings, is an important priority for families, government leaders and officials, public safety agencies, mental health professionals, educators, and local communities. What does the evidence say about how to detect, prevent, and respond to these tragic events? This publication succinctly presents what we have learned through NIJ-sponsored research.

[Access Five Facts About Mass Shootings in K-12 Schools.](#)



# Law Enforcement and Policing

NIJ is committed to advancing research that informs efforts to promote civil rights and racial equity, increase access to justice, support crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthen community safety, protect the public from crime and evolving threats, and build trust between law enforcement and the community. NIJ has been a leader in developing and advancing the research evidence on policing.

## Research and Evaluation on Policing

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Policing](#),” seeking proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects that address:

- The impact of reallocation of resources and police operations and functions and the implementation and sustainment of long-term organizational change in policing agencies.
- Police recruitment, retention, and training in today’s environment. NIJ is interested in studies that examine the effects of modified recruitment and training strategies in response to calls for police reform.

NIJ granted six awards for a total of \$6.27 million. Notably, NIJ funded a national platform of research on police staffing to examine the contemporary police staffing experience and assess the changes, challenges, and strategies associated with the current police workforce. A team of nationally recognized policing scholars and practitioners will conduct a national landscape assessment of police agencies, examine peace officer certification standards and training, and develop case studies in five police departments nationwide to study how and why staffing programs and policies are adopted and implemented. The case studies will include a partnership with the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives to study promotions at each study site.

Other funded projects include:

- A six-part study to illuminate the forces that influence racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in recruitment, pre-employment screening, training, and organizational advancement.
- An evaluation of a crisis intervention team program that hired social workers to respond to individuals in mental health crisis, along with intervention team officers.
- A landscape analysis and in-depth study of 12 agencies participating in the New York University Law School’s 30x30 Initiative.

## Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Program

NIJ continues to sponsor and expand the Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) program, which supports the professional development of law enforcement officers and civilians who engage in research and champion the integration of proven policies and practices within and between agencies. NIJ LEADS scholars are pioneers in the evidence-based policing movement.

In FY 2022, NIJ supported 10 law enforcement scholars and three civilian scholars.

Law enforcement scholars:

- Lt. Ja’Nae McGee, Arlington (Texas) Police Department
- Sgt. Anthony Gibson, Charleston (South Carolina) Police Department
- Sgt. Jon Utz, Chicago Police Department
- Officer Jimmy Baldea, Manchester (Vermont) Police Department
- Lt. Rachel Rados, Seminole County (Florida) Sheriff’s Office
- Sgt. Harvey Sham, New York City Police Department
- Lt. Jason North, Alexandria (Virginia) Police Department
- Sgt. Thomas Bilach, New York City Police Department
- Capt. Dalton Majors, Burlington (North Carolina) Police Department
- Lt. Christopher Bagby, Bakersfield (California) Police Department

Civilian scholars:

- Staci Yutzie, Oregon Department of Public Safety and Standards
- Ryan Perlongo, New York State Division of Criminal Services
- Blake Christenson, Denver Department of Public Safety

[Read bios of all the LEADS scholars.](#)

The LEADS program is supported as part of the NIJ-funded Criminal Justice Requirements and Resources Consortium through an [award to the RAND Corporation](#).

## NIJ Compliance Testing Program for Body Armor

The NIJ Compliance Testing Program (CTP) is a body armor certification program to ensure U.S. law enforcement and correctional agencies and personnel that the body armor they



purchase and use performs according to minimum performance requirements to protect against common handgun and rifle threats. Since the NIJ CTP began accepting armor submissions to meet the requirements of NIJ's current body armor performance standard in 2009, over 1,800 unique models of ballistic-resistant body armor have been submitted to the NIJ CTP for compliance testing through December 31, 2022.

Approximately 38% of those body armor models submitted for certification testing have failed and not made it through the program. In FY 2022 specifically, a total of 77 armor models were tested at the accredited ballistics laboratories recognized by NIJ, with 49 models passing and 28 failing. These numbers are a sober reminder of how important it is to have performance standards like NIJ's and an effective quality assurance program like the NIJ CTP for critical life-safety equipment to keep officers safe from the danger posed by firearms assaults.

Use of NIJ-certified body armor is ubiquitous among U.S. law enforcement and corrections agencies, and many agencies outside the U.S. even use NIJ standards and NIJ-certified armor. Currently, NIJ's Compliant Products List (CPL) includes over 400 models of ballistic-resistant body armor that have passed testing and meet NIJ's program requirements. Notably, the Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) requires that armor purchased by state and local agencies with BVP funds must be listed by NIJ. Since 1999, the BVP program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$548 million in federal funds for the purchase of nearly 1.5 million vests (1,490,930).

Industry participation in the NIJ CTP is voluntary, although it is recognized by body armor manufacturers as the standard in body armor quality assurance. At the end of 2022, the NIJ CTP had 82 participants worldwide, with 127 manufacturing facilities at 73 locations in the continental U.S. and 54 locations outside the U.S. The NIJ CTP also recognizes Body Armor Quality Management System Requirements called BA 9000, which are optional quality assurance requirements with which body armor manufacturers can choose to certify their manufacturing locations. There are currently 16 manufacturing locations certified to BA 9000 operated by 15 of the NIJ CTP participants, representing 228 models (55%) of the ballistic-resistant body armor currently listed on the CPL.

To ensure that body armor certified by NIJ continues to perform as expected, the NIJ CTP conducts Follow-Up Inspection and Testing (FIT). This includes periodic retesting and inspection of armor produced in manufacturing facilities. Should any armor units fail testing, the NIJ CTP can issue an advisory notice to suspend an armor model from NIJ's list or a safety notice to permanently remove an armor model. In FY 2022, the NIJ CTP issued advisory notices for three armor models.

## Updating the NIJ Body Armor Standard

NIJ published its first performance standard for ballistic-resistant police body armor in 1972. In FY 2022, NIJ continued to develop its revision of *NIJ Standard 0101.06, Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor*. The seventh revision, released in FY 2024, includes improved test methods and procedures — particularly for female body armor — and updated body armor protection levels that incorporate additional rifle threats faced by U.S. law enforcement, all of which result in better protection for officers wearing body armor.

The revision process has included the guidance and input of a large group of end users and technical experts. Unlike previous revisions of the NIJ body armor standard, which have been comprehensive, standalone documents, the revised NIJ standard references 10 American

Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. These include standardized methods for laboratory measurements, ballistic testing, and data collection developed through the open and inclusive ASTM standards development process, with participation and input from a range of stakeholders, including materials and equipment producers.

## Corrections and Reentry

The care, custody, support, and safety of adults and juveniles under correctional supervision represent a core area of concern for NIJ. NIJ is committed to supporting research and evaluation on issues that have an impact on individuals under correctional supervision, corrections agencies and personnel, and people exiting correctional confinement and the communities and families to which they return.

### NIJ Support for Implementation of the First Step Act

NIJ continues to support the Department of Justice and the implementation of the First Step Act (FSA) of 2018. The FSA mandates the development and implementation of a risk and needs assessment system for use with each person in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP). In December 2021, NIJ released a [report](#) documenting the second statutorily mandated review and validation of the BOP’s risk assessment tool, the Prisoner Assessment Tool Targeting Estimated Risk and Needs (PATTERN). Findings from the review and validation will help inform future improvements to the tool.

Relatedly, NIJ awarded consultant contracts to three subject matter experts to conduct the mandated review and validation of the BOP’s needs assessment system, Standardized Prisoner Assessment for Reduction in Criminality (SPARC-13). The needs assessment system currently used by BOP assesses 13 needs, 12 of which were identified and assessed pre-FSA. The thirteenth need, dyslexia, is statutorily required by the FSA to be included in BOP’s needs assessment process. The first review and validation of SPARC-13 is underway. This work is funded under the statement of work “[Review and Revalidation of the Bureau of Prisons Needs Assessment System.](#)” In FY 2022, NIJ funded two awards in support of this work, for a total of \$180,375.

Additionally, NIJ funded a \$12.5 million contract to evaluate a subset of reentry programs offered by the BOP in response to the FSA. The FSA requires “ongoing research and data analysis” on evidence-based recidivism reduction programs” (See 18 U.S.C. § 3631(b)(3)(A)–(C).) Evaluation results are expected in 2026.

### Design, Implementation, and Testing of a National Model for Technical Violations

Of the individuals released from incarceration every year, approximately two-thirds are likely to be rearrested within three years of release. A significant percentage of those are returned to prison for technical violations of their conditions of release, not necessarily related to the

commission of a new crime. Nearly half of all U.S. prison intakes may be due to a revocation from probation or parole.

In FY 2022, NIJ issued the solicitation “[Design, Implementation, and Testing of a National Model for Technical Violations](#),” and funded \$3.98 million for one multisite evaluation of the Organizational Coaching Model, which seeks to shift the organizational culture of a probation or parole agency from one oriented toward detecting failure to one promoting client success. The goal of the project is to examine the effects of a coaching model on improving outcomes for those on probation or parole.

## Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation “[Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts](#)” and, in collaboration with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, funded a \$3 million multisite impact and cost-efficiency evaluation of veterans treatment courts. (The funding for this project was transferred to NIJ from BJA.) The researchers will lead a cross-site evaluation involving court and research partners in up to six veterans treatment courts across the U.S. The study will examine:

- Program impact on relapse, recidivism, and other outcomes.
- For whom programs are effective.
- Which program elements are effective.
- Whether programs are cost-efficient.

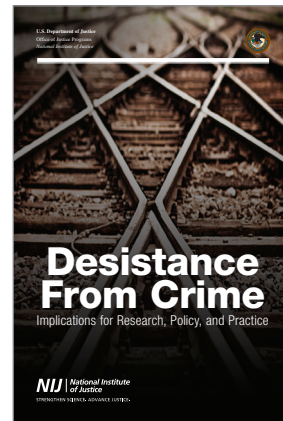
### Dissemination Highlight

#### ***Report – Desistance From Crime: Implications for Research, Policy, and Practice***

In this collection, experts explore critical questions surrounding the process of individuals ceasing engagement in criminal activities, referred to as “desistance.” They discuss how to conceptualize and measure desistance and offer innovative ways of using desistance-focused approaches in criminal justice practice, policy, and research.

This collection takes important steps in describing how a desistance framework can move the field forward across key decision points in the criminal justice system. As a result, the field will be better positioned to meet the needs of stakeholders, improve individual outcomes, and effectively reduce crime and promote public safety for communities throughout the United States.

[Access the full volume.](#)



## Dissemination Highlights

### Article – *Desistance From Crime: On the Frontier of Criminal Justice Research*

This article by NIJ scientists reviewing NIJ’s research investments in the area of desistance appeared in the November 2021 issue of the American Correctional Association’s *Corrections Today*.

[Read the article.](#)

### Podcast – *Desistance: It’s a Process, Not an Event*

Desistance is the process of individuals ceasing engagement in criminal activity. It may sound simple, but it is quite complex. The more we understand it, the better equipped we are to help accelerate the process for people pre-incarceration, during incarceration, and post-release from prison or jail. Listen to a conversation with Senior Social Science Analyst Marie Garcia, Senior Advisor Ben Adams, and Social Science Research Analyst Kaitlyn Sill on the desistance process.

[Access the podcast.](#)



# Administration of Justice

NIJ sponsors criminal court research and court-based program evaluations to identify tools, programs, and policies that meet criminal justice goals, including fair and equitable treatment of victims and defendants, as well as public safety and cost efficiency.

## Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice: Diversion and Restorative Justice

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice: Diversion and Restorative Justice](#),” inviting rigorous research and evaluation proposals to examine the impact of court tools, practices, and policies on the administration of justice and public safety in state, local, and tribal jurisdictions. Specifically, NIJ examined the impact of two research priorities on the administration of justice and public safety:

- Diversion programs promoting alternatives to incarceration for persons experiencing mental health issues.
- Restorative justice strategies.

NIJ granted three awards for a total of \$2.36 million, \$500,000 of which was transferred from the OVC, under this solicitation:

- An examination of outcomes of the Tucson Police Department strategy to divert crisis calls from individuals with mental health issues toward community-based treatment and away from the justice system.
- A study of the integration of Tucson’s 911 call center with crisis line staff to better identify those who can be diverted from the criminal justice system to behavioral health treatment, compared to the traditional 911 Public Safety Answering Point process.
- An investigation of the outcomes and impacts of restorative justice programs for adults charged with serious and violent offenses, with the goal of expanding knowledge of the use and implementation of such programs.

## W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System

The W.E.B. Du Bois Program supports quantitative and qualitative research that furthers the U.S. Department of Justice’s mission by advancing knowledge regarding the intersections of race, crime, violence, and the administration of justice within the United States.

NIJ launched the W.E.B. Du Bois Program in 2000. It supported scholarly research until 2018, when the program was paused. NIJ was pleased to relaunch this program in late FY 2021 and fund new awards in FY 2022 under the FY 2021 solicitation “[W.E.B. Du Bois Program of](#)

[Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System.](#)” NIJ granted four awards for a total of \$2.65 million under the FY 2021 solicitation. These awards included:

- An examination of the social, economic, and legal consequences of “shadow costs” (i.e., financial outlays and expenditures not immediately quantifiable by the state but ordered as part of a reentry or rehabilitation treatment program).
- An evaluation of the impact of Arizona’s ban on peremptory challenges with a focus on racial bias in jury selection and case outcomes.
- An assessment of the causes of racial disparities in drug courts.
- An examination of the effect of Oregon’s Measure 110 — which decriminalized the possession of small amounts of all drugs for personal use — on violent and property crime and clearance rates and on racial and ethnic disparities in criminal justice outcomes.

## **Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System: A Study of Existing Evidence and Public Policy Implications**

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation “[Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System: A Study of Existing Evidence and Public Policy Implications](#)” and funded \$796,008 for one study to conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing evidence to examine how public policy might reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system.

Researchers will conduct systematic reviews and meta-analyses in the areas of policing, juvenile justice, criminal courts and sentencing, corrections, and capital punishment. Among other areas, they are focusing on police decisions to arrest, stop-and-frisk (or stop-and-search), and employ force, along with pretrial diversion and plea-bargaining decisions. The project goals are to conduct a comprehensive review of research focusing on racial and ethnic disparities in the criminal justice system, identify policies and practices that have exacerbated disparities, and interventions that have the potential to reduce these undesired outcomes.

## **Engagement With the Office for Access to Justice**

In FY 2022, NIJ began discussions with the Department of Justice’s Office for Access to Justice (ATJ) to explore the agency’s mutual interest and the potential for collaboration. ATJ’s mission is to help the justice system efficiently deliver outcomes that are fair and accessible to all, irrespective of wealth and status. ATJ is dedicated to improving the federal government’s understanding of and capacity to address the most urgent legal needs of communities across America.

NIJ’s collaboration with ATJ in FY 2022 was designed to set a foundation for mutually agreed upon research inquiries to pursue in FY 2023.

# Tribal Crime and Justice Research

NIJ's tribal crime and justice research projects aim to provide an accurate reporting of crime and violence on tribal lands as well as reliable, valid estimates of the scope of the problem. This research also seeks to identify barriers to and possible solutions for addressing these significant public safety issues. NIJ's efforts also include developing the research capacity to address matters of justice in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

While NIJ did not release a solicitation in FY 2022 focused specifically on tribal crime and justice, the Institute did fund two research projects, for a total of \$1.35 million, that focus on this issue under the solicitation "[Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women](#)."

The first project will leverage the Fourth R youth dating violence curriculum for Indigenous communities. Fourth R is a universal prevention approach to educate adolescents about dating safety and risk in a school setting. The goal of the project is to adapt the Fourth R curriculum for Indigenous populations, evaluate the effectiveness of the program, and implement it in partnership with tribal schools.

In the second project, researchers will study the scope and context of missing and murdered Indigenous persons in New Mexico. This project is a replication and extension of a [previous NIJ award](#) made under the 2019 NIJ tribal-researcher capacity-building partnership solicitation. Under that award, researchers conducted a pilot study on the scope of missing and murdered Native persons in Nebraska and provided a replicable model for other states to employ. This study aims to address two broad goals:

- Use the "Nebraska Model" developed in the pilot study to examine the scope and context of missing and murdered Indigenous people in New Mexico.
- Extend prior research by identifying gaps in current data collection and provide recommendations for improving long-term data collection and sustainable data reporting for cases of missing and murdered Indigenous people in New Mexico.

## Tribal Advisory Task Force

OVW held a meeting of the Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women on December 13, 2022. The Task Force on Research on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women (commonly referred to as the Section 904 Task Force) is a federal advisory committee that provides advice and recommendations on the NIJ program of research on violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

Established in March 2008, the task force was formed in response to an amendment to Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005 (VAWA 2005). This amendment required the Attorney General to establish a task force to assist NIJ in developing and implementing a program of research on violence against American Indian and Alaska Native women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, sex trafficking, and murder. The program will evaluate the effectiveness of the federal, state, tribal, and local response to violence against Indian women and propose recommendations to improve the government response.

[Read more about the Task Force.](#)

## Not Invisible Act Commission

NIJ staff serve on the Not Invisible Act of 2019 Commission, a cross-jurisdictional advisory committee composed of law enforcement, tribal leaders, federal partners, service providers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors. The commission's purpose is to make recommendations to the Departments of the Interior and Justice to:

- Improve intergovernmental coordination and establish best practices for state, tribal, and federal law enforcement.
- Bolster resources for survivors and victims' families.
- Combat the epidemic of missing persons, murder, and trafficking in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

[Read more about the Commission.](#)

## NamUs and Tribal Justice Support

The [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUs\)](#) offers powerful technology and forensic services to resolve missing and unidentified person cases and gives tribal law enforcement agencies and tribal leaders insight into the nature and number of missing persons within their communities and beyond their tribal jurisdictions.

NIJ strives to ensure that tribal agencies and leaders are aware of and understand how to use NamUs through targeted outreach and awareness efforts. To meet that goal in FY 2022, NamUs participated in several tribal engagements and conducted training and technical assistance to users who may report, track, or update tribal-related cases in the application.

In one example, NamUs provided training under the Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons track at the 2022 Tribal Justice, Safety, and Wellness Summit held June 6-9, 2022. The summit featured training for federal, state, and tribal law enforcement; prosecutors, advocates, and court staff; victim/witness services staff; and tribal leaders.



NamUs supported tribal communities through participation in tribal-related events and trainings, including:

- Missing from Fort Apache Day
- Montana Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day
- Arizona State Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples Awareness Day
- 29th Annual Four Corners Indian Country Conference
- Tribal Justice, Safety, and Wellness Summit
- 17th Annual Government-to-Government Violence Against Women Tribal Consultation
- Next Steps Conference on Missing & Murdered Indigenous People
- National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

The NamUs program also provided an overview of its program to several working groups, including the Strong Hearted Native Women’s Coalition, Alaska Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Working Group, International Association of Chiefs of Police Indian Country Law Enforcement Section, and Oklahoma Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Chapter.

Also in FY 2022, NamUs worked extensively with the Navaho Nation. With 23 communities, the Navajo Nation is the largest U.S. tribal nation and accounts for over 47% of the total Native American population. Engagements included:

- Hosting training and a listening session with the Navajo Nation Police Department to discuss how NamUs and the tribal community can work together to solve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases. The training had representation from six Navajo districts.
- Working with state agencies, such as the New Mexico Office of the Medical Investigator (which also serves the Navajo Nation) to increase Navajo Nation case entries into NamUs.
- Attending a meeting focused on mapping systems, processes, and resources intended to solve missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases within the Navajo community.
- Meeting with the Albuquerque FBI Field Office to ensure data accuracy related to 170 missing American Indian/Alaska Native cases from New Mexico to include all Navajo Nation cases in other states (e.g., Arizona and Utah).

Finally, NamUs representatives participated in the U.S. Attorney's Savanna's Act Consultation Sessions, joining law enforcement, government officials, and nongovernment officials seeking to improve the response to murdered and missing Indigenous persons cases.

## American Indian/Alaska Native Case Data

Missing Persons	Unidentified Persons	Unclaimed Persons
<b>1,004</b> Current Active Cases	<b>182</b> Current Active Cases	<b>31</b> Current Active Cases
<b>194</b> Tribal Enrollment/ Affiliation	<b>284</b> Found on Tribal Land	<b>0</b> Found on Tribal Land
<b>94</b> Primary Residence on Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Primary Residence on Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Primary Residence on Tribal Land
<b>357</b> Missing From Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Missing From Tribal Land	<b>N/A</b> Missing From Tribal Land

# Forensic Science

Forensic science is the application of sciences such as physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, and engineering to matters of law. NIJ's forensic science research and development program supports basic and applied research as well as technology development; it seeks to enhance and expand forensic methods and increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice.

## NIJ's Forensic Science Strategic Research Plan

In FY 2022, NIJ developed its Forensic Science Strategic Research Plan to communicate its research agenda and advance its forensic science research mission. The strategic priorities and objectives outlined in this plan closely parallel the opportunities and challenges the forensic science community faces. This document was designed for crime laboratory and medicolegal death investigation professionals; researchers and technology developers (academia, government, and industry); the legal community (defense, prosecution, and judiciary); federal, state, local, tribal, and international partners; policymakers; and other stakeholders.

[Read the plan.](#)

## Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes

In FY 2022, NIJ released the research solicitation “[NIJ FY22 Research and Development in Forensic Sciences for Criminal Justice Purposes](#).” The solicitation sought proposals for rigorous basic and applied research and development projects, inviting discrete, specific, and circumscribed forensic science projects that will increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice or lead to the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic applications. NIJ granted 23 awards totaling \$11.68 million, \$6.9 million of which was transferred to NIJ from BJA and \$200,000 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The following are summaries of three of the 23 awards made under this solicitation ([see the full list of awards on NIJ.ojp.gov](#)):

- [Assessing the Effectiveness of Forensic Genetic Genealogy Techniques for Persons of Color](#)

Because DNA sequencing can detect distant relatives using genealogy databases, forensic agencies have applied genetic genealogical and related methods to unsolved forensic investigations. However, continuous migration and mixing of historically distinct groups may impact the effectiveness of this approach. This study will assess the effectiveness of forensic genetic genealogy techniques for persons identified as Black, Hispanic, and Native American. NIJ provided Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International with \$556,300 to pursue this research.

- [Creating a Rapid Field Test to Identify and Distinguish Between Hemp and Marijuana](#)

It is increasingly important for law enforcement agencies to distinguish between hemp and marijuana. Hemp and marijuana plants are simply variants of the same species, *Cannabis sativa*, making them difficult to differentiate from one another. The development of an

approach to rapidly distinguish between these Cannabis sativa varieties would aid forensic investigation and help triage evidence submitted to forensic laboratories for confirmatory testing. NIJ has funded the State University of New York to develop a screening method to differentiate between hemp and marijuana. NIJ provided \$604,176 for this research.

- **[Using the Microbiome to Estimate Time of Death](#)**

Estimating time of death is important for death investigations, particularly criminal investigations where investigators must verify alibis. However, it can be difficult to estimate the postmortem interval after the first several days of death, especially in the absence of other physical evidence such as last known communications or insect activity. This study will create and validate a microbial-based model to predict post-mortem intervals across locations in the United States. Researchers will develop a tool in which the microbiome, present on skin or in nearby soils, is used as physical evidence to estimate post-mortem intervals. NIJ provided Colorado State University with \$834,503 to pursue this research.

## **Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories**

In FY 2022, NIJ released the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories](#)” to invite applications for research and evaluation studies to produce practical knowledge that has the potential to improve the examination and interpretation of physical evidence in forensic science laboratories. NIJ funded four awards for a total of \$1.33 million, which was transferred to NIJ from BJA.

- Glass and tape are among the trace materials most often submitted to forensic laboratories, as their physical and chemical examination can provide valuable information in forensic investigations. This project will seek to develop and validate improved protocols for collecting, examining, and interpreting contemporary glass and tape evidence and increase reliability in the analysis and interpretation of physical evidence.
- A key component of the federal Endangered Species Act is the protection of endangered wildlife species. Though existing forensic tools can use recovered DNA to identify whether a species is on the endangered list, DNA recovery is limited for processed source materials (e.g., processed hides and pelts), likely due to the extreme chemicals used in fur manufacturing. Under this award, researchers will use the evolutionary history of proteins to close this major enforcement gap and develop protocols to identify species on the federal Endangered Species Act in cases where suitable DNA is not recovered.
- Ignitable liquid identification is based on pattern recognition techniques using chromatographic patterns. While the analytical processes associated with the analysis of fire debris for the presence of ignitable liquids are based on fundamental chemical properties, the interpretation process is subjective. The third award will fund a study designed to establish more consistency in interpretation and reporting for ignitable liquid identification, specifically substances other than gasoline.
- The fourth award is for an evaluation of two instruments designed to improve DNA identification: ForenSeq™ and the PowerSeq® 46GY System. Expected products will aid in forensic DNA interpretation and will lead to more standardization by reducing subjectivity.

## Rapid DNA Crime Scene Sample Multilaboratory Evaluation Project

The FBI's Technology Advancement Task Group published a joint position statement with the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods and the DNA Working Group of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes regarding the use of rapid DNA technology on forensic evidence for state and national DNA databases. The statement identified five major areas that must be addressed before rapid DNA instruments can be tested and considered for the analysis of forensic evidence for state and national databasing purposes.

In FY 2022, NIJ provided an additional \$500,000 (transferred to NIJ from the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) to the FBI Laboratory to coordinate a collaborative study with 12 laboratories to test the limitations of the enhanced rapid DNA technology on crime scene samples. This study will support the [Rapid DNA Task Force recommendations](#) for research prior to implementing the technology in state or national databases.

## Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

NIJ's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) is an established leader in the advancement of forensic science within the criminal justice community. Its expertise in forensic science, combined with its objectivity and ability to include representatives from justice program stakeholders nationwide, allows the FTCoE to deliver practical and valuable solutions to the forensic science community, thereby bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners.

In FY 2022, NIJ provided an additional \$4 million to continue the activities of the center. Of that amount, \$1.5 million was transferred to NIJ from BJA and \$300,000 from the CDC.

See the [2022 Forensic Technology Center of Excellence's Annual Metrics Report and Infographic](#) to learn more about the FTCoE's accomplishments.

## Research Forensics Library

Forensic science practitioners do not always have easy access to the latest scientific research literature. In FY 2022, NIJ awarded \$300,000 in supplemental funding to Florida International University to support the continued development and operation of the [Research Forensic Library](#), a national forensic science service to identify, curate, and make available open-access scholarly literature relevant to the forensic science research and practitioner communities. The FTCoE will:

- Maintain an online library infrastructure to support the identification and management of research publications, citations, databases, foundational literature, reference materials, and other primary and secondary source materials.
- Identify and implement ways to disseminate research findings and best practices and provide access to forensic science and other scientific literature for forensic science practitioners, particularly at the state and local levels.

## **An Eventful Year for Forensic Sciences**

NIJ's forensic scientists and grantees hosted, supported, and presented at a number of important events in FY 2022, including those featured below.

### ***2022 NIJ Forensic Science Research Symposium***

NIJ is committed to improving the practice of forensic science and strengthening its impact through the support of research and development, rigorous technology evaluation and adoption, effective knowledge transfer and education, and comprehensive dissemination of best practices and guidelines to agencies dedicated to combating crime. In the interest of supporting advances in forensic science and dissemination of research findings, NIJ partners with the FTCoE to host the annual NIJ Forensic Science Research and Development Symposium. The 2022 symposium, which was held 100% virtually, enabled NIJ grantees to present their research to other researchers and practitioners.

[Read more about the symposium.](#)

### ***Inaugural 2022 NIJ Forensic Science Graduate Research Symposium***

NIJ has long hosted an annual Forensic Science Research and Development Symposium in which NIJ grantees present their research findings to promote the transition of research into practice. The inaugural NIJ Forensic Science Graduate Research Symposium aimed to provide a similar platform for graduate students and early career scientists. In addition, the symposium presented an excellent opportunity for new researchers, including current and former NIJ Graduate Research Fellows, to present their work to a broad audience.

[Read more about the symposium.](#)

### ***Digital Evidence at the American Academy of Forensic Science Annual Conference***

In February 2022, NIJ presented on *Sextortion: Understanding Perpetrator Behavior and the Digital Evidence Available to Investigators* at the American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Conference in Seattle, Washington, along with Dr. Kate Siegfried-Spellman from Purdue University and Danielle Crimmins from the University of Baltimore.

[Access the agenda.](#)

### ***2022 Firearm and Toolmarks Policy and Practice Forum***

In January 2022, NIJ and the FTCoE hosted a four-day, no-cost *Firearm and Toolmarks Policy and Practice Forum* to explore new developments in the foundations of firearm and toolmark examination and address the implementation of new technologies into workflows. Additionally, the Forum informed firearm and toolmark examiners on the legal issues surrounding firearm testimony and recent court decisions. The event convened several hundred criminal justice practitioners representing federal, state, and local agencies and subject matter experts from across the United States.

[Read more about the forum.](#)

### ***2021 Forensic Science Research Federal Stakeholders Public Meeting***

In November 2021, NIJ and the National Institute of Standards and Technology hosted a half-day open session to make crime laboratories, medical examiner and coroner offices, research institutions, law enforcement, officers of the court, and policymakers aware of federal research activities and to help identify areas needing additional collaboration. The audience also learned about NIJ's Forensic Laboratory Needs Technology Working Group, which facilitates discussions on the needs, challenges, and solutions regarding implementation of research products into operational practice.

[Read more about the meeting.](#)

### ***NIJ at Pittcon 2022***

In November 2021, NIJ hosted four oral sessions with a total of 25 speakers at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (Pittcon). Because of the pandemic, the 2021 meeting was held online.

Pittcon is an annual conference encompassing a wide range of applied chemical and biological analysis. Since 2018, NIJ has organized a Forensic Science Symposium at Pittcon to highlight the work of NIJ-supported researchers and reach a broad and talented community of future applicants.

# Supporting Victims of Crime

NIJ's research on victims of crime continues to support efforts to guarantee the rights of victims and provide them with essential resources, including evaluation of the services and programs designed to meet their needs.

## Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime

In FY 2022 and in collaboration with the OVC, NIJ released the solicitation "[Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime](#)," seeking research proposals in three main areas: supporting victims of community violence, estimating the financial costs of crime victimization, and evaluating programs that provide services for victims of crime.

In FY 2022, NIJ made three awards totaling \$2.39 million, which was transferred to NIJ from OVC.

- A mixed-methods evaluation of a long-term services program for victims of child sex trafficking.
- An assessment of the Montgomery County, Maryland, Family Justice Center, which offers coordinated services to survivors of intimate partner violence.
- Implementation and evaluation of the VictimConnect Resource Center, a national referral helpline that serves crime victims through softphone (Voice Over Internet Protocol), chat, text, and website resources.



# Juvenile Justice

NIJ collaborates closely with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) — another component of the Office of Justice Programs — to support high-quality, rigorous research, evaluations, and statistical analyses related to juvenile justice and the prevention of and responses to juvenile delinquency and victimization. This research provides information about the risk and protective factors that contribute to or deter a youth’s involvement in the juvenile justice system. It also helps the field understand adolescent behaviors, system responses, and the interventions that are most likely to promote positive youth outcomes.

## Research on Juvenile Justice Topics

In FY 2022 and in collaboration with OJJDP, NIJ released the solicitation “[Research on Juvenile Justice Topics](#),” inviting proposals for studies to advance knowledge and understanding in one of three priority topic areas:

- Juvenile indigent defense in delinquency proceedings.
- Co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in juvenile residential facilities.
- Assessment of dual system youth data linkage capacity across juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

NIJ funded three projects in FY 2022 for a total of \$1.26 million, which was transferred to NIJ from OJJDP.

- One project will examine the prevalence of co-occurring disorders among youth in long-term juvenile residential institutions in Florida. The goals of the project include determining the prevalence and co-occurrence of confined youth’s mental health and substance use disorders, as well as assessing the impact of services matched to confined youth’s assessed dynamic risk factors. The study aims to generate evidence-informed best practices for treatment of youth within juvenile residential facilities.
- In a second study, researchers will estimate the prevalence of youth with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders in select juvenile facilities that screen and assess all youth. In addition, it will evaluate agency processes for identifying and treating youth with these co-occurring disorders. Accurate screening, diagnosing, and treatment of youth with these disorders are important in supporting their overall well-being and preventing further justice system involvement.
- For the third funded project, researchers will conduct a multimethod, multisite analysis of youth defense delivery systems, practices, and associated outcomes. The study includes an analysis of the National Juvenile Court Data Archive, hosted by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, and interviews with youth legal counsel, guided by the National Juvenile Defense Standards.

## National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program

In collaboration with OJJDP, NIJ released the solicitation “[National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program](#)” in FY 2022, inviting proposals for an entity to support and enhance the National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program (NJJJAP). NIJ funded one award for a total of \$2.4 million, which was transferred to NIJ from OJJDP.

The grantee will work collaboratively with NIJ and OJJDP to make significant advances in the way juvenile justice data are analyzed and made available through new and innovative dissemination strategies and tools that facilitate access to, and use of, juvenile justice-related data to inform juvenile justice policy and practice at the federal, state, and local levels. This program will continue to produce vital statistical information to the field regarding juvenile risk behaviors, juvenile victimization, juvenile offending, and the juvenile justice system’s response to law-violating behavior.

### Dissemination Highlights

#### **Statistical Briefing Book**

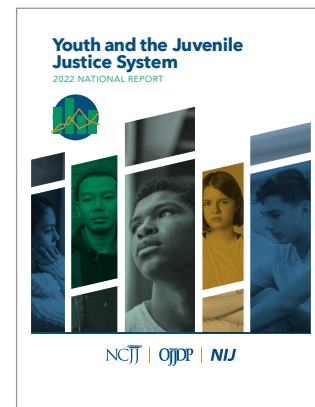
OJJDP’s Statistical Briefing Book is funded under this program. It enables users to access online information to learn more about juvenile crime and victimization and youth involved in the juvenile justice system. The briefing book provides timely and reliable statistical answers to the most frequently asked questions from policymakers, the media, and the public.

[Explore the Statistical Briefing Book.](#)

#### **Youth and the Juvenile Justice System: 2022 National Report**

This report, produced by OJJDP and NIJ, is the fifth edition of a comprehensive report on youth victimization, offending by youth, and the juvenile justice system. It presents the most-requested information on youth and the juvenile justice system in the U.S., drawing on reliable data and relevant research to provide a comprehensive and insightful view of youth victims and offending by youth, and what happens to them when they enter the juvenile justice system.

[Read the report.](#)



## Research on Monitoring Child Maltreatment in Youth Serving Organizations

Upon a Congressional directive, NIJ released the FY 2022 solicitation “[Research on Monitoring Child Maltreatment in Youth Serving Organizations](#),” inviting proposals from accredited research universities to conduct a feasibility study on the establishment of a federal system to count and track cases of sexual abuse and other forms of maltreatment in youth serving organizations. NIJ funded one project under this solicitation for \$1.5 million to the University of New Hampshire.

## Youth Mentoring Research and Evaluation

NIJ’s FY 2022 solicitation “[Youth Mentoring Research and Evaluation](#)” was released to invite proposals for rigorous research and evaluation on youth mentoring programs, to address one or more of the following priority areas:

- Increasing the capacity of youth mentoring programs for achieving broad, population-level impacts.
- Understanding how mentoring can advance change mechanisms promoting positive youth development.
- Examining the long-term effects of program participation on youth.
- Optimizing program effectiveness through iterative cycles of development paired with rigorous evaluation feedback.

NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$1.16 million, which was transferred to NIJ from OJJDP.

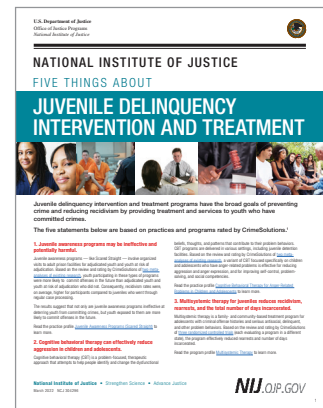
- One project will explore mentoring practices using data from the Mentoring Enhancement Demonstration program, supported by OJJDP. The researchers will conduct a secondary data analysis using a rich dataset collected from a previous 2018 study of the same program. Continued exploration of the results and methods used in the program will continue to build practitioner and researcher knowledge.
- Another study will identify the change mechanisms through which “credible messenger” mentoring programs — those that employ people with lived experience in the juvenile justice system to serve as mentors — can promote positive youth development and healing in structurally marginalized, justice-impacted, and predominantly Black and Latino communities in Atlanta, Birmingham, and Houston.
- A third project will evaluate a toolkit that is designed and integrated into the Big Brothers Big Sisters’ Beyond School Walls mentoring program. The goal of the project is to enhance mentees’ social capital development and prevent juvenile delinquency while mentees work toward their postsecondary college and career goals.

### Dissemination Highlight

#### ***Five Things About Juvenile Delinquency Intervention and Treatment***

Juvenile delinquency intervention and treatment programs have the broad goals of preventing crime and reducing recidivism by providing treatment and services to youth who have committed crimes.

[Five Things About Juvenile Delinquency Intervention and Treatment](#) presents five statements on what works and what does not work based on practices and programs rated by NIJ’s CrimeSolutions.



# Improving the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

## National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

The [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUs\)](#) is a national information clearinghouse that responds to the need to assist state and local law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners, allied professionals, and the public with resolving missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases. It is a web-based system that provides resources at no cost to law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, allied forensic professionals, and family members of missing persons. NamUs also provides DNA analysis services to coroners and medical examiners to aid in the identification of persons. In addition, through a partnership with the FBI, NamUs has used fingerprints to help identify numerous previously unidentified persons from medical examiner-coroner offices nationwide.

NamUs has criminal justice users in all 50 states and is a collaborative system that bridges the communication gap among stakeholder communities to foster enhanced information sharing and case support. As of September 2022, NamUs housed nearly 46,000 missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases. Investigators using NamUs successfully archived 3,400 cases during the same time.

NIJ strives to ensure that tribal agencies and leaders are aware of and understand how to use NamUs through targeted outreach and awareness efforts. More information about these efforts can be found in the section “NamUs and Tribal Justice Support.”

NIJ continues to support NamUs, which was developed to provide national assistance in the search for those living and deceased, in hopes of resolving these cases. In FY 2022, NIJ provided an additional \$5.7 million, \$3.6 million of which was transferred to NIJ from BJA, to continue operation of NamUs.

## CrimeSolutions

[CrimeSolutions](#) is a central repository of research evidence to help practitioners and policymakers understand what works in justice-related programs and practices. Its purpose is to assist in practical decision-making and program implementation by gathering information on justice-related programs and practices and reviewing evaluations and meta-analyses against standard criteria. Programs and practices rated and posted by CrimeSolutions also populate OJJDP’s [Model Programs Guide](#) and [National Mentoring Resource Center](#).

In FY 2022, 26 programs and nine practices received ratings based on a CrimeSolutions review.

Review and ratings of programs and practices are performed under a contract with Development Services Group, Inc. In FY 2022, NIJ and OJJDP provided funding to the program (\$548,000 and \$450,000, respectively).

## Criminal Justice Requirements and Resources Consortium

In FY 2018, NIJ funded the RAND Corporation to host the Criminal Justice Requirements and Resources Consortium to help drive innovation in criminal justice research by informing practitioners, policymakers, industry providers, federal agencies, and NIJ of the emerging problems and opportunities in the criminal justice community.

Recognizing that research innovation also comes from within criminal justice agencies, NIJ also funded the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), as part of the consortium, to continue supporting the Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) program. [Learn more about LEADS in the next section.](#)

NIJ provided an additional \$1.55 million to support the activities of the consortium in FY 2022.

In FY 2022, the consortium published five reports:

- [Reducing Deaths in Law Enforcement Custody: Identifying High-Priority Needs for the Criminal Justice System.](#)
- [Amplifying the Speakers: Identifying High-Priority Needs for Law Enforcement Public Information Officers.](#)
- [Intimate Partner Abuse Solution Programs: Identifying High-Priority Needs Within the Criminal Justice System for Programs Focused on Intimate Partner Violence Prevention.](#)
- [Leveraging Technology to Support Prisoner Reentry.](#)
- [Sex Trafficking and Substance Use: Identifying High-Priority Needs Within the Criminal Justice System.](#)

The consortium held four workshops in FY 2022, which typically yield final published reports within a year:

- Improving Employability of BOP Returning Citizens, April 2022.
- Indigent Defense, May 2022.
- Better Measures of Justice: Identifying High-Priority Needs to Improve Data and Metrics in Policing, Law Enforcement, July 2022.
- Disparities in Technical Violations, October 2022.

## Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium

The Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium (CJTEC) uses research-based methodologies to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement, courts, and corrections agencies; and to act as an honest broker for the nation's criminal justice practitioners to provide objective and rigorous testing and evaluation of existing technologies, policies, and practices.

In FY 2022, [NIJ provided an additional \\$2.9 million](#) for continued support of these activities.

In FY 2022, CJTEC published the following reports:

- [Contraband and Drones in Correctional Facilities.](#)
- [Vehicle Stoppage and Pursuit Management for Law Enforcement Agencies.](#)
- [Application Software Products That Aim To Address the Mental Health Needs of Law Enforcement Officers.](#)
- [Verification Report, Toolkit for Selective Analyses & Reconstruction of Files \(FileTSAR\).](#)
- [Targeted Data Extraction System \(TDES\) for Mobile Devices.](#)

CJTEC also administers [NIJ's Compliance Testing Program](#) and [supports the development of NIJ's equipment standards.](#)

# Building the Nation's Criminal Justice Research Infrastructure

## National Criminal Justice Reference Service

Established in 1972, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is a federally funded resource offering justice- and drug-related information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide. In FY 2022, 1,445 NIJ-funded resources were added to NCJRS, an increase over prior years fueled largely by the introduction of new tools used in the search for NIJ-funded resources published in the scientific literature.

## National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

The central mission of the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) is to facilitate and encourage research in the field of criminal justice through the sharing of data resources. NACJD provides computer-readable data for the quantitative study of crime and the criminal justice system, technical assistance in selecting data collections and the computer hardware and software for analyzing data efficiently and effectively, and training in quantitative methods of social science research to facilitate secondary analysis of criminal justice data.

NACJD routinely receives statistical data from U.S. Department of Justice agencies, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, NIJ, OJJDP, and the FBI.

In FY 2022, NACJD added 47 NIJ-supported entries to the database.

This work is funded under an interagency agreement with the University of Michigan and is managed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In FY 2022, NIJ provided \$1.2 million to that award.

## Research Assistantship Program

The [NIJ Research Assistantship Program](#) offers highly qualified doctoral students the opportunity to bring their expertise to NIJ to work across offices and program areas and obtain a practical, applied research experience. The program is a research-focused professional development opportunity for doctoral students, for which NIJ provides funds to their home universities for compensation, training, and other professional development expenses. We welcome applications from students from all academic disciplines who wish to connect their research to the criminal justice field. This unique assistantship is an opportunity to learn and contribute to the breadth and depth of science research in which NIJ engages.

In FY 2022, NIJ provided an additional \$317,860 for this program and welcomed two new research assistants.

## Science and Technology Policy Fellows

One of NIJ's goals is to increase the number of scientists who are aware of the challenges of crime and justice and who are engaged in research to address those challenges. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science and Technology Policy Fellowship program offers NIJ the opportunity to accomplish that goal. Among the goals of the AAAS Fellowship program is promotion of the responsible use of science in public policy. In FY 2022, NIJ provided \$450,000 to support two new AAAS fellows to work with NIJ, both bringing expertise on officer wellness.



# Highlights of Dissemination

NIJ accomplishes our mission through the “Listen, Learn, Inform” model — we “listen” to the needs of the field; “learn” ways to meet those needs by funding research, development, and evaluation projects; and then “inform” the field of what we learned. NIJ informs the field through development of publications and other products to give policymakers and practitioners the best available evidence to make decisions and build knowledge that advances both science and practice.

## Articles and Publications

The *NIJ Journal* features articles to help criminal justice policymakers and practitioners stay informed about new developments. The *NIJ Journal* presents research-based information that can help inform policy decisions, improve public safety, and promote the efficient and equitable administration of justice. In FY 2022, NIJ published [issue 283](#) of the journal, which focused on children and youth, and three articles in [issue 284](#), which was completed in FY 2023 and focused on justice systems.

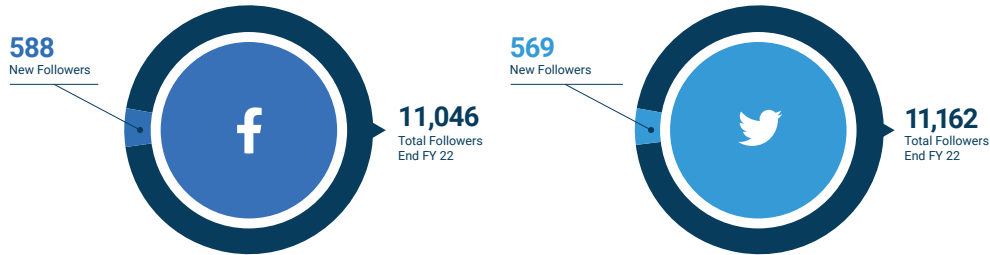
NIJ regularly publishes [articles on NIJ.ojp.gov](#) that summarize the results of completed research projects spanning the social, physical, and forensic sciences. Each article aims to communicate findings to practitioners and policymakers in the field. In FY 2022, NIJ released 37 articles.

In addition to publishing articles in the *NIJ Journal* and on its website, NIJ also places articles in prominent trade magazines that serve critical audiences. In FY 2022, NIJ placed five articles in trade association publications. NIJ also produced a variety of publications and other reports, along with videos ranging from short interviews to full recorded webinars.

In FY 2022, work funded in whole or in part by NIJ resulted in the publication of 392 scholarly products, including peer-reviewed articles by NIJ grantees. Also in FY 2022, scholars cited NIJ products in peer-reviewed journals 1,238 times. This includes citations of NIJ-sponsored journal articles, NIJ reports, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

# Social Media

## How Many People Connected With NIJ on Social Media?



## How Many People Saw NIJ's Social Media Posts?

### Facebook

<b>310</b> Total Posts	<b>Top 3 Facebook Posts</b>		
<b>121,655</b> Total People Reached	<b>1</b> Article: Meeting the Forensic Challenges of Subadult Skeletons	<b>2</b> Program: LEAD Scholars Call for Applications	<b>3</b> Commemoration/Article: Applying Modern Investigation Methods to Solve Cold Cases for National DNA Day
<b>394</b> Average People Reached Per Post FY 22	<b>3,690</b> Reached <b>151</b> Engagements	<b>3,054</b> Reached <b>11</b> Engagements	<b>2,863</b> Reached <b>21</b> Engagements

### Twitter

<b>582</b> Total Posts	<b>Top 3 Twitter Posts</b>		
<b>287,729</b> Total People Reached	<b>1</b> Commemoration: Native American Heritage Month	<b>2</b> Commemoration: Sexual Assault Awareness Month	<b>3</b> Publication: Five Facts About School Shootings
<b>498</b> Average People Reached Per Post FY 22	<b>10,040</b> Reached <b>168</b> Engagements	<b>9,295</b> Reached <b>199</b> Engagements	<b>8,069</b> Reached <b>197</b> Engagements

## How Did People Engage With NIJ on Social Media?

### Facebook

**4,470**  
Total Interactions FY 22

**1.9%**  
Engagement Rate

### Twitter

**8,667**  
Total Interactions FY 22

**2.4%**  
Engagement Rate

### Interactions by Month

Month	Facebook Interactions	Twitter Interactions
OCT	~900	~800
NOV	~850	~750
DEC	~500	~450
JAN	~700	~650
FEB	~800	~750
MAR	~750	~700
APR	~800	~750
MAY	~550	~500
JUN	~850	~800
JUL	~600	~550
AUG	~800	~750
SEP	~500	~450



# Appendix: Financial Data

Exhibit 1. Funds Made Available Pursuant to P.L. 117-103

FY 2022

Type of Funds	Enacted Amount
<b>Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES)</b>	
Research, Development, and Evaluation Programs (NIJ “Base” Appropriation)	\$21,500,000
Research on School Safety	\$1,000,000*
Research and Evaluation on Domestic Pathways to Terrorism (Domestic Radicalization Research)	\$6,000,000*
Feasibility Study to Monitor Abuse in Youth Serving Organizations	\$1,500,000
<b>Total Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES) Programs</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>
<b>Office on Violence Against Women Programs Transferred to OJP</b>	
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women (VAW)	\$2,500,000
<b>Total OVW Programs Transferred to OJP</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance</b>	
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)	\$2,400,000
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) (formerly Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act [CARA])	\$2,000,000
<b>Total State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance</b>	<b>\$4,400,000</b>
<b>Total Enacted</b>	<b>\$36,900,000</b>
<b>Transfers</b>	
Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Set-Aside In FY 2022, 2% of OJP’s program budget was set aside to augment research, evaluation, and statistics to assess existing programs to ensure their alignment with administration priorities, such as officer safety and crime reduction. These funds are split between NIJ and the Bureau of Justice Statistics.	\$24,257,930
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>\$24,257,930</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$61,157,930</b>

\*Discretionary program allocation (not statutorily enacted).

Type of Funds	Enacted Amount
<b>Carry-Forward, Reimbursable Agreements, and Intra-Agency Agreements</b>	
Carry-Forward Funds	\$27,137,132
Reimbursable Agreements (RA)	\$3,955,139
Intra-Agency Agreements (IAA)	\$36,388,084
<b>Total Carry-Forward, Reimbursable Agreements, and Intra-Agency Agreements</b>	<b>\$67,480,355</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>\$128,638,285</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Management and Administration (M&A) Assessment - 8.1%	\$(2,898,913)
Section 215 Set-Aside for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Assessment - 2%	\$(48,000)
<b>Total Assessments</b>	<b>\$(2,946,913)</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES AFTER ASSESSMENTS</b>	<b>\$125,691,372</b>

#### Exhibit 2: Allocation of Funds

Type of Activity	Subcategory	Percentage	FY 2022 Amount
<b>Social Science</b>	Research and Evaluation	48.4%	\$62,249,757
	Technical Assistance	0.0%	\$0
<b>Science and Technology</b>	Research and Development	4.3%	\$5,500,000
	Technology Assistance/Test and Evaluation	1.6%	\$2,000,000
<b>Investigative and Forensic Science</b>	Technology Transition and Knowledge Transfer	3.3%	\$4,300,000
	Research and Development	11.7%	\$15,028,617
	Training and Technical Assistance	4.3%	\$5,500,000
<b>Dissemination/Outreach/Program Support</b>		9.0%	\$11,606,737
<b>Total</b>		<b>82.5%</b>	<b>\$106,185,112</b>
Section 215 Set-Aside for Research and Statistics		0.0%	\$48,000
OJP Management and Administration		2.3%	\$2,898,913
Carryover (including reimbursements)		15.2%	\$19,506,260
<b>Total</b>		<b>17.5%</b>	<b>\$22,453,173</b>
		<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$128,638,285</b>

**Exhibit 3: Solicitations**

<b>FY 2022 Solicitation</b>	<b>Number of Awards</b>	<b>Value of Awards</b>
First Step Act: Review and Revalidation of the Bureau of Prisons Needs Assessment System, Fiscal Year 2022	2	\$180,375
NIJ FY22 Invited to Apply - Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program	4	\$3,602,000
NIJ FY22 Non-Solicited Applications	12	\$8,398,680
NIJ FY22 Design, Implementation, and Testing of a National Model for Technical Violations	1	\$3,977,416
NIJ FY22 Evaluation of OJP Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative (CVIPI) Projects	2	\$1,423,504
NIJ FY22 Funding Recommendations for Continuation of Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) Program	2	\$4,300,000
NIJ FY22 National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program	1	\$2,400,000
NIJ FY22 NIJ Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts	1	\$3,000,000
NIJ FY22 Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System: A Study of Existing Evidence and Public Policy Implications	1	\$796,008
NIJ FY22 Research and Development in Forensic Sciences for Criminal Justice Purposes	23	\$11,681,048
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories	4	\$1,326,990
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime	3	\$2,393,966
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Desistance from Crime	0	\$0
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism	2	\$1,255,584
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Hate Crimes	3	\$2,888,983
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Policing	6	\$6,267,721
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on School Safety	3	\$1,748,719
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons	2	\$1,628,354
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	6	\$4,982,108
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on Violent Crime and Firearm Violence in the Community	3	\$3,298,823
NIJ FY22 Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice: Diversion and Restorative Justice	3	\$2,361,852
NIJ FY22 Research on Juvenile Justice Topics	3	\$1,257,966

<b>FY 2022 Solicitation</b>	<b>Number of Awards</b>	<b>Value of Awards</b>
NIJ FY22 Research on Monitoring Child Maltreatment in Youth Serving Organizations	0	\$1,497,815
NIJ FY22 Youth Mentoring Research and Evaluation	3	\$1,159,270
W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System, Fiscal Year 2021	4	\$2,652,385
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>\$74,479,567</b>

