



U.S. Department of Justice  
*Office of Justice Programs*

# Proposed BJS data collection on COVID-19 in state and federal prisons

ICRN/NCRP Webinar  
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BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS

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# Reasons why BJS should do a collection

- Much of the information available on this topic is not comparable
  - A BJS collection would allow for all states and the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to report tests, positive tests, and deaths that met the same criteria.
- BJS's statistics are independent
  - They would be seen as more trustworthy than advocacy organizations who might use the data to promote an agenda.
- If we can collect mitigation policy information in addition to counts of cases, the collection could inform correctional authorities

# Proposed timeline

- Early July - CU cognitively tests the questionnaire.
- July 31, 2020 - CU submits 30-day notice to Federal Register, full emergency clearance package to OMB.
- September 1, 2020 - Begin fielding survey.
- October 1, 2020 - Begin nonresponse follow-up.
- October 31, 2020 – Complete data collection.

# Proposed topics for questions

- Monthly counts of total prisoner population, admissions and releases
- Cumulative (February – August) counts of:
  - Total number of viral tests given to staff and prisoners
  - Number of unique positive viral tests for staff and prisoners
  - Number of confirmed and suspected deaths of staff and prisoners
  - Number of prisoners who received expedited release in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (by sex and race)
  - Number of prisoners hospitalized for at least one night on-site and sent off-site
  - Some of these questions will request a disaggregation by race or age
- COVID-19 spread mitigation techniques check-off table (next slide)

	In all facilities	In some facilities	N/A
Testing of all new prisoners at admission (not incl. antibody tests)			
Automatic quarantine of new admissions			
Lockdown of prisoners in cells			
Reduction or suspension of transfers between prison or local facilities			
Reduction or suspension of educational programs			
Reduction or suspension of drug and alcohol treatment programs			
Reduction or suspension of prison labor programs			
Reduction or suspension of in-person family visitation to prisoners			
Reduction or suspension of in-person legal visitation to prisoners			
Daily temperature checks for prisoners			
Temperature checks for staff at beginning of each shift			
Isolation/quarantine of symptomatic prisoners			
Enforced sick or administrative leave for symptomatic staff			
Provision of hand sanitizer for prisoners			
Provision of face masks to prisoners			
Provision of face masks or gloves to staff			
Testing of prisoners before release (not incl. antibody tests)			
Antibody testing of staff			
Antibody testing of prisoners			