Program Update: Bureau of Justice Statistics
Overview of the National Crime Victimization Survey Redesign Process

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Bureau of Justice Statistics
National Crime Victimization Survey Overview

- Measures national incidence of violent and property crimes and describes characteristics and consequences of victimization

- Rotating Panel Survey:
  - Six month reporting cycle: 41,000 households; 73,000 individuals
  - Sample households participate for seven periods/waves
  - Interviews all household members age 12 and older

- In-Person and phone interviewing via CAPI

- Stratified, multistage cluster design

- High response rate (about 90 percent)

- Ongoing since 1972

- Redesigned in 1992
Redesign Motivations

- **Reasons for Redesign:**
  - Survey not sustainable at historical funding levels
  - National Research Council recommendations
  - Requests for subnational data
  - Recent new funding

- **Objectives of Redesign:**
  - Operational and statistical efficiency
    - Reduce costs, streamline operations
    - Increase survey precision
  - Create ability to measure incidence at sub-national level
  - Monitor and improve data quality
  - Improve flexibility to address emerging crimes
  - Create data linkages for design and reporting
## Challenges Faced: Survey Constraints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inherent Issues</th>
<th>Potential Solutions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensitivity of Content</td>
<td>- New methods of interviewing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- New sampling methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Incidence Rate</td>
<td>- New sampling methods</td>
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<td>- Piggyback on other surveys</td>
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<td>- Small area estimation</td>
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<td>Accuracy</td>
<td>- Quality improvement studies</td>
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<td>Cost</td>
<td>- Build congressional and state support</td>
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<td>- Explore lower cost enumeration options</td>
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Challenges Faced: Process Constraints

- **Process Constraints:**
  - Balancing competing objectives
    - Level of geography: city, state, or national level?
    - How often: Yearly estimates or multiyear averages?
    - What is measured?
  - **Best practices vary by objective**
    - Depth (understanding victimization)
    - Count (type, level and frequency).
  - Law enforcement sensitivity to production of city level estimates beyond UCR program.
Redesign Research

Research underway in six major areas:

- Local area estimation (synthetic estimation)
- Interview mode
- Sample design
- Survey reference period
- Non-response bias
- Crime screener analysis
Current Status

- **2010**
  - Continue panel meetings
  - Conduct sample studies
  - Collect new para-data
  - Design redesign research/field tests and prepare solicitations/IAAs
  - Develop on-going data quality program

- **2011-2012**
  - Field testing of new methods
  - Synthesis of findings

- **2013-2014**
  - Finalize design and begin implementation of new program
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Component</th>
<th>FY 2009 Enacted Amount</th>
<th>President’s FY 2010 Request</th>
<th>FY 2010 House Mark (HR 2847)</th>
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