components of community crime prevention programs.

One possible way to protect people from crime is to develop a more thorough understanding of such factors about offenders as how they select their victims and targets; their modus operandi during the commission of an offense, including any involvement with co-offenders; their methods of disposing of noncash proceeds from crime; their perceptions of the opportunity structure of different locations, environments, and situations; and their perceptions of the criminal justice system's effectiveness in apprehending and prosecuting them.

Research Areas of Interest

Listed below are examples of research areas that could advance crime prevention knowledge and practice under Goal IV of the NIJ Research Plan. Individuals are encouraged to suggest their own topics of interest. Research is encouraged in, but not limited to, the following areas:

Crime Prevention Programs for High-Risk Youths. (In coordination with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.) Development of methods that foster positive and constructive forms of behavior. Focus on resilient youth and families. Interaction between community, family and individual factors in promoting positive behavior.

Developing Community-Based Crime Prevention Partnerships. Identification of factors that enhance or diminish partnerships. Development and testing of strategies to revitalize and reclaim high-crime areas. Ways to organize community resources in an integrated manner. How to develop useful problem-solving strategies.

Location-Specific Crime Prevention Programs. Schools and routes to and from school. Public housing.
Commercial settings. Parks and recreation facilities. Parking lots. Use of traffic barriers for crime and drug prevention. Understanding the actions and responses of potential victims and offenders in these and other settings. (See Goal III: "Routine Activities and Victimization" for a description of victim-related research using the routine activities approach). Focus on environmental and design features. Focus on a comprehensive approach.

Crimes and Offender Behavior.
Offender daily activity patterns. Offense selection and planning. Target and victim selection. Modus operandi during the commission of an offense including co-offending. Disposition of noncash proceeds from crime. Offender perception of criminal justice system

effectiveness. Disruption of stolen property markets.

Crime By and Related to Illegal Aliens. Recruitment, transportation, and smuggling of illegal aliens into the United States. Provision of false documentation to illegals. Employers' role in committing crimes related to hiring illegals and fostering crime among illegal aliens.

Contact

Applicants are encouraged to contact NIJ Program Managers to discuss topic viability, data availability, or proposal content before submitting proposals. For specific information on the programs described under this goal, potential applicants may contact:

Rosemary Murphy, (202) 307–2959, for school-based prevention programs, crime prevention in public housing, crime prevention partnerships and prevention for high-risk youths.

Richard Titus, (202) 307–0695 for location specific prevention (except schools and public housing), crimes and offender behavior, and crime by and related to illegal aliens.

Goal V: Improve Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice System

Purpose

The purpose of this solicitation is to encourage efforts in research and evaluation that will advance criminal justice knowledge in the areas of policing, prosecution, defense, adjudication, and corrections. The primary focus of research and evaluation under this goal is improvement of the efficiency effectiveness, and fairness of the system. Certain types of cases, however, take priority. These involve violent juvenile and adult offenders, drug and alcohol abusers, and family violence offenders. Also of interest are the consequences of decisions and practices in one part of the system on other criminal justice agencies and on related social service agencies. Through this solicitation, NIJ also seeks a greater understanding of the relationship among the offender, victim, and the criminal justice system. All issues surrounding the case are of interest, but projects that focus on an issue from the perspective of the various participants—prosecutor, defender, judge, legislator—are encouraged.

Background

Each part of the criminal justice system faces new challenges. Juvenile arrests for violent crimes increased by 47 percent between 1988 and 1992; juvenile arrests for homicide increased by 51 percent during the same period. FBI data indicate that juvenile use of guns has risen dramatically. Prosecutors nationwide note that youthful offenders are being brought to their offices in increasing numbers.

The Nation's prison and jail population reached 1 million in the past year, with more than 5 million persons under some form of correctional supervision. Data from jails and prisons show a high incidence of substance abuse disorders among inmates. Approximately 70 percent of jail detainees have a history of substance abuse; 56 percent were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of arrest.

A significant proportion of inmates with drug abuse problems have a high prevalence of other disorders. About 75 percent of inmates with mental disorders, for example, are also substance abusers. Other inmates abuse both drugs and alcohol. Few programs exist for such inmates who have special needs. In most State prison systems, for example, inmates may receive services from either mental health or substance abuse programs but not from programs designed to treat those with both conditions.

The 1994 crime law encourages innovations to improve criminal justice effectiveness in many of these areas, including community policing; prison construction and construction of alternative facilities such as boot camps for nonviolent offenders; and drug courts that combine court-supervised abstinence with outpatient treatment and sanctions for those who fail to comply. NIJ expects to issue separate solicitations for research in these areas by mid-1995.

White collar and organized crime pose a serious threat to the stable and orderly functioning of society. These complex and sophisticated crimes threaten our economic stability, corrupt legitimate institutions, and undermine the public respect for government and law.

Research is also needed on the consequences of the decisionmaking process within the criminal justice system. Much criminal justice research has been specific to a single criminal justice agency, such as the decisions of police in using deadly force, charging decisions and plea bargaining practices of prosecutors and use by judges of intermediate sanctions. However, such studies rarely focus on the relationship among police, defense attorneys, public prosecutors, and judges in plea or sentence bargaining.

Moreover, much research on criminal justice evaluates effectiveness in terms of standards internal to a particular agency rather than the consequences