

## **Program Narrative for the Oregon Statistical Analysis Center Program Theme for 2004: Analysis of Criminal History Records**

### **Introduction**

The Oregon Criminal Justice Commission, by statute, serves as the focal point for state public safety policy development and agency coordination. The central goal of the Criminal Justice Commission is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of state and local criminal justice systems by providing a central forum for policy development and planning. The commission's primary responsibility is to develop state criminal justice policy and to perform long-range, comprehensive public safety planning for Oregon. The public safety planning process makes recommendations to the Governor and the legislature regarding capacity and utilization of state prisons and local jails, monitors implementation of community corrections programs, determines effective programs to use in addition to or in lieu of incarceration, establishes whether new jail or prison facilities or alternative programs are needed and establishes methods to reduce risk of future criminal conduct by juvenile and adult offenders.

### **Statistical Analysis Center Mission**

The mission of the Statistical Analysis Center is to monitor and promote availability of reliable and useful criminal justice system data and to facilitate the use of that data by local, state and federal policymakers. In pursuit of that goal, the Statistical Analysis Center conducts and coordinates the dissemination of timely and accurate criminal justice data, research, statistics, and policy assessments.

Through its data resources, research, coordination, education and training services, the Center will encourage increased and more effective use of criminal justice data. Specifically, the Analysis Center will improve coordination and dissemination of Oregon-based information and research among Oregon criminal justice agencies, conduct its own research and analysis on salient policy issues and help the Commission, Governor and Legislative Assembly create a more efficient and effective criminal justice system.

Our website distributes criminal justice information and statistics to local criminal justice planners, state agencies, universities, the state law enforcement training facility and many others.

### **Status of Prior Awards (Fiscal 2000 through 2003)**

- **2000** Began development of a Web site and authored a felony sentencing report for 1998 following the format of the prior published 1995 report.

**Project status: Revised**

- **2001** Draft Sentencing report completed, completed development of Web site. Put all years of Sentencing Reports into Access databases. Deployed felony-sentencing statistics over the SAC Web site from 1991 to current.

**Project status: Published September 2001**

- **2002** Obtained data file on admissions and releases from the Oregon Department of Corrections to assist in making fiscal impact statements for proposed criminal justice legislation. Continued coordination with Judicial Department in development of data elements for the Uniform Sentencing Judgment (project begin date 1995). Sponsored a very limited number of victimization questions added to an ongoing yearly statewide telephone survey.

Developed an overview of the more recent history of felony sentencing in Oregon for deployment over the Web (enactment of Community Corrections to present).

**Project status: Published December 2002**

The Oregon Statistical Analysis Center received the Justice Research and Statistics Association's exemplary website award in 2002.

Developed a compact analysis on felony sentencing guidelines reports and trends for 2001, published over the Web.

**Project status: Published January 2003**

- **2003** Ran simulations of sentencing and supervision policy changes to estimate savings that could be achieved under several different scenarios. The various outcomes were used in high-level negotiations on what criminal justice programs and services might be reduced to respond to the State's fiscal crisis.

**Project status: Completed**

Moved year-by-year sentencing reports in Access databases onto a single unified Structured Query Language database installed on the agency Intranet portal.

**Project status: Partially Completed (80%)**

Obtained access to monthly case filing statistics from the Judicial Department for both felony and misdemeanor cases. Deployed cases filings by offense on Intranet portal.

**Project status: Ongoing**

Developed on-line multiple user data entry application for agency portal (could easily be moved to agency Internet Website).

**Project status: Completed January 2004**

Began receiving sentencing information electronically from the Judicial Department data warehouse on a monthly basis. We expect electronic transfer of sentencing data to replace hard-copy reports as the judicial system is implemented statewide.

**Project status: Ongoing**

## **Program 2004**

The Criminal Justice Commission has been asked to provide staff support to the governor's office review of the public safety system, which includes:

- A review of the criminal justice system, from the first contact with suspects through parole and probation
- A Juvenile Justice Summit
- A review of the state's emergency preparedness system
- Topical areas:
  - Methamphetamine
  - Elder abuse
  - The state's system of sentencing adult offenders

Due to budget cuts in 2003, the state Uniform Crime Reporting program operated by the Oregon State Police was disappropriated. Although currently refunded, the crime-reporting program has suffered a major setback. These circumstances place an ever-increasing emphasis on remaining criminal justice information to meet the combined public expectations of reduced governmental financial resources and effective public safety services.

*Our main State Justice Statistics Program Theme for 2004 is to analyze the criminal history records.* The Statistical Analysis Center will analyze Oregon criminal history records from 1998 to present, focusing on patterns of arrests for methamphetamine possession and manufacture by age and location. A general statistical overview of all arrests reported will also be provided broken out by crime type and category and with some possible comparisons with conviction data. This activity will take place from July 2004 through September of 2004. If the data is received within the anticipated timeline, we expect some findings will be published or otherwise made available within the first six months.

This criminal history records project will also be reviewed as a foundation for offender tracking/flow studies, potential application to program evaluation, and as a more robust measure of recidivism; no outcome publication is anticipated at this time. It is assumed that these records will prove invaluable in estimating the corrections impact of legislation creating crimes or modifying criminal penalties during the next 2005 legislative session.

The Center will also be sharing these records under a non-disclosure agreement with the Department of Administrative Services for possible use and assistance in the making

of correctional populations forecast. In the event this data is used in the making of corrections population forecasts the resultant documents will be available and considered in part, a deliverable. This activity is estimated to occupy at least three months.

The SAC also plans on examining a limited set of NIBRS data, principally from Jackson County, to do some preliminary research on the topic of elder abuse.

Clearinghouse services will continue to be provided in response to direct inquiries to our staff and over our web site to the state's criminal justice system professionals, and other people in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, as well as other public agencies and organizations.

The following core accomplishments and products are also expected:

- Facilitate dissemination of analytical and statistical criminal justice information, serve as a repository for this information, and share criminal justice analytical and statistical information with the Bureau of Justice Statistics, other federal agencies and other states.
- Conduct, coordinate and help disseminate use of criminal justice statistics and research, including providing technical assistance to state and local agencies and analyzing existing or proposed changes in policies, and;
- Participate in state coordinating committees relating to information systems, policy analysis, forecasting and other criminal justice issues.
- Assist up to 15 direct inquiries from criminal justice agencies, organizations or individuals each month in response to inquiries for data, statistics, information sources or special research requests.
- Assist in the further development, implementation and integration of information from the electronic uniform sentencing judgments.

## **Placement of The SAC in the State Government Structure**

In 1995 the Legislative Assembly created the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission as a non-partisan agency and abolished its predecessor organization, the Criminal Justice Council. The Commission is comprised of nine members, supported by eleven staff positions. The Executive Director of the Commission reports directly to the Governor.

The Statistical Analysis Center had been transferred into the former Criminal Justice Council in 1993 and continues today as a function of the Criminal Justice Commission. The Statistical Analysis Center's principal users include the Governor, the executive branch of state government, the Legislature, the judicial branch, local public safety agencies, and other organizations, groups and individuals studying crime and criminal justice issues and policies. The Commission, by statute, is also "to provide Oregon criminal justice analytical and statistical information to federal agencies...".

Other agencies and groups with whom the Commission has a cooperative working relationship include:

Office of the Governor  
Oregon State Police  
Oregon Department of Administrative Services  
Oregon Department of Corrections  
Oregon State Court Administrator's Office  
Oregon Commission on Children and Families  
Oregon Youth Authority  
Oregon District Attorneys Association  
Oregon Association Chiefs of Police  
Oregon State Sheriffs Association  
Crime Prevention Association of Oregon  
Oregon Judicial Conference  
Juvenile Court Judges Association  
Oregon Juvenile Department Directors Association  
Oregon Corrections Association  
Oregon Association of Community Corrections Directors  
Association of Oregon Counties  
State Colleges and Universities

**Geographic Location** Salem, Oregon