

Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey

Program: Corrections

Project: Youth Custody and Community Services (YCCS) Survey

Project Description:

The YCCS project collects both machine-readable micro-level data and aggregate level data on youth serving custody and/or community service dispositions. Respondents providing aggregate data complete a set of standard data tables, which are used to compile national data on admissions and releases. Micro-data, on the other hand, are extracted directly from jurisdictional operational systems through the use of interface programs. The interface programs are designed to extract specific data elements and values identified in the survey National Data Requirements. These data contain more detailed information on the young offender, offences, court-ordered dispositions and their compliance, events and reviews. The micro-data are used to generate aggregate admission and release counts, which are tabulated into the aggregate standard data tables comparable to the aggregate survey.

Outputs:

Youth Custody and Community Services Data Tables (Annual)

Youth Custody and Community Services Juristat (Annual)

Background:

The LOC approved initiation of the YCCS project in 1986. In October 1990 the survey NDR were approved and data collection began in 1992 on a pilot basis. The project was considered developmental until the Fall of 1998 when the LOC approved the public release of the YCCS report (for the 1997-1998 survey cycle). At this time, seven jurisdictions were participating in the micro-data survey. Supplemental aggregate data were received from other jurisdictions. Since this time, micro-data coverage has gradually diminished as a result of several factors: systems replacement in some jurisdictions, year 2000 system problems, and data verification/interface quality issues. As of the 2000-2001 survey cycle, two respondents continue to supply micro-data. The remaining jurisdictions provide data in aggregate form.

As part of its plan to improve micro-data collection in correctional services, the Correctional Services program has been developing a micro-data survey to replace the aggregate Adult Correctional Services survey. In April 2000 the LOC approved expanding the scope of this project to include the collection of youth corrections data using integrated data requirements and an integrated data extraction methodology. The project was re-titled the Integrated Correctional Services survey (ICSS). The adult data requirements and survey specifications were approved by LOC in May 2002.

Decision History:

YCCS project initiation approved October 1986

LOC approval for implementation of the microdata YCCS April 1990

LOC approval of the NDR October 1990

LOC approval to restrict prototype report to Initiative Members only November 1995

LOC approval for public release of YCCS report November 1998

LOC approval of expanding scope of ACS micro-data survey development to include youth April 2000

Future Plans:

Subject to the feasibility of the ICSS for youth data collection, this approach will replace the current YCCS micro-data survey. The youth data requirements for the ICSS are currently being developed in conjunction with the larger Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) data requirements development process currently underway. The aggregate YCCS will also be modified as part of the YCJA development and will form an interim data collection strategy during implementation of the youth component of the ICSS.