

Measurement and Analysis of Crime and Justice

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From the Director

The celebration of the National Institute of Justice's 30th anniversary in the autumn of 1999 provided the Institute and the criminal justice community the perfect opportunity to reflect on three decades of criminal justice research accomplishments. A few months later, the dawn of the new millennium seemed the appropriate stage from which to look forward to what lies ahead for criminal justice in the United States.

As preparations were made to commemorate the Institute's anniversary, it became increasingly apparent to NIJ staff and the criminal justice research, policymaker, and practitioner communities that there needed to be one compilation comprising a comprehensive, scholarly examination and analysis of the current state of criminal justice in the United States. Consequently, NIJ conceived and launched a project to produce the four-volume *Criminal Justice 2000* series to examine how research has influenced current policy and practice and how future policies and practices can be built upon our current state of knowledge.

The themes developed for these volumes were purposefully broad in scope, to allow contributors the intellectual freedom to explore issues across criminal justice disciplines. In its competitive solicitation, NIJ asked the authors to explore and reflect on current and emerging trends in crime and criminal justice practice, based on scientific findings and analyses. An editorial board of eminent criminal justice researchers and practitioners then selected the proposals that displayed exceptional scholarly merit and contributed to the substantive themes of the volumes.

The result, the *Crime and Justice 2000* series, reflects the state of knowledge on a broad spectrum of crime and criminal justice issues. While the volumes do not comprehensively chronicle all topics vital to criminal justice in the United States at the year 2000, we hope the essays contained in these four volumes will stimulate thought and discussion among policymakers, practitioners, and scientists in the coming years and shape future research endeavors.

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Table of Contents

From the Director	iii
<i>Criminal Justice 2000</i> Editorial Board Members	v
Introduction to Volume 4	
Measurement and Analysis of Crime and Justice:	
An Introductory Essay	1
<i>by David Duffee, David McDowall, Lorraine Green Mazerolle,</i>	
<i>and Stephen D. Mastrofski</i>	
The Self-Report Method for Measuring Delinquency and Crime.	33
<i>by Terence P. Thornberry and Marvin D. Krohn</i>	
Self-Report Surveys as Measures of Crime and	
Criminal Victimization.	85
<i>by David Cantor and James P. Lynch</i>	
Theory, Method, and Data in Comparative Criminology.	139
<i>by Gregory J. Howard, Graeme Newman, and William Alex Pridemore</i>	
Spatial Analyses of Crime	213
<i>by Luc Anselin, Jacqueline Cohen, David Cook, Wilpen Gorr, and George Tita</i>	
Measuring the Costs and Benefits of Crime and Justice	263
<i>by Mark A. Cohen</i>	
Measuring the Sexual Victimization of Women:	
Evolution, Current Controversies, and Future Research.	317
<i>by Bonnie S. Fisher and Francis T. Cullen</i>	
Measurement and Analysis of Drug Problems and	
Drug Control Efforts	391
<i>by Jonathan P. Caulkins</i>	
Fear of Crime in the United States: Avenues for	
Research and Policy.	451
<i>by Mark Warr</i>	
Measurement and Explanation in the Comparative Study	
of American Police Organizations	491
<i>by Edward R. Maguire and Craig D. Uchida</i>	
Standards and Measures of Court Performance	559
<i>by Ingo Keilitz</i>	
Appendix	595