Challenges in Collecting & Disseminating Statistics on Criminal Justice

Australian Experience

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Australian Context

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- Independent statistics office with political autonomy
- Census and Statistics Act 1905 (CSA): provides the Australian Statistician with the authority to conduct statistical collections, and when necessary, to direct a person to provide statistical information.
ABS National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics (NCCJS)

- develop, collate and disseminate national crime and justice statistics
- develop and maintain national statistical frameworks and standards
- oversee the development, collection and dissemination of crime related survey content
- progress the collection of statistical information relating to emerging areas of interest eg. Cybercrime and Family and Domestic Violence
NCCJS Crime and Justice data:

**Survey data**
- only way to understand levels and characteristics of victimisation that does not come to the attention of the criminal justice system
- broader range of information including detailed demographic characteristics, perceptions, attitudes and behaviours
- national level analysis

**Administrative data**
- view of victimisation reported/attention of the criminal justice system
- changes over time
- useful for program managers and policy makers
Needs and challenges

- Authority
- User needs for information
- Statistical infrastructure
- Enumeration
- Data Analysis
- Dissemination
Needs and challenges

- Authority / Governance
- User needs for information
- Statistical infrastructure
- Enumeration / Data Provision
- Data Analysis
- Dissemination
Annual collections
4530.0 - Crime Victimisation, Australia
4510.0 - Recorded Crime - Victims, Australia
4519.0 - Recorded Crime - Offenders, Australia
4519.0 - Criminal Courts, Australia
4515.0 - Federal Defendants, Australia
4517.0 - Prisoners in Australia

Quarterly collection
4512.0 Corrective Services, Australia
Ad hoc and irregular collections

4714.0 - National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Survey
4906.0 - Personal Safety Survey, Australia
4159.0 - General Social Survey, Australia
4528.0 – Personal Fraud Australia

Analytical publication

4524.0 - In Focus Crime and Justice

Frameworks, Information papers

4529.0.00.003 – National Data Collection and Reporting Framework for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2014
4529.0.00.002 – Bridging the Data Gaps for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence, 2013
4529.0 - Defining the Data Challenge for Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence, 2013
4533.0 - Directory of Family and Domestic Violence Statistics, 2011
4500.0.55.001 Measuring Victims of Crime: a guide to using administrative and survey data, 2011
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