Adult Corrections Services (ACS) Survey

Program: Correctional Services

Project: Adult Corrections Survey

Project Description:
The Adult Corrections Survey (ACS) collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics data, resources, expenditures and personnel data and qualitative descriptive information on organizational structure and service delivery for custodial and non-custodial services at both the federal and provincial levels.

In April 1999, the Correctional Services program under the guidance of a Liaison Officer's Committee (LOC) working group began a review of the ACS survey in order to address numerous issues, including data gaps, utility, quality, respondent burden, systems development, and the feasibility of a national microdata collection strategy. As a result of this review, the following strategy was proposed by the ACS review Working Group: Microdata will be the preferred option for responding to current and future detailed information requirements in the area of adult correctional service delivery while Jurisdictions unable to provide microdata will be asked to provide their data according to the ACS questionnaire or the National Data Requirements (NDR) tables. This strategy was approved by the LOC in November 2000. In April 2001, the project was renamed the Integrated Correctional Services Survey (ICSS) following approval by the LOC at that time to include young offenders in its scope. The Adult component of the ICSS data requirements and survey specifications were subsequently approved by the LOC in May 2002.

Outputs:
Adult Correctional Services in Canada – Data Tables (Annual) – Adult Correctional Services in Canada, Catalogue number 85-211-XIE. This product has been discontinued as of December 2005. The last issue of this publication was "Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 2003/04". Some of the data tables found in this publication are now available on request, at the time of the release of the annual Adult Correctional Services in Canada *Juristat*. Other data tables are available through CANSIM; tables 251-0001 to 251-0007 at http://cansim2.statcan.ca and in the *Summary tables* section (free) at www.statcan.ca.

Adult Correctional Services in Canada – Juristat (Annual)

Background:
The Adult Correctional Services survey was implemented in 1982, and as such, became the first major objective to be achieved following the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics' inception in 1981. In the late 1980's, a redevelopment of the Corrections Survey was initiated. Qualitative and quantitative information on community corrections was developed and added to the survey. New National Data Requirements (the "NDR Tables") were approved by the Liaison Officer's Committee in November 1993, but a data mapping exercise showed that most jurisdictions could not provide full data. In an effort to improve the survey, the ACS has been under redevelopment since 1999 (See Project Description above).

Decision History:
LOC approval October 1982
JIC Justice Information Council approval November 1982
LOC approval of revised National Data Requirements (Prov./Terr.) November 1993
LOC approval of ACS data collection strategy, including microdata collection November 2000
LOC approval to include young offenders in scope of ACS redevelopment (renamed ICSS) April 2001
LOC approval of adult component of ICSS data requirements April 2002
JIC approval June 2002

Future Plans:

Implementation of interfaces for the collection of adult microdata have been completed in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan Alberta (community services (ACOM)) and the Correctional Service of Canada. Development work in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta's (custody system (CoMIS)), and British Columbia are ongoing and will continue in 2006/2007. Development of a central survey data processing system has begun. At present, this project has not received dedicated funding so continued development will proceed at a pace that reflects the availability of funding at the CCJS to implement these projects as well as the status of case management systems development among corrections jurisdictions.