

James P. Lynch, Ph.D.

James P. Lynch, Ph.D., was distinguished professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York before being nominated by President Obama to be director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Throughout his career, Mr. Lynch has focused on measurement issues in criminal justice data and statistics. Notably, his work with Al Biderman on the nation's two crime measures—the Uniform Crime Report and the National Crime Victimization Survey—is the authoritative work on comparing national crime statistics. He has led research projects on a wide variety of crime and criminal-justice related topics, from comparing incarceration practices in different countries to examining the impact of incarceration on families. He worked as a program evaluator for the Connecticut Planning Committee on Criminal Justice Administration beginning in 1972, and he interned with the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office for Improvements in the Administration of Justice from 1978 to 1979.

From 1980 to 1985, Mr. Lynch served as project manager for the National Crime Survey Redesign, a multimillion dollar revamping of one of the nation's major indicators of crime. He served as an adviser in the redesign of the other major indicator, the Uniform Crime Report, during the same period. In 1986, he became a faculty member in the Department of Justice, Law, and Society at American University, where he remained for two decades serving as associate professor, full professor, and chair of the department until leaving for John Jay in 2005.

In 1991, Mr. Lynch coauthored "Understanding Crime Incidence Statistics," a book examining the differences between crime statistics based on surveys and police data. He continued his work with crime statistics through the 1990s. From 2007 to 2009, he served on a National Academy of Science panel to review the DOJ's Bureau of Justice Statistics programs.

He has published three books, two reviewing crime statistics and one examining immigration policies. He co-edited another that is forthcoming, "Criminologists on Terrorism and Homeland Security."

He has also published 25 refereed articles and over 40 book chapters and other publications. He was elected to the executive board of the American Society of Criminology in 2002 and has served on the editorial boards of *Criminology* and the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* and as deputy editor of *Justice Quarterly*. He has also chaired the American Statistical Association's Committee on Law and Justice Statistics.

Mr. Lynch was born in Hartford, Conn., in 1949. He graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and went on to obtain first a master's degree (1975) and then a doctorate in sociology (1983) from the University of Chicago. He graduated from Northwest Catholic High School in West Hartford in 1967. During his high school and college career, he was known as a gifted football player. Northwest Catholic inducted him into its Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame in March 2009.