

A Dialogue Between the Bureau of Justice Statistics and Key Criminal Justice Data Users

In 2008 the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) convened a multidisciplinary workshop for professionals who use justice statistics. BJS asked participants—representatives from academia, court systems, victim advocacy, and law enforcement communities—to provide feedback about how they use BJS statistical information and to recommend ways that BJS could optimize the value of the data it collects and publishes.

Four senior level researchers presented papers at the workshop, including:

Lynn Addington, Ph.D., is associate professor of Justice, Law and Society at American University, and has authored books and many journal articles on criminal justice and public safety. Professor Addington is currently a visiting fellow at BJS, working with the NCVS redesign. [See Professor Addington's paper](#) on current issues in victimization research.

Theodore Eisenberg, Ph.D. is the Henry Allen Mark Professor of Law at Cornell Law School. He has used innovative statistical methodologies to examine diverse topics related to courts and litigation. [See Professor Eisenberg's paper](#) that puts forth the premise that civil justice issues play as prominent a role in society as criminal justice.

Brian Forst, Ph.D. is professor of Justice, Law and Society at American University and a noted author in the field of law enforcement. [See Professor Forst's paper](#), "Improving Police Effectiveness and Transparency: National Information Needs on Law Enforcement."

Karen Heimer, Ph.D. is professor of Sociology and Public Policy at the University of Iowa. She has conducted research on juvenile delinquency, imprisonment trends in the United States, women and crime, and violence against women. [See Professor Heimer's paper](#) that presents a snapshot of NCVS-based research on violence against women and offers suggestions for making the NCVS even more useful for specific purposes.

BJS staff and members of the justice and victim advocacy communities conducted discussion panels after the presentations. Workshop participants then had the opportunity to comment on issues raised or to question the panel members. [See the complete transcript](#) of the day-long event.