



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Laboratory Director:

On behalf of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the Criminal Justice Center at Sam Houston State University, with the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD) and the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC), is conducting the **2005 Census of Forensic Crime Laboratories**. This census collects information on the functions, personnel, expenditures, workload, backlog, and resource needs of crime laboratories nationwide.

You may recall the 2002 crime laboratory census. The 2002 census documented more than 500,000 backlogged requests for forensic services, and the need for almost 2,000 additional personnel and \$500 million in new and renovated facilities, instrumentation and equipment. The BJS statistical report, "Census of Publicly Funded Forensic Crime Laboratories, 2002" is available on the BJS web-site at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs.

The BJS crime laboratory census has been instrumental in setting crime laboratory funding and management priorities at all levels of government. We are asking you to complete the enclosed questionnaire to help update this important study. Although your participation is voluntary, we need and appreciate your cooperation to make the results comprehensive, accurate, and timely.

If you have questions about the census, please contact Joseph Peterson of Sam Houston State University via e-mail (jlp007@shsu.edu) or telephone at (936) 294-4509. For general questions about the forensic sciences research portfolio at BJS, contact Matt Hickman via e-mail (matthew.hickman@usdoj.gov) or telephone at (202) 353-1631. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey L. Sedgwick".

Jeffrey L. Sedgwick, Ph.D.
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics