Update from the Bureau of Justice Statistics

June 4, 2021
COPAFS Quarterly Meeting
Agenda

• Budget and Staffing
• Impact of COVID-19 on Data Collections
• Innovative Programs
• Release of Publications and Datasets
• Strategic Planning and Management
BJS Statistical Funding (in millions) and Staff FY 2012 – 2021

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Staff on board

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Impact of COVID-19 on Data Collections
Data Collections Delayed or Cancelled due to COVID-19

- National Inmate Survey (NIS) collects under the Prison Rape Elimination Act: Postponed to 2022.
- Survey of Law Enforcement Personnel in Schools (SLEPS), Second wave of the officer component of the survey: Cancelled.
- Expected law enforcement transition to NIBRS reporting in 2020/early 2021: Delayed.
Other Unique Challenges for Data Collections due to COVID 19

• The National Crime Victimization (NCVS) shifted to phone-only interviews and suppressed incoming sample.
  – Weighting adjustments to NCVS 2020 data for comparison to past and future years.

• Issues with comparison years:
  – 2019 is unlikely to look like 2021 but 2020 is unlikely to look like 2018.
  – In administrative surveys we asked both 2019 and 2020, but to reduce burden, we sought high-level 2019 data and detail data for 2020.
Collecting Data on COVID-19 Impact on Correctional Populations

• COVID-related items in data collections on correctional populations:
  – Cause, timing, and magnitude of population changes
  – Number of COVID tests administered and the number of positive tests
  – Number of deaths due to COVID-19, suspected and confirmed by coroners reports
  – Vaccinations
  – Mitigation efforts

• National Prisoner Statistics: Coronavirus Pandemic Supplement
  – Fielding April 5 – June 14, 2021 to 50 departments of corrections and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP).
Innovative Programs
Leveraging Administrative Data

Local Jail Reporting Program (LJRP) - Pilot Test begins in 2021, to collect individual-level administrative data from 10 large jail jurisdictions.

National Pretrial Reporting Program Individual-level data collected from courts and pretrial service agencies that will be used to link to criminal history data to track defendants from initial appearance to adjudication.

National Crime Statistics Exchange (NCS-X) Estimation Project is establishing statistical methods to generate national estimates of reported crime based on incident-level data submitted by law enforcement.

National Corrections Reporting Program and Survey of Prison Inmates - Linkage of PI individual-level data to other federal and state datasets to study activities associate with post-custody return to the community.
Utilizing New Approaches for Testing Efforts

• Employed several online and social media tools to recruit participants in testing efforts for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
  – Social Media Tools: Mechanical Turk, Facebook, Instagram used to recruit different types of respondents for cognitive interviews
  – Utilized panels: AmeriSpeak, Lucid to recruit respondents for an online pilot test of changes to NCVS Identity Theft supplement

• Conducted cognitive interviews through videoconference during COVID-19 pandemic.
  – Opportunity to interview participants nationally.
  – Cost savings compared to in-person interviews.
Modernizing Dissemination

- BJS Website Update
- Web articles
- Data dashboards
- Improved web access to data collections
Release of Publications and Datasets

- Re-establish expected release dates for annual and biennial collections and reports
- Meet release targets on BJS CY 2021 Publications Calendar
- Fulfill congressional mandates – reports and data collections
- Continue updating data dissemination vehicles
Strategic Planning and Management

1. Assessment of workforce and workload
2. Assessment and implementation of modernization plans
3. Assessment and implementation of efficient and innovative operating procedures
4. Enterprise strategic planning