

SUPPORTING STATEMENT FOR NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), of the U.S. Department of Justice, requests a revision of a currently approved collection, the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) (OMB No. 1121-0111). The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) current approval of the NCVS expires November 30, 2026. Through this submission, BJS is seeking approval for an extension of the current approval of the NCVS through December 2028 to include a sample redesign which updates the first stage of the NCVS sample selection to reflect changes in the U.S. population based on the 2020 decennial census. There are no changes to the currently approved NCVS survey instrument for the 2026 data collection (**Attachment 1**).

Title 34, United States Code, Section 10132 authorizes BJS to collect statistics on victimization (**Attachment 2**). Since 1972, the NCVS has been providing national data on personal and household victimization, both reported and not reported to police. The data collection allows BJS to fulfill its mission of collecting, analyzing, publishing, and disseminating information on victims of crime. Together with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) statistics on crimes reported to law enforcement agencies, the NCVS provides an understanding of the nature of and changes in the nation's crime problems.

The NCVS is currently the only source of annual national data on a number of policy relevant subjects related to criminal victimization, including intimate partner violence, hate crime, workplace violence, injury from victimization, guns and crime, the cost of crime, reporting to police, and crime against vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, juveniles, and persons with disabilities. The NCVS is also a vehicle for the implementation of routine survey supplements that provide detailed information on timely and relevant topics such as identity theft, school crime, and contacts between the police and the public.

BJS is specifically requesting clearance to administer the core NCVS from January 2026 through December 2028. This includes the sample redesign to update the first-stage sample selection for the NCVS to reflect changes in the U.S. population based on the 2020 decennial census. The core NCVS includes the administration of the survey to a national representative sample of persons age 12 or older living in households in the United States, including samples of persons representative of the 22 most populous states in the U.S. The NCVS survey instrument (**Attachment 1**) includes a household roster and maintains a two-stage measurement approach with a victimization screener (NCVS-1) and crime incident report (NCVS-2). The NCVS core survey instrument covers ten general areas: 1) incidence of rape or sexual assault, robbery,

aggravated assault, simple assault, personal larceny, burglary, motor vehicle theft, other theft, and vandalism; 2) characteristics of these victimizations, including location, time, presence of a weapon, injury, and property/monetary loss; 3) characteristics of victims, including sex, age, race, Hispanic origin, disability, and occupation; 4) relationship between victim and offender; 5) emotional impact of victimization; 6) victim self-defense and bystander intervention; 7) offender characteristics including sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin; 8) reporting to police and police response; 9) bias- or hate-motivated victimizations; and 10) victim help seeking. The NCVS core instrument also includes two periodic modules on police performance and community safety.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.

Since 1972, the NCVS and its predecessor, the National Crime Survey (NCS), have provided national data on the level and change of personal and property crimes both reported and not reported to police. It is one of the two main sources of data on crime in the U.S. and the only source that provides detailed information on the nature and consequences of crime. By capturing crimes not reported to police, as well as those known to law enforcement, the NCVS serves as the primary, independent source of information on crime in the U.S. Understanding unreported crime also helps to inform the appropriate allocation of criminal justice system and victim service resources and provides a better understanding of victim decision-making, responses to crime, and the resulting consequences.

BJS offers access to NCVS data through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. Researchers can download public-use files of the NCVS data and data documentation to conduct their own analyses. The public-use files are produced by the Census Bureau and ICPSR. Additionally, BJS and the Census Bureau provide access to NCVS data files through the standard application process (SAP) portal, [ResearchDataGov](https://www.researchdata.gov/). The portal currently house data from the NCVS core survey from 2005 to 2019. This allows researchers who submit a justifiable proposal to access the geo-identified, restricted-use NCVS data files. BJS is currently working on making more recent data available in the near future.

2.1 Use and Interest in the NCVS

The reports and data generated through the NCVS are of use and interest to a wide range of audiences, including 1) government agencies, 2) the criminal justice community, and 3) the public.

2.1.1 Government Agencies

Because the NCVS is the only ongoing vehicle for producing data related to a broad spectrum of subjects related to crime and crime victimization, legislators and policymakers at all levels of government rely on the NCVS data. For example, Congressional debates on bills concerning victim compensation, gun control, crime and unemployment, and development of crime prevention programs for the elderly have used the NCVS data. Also, Federal executive

departments have used the NCVS data to support development of programs related to a broad variety of issues, including violence against women, intimate partner violence, violence against racial and ethnic groups including American Indians or Alaska Natives, school crime, juvenile justice, and crime against the elderly. Some specific examples of government agencies that make use of the NCVS data include the following:

2.1.1.1 Office for Victims of Crime

Within the Department of Justice, the importance and utility of the NCVS are recognized, and the data are used for various purposes. The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) has used the NCVS data to estimate the ratio of victims that receive crime victim fund assistance to the total number of victimizations and to identify vulnerable populations not receiving assistance. OVC has also used NCVS data and BJS reports to discuss improvements and gaps in the provision of victim services for congressional hearings.

2.1.1.2 Department of Education

The NCVS is used to measure nonfatal victimizations at school in order to inform the nation on the current nature of crime in schools and the prevalence of students victimized at school. For more than 20 years, these findings have been released in the annual report, [Indicators of School Crime and Safety](#). In addition, the National Center for Education Statistics sponsors the School Crime Supplement to the NCVS, which is generally fielded every other year.

2.1.1.3 Federal Trade Commission

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) worked with BJS to develop and fund the Identity Theft Supplement (ITS) to the NCVS. The FTC relies on the ITS for data on the prevalence of identity theft, how personal information is obtained by perpetrators, and the characteristics of victims. These types of data assist the FTC in identifying populations that may be particularly vulnerable and appropriately targeting knowledge and prevention campaigns. BJS published reports based on the 2021 ITS in [October 2023](#) and [January 2024](#). The 2021 survey was administered July through December 2021.

In addition, the 2017 Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS) data on the prevalence of financial fraud and the characteristics of victims can assist agencies like the FTC in identifying populations that may be particularly vulnerable, and appropriately targeting awareness and prevention campaigns. BJS published a [report](#) based on the 2017 SFS in April 2021. In March 2024, BJS statisticians published an [article](#) in the National Institute of Justice journal on financial fraud committed against older adults using data from the 2017 SFS.

2.1.1.4 Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services relies on NCVS data on nonfatal workplace victimizations to identify occupations and workplaces at high risk for violence and to develop guidelines for dealing with workplace violence. BJS released a [report](#) on workplace violence done in conjunction with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Labor in July 2022.

2.1.2 Educational Institutions

Many researchers use the NCVS data to prepare reports and scholarly publications. NCVS public-use data files housed at ICPSR are downloaded thousands of times each year. The downloaded data are used in conjunction with research projects in a number of academic disciplines, including sociology, criminology, psychology, and political science. Researchers use the NCVS data to advance the study of various issues including why certain persons are victimized more than others are; the reasons why persons do or do not report crime incidents to the police; victimizations against particular subpopulations, domestic violence, rape, gang crime, multiple victimizations, and more. A list of some of the more recent articles follows:

- Addington, L. A. (2025). A review of the evolution of the NCS-NCVS police reporting and response questions and their application to older women experiencing violent victimization. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 141-165. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290337>.
- Addo Danso, L., & Boateng, F. D. (2025). Gendered IPV disclosure: Understanding factors that influence women's decision to report IPV experiences to the police. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251326692>.
- Baumer, E. P., & Xie, M. (2025). Neighborhood immigrant concentration, interview language, and survey nonresponse in the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 71-95. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290351>.
- Berg, E. (2025). Issues associated with the formulation of a small area model for estimation of state-level crime victimization rates. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 30-50. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241289784>.
- Cantor, D. (2025). Methodological developments and innovations of the National Crime Victimization Survey, 1972–2023. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 9-29. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241289783>.
- Fisher, B. S., & Gross, R. L. (2025). The evolution of the measurement of rape and sexual assault over 50 years: Milestones, definitions, operationalizations, and classifications. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 166-195. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290352>.
- Gee, K. A., Cooc, N., & Yu, P. (2024). Hate speech against Asian American youth: pre-pandemic trends and the role of school factors. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 53, 1941-1952. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10964-024-01987-8>.
- Harrell, E., & Tapp, S. N. (2025). The addition and expansion of demographic characteristics in the NCVS. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 51-70. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290332>.
- Hullenaar, K. L., & Rivara, F. P. (2025). Health care and victim services use after adolescent violent injuries, 1993-2023. *Pediatrics*, 155(4), <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2024-068284>.
- Irvin-Erickson, Y. (2024). Consequences of identity theft victimization: Disabilities and mental distress. *Crime & Delinquency*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011287241227926>.
- Jachimowski, K. G., Pinskey, C., & Donate, G. (2024). LGBTQ+ hate crimes: Understanding victim reasons for non-reporting. *Crime & Delinquency*, 70(13-14), 3688-3708. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011287241252367>.

- Langton, L., & Planty, M. (2025). Harms and consequences of victimization. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 115-140. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290360>.
- McClintock, H. F., Espinoza, L. E., & Hinson-Enslin, A. M. (2025). Nonlethal violent victimization and vision and/or hearing loss: An examination of 2016–2021 National Crime Victimization Surveys. *Violence and Victims*. <https://doi.org/10.1891/vv-2024-0078>.
- McGrath, S. A., & Abbott, J. (2025). Intimate partner violence and additional victim–offender relationships: An examination of gender and other differences in victim fear using National Crime Victimization Survey data. *Violence and Victims*. <https://doi.org/10.1891/vv-2024-0111>.
- Shariati, A., & Irvin-Erickson, Y. (2024). The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on domestic violence injury: Insights from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). *American Journal of Criminal Justice*, 50(2), 228-252. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12103-024-09789-1>.
- Truman, J. L., & Morgan, R. E. (2025). The future of the NCVS: Findings from the multiyear effort to design the new instrument and plans for implementation. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 196-215. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290357>.
- Tseloni, A. (2025). Theory development and crime prevention insights from the NCVS. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 96-114. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290359>.
- Worthen, M. G., & Schleifer, C. (2024). # MeToo and sexual violence reporting in the National Crime Victimization Survey. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 39(21-22), 4215-4259. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605241234355>.
- Xie, M., Lynch, J. P., & Lauritsen, J. L. (2025). The National Crime Victimization Survey at fifty: Introduction to the special issue. *Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*, 41(1), 4-8. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10439862241290697>.

2.1.3 Others

Independent groups also use the NCVS for policy analysis and recommendations, testimony before Congress, and documentation for use in courts.

Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and Financial Fraud Research Center:

Researchers from the Financial Fraud Research Center (FFRC), a joint project of the Stanford Center on Longevity and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation (FINRA Foundation) collaborated with BJS to develop a standardized fraud classification scheme.¹ This was then translated into survey questions that were administered on the Supplemental Fraud Survey (SFS) to the NCVS.

National Crime Prevention Council: Uses the NCVS data to develop programs on crime prevention and to train and educate individuals, communities, and organizations throughout the U.S. on effective crime prevention practices.

¹ <https://www.finrafoundation.org/sites/finrafoundation/files/framework-taxonomy-fraud.pdf>

Victim Advocacy Groups: Use the data to identify vulnerable populations, such as crime victims who do not receive necessary criminal justice system resources, and to draw attention to the emotional, physical, and economic consequences of victimization.

Community Groups: Use the data to develop neighborhood watch programs.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Use the NCVS findings to gain a better understanding of the types of crimes that are and are not reported to the police, what percentage of crime goes unreported, and to understand the reasons why victims do not report to the police.

Media: The media have become increasingly familiar with the NCVS data and the public regularly sees news articles and press releases containing NCVS data. Findings from the NCVS appear regularly on a host of crime-related topics in a wide variety of contexts.

2.2 BJS Uses

From 2025 through 2028, BJS statisticians will use NCVS data to produce a number of timely and relevant reports and products. These reports are relevant to the priorities of the Department of Justice and the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), expressed needs and interests of other government agencies and the criminal justice community, current events, and methods for improving the usability and reliability of the NCVS.

These resources are widely disseminated through the BJS website, the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, the BJS JUSTSTATS listserv, which has about 59,930 members², and press releases circulated to the Associated Press and other major news sources. They also demonstrate the breadth of information collected through the NCVS, covering topics that stem from the design of the instrument and relate to each of the major sections of the survey instrument. Examples of recent and planned topical reports and products by each section of the NCVS include:

1. Enumeration of crime rates

- [Criminal Victimization](#) – Annual reports that present estimates of rates and levels of violent and property crime victimization in the U.S. The 2023 report was published in September 2024, and the 2024 report using estimates from the Legacy survey instrument is planned for late 2025. A report including estimates from the 2024 Redesign instrument is planned for early 2026.
- [NCVS Data Dashboard \(N-DASH\)](#) – Online dynamic analysis tool, updated annually, that allows users to examine NCVS data and generate tables on violent and property victimization by select victim, household, and incident characteristics. Data are available for 1993 through 2023. Updated annually.

2. Incident characteristics

- [Indicators of Workplace Violence](#) – Produced jointly with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Bureau of Labor Statistics

² As of March 2025.

(BLS), presents estimates on the extent of violence in the workplace. Published 2022.

- [Trends and Patterns in Firearm Violence, 1993–2023](#) – Examines patterns and trends in nonfatal and fatal violent victimizations that involved a firearm. Published November 2024.
- [Socio-Emotional Consequences of Violent Crime, 2022](#) – Presents key findings on violent victimizations and socio-emotional consequences reported by victims. Published 2024.

3. Victim characteristics

- [Crime Against Persons with Disabilities](#) – Annual Congressionally mandated report presents estimates of nonfatal violent victimizations against person 12 years old or older with disabilities. Last published 2021.
- [Indicators of School Crime and Safety](#) – Annual report, produced jointly with the Department of Education, presents estimates of crime occurring at school or on the way to and from school against persons age 12 to 18. Last published 2024.
- [Violent Victimization by Race or Hispanic Origin, 2008–2021](#) – Presents violent victimization rates and numbers by race or Hispanic origin, during the 5-year aggregate period from 2017 to 2021. Published 2023.
- [Crimes Involving Juveniles, 1993–2022](#) – Presents findings on crimes involving juveniles, both as victims and as alleged or perceived offenders. Published 2024.

4. Victim-offender relationship and offender characteristics

- [Race and Ethnicity of Violent Crime Offenders and Arrestees](#) – Compares the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program data on incidents of nonfatal violent crime to data from BJS's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to determine if arrest differences by race and ethnicity can be attributed to differences in criminal involvement. Published 2021.
- [Violent Victimization by Race or Ethnicity](#) – Addresses trends in the number and rate of violent victimization by victim race or ethnicity. Published 2020.

5. Bias-motivated victimizations

- [Hate Crime](#) – Presents patterns and trends in victimizations motivated by racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, or disability bias. Published 2021.

6. Subnational Research

- [Criminal Victimization in the 22 Largest U.S. States](#) – Presents selected state-level estimates of violent and property victimization for the 3-year aggregate period of 2017–19 in the 22 most populous U.S. states. Published 2023. An update to this report is planned for 2025.
- [National Crime Victimization Survey: Validation of State-Level Estimates](#) – Evaluated the 2016 sample redesign to produce subnational estimates of crime and the data quality of the estimates for the 22 states. Published 2023.

7. Technical/Methodological Research in the last 2 years

- [A New Measure of Prevalence for the National Crime Victimization Survey](#) – Presents a new method of estimating prevalence in the NCVS. Published 2024.
- [Update on the NCVS Instrument Redesign: Operational Pilot Test and Split Sample](#) – Provides an update on the next steps in the instrument redesign timeline

and describes operational plans to test and phase in the new survey instrument. Published 2023.

- [National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: Measuring Crime in the NCVS](#) – Details findings from a large-scale national field test to compare differences in the measurement of criminal victimization between two versions of the core NCVS instrument. Published 2023.
- [National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: NCVS Crime Incident Report \(CIR\)](#) – Examines the performance of the changes to the Crime Incident Report in the new NCVS instrument. Published 2023.
- [National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign: Police Performance and Neighborhood Safety](#) – Discusses two new modules on police performance and community safety that are included in the new NCVS instrument. Published 2023.
- [NCVS Instrument Redesign Field Test Methodology](#) – Details the methodological design and implementation of a large-scale national field test to assess the new NCVS instrument. Published 2023.
- [National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign Letter and Incentive Experiment Report](#) – Details findings from two experiments conducted as part of a large-scale national field test. Published 2023.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.

Respondents to the NCVS are individuals living in households. The Census Bureau collects the data using in-person and telephone interviews. The NCVS continues to use computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) to reduce cost, improve data quality, and streamline data processing.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in Item A.2 above.

The NCVS does not duplicate any other effort in the field. There is no other omnibus survey that can be used to generate annual national statistics on a range of crimes and victim responses to crimes regardless of whether the victimization was reported to the police.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports data cover a similar range of crimes as the NCVS but are limited to only those crimes known to the police. In 2023, NCVS data estimated that 55% of nonfatal violent crimes and 70% of property crimes were not reported to police. As of January 1, 2021, the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) became the national standard for law enforcement crime data reporting in the U.S. NIBRS includes similar crimes as the NCVS (as well as a number of additional offense types) and collects basic demographic data

on the age, sex, and race of victims and offenders. NIBRS, like the SRS long used by the FBI, includes only crimes known to police. It is also limited by a lack of information on the victim's response to criminal incidents. As of May 2024, 82% of the U.S. population is covered by NIBRS-reporting law enforcement agencies.³

5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

N/A. The NCVS is a household-based sample and does not impact small businesses or other small entities.

6. Describe the consequence to federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

There are several reasons why it is necessary to conduct an ongoing collection of the NCVS data. First, to produce annual estimates and track year-to-year change in crime, data must be collected on an ongoing basis. Second, because of the relative rarity of crime and declining crime rates, aggregate estimates (i.e., aggregated years or rolling averages) often must be used to increase the precision of national estimates that are based on small sample sizes, such as estimates for populations like the elderly and victims of sexual assault.

Rolling averages are also necessary for generating precise state-level estimates of victimization. To produce rolling averages and generate victimization estimates for subpopulations, specific crime characteristics, and at the state and local levels, annual data are necessary. Third, if the data were collected at a single point in time biannually or annually rather than on a continuous basis, the survey would be costlier due to start-up and interviewer training costs.

If the NCVS program were discontinued or conducted on a less frequent basis, executive and legislative branch policymakers would no longer have detailed crime and victimization data, including the demographic, victim response, and incident characteristic information not collected at a national level through the FBI, available when making decisions or formulating legislation. Additionally, there would be no reliable measure of change in the rate of serious crime for the U.S. that includes crimes not known to the police.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**
- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**

³ Details on the NIBRS reporting are available through the FBI's [website](#) and BJS [website](#).

- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**
- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**
- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**
- **requiring the use of statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**
- **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing of data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**
- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

BJS intends to implement questionnaire revisions in accordance with 2024 *Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 on the Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity* (SPD 15). BJS is in compliance with the 2025 NCVS Terms of Clearance which require periodic updates to OMB on the implementation of the 2024 SPD 15 as soon as possible but no later than January 2027.

It is not feasible for BJS and the Census Bureau to implement revisions to the existing NCVS race and ethnicity questions before January 2027. All NCVS testing efforts and instrument programming have been focused on the full-scale implementation of the new NCVS instrument in 2025, which is the conclusion of a multi-year effort to modernize the NCVS instrument. The new NCVS instrument has been fully programmed and efforts are focused on maintaining the quality of NCVS data while implementing the new instrument. In 2025, BJS and the Census Bureau are focused on building new data processing systems, analyzing two sets of results from the 2024 split sample design, and developing two sets of data products. In addition, preparations are in progress for the 2026 sample redesign. This sample redesign will update the first-stage NCVS sample selection to reflect changes in the U.S. population based on the 2020 decennial census. The phase-in of new primary sampling units began in 2025 and will continue into 2026. The NCVS collects data on rare events (criminal victimization) and as such risks impacting data quality when even minor changes to the instrument or data collection procedures are made. With the implementation of the new NCVS instrument, BJS has been heavily focused on maintaining data quality over time, including monitoring quality indicators and implementing a split sample design in order to measure statistically significant differences in victimization both over time and between instruments. As BJS prepares for the 2026 sample redesign, changes to the NCVS must be kept at a minimum as BJS has seen detrimental consequences with major changes to the

sample and sample redesigns in the past (See [Criminal Victimization, 2016: Revised](#) and [Criminal Victimization, 2007](#)). Therefore, BJS does not recommend implementing the SPD 15 revisions until the sample redesign is complete.

BJS has begun planning with the Census Bureau for implementation of the revisions to SPD 15 in 2027. BJS and the Census Bureau need time to properly implement the SPD 15 revisions, including programming the revised questions, testing the instrument with these new questions, developing and administering training on the new questions for the interviewers, and updating data processing procedures for the new questions. In order to prepare for the implementation of the SPD 15 revisions, BJS received OMB approval under the BJS OMB generic clearance agreement (OMB Number 1121-0339) to conduct some small-scale testing of the new questions through a statistical support contract in 2025. This could include examining methods to collect data on race and ethnicity from the household respondent on the NCVS roster (where respondent's race and ethnicity is currently collected) and from the victim about the offender's race and ethnicity on the NCVS crime incident report. A draft compliance timeline including key milestones for the 2027 implementation is below.

Milestone

Program new questions in instrument
System testing of new questions
Develop training for interviewers
Submit OMB change request for 2027 NCVS
Conduct training for interviewers
Update data processing procedures
Begin administering new questions

Date

January–March 2026
April–June 2026
July–September 2026
July–September 2026
November–December 2026
November 2026–April 2027
January 2027

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice, required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.

Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.

Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every 3 years -- even if the collection-of-information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.

The 60-day notice was published in the Federal Register, Volume 90, Number 140, pages 34884-34885 on July 24, 2025. The comment period ended on September 22, 2025. On September 22nd, BJS received two letters, one from the Williams Institute at UCLA and one from the Movement Advancement Project (MAP Research) which included signatures from more than 40 organizations. Both letters (**Attachment 18**) requested that the gender identity demographic items be added back to the NCVS. To remain in compliance with Executive Order (EO) 14168 titled “Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government,” these questions will not be added back to the survey.

The 30-day notice was published in the Federal Register simultaneously with the submission of this OMB package.

Outside consultations:

In the process of developing the subnational program, increasing the efficiency and productivity of the survey methodology, redesigning and modernizing the survey instrument, and planning for the introduction of the redesigned instrument, BJS regularly consults with a variety of data users, as well as the federal government and outside experts with knowledge and experience in criminal justice research and survey methodology.

BJS collaborated with the following outside experts to develop the final content for the NCVS instrument and procedures –

Name	Affiliation
Fisher, Bonnie	University of Cincinnati
Hansen, Rachel	BJS (formerly of National Center for Education Statistics)
Hartley, Dan	National Institute for Occupational Safety & Health
Holbrook, Allyson	University of Illinois at Chicago
Holtfreter, Kristy	Arizona State University
Hubble, David	Independent Consultant, Retired U.S. Census Bureau
Kreuter, Frauke	Joint Program in Survey Methodology (UMD)
Kurash, Aviva	International Association of Chiefs of Police
Lauritsen, Janet	University of Missouri-St. Louis
Loftin, Colin	University at Albany
Lohr, Sharon	Arizona State University
Lynch, Jim	Retired BJS
Menard, Anne	National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
Neusteter, Rebecca	New York Police Department
Planty, Mike	Research Triangle Institute
Reisig, Michael	Arizona State University
Skogan, Wesley	Northwestern University
Spiegelman, Maura	National Center for Education Statistics

Swan, Deanne	National Center for Education Statistics
Xie, Min	University of Maryland
Zukerberg, Andy	National Center for Education Statistics

9. Explain any decision to provide any payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No government funds will be used as payment or for gifts to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All NCVS information about individuals or households is confidential by law under Title 34, U.S.C., Sections 10231 and 10134 and Title 13, U.S.C., Section 9. By law, the Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release survey responses in a way that could identify survey respondents or their households. Census Bureau employees who may see the survey responses are sworn to preserve this confidentiality. Even BJS, as the sponsor of the survey, is not authorized to see or handle the data in its raw form. All unique and identifying information is scrambled or suppressed before it is provided to BJS to analyze. Data are maintained in secure environments and in restricted access locations within the Census Bureau. All data provided to BJS must meet the confidentiality requirements set forth by the Disclosure Review Board at the Census Bureau.

In a letter from the BJS Victimization Statistics Unit Chief (NCVS-572(L) (**Attachment 3**), sent to all households in the survey, respondents are informed of these laws and assured that it requires the Census Bureau to keep all information provided by the respondent confidential. The letter also informs respondents that this is a voluntary survey. Furthermore, in addition to the legal authority and voluntary nature of the survey, the letter informs respondents of the public reporting burden for this collection of information, the principal purposes for collecting the information, and the various uses for the data after it is collected which satisfies the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.

The NCVS asks about experiences such as rape and other types of victimization that may be sensitive for some respondents. Given the objective of the NCVS — to estimate the amount of nonfatal victimization in the U.S. — this is inevitable as BJS would not be able to provide a complete picture of nonfatal violent victimization without asking about such experiences. NCVS

interviewers receive training and guidance on how to ask sensitive questions, and the instrument training contains a distress protocol for interviewers to follow (**Attachment 4**). The importance of estimating crime levels, as well as the potential value of detailed information about victimization for designing crime prevention strategies, is explained to any respondent who seems hesitant to answer. All respondents have the option of refusing to answer any question.

In 2015, the OJP Institutional Review Board (IRB) declared the NCVS exempt from review and approval by an IRB. Pursuant to the OJP Instruction for Protection of Human Subjects and Privacy Certification Requirements, the NCVS was declared exempt from further IRB review because the research is covered by provisions of the confidentiality statute at 34 USC 10231 and the respondents' confidentiality is protected under Title 13 USC 9. The only involvement of human subjects consists of the administration of an interview questionnaire and the only potential harm is release of the information with identifiers.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated hour burden, and explain the reasons for the variance. General, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in Item 14.**

BJS estimates the annual respondent burden for the NCVS at 123,202 hours. The estimates are based on anticipated 2026 interview/noninterview counts, including the 22-state sample boost that has been in place since January 2016. The estimates are also based on a 10% reduction in the total number of sampled housing units. Each sample household is designated as an interview or noninterview. An NCVS sample address is classified as a noninterview if the living quarters is occupied but the interviewer is unable to obtain a complete interview; if the living quarters is occupied by persons who are not eligible respondents for the NCVS; if the living quarters is vacant; or if the living quarters is not eligible for sample because it is no longer used as a residence, it no longer exists, or it does not qualify based on the current listing and coverage

rules. The number of noninterviews is estimated as the expected total sample persons in 2026 minus the total expected interviewed persons in 2026 (based on 79% response rate from 2024 data). The NCVS annual inventory is based on the estimated hours required to collect the data from the instrument⁴ and accounts for a full 12-month cycle of data collection. Reinterviews are used for quality assurance to validate interviewer performance and verify data that were collected from the household. The reinterview annual inventory is based on the estimated eligible sample for reinterviews (4% of total sampled households).

Table 1. NCVS Estimated Annualized Respondent Cost and Hour Burden

Activity	Number of Respondents	Frequency	Total Annual Responses	Time Per Response (minutes)	Total Annual Burden (Hours)	Hourly Rate *	Monetized Value of Respondent Time
Interviewed	91,312	2	182,624	34.4	104,698	\$36.06	\$3,775,422
Noninterviewed	56,772	2	113,544	9.3	17,599	\$36.06	\$634,631
Reinterview (Interviews)	7,484	1	7,484	7.0	873	\$36.06	\$31,494
Reinterview (Non-interviews)	1,871	1	1,871	1.0	31	\$36.06	\$1,127
Totals	157,439		305,523		123,202		\$4,442,674

* The average hourly earnings of all employees on private nonfarm payrolls by industry sector was \$36.06 as of May 2025 per the Bureau of Labor Statistics. <https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t19.htm>

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

- **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of service component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining, and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**

⁴ Burden hours for the NCVS instrument were estimated based on the four months (January–April 2025) of 2025 data collection for the NCVS instrument.

- **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**
- **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

There are no costs to respondents other than that of their time to respond.

14. Provide estimates of the annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from Items 12, 13, and 14 into a single table.

There are no capital or start-up costs associated with the data collection.

Table 2 shows a breakdown of the estimated annual cost to the Federal Government for activities associated with the national NCVS data collection. The Census Bureau will act as the data collection agent for the NCVS at an estimated cost of about \$53.8 million for the 2026 cycle. Census will, develop all data collection support and training materials, train interviewers and support staff, and collect, process, and disseminate the NCVS data. BJS staff time costs about \$1.3 million. BJS bears all costs of the survey. The estimated annual cost to the Federal Government for the NCVS is \$55.1 million in FY 2026.

Table 2. Estimated costs for NCVS		Cost
BJS Costs		
	Staff salaries	
	GS-15 Supervisory Statistician (100%)	\$167,600
	GS-14 Statistician (100%)	\$142,500
	GS-13 Statistician (2 @ 100%)	\$241,200
	GS-12 Statistician (2 @ 100%)	\$202,800
	GS-11 Statistician (100%)	\$84,600
	GS-15/SES/SL BJS leadership (3%)	\$5,700
	GS-14 Lead Technical Editor (5%)	\$7,125
	Contract Writer/Editor (3%)	\$4,200
	<i>Subtotal salaries</i>	\$855,725
	Fringe benefits (30% of salary)	\$256,718
	Other administrative costs of salary and fringe (15%)	\$166,866
	<i>Subtotal BJS Costs</i>	\$1,279,309
Data collection agent cost (U.S. Census Bureau)		
	Division	
	DSMD (Sample Design and Estimation)	\$1,391,700
	POP (Population Estimate Support)	\$4,000
	ADSD (Instrument Development)	\$1,514,800
	DSD (Data Processing)	\$1,979,303
	FLD (Data Collection)	\$40,896,644
	NPC (Data Collection Support)	\$1,423,775
	ADDP (Survey Operations and Project Management)	\$6,547,721
	<i>Subtotal: estimated costs for Census Bureau</i>	\$53,757,943
	Annual sum of BJS and agent costs	\$55,037,252
	Total estimated costs for 3 years	\$165,111,756

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

Updates to the NCVS sample in 2026

Every ten years, the NCVS sample is redesigned to update the first-stage sample to reflect changes in the U.S. population based on the most recent decennial census. In 2026, BJS will update the first-stage sample to reflect changes based on the 2020 decennial census. The phase-in of new primary sampling units began in 2025 and will continue into 2026. The sampling frame will continue to include a boost to the sample for the 22 largest U.S. States to supplement the [NCVS subnational estimation program](#) that allows for three-year rolling average estimates of victimization in these states with adequate precision (average relative standard error [RSE] of 10%) in addition to the national-level estimates.

Change in burden

The estimated total annual hours for 2026 (123,202) is slightly lower than the 156,246 requested in the prior OMB package. This change in estimated burden is due to a slight decrease in the number of anticipated respondents and the time per response based on updated production data. The instrument is estimated to take an average of 34 minutes. This change is also due to a 10% reduction in the number of sampled housing units. The estimated burden is based on four months (January–April 2025) of 2025 data collection with the Census Bureau for the NCVS instrument.

Statistical Policy Directive No. 15: Standards for Maintaining, Collecting, and Presenting Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity

BJS is in compliance with the 2025 NCVS Terms of Clearance, which require periodic updates to OMB describing how we will comply with the 2024 SPD 15 as soon as possible but no later than January 2027. Please see Q7 for more information.

16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulations, and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates, and other actions.

For collection years 2026–2028, the NCVS is in the field from January 1 through December 31. Interviewing begins on the first of each month. The CAPI interviewing is conducted over the entire interview month. Data processing is conducted on both a monthly and semi-annual basis. Because the survey uses a 6-month recall period, crime incidence data for a given calendar year are not fully collected until June of the following year. However, annual estimates are produced and published based on data collected during a calendar year (collection year) rather than on crimes occurring during a calendar year (data year) starting with the 1996 data. Annual collection year estimates for the nation are typically provided to BJS approximately in April of each year.

BJS releases information collected in the NCVS in a variety of formats. In a typical year BJS releases a bulletin, [Criminal Victimization](#), which provides annual national estimates from the preceding year of survey data collection, including rates and counts of violent and property crime, characteristics of crimes and victims, year-to-year change estimates, and trend estimates. Simultaneous with the release of the annual *Criminal Victimization* bulletin, the online NCVS Data Dashboard (N-DASH) and the NCVS Restful API are updated with the most recent year of data. BJS will assess what data releases are feasible once findings from the new instrument are analyzed.

Once the data are released by BJS through *Criminal Victimization*, the N-DASH and the NCVS API, the data are archived at ICPSR. Researchers can download public-use files of the NCVS data and data documentation to conduct their own analyses. The public-use files are produced by the Census Bureau and ICPSR. All information that might identify individual respondents is removed from the files prior to being sent to the ICPSR.

To further enhance the utility of the data, in addition to the public-use files housed at ICPSR, the geographically identified NCVS files are also available in the Census Bureau's secure [federal statistical research data centers](#) (FSRDC). Researchers can access NCVS data files through the standard application process (SAP) portal, [ResearchDataGov](#), and must submit a proposal for the research they plan to conduct using the data and agree to all confidentiality and protected use constraints. Data are typically available through ICPSR and the SAP portal, [ResearchDataGov](#), by the fall of the year following collection.

As noted above, during the course of each year, BJS also releases several in-depth analytical reports and other papers that provide information on some of the broad range of topics covered in the survey. These reports reflect findings from redesign work regarding topics of interest to the public, as well as methodological reports on improving the usability and reliability of victimization estimates without increasing survey costs.

Topics include series or repeat victimization; patterns and trends in victim and offender race; harm caused by violent crime; intimate partner violence; age patterns in violent victimization; Hispanic victims of crime; victimization of persons with disabilities; long-term trends in victimization; workplace violence; hate crime; rape and sexual assault; criminal victimization by place; help-seeking patterns among victims; and police response and follow-up activities. See the specific list of planned topical reports under Section 2.2 BJS Uses.

NCVS 2026–2028 collection years schedule:

<u>Task</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Data collection	January 1, 2026–December 31, 2028
Data processing, monthly	January 2026 –March 2029
Data delivery to BJS	April 2027, April 2028, April 2029
First BJS report release/data file and documentation published	October 2027, October 2028, October 2029

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We are requesting no exemption. The OMB control number is displayed on the CAPI laptop or read during the interview describing the nature of the survey and authority to collect the information. A screenshot is included in **Attachment 5**.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

This collection of information does not include any exceptions to the certificate statement.

B. COLLECTIONS OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS.

This collection contains statistical data.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1: NCVS Questionnaire

Attachment 2: Title 34, U.S.C., Section 10132 of the Justice Systems Improvement Act of 1979

Attachment 3: NCVS-572(L) Introductory letter – All Languages

Attachment 4: NCVS Distress Protocol

Attachment 5: Screenshot of NCVS OMB Number and Expiration Date

Attachment 6: NCVS-551 (NCVS Rotation Chart)

Attachment 7: NCVS-110 (Brochure – All Languages)

Attachment 8: NCVS-593(L) (Thank You Letter – Different Languages)

Attachment 9: NCVS-521 (PreClassroom Self-Study)

Attachment 10: NCVS-522 (Classroom Training Guide)

Attachment 11: NCVS-523 (Classroom Training Workbook)

Attachment 12: NCVS-570 (Regional Office Manual)

Attachment 13: NCVS-541 (Reinterview Instrument Screens)

Attachment 14: 11-170 (CATI Reinterview Training Guide)

Attachment 15: 11-171 (CATI Reinterview Training Workbook)

Attachment 16: 11-172 (CATI Reinterview Supervisor's Manual)

Attachment 17: Field Division Current Surveys Reinterviewer Self-Study

Attachment 18: Public comment letters