U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Statistics

National Survey of Prosecutors

MAY 2020

The National Survey of Prosecutors (NSP) is a data collection by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). The NSP collects data about staffing, budgets, caseloads, and other special topics. BJS previously collected data from prosecutors in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 2001 2005, and 2007.

To administer the 2020 NSP, BJS has retained RTI International, a research organization, and the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), a prosecutor membership organization.

What is the population of interest?

The 2020 NSP will sample approximately 750 prosecutor offices that handle cases in courts of general jurisdiction. The survey is not intended for federal prosecutors or for offices that try cases exclusively in limited jurisdiction courts.

What is the timeline for the 2020 NSP?

RTI and NDAA began contacting prosecutor offices in 2019 to review the draft survey and provide comments. BJS plans to test the instrument with 25 offices in the spring and summer of 2020. The full survey is planned to start in early winter 2021, though there may be some delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

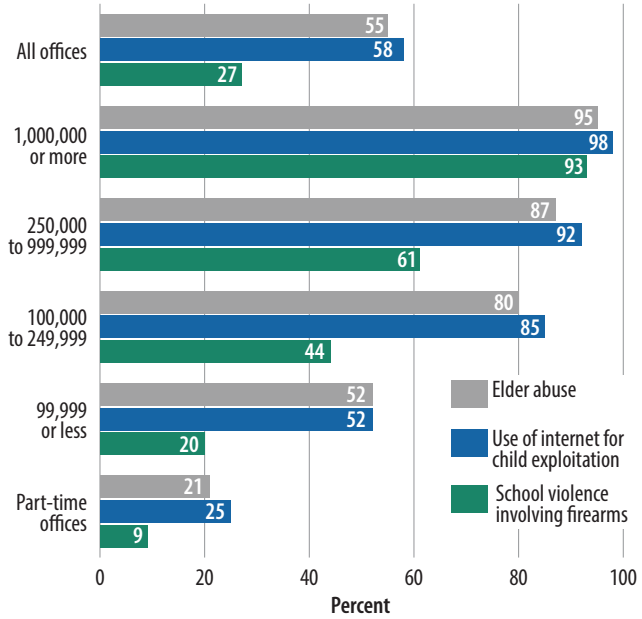
What kinds of questions are included?

BJS routinely asks about staffing, budgets, and caseloads. The 2020 NSP is still under development. In past surveys, BJS asked about difficulties retaining staff, prosecution of emerging crime types, and prosecutor involvement in community activities.

How are the data used?

BJS will use NSP data to produce reports similar to those from our earlier NSP data collections that outlined office budgets, staffing, and caseloads. BJS will not collect any personally identifiable information about any one individual, though BJS may ask questions about the office as a whole.

Percent of prosecutors' offices handling cases involving elder abuse, use of internet for child exploitation, and school violence involving firearms, by population served, 2007



Source: BJS, Census of State Court Prosecutors' Offices, 2007.

How can I find out more?

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