

The National Academies of
SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE

Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics

Committee on National Statistics • Committee on Law and Justice
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Agenda

Ninth Meeting of the Panel on Modernizing the Nation's Crime Statistics

August 4–5, 2015

Keck Center of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC

Tuesday, August 4, 2015

Open Session, 9:00am–5:00pm

Room 100

9:00am Call to Order

Janet Lauritsen, *Chair*

Breakfast will be available in Room 100 at 8:30

Panel Discussion: Local Justice Records Management Systems, Conversion to NIBRS-Type Reporting, and Related Issues

Capt. Tim Heroff, *Services Division, Rochester (MN) Police Department*

Ed Claughton, *PRI Management Group, Coral Gables, FL*

Bruce Kelling, *CEO, Athena Advanced Networks*

Kevin Strom, *Center for Justice, Safety, and Resilience, RTI International*

Guiding Questions—What does the panel need to know to understand crime statistics implementation issues for crimes that are already incorporated in national data systems?

- What information is collected by whom, in what form, and in what systems, from the time an “incident” is first reported to or observed by law enforcement?
- What data do your officers currently collect and analyze locally to support your day-to-day operations and enabled responsiveness to policy makers, the public, or other constituencies?
- What local data do you wish you had but either do not collect systematically or collect in formats that make analysis challenging?
- What do you perceive as the critical obstacles to expanding data collection or sharing data with other agencies?
- If the scope of data requested to incorporate into national crime data systems were expanded, what would be necessary to ensure that collection is organically tied into your agency's work processes? How could the assembly of such national-report data become a natural by-product of those processes necessary to meet your local needs for tactical, operational, and strategic intelligence on crime in your area of operations?

10:00 *Break*

10:15 **Resume Panel Discussion of RMS Issues, NIBRS Conversion, and the Local Experience**

Discussion to continue as necessary, ending no later than 11:15

11:15 **Updates from Project Sponsors**

***FBI/CJIS:** Randall Thyse, Deputy Assistant Director, Operational Programs Branch, FBI/CJIS*

***BJS:** [BJS Staff, to be determined]*

12:00pm *Working Lunch, Third Floor Cafeteria, to continue morning's discussions*

1:00 **Measuring White-Collar Crime, and Potential for Integrating Administrative/Regulatory and "Offense" Data**

Sally Simpson, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland

Peter Yeager, Department of Sociology, Boston University

[TBD, staff from EPA branches including the Office of Environmental Information], Environmental Protection Agency

Guiding Questions—*What does the panel need to know to understand crime statistics implementation issues for crimes that are **not** already incorporated in national data systems? How is the stakeholder community currently measuring fraud or other white-collar and financial crimes that are either underreported to law enforcement agencies and/or fall within the purview of federal regulatory agencies? What data could be systematically integrated from non-FBI/BJS and nongovernmental sources to improve national crime statistics? What other data exist that could be culled from other FBI and USDOJ information systems to generate statistics on these issues?*

2:30 *Break*

2:45 **Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN): Potential Source for Administrative/Regulatory "Offense" Data**

Michael de Luca, Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, US Department of the Treasury, and other FINCEN staff

Guiding Questions—*How might data reflected in financial institutions' Suspicious Activity Reports, filed with FINCEN as part of their obligations under the Bank Secrecy Act, contribute to the generation of data series on white-collar and other financial crimes?*

3:45 *Break*

- 4:00 **Enhancing Coverage of Federal Crimes: Defense Incident-Based Reporting System (DIBRS) and Law Enforcement Defense Data Exchange (LE D-DEx)**
John F. Awtrey, *Director, Law Enforcement Policy and Support,*
OUSD(P&R)/DHRA [Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness)/Defense Human Resources Activity]

Guiding Questions—How is the collection of NIBRS-type data proceeding within the military justice system? What are the remaining challenges in obtaining consistent data feeds from each of the reporting entities and sharing those data for inclusion in UCR/NIBRS?

- 5:00 **Anticipated Recess for Day**

<p>Wednesday, August 5, 2015 Open Session, 9:00am–1:00pm Room 100</p>

- 9:00am Call to Order
Janet Lauritsen, *Chair*
Breakfast will be available in Room 100 at 8:30

Emerging Opportunities in Data Sharing
Kshemendra Paul, *Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment*

Guiding Questions—What do the challenges, successes, and opportunities identified in implementing the National Strategy for Information Sharing and Safeguarding imply for avenues to pursue incorporating data from federal, state, local, and tribal agencies and private sector entities into a more comprehensive national crime statistics data infrastructure?

- 10:15 *Break*

- 10:30 **Introductory Profiles: Other Crime Indicators from Other Federal Agencies' Data Resources**

National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS): Kurt Heisler, *Office of Data, Analysis, Research, and Evaluation, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services*

National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS): Jim Heeschen [or other USFA staff], *National Fire Data Center, US Fire Administration, Federal Emergency Management Administration, US Department of Homeland Security* [will likely join by WebEx/videoconference]

Guiding Questions—For two examples of nationally/federally-compiled data resources (from state child welfare agencies and local fire

departments, respectively), common questions of data usability, content, and coverage—What kind of data is received from downstream contributors, in what format, with what frequency (and “lag” time), and how is it processed and structured? What is known about the extent of (and differentials in) coverage and participation by state and local contributors? What is known about “undercount” or “overcount” of crime-pertinent items in these broader systems, and are there efforts underway to improve coverage? What is the user base for the nationally-compiled data (how are they used, and by whom?)?

12:00pm *Working Lunch*, Third Floor Cafeteria, to explore remaining issues with invited/public guests from both days’ presentations

Planned Adjournment of Open Session; *panel and staff continue in closed session*

Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Closed/Deliberative Session—*Panel members and staff only; 1:00–4:00pm*
Room 100

This portion of the meeting is closed/deliberative in its entirety.

*The panel’s tenth meeting is scheduled for **November 17–18, 2015**, in Washington, DC (in line with the American Society of Criminology meetings)*

PANEL ON MODERNIZING THE NATION'S CRIME STATISTICS

JANET L. LAURITSEN (*Chair*), Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Missouri–St. Louis

DANIEL B. BIBEL, Crime Reporting Unit, Massachusetts State Police, Maynard (retired)

JONATHAN P. CAULKINS, H. John Heinz III College, Carnegie Mellon University

KIM ENGLISH, Division of Criminal Justice, Colorado Department of Public Safety

ROBERT M. GOERGE, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

NOLA M. JOYCE, Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Philadelphia Police Department

DAVID MCDOWALL, Violence Research Group, University at Albany, State University of New York

JENNIFER H. MADANS, National Center for Health Statistics

MICHAEL D. MALTZ, Department of Criminal Justice, University of Illinois at Chicago (emeritus) and Criminal Justice Research Center, Ohio State University

MICHAEL C. MILLER, Office of the Assistant Chief, Coral Gables Police Department, Florida

JAMES J. NOLAN, III, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Virginia University

AMY O'HARA, Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications, U.S. Census Bureau

JOHN V. PEPPER, Department of Economics, University of Virginia

ALEX R. PIQUERO, School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences, University of Texas at Dallas

JEFFREY L. SEDGWICK, Justice Research and Statistics Association, Washington, DC

JAMES P. LYNCH, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Maryland (*Consultant to the panel*)

PAUL K. WORMELI, Wormeli Consulting, LLC, Ashburn, Virginia (*Liaison from Committee on Law and Justice*)

DANIEL L. CORK, *Study Director*

SETH HAUSER, *Senior Program Officer*

MICHAEL SIRI, *Program Associate*

JORDYN WHITE, *Program Officer*

Statement of Task

A panel of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will assess and make recommendations for the development of a modern set of crime measures in the United States and the best means for obtaining them. For example, better information is needed on certain crime types such as against businesses or organizations and personal identity theft; also needed is greater ability to associate attributes such as firearms or drug involvement to crime types, and more complete adoption of electronic reporting, data capture, and system interoperability. The review will evaluate and make recommendations in the following areas:

- *Substantive*—Development of a framework for identifying the types of crimes to be considered in a modern crime classification, based on examining the strengths and limitations of various perspectives, such as: technical or legal definitions of crime types in criminal law or penal codes; definitions of “common unacceptable actions” in common

law; and public health-type definitions that use affected persons (or victims) as the unit of analysis. The review will focus on full and accurate measurement of criminal victimization events and their attributes, considering types of crime (and their definitions), including the current scope of crime types covered by existing Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) data collections; gaps in knowledge of contemporary crime; development of international crime classification frameworks that should be considered in increasing international comparability; and the optimal scope of crime statistics to serve the needs of the full array of data users and stakeholders—federal agencies, other law enforcement agencies, Congress, other actors in the justice system (such as the courts and corrections officials), researchers, and the general public;

- *Methodological*—Assessment of optimal methods to collect the data to complete the crime classification framework developed in the review, including assessment of the appropriateness of existing instruments and methods currently used by the FBI and BJS to collect crime information and the effectiveness and accuracy of their data processing techniques (including routines for imputation and estimation and the handling of missing data); the possible role of integrating data from non-FBI/BJS and nongovernmental sources (such as from credit card companies) into crime measurement; and capabilities for flexibly identifying and measuring new and emerging crime types going forward; and
- *Implementation*—How to maximize the use of locally collected and existing data as well as information technology assets while minding the voluntary nature of crime reporting in current systems, minimizing the effects of changes on state, local, and tribal law enforcement information management systems, meeting the needs of local law enforcement operations, and populating the national FBI and BJS data collections.

The review will also consider contextual information about crime produced by other statistical entities from different perspectives (such as contextual information on homicides, sexual assault, and stalking that may be derived from public health data collections), though the focus of the study is the taxonomy and measurement of crime and not the etiology of violence or deviant behavior generally. In addition, the review may consider cost-effectiveness and budgetary issues, such as priority uses for additional funding that may be obtained through budget initiatives or reallocation of resources among units of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The review will proceed in two stages. In phase one the panel will focus on the taxonomy and measurement of crime by hosting two workshop-style meetings, one with the research community and one with practitioners and policy makers, both addressing the scope and content of an ideal set of crime measures and indicators for the United States. Proceedings will be issued from both workshops, and the panel will produce an interim report that identifies lessons learned from the workshop input and directions for the panel's remaining work. In phase two, the panel will focus on the shape and structure of a modern set of crime measures—their sources, methods, tools, and processes—including what current sources of information could be used or modified to meet user needs, particularly for the higher priority measures. The panel will produce a final report at the end of the study that addresses ways to ensure that the nation has an integrated, complete, and contemporary set of indicators of the full range of crime (including the best means for disseminating data and findings) and document the joint role of FBI and BJS in producing those indicators.