

have traced the trends in drug use among persons arrested for a wide range of offenses. Beginning in 1995, NIJ solicits proposals that capitalize and expand upon the research potential provided through the DUF program's quarterly collection of interviews and urine specimens from samples of adult and juvenile arrestees brought to jails in 23 cities nationwide.

Researchers are encouraged to develop proposals that present innovative ways of utilizing the DUF program as a research "platform" for pursuing a wide range of hypotheses related to drug use and criminal activity. For instance, in collaboration with existing DUF sites, the basic data collection protocol could be supplemented with additional interview assessments or bio-assays. NIJ is also interested in proposals that examine specific research questions by applying the DUF protocol to targeted samples of arrestees such as those in suburban or rural jails, or those arrested for specific offenses.

Research Areas of Interest

Listed below are examples of research areas that could advance criminal justice knowledge and practices under Goal II 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:

Substance Abuse and Criminal Behavior. Relationships between drugs, alcohol, and violence, including the individual and environmental circumstances. Relationship between substance abuse and related criminal behavior of all types, including family violence. Understanding substance abuse careers and how they track with criminal careers over time. Inventory of the validity, scope, and gaps in current substance abuse data sets.

Substance Abusing Offenders and the Criminal Justice System. Impact of pretrial services, adjudication, sentencing, and corrections (including community corrections) programs. Effect of strategies implemented in one segment of the system on the rest of the system. Offender attitudes, perceptions, and experiences as they move through particular components/programs. Effective use of a series of graduated sanctions for noncompliance behaviors. (For research on treatment drug courts, see page 16.)

Substance Abuse Prevention. Cost benefit analyses. Impact of criminal justice-based strategies on later substance abuse and other related criminal behavior. Development and identification of demand-reduction

strategies and programs for high-risk populations.

Treatment and Aftercare Evaluations. Assessment of treatment drop-outs. Determination of the optimal mix of various treatment and after-care components for various criminal justice populations.

Drug Use Forecasting (DUF) Research Platform Initiatives. Expansion of adult and juvenile research protocols to address additional research questions such as drug market analysis, drug treatment history of arrestees, the onset of drug use among arrestees, the relationship between drug acquisition and other criminal activities, and the role of alcohol and drug consumption in the commission of crimes.

Drug Enforcement. Research on the effectiveness of interdiction efforts and control strategies such as increased penalties for drug trafficking in prisons and drug dealing in drug-free school zones.

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:

Laurie Bright, (202) 616-3624, for substance abuse research and evaluations related to the criminal justice system. Thomas E. Feucht, (202) 307-2949, for substance abuse research related to DUF research platform initiatives. James Trudeau, (202) 307-1355, for substance abuse research related to criminal behavior.

Goal III: Reduce The Consequences of Crime

Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to encourage research and evaluation projects that explore the causes of victimizations, their consequences in injury, fear, property damage, and other forms of cost; and the institutional responses of criminal justice agencies to victims. In addition to individual victims, the Institute is interested in the ways that households, organizations, and communities become victims, and how victimizations harm and otherwise alter daily functioning. NIJ is also interested in how victim service institutions can best serve victims to reduce the harm done. The goals of the research solicited are to understand how natural circumstances can lead to victimizations, as well as the nature and extent of harm caused by crime, and to use these findings to reduce both victimization risk and severity.

Background

The extent of criminal victimization within the United States is disturbing: In 1992, approximately 1 in every 4 households was victimized by 1 or more crimes, and 1 in 20 had at least one member age 12 or older who was the victim of a violent crime. Violent crime victimization rates, after declining through most of the 1980's, have again begun to increase, most notably among blacks and persons ages 12-24.

National public opinion surveys consistently indicate that crime has displaced other issues as the Nation's most serious concern. In a 1994 New York Times/CBS News nationwide telephone poll, 23 percent of respondents listed crime as "the most important problem facing this country today," and 40 percent said they live within a mile of an area where they would be afraid to walk alone at night. The harm of victimization includes injury, dollar loss, and a pervasive sense of insecurity that disrupts and truncates the victim's daily activities and satisfactions. This harm also touches those close to or acquainted with the victim.

The victim's needs are imperfectly understood by researchers and practitioners and are inadequately responded to by available programs of assistance. The victim's dealings with the criminal justice system often compound the damage rather than serving to restore the victim and create a sense of justice.

We are limited in our understanding of the antecedents and causes of victimization. "Routine activities" research—that includes the victim along with the offender, environment, and "guardians"—has the potential to improve the validity and effectiveness of crime prevention programs. Such research might examine specific types of victims, specific activity domains, or specific locations. A special emphasis might be topics suggested by the Violence Against Women Act, which is discussed in Goal I.

The effects of crime reach far beyond their impact on individuals and households, extending into businesses, public housing areas, neighborhoods, and ultimately into entire communities. Within the community, violent crime, gangs and the threat they pose, vandalism, drugs, and disorder may cause businesses to close or relocate, reduce employment and shopping opportunities, and decrease property values. Where this grim process is not interrupted, urban neighborhoods and communities decay, investments dwindle or disappear, and law-abiding