

JAN 25 1993

**Dear Reader:**

As the national criminal justice statistical agency BJS has a mandate for gathering and analyzing justice system data. This vantage point enables us to study trends from various perspectives.



DOJ photo by Craig Crawford

To achieve an overall national outlook, BJS has forged partnerships with State and local data providers. The ultimate worth of our national statistics depends on the integrity and comparability of data that State and local agencies help us to collect.

This **Update** highlights findings in which data partnerships have proven beneficial:

- BJS provides valuable measures of the trends experienced in corrections, criminal victimization, and adjudication. For example, prison data shed light on practices in community supervision; statistics about drugs gain broader meaning when collected from crime victims, law enforcement agencies, courts, jails, and prisons.
- BJS presents data collected at different levels across a number of years. Our censuses obtain aggregate data from many agencies and serve as bases for surveys that sample individual cases.

Several outstanding data partnerships providing a multilevel view of criminal justice statistics will occur in 1992. Early in the year, BJS will sponsor a census of probation and parole agencies. Conducted by the Bureau of the Census, it will furnish detailed descriptions of probation and parole programs and populations.

Data from a census of State prison facilities conducted in 1990 will be released this spring, as will a Special Report summarizing the responses of prison officials to questions about their drug-testing programs. Also in mid-1992, BJS will publish the first reports from the 1991 survey of State prison inmates.

These examples and our recent publications — see the abstracts on pages 10-11 of this **Update** — capture the national outlook and represent the breadth of reporting and detailed data typical of the BJS national, State, and local partnerships.

Steven D. Dillingham, Ph.D.  
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics

January 1992, Vol. 1, No. 3, NCJ-133097

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The Assistant Attorney General is responsible for matters of administration and management with respect to the OJP agencies: the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime. The Assistant Attorney General further establishes policies and priorities consistent with the statutory purposes of the OJP agencies and the priorities of the Department of Justice.

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## Attorney General William Barr discusses crime trends and promising approaches with police chiefs

In a speech at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference in Minneapolis on October 7, 1991, Attorney General William P. Barr cited the last decade's success in slowing violent crime rates and increasing the incarceration rate for violent and serious crimes. He also discussed promising approaches for combating drugs and crime.

"There are no pat solutions to the complex problem of criminal violence," he said. "Only an approach combining tough law enforcement with physical, moral, and educational revitalization of high-crime areas offers the prospect of a safer America."

"Law enforcement sends a clear message about right and wrong, about personal responsibility, and about what a just society expects of its citizens. Our social programs must reinforce that message."



Photo by George E. Smith

Attorney General William P. Barr

On November 20, 1991, Mr. Barr was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as the 77th Attorney General of the United States. He was Deputy Attorney General in 1990-91.

Previously, he served in the Department of Justice as Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, 1989-90, a position known as "the Attorney General's Lawyer."

From 1982 to 1983, he served on the Domestic Policy staff at the White House. Mr. Barr was in private practice for 9 years, first as an associate (1978-82) and then as a partner (1984-89), with the Washington law firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts, and Trowbridge.

In 1977-78 he was law clerk to Judge Malcolm Wilkey of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

## Justice agencies target activities by gangs as a priority for action

The nature and scope of gang activities in Illinois was the focus of a field study in Chicago October 24-25, 1991, sponsored by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP).

"One of the most disturbing developments in narcotics trafficking over the past few years is the increased involvement and violence by gangs in the drug trade," said Assistant Attorney General Jimmy Gurulé, who opened the meeting, inviting Illinois officials



Official DOJ photo

Jimmy Gurulé  
Assistant Attorney General

to present successful strategies to prevent, disrupt, and control gang violence and drug trafficking.

Two other OJP gang studies have been held, one in Los Angeles in March and one in Dallas in June, as part of a broader Justice Department initiative to address the growing gang problem and to increase Federal prosecutions of gang activities. OJP agencies have made gang control one of 10 priorities for fiscal 1991 and 1992, allocating more than \$5 million in fiscal 1991.

As part of the Justice initiative on gangs, BJS has added questions on gangs to two surveys: the 1991 Survey of State Prison Inmates and, beginning in January 1992, the National Crime Victimization Survey, which conducts interviews with some 100,000 persons each year. BJS is also surveying the State Statistical Analysis Centers on gangs and related activities in the States.

# BJS data at a glance

The most recent summary data from BJS data series

## 1990 criminal victimization down slightly

	Number of victimizations	Percent change, 1989-90
Total	34,404,000	-3.9%
Personal crimes	18,984,000	-3.6
Violent	6,009,000	2.5
Theft	12,975,000	-6.2
Household crimes	15,419,000	-4.4
Larceny	8,304,000	-7.3
Burglary	5,148,000	-3.8
Motor vehicle theft	1,968,000	8.1

	Households experiencing crime	Percent change, 1989-90
Total number	26,652,000	-3.4%
Percent of all households	23.7%	

## Mid-1991 prison inmate populations up

	Number of inmates	Percent change, 1990-91
Total	804,524	6.5%
Federal	69,504	8.8
State	735,020	6.3

## Mid-1990 local jail inmate counts up

	Number of inmates	Percent change, mid-'89 to mid-'90
One-day count	405,320	2.5%
Average daily population	408,075	5.5

## 1988: State courts incarcerate 7 in 10 felons

Offense	Number	Percent incarcerated	Median sentence
All	667,366	69%	48 mos.
Murder	9,340	95	252
Rape	15,562	87	120
Robbery	37,432	89	84
Aggravated assault	37,566	72	54
Burglary	101,050	75	48
Larceny	95,258	65	33
Drug trafficking	111,950	71	48
Other	259,208	62	36

## 1990: Record highs in probation and parole

Probation	Number of probationers	Percent change, 1989-90
Total	2,670,234	5.9%
Federal	58,222	-1.5
State	2,612,012	6.1

Parole	Number of parolees	Percent change, 1989-90
Total	531,407	16.3%
Federal	21,693	1.3
State	509,714	17.1

## 1989: Federal prosecutions for drugs soar

Offenses	Suspects prosecuted	Percent change, 1980-89
All	58,160	86%
Violent	3,358	41
Property	16,214	95
Drugs	24,278	247
Public-order	13,833	9

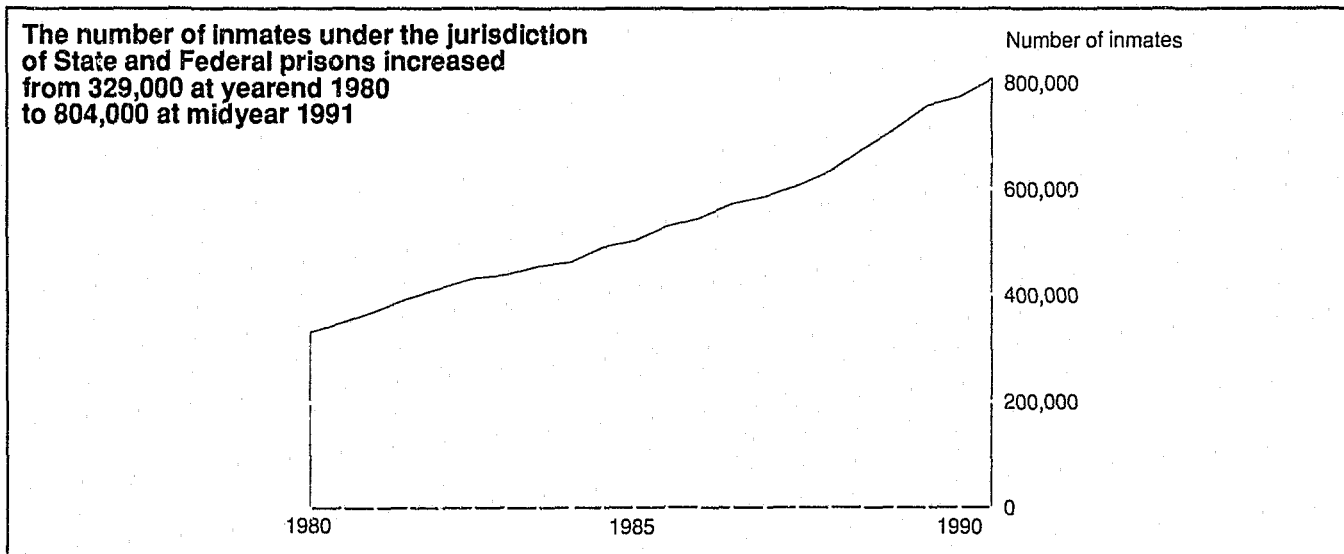
## 1990: Executions average 2 per month

	Number of inmates
Under sentence of death	2,356
White	1,375
Black	943
Other	38
Number executed	23

## 1988: States and localities spend 88% of the Nation's justice funds

Total	\$60,980,334,000	100%	Police	\$27,955,660,000 46%
Federal	7,463,724,000	12	Judicial & legal services	13,314,937,000 22
State	20,227,725,000	33	Corrections	19,118,734,000 31
Local	33,288,885,000	55	Other	591,008,000 1

## State and Federal prison population up 4% in first half of 1991



### Prison population reaches record high

- The Nation's State and Federal prison population grew by 30,149 inmates — just under 4% — during the first half of the year to reach a record 804,524 men and women as of June 30, 1991.

- The 6-month increase, however, was well below the record 47,000 increase in prisoners recorded during the first half of 1989.

The 1991 increase equaled about 1,160 more inmates every week, compared to 1,642 per week in the first half of 1990 and more than 1,800 per week in the first half of 1989.

- The 12-month growth from June 1990 to June 1991 was 6.5% — an increase of just over 49,000 inmates. This is the lowest annual percentage increase since 1984.

### During the first 6 months of 1991 the Federal prison population grew 3.1% versus 4% among the 50 States

- During the same time, prison populations grew —  
5.1% in Western States  
4.2% in the Northeast  
3.5% in the South and Midwest.

California's 101,995 inmates at midyear mark the first time any State has topped 100,000.

- Double-digit half-year increases occurred in —  
Rhode Island, 14.3%  
New Hampshire, 11.6%  
Nevada, 10.6%  
Colorado, 10%.

- Eight States had prisoner growth of at least 10% for the 12 months ending June 30. Five States recorded declines during this 1-year period.

### In the first half of 1991 the number of female inmates in State and Federal prisons grew 4.5%, compared to a 3.9% increase for men

- As of June 30, women prisoners accounted for 5.7% of all prisoners nationwide.

- The number of prisoners per capita on June 30, 1991, also reached a record 303 sentenced offenders (inmates sentenced to a year or more in prison) held in State and Federal prisons per 100,000 residents.

- There were 33 sentenced female offenders in prison for every 100,000 females in the U.S. population.

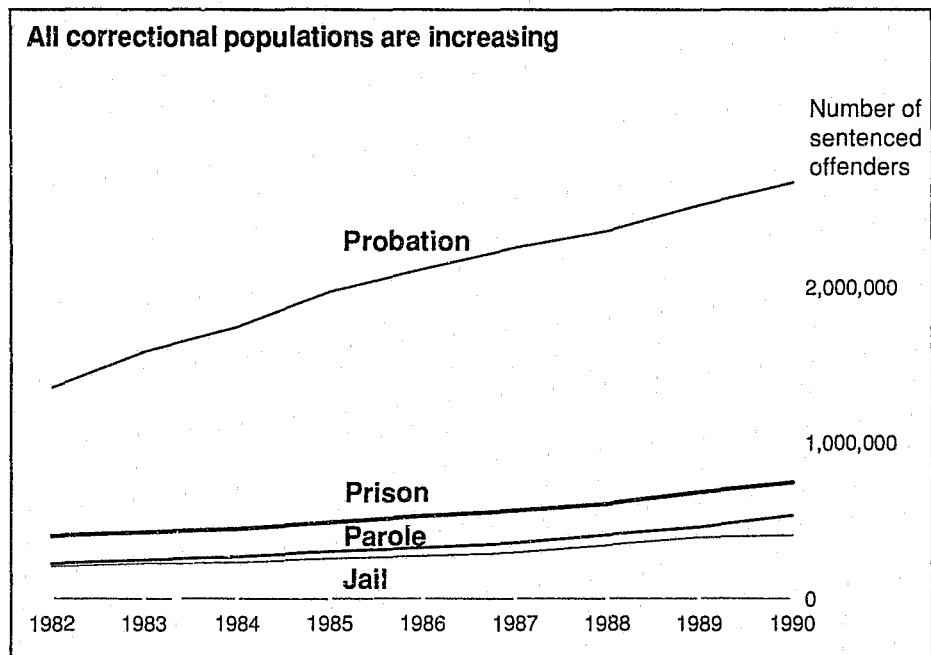
- For males the incarceration rate was almost 18 times higher, 588 sentenced male prisoners for every 100,000 males.

Source: *Prisoners at midyear 1991* (press release), BJS, October 1991.

## At the end of 1990 probation and parole agencies were supervising more than 3.2 million adults in the United States

The record 2,670,234 adult offenders on probation and 531,407 on parole were about 1.7% of all U.S. adults

- The number of persons on probation in 1990 had increased 5.9% from 1989; the number on parole went up 16.3%.
- People serving a sentence in the community comprised nearly three-fourths of those under sentence, including inmates in local jails or State or Federal prisons.
- Overall, the population with a correctional status increased 7% from 1989 to 1990 and 44% from 1985 to 1990.



- On a given day in 1990 an estimated 1 of every 43 adults were under some form of correctional supervision: about 1 in every 24 men and 1 in every 162 women.

For States the number on probation at yearend 1990 was 6.1% more than the previous year's count; for the Federal probation system, the number decreased 1.5% from 59,106 to 58,222

- The States with the largest percentage increases were those with relatively small populations: Delaware (a 26% increase from 1989 to 1990), Rhode Island (25.6%), Oregon (18%), Montana (17.1%), Nebraska (16.1%).
- Six States and the District of Columbia reported percentage decreases in counts of persons serving sentences to probation, ranging from -18.2% in Massachusetts to -1.8% in Maryland.

Nationally 1,443 persons were on probation out of every 100,000 adult residents

- Among States, Georgia had the highest ratio, 2,838 per 100,000, followed by Texas (2,538),

Delaware (2,430), Washington (2,353), Maryland (2,291), and Florida (2,093).

From 1989 to 1990 the parole population grew 74,604 persons, a 16.3% increase that resulted from more parolees in States in all four regions and in the Federal parole system

- Five States reported parole increases above 30% during 1990: Oklahoma, Oregon, Vermont, Arizona, and North Carolina. The parole populations in three States — Rhode Island, North Dakota, and Florida — decreased 10% or more.
- California's total of 91,379 admissions to parole supervision during the year was the largest of any State. Federal parole entries (1,790) were 2.7% of admissions nationwide.

Among jurisdictions, the District of Columbia had the highest number of parolees per 100,000 adult residents — 1,091. Texas reported the second highest rate of 903 per 100,000.

Source: *Probation and Parole 1990*, November 1991, NCJ-125833.

## Personal and household victimizations fell by 3% in 1990

**Victimization rates continue a downward trend that began a decade ago**

- There were approximately 34.4 million personal and household crimes in 1990, compared with 41.4 million in 1981.
- From 1973 to 1990, the rate of personal crimes (rape, robbery, assault, personal theft) fell by 24.5% and the rate for household crimes (burglary, household theft, motor vehicle theft) fell by 26.1%.

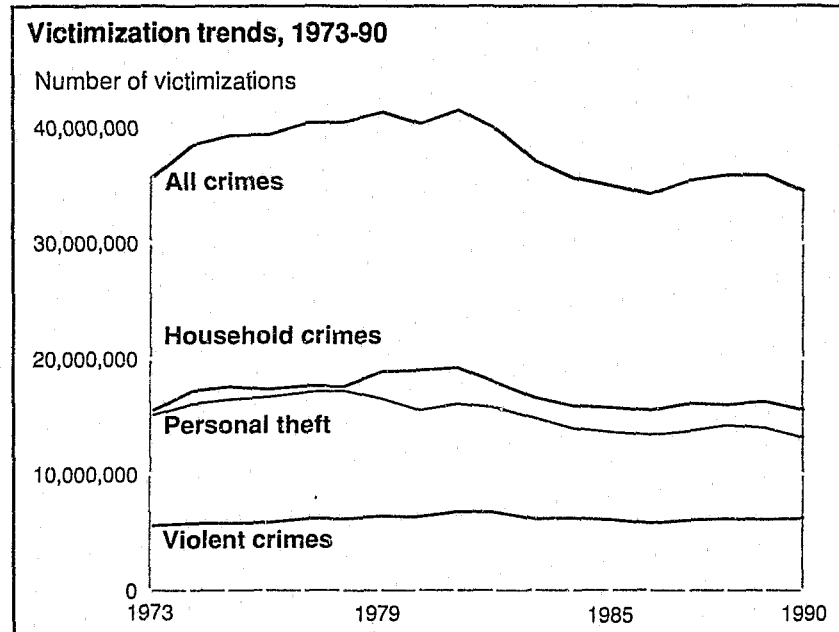
**The National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is conducted in a nationally representative sample of nearly 50,000 households whose residents who are 12 years old or older**

A household refers both to the dwelling unit and the people who inhabit it, and both completed and attempted crimes are included. The survey counts such crimes whether or not they are reported to law enforcement agencies.

Because the NCVS counts only crimes for which the victim can be interviewed, homicides are not counted. Their exclusion does not substantially alter the overall estimates.

**The West has the highest rates for most crimes of any of the country's four major regions**

- In 1990, the West had violent crime rates of 34.2 per 1,000 people, compared with 31.1 for the South, 30.5 for the Midwest, and 21.8 for the Northeast.
- For the household crimes of burglary, motor vehicle theft, and household theft, the overall rates were —  
199.8 per 1,000 households in the West  
173.2 in the South  
148.0 in the Midwest  
119.3 in the Northeast.



**More victimizations are now reported to police**

- Between 1973 and 1990 the percentage of criminal victimizations that were reported to police increased from 32% of all crimes to 38%.
- In 1990, 47% of all assaults were reported to police, compared with 43% in 1989.
- Of the crimes measured by the National Crime Victimization Survey, motor vehicle theft is the crime most often reported to police: 75% of motor vehicle thefts were reported to police in 1990.

**Victimization affects some more than others**

- In 1990 there were —  
13 robberies for every 1,000 black inhabitants  
4.5 for every 1,000 whites  
8.4 for every 1,000 of other races.
- The assault rate was —  
63.5 per 1,000 people 16 to 19 years old  
1.9 per 1,000 people 65 or older.
- Hispanics were victims of 13.9 robberies per 1,000 individuals versus 5 robberies per 1,000 non-Hispanic U.S. inhabitants.

Source: *Criminal victimization 1990* (8pp), BJS Bulletin, October 1991, NCJ-130234.

## Number of Federal offenders convicted of drug offenses more than doubled from 1980 to 1990

### Convictions for Federal drug offenses increased 213% from 1980 to 1990

- The number of defendants convicted of Federal drug offenses rose from 5,135 in 1980 to 16,077 in 1990.
- Among Federal offenders convicted of drug offenses in 1990, 86% were sentenced to prison. In 1980, 72% of convicted Federal drug offenders were sentenced to prison.

- The average prison sentence for drug offenders increased 72%, from 47 months in 1980 to 81 months in 1990.

### About a third of all Federal offenders were convicted of drug offenses in 1990

From 1980 to 1990, the percentage of convicted Federal offenders who were drug law violators rose from 17% to 33%.

### Almost half of all Federal offenders sentenced to prison in 1990 were convicted of drug offenses

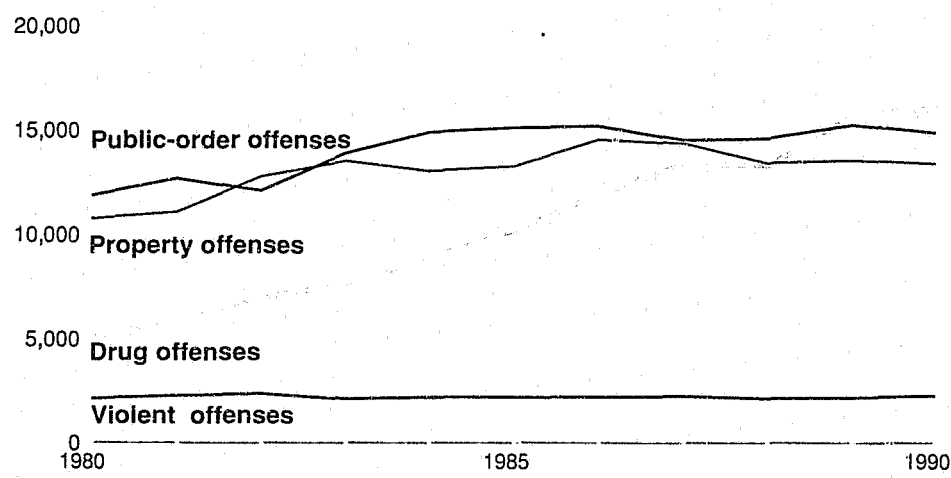
From 1980 to 1990, the percentage of offenders who were convicted of drug offenses and sentenced to prison in Federal courts rose from 27% to 47%.

### Number of convicted Federal offenders increased 63% between 1980 and 1990

- In 1990, 48,730 persons were convicted of Federal offenses in U.S. district courts versus 29,943 in 1980.

### Federal drug convictions grew more than any other type of criminal conviction

Number of defendants convicted in cases terminated in U.S. district courts



- In 1990, 60% of all persons convicted (29,430 offenders) were sentenced to a period of incarceration only or incarceration combined with a period of supervision.

- Prison sentence time for offenders convicted of all Federal offenses increased 30% between 1980 and 1990 — from 44 months in 1980 to 57 months in 1990.

### Average time served in prison increased from 1985 to 1990

- For all prisoners sentenced in U.S. district courts and first released in 1990, the average time served was 19 months before first release versus 15 months for those first released in 1985.
- Drug offenders first released in 1990 served an average of 30 months versus 21 months for those first released in 1985.

Source: *Federal criminal case processing, 1980-89 with preliminary data for 1990*, October 1991, NCJ-130526.



## An estimated 400,000 students were victims of violent crime during a 6-month period in 1988 and 1989

An estimated 9% of students ages 12 to 19 were crime victims in or around their schools over a 6-month period

- 7% of all students were victims of property crime and 2% were victims of violent crime.
- Public school students were more likely to be crime victims than were private school students—9% versus 7%.
- These findings come from a supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey, interviewing more than 10,000 young people ages 12 to 19 from January through June 1989. All of these students had attended public or private school at some time during the 6 months preceding the survey.

**Students in central cities were more likely than suburban students to fear attack at school and to avoid certain places**

- About 24% of the black students in central cities and 18% of the white students feared being attacked going to and from school.
- Among suburban youth, 15% of black students and 12% of white students feared attack going to and from school.
- Generally, students from families with low incomes were the most likely to fear being attacked at school, but violent crime victimization rates showed no consistent relationship to family income levels.
- Students whose families had moved twice or more during the previous 5 years were more likely to report being afraid of attack at school than were students who had moved less frequently.
- Public school students were substantially more likely than students in private schools to indicate some level of fear of attack at school.
- 6% of students said they avoided some place in or around their school because they thought someone might attack or harm them there. School restrooms were most often mentioned as places to avoid.

### 15% of students reported gangs at school

Student characteristics	Total number of students	Percent of students reporting gangs
<b>Street gangs at school</b>		
Present	3,300,826	15%
Not present	17,041,519	79
Not known or not ascertained	1,211,747	5
<b>Frequency of fights between gang members*</b>		
Never	1,678,041	37%
Once or twice a year	843,307	19
Once or twice a month	743,649	16
Once or twice a week	337,868	7
Almost every day	219,516	5
Not ascertained	689,894	15

Note: Percentage distributions may not total 100% because of rounding.

\*Excludes cases in which the students said that there were no gangs at school.

**Overall, 14% of white students, 20% of black students, and 32% of Hispanic students said there were gangs in their schools**

- Among the students who said gangs were or might be found in their schools—  
37% said gang members never fought at school  
19% said gang fights occurred once or twice a year  
12% said gang fights happened at least once a week.
- Students who said their schools had gangs were about twice as likely as students from schools without gangs to be afraid of attack, both at school and on the way to or from school.
- When asked if they knew of attacks on or threats to a teacher at their school in the 6 months before the interview—  
16% (3,468,631) of the students said yes  
73% (15,639,976) said no  
11% said they did not know.

Source: *School crime* (18pp), October 1991, NCJ-131645.

## BJS reports on drugs and gangs in schools

During 6 months in 1988-89, 2 out of 3 students reported availability of drugs at their school

Availability of drugs was reported more often by —

- public school students (70%) compared to private school students (52%)
- students who reported gangs were present at their school (78%) compared to students at schools where gangs were not present (66%).

Similar rates of drug availability were reported by —

- white students (69%) and black students (67%)
- students residing in cities (66%), suburban areas (67%), and nonmetropolitan areas (71%).

Students in schools where drugs were available were twice as likely to fear an attack at school than students where drugs were not available (25% versus 13%) and more likely to fear an attack going to or from school (16% versus 10%).

Many students reported that they could obtain either drugs or alcohol at or near their schools.

- 31% of students said alcohol could easily be obtained at or near their schools; another 47% said it was hard or impossible to get it there.

- 30% said marijuana was easy to obtain, whereas 43% said it was hard or impossible to get.

- 11% said cocaine was easy to obtain and 9% said crack was easy to obtain.

**7 out of 10 students attended schools that had taken at least 1 drug prevention measure**

Drug prevention measures taken	Percent of students reporting
Locker searches	46%
Security guards	25
Hall patrols	71
Restroom checks	43
Other	10
No action taken	11

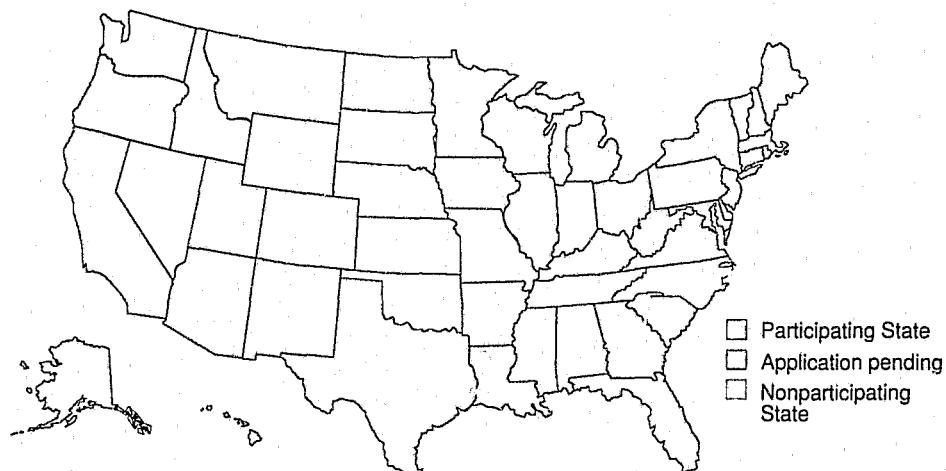
Note: Detail does not total 100% because respondents may report more than one measure.

Source: *School crime* (18pp), October 1991, NCJ-131645 (see order form, p. 12).

## Additional States join the Attorney General's program to improve criminal history records

All 50 States are expected to become active participants in the Criminal History Record Improvement (CHRI) program during fiscal year 1992. CHRI is designed to assist States in improving criminal history record information for use by criminal-justice and non-criminal-justice agencies (for example, restricting the sale of firearms to ineligible felons).

**41 States, D.C., and American Samoa now participate in the Criminal History Record Improvement (CHRI) program, representing 93% of all offender records, 87% of the U.S. population, and \$15,652,368 in CHRI grants**



## New resources available to obtain information about drugs from Federal agencies

### Toll-free telephone number provides new access to Federal drug clearinghouses

The Office of National Drug Control Policy has recently established the Federal Drug, Alcohol, and Crime Network to enhance access to Federal drug clearinghouses. The network was formed in cooperation with the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Education. The network serves as a single point of entry for seven Federal drug clearinghouses and information centers. By dialing 1-800-788-2800 a caller can be linked directly to the —

- National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information
- Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse
- Drug Abuse Information and Referral Hotline
- Drug Free Workplace Hotline
- Drug Information and Strategy Clearinghouse
- National AIDS Clearinghouse
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service.

Anyone seeking information about drugs, crime, and criminal justice may continue to call the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse at 1-800-666-3332.

### Publications catalog highlights Federal drug resources

The *Catalog of selected Federal publications on illegal drug and alcohol abuse* is now available from the Drugs & Crime Data Center & Clearinghouse. Produced by the Inter-Agency Working Group of Federal Clearinghouses, this catalog presents a listing of free drug-related publications available from such agencies as —

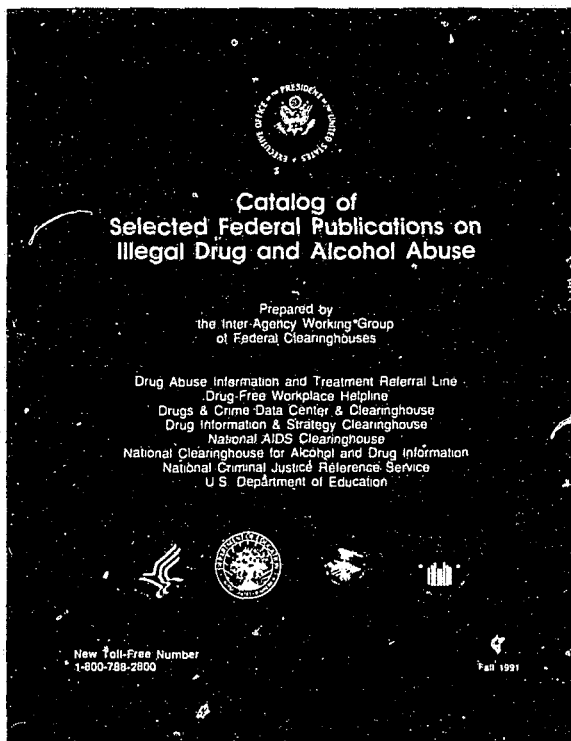
- Bureau of Justice Statistics (DOJ)
- National Institute of Justice (DOJ)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (DOJ)
- National Institute on Drug Abuse (HHS)
- Centers for Disease Control (HHS)
- Office for Drug-Free Neighborhoods (HUD)
- Department of Education.

The catalog is organized by subject area, including —

- community initiatives
- drug testing
- law enforcement
- special populations
- treatment programs for offenders.

Descriptions of each publication are provided, along with order forms at the back of the catalog from each of the represented clearinghouses. The catalog also includes summaries of the resources and services offered by the Federal drug-related clearinghouses.

To obtain copies of the *Catalog of selected Federal publications on illegal drug and alcohol abuse* (45pp), 10/91, NCJ-132582, use order form on last page.



### Help wanted

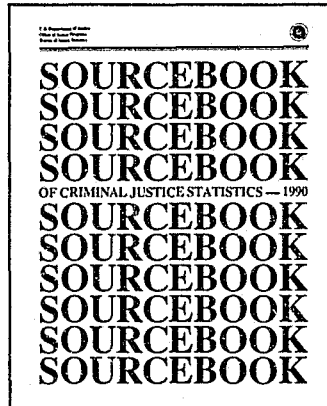
BJS has two statistician vacancies:  
GS-1530-9/11/12 (\$25,717-\$48,481)  
GS-1530-11/12/13 (\$31,116-\$57,650).  
Call Dr. Steven K. Smith, 202-307-0765,  
for more information.

# New BJS reports available from the Justice Statistics Clearinghouse

## **Sourcebook of criminal justice statistics, 1990**

The *Sourcebook* presents a broad spectrum of criminal justice data using 670 tables, 9 figures, and 21 appendixes. Statistics from 154 sources are included, compiled in 6 groups: characteristics of the criminal justice system, public attitudes toward crime and criminal justice, nature and distribution of known offenses, characteristics and distribution of persons arrested, judicial processing of defendants, and persons under correctional supervision.

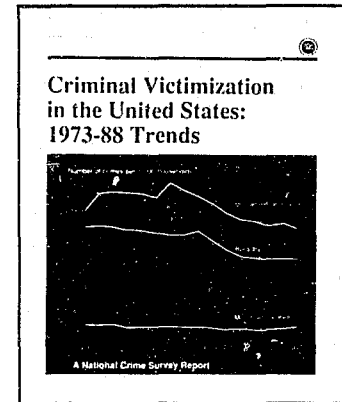
Order no. NCJ-130580.



## **Criminal victimization in the United States: 1973-88 trends**

National victimization trends from the NCVS over a 16-year period are presented in this report. Findings include the number of crime victimizations, the circumstances surrounding the victimization, and the costs of crime. A continuous measure of both reported and unreported crime is represented.

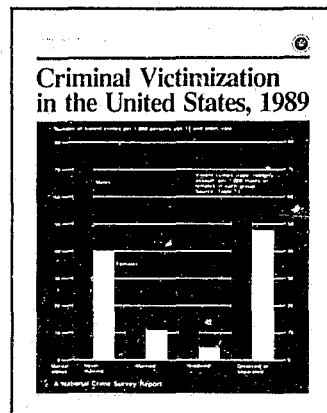
Order no. NCJ-129392.



## **Criminal victimization in the United States, 1989**

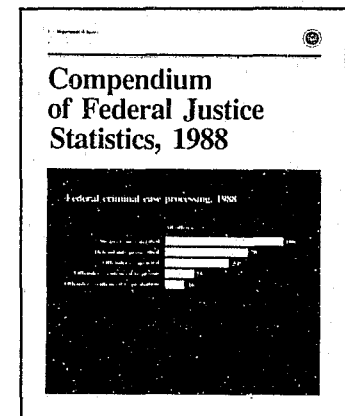
This report presents findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) describing crime victimization in the United States for 1989. The 17th annual report presents data on the amount of crime that U.S. residents experience, on the characteristics of crime victims, and on the type and cost of crime. Statistics are also included on how police responded to reported crimes and on the victim's perception of drug and alcohol use by violent offenders.

Order no. NCJ-129391.



This report provides the number of suspects received, prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced to prison as it follows the processing of suspects and defendants through the Federal justice system. It also contains data on sentence length and pretrial release for the Nation and individual judicial districts. This volume is the fourth in an annual series prepared under the Bureau of Justice Statistics Federal Statistics Program.

Order no. NCJ-130474.

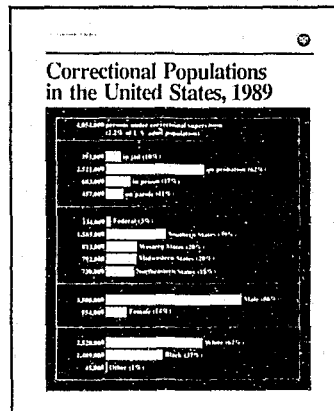


To order these BJS reports, use the order form on the last page or call the Justice Statistics Clearinghouse, 1-800-732-3277 (in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area dial 1-301-251-5500).

# BJS publishes new reports on corrections, spending and staffing

## ***Correctional populations in the United States, 1989***

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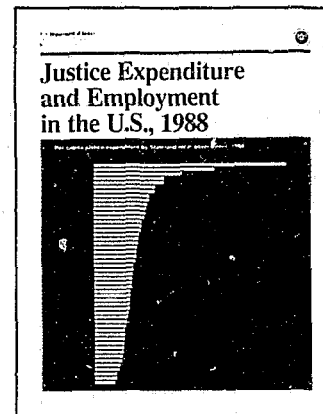
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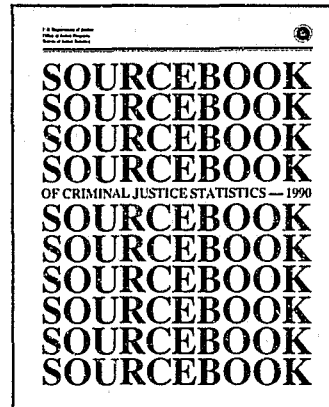


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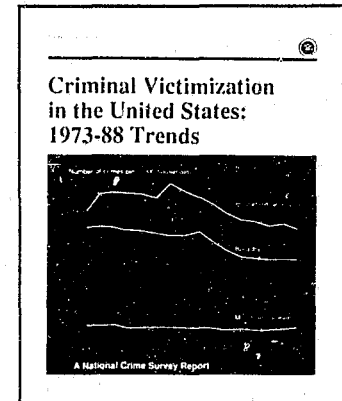
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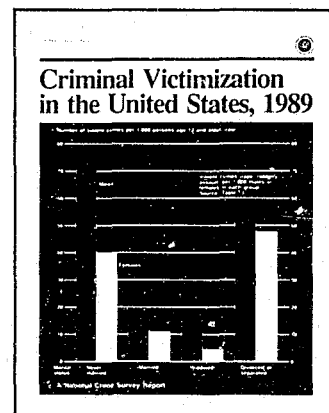
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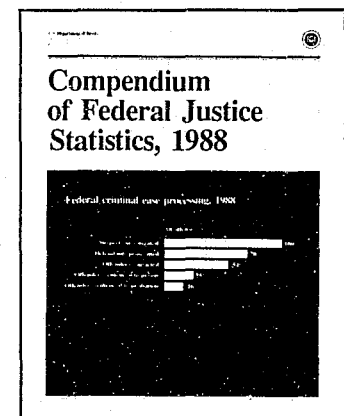
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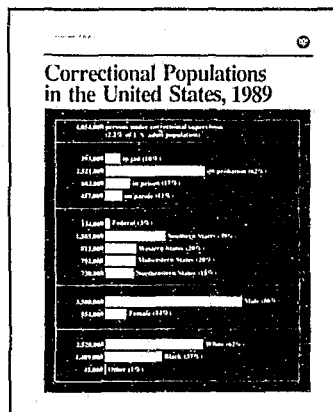


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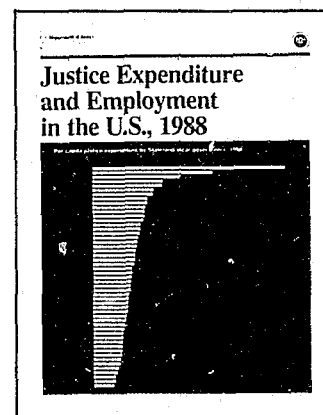
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