In this 1995–96 Research Plan, the Institute specifies the research, evaluation, and technology projects that NIJ anticipates supporting under each goal. The numeric order of the goals does not indicate levels of priority for the Institute.

Many of the special grant programs for individuals—such as the Data Resources Program, various Fellowship programs, the NIJ Internship Program—are now described in a separate publication, which will be announced in the **Federal Register**.

NIJ solicits research and evaluations to develop knowledge that will further these long-range goals:

- I. Reduce violent crime.
- II. Reduce drug- and alcohol-related crime.
- III. Reduce the consequences of crime.
- IV. Improve the effectiveness of crime prevention programs.
- V. Improve law enforcement and the criminal justice system.
- VI. Develop new technology for law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Studies that involve the use of randomized experimental designs are encouraged, as are multiple strategies for data collection, and well-controlled, quasi-experimental designs and equivalent comparison group designs. Qualitative studies, including ethnographic data collection, are also encouraged.

Research Collaborations

NIJ encourages joint research and evaluation projects with other Federal agencies and private foundations interested in crime and criminal justice issues. Applicants may wish to consider whether their proposed project might lend itself to joint funding with another agency or foundation. Applicants interested in exploring possible partnerships should contact the potential partner agency directly, or the relevant NIJ program manager, to discuss specific topics for possible collaborative projects. NIJ has entered into memorandums of agreement or is in other ways collaborating with the Departments of Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, and Treasury. Agencies and foundations that have indicated a desire to collaborate with NIJ on projects of mutual interest, or are currently involved in joint research efforts with NIJ, include:

Agencies

Advanced Research Projects Agency (DOD)

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Bureau of Justice Assistance

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Center for Mental Health Services Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Corrections Program Office (OJP) Drug Courts Program Office (OJP) National Aeronautics and Space Administration

National Institute of Mental Health National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

National Institute of Corrections National Institute on Drug Abuse National Science Foundation Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (DOJ)

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Office of Assistant Secretary for

Planning and Evaluation (HUD) Office of National Drug Control Policy Office for Victims of Crime State Justice Institute

Violence Against Women Program Office (OJP)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

Foundations

The Carnegie Corporation of New York
The Ford Foundation
The Daniel and Florence Guggenheim
Foundation
The J.C. Kellogg Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur
Foundation
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Prudential Foundation
The Ronald McDonald Foundation

The Rockefeller Foundation

The Institute cannot guarantee that joint funding for research and evaluation projects will be forthcoming from these sources. Applicants should consider whether their proposals are in accord with the goals of these agencies and private foundations.

Specific information about applying for Institute grants is contained in the section "Administrative Guidelines" See p. 23 of this Plan.

Goal I: Reduce Violent Crime Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to encourage research and evaluation projects spanning six broad areas: family violence, violence against women, homicide, firearms and violence, gangs, and juvenile violence. Through this solicitation the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) expects to support research that will improve the criminal justice knowledge base on crimes and criminal behavior that increasingly concern the public.

Background

Violent crime is a leading concern among the American public today.

According to the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), in 1992 there were 6.6 million violent victimizations in the United States—including 141,000 rapes, 1.2 million robberies, and 5.3 million assaults. The violent crime rate is steadily increasing, especially among juveniles, and in 1992 was the highest ever recorded for blacks; homicide is now the leading cause of death for young black males.

Handguns are a major factor in the increasing violence, especially in the commission of homicide. Of the 23,760 murders reported to the FBI in 1992, handguns were used in 55 percent. One of the most critical issues in any consideration of ways to reduce violence and its consequences is the role firearms play in contributing to violent crime, serious injury, and death. The NCVS estimates the rate of nonfatal handgun victimizations in 1992 at 4.5 crimes per 1,000 persons aged 12 or older—the highest such figure on record. Findings from an NIJ and Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) study of incarcerated juveniles and inner-city high school students showed that 83 percent of inmates and 22 percent of students had possessed guns, with 55 percent and 12 percent respectively having carried guns all or most of the time. Between 1988 and 1992, arrests of juveniles for violent crimes increased by 47 percent-more than double the increase for persons 18 years of age or older. Over the same period, juvenile arrests for homicide increased by 51 percent and statistics on weapons law violations indicate that juvenile use of guns has increased dramatically.

Spousal abuse commonly comes to mind when violence against women is discussed, but violence against women is much broader. According to the NCVS, more than 2.5 million women experience violence each year; nearly two in three female victims of violence were related to or knew their attacker; about a third were injured as a result of the crime; nearly half the victims of rape believed the offender to have been under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of the attack. The issue has emerged as a topic of national interest and led to the inclusion of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in the 1994 Crime Law.

The Crime Law contains many other provisions directed toward the prevention, control, and reduction of violent crimes—enhancements for law enforcement, correctional facilities, and drug treatment options; restrictions on firearms; provisions to deal with juvenile crime and gangs; and increases in the programs and research about