



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Washington, D.C. 20531

MEMORANDUM TO: Lynn Bryant
Department Clearance Officer
Department of Justice

FROM: James P. Lynch, Ph.D. *AB* *(for J)*
Director
Bureau of Justice Statistics

SUBJECT: Submission of changes to the National Crime Victimization Survey

Attached please find OMB Form 83-c concerning an increase of 15,977 hours of the current burden for the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS).

In order to restore the NCVS's ability to measure the extent and characteristics of crime and to measure year-to-year change in victimization rates, the Bureau of Justice Statistics will, in October 2010, begin to reinstate sample that was removed in 2007. The 2007 sample reduction was made in conjunction with a decision to utilize information from incoming sample rotation groups in the estimation of crime counts and rates. Prior to that year, incoming rotation interviews were used solely to "bound" subsequent interviews to ensure that crimes reported by respondents actually took place during the survey reference period. The data from incoming rotation groups are now adjusted to account for the potential overestimation that can result from being unbounded. The sample reinstatement is an important component of BJS's effort to restore the capabilities of the NCVS to measure the impact of crime in the United States.

The sample reinstatement will increase the monthly sample from about 8,500 households to about 10,700 households, an increase of about 26 percent. The sample increase will reduce the standard errors associated with violent crime by about 5 percent, and will enable more robust analyses of annual estimates of crime victimization and the characteristics of crimes and crime victims. The annual burden will increase by 15,977 hours to 69,542 hours. This annual burden remains lower than the 73,710 annual NCVS burden hours in the OMB 83-1 NCVS submission in 2006.

BJS and the Census Bureau have developed a sample reinstatement plan designed to minimize the impact of hiring new interviewers and to monitor the effect of assigning new cases on production and work quality for both new and experienced interviewers. The plan would also permit measuring the impact, if any, of the reinstated sample on NCVS estimates and provide contingency plans for whether and how to utilize the reinstated sample if an effect on estimates is detected. Under the reinstatement plan very few new field representatives will be hired and, to

the extent possible, they will interview only reinstated cases. This will minimize and isolate any “new interviewer” effect that may occur. Monitoring the reinstatement will involve collecting, on a frequent, primarily weekly basis, a broad range of information on the interview process, including non-interviews, screener timing, error rates, and incident production to ensure that the additional workloads do not negatively impact the administration of the survey. Finally, an analysis and response plan is being developed that will assess whether the sample reinstatement has impacted the victimization estimates and address the manner in which the reinstated sample will be utilized in the production of estimates.

If there are any questions concerning this request, please contact Michael Rand, Chief, Victimization Statistics, Bureau of Justice Statistics, at (202) 616-3494 or by email at Michael.Rand@usdoj.gov.