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Office of Justice Programs
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Director, National Institute of Justice

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The National Institute of Justice is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. NIJ's mission is to advance scientific research, development, and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety.

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

To the President, the Attorney General, and the Congress:

It is my honor to transmit the National Institute of Justice's annual report on research, development, and evaluation for fiscal year 2019, pursuant to Title 1 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 and Title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy La Vigne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Nancy La Vigne, Ph.D.
Director, National Institute of Justice

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About the National Institute of Justice

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice. We are dedicated to improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science. NIJ provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to inform the decision-making of the criminal justice community to reduce crime and advance justice, particularly at the state and local levels. NIJ is committed to supporting the development of rigorous and independent research that crosses scientific disciplines and leverages the expertise of both researchers and those working within the criminal justice system. Investments in science allow us to better understand the challenges facing the U.S. criminal justice system and to develop and test effective solutions.

NIJ's work is conducted primarily through competitive extramural grants, agreements, and contracts. NIJ uses both cooperative agreements, which are a type of grant, and agreements with other federal agencies. By providing these funds, NIJ continues to support high-quality scientific research on crime, crime control, and the fair administration of justice by engaging and supporting researchers — particularly scholars — in scientific endeavors related to criminal justice challenges, and by disseminating evidence and practical solutions in response to the challenges of crime and justice.

NIJ also engages with other federal and private-sector science agencies to develop needed technology solutions to leverage investments and infrastructure, thereby increasing the impact of NIJ's finite resources and the introduction of needed technology solutions to the field.

Understanding, Preventing, and Reducing Crime

NIJ supports research in, and evaluation of, many specific types of crime and crime prevention strategies — from more traditional crime, such as gun crime and child abuse, to emerging crime, such as identity theft and human trafficking.

Research on Domestic Terrorism

Since 2012, NIJ has focused its research investments related to terrorism on developing a better understanding of domestic radicalization and advancing strategies for effective intervention in, and prevention of, radicalization in the United States.

The goal of NIJ's work on terrorism is to provide community leaders with evidence-based practices for bolstering resilience and developing communitywide responses that can prevent and mitigate threats posed by terrorists.

NIJ recognizes that law enforcement plays an essential role in keeping citizens safe from terrorism, but engagement and community partnerships also play a critical role in preventing radicalization. Terrorists target their messages to children, families, and individuals. Well-informed families, local communities, and local institutions are critical defenses against terrorist ideologies.

NIJ's research investments explore what drives the process of individuals becoming committed to terrorist ideologies, but they are increasingly moving toward the evaluation of promising practices to address these drivers, including the prevention of recidivism by individuals released back into the community.

In fiscal year (FY) 2019, NIJ launched an effort to understand how to prevent individuals convicted of terrorism-related crimes from recidivating when reentering the community. Two awards specifically focused on this topic. The first involves a study of ongoing reintegration programs supported by federal agencies that supervise individuals convicted of violent extremist offenses. This research aims to improve the design and implementation of reintegration programs through the use of a developmental evaluation approach to assess their effectiveness. The second award funds the development of a series of online training modules and best practice toolkits geared toward supporting the work of probation officers, other criminal justice officials, and service providers who work in the space of reintegration of individuals who have committed extremist offenses.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Terrorism Prevention](#) solicitation. Four awards and a total of \$4.27 million were distributed.

Research on Firearm Violence

NIJ seeks to understand and enhance efforts to prevent and reduce intentional, interpersonal firearm violence and public mass shootings in the United States. NIJ supports research designed to strengthen the knowledge base and produce findings with high practical utility for improving public safety. This research supports the U.S. Department of Justice's priority to prevent and reduce gun crimes, gun violence-related victimization, and the wide range of criminal activities related to firearm violence.

In FY 2019, NIJ emphasized research in the following four areas: (1) evaluation of prevention and intervention programs and policies aiming to reduce firearm violence; (2) examination of the defensive use of firearms and its impact on firearm violence; (3) examination of the impact of plea bargaining firearm charges on firearm violence; and (4) improvement of the understanding of mass shooters and mass shooting incidents to inform prevention efforts at the local level.

This work was funded under the [Investigator-Initiated Research and Evaluation on Firearm Violence](#) solicitation. Four awards and a total of \$2.07 million were distributed.

Research on Gangs and Gang Violence

Gangs and gang members are responsible for a large amount of crime and violence in many localities, and for a disproportionate share in those communities most afflicted by crime and violence. NIJ seeks to fund research and program evaluation projects that inform efforts to prevent and reduce street gang activity, violence, and victimization in the United States.

With scientifically rigorous research and evaluation projects — designed to produce findings with high practical utility for youth and adult gang prevention, intervention, enforcement, and reentry strategies — NIJ supports the U.S. Department of Justice's priority to prevent and reduce victimization and the wide range of criminal activities that gangs commit.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Gangs and Gang Violence](#) solicitation. Two awards and a total of \$1.20 million were distributed.

Evaluation of Project Safe Neighborhoods

The Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program is a U.S. Department of Justice-sponsored initiative that involves the cooperation of multiple criminal justice agencies and their partners working at the local level to develop and implement strategic responses to reduce gun crime. PSN also prioritizes the leadership of United States Attorneys' Offices in coordinating local efforts and carrying out federal prosecutions.

In FY 2019, NIJ funded the first phase of an evaluation project that will include eight to 10 local site-level evaluations, as well as one national assessment of PSN.

This work was funded under the [Evaluation of Project Safe Neighborhoods](#) solicitation. One award and a total of \$2.99 million were distributed.

Research on White Collar Crime: Health Care and Elder Fraud

NIJ supports research and evaluation projects that will advance the understanding of white collar crime and effective approaches for identifying, preventing, investigating, and prosecuting white collar crime related to health care fraud, cybercrime against individuals, and elder fraud and financial exploitation.

Although there are many types of offenses that may be classified as white collar crime, in FY 2019 NIJ funded research that focused on three types of this crime: health care fraud, cybercrime against individuals, and elder fraud. This research supports the U.S. Department of Justice's strategic goals associated with enhancing national security and promoting the rule of law, integrity, and good government.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on White Collar Crime: Health Care and Elder Fraud](#) solicitation. Three awards and a total of \$2.43 million were distributed.

Research and Evaluation on Human Trafficking

NIJ is committed to assisting with the detection and prosecution of human traffickers, and continues to build on its research and evaluation efforts to better understand, prevent, and respond to trafficking in persons in the United States. In FY 2019, NIJ focused research in the following priority areas: (1) labor trafficking, (2) phased evaluation, (3) outcome evaluation of trafficking focused on victim service providers, and (4) developing a better understanding of traffickers.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons](#) solicitation. Five awards and a total of \$2.35 million were distributed.

Research on Immigration and Crime

This is a new area of research undertaken in FY 2019 to address the administration's interest in better understanding the relationship between crime and immigration, both legal and undocumented. NIJ focused research in the following priority areas: (1) better distinguishing the differences in criminal activity and victimization between legal immigrants, undocumented immigrants, and native American populations; (2) how case processing decisions regarding undocumented immigrants may impact criminal activity and victimization; and (3) the impact criminal justice policies and programs (such as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's 287(g) Program) have on criminal activity and victimization.

This work was funded under the [Research on Immigration and Crime](#) solicitation. Five awards and a total of \$3.33 million were distributed.

Research on Desistance From Crime

NIJ seeks to build on its research efforts to understand and aid in accelerating the process of desistance from crime. To that end, NIJ funds research that identifies innovative

approaches to advancing the field's conceptualization of desistance, offers novel ways of understanding the processes underlying desistance, and integrates desistance into criminal justice policy and practice. This is in keeping with NIJ's mission to improve the knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science.

In FY 2019, NIJ funded research to determine how prison affects desistance, testing two competing approaches to desistance (life course and career criminality) and estimating the causal effects of incarceration (both likelihood and length) on desistance. NIJ also funded research to provide a portrait of the process of desisting from crime based on analyses of similarly aged individuals who desisted from crime, persisted in committing crime, or committed offenses intermittently. The goal of this research is to inform policy priorities and the design of more effective programmatic efforts, including gender-responsive programs.

This work was funded under the [Research Into Desistance From Crime](#) solicitation. Two awards and a total of \$1.40 million were distributed.

Law Enforcement

NIJ is dedicated to the development of knowledge and tools that will advance policing operations and practices to deliver policing services to communities more effectively and efficiently. NIJ has been a leader in developing and advancing the research agenda for policing.

Equipment Standards and Conformity Assessments

Body armor is critical in protecting law enforcement and corrections officers in potentially deadly situations. During the past three decades, ballistic-resistant body armor has saved the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers.

Since 1975, police officer line-of-duty fatalities have been reduced by 40% due, in large part, to NIJ's body armor compliance testing program.

NIJ seeks to engage with other federal and private-sector standards development organizations to develop standards to leverage investments, reduce the need for federal investment, and speed the introduction of established standards. NIJ has been setting voluntary body armor standards since 1972, and NIJ's standard is now the only nationally accepted standard for the body armor worn by law enforcement and corrections officers. Approximately 100 models of body armor are tested annually through the NIJ Compliance Testing Program, with follow-on inspection of approximately 150 models.

In FY 2019, 51 new models of body armor passed testing and were certified by NIJ, while 40 models failed. Follow-up inspection and testing were conducted on 133 models of body armor (of which testing was completed for 96 models). Among the follow-up inspections and testing, NIJ issued four advisory notices and one safety notice.

NIJ's standards and conformity assessment activities are administered in part by the Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium. The consortium is funded through a cooperative agreement awarded by NIJ to RTI International. The consortium also performs technology foraging and standards development.

View the [full list of certified armor](#) from the NIJ Compliance Testing Program.

Research and Evaluation on Policing

In FY 2019, NIJ funded investigator-initiated, randomized controlled trial (RCT) studies to inform policing at the state, local, and tribal levels. NIJ supported RCTs on the strategic priorities articulated in NIJ's *Policing Strategic Research Plan, 2017-2022*, as part of a multipronged strategy to build evidence-based knowledge and advance policing.

Studies funded under this solicitation examine: recruiting more women into the policing profession; improving the investigation, clearance rates, and victim restoration of robberies; police stops, crime prevention, and community reaction; and a randomized field trial to assess drug crime reduction and police-hotel partnerships.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Policing](#) solicitation. Four awards and a total of \$2.74 million were distributed.

Police Officer Safety, Health, and Wellness

NIJ supports law enforcement and other public safety personnel by developing, testing, and evaluating ways to limit deaths and injuries of officers and suspects using technology and social science methods. NIJ also examines the physical and mental health of those working in the criminal justice system and promotes research on monitoring and improving their physical and mental health.

In FY 2019, NIJ funded two projects examining police officer safety health and wellness: (1) Atypical Work Hours and Adaptation in Law Enforcement: Targets for Disease Prevention and (2) Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating a Police Fatigue Risk-Management Strategy for the Seattle Police Department.

The first project has three overarching goals: to characterize the adverse health effects resulting from the biological perturbations caused by police officers' atypical work hours, to identify early biological indicators of those adverse effects, and to identify strategies to mitigate those effects.

The second project is a multiphase, mixed-methods study involving 1,500 officers within the Seattle Police Department to examine the cumulative adverse health effects of police work schedules and to develop and implement a strategy to mitigate those effects.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System](#) solicitation. These two awards totaled \$1.5 million.

Research on Drugs and Crime

NIJ supports rigorous applied research on evidence-based tools, protocols, and policies for state, tribal, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies that address drug trafficking, drug markets, and drug-related violence.

In FY 2019, NIJ funded research focusing on the prevalence and impacts of fentanyl and the means to understand and disrupt distribution networks. Funded projects focus on detecting fentanyl and major players in darknet drug markets by analyzing drug networks and developing a threat assessment tool; determining the prevalence of fentanyl in a court-ordered mandatory drug testing population; using social networks and spatial analysis to understand and address fentanyl distribution networks; and developing cyberintelligence methods to discover, disrupt, and disseminate information on illicit fentanyl markets on unencrypted websites.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime](#) solicitation. Four awards and a total of \$2.47 million were distributed.

Corrections

The number of individuals under correctional supervision remains a key area of concern and research for NIJ. As the research and evaluation arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, NIJ is committed to empirically exploring issues of interest for the field of corrections.

Research on Promising Reentry Initiatives

NIJ seeks to build knowledge on best practices in reentry initiatives. Specifically, NIJ aims to fund rigorous research to examine reentry initiatives that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs.

In FY 2019, NIJ supported evaluations of innovative reentry initiatives that focus on juveniles, young adults (ages 18-24), and adults with a moderate to high risk of reoffending. This research may be applicable to juvenile residential facilities and institutional or community corrections, with a particular focus on the risk of reoffending with a violent crime.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives](#) solicitation. Five awards and a total of \$5.27 million were distributed.

Safety, Health, and Wellness

In FY 2019, NIJ funded a research project to assess the use and impact of an intake booking diversion program for individuals presenting with mental illness. This new program is an expansion of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Mental Evaluation Team co-responder model. The study looks to determine if the program improves early identification of arrestees with mental illness, if diversion through the Intake Booking Diversion program increases treatment engagement or reduces recidivism and future calls for service associated with mental health crises, and if the program improves safety for department deputies in the field or jail facility.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System](#) solicitation for \$1 million. It supports the objectives of NIJ's *Safety, Health, and Wellness Strategic Research Plan, 2016-2021*.

Applying Artificial Intelligence to Reentry

NIJ made two awards to develop artificial intelligence (AI) technology for reentry applications: (1) AI-Enabled Community Supervision for Criminal Justice Services and (2) AI Research and Development To Support Community Supervision: Integrated Dynamic Risk Assessment for Community Supervision.

The first project involves a researcher-practitioner partnership between a research team led by Purdue University and Tippecanoe County, Indiana. The project has three goals: (1) develop a novel, AI-based support and monitoring system to support reentry; (2) deploy

that system with Tippecanoe County Community Corrections; and (3) analyze the use and impact of the system and modify it based on the analysis.

The second project will develop an AI software tool termed Integrated Dynamic Risk Assessment for Community Supervision. The tool will incorporate dynamic risk factors and indicators to more effectively model the risk posed by individuals under community supervision and inform supervision strategies in real time. A number of AI classification models will be used to predict recidivism using model cross-validation to compare model type and specification to identify the most accurate models and reduce bias.

This research was funded under the [Artificial Intelligence Research and Development To Support Community Supervision](#) solicitation. Two awards and a total of \$3.2 million were distributed.

NIJ's Role Under the First Step Act

The First Step Act of 2018 aims to reform the federal prison system and reduce recidivism. Beginning in FY 2019, NIJ played a key role in major components of the act and assisted the attorney general in:

- Assessing the Federal Bureau of Prisons' prisoner risk and needs assessment system.
- Developing and evaluating a new risk and needs assessment system.
- Developing recommendations regarding effective evidence-based recidivism-reduction programs and activities, and conducting research and data analysis on evidence-based programs and assessment tools.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of grants used by the U.S. Department of Justice to support reentry and recidivism-reduction programs at the state, local, tribal, and federal levels.

A major milestone in FY 2019 was the selection of a nonpartisan and nonprofit organization to host an independent review committee, as called for by the act. The committee will assist the U.S. Department of Justice as it develops and implements risk and needs assessment tools and evidence-based recidivism-reduction programs.

Reports released by NIJ in response to the First Step Act in FY 2019 include:

- [Stakeholder Statements Submitted to NIJ's September Listening Sessions](#), published September 2019
- [Stakeholder Statements Submitted in Response to NIJ's *First Step Act* Listening Sessions](#), published July 2019
- [The Development of Metrics To Assess Outcomes for the Second Chance Act Grant Program: A Response to Title V of the *Second Chance Reauthorization Act of 2018*](#), published July 2019
- [First Step Act: Best Practices for Academic and Vocational Education for Offenders](#), published July 2019

Administration of Justice

NIJ sponsors criminal court research and court-based program evaluation to identify tools, programs, and policies that satisfy criminal justice goals, including public safety, cost efficiency, and fair and equitable treatment of victims and defendants.

Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice

NIJ's research in this area aims to strengthen the knowledge base of three priority areas and to improve public safety by producing findings with practical implications. It supports the U.S. Department of Justice's priorities of reducing violent crime and enhancing investigations and prosecutions.

In FY 2019, the three priority areas for projects related to the administration of justice were: (1) eyewitness evidence, (2) police deflection strategies, and (3) forensic science testimony.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice](#) solicitation. Three awards and a total of \$2.15 million were distributed.

Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA and Other Forensic Technologies

This research supports the U.S. Department of Justice's priorities of reducing violent crime and supporting law enforcement officers and prosecutors by providing resources to address violent crime cold cases. Through this program, NIJ provides funding to support the prosecution of violent crime cold cases and the processes, including forensic analyses, that lead to cold case resolutions.

The goals of the Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA and Other Forensic Technologies program are to prosecute violent crime cold cases where a suspect has been identified and to decrease the number of unresolved violent crime cold cases.

This work was funded under the [Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA and Other Forensic Technologies](#) solicitation. Two awards and a total of \$970,239 were distributed.

In FY 2020, this program, along with other forensic capacity enhancement programs, moved to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Tribal Crime and Justice Research

NIJ's tribal crime and justice research projects aim to provide an accurate reporting of crime and violence on tribal lands as well as reliable, valid estimates of the scope of the problem. This research also seeks to identify barriers to and possible solutions for dealing with these significant public safety issues.

In FY 2019, NIJ provided small planning grants to develop proposals for new and innovative criminal justice research projects involving federally recognized tribes (or tribally based organizations), which represents a new tribal-researcher investigator partnership. The projects included studies on missing and murdered native women and children, connecting medical examiner and coroner offices to tribal partners, and strengthening tribal justice systems using restorative approaches.

This work was funded under the [Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grants](#) solicitation. Four awards and a total of \$488,773 were distributed.

Forensic Science

Forensic science is the application of sciences such as physics, chemistry, biology, computer science, and engineering to matters of law. NIJ's forensic science research and development program focuses on basic and applied scientific research; it seeks to enhance and expand forensic methods and increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice.

Research in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes

NIJ supports research projects that will increase the body of knowledge or lead to the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic application. The intent of this program is to direct the findings of forensic science research toward the development of highly discriminating, accurate, reliable, cost-effective, and rapid methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes.

This work was funded under the [Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes](#) solicitation. Forty-four awards and a total of \$20.3 million were distributed.

Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories

With this solicitation, NIJ funded research and evaluation projects that will (1) identify and inform the forensic community of best practices through the evaluation of existing laboratory protocols and (2) have a direct and immediate impact on laboratory efficiency and assist in making laboratory policy decisions.

The intent of this program is to direct the findings of the research and evaluation toward the identification of the most efficient, accurate, reliable, and cost-effective methods for the identification, analysis, and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories](#) solicitation. Six awards and a total of \$1.98 million were distributed.

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

In FY 2019, NIJ continued to fund the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE). The FTCoE is a leader in the advancement of forensic science within the criminal justice community. Its blend of expertise, experience, and knowledge in forensic science, combined with objectivity and national reach to include all justice program stakeholders, allows the FTCoE to deliver practical and valuable solutions to the forensic science community, thereby bridging the gap between the scientific and the justice communities.

In FY 2019, NIJ provided an additional \$5.03 million to continue this work.

Safety, Health, and Wellness of Forensic Laboratory Professionals

NIJ examines the physical and mental health of those working in the criminal justice system and promotes research on monitoring and improving their physical and mental health. In FY 2019, NIJ funded two projects addressing the wellness of forensic laboratory professionals. The first study examines trauma and resiliency among forensic examiners who investigate child sexual abuse imagery. The second study seeks to understand work-related stress among medicolegal death investigators, with the goal of informing interventions and preventive training.

This work was funded under the [Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System](#) solicitation for \$1.4 million. It supports the objectives of NIJ's *Safety, Health, and Wellness Strategic Research Plan, 2016-2021*.

Forensic Capacity Enhancement Programs

NIJ administers funding programs to enhance and assist publicly funded forensic laboratories in multiple areas.

In FY 2020, the Office of Justice Programs realigned the forensic science capacity enhancement programs listed below to allow components to focus on their strengths and core mission. Grants awarded by NIJ under these programs in FY 2019 and earlier are now managed by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This move enabled NIJ scientists to focus on their research portfolios and promote the vital role that forensic science research has in improving the criminal justice system.

Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System

There is an extreme shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists in the United States, as underscored in the National Academies of Sciences' 2009 report *Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward*. This research addresses strengthening the medical examiner-coroner system in two project areas, both of which further the Office of Justice Programs' goal to increase public safety and improve the fair administration of justice. The first project area includes increasing the number and quality of board-certified forensic pathologists who choose the forensic pathology sub-specialty, following the completion of an accredited pathology medical residency program. The second project supports achieving accreditation of medical examiner and coroner offices through a recognized accreditation body (for example, the National Association of Medical Examiners or the International Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners).

In FY 2020, all state and local forensic capacity enhancement programs previously managed by NIJ moved to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This work was funded under the [Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program](#) solicitation. Fifteen awards and a total of \$1.83 million were distributed.

Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

The funding for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants program is divided into two pools: one that distributes funds based on state population and one that distributes funds through a competitive solicitation. This program seeks to improve forensic science and medical examiner-coroner services, including services provided by laboratories operated by states and units of local government. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog.

In FY 2020, all state and local forensic capacity enhancement programs previously managed by NIJ moved to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This work is funded under two solicitations: the [Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program \(Formula\)](#) and the [Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program \(Competitive\)](#). Eighty awards and a total of \$27.2 million were distributed.

DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction

The goal of the DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction program is to assist states and units of local government with existing forensic laboratory systems that conduct DNA or DNA database sample analysis with (1) increasing their ability to process casework or (2) reducing the number of forensic DNA and DNA database samples awaiting analysis. These two goals work together to prevent an overall backlog of forensic DNA and DNA database samples.

In FY 2020, all state and local forensic capacity enhancement programs previously managed by NIJ moved to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This work was funded under the [DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction \(CEBR\) Program \(Formula\)](#) solicitation. One hundred and thirty-four awards and a total of \$80.3 million were distributed.

Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence

Although successful exonerations to correct injustice are notable program outcomes, the careful review, consideration, and closing of cases subjected to postconviction DNA testing that does not ultimately demonstrate innocence also work to advance the public interest that justice has been applied fairly.

To that end, NIJ provided funding to assist in defraying the costs associated with postconviction DNA testing in cases of violent felony offenses in which actual innocence might be demonstrated. Funds may be used to identify and review such postconviction cases and to locate and analyze associated biological evidence. This supports the U.S. Department of Justice's mission to ensure fair and impartial administration of justice for all Americans.

In FY 2020, all state and local forensic capacity enhancement programs previously managed by NIJ moved to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This work was funded under the [Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence](#) solicitation. Eleven awards and a total of \$5.45 million were distributed.

Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence — Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting

In FY 2019, NIJ provided funding for eligible states and units of local government to inventory, track, and report the status of sexual assault kits (SAKs). As an integral part of these activities, the project is expected to identify and prioritize for testing SAKs for which prosecution of a person accused of perpetrating a crime is soon to be barred by the expiration of an applicable statute of limitations. In order to facilitate the prioritization of cases for testing in which an applicable statute of limitations is soon to expire, the grantees will clearly identify such potentially time-limited cases in their SAK inventory, implement methods and approaches to track such cases, and report on the disposition of any such cases during the period of performance.

In FY 2020, all state and local forensic capacity enhancement programs previously managed by NIJ moved to the Bureau of Justice Assistance.

This work was funded under the [Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence — Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program \(SAFE-ITR\)](#) solicitation. Two awards and a total of \$1.36 million were distributed.

Supporting Victims of Crime

Measuring the Impact of Victim Services: Instrument Development

In FY 2019, at the request of the Office on Violence Against Women and the Office for Victims of Crime, NIJ funded the development of a victim outcome and satisfaction survey instrument and platform. It will be used by service providers to assess whether the outcome-oriented performance goals of their services are being met, and to facilitate the collection of national-level performance data. This tool will be applicable across a diverse array of victim service programming and in different languages. This includes programs embedded in hospitals/trauma centers, umbrella/network organizations, one-stop victim services programs, culturally specific organizations, and programs embedded in criminal justice agencies.

This work was funded under the [Measuring the Impact of Victim Services: Instrument Development](#) solicitation. One award and a total of \$1.5 million were distributed.

Evaluations of Services for Victims of Crime

The purpose of this project is to conduct an evaluability assessment of the service delivery models for children and youth who have been commercially sexually exploited in Los Angeles County and are in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. These service delivery models, although considered innovative and comprehensive, are not at the stage to have an outcome evaluation conducted because there has been no specification of their design, program components, or intended outcomes. The goal of this project is to assess these models so they can be further defined and operationalized to prepare them for further evaluation and allow them to be replicated in other jurisdictions. The approach includes a multidisciplinary team of researchers, practitioners, and advocates.

This work was funded under the [Evaluations of Services for Victims of Crime](#) solicitation. Six awards and a total of \$4 million were distributed.

Research on Violence Against Women

Intimate partner violence is a pervasive issue throughout the United States. NIJ strives to support objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women, promote justice for all victims of crime, and enhance criminal justice responses to such crimes. Over 40 years, NIJ has invested more than \$130 million in research and evaluation to study violence against women.

A broad range of topics is covered under NIJ's Violence Against Women and Family Violence Research and Evaluation Program. This includes public health and safety topics as well as criminal justice challenges, including the availability of legal and victim support services, the effectiveness of prevention and intervention programs, and the impact of such crimes

over time. Specifically, NIJ's Violence Against Indian Women program of research consists of multiple studies that have and will be accomplished over an extended period.

In FY 2019, NIJ funded a study that supports the development of policies, protocols, and trainings related to campus sexual assaults to strengthen trauma-informed responses by campus public safety agencies in partnership with campus health and wellness centers, as well as local law enforcement agencies and health and victim service providers. A key aspect of this project is the researcher-practitioner partnership between the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and the American College Health Association to deliver rigorous, pragmatic data with the explicit purpose of informing institutional policies and practices on college campuses.

This and other research projects were funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence](#) solicitation. Three awards and a total of \$2.06 million were distributed.

Helping Victims of Human Trafficking

In FY 2019, NIJ funded two awards in the area of helping human trafficking victims: (1) Evaluability Assessment of a Metropolitan Network Service Delivery Model To Connect Trafficked Persons With a Full Range of Victim Services and (2) Partnering To Enhance Services for Survivors: An Evaluability Assessment and Formative Evaluation of Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program.

The first project will conduct a formative evaluation and evaluability assessment of a novel victim service delivery network model for trafficked survivors in the Greater Buffalo (New York) area. This study will be the first to assess an integrated municipal network model that includes the role of a trauma-informed human trafficking intervention court collaborating to meet survivors' needs.

In the second project, researchers from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will partner with an experienced evaluation group from Safe Horizon, one of the nation's largest victim services providers, to conduct an evaluability assessment and formative evaluation of Safe Horizon's Anti-Trafficking Program. The study will address the lack of empirical evidence about anti-trafficking services and provide guidance concerning how to evaluate such services meaningfully.

These two projects were funded under the [Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons](#) solicitation. The two awards totaled \$684,743.

Juvenile Justice

NIJ works closely with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to support high-quality, rigorous research, evaluations, and statistical analyses related to juvenile justice, as well as preventing and responding to juvenile delinquency and victimization. This research provides information about the risk and protective factors that contribute to or deter a youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system. It also helps the field understand adolescent behaviors, system responses, and the interventions that are most likely to promote positive youth outcomes.

Longitudinal Research on Delinquency and Crime

NIJ supports longitudinal research studies that focus on delinquency and crime throughout the life course, which may include childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood. The research findings are intended to identify malleable risk and protective factors that can be effectively targeted in efforts to prevent the onset of delinquency and to intervene in the lives of juvenile and young adults who commit crimes.

In FY 2019, NIJ awarded funds to two such projects that support the U.S. Department of Justice's strategic goal to reduce violent crime and promote public safety.

This work was funded under the [Longitudinal Research on Delinquency and Crime](#) solicitation. A total of \$2 million was awarded in this area to advance these objectives.

Evaluation of Juvenile Corrections Executive Leadership Training

In FY 2019, NIJ supported an evaluation project to examine the implementation and effectiveness of a juvenile corrections executive leadership training. The training, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, assisted juvenile facility superintendents and other juvenile corrections personnel in their efforts to develop and implement effective facility practices and strategies for youth in their custody.

This work was funded under the [Evaluation of Juvenile Corrections Executive Leadership Training](#) solicitation. A total of \$750,000 was awarded in this area to advance these objectives.

National Survey of Internet- and Technology-Facilitated Child Exploitation

In FY 2019, NIJ provided funding to support a national study of internet- and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation, including the development, testing, and administration of a national data collection from law enforcement agencies to produce accurate and reliable national estimates of, information about, and arrests for internet- and technology-facilitated child sexual exploitation crimes.

This work was funded under the [National Survey of Internet- and Technology-Facilitated Child Exploitation](#) solicitation. A total of \$944,844 was awarded in this area to advance these objectives.

National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program

NIJ continues to maintain and enhance the National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program to ensure that vital statistical information is available to the field regarding juvenile risk behaviors, juvenile victimization and offending, and the juvenile justice system response to law-violating behavior. These important data inform juvenile justice policy and practice at the federal, state, and local levels.

This project supports efforts in assembling juvenile justice-related datasets, analyzing and reporting on complex data and issues, and developing publications and online resources to make juvenile justice data easily accessible to the general public.

This work was funded under the [National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program](#) solicitation. A total of \$2.4 million was awarded in this area to advance these objectives.

Improving the Criminal Justice System

Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science

NIJ's Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Initiative is designed to increase the research capabilities of law enforcement officers and agencies. In recent years, NIJ has focused on empowering law enforcement to integrate research into policies and practices. The LEADS Scholars Program advances evidence-based policing by supporting the development of research-minded law enforcement personnel.

In FY 2019, NIJ piloted the addition of LEADS Academics and LEADS Civilians to the Scholars Program.

NIJ added the LEADS Academics Program with the goal of advancing practitioner-led research and promoting sustainable researcher-practitioner partnerships. One of the most important aspects of the LEADS Initiative is the connection between researchers and practitioners. The LEADS Academics Program is designed to strengthen those connections. [Learn more about the LEADS Academics Program.](#)

The LEADS Civilians Program offers a unique opportunity for law enforcement civilians to partner with LEADS scholars, alumni, and academics in an effort to use data-driven strategies and locally tailored research to advance their agency's mission. [Learn more about the LEADS Civilians Program.](#)

In FY 2019, NIJ welcomed 12 new LEADS scholars. Under pilot programs, NIJ selected two civilians and four academics for the LEADS Initiative.

The LEADS Initiative is supported as part of the NIJ Criminal Justice Requirements and Resources Consortium, which is funded through cooperative agreements awarded by NIJ to RAND Corporation and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System

The National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) is a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases across the United States. It is estimated that 4,400 unidentified bodies are recovered each year, with approximately 1,000 of those bodies remaining unidentified after one year.

NamUs assists state and local law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners, allied professionals, and the general public with resolving missing and unidentified persons cases. NIJ continues to support NamUs, which was developed to provide national assistance in the search for those living and deceased and to help resolve these cases.

A web-based system, NamUs resources are provided at no cost to law enforcement, medical examiners, coroners, allied forensic professionals, and family members of missing persons. NamUs has criminal justice users in all 50 states and is a collaborative system that bridges the communication gap among stakeholder communities to foster enhanced information sharing and case support.

CrimeSolutions

CrimeSolutions is a central resource to help practitioners and policymakers understand what works in justice-related programs and practices. Its purpose is to assist in practical decision-making and program implementation by gathering information on justice-related programs and practices and reviewing evaluation and meta-analysis research against standard criteria. In FY 2019, 47 programs and 14 practices received ratings based on CrimeSolutions review.

Identifying Research Needs and Opportunities

Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative

Identifying the needs of criminal justice practitioners and agencies plays a critical role in how NIJ sets its agenda. A need is a capability gap. The process that NIJ uses to identify needs has evolved over time as NIJ seeks more effective and efficient ways to accomplish its mission.

The core goal of NIJ's model is to elicit actionable findings — identifying needs related to police, courts, or corrections operations with enough specificity for NIJ to construct projects to address them. The foundation of NIJ's process is the practitioner, who provides unique insights from their firsthand grasp of challenges faced in the field.

NIJ developed the Criminal Justice Requirements and Resources Consortium, which is supported by a cooperative agreement awarded to the RAND Corporation under its Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative. In FY 2019, NIJ provided an additional \$1.5 million to support this effort.

Technology Foraging

The NIJ-funded Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium monitors trends and developments related to technologies, products, and practices in areas of interest to criminal justice. Its researchers use horizon scanning and market research techniques to identify, evaluate, and compare solutions for specific criminal justice needs.

This activity, among others, was supported by a cooperative agreement awarded by NIJ to RTI International.

Building the Nation's Criminal Justice Research Infrastructure

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

Established in 1972, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service is a federally funded resource offering justice- and drug-related information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide. In FY 2019, 548 NIJ-funded resources were added to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

National Archive of Criminal Justice Data

The central mission of the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD) is to facilitate and encourage research in the field of criminal justice through the sharing of data resources. NACJD provides computer-readable data for the quantitative study of crime and the criminal justice system, technical assistance in selecting data collections and computer hardware and software for analyzing data efficiently and effectively, and training in quantitative methods of social science research to facilitate secondary analysis of criminal justice data.

NACJD routinely receives statistical data from other U.S. Department of Justice agencies, including the Bureau of Justice Statistics, NIJ, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the FBI.

In FY 2019, 98 NIJ-supported entries were added to the database.

Graduate Research Fellowship

The Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics provides grants to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in topic areas that are relevant to preventing and controlling crime and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of criminal justice in the United States.

The Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences provides awards to accredited academic institutions to support graduate research leading to doctoral degrees in areas that are relevant to ensuring public safety, preventing and controlling crime, and ensuring the effective administration of criminal justice in the United States.

In FY 2019, 24 awards and a total of \$2.56 million were distributed under both the [Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics](#) and the [Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences](#) solicitations.

Research Assistantship Program

The NIJ Research Assistantship Program offers highly qualified doctoral students the opportunity to bring their expertise to NIJ to work across offices and program areas to obtain a practical and applied research experience. The research assistantship program is a research-focused professional development opportunity for doctoral students. NIJ welcomes students from all academic disciplines who wish to connect their research to the criminal justice field to apply. This unique assistantship is an opportunity to learn and contribute to the breadth and depth of scientific research in which NIJ engages. NIJ provides funds to participating universities to pay salaries and other costs associated with research assistants who work on NIJ research activities.

In FY 2019, NIJ welcomed two new research assistants.

Highlights of Dissemination

NIJ accomplishes its mission through the “Listen, Learn, Inform” model — we “listen” to the needs of the field; “learn” ways to meet those needs by funding research, development, and evaluation projects; and then “inform” the field of what we learned. NIJ informs the field through the development of publications and other products to give policymakers and practitioners the best available evidence to make decisions and build knowledge that advances both science and practice.

The *NIJ Journal* features articles to help criminal justice policymakers and practitioners stay informed about new developments. The *NIJ Journal* presents research-based information that can help inform policy decisions and improve understanding of the criminal justice system. In FY 2019, NIJ published 16 *NIJ Journal* articles focused on policing and law enforcement and celebrating the Institute’s 50th anniversary.

NIJ regularly publishes articles on NIJ.ojp.gov that summarize the results of completed research projects spanning the social, physical, and forensic sciences. Each article aims to communicate findings to practitioners and policymakers in the field. In FY 2019, NIJ released 18 articles.

In addition to publishing articles in the *NIJ Journal* and on its website, NIJ also places articles in prominent trade magazines that serve critical audiences. In FY 2019, NIJ placed eight articles in trade association publications.

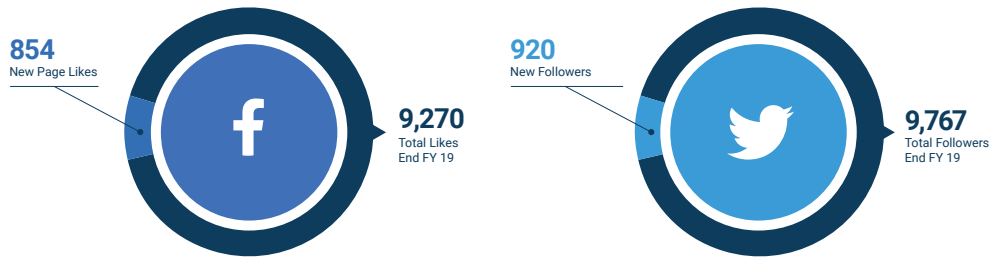
NIJ’s *Notes From the Field* presents lessons learned by law enforcement executives and other on-the-ground leaders, from years of experience and thinking deeply about law enforcement issues. In FY 2019, NIJ released six installments in this series.

In FY 2019, NIJ also produced a variety of publications and other reports along with videos ranging from short interviews to full recorded webinars.



Social Media

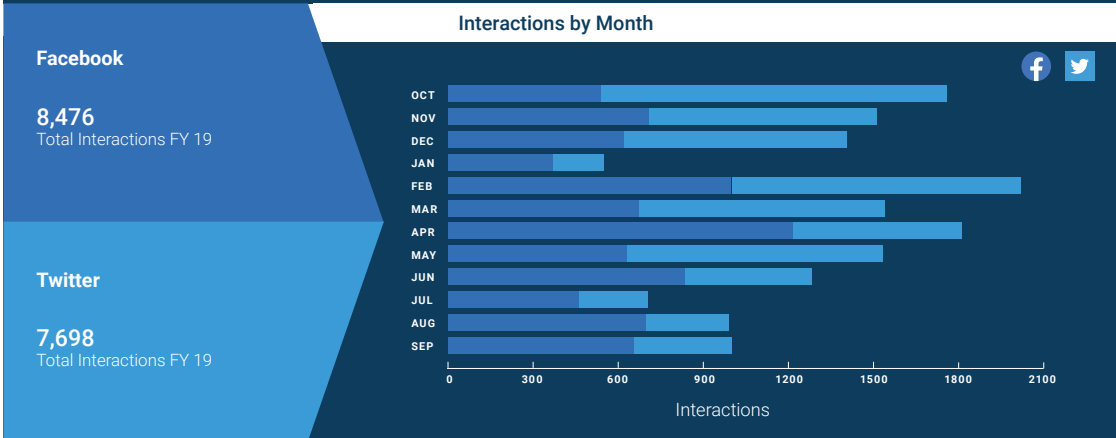
How Many People Connected With NIJ on Social Media?



How Many People Saw NIJ's Social Media Posts?



How Did People Engage With NIJ on Social Media?



Appendix: Financial Data

Exhibit 1: Funds Made Available Pursuant to P.L. 116-60

Type of Funds	Enacted Amount
Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES)	
Research, Development, and Evaluation Programs (NIJ “Base” Appropriation)	\$28,000,000
Research on School Violence	\$1,000,000
Research on Protecting Children Against Online Predatory Behavior (National Juvenile Online Victimization Studies)	\$1,000,000
National Center for Restorative Justice	\$3,000,000
Domestic Radicalization Research	\$4,000,000
Total Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES) Programs	\$37,000,000
Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) Program Transfer to OJP	
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	\$3,000,000
Total OVW Programs Transferred to OJP	\$3,000,000
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System	\$2,400,000
DNA-Related and Other Forensic Programs and Activities	\$120,000,000
Postconviction DNA Testing	\$6,000,000
Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program	\$4,000,000
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants (85% formula and 15% competitive)	\$30,000,000
Total State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	\$162,400,000
Total Enacted	\$202,400,000
Transfers	
RES Set-Aside 2.5% for Research and Statistics — Transfer Into Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES) Programs	\$25,543,750
Total Transfers	\$25,543,750
Carry-Forward Funds, Reimbursable Agreements, and Inter/Intra-Agency Agreements	
Carry-Forward Funds (Includes Carry-Forward Reimbursable Agreements)	\$23,311,439
Reimbursable Agreements	\$3,195,297
Intra-Agency Agreements	\$14,460,746
Total Carry-Forward, Reimbursable, and Intra-Agency Agreements	\$40,967,482
TOTAL Funding Available for Programs and Activities	\$268,911,232

Assessments	
Management and Administration Assessment — 6.7%	\$(13,712,712)
RES Set-Aside for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Assessment — 2.5%	\$(4,060,000)

Assessments:

- 6.7% assessed against the Research, Evaluation, and Statistics programs; Office on Violence Against Women transfer; and State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs.
- 2.5% assessed against State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance programs.

Exhibit 2: Allocation of Funds

Type of Activity	Subcategory	Percentage	FY 2019 Amount
Social Science	Research and Development*	20.4%	\$54,955,914
	Training and Technical Assistance	0.9%	\$2,400,000
Science and Technology	Research and Development*	3.3%	\$8,953,680
	Technology Assistance/Test and Evaluation	1.3%	\$3,546,100
Investigative and Forensic Science	Analysis and Capacity Enhancement**	43.2%	\$116,288,690
	Research and Development*	9.9%	\$26,725,401
	Training and Technical Assistance	1.9%	\$5,025,853
Dissemination/Outreach/Program Support		7.1%	\$18,990,029
Total		88.1%	\$236,885,667
Section 215 Set-Aside for Research and Statistics		1.5%	\$4,060,000
OJP Management and Administration		5.1%	\$13,712,712
Carryover (Including Reimbursements)		5.3%	\$14,252,853
Total		11.9%	\$32,025,565
		100.0%	\$268,911,232

Exhibit 3: Solicitations

FY 2019 Solicitation	Awards Made	Value of Awards
Artificial Intelligence Research and Development To Support Community Supervision, FY 2019	2	\$3,197,051
DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program (Formula), FY 2019	134	\$80,332,585
Establishment of a National Center on Restorative Justice, FY 2019	0	\$0
Evaluation of Project Safe Neighborhoods, FY 2019	1	\$2,997,410
Evaluation of Street Law Programs, FY 2019	0	\$0
Evaluations of Services for Victims of Crime, FY 2019	6	\$3,996,943
Graduate Research Fellowship in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (GRF-STEM), FY 2019	17	\$1,925,768
Graduate Research Fellowship Program in the Social and Behavioral Sciences, FY 2019	7	\$634,801
GRF-STEM Continuations, FY 2019	12	\$581,863
Investigator-Initiated Research and Evaluation on Firearm Violence, FY 2019	4	\$2,070,482
Measuring the Impact of Victim Services: Instrument Development, FY 2019	1	\$1,499,393
National Juvenile Justice Data Analysis Program, FY 2019	1	\$2,400,000
NIJ FY19 Continuations	12	\$17,840,263
NIJ Nonsolicited Applications, FY 2019	2	\$2,000,000
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (Competitive), FY 2019	26	\$4,084,115
Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program (Formula), FY 2019	54	\$23,143,361
Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence, FY 2019	11	\$5,439,494
Prosecuting Cold Cases Using DNA and Other Forensic Technologies, FY 2019	2	\$970,239
Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes, FY 2019*	44	\$20,253,178
Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories, FY 2019**	6	\$1,983,864
Research and Evaluation in Safety, Health, and Wellness in the Criminal Justice System, FY 2019	5	\$3,938,954
Research and Evaluation on Drugs and Crime, FY 2019	4	\$2,474,339
Research and Evaluation on Gangs and Gang Violence, FY 2019	2	\$1,200,610
Research and Evaluation on Policing, FY 2019	4	\$2,739,438
Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives, FY 2019	5	\$5,265,712
Research and Evaluation on Terrorism Prevention, FY 2019	4	\$4,269,372

Exhibit 3: Solicitations (continued)

FY 2019 Solicitation	Awards Made	Value of Awards
Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice, FY 2019	3	\$2,150,423
Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons, FY 2019	5	\$2,348,712
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women: Sexual Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, and Teen Dating Violence, FY 2019	3	\$2,056,626
Research and Evaluation on White Collar Crime: Health Care and Elder Fraud, FY 2019	3	\$2,426,888
Research Into Desistance From Crime, FY 2019	2	\$1,396,589
Research on Immigration and Crime, FY 2019	5	\$3,325,374
Sexual Assault Forensic Evidence — Inventory, Tracking, and Reporting Program, FY 2019	2	\$1,363,859
Strengthening the Medical Examiner-Coroner System Program, FY 2019	15	\$1,831,423
Longitudinal Research on Delinquency and Crime, FY 2019	2	\$1,999,824
Evaluation of Juvenile Corrections Executive Leadership Training, FY 2019	1	\$750,000
National Survey of Internet- and Technology-Facilitated Child Exploitation, FY 2019	1	\$994,844
Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grants Solicitation, FY 2019	4	\$488,773
Total	406	\$214,138,9
Legacy OJJDP Research Grants	53	

* Includes 41 grants at \$18,708,271 and three inter-agency agreements at \$1,544,907.

** Includes five grants at \$1,883,999 and one inter-agency agreement at \$99,865.

