

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Presentation at the Consortium of Social Science
Associations Annual Meeting

Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Director

March 15, 2016



NIJ

Strengthen Science. Advance Justice



NIJ

Research Leader and Resource Agency

- **Multiple Constituents**
- Research Activities
 - Implementing Congressional and Presidential Priorities
 - Support of Programmatic Offices
 - Developing a Cumulative Body of Knowledge and/or Lay the Foundation for New Research



NIJ

Priorities as Director

- Make **strategic and scientific** investments
- Rely on **multidisciplinary** talents
- Systematically **measure impact** of research investments
- Invest in development of **young scholars**
- To encourage **diversity** in our investments
- Expand **researcher-practitioner** activities

NIJ Science Offices

- **Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences:** Improves the quality and practice of forensic science through research and development, testing and evaluation, technology, and information exchange.
- **Office of Science and Technology:** Manages technology research and development, development of technical standards, and technology assistance to state and local law enforcement and corrections agencies.
- **Office of Research and Evaluation:** Develops and supervises social and behavioral science research and evaluation activities across a wide variety of issues.

Research Priority: Policing

- Solicitation: Research and Evaluation in Support of the Recommendations of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing
- Testing and evaluating the impact of body worn cameras
 - CNA Corporation in partnership with Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
 - Los Angeles Police Foundation with Los Angeles Police Department



Research Priority: Institutional Corrections

- Restrictive housing convening addressed:
 - Use of restrictive housing
 - Who is in restrictive housing
 - Relationship between segregation and mental health, institutional violence, officer wellness and safety
 - Alternatives to segregation
- Solicitation: Research and Evaluation on Institutional Corrections

Research Priority: Comprehensive School Safety Initiative

- Improve the safety of our nation's schools and students
- Increase scientific knowledge about the root causes, characteristics, and consequences of school violence
- Develop, support, and rigorously evaluate a wide range of school and student safety programs
- Develop and test a comprehensive school safety framework in school districts

Research Priority: Campus Sexual Assault

- Intramural research on campus sexual assault
 - Examine campus sexual assault prevalence rates to gain an understanding of the range of findings available, the factors associated with the varied findings, and present recommendations for prevention and future research.
- Solicitation: Longitudinal Cohort Study of Interpersonal Violence Among College-Aged Women and Men: Planning Phase

Research Priority: Domestic Radicalization and Violent Extremism

- Recent study by Duke University surveyed 382 law enforcement agencies (jurisdictions covering 86% of the U.S. population)
 - To assess law enforcement efforts to engage with communities to prevent violent extremism
- Solicitation: Research and Evaluation on Domestic Radicalization to Violent Extremism: Prevention and Intervention Demonstration Programs

Sentinel Event Reviews

- Used in aviation and medicine to examine the causes of a negative event
- Routine, nonblaming reviews by all stakeholders of a bad outcome, such as the conviction of innocent person
- NIJ's Sentinel Events Initiative is exploring whether the criminal justice system can use these reviews to improve reliability and help increase the public confidence

Role of Researchers

- Provide evidence-based knowledge to inform and guide policymaker decisions
- To be **relevant** in terms of topic and research questions
- To be **accessible** to practitioners and policymakers
- To be **legitimate** and take account of realities of criminal justice systems

National Institute of Justice (NIJ)

Nancy Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Director

March 15, 2016



NIJ