



FY 2016 SOCIAL *and* BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE TALKING POINTS: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ)

The Value of Social & Behavioral Science Research

- Social and behavioral science research is supported across the federal government, including at the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Department of Justice, Department of Defense, federal statistical agencies, and many other departments and agencies. This support helps us as a nation better understand and address complex, human-centered questions, such as:
 - How to convince a community in the path of a tornado to seek cover; or
 - Ways to slow the HIV/AIDS epidemic; or
 - How to thwart cybercrime and protect Americans' privacy and security in an increasingly connected world.
- Funding for the social, behavioral and economic sciences not only advances science, but is contributing to local economies.

Social & Behavioral Science at DOJ

- DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP) houses the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Both NIJ and BJS saw significant cuts in the FY 2015 omnibus bill, this at a time when evidence-based policy making for our justice system is needed more than ever.
- NIJ is the research arm of the Department of Justice. The institute plays a critical role in helping us understand and implement science-based strategies for crime prevention and control.
- The Bureau of Justice Statistics' (BJS) national data collections provide statistical evidence needed by criminal justice policy decision makers.
- Social science research supported by the agencies inform issues such as:
 - Human trafficking;
 - Evaluation of anti-gang programs;
 - Policing;
 - Crime and justice;
 - Children exposed to violence;
 - Sentencing alternatives to incarceration;
 - Elder abuse; and
 - Reentry and probation.
- **We urge your support for the President's budget request for both agencies, which total \$52.5 million for NIJ and \$61.4 million for BJS.**
- The request plans to continue DOJ's school safety initiative and proposes a new \$4 million research program on domestic radicalization to better understand violent extremism and advancing evidence-based strategies for effective prevention and intervention.
- Taken together, NIJ and BJS represent the only dedicated sources of federal research support committed to enhancing our understanding of crime and the criminal justice system.

- Increased investment in criminal justice science is needed to ensure future policies and decisions are evidence-based and to contain escalating costs associated with public safety.

	FY 2015 (current year)	FY 2016 President's Request	FY 2016 COSSA's Request
National Institute of Justice (NIJ)	\$36 million	\$52.5 million	\$52.5 million
Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)	\$41 million	\$61.4 million	\$61.4 million