

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 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 micro-data collection strategy. As a result of this review, the following strategy was proposed by the ACS review Working Group: Micro-data 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 micro-data will be asked to provide their data according to the ACS questionnaire or the 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 – 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 Centre's 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 approval November 1982

LOC approval of revised National Data Requirements (Prov./Terr.) November 1993

LOC approval of ACS data collection strategy, including micro-data 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 micro-data have been completed in Newfoundland and Labrador, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. Projects have been completed in Nova Scotia, Alberta and the Correctional Service of Canada and will be included in the 2004/05 publication. Development work in Ontario and British Columbia are ongoing. As well, 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.