MEASURING INCARCERATION IN HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS

INVITATIONAL FORUM

January 26 & 27, 2012
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC
Today's forum features a group of leading scholars, federal data providers, and policy makers that will assess existing measures of incarceration on federal and other household surveys. The group will work together to develop ways these measures might be adapted for use in other existing surveys that do not currently (or adequately) capture incarceration. Particular emphasis will be placed on substantive issues, such as which aspects of the incarceration experience should be measured (e.g., number, timing, duration, or type of incarceration). At the same time, group discussions will be grounded in the practical exigencies that pertain to all data collection efforts: constraints imposed by budgets, time burden on respondents, overall survey design (e.g., cross-sectional versus longitudinal) and related factors that will ultimately shape the recommendations of the group. There will be an opportunity after the conference for the group’s recommendations to be piloted on a survey of the U.S. population sponsored by the NCFMR and administered by KnowledgeNetworks. The results of this pilot survey will be summarized in a final report that will include recommended measures for use in future household surveys.

**Opening Remarks**

**Ajay Chaudry**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Human Services Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**John H. Laub**  
Director, National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice

**James P. Lynch**  
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice

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**Thursday, January 26, 2012**

**Morning**

8:30 - 9:00  
Registration

9:00 - 9:15  
Welcome

9:15 - 12:00  
Session 1:  
Assessing Existing Measures of Incarceration in Household Surveys

10:15-10:45  
Break

**Afternoon**

12:00 - 1:30  
Lunch

1:30 - 2:45  
Session 2:  
Adapting Measures for Household Surveys

2:45 - 3:15  
Break

3:15 - 4:30  
Session 3:  
Recommendations for Future Data Collection Efforts

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**Friday, January 27, 2012**

**Morning**

9:00 - 11:00  
Special Topic:  
Linking Administrative Records Data to Household Surveys
**Assessing Existing Measures of Incarceration in Household Surveys**

Goal: Overview and assess the strengths and weaknesses of measures currently used in large surveys to tap into the incarceration experience.

**Presenters**

**Bruce Western**  
Professor, Department of Sociology, Harvard University  
Director, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard University

**Shawn Bushway**  
Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice and Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, University at Albany

**Christy VisheR**  
Professor, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice, University of Delaware  
Director, The Center for Drug and Alcohol Studies, University of Delaware

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**Adapting Measures for Household Surveys**

Goal: Address whether and how existing measures can be modified for use in other data collections. Additionally, new measures may be proposed and assessed.

**Presenters**

**Rucker Johnson**  
Associate Professor, Public Policy, Goldman School of Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley

**Holly Foster**  
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Texas A & M University
**Recommendations for Future Data Collection Efforts**

Goal: Synthesize the key points that arose from earlier sessions to yield a group recommendation about how the incarceration experience should be measured in a general population survey.

**Presenters**

**Becky Pettit**  
Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Washington

**Samuel Myers**  
Roy Wilkins Professor and Director, Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice, University of Minnesota

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**Linking Administrative Records Data to Household Surveys**

Goal: Explore the feasibility of linking administrative records data on incarceration, and other criminal justice involvement, to survey data.

**Presenters**

**James P. Lynch**  
Director, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice

**Robert M. Goerge**  
Senior Research Fellow, Chapin Hall, University of Chicago

**Amy O’Hara**  
Acting Chief, Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications, U.S. Census Bureau
Organizing Committee

• National Center for Family & Marriage Research
• U.S. Department of Commerce/Census Bureau
• U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
  • Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
• U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs
  • Bureau of Justice Statistics
  • National Institute of Justice

The National Center for Family & Marriage Research, established in 2007 by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides scientific leadership, intellectual energy, and administrative assistance to support inter-disciplinary, policy-relevant research on U.S. families.