

## **BJS - Princeton project prepares papers on criminal justice system goals and objectives and effective performance measures**

A primary statutory purpose of the Bureau of Justice Statistics is to improve the efforts of all levels of government in measuring and understanding crime, and in operating their justice systems. As part of these responsibilities, BJS is sponsoring a project with Princeton University and conducting a series of working group meetings of national experts to reexamine the goals and objectives of the criminal justice system and the traditional measures used to assess performance.

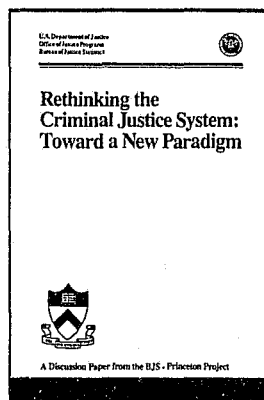
Prof. John J. Dilulio of Princeton University is the project director, and Dr. Charles H. Logan of the University of Connecticut, BJS Visiting Fellow, is project manager. A series of discussion papers will be published as part of the project, addressing issues related to measuring and evaluating the performance of those agencies that comprise the American criminal justice system.

### ***Rethinking the criminal justice system: Toward a new paradigm***

In the project's first discussion paper, Prof. Dilulio presents an overview of the need to complement and expand the traditional criminal justice measures of crime rates and recidivism. While these measures are important, a need exists to develop indicators which can also reflect the complex day-to-day responsibilities of criminal justice practitioners. This paper discusses a recasting of the goals of the criminal justice system into four main purposes:

- 1) Doing justice
- 2) Promoting secure communities
- 3) Restoring crime victims
- 4) Promoting noncriminal options.

Measurements can then be developed to assess practice and performance as they relate to the relevant goals (forthcoming, NCJ-139670).



### ***Criminal justice performance measures for prisons***

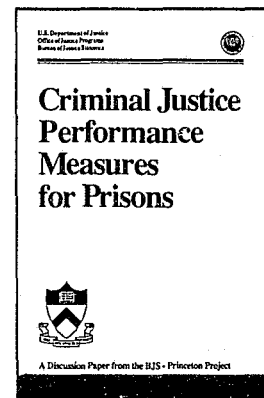
A second discussion paper, by Dr. Logan, addresses a number of performance measures intended to evaluate prison operations more effectively. Frequently prisons are expected to deter, incapacitate, rehabilitate, and punish offenders simultaneously. The author identifies practical criteria for corrections administrators striving to measure their performance. An extensive set of measures for evaluating institutions is offered across eight dimensions of performance: security, safety, order, care, activity, justice, conditions, and management (forthcoming, NCJ-139458).

Additional papers in this series are scheduled addressing such areas as policing and probation and parole.

### **BJS participates in two conferences**

The Bureau of Justice Statistics participated in an international conference, "Understanding Crime: Experiences of Crime and Crime Control," organized by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. The conference, held in Rome Nov. 18-22, 1992, focused on the applications of crime victimization survey research for combating crime. Proceedings from the conference will be available in 1993.

BJS sponsored a special panel at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology in New Orleans Nov. 4-7, 1992. BJS panel members presented recent findings from BJS statistical series and participated in a discussion of related methodological issues. The panel was moderated by Dr. Charles Wellford, Professor and Director of the Institute of Criminal Justice and Criminology, University of Maryland.



# At national conference in New Orleans, BJS and JRSA launch project to share justice data and information across the Nation

At the New Orleans conference Sept. 23-26, BJS and the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA) announced a joint initiative to establish a national justice information infrastructure as a means of collecting the latest and most relevant statistical data on

crime and justice, and eventually sharing it electronically among Federal, State, and local governments. At the conference the first product of the initiative, the *State Justice Sourcebook of Statistics and Research*, was released. It provides a unique refer-

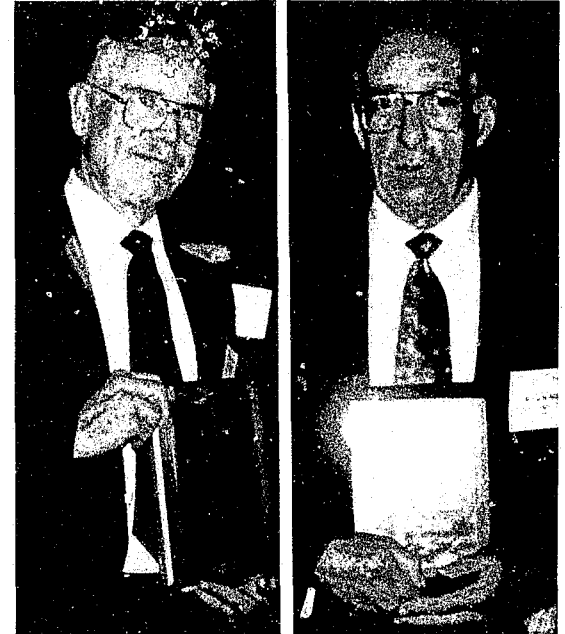
ence by bringing together data on crime, the justice system, and current justice research topics in each State.



Photo by Jim Cresson

Alison Richards (left), New Orleans Mayor's Assistant for Criminal Justice, welcomes BJS and the Justice Research and Statistics Association to the city and gives conference

host Carle L. Jackson, State Criminal Justice Policy Advisor of the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement, a certificate making him an honorary citizen of the city.



Photos by Charleen Cook

John R. Jones of BJS receives a BJS award in appreciation of his contributions to the State Statistical Analysis Centers on the 20th anniversary of the BJS SAC program.

Bernard E. Shipley of BJS receives the JRSA President's Award in appreciation and recognition of his long-term support of State Statistical Analysis Centers.



Photo by Jim Cresson

From left: William Lucas, Acting Director, Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice; Prof. Ben Wright, Department of Criminal Justice, University

of Baltimore; Norman Carlson, senior lecturer at the Department of Sociology of the University of Minnesota and former director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.



Photo by Jim Cresson

JRSA President-Elect Richard Kern, Ph.D. (left), is director of the Criminal Justice Resource Center, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services; outgoing president Michael J. Sabath, Ph.D., directs the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.

# In the Nation's 75 most populous counties, nearly 2 in 3 felony defendants were released from custody pending trial

By Brian A. Reaves, Ph.D.  
BJS Statistician

Findings drawn from a sample of felony cases filed in State courts during May 1990 show that approximately 1 in 4 of defendants released had a bench warrant issued for their arrest because they did not appear in court as scheduled. A third of these defendants, representing 8% of all felony defendants, were still fugitives after a year. The cases were followed for up to 1 year as part of the National Pretrial Reporting Program (NPRP) of BJS.

- Among the 35% of defendants who were not released, 5 out of 6 could not post the required bail amount, and 1 in 6 were held without bail. Defendants held without bail comprised 6% of all felony defendants.
- When bail was set, the higher the amount, the less likely that the defendant was granted pretrial release. Defendants with bail set at under \$2,500 were released over twice as often as those with bail set at \$20,000 or higher (69% versus 28%).
- Among defendants with a bail set, those charged with a violent offense (26%) were twice as likely as other defendants to have it set at \$20,000 or more.
- At bail amounts of \$10,000 or more, about 40% of defendants charged with a drug offense secured release, compared with about 30% of other defendants.

• Defendants detained until case disposition were nearly 3 times as likely to be convicted and sentenced to State prison as those who had been released prior to case disposition (39% versus 14%).

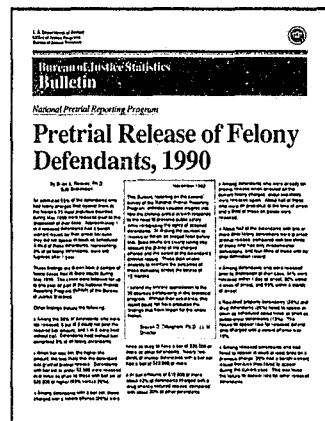
• Among defendants who were already on pretrial release when arrested on the current felony charges, about two-thirds were released again. About half

of those who were on probation at the time of arrest and a third of those on parole were released.

- About half of the defendants with one or more prior felony convictions were granted pretrial release, compared with two-thirds of those who had only misdemeanor convictions, and four-fifths of those with no prior conviction record.
- Among defendants who were released prior to disposition of their case, 54% were released within 1 day of arrest, 80% within a week of arrest, and 93% within a month of arrest.
- Released property defendants (28%) and drug defendants (26%) failed to appear in court as scheduled about twice as often as defendants charged with public order offenses such as gambling or driving while intoxicated (13%). The failure-to-appear rate for released defendants charged with a violent offense was 19%.
- Among released defendants who had failed to appear in court at least once on a previous charge, 39% had a bench warrant issued because they failed to appear during the current case. This was twice the failure-to-appear rate for other released defendants.
- About 18% of released defendants were rearrested while on pretrial release. Released defendants with at least one prior felony conviction (28%) were about twice as likely to be rearrested as those with no prior convictions (13%).

• The median number of days from arrest to case disposition was 125 days for released defendants, compared to 37 days for defendants detained until case disposition.

The 1990 NPRP collected data for about 14,000 felony cases filed in 39 large urban counties during May 1990 as part of a 2-stage sample representative of the 57,000 felony cases filed in the Nation's 75 most populous counties that month. NPRP does not include Federal defendants.



*Pretrial release of felony defendants, 1990 (14pp), November 1992, NCJ-139560. (See order form on last page.)*

# Least likely of all age groups to experience criminal victimization, persons age 65 or older, when victimized, are more likely than younger people to suffer harmful consequences

By Ronet Bachman, Ph.D.  
BJS Statistician

United States residents age 65 or over are less likely than all other age groups to experience either lethal or nonlethal forms of victimization. Although older persons were found to be less likely to experience a criminal victimization than younger people, they were more likely to suffer harmful consequences such as sustaining injury or requiring medical care.

These findings come from the BJS Special Report, *Elderly Victims*. The report used data from the Comparative Homicide File (CHF) — developed at the University of New Hampshire under a National Institute of Justice grant — and the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to present a detailed account of victimization of the elderly.

• Persons age 65 or older comprise about 14% of this sample of persons age 12 or older but account for less than 2% of all victimizations.



• Elderly robbery victims were more likely than younger victims to face multiple offenders and also more likely to face offenders armed with guns.

• Elderly victims of violent crime were more likely than other victims to report that their assailants

were strangers. Among victims of homicide, the elderly were more likely to be killed by a stranger during the commission of a felony; younger individuals were more likely to be killed by someone known to them in a conflict situation such as an argument or fight.

• Elderly victims of violent crime were — significantly more likely than victims under age 65 to be victimized at or near their home — less likely to use measures of self-protection compared to victims under 65.

• Elderly crime victims were significantly more likely to report their victimization to the police compared to victims under the age of 65.

• Among the elderly, certain groups were generally more likely to experience a crime than others: males, blacks, divorced or separated persons, urban residents, and renters.

• Those elderly in the lowest income categories were more likely to experience a crime of violence but less likely to experience a crime of theft than those with higher household incomes.

The overall victimization rate for crimes of violence was nearly 16 times higher for persons under age 25 than for persons age 65 or older (64.6 versus 4 victimizations per 1,000 persons in each age group).

• Similarly, the robbery rate for those under 25 was nearly 6 times higher than for those age 65 or older.

• Those households headed by persons 65 or older were significantly less likely to be victimized by household crime than those headed by younger people. This was noted for all forms of household crime, including burglary, household larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

• Personal larceny with contact (such as purse snatching and pocket picking), did not reflect this pattern. Those who were 65 or older were about as likely as those under age 65 to be victims of personal larceny which involved contact.

(Continued on page 5)

## In 1990 both personal and household victimization rates for those 65 or older were significantly lower than in some previous years

(Continued from page 4)

- Violent crime victimization rates against the elderly were highest in 1974 (9 per 1,000 persons 65 or older) and reached a low rate in 1990 of 3.5.
- Personal larceny experienced by the elderly peaked in 1976 with a rate of 26 and was lowest in 1988 with a rate of 18.3. While rates of theft victimization appeared to be increasing since 1988, this increase was not significant. Theft victimization rates in 1990 were still about 22% lower than during the mid-1970's.
- Household crimes jumped to a high in 1981 of 123 per 1,000 households headed by persons age 65 or older. Since that time, however, household victimizations against the elderly have been decreasing and reached the low rate of 75.2 in 1990.

The data from which these findings come were collected in the NCVS, an ongoing program in which 83,000 people in 42,000 nationally representative households were interviewed in 1991. These people were asked about crimes experienced during the preceding 6 months.

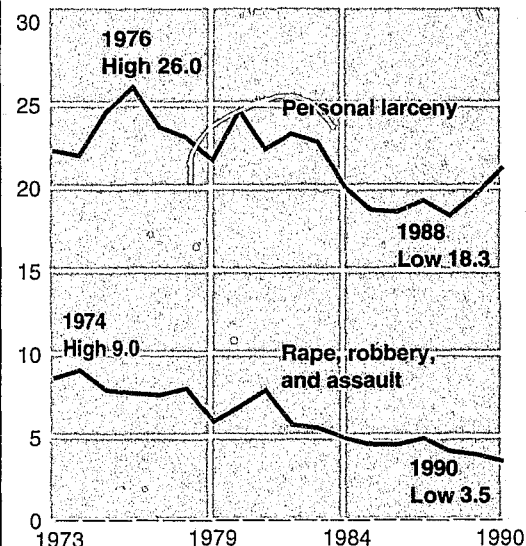
Because the BJS survey includes both victimizations reported to the police and those that were not, there are differences between these data and what the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) publishes in its Uniform Crime Reports (UCR), based on police reports. Each program examines the Nation's crime problem from different perspectives, and the results are not comparable. The Department of Justice fact sheet *The Nation's two crime measures* (NCJ-122705) describes the programs in detail.

Source: *Elderly victims* (9pp), October 1992, NCJ-138330. (See order form on last page.)

### Victimization of the elderly by personal larceny, purse snatching, pocket picking peaked in 1976; rate was lowest in 1988

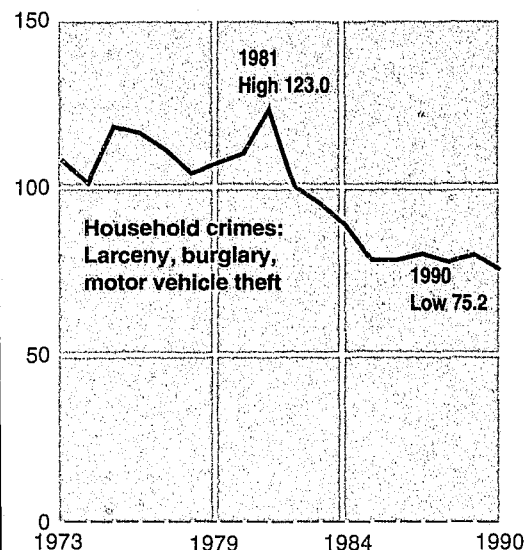
### Rape, robbery, and assault of the elderly was 61% lower in 1990 than in 1974

Number of victimizations per 1,000 persons 65 or older



### Larceny, burglary, motor vehicle theft rate against households headed by the elderly dropped from 1981 high to new 1990 low

Number of victimizations per 1,000 households headed by persons age 65 or older



# BJS to release a wide-ranging report on drugs, crime, and justice

*Drugs, Crime, and the Justice System*, funded in part by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, presents an overview of how the U.S. justice system combats illegal drugs. To clarify the relationship between control of crime and control of drugs, the work discusses related systems — medical, educational, financial — and gathers information from disciplines as diverse as social work, pharmacology, and economics.

Readers of the report will find a comprehensive discussion, illustrated in color with maps, graphics and easy-to-grasp tables. Sources at the end of each chapter and section point the way to other published materials. A 16-page index cross-references many topics. A technical appendix in a separate volume gives a detailed accounting of the sources, the data used in the graphics, and supporting technical matter.

## Chapter I

### Nature and extent of drug use

#### Consequences of illegal drug use

What relationships exist between drug use and crime?

How strong are these relationships?

How are drug use and the illegal drug business linked to violent crime?

How is drug use linked to income-generating crime?

How do drug use and drug sales generate crime?

How does drug use harm families and schools?

How do illegal drugs threaten health?

What are the health consequences of drug use for nonusers?

How is the Nation's productivity affected by drug use?

#### Patterns of illicit drug use


Why do people use illicit drugs?

What prompts people to use illicit drugs?

How are illegal drugs taken?

How many people use illicit drugs?

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Justice Programs  
Bureau of Justice Statistics



Bureau of Justice Statistics

A National Report

## Drugs, Crime, and the Justice System

**Nature and extent of drug use**  
Consequences of illegal drug use  
Patterns of illicit drug use

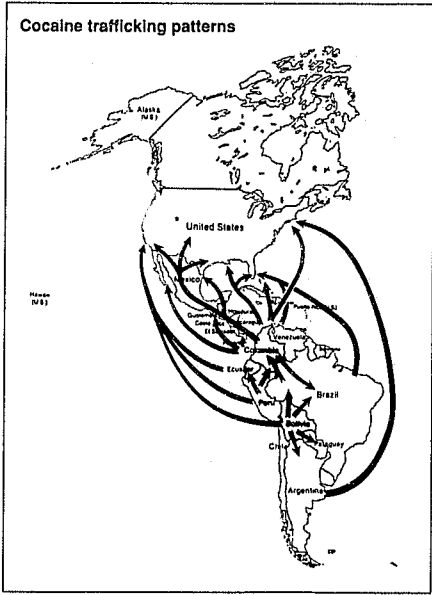
**Dynamics of the illegal drug business**

**Responses to the drug problem**  
History of drug control  
Public opinion  
Drug control laws, policies, and programs  
Drug testing  
Costs of illegal drug use and control

**Drugs and the justice system**  
Overview  
Drug law enforcement  
Prosecution and adjudication  
Sentencing and sanctions  
Correctional populations

Epilogue

Cocaine trafficking patterns



What are the characteristics of illicit drug users?

How does drug use vary geographically?

How is drug use in the U.S. changing?

## Chapter II

### Dynamics of the illegal drug business

How big is the illegal drug business?

Where do illegal drugs come from?

How do illegal drugs reach the U.S.?

How are illegal drugs sold?

What affects illegal drug prices?

How do illegal drug prices affect the extent of use?

What roles do violence and corruption play in the distribution and sale of drugs?

How is the illegal drug business organized?

Who produces, distributes, and sells illegal drugs?

How do the production, distribution, and sale of illegal drugs compare with those of legal products?

How do drug traffickers conceal drug revenues?

How do drug traffickers get their drug profits out of the U.S.?

## Responses to the drug problem

### History of drug control

- What policies, strategies, and tactics have been applied to the drug problem in the U.S.?
- Who is involved in drug control efforts?
- What are some of the historic milestones in early U.S. drug control efforts?
- How has the government sought to control both the supply of and demand for drugs over the past quarter century?
- What drug control strategies has the Federal Government issued since 1973?

### Public opinion

- What role does public opinion play in drug control policy?
- How serious is drug use perceived to be?
- How available and risky are illegal drugs thought to be?
- Does the public think the drug problem is more important than other public policy issues?
- What strategies are perceived to be effective in combating the drug problem?

### Current laws, policies, and programs

- What type of substance abuse control laws have Federal, State, and local governments enacted?
- What other laws cover drug control activities?
- What are the drug control aspects of U.S. foreign policy?
- Who provides for drug prevention activities?
- What drug treatment programs are used, who provides treatment, and are these programs effective?

### Drug testing

- Who is tested for drugs and why?
- How did drug testing develop?
- How do drug tests work?
- How do drug testing programs work?
- Has drug testing been challenged in court?

## The costs of illegal drug use

- What are the costs to society of illegal drug use?
- How much does the Federal Government spend on the drug problem?
- What are the trends in Federal spending on the drug problem?
- How much do State and local justice systems spend on drug crime?
- What are the public and private health care costs of illegal drug use?
- How much does drug treatment cost?

## Drugs and the justice system

### Overview

- How are drug crimes and drug-using offenders processed within the justice system?

### Drug law enforcement

- What is the role of law enforcement in drug control policy?
- What agencies enforce drug laws?
- What is the Federal Government's role in reducing international drug production and trafficking?
- What is involved in illegal drug interdiction?
- How do State, local, and Federal agencies disrupt the domestic distribution of illegal drugs?
- How do State, local, and Federal agencies disrupt the domestic production of illegal drugs?
- What actions do law enforcement agencies and communities take to combat the retail sale of drugs?
- How does law enforcement target illegal drug trade profits and assets?
- How does law enforcement use asset forfeiture to combat the illegal drug trade?
- Have drug arrests increased in recent years?
- Is forensic evidence a critical factor in prosecuting drug cases?

### Prosecution and adjudication

- How are drug cases handled?
- What is the role of the prosecutor in drug control?
- How often are drug cases rejected or dismissed?

- Are defendants charged with drug offenses released or held pending adjudication?
- How often do drug cases result in convictions?
- Have drug caseloads increased in State and Federal courts?
- How do the juvenile courts deal with drug offenses and drug-abusing juveniles?

### Sentencing and sanctions

- What sanctions and sanctioning strategies are used for drug law violations?
- What are the penalties for illegal drug offenses?
- How do Federal mandatory minimum sentences apply to drug offenders?
- How are intermediate sanctions applied to drug law violators?
- What government benefits can be denied to drug offenders?
- How is asset forfeiture being used in drug cases?
- How do States use tax codes to sanction drug offenders?
- What is the probability of being sentenced to incarceration?
- Do State and Federal prison sentences for drug traffickers differ?
- Are sentences for drug law violators generally becoming more severe?
- What sanctions are applied to juvenile drug offenders?

### Correctional populations

- What happens to sentenced drug offenders?
- Is the proportion of drug offenders in jails and prisons increasing?
- What are offenders' drug-use patterns?
- Is drug testing used in correctional systems?
- What drug treatment programs are available to offenders?
- Is treatment of drug offenders effective?
- Are drug-using offenders and drug law violators likely to recidivate?

*Drugs, crime, and the justice system: A national report, 228 pp., NCJ-133652; Technical appendix, NCJ-139578; both forthcoming approximately 3/93 (see order form on last page).*

# BJS data at a glance

## Selected summary data from BJS data series

### 1991 criminal victimizations up slightly

	Number of victimizations	Percent change, 1990-91
Total	34,730,000	.9%
Personal crimes	18,956,000	-.1
Violent	6,424,000	6.9*
Rape	173,000	33.0
Robbery	1,145,000	-.4
Assault	5,105,000	8.0*
Theft	12,533,000	-3.4**
Household crimes	15,774,000	2.3
Larceny	8,524,000	2.6
Burglary	5,138,000	-.2
Motor vehicle theft	2,112,000	7.4

	Households experiencing crime	Percent change, 1990-91
Total number	22,855,000	-.3%
Percent of all households	23.7%	NA

\*Change was statistically significant at the 95% confidence level.  
\*\*Change was statistically significant at the 90% confidence level.

### 1990: 2 in 3 felons released pending trial

Offenses	Felony defendants in the Nation's 75 largest counties	
	Number	Percent released
All*	53,664	65%
Violent	13,777	63
Property	17,956	67
Drug	17,849	65
Public-order	4,083	69

\*Detail does not add to total because of rounding.

### 1991: Federal imprisonment for drugs up

Offenses	Defendants sentenced to prison	Percent change, 1990-91
All	29,702	3.6%
Violent	2,228	9.6
Property	5,869	-.3
Drug	14,738	4.6
Public-order	6,862	3.2

Note: Total includes offenders for whom offense category could not be determined. Data for 1991 are preliminary; data are for cases in U.S. district courts.

### 1992 midyear prisoner populations up 4%

	Number of inmates	Percent change, 12/31/91-6/30/92
Total	855,958	3.8%
Federal	77,389	8.1
State	778,569	3.4

### Mid-1991 local jail inmate counts up

	Number of inmates	Percent change, mid-'90 to mid-'91
One-day count, June 30, 1991	426,479	5.2%
Average daily 1991 population	422,609	3.6

### 1990: Record highs in probation and parole

Probation	Number of probationers	Percent change, 1989-90
Total	2,670,234	5.9%
Federal	58,222	-1.5
State	2,612,012	6.1

Parole	Number of parolees	Percent change, 1989-90
Total	531,407	16.3%
Federal	21,693	1.3
State	509,714	17.1

### 1991: Executions average 1 per month

	Number of inmates on 12/31/91
Under sentence of death	2,482
White	1,464
Black	982
Other	36
Number executed	14

### 1990: States and localities spend \$64.9 billion on crime and justice

	Direct justice expenditure	Percent	Employment	October payroll
1990 total	\$64,918,198,000	100.0%	1,585,671	\$3,872,327,000
State	25,413,826,000	39.1	577,815	1,439,207,000
Local	39,504,372,000	60.9	1,007,856	2,433,120,000



# 8 States executed 14 prisoners during 1991; at yearend 1991 2,482 prisoners were under sentence of death in 35 jurisdictions

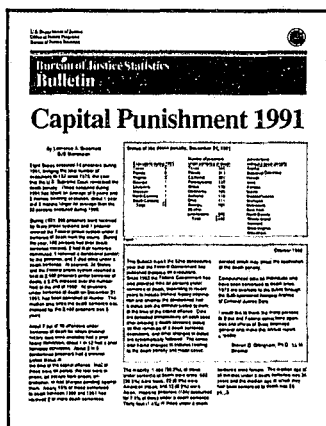
By Lawrence A. Greenfeld  
BJS Statistician

The prisoners executed during 1991 brought the total number of executions to 157 since 1976, the year that the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty. Those executed during 1991 had spent an average of 9 years and 8 months awaiting execution, about 1 year and 9 months longer than the 23 persons executed in 1990.

During 1991, 265 prisoners were received by State prison systems and 1 prisoner entered the Federal prison system under a sentence of death. Four States accounted for 43% of the inmates entering prison under a death sentence during the year:  
Florida (45 admissions)  
Texas (26 admissions)  
California (24 admissions)  
Pennsylvania (19 admissions).

During the year —  
106 persons had their death sentences vacated  
2 had their sentences commuted  
1 received a conditional pardon by the governor  
7 died while under a death sentence.

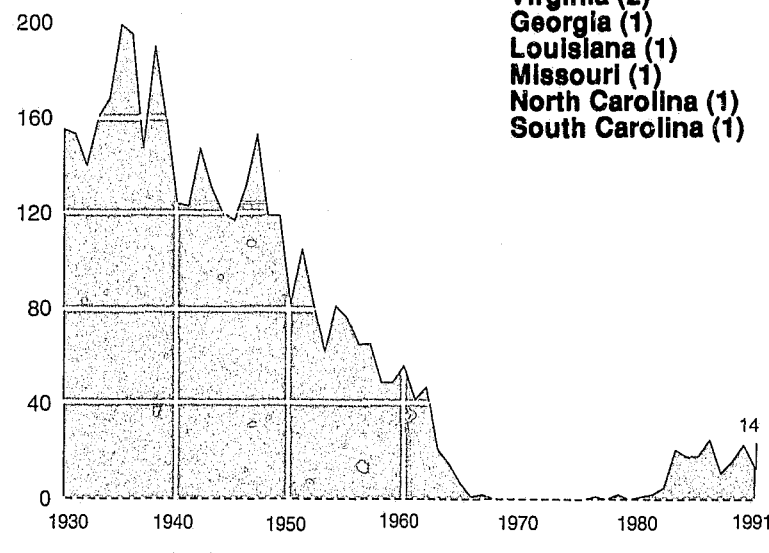
At yearend 34 States and the Federal prison system reported a total of 2,482 prisoners under sentence of death, a 5.8% increase over the number held at the end of 1990. All prisoners under sentence of death on December 31, 1991, had been convicted of murder. The median time since the death sentence was imposed for the prisoners was 5 years.



About 7 out of 10 offenders under sentence of death for whom criminal history data were available had a prior felony conviction. About 1 in 12 had a prior homicide conviction.

The 14 executions were carried out by —

Number of executions



About 2 in 5 condemned prisoners were in a criminal justice status at the time of the capital offense. Half of these were on parole; the rest were in prison, on escape from prison, on probation, or had charges pending against them. Nearly 15% of those sentenced to death between 1988 and 1991 had received 2 or more death sentences.

Of those under sentence of death, the majority, 1,464 (59.0%), were white; 982 (39.6%) were black; 23 (0.9%) were American Indian; and 13 (0.5%) were Asian. Hispanic prisoners (184) accounted for 7.4% of those under a death sentence. Thirty-four (1.4%) of those under a death sentence were female. The median age of all inmates under a death sentence was 34 years and the median age at which they had been sentenced to death was 29 years.

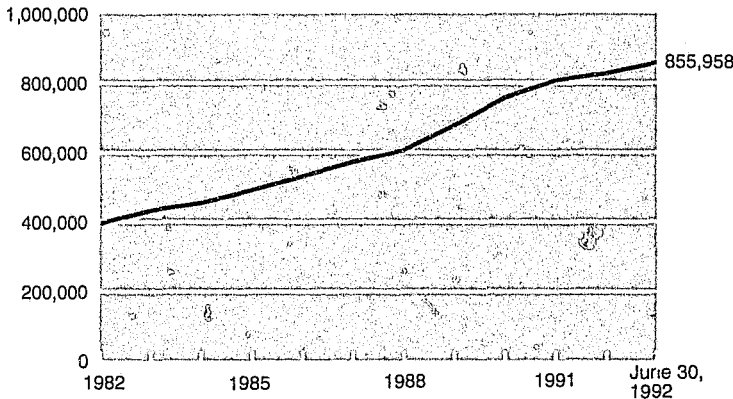
Seven of those executed were white males (including one Hispanic male) and seven were black males. Half of the executions were carried out by lethal injection and half by electrocution.

Source: *Capital punishment 1991* (18pp), October 1992, NCJ-136946. (See order form on last page.)

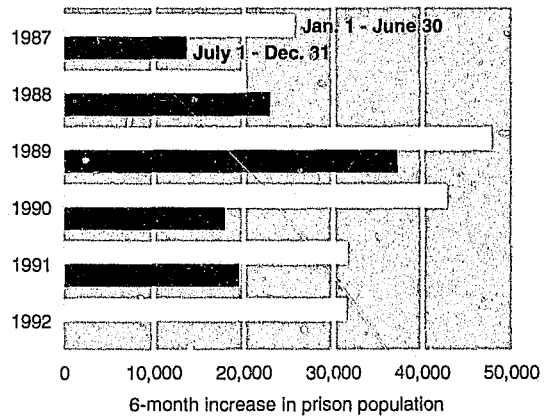
## Midyear count shows 4% more prisoners in first half of 1992

**From the beginning of 1982 to midyear 1992, the State and Federal prison populations increased by almost 487,000 prisoners**

Total number of prisoners



**Prison populations usually experience greater growth in the first half of the year**



The Nation's State and Federal prison population grew by 31,449 inmates — just under 4% — during the first half of the year to reach a record 855,958 men and women as of June 30. The 6-month increase was well below the record 47,000 increase in prisoners recorded during the first half of 1989.

- This year's increase was the equivalent of about 1,209 more inmates every week, compared to 1,160 per week during the first half of 1991 and more than 1,800 additional prisoners per week during the first half of 1989.

- The 12-month growth from June 1991 to June 1992 was 6.4% — an increase of more than 51,000 inmates. Although this is the lowest rate of growth since 1984, the total increase in prisoners represents the third largest annual increase on record.

- Prisoners in the Western States increased by 3.2% during the first half of the year, compared to a 3.6% increase in the Northeast. Southern and Midwestern prisoner counts grew by 3.4 and 3.6%, respectively.

- During the first half of the year, the Federal prison population grew by 8.1%, compared to an increase of 3.4% among the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

- One State recorded double-digit half-year increases — West Virginia by (14.3%). Twelve States had prisoner growth of at least 10% for the 12 months ending June 30. Three States recorded declines during this 1-year period.

- During the first half of this year the number of female inmates in State and Federal prisons grew 3.8%, the same as the increase among men. As of June 30, women prisoners accounted for 5.8% of all prisoners nationwide.

- The number of prisoners per capita on June 30, 1992, also reached a record 319 sentenced offenders (inmates sentenced to more than a year in prison) held in State and Federal prisons per 100,000 residents. There were 35 sentenced female offenders in prison for every 100,000 females in the population. For males the incarceration rate was almost 18 times higher, 618 sentenced male prisoners for every 100,000 males.

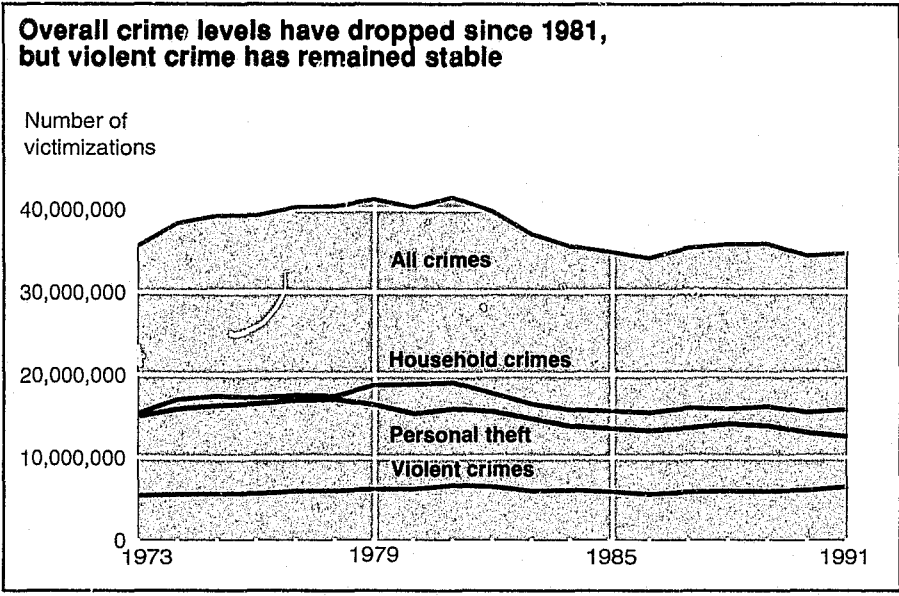
Source: U.S. Department of Justice press release, *Prisoners at midyear 1992* (5pp), October 11, 1992, NCJ-138541. (See order form on last page.)

# Persons age 12 or older experience 34.7 million crimes in 1991

By Lisa D. Bastian  
BJS Statistician

United States residents age 12 or older experienced 34.7 million victimizations in 1991. Approximately 6.4 million of these victimizations, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), consisted of violent crimes such as rape, robbery, and aggravated and simple assaults. Another 12.5 million victimizations were crimes of theft — larcenies both with and without contact between the victim and offender. Finally, there were 15.8 million household crimes in 1991 (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft).

- The combined number of personal and household crimes committed in 1991 was not significantly different from that for the previous year.
- The number of violent crime attempts increased 11% between 1990 and 1991.
- No statistically significant change in the number of crimes per 1,000 households was evident between 1990 and 1991.
- Since 1981, the peak year for victimizations, crime levels have dropped overall. However, the number of violent crimes committed in 1991 did not differ measurably from that estimated for 1981.

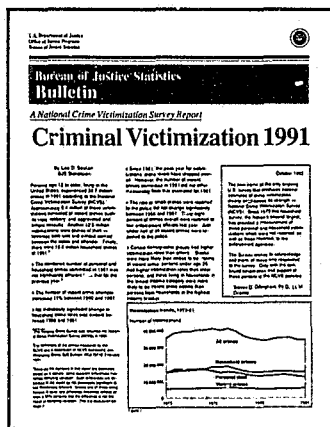


- Certain demographic groups had higher victimization rates than others: Blacks were more likely than whites to be victims of violent crime; persons under age 25 had higher victimization rates than older persons; and those living in households in the lowest income category were more likely to be victims of violent crime than persons from households in the highest income bracket.

The NCVS is an ongoing data collection program in which 83,000 people in 42,000 nationally representative households were interviewed in 1991. These people were asked about crimes experienced during the preceding 6 months.

Because the BJS survey includes both victimizations reported to the police and those that were not, there are differences between these data and what the FBI publishes in its UCR, based on police reports. Each program examines the Nation's crime problem from different perspectives, and the results are not comparable.

Source: *Criminal victimization 1991* (8pp), October 1992, NCJ-136947. (See order form on last page.)

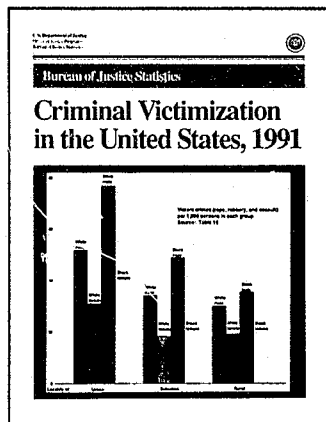


- The rate at which crimes were reported to the police did not change significantly between 1990 and 1991. Thirty-eight percent of crimes overall were reported to law enforcement officials last year. Just under half of all violent crimes were reported to the police.

# BJS publishes latest data on criminal victimization, 1993 programs, National Judicial Reporting Program

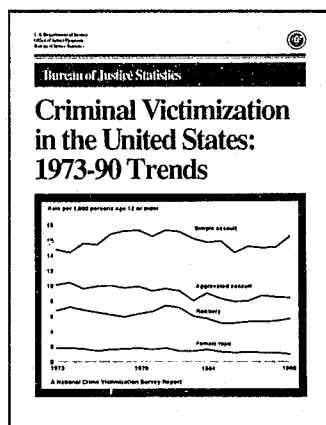
## ***Criminal victimization in the United States, 1991***

Presents findings from the NCVS, describing crime victimization in the United States for 1991. The 19th annual report includes data on the amount of crime that U.S. residents experience, on the characteristics of crime victims, and on the type and cost of crime. Statistics are also presented on the victims' perception of drug and alcohol use by violent offenders. Reasons for reporting or not reporting crimes to police are discussed (156pp., forthcoming, NCJ-139563).



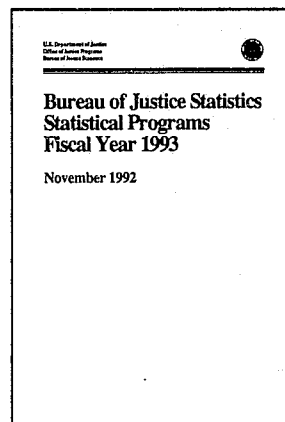
## ***Criminal victimization in the United States: 1973-90 trends***

Updates the 1973-88 trends report to cover 18 years of national victimization data. Presents data for female rape, robbery, assault, personal and household larceny, burglary and motor vehicle theft. Trends in reporting crimes to police are included. In 1990, 37.7% of all crimes were reported to police compared with 32.4% in 1973. The level of crime, overall, has decreased since its peak year in 1981. More than 41 million personal and household crimes were committed in 1981 compared to more than 34 million in 1990 — a decrease of 17% (136pp., forthcoming, NCJ-139564).



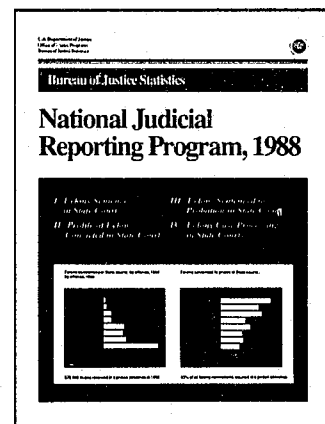
## ***Bureau of Justice Statistics Fiscal Year 1993 statistical programs***

Provides summary descriptions for BJS fiscal 1993 ongoing programs conducted inhouse with data collection activities performed by the Bureau of the Census and other organizations. The document includes detailed descriptions of two programs, State Statistical Analysis Centers and Information Network program and BJS Visiting Research Fellowship program, for which applications may be made. Administrative information relating to application, required certifications, and financial, civil rights, and audit requirements for these two programs are included (57pp., forthcoming, NCJ-139373).



## ***National Judicial Reporting Program, 1988***

Presents detailed findings from the 1988 nationally representative sample survey of felons convicted in State courts in 300 counties. Includes 80 tables on the number of felony offenders in State courts, the sentences they received, demographic characteristics of convicted felons, the number of felons sentenced to probation, the number of felons convicted by trial and guilty plea, and the time required to process felony conviction cases (61pp., forthcoming, NCJ-135945).



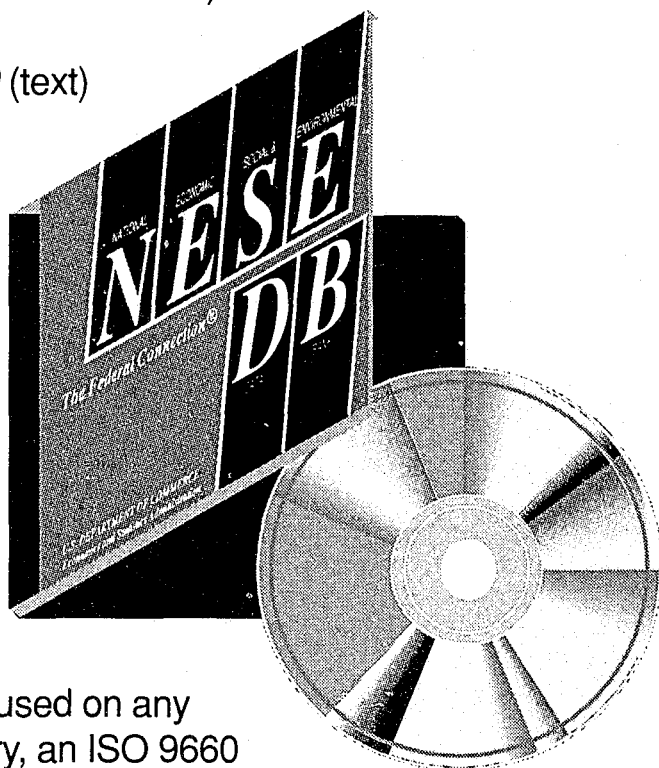
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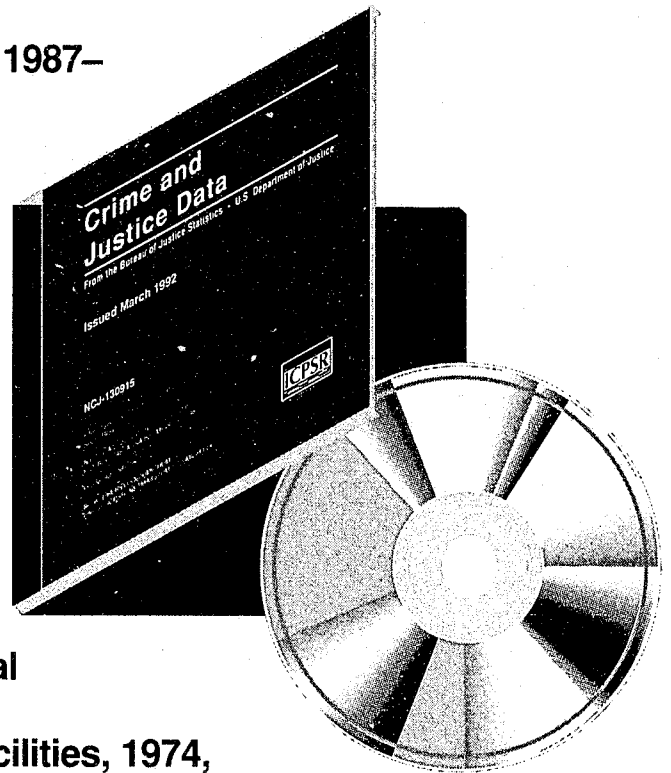
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