



# Department of Justice



## Office of Justice Programs

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### *OJP NEWS BRIEF*

***Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) Releases Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994-2010***—The Office of Justice Programs' BJS recently released *Female Victims of Sexual Violence, 1994-2010*. The report examines demographic characteristics of female victims of sexual violence and characteristics of the offender and incident, including the victim's relationship to the offender. The report also details changes over time in the percentage of victimizations reported to the police: in 1995, for example, 29 percent of rape or sexual assault victimizations were reported to the police. This percentage increased to 56 in 2003 before declining to 35 in 2010. Data are from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), which collects information on nonfatal crimes, reported and not reported to the police, against persons age 12 or older from a nationally representative sample of U.S. households. [www.bjs.gov](http://www.bjs.gov).

***Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Announces \$1M Grant to National Crime Prevention Council, Supports Development of Public Education Campaign on Responsible Gun Ownership***—BJA awarded \$1million to the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) to support the development of a National Public Education Campaign on the subject of responsible gun ownership and safe gun storage. With the award, NCPC will create, produce, and distribute television, radio, and outdoor Public Service Announcements that encourage gun owners to safely store their firearms so that they do not fall into the wrong hands. The campaign will also emphasize the importance of immediately reporting lost or stolen guns to local law enforcement to ensure public safety. [http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2013/ojppr030713\\_2.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2013/ojppr030713_2.pdf)

***The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Announces Mentoring Funding Opportunities*** — OJJDP recently announced the following FY 2013 funding opportunities for mentoring programs. The National Mentoring Programs supports the implementation, delivery, and enhancement of mentoring services to improve outcomes for at-risk, high-risk, or underserved youth. Applications are due April 29. Another solicitation, the Multi-State Mentoring Initiative, supports qualified and established mentoring programs to expand services for underserved at-risk and high-risk youth and enhanced services for implementing additional research- and evidence-based mentoring practices. Applications are due by April 30. <http://www.ojjdp.gov/funding/funding.html>.

***National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Deadline is March 21***—OJJDP encourages fifth grade students to participate in the annual National Missing Children's Day poster contest, an opportunity for schools, law enforcement, and other child safety advocates to engage children and families in discussions about preventing child abduction. OJJDP will invite the national

winner to Washington, DC to receive the award during the May 15 commemoration of National Missing Children’s Day. OJJDP must receive entries by March 21. <http://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/postercontest/index.html>.

***The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Seeks Proposals, Offers \$1.5 Million for Research on Firearms Violence***—NIJ recently announced the “Research on Firearms and Violence” solicitation, which calls for proposals for innovative and scientifically rigorous research related to this topic. Applications may include, but are not limited to, the effectiveness of gun violence interventions, the nature of illicit gun markets, and the relationship between guns and public safety. NIJ anticipates that up to \$1.5 million—subject to the availability of appropriated funds—may be granted for research projects. The application deadline is May 2. Read the solicitation for full details on the requirements for this competitive grant: <https://ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/sl001048.pdf>.

***NIJ’s Acting Director Releases Statement on Predicting Erroneous Convictions: A Social Science Approach to Miscarriages of Justice Report*** — NIJ Acting Director Dr. Greg Ridgeway recently issued a statement on the findings from an NIJ-funded study identifying factors that cause a wrongful conviction. The study, *Predicting Erroneous Convictions: A Social Science Approach to Miscarriages of Justice*, by American University researcher Jon B. Gould and his colleagues, identifies ten statistically significant factors that distinguish a wrongful conviction from a “near miss” in which an innocent defendant was acquitted or had charges dismissed before trial.

“Identifying and understanding the causes of wrongful convictions is critical to maintaining the integrity of our criminal justice system,” Ridgeway said. “Wrongful convictions of innocent persons undermine the public’s confidence in the system, tragically harm innocent individuals, deprive victims of justice, and allow guilty parties to go free to potentially victimize others.”

For more information about the study visit <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/241389.pdf>;  
<http://www.ojp.gov/newsroom/newsroom.htm>

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