

family violence as well as violence against women. Through this general solicitation NIJ encourages studies that will address these areas of broad general concern and that examine the specific priorities identified in the 1994 Crime Law, particularly with regard to violence among juveniles and the illegal possession and use of firearms. The Institute is especially interested in filling critical gaps in current knowledge and identifying and evaluating existing programs of crime prevention and control.

Research Areas of Interest

Listed below are examples of research areas that could advance criminal justice knowledge and practice under Goal I of the NIJ Research Plan. Individuals are encouraged to suggest their own topics of interest. Research is encouraged in, but not limited to, the following areas:

Studies of Offenders and Offenses. Criminal careers of offenders who engage in violent crime, including risk and protective factors, and initiation, frequency, and termination patterns. Studies of specific offenses and offenders, including robbery, sexual assault, child sexual assault, stalking, and homicide. Offender perceptions of criminal justice response to violent offenders. Juvenile violence, including escalation patterns, racial conflicts, and influence of peers and gangs. Family violence involving intimate partners, spouses, children, and elders.

Violent Situations. Role of gangs and group offending in criminal violence. Studies of patterns in violent events, including triggering events, situational elements, and predisposing influences. Protective factors in neighborhoods and communities at high risk of violence. Violence in specific situations and locations including schools, families, recreational settings, and the workplace.

Firearms Violence. Adult and juvenile patterns of gun availability, sources of guns, and use in violent crime. Role of illegal markets in weapons on patterns of firearms violence, especially among juveniles. Impact of firearms laws on gun crimes, substitution of other weapons, and offense patterns. Feasibility studies of innovative firearms regulations.

Responses to Violent Offenders. Differentiating system responses to violence from responses to other crimes. Violence prevention. Evaluation of innovative programs and practices. Evidentiary concerns, including uncooperative witnesses. Management of violent offenders on probation and parole including risk assessment,

treatment programs, and community supervision.

Violence Against Women. Note: NIJ is not receiving applications for research on violence against women under the June and December 1995 deadlines. Instead, researchers should await the special solicitation to be issued in 1995, as noted in the Introduction to this Plan.

Contact

Applicants are encouraged to contact NIJ Program Managers to discuss topic viability, data availability, or proposal content before submitting proposals. To obtain specific information on the programs described under this goal, potential applicants may contact:

Bernard Auchter, (202) 307-0154, for family violence and violence against women.

Lois Mock, (202) 307-0693, for firearms violence.

Winifred Reed, (202) 307-2952, for gangs.

James Trudeau, (202) 307-1355, for studies of offenders and offenses, violent situations, and responses to violent offenders.

Goal II: Reduce Drug- and Alcohol-Related Crime

Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to encourage research and evaluation projects that will improve the criminal justice knowledge base about crimes and criminal behavior involving the use of drugs and alcohol. Through this solicitation the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) seeks to clarify further the relationship between substance abuse and crime and to reduce drug- and alcohol-related crime.

Background

Substance abuse and drug-related crimes continue to affect the lives of countless Americans residing in both urban and rural neighborhoods across the Nation. NIJ's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) data show an increase in marijuana use and relatively stable but high levels of major addictive substance use among booked arrestees in the 23 urban areas monitored by DUF. Recent data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) indicate that the use of heroin and cocaine is on the rise. Efforts to prevent and reduce drug-related crime, and thereby improve the quality of life in these areas, continue to occupy the criminal justice community.

Alcohol is used by both offenders and victims in a significant proportion of violent events, with documented connections between both situational and chronic drinking and aggressive or

violent behavior. The National Academy of Sciences Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior has called for more research into the role of alcohol in promoting violent events, particularly since little is known about how alcohol and violence may reinforce one another or how the alcohol-violence relationship may vary depending on type of violence.

The criminal justice system is the largest single source of external pressure influencing abusers who otherwise would not enter substance abuse treatment programs. Half or more of the admissions to community-based residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment programs are offenders on probation or parole. Criminal justice referral to treatment relieves courts and prisons of overcrowding and reduces the high cost of continued incarceration, while providing an added degree of supervision beyond what probation or parole offices may be able to afford. When successful, treatment further reduces criminal justice costs by breaking the pattern of recidivism that brings typical substance abusers back into the criminal justice system again and again.

Research on criminal justice-involved populations suggests that substance abuse treatment can be effective in reducing substance abuse and criminal activity while the client is in treatment and for some time thereafter. As substance abuse programs are implemented, it is important to provide critical feedback on how they are working and for whom they are most effective. It is also important to determine how best to provide treatment—through public criminal justice agencies or through private treatment agencies under contract.

Substance abuse prevention programs continue to proliferate in response to public concerns. Comprehensive substance abuse programs for youths can promote antidrug social norms and thereby reduce or prevent the use of cigarettes, alcohol, marijuana, heroin, and cocaine. NIJ seeks to evaluate comprehensive community-based substance abuse programs that develop partnerships among criminal justice and schools, health centers, families, peers, and media.

NIJ's Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) program gathers offense and drug use information from samples of adult and juvenile arrestees at 23 sites nationwide, providing access to a national sample of arrestees within hours of arrest. Along with a brief, voluntary interview, urine specimens are obtained to test for evidence of recent use of drugs. For 7 years, data from NIJ's DUF program