

**Questions and Answers: Methodological Research to Support the Redesign of the National Crime Victimization Survey: Sub-National Estimates**

**1. Is there a list of potential MSAs that may be considered for inclusion in the study?**

As discussed on page 17 of the solicitation, in Task 9 a, the pilot study will be done in the Chicago-Naperville-Joliet IL-IN-WI MSA . On page 19, Task 11 b i a-e provides a list of 5 more MSAs to be used for the full-scale data collection. The solicitation also states that additional MSAs may be included if more funding becomes available.

**2. The core NCVS utilizes a 6 month reference period while the sub-national solicitation requests a 12 month reference period. Does BJS have any concerns regarding the blending of estimates from two studies with different reference periods?**

No. The core NCVS blends two 6-month periods into an annual estimate of 12 months. The 12-month reference period was chosen for the current solicitation in an effort to reduce costs by reducing the number of interviews. BJS is currently researching protocols that could be used in a survey with a 12-month reference period to assist respondents in recalling the occurrence and attributes of crimes they have experienced.

**3. Does BJS have a pre-decided mixture of the cell and landline sample?**

BJS does not have a pre-decided distribution of cell and landline phone numbers for this study. Cell phones were purposefully included to create a more complete sampling frame. In order to respond to the solicitation, bidders should develop an RDD sampling frame which includes cell phones that they deem best meets the overall goals of the solicitation. As noted throughout the solicitation, BJS will work with the recipient to develop an optimal sample design, which will include a cell phone component. This is part of the work that will be accomplished in Tasks 2 and 3.

**4. Can the cell phone component be limited to just those within MSA area codes? It may not be practical to try to include those living in the MSA who may not have cell phone numbers associated with that MSA.**

This issue is left up to the bidders. As discussed above, bidders should develop an RDD sampling frame which includes cell phones that they deem best meet the overall goals of the solicitation. Keep in mind that we do not want to exclude cell phones because many households no longer have landlines.

**5. Is BJS open to alternative designs than what is requested in the proposal?**

Yes, BJS will consider alternate designs. However, the solicitation purposefully requests a standardized design to provide *benchmark cost comparisons* across different bidders. The standardized design provided in the solicitation (discussed in Task 11 b on page 18) is to be used to develop cost estimates for various tasks, particularly tasks related to data collection and infrastructure.

Suggestions for alternate designs should be outlined under Tasks 2 and 3. The budget for Tasks 2 and 3 should include the developmental costs associated with developing alternate designs. The ultimate design will be refined in Task 3 of the study.