

# Corrections Research at the National Institute of Justice

3<sup>rd</sup> National Symposium on Corrections Worker Health  
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**NIJ**

# Presentation Summary

- Agency Overview
  - Office of Justice Programs
  - National Institute of Justice
- Corrections Research
- Safety, Health, and Wellness
- Research and Development Process



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# OJP Bureaus and Offices



Office of the Assistant  
Attorney General



Bureau of Justice  
Assistance



Bureau of Justice  
Statistics



National Institute of  
Justice



Office of Juvenile  
Justice and  
Delinquency  
Prevention



Office for Victims of  
Crime



Office of Sex Offender  
Sentencing,  
Monitoring,  
Apprehending,  
Registering, and  
Tracking



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# NIJ Mission Statement

“The National Institute of Justice — the research, development and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice — **is dedicated to** *improving knowledge and understanding of crime and justice issues through science.* NIJ provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to inform the decision-making of criminal and juvenile justice communities to reduce crime and advance justice, particularly at the state and local levels.”

We accomplish our mission through the "Listen, Learn, Inform" model — we "listen" to the needs of the field; "learn" ways to meet those needs by funding research, development, and evaluation projects; and then "inform" the field of what we learned.





## **Office of Investigative & Forensic Sciences (OIFS)**

- Improves the quality and practice of forensic science through innovative solutions that support research and development, testing and evaluation, technology, and information exchange.

## **Office of Research, Evaluation and Technology (ORET)**

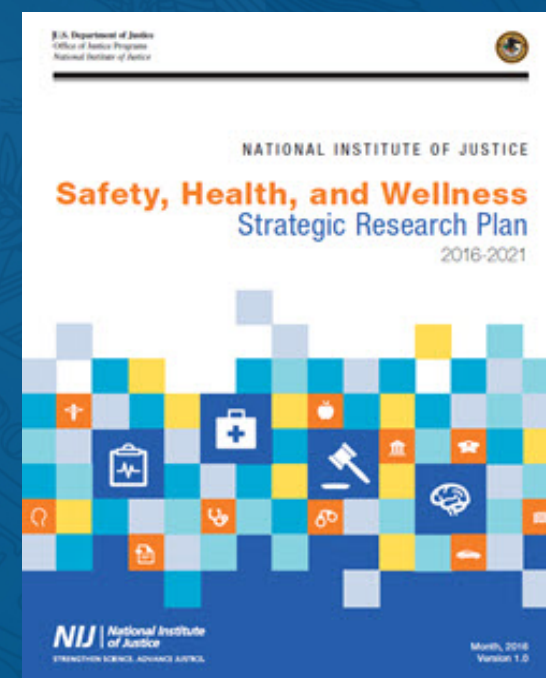
- Develops, conducts, directs and supervises social and behavioral science research and evaluation activities across a wide variety of issues. Manages technology research and development, development of technical standards, testing, and technology assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement and corrections agencies.

# Corrections Research

- Institutional corrections (Prisons and Jails)
- Community corrections
  - Focus on reentry
- **Correctional (and police) officer safety, health and wellness**
  - **Priority of the DOJ administration**

# Safety, Health, and Wellness Strategic Plan

- Interdisciplinary effort focusing comprehensively on the safety, health, and wellness of all individuals in the criminal justice system
- Divided into two main priorities:
  - Research to promote safety
  - Research to promote health and wellness



# Safety, Health, and Wellness Corrections Projects and Programs

- Effects of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction in Correctional Offices
- Defining the Impact of Stress and Traumatic Events on Correctional Officers
- Physiological and Psychological Responses to Critical Incidents among Correctional officers

The screenshot displays the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) website. The header includes the NIJ logo and the text 'National Institute of Justice' with the tagline 'STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.' Below the header is a navigation menu with links to 'NIJ Home Page', 'Funding & Awards', 'Events', 'Publications & Multimedia', 'Training', and 'Topics'. The 'Topics' menu is expanded, showing a list of topics including 'Body Armor'. The 'Body Armor' section is highlighted, and the page content is displayed. The main heading is 'Compliant Armor: Body Armor that Complies With NIJ Stab Resistance Standard, 0115.00'. The text explains that the following table is provided by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-National, which administers the body armor testing program. The table lists two protection classes: 'SPIKE' and 'EDGED BLADE'. The 'SPIKE' class is intended to address threats that might be expected in a corrections environment, while the 'EDGED BLADE' class is intended to address threats that may be experienced 'on the street' by police officers. The page also includes a sidebar with 'SITE & PAGE TOOLS' and a list of links such as 'Text size', 'Print this page', 'Feedback', 'Subscriptions', 'E-mail this page', and 'Share this page on...'. At the bottom, there is a section for 'American Body Armor, LLC' with contact information.

OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

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STRENGTHEN SCIENCE. ADVANCE JUSTICE.

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NIJ Home Page | Funding & Awards | Events | Publications & Multimedia | Training | Topics

NIJ Home Page > Topics > Technology and Tools > Body Armor

**Body Armor**

- Body Armor Research Projects
- Medical Management Guidelines for Impacts to Body Armor
- Body Armor Performance Standards
- Body Armor Compliance Testing
- Factors that Affect Officers' Use of Body Armor
- Research on Trauma and Injuries to Officers Wearing Body Armor
- Factors that Impact the Effectiveness of Body Armor

**Compliant Armor: Body Armor that Complies With NIJ Stab Resistance Standard, 0115.00**

The following table — provided by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center-National, which administers the body armor testing program — updated when ever new armor is found compliant and shows:

1. How armor can meet compliance at defined protection classes.
2. Armor, listed alphabetically by vendor, found to be compliant with NIJ Standard 0115.00 for stab resistance.

[View a printable list of compliant armor.](#)

**Ballistic and Combination Armor**

Find also armor that complies with:

- [NIJ's ballistic resistance standard.](#)

**Models found to Comply with the NIJ Standard 0115.00**

**PROTECTION CLASS: SPIKE**

This protection class is intended to address threats that might be expected in a corrections environment. Lower quality knife blades and spike-style weapons that have been improvised from other materials typically characterize these threats.

**PROTECTION CLASS: EDGED BLADE**

This protection class is intended to address threats that may be experienced "on the street" by police officers. High-quality, commercially machined edged knife blades typically characterize these threats.

**American Body Armor, LLC**  
(Formerly "American Body Armor and Equipment, Inc")  
3120 E. Mission Blvd., Ontario, CA 91761  
Phone: 800-347-1200, 909-923-7300 Fax: 909-923-7400

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## Safety, Health, and Wellness Corrections Projects and Programs (cont'd)

- The Impacts of Restrictive Housing on Inmate Behavior, Mental, Health and Recidivism, and Prison Systems and Personnel
- The Impact of Correctional Officer Suicide on the Institutional Environment and on the Well-being of Correctional Employees
- Altering Administrative Segregation for Inmates and Staff: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of the Effects of Living and Working in Restrictive Housing

## NIJ's Research and Development Process



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[www.NIJ.gov](http://www.NIJ.gov)

[www.NIJ.gov/funding](http://www.NIJ.gov/funding)

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