JUSTICE RESEARCH AND STATISTICS ASSOCIATION
IMPROVING CRIME DATA SURVEY

DATA ANALYST SURVEY

THIS SURVEY CAN ALSO BE COMPLETED ONLINE. PLEASE VISIT WWW.JRSA.ORG/SURVEY.
PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE RESPONSES AS INDICATED.

DATA USE

1. Which of the following criminal justice data are used in your agency? (check all that apply)

- ' calls for service
- ' incident report data
- ' traffic stop data
- ' clearance rates
- ' drug/gun seizures
- ' arrest data
- ' police pursuits
- ' "hot spots" data
- ' state UCR data
- ' victimization survey rates
- ' recidivism rates
- ' disposition data
- ' court caseloads
- ' corrections data
- ' cost data
- ' drug use surveys
- ' other (*specify:* _____)

2. Which of the following non-criminal justice data are used in your agency? (check all that apply)

- ' emergency room data
- ' medical examiner data
- ' census data
- ' treatment program data
- ' education data
- ' health data
- ' other (*specify:* _____)

3. How does your agency use the data? (check all that apply)

- ' training
- ' budget decisionmaking
- ' deployment
- ' responses to inquiries
- ' daily reports
- ' program planning
- ' evaluation
- ' policy development
- ' crime patterns
- ' mapping
- ' crime trends
- ' COMPSTAT
- ' comparisons with other jurisdictions
- ' other (*specify:* _____)

4. If not currently used, which of the following criminal justice data would be useful, if available? (check all that apply)

- ' calls for service
- ' incident report data
- ' traffic stop data
- ' clearance rates
- ' drug/gun seizures
- ' arrest data
- ' police pursuits
- ' "hot spots" data
- ' state UCR data
- ' victimization survey rates
- ' recidivism rates
- ' disposition data
- ' court caseloads
- ' corrections data
- ' cost data
- ' drug use surveys
- ' other (*specify:* _____)

5. If not currently used, which of the following non-criminal justice data would be useful, if available? (check all that apply)

- ' emergency room data
- ' medical examiner data
- ' census data
- ' treatment program data
- ' education data
- ' health data
- ' other (*specify:* _____)

6. How often do data and statistics help the performance of your agency in its functions?

' very often ' often ' seldom ' rarely ' never

7. How often do data and statistics affect the planning of programs or policies in your agency?

' very often ' often ' seldom ' rarely ' never

8. Which best describes the response of your agency's officers when they are required to gather data for records and reports?

- ' very supportive
- ' supportive
- ' indifferent
- ' unsupportive
- ' very unsupportive

9. How thorough would your agency's officers be if required to record/report more data about incidents than they currently are?

- ' very thorough
- ' thorough
- ' somewhat thorough
- ' not very thorough
- ' not at all thorough

10. Of the following possible changes, rank the top three that you think would be most helpful in increasing the use of data and statistics for decisionmaking in your agency (1 = most important).

- ___ Improved data entry
- ___ Improved data quality
- ___ Improved ability to extract data from RMS
- ___ Increased analysis capacity (e.g., more analysts, improved hardware and software)
- ___ Greater support from management for analysis
- ___ Increased cooperation of other agencies
- ___ Increased systems integration among local agencies
- ___ Other (*specify*:_____)

AGENCY DATA STRUCTURES

11. Does your agency have a crime analysis unit?
' yes ' no

If "yes," how would you characterize your unit? (check all that apply)

- ' single person unit
- ' formal, authorized
- ' embedded in another unit
- ' informal, ad hoc
- ' distinct unit ' other (specify_____)

12. How many analysts are in your unit? _____

13. What is the average educational level achieved by analysts in your agency/jurisdiction?

' high school   ' some college
' undergraduate degree ' master's degree
' doctorate   ' other *(specify:_____)*

14. Do analysts in your agency/jurisdiction receive special training, workshops, etc., to develop skills?

' yes   ' no
If "yes," how are those efforts paid for?
' by the agency/jurisdiction ' grants
' by the analyst ' other *(specify:_____)*

15. Who provides crime analysis training for your agency? (check all that apply)

' agency (in-house)   ' outside contractor
' professional associations   ' no training provided
' other (*specify*:_____)

16. How up-to-date do you consider your training for data collection and reporting?

' very up-to-date   ' up-to-date
' somewhat up-to-date   ' somewhat outdated
' very outdated

17. How is crime analysis information disseminated within your agency? (check all that apply)

' upon request
' formal reports
' periodic memos/bulletins/short reports
' other *(specify:_____)*

18. Within your agency, how useful is the work of analysts as seen by:

Patrol officers: ' very useful   ' useful
    ' somewhat useful ' rarely useful ' never useful
Supervisors: ' very useful   ' useful
    ' somewhat useful ' rarely useful ' never useful
Detectives: ' very useful   ' useful
    ' somewhat useful ' rarely useful ' never useful

19. Does your unit seek assistance in data analysis from outside agencies? (check all that apply)

' universities/colleges   ' Statistical Analysis Centers
' private consultants   ' vendors/suppliers
' state Uniform Crime Reporting Unit
' other law enforcement agencies
' other *(specify:_____)*

20. How receptive is your agency to assistance in data analysis from outside agencies?

   ' very receptive   ' receptive   ' indifferent
     ' not very receptive   ' not at all receptive

21. What would concern analysts in your agency about assistance from external sources? (check all that apply)

' maintenance of appropriate confidentiality of records and data
' high integrity and professionalism in the collection and use of records and data
' manageable costs
' loss of control over process
' other *(specify:_____)*

22. How up-to-date do you consider the technology used in your agency for data collection and reporting?

' very up-to-date   ' up-to-date
' somewhat up-to-date   ' somewhat outdated
' very outdated

23. How often does your agency update the technology used for data collection and reporting?

' always ' frequently ' sometimes ' seldom ' never

24. What has been your experience with vendors of data collection/reporting products in the following areas:

Quality of product:
   ' excellent ' very good ' good ' fair ' poor
Cost-effectiveness of product:
   ' excellent ' very good ' good ' fair ' poor
Quality of technical assistance:
   ' excellent ' very good ' good ' fair ' poor
Cost-effectiveness of technical assistance:
   ' excellent ' very good ' good ' fair ' poor

25. If you had more money for your technical capacities for data collection and reporting, on which area would you first spend it?

' hardware   ' software
' personnel salaries   ' additional staff
' personnel training   ' other *(specify:_____)*

Data for Programming and Policy Strategies

26. How often are data and statistical indicators used in your agency for:

Budgeting decisions:
   ' always ' frequently ' sometimes ' seldom ' never
Personnel evaluations:
   ' always ' frequently ' sometimes ' seldom ' never
Promotion decisions:
   ' always ' frequently ' sometimes ' seldom ' never
Policy decisions:
   ' always ' frequently ' sometimes ' seldom ' never
Policy evaluations:
   ' always ' frequently ' sometimes ' seldom ' never

27. How often does your agency provide data to policymakers and/or community stakeholders for developing programs and policies?

' 3 or more times a week ' 1-2 times a week
' 1-2 times a month ' 1-2 times a year ' never

28. Does your agency have representation on a local, regional, or state criminal justice coordinating council, advisory board, or task force?
' yes ' no

If "yes," how receptive are the members of those bodies to using data to develop programs and policies?

' very receptive ' receptive ' indifferent
' seldom receptive ' never receptive

29. How would you rate the media's understanding and reporting of data and statistics that you provide them?

' excellent ' very good ' good ' fair ' poor

30. Does your agency provide a mechanism for data users to provide feedback?
' yes ' no

If "yes," do you receive feedback regarding:

Data availability:
' positive feedback ' negative feedback ' both ' none

Data quality:
' positive feedback ' negative feedback ' both ' none

Data utility:
' positive feedback ' negative feedback ' both ' none

Possible data improvements:
' positive feedback ' negative feedback ' both ' none

Interjurisdictional Data Sharing and Integration

31. Is there currently a citywide or countywide integrated information systems project underway?
' yes ' no

If "yes," is your agency currently (or planning on) participating?
' yes ' no

If "yes," what data are shared?
' crime incident information ' GIS data
' person information ' auto information
' other *(specify:_____)*

32. Does your agency use data systems that are integrated with systems of other departments/agencies?
' yes ' no

If "yes," which of the following departments/agencies participate? (check all that apply)

Criminal Justice/Public Safety Agencies
' other law enforcement agency ' court
' corrections ' probation
' public defender ' juvenile services
' department of motor vehicles ' fire department
' parole ' prosecution
' other *(specify:_____)*

Non-Criminal Justice/Non-Public Safety Agencies
' child support agency ' social services
' health department ' education
' public utilities ' planning/zoning
' transportation ' victim support groups
' public works
' other *(specify:_____)*

33. If your agency uses a data system that is integrated with the systems of other departments/agencies, does your agency maintain it?
' yes ' no

If "no," who does? _____

34. Does your agency have access to a data system that allows the tracking of offenders over time?
' yes ' no

If "yes," does this system include: (check all that apply)
' arrest history ' jail data
' court data ' probation/parole data
' other *(specify:_____)*

35. For each agency listed below, indicate whether your department: (S) sends data to the agency, (R) receives data from the agency, or (B) both sends data to and receives data from the agency.

Criminal Justice/Public Safety Agencies
___ other law enforcement agency ___ court
___ corrections ___ probation
___ public defender ___ juvenile services
___ department of motor vehicles ___ fire department
___ prosecution ___ parole
___ other *(specify:_____)*

Non-Criminal Justice/Non-Public Safety Agencies
___ child support agency ___ social services
___ health department ___ education
___ public utilities ___ planning/zoning
___ transportation ___ public works
___ victim support groups
___ other *(specify:_____)*

36. How successful are the data sharing efforts that you participate in?

' very successful ' successful ' somewhat successful
' not very successful ' unsuccessful

37. How do the technical capacities of your agency compare with neighboring jurisdictions?

' better than others ' the same as others
' worse than others ' don't know

38. What would concern your agency about sharing data with other criminal justice agencies? (check all that apply)

' maintenance of appropriate confidentiality of records and data
' high integrity and professionalism in the collection and use of records and data
' manageable costs
' available manpower
' loss of control over process
' other (*specify:*_____)

Incident-Based Data

39. Does your agency collect and report incident-based (NIBRS) data?

' yes ' no

If "no," has your agency ever collected and reported NIBRS data?

' yes ' no

Does your agency plan to report NIBRS data?

' within the next year ' within the next 3 years
' no definite plan ' never

40. If you are collecting NIBRS data, which of the following obstacles to collecting and reporting NIBRS has your agency experienced? If your agency is not currently collecting NIBRS data, which of the following issues have been issues for your agency? (check all that apply)

Increased Costs

' Redesigning collection processes and reporting forms
' Updating record management systems
' Upgrading software/hardware
' Rewriting software programs
' Implementing process at street level
' Upgrading communications infrastructure to support reporting
' Hiring additional support/data entry staff
' Training existing and new personnel
' Exercising more quality control on data entry
' Increasing volume and complexity of data and effect on personnel costs
' Other (*specify:* _____)

Ambiguous Use and Benefits

' NIBRS not a priority to policymakers because benefits not immediate or clear
' Perception of NIBRS as "research"-related rather than "operations"-related
' NIBRS more useful for national or macro-level analyses than for local strategic analysis and planning
' Possible "increases" in local crime statistics due to shift from UCR to NIBRS and related changes in how/what data collected
' No definitive guidelines for NIBRS data sharing or comparisons
' Other (*specify:* _____)

Administration

' Loss of patrol time due to increased detail in reporting
' Slow turnaround to local agencies of data reported to state/federal agencies
' Doubtful commitment of state/federal resources to local agencies for continued implementation
' Inadequate marketing of NIBRS benefits
' Inadequate training of local agency personnel
' Strict, rigid guideline requirements for certification and reporting data
' Lack of utility or relevance on local level of data elements, definitions, structures
' Conflicting definitions of statutes and offenses on different government levels
' Other (*specify:* _____)

Recommendations

If you could make one change to the current system of data sharing and integration within your agency to improve its role in program planning and policy development, what would it be? _____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

DEMOGRAPHICS

41. Describe your jurisdiction.

Region: ' urban ' rural ' suburb
Level: ' city ' county ' city/county

42. Does your agency have a Web site?

' yes ' no

If "yes," are crime statistics provided on the Web site?

' yes ' no

43. Does your agency have an automated RMS?

' yes ' no

Thank you for your time!