



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
810 Seventh St. N.W.
Washington, DC 20531

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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.

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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's core mission is to provide objective, independent, evidence-based 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 with other federal agencies, and contracts. By providing these funds, NIJ continues to support high-quality research on crime, crime control, and the fair administration of justice by engaging and supporting researchers and 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 that leverage investments and infrastructure, thereby increasing the impact of NIJ's finite resources and the pace of needed technology solutions being introduced to the field.

Understanding, Preventing, and Reducing Crime

NIJ supports research and evaluation across a wide variety of criminal and juvenile justice issues, focused on the causes and correlates of crime. Violence prevention and response to victimization are areas of research that are of particular interest.

NIJ supported research under the following topics in fiscal year (FY) 2021.

Research and Evaluation on Domestic Terrorism Prevention

NIJ sought to fund rigorous research and evaluation projects targeted toward developing a better understanding of the domestic radicalization phenomenon and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention. This includes research efforts that explore the radicalization of Americans to white nationalist extremism, and those exploring emerging militant left-wing movements, to identify and advance evidence-based strategies for effective intervention and prevention.

Research falls into three focus areas:

- Informing terrorism prevention efforts.
- Reintegrating offenders into the community.
- Evaluating programs and practices to prevent terrorism.

Funded projects include a variety of topics, including using psychosocial, trauma-related, and life history variables to inform intervention and prevention; online radicalization and the path to violence; psychological and behavioral health approaches to prevention and the reintegration of individuals engaged in violent extremism; and domestic terrorism in rural communities.

Additionally, other projects include a longitudinal analysis of those who exit white supremacist groups; an examination of the degree to which linguistic risk factors can be used to predict violent extremist outcomes at the individual level; a formative evaluation and evaluability assessment of an intervention and deradicalization program (Parents For Peace); and using a public health approach to understand and target risk factors for moving from radicalization to violence.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Domestic Terrorism Prevention](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded eight awards for a total of \$7.45 million.

Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women

NIJ strives to support objective and independent knowledge and validated tools to reduce violence against women. 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 2021, NIJ sought to fund research and evaluation projects examining a broad range of topics, including the crimes of domestic and family violence, homicide, intimate partner and dating violence, rape, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking, along with the associated criminal justice system responses, procedures, and policies.

Projects funded include one to analyze court decision-making in domestic violence cases in North Carolina; a randomized controlled trial to determine the efficacy of the SAFeR (Screening, Assessing, Focusing on the Effects, and Responding to Abuse) approach to improving the legal response to intimate partner violence; an exploration of police response to nonfatal intimate partner violence against older women; and a continuation of a previously funded project to develop a data-driven, trauma-informed, and culturally competent risk evaluation tool for teen dating violence.

This work is funded under the solicitation "[Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women](#)." In FY 2021, NIJ funded four awards for a total of \$2.37 million.

Research and Evaluation on School Safety

In support of stakeholder efforts to ensure that students are safe in school, NIJ has funded numerous initiatives over the years that evaluate school safety practices. These efforts range from preventing tragic incidents like school shootings to promoting a positive school environment where day-to-day challenges, like bullying and harassment, can be reduced.

In FY 2021, NIJ sought proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects to study the root causes of school violence, including the impact and effectiveness of grants made under the STOP School Violence Act. NIJ was particularly interested in examining understudied approaches to improving school safety. Of most interest were anti-violence interventions and threat assessment.

The first of these projects is a study to produce information on individual, school, and community predictors of school violence. Using juvenile justice, educational, and publicly available neighborhood data, researchers will compile a large, statewide secondary dataset on youth arrested in Florida and conduct focus groups with school and justice system personnel. The goals are to provide information on the extent to which school violence is a unique form of youth crime, with a focus on various forms of serious school violence; assess a host of predictors of school violence; and predict school violence among already-arrested youth.

The second funded project will explore the impact poorly supervised and unstructured time at school has on school violence and whether skilled supervision can address this. Researchers will identify when and where violence occurs at school, conduct a randomized controlled trial of a modified version of the Positive School Safety Program in 100 Philadelphia schools to evaluate program effectiveness, and investigate program implementation.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on School Safety](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded two awards for a total of \$1.43 million.

In addition to funding new awards in FY 2021, NIJ also held a virtual conference on school safety, with a focus on “Bridging Research to Practice to Safeguard Our Schools.” The recordings from the three-day event are [available on the NIJ website](#).

The conference included guest speakers from the nationwide school safety community, including several National Center for School Safety researchers, topic experts, and National Advisory Board members. The projects featured during the event are some of the nearly 100 funded through the NIJ Comprehensive School Safety Initiative and the STOP School Violence Act. Breakout sessions and roundtable discussions included a focus on school safety issues and the relevant evidence-based practices to address them.

Research and Evaluation of Trafficking in Persons

NIJ continues to build upon its research and evaluation efforts to better understand, prevent, and respond to trafficking in persons in the United States. With the FY 2021 solicitation, NIJ sought proposals for research projects addressing the following three priority areas: demand reduction research; human trafficking research, evaluation, and development; and research on sex trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native girls and women.

In one project, researchers will conduct a process and quasi-experimental outcome evaluation of three human trafficking victim service providers using the Outcomes for Human Trafficking Survivors instrument; they will also conduct a reliability assessment and validity test of that same instrument. The project’s goals are to produce information on the barriers, challenges, best practices, and recommendations for implementing the Outcomes for Human Trafficking Survivors instrument and on whether services provided by human trafficking service organizations impact survivor outcomes.

In another project, a multistakeholder collaboration of researcher-survivor partnerships, tribal communities, victim-serving organizations, and institutions of higher education that serve Native students will use an Indigenous-led, community-based participatory action research framework to identify the ways in which Native Americans are recruited, groomed, and coerced into sex trafficking; elucidate the ways in which Native American survivors of sex trafficking are identified; and document the role that community members play in preventing and responding to sex trafficking among Native Americans.

In the third project, researchers will analyze victim recruitment, exploitation, and service needs to identify strategies for prevention and intervention. The project will address three main questions: Does labor trafficking victimization manifest differently in distinct industries? What is the underlying supply chain and network structure of labor trafficking in the construction and hospitality industries? Are there points throughout recruitment, control, and concealment of labor trafficking in these industries that could present opportunities for identification and intervention?

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation of Trafficking in Persons](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$2.62 million.

Law Enforcement

NIJ is committed to advancing work that promotes civil rights and racial equity, increases access to justice, supports crime victims and individuals impacted by the justice system, strengthens community safety, protects the public from crime and evolving threats, and builds trust between law enforcement and the community. NIJ has been a leader in developing and advancing the research agenda for policing.

Research and Evaluation on Policing

NIJ sought proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects that address: reallocation of resources and police operations and functions; police use of force and de-escalations tactics and strategies; and tactics and strategies that strengthen police-community relationships. These contemporary issues in policing are also reflected in the strategic priorities and objectives identified in NIJ’s “Policing Strategic Research Plan, 2017-2022.” Among other areas of interest, NIJ is interested in studies examining approaches that address the challenges of policing in rural communities.

NI will fund a randomized controlled trial of a hybrid (in-person and online) de-escalation training program. The research team will use systematic social observation of body-worn camera video both to examine improvements in officer behaviors in non-use-of-force incidents and to look at differences between trained and untrained officers in the transactional nature of use-of-force incidents.

Other funded projects include a randomized field experiment to evaluate adding a social worker to a police outreach team tasked with helping vulnerable people in a large urban transit system; a randomized controlled trial to evaluate whether incorporating elements of procedural justice into traffic stops and providing body-worn camera footage access to citizens stopped by the police enhances citizens’ trust in and attitudes toward police and stimulates compliance; the creation and testing of training in the fundamentals of evidence-based interviewing for frontline officers; and a first-of-its-kind study to use a nationally representative probability sample of LGBTQ and non-LGBTQ individuals to assess their experiences with, perceptions of, and attitudes toward law enforcement.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Policing](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded five awards for a total of \$3.27 million.

Research and Evaluation on the Police Response to Homelessness

NIJ sought to fund exploratory research and secondary/open data analysis to assess the range of practices, strategies, and tactics used by police to respond to homelessness.

NIJ funded one project in this area. In that project, researchers will conduct exploratory research to establish the complexity and breadth of public and private agencies, organizations, and institutions connected to police responses to people experiencing homelessness. Using open-source data and complementary cases studies including social network data, the researchers will create a knowledge base of promising police practices for responding to people experiencing homelessness.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on the Police Response to Homelessness](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded one award for a total of \$1.46 million.

Research and Evaluation on Policing Strategies for Civil Disturbances

In FY 2021, NIJ sought to fund rigorous research and evaluation projects to better understand the factors that lead to violent disorder and criminal conduct at some protests and demonstrations but not others, and the tactics and strategies that police use to maintain public order.

One project will seek to understand how police agencies plan for and respond to protest events to identify promising practices for preventing civil disturbances. Researchers will field a nationally representative survey to provide a comprehensive snapshot of police policies, equipment, and training and collect information about the number of protest events police have responded to since 2014 and how many have resulted in civil disturbances. The project’s goals are to gain an in-depth understanding of agency- and officer-level decision-making and perceptions about what strategies and tactics are effective. This study will also gauge the community’s perceptions about the role of police at protests and experiences interacting with officers during these events.

In a second project, researchers look to provide both a broad understanding of the content of after-action reviews of law enforcement response to civil disturbances as well as a deep understanding of how agencies respond to these reviews. In addition, researchers will analyze community reactions to policing during civil disturbances using social media sentiment analysis to understand whether certain approaches are more or less likely to result in positive or negative community and media sentiment or escalation of events.

For the third funded study, researchers propose a multiphase approach to: understand the pattern and profile of nonviolent and violent protests across the United States since 2017, including the role of police; identify the policing strategies and tactics that work best under different circumstances to prevent, disrupt, or mitigate violence at large public gatherings; and understand the role that community-police relationships and partnerships play in determining the police response and protest outcomes.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Policing Strategies for Civil Disturbances](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$1.96 million.

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 and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives

NIJ continued its efforts to fund rigorous research and evaluation projects to examine reentry initiatives that incorporate promising practices, strategies, or programs. NIJ sought to fund multisite, randomized controlled trial (RCT) evaluations of innovative reentry initiatives that are specifically designed to address violent, habitual recidivism; are initiated during an individual's incarceration and continue in the community; and address multiple criminogenic needs that can be assessed incrementally.

One project will look to determine the effectiveness of a jail-based stepdown program in reducing recidivism for individuals reentering society. Researchers will look at recidivism outcomes along with successful reentry indicators of education, employment, housing, and treatment services provided.

In a second project, researchers will conduct a long-term RCT evaluation of the 5-Key Model of Reentry, which uses cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) programming to address five key criminogenic need areas by combining four existing evidence-based CBT curriculums.

The third project involves an RCT to examine whether re-orienting every aspect of the prison experience towards rehabilitation — by investing in education, mental health, and physical health while individuals are incarcerated — can reduce prison reentry rates.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$2.04 million.

Recidivism Forecasting Challenge

Recidivism is a major concern for our criminal justice system. Although our ability to predict recidivism through risk and needs assessments has improved, many tools used for prediction and forecasting are insensitive to gender-specific needs and suffer from racial bias.

More accurate risk assessments are needed, to provide better decisions regarding the appropriate balance between surveillance and support for those under supervision. Inclusion of more detailed, untapped information with common risk assessment protocols may provide greater accuracy and mitigate bias, thus producing fairer outcomes that facilitate successful reentry into the community by persons of color.

In recognition of these issues, in FY 2021, NIJ hosted the Recidivism Forecasting Challenge. The primary aim of this research competition was to understand the factors that drive recidivism, which was defined as an arrest for a new offense. Challenge entrants were asked to develop and train software models to forecast recidivism for individuals released on parole from the state of Georgia. Entrants were given a dataset that allowed them to train their forecasting models by exploring gender, racial, and age differences for individuals on parole, in addition to a host of other information. Submissions showed how data-sharing and open competition can improve recidivism forecasting accuracy compared to simple forecasting models.

The Challenge succeeded, with 200 prizes awarded to contestants including students, small businesses, and large businesses. Award recipients were selected from three categories of contestants — students, small teams, and large teams — and a separate category accounting for racial bias.

The winning forecasts performed substantially better and more fairly than random chance and naive demographic models. The differences in accuracy between the winning and naive models were likely attributable to the use of more advanced statistical techniques (for example, regression, random forest, neural networks) and incorporation of additional data from the Georgia Department of Community Supervision beyond the demographics used in the naive models.

Fairness and accuracy scores were also compared based on the frequency and magnitude of the fairness penalty. Penalties were observed across the winning submissions, although they were considerably smaller than the average penalty size. This suggests that as the accuracy of models improved, so did their fairness. Interestingly, although most models received fairness penalties, race alone was not identified as a significant indicator of recidivism. This result, as well as the increase in penalty size for females across years, will be evaluated in future research. Further exploration is needed to better understand how this fairness was reflected in the Challenge and what implications these fairness results have for the field.

The results of the Challenge point to data that can be added to common risk assessment tools that are currently in use so that they can provide more accurate recidivism forecasts. They also point to the need for additional research to identify and understand gender differences in risk assessments and the support provided for individuals under community supervision.

The successful completion and initial review of the results from the Challenge demonstrate the value of open data and open competition approaches for facilitating research within departments of corrections or community supervision.

To learn more, read the article [“Results From the National Institute of Justice Recidivism Forecasting Challenge,”](#) originally published in *Corrections Today*, that puts the challenge results into context and discusses some next steps. The [winning entries for the challenge are listed on NIJ.ojp.gov.](#)

Administration of Justice

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

Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice

In FY 2021, NIJ sought proposals for rigorous research and evaluation projects examining the impact of pretrial strategies on the administration of justice and public safety. Specifically, NIJ sought to fund applications for projects examining the impact on the administration of justice and public safety of pretrial detention health care, data-driven interventions, prosecutorial discretion, decriminalization of certain offenses, and bail reform.

Funded projects include separate evaluations of two state laws: Illinois Public Act 101-0652 and Oregon Measure 110, Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative.

The Illinois act abolishes cash bail, prohibits pretrial detention for most defendants, creates new pretrial release conditions and detention hearing processes, limits conditions placed on defendants released before trial, and limits revocation of pretrial release and modification of conditions. With the evaluation, researchers seek to understand the impact of bail reforms on bond court decisions, pretrial release practices, and work routines of different justice system actors; test if the elimination of monetary bail results in any failures to appear or new criminal activity of defendants released before trial; and evaluate whether bail reform in Illinois is cost effective.

In Oregon, researchers will examine the multifaceted impact of drug decriminalization on law enforcement, prosecution, courts, public safety, and public health.

In another project, researchers will collaborate with the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts to examine and revise use of the Public Safety Assessment, a pretrial risk assessment tool designed to yield objective pretrial release recommendations but criticized for its inherent bias. The goal is to refine the tool to support the state's pretrial reform objectives of limiting the use of pretrial detention and reducing racial disparities in the system, while maintaining public safety.

The final project builds on a pilot partnership with the Washington Rural Jails Research and Policy Network to collect and make available data on issues impacting rural justice systems for place-based, data-driven solutions to issues that contribute to rising rates of rural jail incarceration and recidivism.

This work is funded under the solicitation "[NIJ Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice](#)." In FY 2021, NIJ made four awards for a total of \$2.73 million.

W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System

NIJ launched the W.E.B. Du Bois Program in 2000. It supported scholarly research until 2018, when the program was paused. NIJ was pleased to relaunch this program in late FY 2021. The W.E.B. Du Bois Program supports quantitative and qualitative research that furthers the U.S. Department of Justice’s mission by advancing knowledge regarding the intersections of race, crime, violence, and the administration of justice within the United States. In FY 2021, under the W.E.B. Du Bois Program, NIJ sought applications for funding of investigator-initiated research examining how observed racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system might be reduced through public policy interventions at any point during the administration of justice.

Projects funded in FY 2021 included an examination of the social, economic, and legal consequences of shadow costs, i.e., financial outlays and expenditures not immediately quantifiable by the state but ordered as part of a reentry or rehabilitation treatment program; an evaluation of the impact of Arizona’s ban on peremptory challenges with a focus on racial bias in jury selection and case outcomes; an assessment of the causes of racial disparities in drug courts; and an examination of the effect of Oregon’s Measure 110, which decriminalized the possession of small amounts of all drugs for personal use, on racial and ethnic disparities in criminal justice outcomes.

This work is funded under the solicitation “[W.E.B. Du Bois Program of Research on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System](#).” In FY 2021, NIJ made four awards for a total of \$2.65 million.

Research on the Impact of Public Policy on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System

In FY 2021, NIJ sought to fund evidence-based, nonpartisan analyses of existing evidence to examine how observed racial and ethnic disparities in the justice system might be reduced through public policy, resulting in two awards.

The first project will examine the impact of removing school-based law enforcement on racial and ethnic disparities in criminal justice system contact. Researchers will draw on two secondary data sources: the School Survey on Crime and Safety (a biennial nationally representative sample of school administrators) and the Civil Rights Data Collection (a biennial census of U.S. public schools).

The purpose of the second study is to inform the field of observed racial disparities in federal sentencing and how they might be reduced or eliminated through public policy. To do this, researchers will conduct a 12-month secondary analysis of the U.S. Sentencing Commission’s report *Demographic Differences in Sentencing*.

This work is funded under the “[Research on the Impact of Public Policy on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System](#)” solicitation. Two awards were made for a total of \$99,835.

Research and Evaluation on a National Model for Technical Violations

Of the individuals released from incarceration every year, approximately two-thirds are likely to be rearrested within three years of release. A significant percentage of those are returned to prison for technical violations of their conditions of release, not necessarily related to the commission of a new crime. Nearly half of all U.S. prison intakes may be due to a revocation from probation or parole.

In FY 2021, NIJ requested proposals from accredited academic institutions to design and test models to expedite judicial review for individuals awaiting revocation of their parole or probation for technical violations of their supervision, while linking those individuals to evidence-based services that address the root causes of recidivism.

No awards were made under [this opportunity](#) in FY 2021.

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. NIJ's efforts also include developing the research capacity to address matters of justice in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

Tribal-Researcher Capacity-Building Grants

In FY 2021, NIJ continued to fund new tribal-researcher capacity-building planning grants involving scientists working with tribal nations and organizations to develop tangible and mutually beneficial criminal or juvenile justice research studies that are rigorous and culturally appropriate. Research must be tribally driven and address the challenges of fighting crime and strengthening justice systems in Indian country and Alaska Native villages.

Funded projects include a strengths and needs assessment of Tohono O'odham Community College's response to gender-based violence and victimization; a project to create a partnership between a university team and a large, multistate tribal organization to develop research questions and a study design to determine which factors make youth and young adults susceptible to violence in Indigenous communities and which factors can increase resilience; and a project to establish a partnership between the Tulalip Tribes of Washington and the Washington State University that will inform a data-driven, evidence-based understanding of the tribes' existing criminal justice system and collaborate to design a research project to study the effectiveness of trauma-informed healing initiatives being implemented by the tribe.

This work is funded under the "[Tribal-Researcher Capacity-Building Grants Solicitation](#)." In FY 2021, NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$449,567.

NamUs and Tribal Justice

The [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUs\)](#) offers powerful technology and forensic services to resolve missing and unidentified person cases and gives tribal law enforcement agencies and tribal leaders insight into the nature and number of missing persons within their communities and beyond their tribal jurisdictions.

NIJ strives to ensure that tribal agencies and leaders are aware of and understand how to use NamUs through targeted outreach and awareness efforts. NamUs offered extensive outreach and training to tribal audiences from 2018 through 2020. During that time, NamUs held 49 training and outreach events targeted explicitly to tribal audiences.

In 2021, outreach efforts were limited due to COVID-19 travel restrictions and the transition of the program from a grant to a contract in the spring of 2021. Despite these challenges, NamUs conducted training and outreach for organizations like the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center and practitioners like Navajo Nation tribal law enforcement

officers. NamUs also hosted a listening session with representatives from six of the seven Navajo Nation police units.

To support the resolution of American Indian and Alaska Native missing person cases, NamUs, with prescriptive funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, supplemented existing efforts to gather DNA and other specific identification information on each case. This focused work contributes to highly detailed descriptive case characteristics and may lead to a successful case resolution. The supplementary data may also improve the understanding of circumstances, characteristics, and outcomes of missing and unidentified American Indian and Alaska Native person cases and the impact of forensic and analytical services on those cases.

NIJ plans to increase in-person engagement with participating tribes in FY 2022.

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 supports basic and applied research as well as technology development; it seeks to enhance and expand forensic methods and increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice.

Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes

In FY 2021, NIJ again sought proposals for rigorous basic and applied research and development projects. An NIJ forensic science research and development grant supports a discrete, specified, circumscribed project that will increase the body of knowledge to guide and inform forensic science policy and practice or lead to the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods that have the potential for forensic applications. The following are summaries of four of the 30 awards made under this solicitation:

- Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) offers a capability to identify investigative leads when searching the CODIS database is unproductive. IGG can provide time-efficient methods for removing individuals who have committed serial violent crimes, such as rape and murder, from the community, thereby increasing public safety. However, use of IGG has preceded establishment of best practices. This study will assess the ability of genotyping technologies to develop useful profiles from low-template and degraded sexual assault samples for genealogical searching in direct-to-consumer genealogical databases accessible to law enforcement and support rapid, accurate, and efficient identification of the sample's source.
- As cannabis/marijuana use is legalized in various ways across the country, the need for a roadside technology to detect impairment from marijuana in drivers is critical. This project will collect and analyze breath samples from cannabis users to determine the feasibility of a breath-based test for use in the field.
- Forensic anthropologists routinely use radiographic comparisons to generate positive identifications of human skeletal remains in casework. However, there is little research on the reliability and validity of radiographic comparisons for identification. This project seeks to address that research gap by investigating observer reliability in radiographic identifications and assessing the accuracy of the identifications based on anatomical location and number of features analyzed.
- The presence of gunshot residue particles on a person's body or clothing may be associated with proximity to a firearm discharge. Current methods of analysis focus only on the inorganic content of the residue and are not well suited to modern, lead-free ammunition. This project will continue a line of research to develop noncontact laser spectroscopic methods to quickly locate and identify both the organic and inorganic components of gunshot residue.

This work is funded under the “[Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes, Fiscal Year 2021](#)” solicitation. NIJ made 30 awards totaling \$14.35 million.

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

In FY 2021, NIJ continued to seek applications for research and evaluation studies to produce practical knowledge that has the potential to improve the examination and interpretation of physical evidence in forensic science laboratories.

One funded project will help forensic laboratories keep pace with the persistent presence and emergence of novel psychoactive substances. Laboratories struggle to keep up with the trends, and efficiencies in workflow, particularly in screening, are more critical than ever. Under one project, NIJ has funded the Maryland State Police to expand on previous NIJ-funded work by developing a modified workflow that does not rely on direct analysis in real time technology (which may not be available at many public laboratories), as well as developing additional gas chromatography-mass spectrometry methods to more fully capture the wide variety of drug classes.

Other funded projects include: a study in which firearms examiners will compare images of fired bullets and cartridge cases created by different brands of 3D microscopes and determine if the image quality allows accurate comparisons; a study using new quantitative methods to examine soil samples that may provide valuable information for excluding suspects; the validation of a confirmatory proteomic mass spectrometry body fluid assay; and research and evaluation of the implementation and use of continuous probabilistic genotyping software to improve the interpretation of forensic DNA mixtures.

This work is funded under the “[Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories](#)” solicitation. In FY 2021, NIJ funded five awards for a total of \$1.3 million.

Rapid DNA Crime Scene Sample Multilaboratory Evaluation Project

The FBI’s Technology Advancement Task Group published a joint position statement with the Scientific Working Group on DNA Analysis Methods and the DNA Working Group of the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes regarding the use of rapid DNA technology on forensic evidence for state and national DNA databases. The statement identified five major areas that must be addressed before rapid DNA instruments can be tested and considered for the analysis of forensic evidence for state and national databasing purposes.

In FY 2021, NIJ provided funding to the FBI Laboratory to coordinate a multilaboratory collaborative study with 12 laboratories to test the limitations of the enhanced rapid DNA technology on crime scene samples. The study is slated to begin in 2022 after the enhancements to the technology are completed by the manufacturers. This study supports the [Rapid DNA Task Force recommendations](#) for research prior to implementing the technology in state or national databases.

This work was funded under [DJO-NIJ-21-RO-0004](#) for \$475,000.

Center for Advanced Research in Forensic Science

In 2020, NIJ and the National Science Foundation (NSF) signed a memorandum of understanding for identifying and supporting research and education activities relevant to forensic science. In FY 2021, NIJ provided additional co-funding for two existing NSF Industry-University Cooperative Research Center awards to Florida International University and the University of South Alabama. The goals of the [Center for Advanced Research in Forensic Science](#) are to bring together industrial partners, including the end-user community, with academic forensic science researchers to develop, implement, and commercialize tools that benefit the national forensic science research enterprise.

This work was funded under Inter-Agency Agreement [DJO-NIJ-21-RO-0002](#) for \$160,720.

Research and Evaluation on Crime Laboratory Systems and Processes

NIJ sought proposals for research and evaluation projects aimed at understanding and strengthening the accuracy and reliability of a crime laboratory's systems and processes. No awards were made under the solicitation "[Research and Evaluation on Crime Laboratory Systems and Processes, Fiscal Year 2021](#)."

National Center on Forensics

The National Center on Forensics is a multi-organizational effort funded by NIJ that focuses on enlarging the forensic workforce and increasing scientific knowledge resources for the legal system. The center's three main goals are to:

1. Provide medicolegal learning opportunities for medical students to train as deputy medical examiners/coroners in underserved rural areas.
2. Provide forensic science and legal training to prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement.
3. Develop opportunities among the designated partners to benefit current and future practitioners in the field.

In FY 2021, to determine the needs of the key audiences addressed in these goals, the National Center on Forensics conducted a needs assessment, an interest survey, focus groups, and a large survey. Data from these activities are being used to inform and create tools and resources targeting the needs identified in the areas that will have the most impact.

The center was initially funded under a FY 2020 NIJ grant awarded to George Mason University. To fulfill the goals of the center, the university has partnered with the Montana Department of Forensic Science, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists, the National Association of Attorneys General, the University of Washington Schools of Medicine and Law, and the Montana County Attorneys Association.

To expand on the work begun in FY 2020, in FY 2021, NIJ sought proposals from additional qualified applicants to establish and operate a National Center on Forensics to work in cooperation with the team led by George Mason. NIJ selected the University of Alabama as the awardee and [provided \\$4 million under a cooperative agreement](#).

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

In FY 2021, NIJ sought proposals to continue its Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE). The FTCoE has established itself as a leader for the advancement of forensic science within the criminal justice community. Its expertise in forensic science, combined with its objectivity and national reach to include representatives from all justice program stakeholders, allows the FTCoE to deliver practical and valuable solutions to the forensic science community, thereby bridging the gap between researchers and practitioners.

Forensic science practitioners often find it challenging to find and gain access to scientific research literature. In FY 2021, NIJ funded the development of national forensic science library services to identify, curate, and make available open-access scholarly literature relevant to the forensic science research and practitioner communities. The award for these library services, funded as part of the FTCoE but awarded separately, was made to Florida International University to enhance access to, and promote the dissemination of, forensic science research. The FTCoE will:

- Develop and facilitate an online library infrastructure to support the identification and management of research publications, citations, databases, foundational literature, reference materials, and other primary and secondary source materials.
- Identify and implement ways to disseminate research findings and best practices and to promulgate access to forensic science and other scientific literature for forensic science practitioners, particularly at the state and local levels.

This work is funded under the “[Forensic Technology Center of Excellence](#)” solicitation. In FY 2021, NIJ awarded \$300,000 to Florida International University and \$4.2 million to the Research Triangle Institute (RTI) International.

Supporting Victims of Crime

Millions of Americans become crime victims every year. The rights of victims are every bit as important as those of alleged criminals, and in recent decades, government agencies have strengthened services to crime victims. NIJ's research has supported efforts to guarantee the rights of victims in a variety of ways, including evaluating services and programs for victims.

Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime

In collaboration with the Office for Victims of Crime, NIJ sought applications in three main areas: research and evaluation of state crime victim compensation programs, research on the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of services to victims of crime, and evaluation of programs that provide services for victims of crime.

Funded projects include a multilevel analysis of equity in state victim compensation programs; a study to determine the feasibility and acceptability of conducting longitudinal outcome evaluation research with adult survivors of sex trafficking; a national study of victim compensation program trends, challenges, and successes; research to understand the impact of COVID-19 on victim service provision; and a rigorous process and outcome evaluation of chat/text-based services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.

This work is funded under the [“Research and Evaluation of Services for Victims of Crime”](#) solicitation. In FY 2021, NIJ made five awards totaling \$2.9 million.

Research To Reduce Trauma for Child Pornography Victims

NIJ sought proposals for rigorous scientific research to identify best practices to reduce the trauma of children affected by investigations into child sexual exploitation materials.

NIJ funded a multimethod, multi-informant national study on improving the response to victims of child sexual exploitation materials. The aim of this study is to improve knowledge about the impact on child victims of child sexual exploitation materials. The study will give special attention to how the investigation and justice system management of these crimes impact victims. It will also seek to identify best practices in law enforcement and victim treatment.

This work is funded under the [“Research to Reduce Trauma for Child Pornography Victims”](#) solicitation. In FY 2021, NIJ made one award for a total of \$1.49 million.

Juvenile Justice

NIJ works closely with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) 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.

Research on Juvenile Justice Topics

NIJ, in collaboration with OJJDP, continues to seek proposals for rigorous research projects that inform policy and practice in the field of juvenile justice. Specifically, the FY 2021 solicitation sought proposals for studies that advance knowledge and understanding in one of the following two priority topic areas: juvenile justice responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and deinstitutionalization of individuals convicted for status offenses. Applications proposing research outside of these two research areas were not considered.

One funded project will include a two-phased, mixed-method study to document how local communities across the country implement policies, practices, and programs to reduce justice system contact for youth at risk of being arrested, charged, or adjudicated for truancy and runaway status offenses; and to conduct evaluability assessments in three jurisdictions implementing promising approaches to identify places that might be ready for rigorous outcome or impact evaluation for learning how such innovations affect both youth and the systems in which they are implemented.

In a second study, researchers will undertake a post-policy implementation review to advance the understanding of juvenile justice responses to the COVID-19 public health crisis and the impact of these responses on juvenile and public safety outcomes.

For the third funded project, researchers will conduct a comprehensive review and analysis of innovative juvenile justice policies and practices related to admissions to, transfers between, and releases from juvenile residential placement facilities. The study aims to identify best practices and policies that protect public safety and ensure youth health, safety, and long-term success.

This work is funded under the [“Research on Juvenile Justice Topics, Fiscal Year 2021”](#) solicitation. NIJ funded three awards for a total of \$1.9 million.

Research on Juvenile Reoffending

NIJ, in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, sought proposals for rigorous research projects that improve measurement of juvenile reoffending.

One study will expand a 10-state sample of youth assessment and recidivism data which collected nearly half a million assessments. These assessments documented advancement in understanding how patterns of risk and needs varied by state, gender, race/ethnicity, and outcome type. The expansion will include new sites, cases, and measures. Researchers will examine four research questions: What factors predict juvenile reoffending generally, and do patterns differ by subgroup? Do reoffending patterns vary by outcome? What policies and practices impact reoffending? And what factors moderate reoffending?

A second study will examine how juvenile justice practices regarding risk assessment, court intake processing, and case handling affect juvenile reoffending. The study will also test and evaluate the impact of new intake practices on reoffending.

This work is funded under the “[Research on Juvenile Reoffending, Fiscal Year 2021](#)” solicitation. NIJ made two awards for a total of \$1.2 million.

Longitudinal Research on Delinquency and Crime

NIJ again in FY 2021 sought proposals for funding to conduct an expansion or extension of one or more ongoing longitudinal research studies that focus on delinquency and crime throughout the life course of the individual, which may include childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.

One funded project will extend data collected during the National Evaluation of the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program, which was a randomized controlled trial of a school-based gang and violence prevention program. This project seeks to extend the existing National Evaluation of G.R.E.A.T. to examine key transitions from adolescence into young adulthood 10 years after the last wave of data collection.

The second funded project will expand the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study — a large-scale longitudinal study involving children born in 20 large U.S. cities between 1998 and 2000 — to include neighborhood systems-level data matched according to young adult respondents’ residential locations. Expanded data collection will include five-year American Community Surveys data for demographic makeup and socioeconomic conditions; community violence variables retrieved from the Gun Violence Archive; and police violence measures obtained from the Fatal Encounters Database.

This work is funded under the “[Longitudinal Research on Delinquency and Crime, Fiscal Year 2021](#)” solicitation. NIJ funded two awards for a total of \$2 million.

National Juvenile Court Data Archive

In FY 2021, NIJ, in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, sought proposals for the continued support of the National Juvenile Court Data Archive.

The archive houses the automated records of cases handled by courts with juvenile jurisdiction and was established by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to promote access to automated juvenile court datasets for juvenile justice research and policymaking efforts. [Visit the archive.](#)

This work is funded under the “[National Juvenile Court Data Archive](#)” solicitation. In FY 2021, NIJ provided \$2 million in support of the archive for another three years.

Improving the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs)

The [National Missing and Unidentified Persons System \(NamUs\)](#) is a national information clearinghouse and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States.

NamUs responds to the need to assist state and local law enforcement, medical examiners and coroners, allied professionals, and the public with resolving missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases.

NIJ continues to support NamUs, which was developed to provide national assistance in the search for those living and deceased, in hopes of resolving these cases. In 2021, NIJ awarded a new contract to manage NamUs to North Carolina-based RTI International. This will allow NIJ to evaluate the program's strengths and provide direct federal oversight, ensuring its transparency to the U.S. taxpayer. RTI's Center for Forensic Science has an innovative and quality-focused administrative structure that will allow it to meet the diverse and growing demands of NamUs.

NamUs is a web-based system whose 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. As of September 2021, there were nearly 45,000 missing, unidentified, and unclaimed persons cases published in NamUs, and nearly 35,000 previously published cases were archived. Unclaimed persons are decedents who have been identified, but whose legal next of kin has not been located or notified of the death. Archived cases are cases that were closed by the investigating agency. They can be closed for several reasons, including case resolution (i.e., finding a missing person, identifying an unidentified person, or finding family of an unclaimed person). Additionally, through a partnership with the FBI, NamUs has helped identify numerous previously unidentified persons from medical examiner-coroner offices nationwide through the use of fingerprints.

NIJ strives to ensure that tribal agencies and leaders are aware of and understand how to use NamUs through targeted outreach and awareness efforts. More information about these efforts can be found in the [NamUs and Tribal Justice section](#).

Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) Program

NIJ continues to support and expand the Law Enforcement Advancing Data and Science (LEADS) program, which supports the professional development of law enforcement officers and civilians who engage in research and champion the integration of proven policies and practices within and between agencies. NIJ LEADS scholars are pioneers in the evidence-based policing movement.

In FY 2021, NIJ supported nine law enforcement scholars, three civilian scholars, and three academics. [Read bios of all the LEADS scholars.](#)

The LEADS program is supported as part of the NIJ-funded Criminal Justice Requirements and Resources Consortium, funded under an [award to the RAND Corporation.](#)

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 evaluations and meta-analyses against standard criteria. Program and practices rated and posted by CrimeSolutions also populate the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's [Model Programs Guide](#) and [National Mentoring Resource Center.](#)

In 2021, 25 programs and nine practices received ratings based on CrimeSolutions review.

Review and ratings of programs and practices are accomplished under a contract with Development Services Group, Inc. Funding in FY 2021 was provided by NIJ (\$600,000) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (\$400,000).

Building the Nation's Criminal Justice Research Infrastructure

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

Established in 1972, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) is a federally funded resource offering justice- and drug-related information to support research, policy, and program development worldwide. In FY 2021, 1,094 NIJ-funded resources were added to NCJRS, an increase over prior years fueled largely by the introduction of new tools used in the search for NIJ-funded resources published in the scientific literature.

In 2021, the NCJRS online abstracts database and library became part of the Office of Justice Programs' website.

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 the 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 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 2021, 209 NIJ-supported entries were added to the database.

This work is funded under an interagency agreement with the University of Michigan managed by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In FY 2021, NIJ provided \$1.2 million to that award.

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 and obtain a practical, applied research experience. The program is a research-focused professional development opportunity for doctoral students. We welcome students from all academic disciplines to apply who wish to connect their research to the criminal justice field. This unique assistantship is an opportunity to learn and contribute to the breadth and depth of science 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 2021, NIJ welcomed three new research assistants.

Science and Technology Policy Fellows

One of NIJ's goals is to increase the number of scientists who are aware of the challenges of crime and justice and who are engaged in research to address those challenges, particularly as applied to law enforcement. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Science & Technology Policy Fellowship program offers NIJ the opportunity to accomplish that goal. Among the goals of the AAAS Fellowship program is the promotion of the responsible use of science in public policy. In FY 2021, NIJ provided \$199,504 to support AAAS fellows to work with the Institute.

Highlights of Dissemination

NIJ accomplishes our 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 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.

Articles and Publications

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 2021, NIJ published nine *NIJ Journal* [articles focusing on children and youth](#).

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 2021, NIJ released 35 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 2021, NIJ placed six 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 2021, NIJ released four installments in this series.

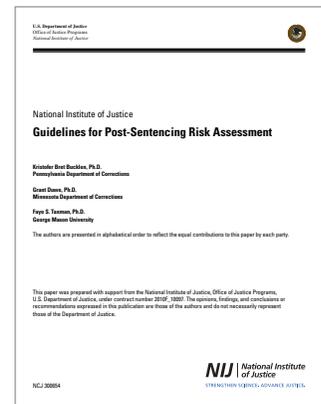
In addition to NIJ-produced products, in FY 2021, a total of 420 scholarly products, including peer reviewed articles by NIJ grantees, were published that resulted, in whole or in part, from work funded under an NIJ award. Also in FY 2021, there were 6,084 citations of NIJ products in peer reviewed journals. This includes citations of NIJ-sponsored journal articles, NIJ reports, and publications in peer reviewed journals.



Notes From the Field

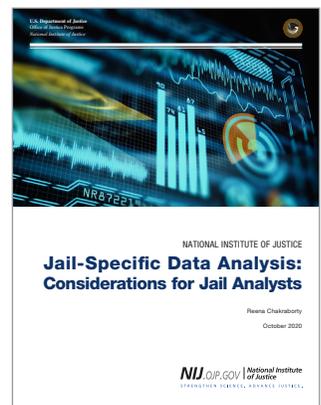
Guidelines for Post-Sentencing Risk Assessment

Once someone has been convicted and sentenced for a crime, most corrections agencies use risk and needs assessment tools to identify how likely that person is to commit another crime or violate the rules of prison, jail, or community supervision. To help the corrections field realize the full potential of these tools, in FY 2021, NIJ released the white paper “[Guidelines for Post-Sentencing Risk Assessment](#).” The guidelines, assembled by a trio of corrections researchers and practitioners, are built around four fundamental principles: fairness, efficiency, effectiveness, and communication. Each of these principles contributes to an innovative, practical checklist of steps practitioners can use to maximize the reliability and validity of risk and needs assessment instruments.



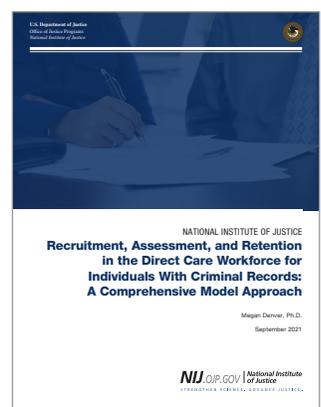
Jail-Specific Data Analysis: Considerations for Jail Analysts

NIJ sponsors research that aims to improve the management of correctional facilities at the state and local levels. NIJ published a white paper in FY 2021 that discusses how descriptive statistics and basic analysis of the daily activities of jails can support safety and help measure and improve performance. The paper, “[Jail-Specific Data Analysis: Considerations for Jail Analysts](#),” examines how to collect key data elements for jail analysis and ways that analysts can use these data to generate insights about practice and performance.



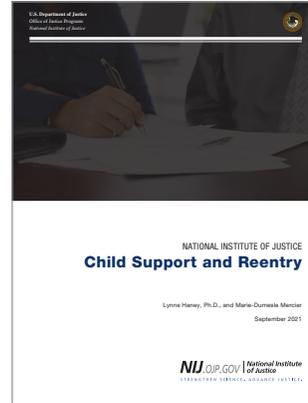
Recruitment, Assessment, and Retention in the Direct Care Workforce for Individuals With Criminal Records

Demographic shifts are creating a heightened need for direct care workers. Hiring individuals with criminal records for entry-level jobs in this industry could help fill critical shortages, connect this population to employment and potential career paths, and ultimately contribute to successful reintegration and increased public safety. NIJ’s 2021 white paper “[Recruitment, Assessment, and Retention in the Direct Care Workforce for Individuals With Criminal Records](#)” finds that many of these individuals do not pose a risk to the safety of health care staff, patients, or residents. There appears to be a sizable opportunity for recruiting individuals with criminal records for direct care work.



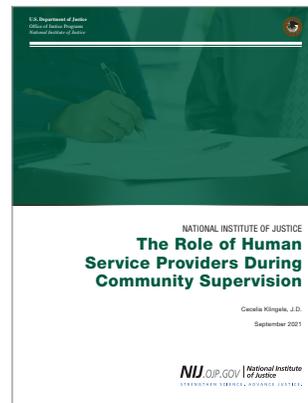
Child Support and Reentry

In the past 40 years, the United States has experienced an expansion in two of its largest state systems: the criminal justice system and the child support system. Parents caught in the middle of these trends can find their post-prison reintegration particularly challenging. NIJ's 2021 white paper "[Child Support and Reentry](#)" focuses on research that indicates that child support obligations and debt adversely impact stable employment because stricter child-support enforcement policies are linked to a decline in employment and earnings. Policy recommendations include providing coordinated assistance with modifying child support and bringing payments to manageable levels.



The Role of Human Service Providers During Community Supervision

People placed on community supervision often have significant human service needs, most of which are met, if at all, through community-based agencies. NIJ's 2021 white paper "[The Role of Human Service Providers During Community Supervision](#)" catalogs the ways in which various forms of community supervision can operate to either facilitate or impede the delivery of programs, treatment, and other services to people on probation, parole, and pretrial release. The paper also proposes targets for improving the efficient and effective delivery of services.



Events and Training

NIJ and our grantees host and sponsor events focused on relevant and timely issues in criminal justice and technology research as well as training.

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence hosted 30 events in FY 2021. These events focused on topics of great interest spanning the forensic sciences. Events were held live in a virtual environment and then made available on demand. Topics ranged from issues facing crime laboratory directors and their staff, such as the impact of COVID-19 on forensic laboratories and remote testimony, to a focus on the findings of research and development projects, like lessons learned from proficiency test results in bloodstain pattern analysis. See the full list of available events on the [Forensic Technology Center of Excellence website](#).

NIJ hosted 12 webinars in FY 2021 that focused on topics including specific funding opportunities; firearms violence; delinquency, victimization, and brain development; the impacts of forensic science on the criminal justice system; desistance from crime; and dual-system youth.

NIJ also hosted a virtual conference on school safety. Learn more about this event in the discussion of [research and evaluation on school safety above](#).

In 2021, NIJ and the FTCoE again hosted the NIJ Forensic Science Research and Development Symposium. Because of COVID-19, the 2021 event was held virtually but still provided an opportunity for researchers and practitioners to meet to discuss, discover, and share new approaches and applications to increase the impact of forensic science and elevate its status. The event was recorded by the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence and is [available for viewing](#). You also may [read the conference proceedings](#).

NIJ also hosted four oral sessions, for a total of 25 speakers, at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (Pittcon). The 2021 meeting was held online due to the pandemic. Pittcon is an annual conference encompassing a wide range of applied chemical and biological analysis. NIJ has been organizing a Forensic Science Symposium at Pittcon since 2018 to highlight the work of NIJ-supported researchers and reach a broad and talented community of future applicants.

Social Media

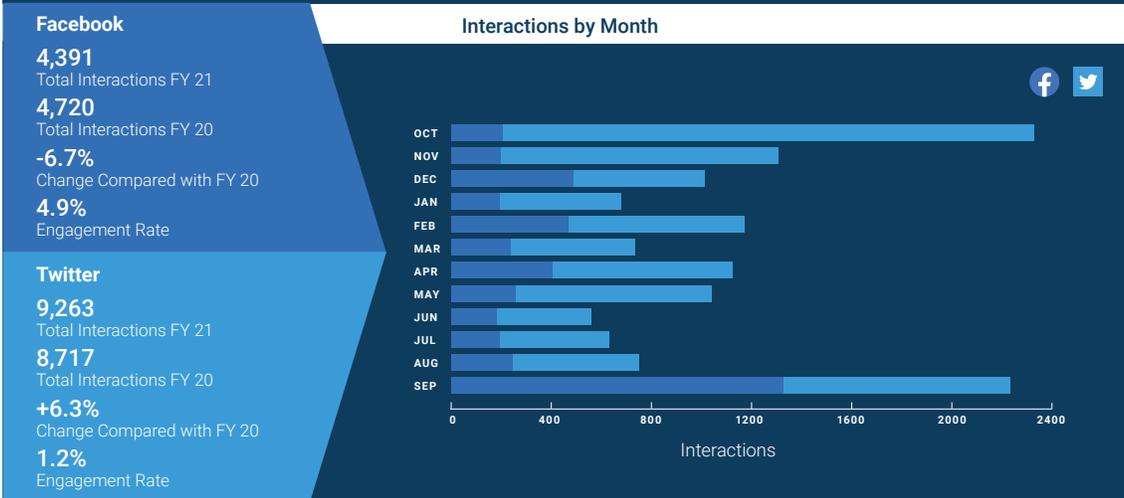
How Many People Connected With NIJ on Social Media?



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. 116-260

Type of Funds	Enacted Amount
Research, Evaluation, and Statistics (RES)	
Research, Development, and Evaluation Programs (NIJ “Base” Appropriation)	\$22,500,000
Research on School Violence	\$1,000,000
Research To Reduce Trauma for Child Pornography Victims	\$1,500,000
National Model for Reducing Incarceration Rates	\$4,000,000
Research on Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS)	\$2,000,000
Domestic Radicalization Research	\$6,000,000
Total RES Programs	\$37,000,000
Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) Programs Transferred to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP)	
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women	\$2,500,000
Total OVW Programs Transferred to OJP	\$2,500,000
State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	
National Missing and Unidentified Persons System	\$2,400,000
National Center on Forensics	\$4,000,000
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program [formerly Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act]	\$2,000,000
Total State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance	\$8,400,000
Total Enacted	\$47,900,000
Transfers	
RES Set-Aside 2% for Research and Statistics — Transfer Into RES Programs	\$22,955,000
Total Transfers	\$22,955,000
Carry-Forward, Reimbursable Agreements, and Intra-Agency Agreements	
Carry-Forward Funds	\$12,464,924
Reimbursable Agreements	\$13,926,866
Intra-Agency Agreements	\$25,472,991
Total Carry-Forward, Reimbursable Agreements, and Intra-Agency Agreements	\$51,864,781
Total Funding Available for Programs and Activities	\$122,719,781
Assessments	
Management and Administration Assessment — 6.8%	\$(3,430,006)

Type of Funds	Enacted Amount
Section 215 Set-Aside for Research, Evaluation, and Statistics Assessment — 2%	\$(128,000)
Total Assessments	\$(3,558,006)
Total Available After Assessments	\$119,161,775

Exhibit 2: Allocation of Funds

Type of Activity	Subcategory	Percentage	FY 2021 Amount
Social Science	Research and Evaluation	37.6%	\$46,177,934
	Technical Assistance	1.6%	\$2,000,000
Science and Technology	Research and Development	1.9%	\$2,374,752
	Technology Assistance/Test and Evaluation	1.7%	\$2,075,000
Investigative and Forensic Science	Analysis and Capacity Enhancement	0.0%	\$0
	Research and Development	13.6%	\$16,721,158
	Training and Technical Assistance	6.9%	\$8,500,000
Dissemination/Outreach/Program Support		14.4%	\$17,666,155
Total		77.8%	\$95,514,999
Section 215 Set-Aside for Research and Statistics		0.1%	\$128,000
OJP Management and Administration		2.8%	\$3,430,006
Carryover (Including Reimbursements)		19.3%	\$23,646,776
Total		22.2%	\$27,204,782
		100.0%	\$122,719,781

Exhibit 3: Solicitations

FY 2021 Solicitation	Number of Awards	Value of Awards
Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, Fiscal Year 2021	2	\$4,500,000
National Juvenile Court Data Archive, Fiscal Year 2021	1	\$2,000,000
Longitudinal Research on Delinquency and Crime, Fiscal Year 2021	2	\$2,055,202
NIJ National Center on Forensics, Fiscal Year 2021	1	\$2,000,000
NIJ Non-solicited Applications, Fiscal Year 2021	8	\$11,548,618
NIJ Research and Evaluation on the Administration of Justice, Fiscal Year 2021	4	\$2,734,735
Research and Development in Forensic Science for Criminal Justice Purposes, Fiscal Year 2021	30	\$14,350,702
Research and Evaluation for the Testing and Interpretation of Physical Evidence in Publicly Funded Forensic Laboratories, Fiscal Year 2021	5	\$1,334,736
Research and Evaluation of Domestic Terrorism Prevention, Fiscal Year 2020	8	\$7,447,127
Research and Evaluation of Victims of Crime, Fiscal Year 2021	5	\$2,900,855
Research and Evaluation on Crime Laboratory Systems and Processes, Fiscal Year 2021	0	\$0
Research and Evaluation on a National Model for Technical Violations, Fiscal Year 2021	0	\$0
Research and Evaluation on Policing, Fiscal Year 2021	5	\$3,267,911
Research and Evaluation on Policing Strategies for Civil Disturbances, Fiscal Year 2021	3	\$1,960,375
Research and Evaluation on Promising Reentry Initiatives, Fiscal Year 2021	3	\$2,035,448
Research and Evaluation on School Safety, Fiscal Year 2021	2	\$1,425,202
Research and Evaluation on Trafficking in Persons, Fiscal Year 2021	3	\$2,623,924
Research and Evaluation on Violence Against Women, Fiscal Year 2021	4	\$2,373,925
Research and Evaluation on the Police Response to Homelessness, Fiscal Year 2021	1	\$1,457,606
Research on Juvenile Justice Topics, Fiscal Year 2021	3	\$1,902,926
Research on Juvenile Reoffending, Fiscal Year 2021	2	\$1,197,417
Research on the Impact of Public Policy on Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Justice System, Fiscal Year 2021	2	\$99,835
Research To Reduce Trauma for Child Pornography Victims, Fiscal Year 2021	1	\$1,491,313
Tribal-Researcher Capacity Building Grants Solicitation, Fiscal Year 2021	3	\$449,567
TOTAL	94	\$68,076,957

Exhibit 4: Challenges

Recidivism Forecasting Challenge	27	\$723,000
Total Including Challenges	121	\$68,799,957

