

# NCFS Ad Hoc Survey

## Subcommittee

- Commissioners: Steve Fienberg, Marilyn Huestis, Gerry LaPorte, Patricia Manzolillo & Matt Redle
- Bureau of Justice Statistics: Erica Smith & team
- Andrew Bruck & Jon McGrath
- Multiple teleconferences with BJS (last 7/17)
- BJS & RTI developing Law Enforcement Rapid Information System (LERIS) data collection with dissemination of results within a few months



# NCFS Ad Hoc Survey Subcommittee

- Working title: Provision of Forensic Science Services by Law Enforcement Agencies
- Subcommittee already reviewed draft questions
- Will survey offices with <100 officers, 100-249, 500-999, >1000 officers
- Will ask what forensic services they provide, where they send evidence if not done in-house (other state or local agency, commercial laboratory), medical examiner or coroner office?

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- Will query #employees, accreditation, certification?
- Will try to group questions by appropriate respondent (investigator, scientist, chief)
- Subcommittee pleased with breadth & depth of questions, & wanted to ensure that we don't ask questions that are too difficult to answer- like when did they 1<sup>st</sup> get accredited- just are they currently accredited

# NCFS Ad Hoc Survey

## Subcommittee

- Collect data on current staff numbers, positions & duties
- Attempting to collect as much data as possible on medical examiner & coroner offices
- Replaced “criminalists” with forensic scientists
- Set a low threshold on amount of time a person needed to be designated as “forensic” to be included
- Ensure definitions approved by the Commission are included throughout the document

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- Examples of forensic science services include:
  - Crime scene
  - Identification examinations
  - Document examinations
  - Firearms/ballistics examinations
  - Toolmark examinations
  - Digital & multimedia examinations
  - Drug or chemical identifications
  - Biological or toxicological examinations
  - Trace evidence examinations



# NCFS Ad Hoc Survey Subcommittee

- Quality assurance
- Timeline
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> survey draft due soon
  - Finalize questions
  - Cognitive testing at RTI
  - Draft cover letter to accompany survey
  - Survey to field January 2016