Korea’s efforts to improve criminal justice statistics and the role of KIC

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Major contents

◆ Official criminal justice statistics system in Korea
◆ Challenges
◆ KIC’s role in dealing with these challenges
◆ KIC’s activities in production and utilization of criminal justice statistics
Definition of terms

◆ criminal justice statistics: statistics on crime and criminal justice
◆ official criminal justice statistics: the data collected while each criminal justice agency conducts their activities, administrative data
◆ criminal justice statistics
  ▪ administrative data
  ▪ alternative data source: victimization survey, self-report survey, general population survey
Official Criminal Justice Statistics in Korea

1) Organizational arrangement
   - A centralized system
     • Data collection according to the same laws and definitions of concepts
     • High comparability between regions

Crime Statistics and Survey Center, KIC
1) Organizational arrangement

- Absence of one government agency at the nation level
  - Individual criminal justice agencies not only produce data but also are responsible for data collection, processing, analysis and publication.
Official Criminal Justice Statistics in Korea

1) Organizational arrangement
   - *Statistics Korea’s role*
     - Decentralized statistical system
     - Designation the statistics produced by each criminal justice agency as ‘national official statistics’
     - Providing basic guidelines and conducting diagnosis on a regular basis for control of quality of statistics
Official Criminal Justice Statistics in Korea

2) The scope and contents

- Collection of ‘detailed information’ on ‘all the crime’ regardless of the seriousness of crime
- For example: police crime statistics
  - Collecting 103 items
  - the criminal act / the offender / the victim / disposition of the offender
3) Collecting and Processing

- incident-based data collection scheme
  - Ability to analyze the relationship between various variables
  - Improving the validity of the quality of data
- In early 2000s each criminal justice agency developed their own information management system
  - data input, extract and delivery to the central statistical department have been all automated
Official Criminal Justice Statistics in Korea

- In 2010 the development of an electronic task management system
  - Korea Information System of Criminal Justice Service (KICS)
  - Conducting tasks through a standardized IT system
  - Sharing Information between agencies

4) Analyzing and Disseminating
- Statistical staffs in the individual criminal justice agencies edit and analyze the collected data and publish annually statistical report.
- Providing PDF version of their publications to the public
Strength of official criminal justice statistics in Korea

- Collection data on a unified criteria through a centralized system
  - high comparability between the regions
- Collection detailed information per individual incidents
  - high utilization in monitoring, planning, and policy research
- Electronic task management system (KICS)
  - effective and transparent data collection and processing

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Challenges in official criminal justice statistics

◆ Lack of the relevance of statistical information
  ▪ Maintain the same statistics collection items for 50 years → construct stable time series data
  ▪ Failure to reflect crime trends that are driven from social changes

◆ Absence of a standard crime classification scheme
  ▪ No information linkage between criminal justice agencies
Challenges in official criminal justice statistics

◆ Objectivity and reliability issue
  ▪ Data production agency is responsible for data collection, processing, analysis, and publishing
  ▪ Raising reliability and political independence issue

◆ Strong request to improve accessibility of data
  ▪ “Government 3.0” by President Park: Emphasis on opening administrative information
  ▪ Strong pressure to open raw data from outside
KIC’s role in dealing with the challenges

1) Improvement the relevance of statistical information
   - *Supreme Prosecutor’s Office* (April 2016)
     - Composition of consultative group: police, prosecutor, IT experts, crime statistics experts
     - To reorganize data collection items
   - Crime statistics experts at KIC have been playing a leading role by joining the group
KIC’s role in dealing with the challenges

2) Constructing a standard crime classification scheme

- **KIC, Statistics Korea and Police Science Institute** composed a coordination group (January 2016)
- To conduct related research
- To conduct a foundational research on the possibility of ICCS’s domestic implementation (research in progress)
3) **Improvement the objectivity and reliability**

- *KIC* has been participating as external expert in data collection, processing, analysis, and publication processes of *National Police Agency, Supreme Prosecutor’s Office and Institute of Justice* (Since 2011)

- **KIC**’s role
  - Setting the criteria of data aggregation
  - Conducting data editing to minimize inconsistency and errors in data
  - Rearranging the result of analysis in order to tailor it to the users’ needs
  - Writing detailed user’s guidebooks
**KIC’s role in dealing with the challenges**

4) **Increasing timeliness of official criminal justice statistics**
   - Publication 「Quarterly Crime Trends Report」
     in cooperation with *Supreme Prosecutor’s Office*
   - Coming soon on the website
KIC’s role in dealing with the challenges

5) Improvement accessibility of data
   • Studying overseas cases of official crime statistics disclosure
   • Suggesting the ways in which criminal justice agencies can gradually open the raw data to the public along with improvement measures required
KIC’s role in production and management of criminal justice statistics

◆ Production of alternative data

1) victimization survey for households and individuals
   • Since 1992~, every two years
   • in 2009, designation ‘National Statistics’ by Statistics Korea
   • Construction DB system for survey data and open to the public via website
   • “Korean Crime Victimization Survey Symposium” : every two years
     ✓ To facilitate academic and policy-related utilization
     ✓ To improve the quality of the survey data
KIC’s role in production and management of criminal justice statistics

◆ Production of alternative data

2) commercial victimization survey
   • In 2016
   • Sample size: 8,000 premises
   • Subject: accommodation and restaurant business, wholesale and retail business

3) self-report survey for criminals

4) general population survey about crime and criminal justice related subjects

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**KIC’s role in production and management of criminal justice statistics**

- **Construction of DB for official criminal justice statistics and Web Service**
  - Collecting data produced by each criminal justice agency
  - Construction the DB system for each data : 4 DBs in total
  - Providing via *Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics (CCJS)* website
  - If users visit KIC's CCJS website, they can access the various statistics dispersed around each criminal justice agency in one place and use time-series data for each statistical item.
KIC’s role in production and management of criminal justice statistics

- The DB for crime incidence statistics of Supreme Prosecutor’s Office
  - 50 years data from 1966 to 2015
  - the English version of DB
KIC’s role in production and management of criminal justice statistics

◆ Operation of the only crime statistics portal
  ▪ Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics (CCJS) : www.crimestats.or.kr
  ▪ 5 DBs service
    • 4 for official criminal justice statistics
    • 1 for victimization survey data
  ▪ data analysis service
  ▪ related information service
Thank you for your attention.