

major sector of the justice system: law enforcement, legal aid, courts and correctional services, as well as on resources, expenditures and personnel in each sector. Descriptive information is available on the structure, legislative authority and programs of each sector.

Ongoing data collection programs provide time series information and in-depth studies to provide information on high priority national justice issues.

Law enforcement. This program produces statistics on criminal incidents reported to the police, how they are dealt with, and police administration in Canada. Information is provided by accredited police and other law enforcement agencies. In-depth information on homicide incidents is also produced, covering such areas as the characteristics of offenders and victims, and means of committing the offence.

Legal aid. This program produces statistical and descriptive information on such legal aid activities as the provision of legal advice, counsel representation, and other legal services in criminal and civil cases.

Courts. A courts program provides information on courts and criminal prosecution services. Data include the number of criminal charges dealt with by courts at all levels. Information on manpower, resources and costs of courts and prosecutions is produced biennially. Developmental projects are under way to produce more detailed information on court cases. Descriptive information is compiled on the family and civil courts of Canada.

Correctional services. A corrections program provides information on basic aspects of federal and provincial correctional services such as prisons, penitentiaries, probation and parole services. Statistics are available on expenditures and personnel

of the corrections sector, as well as on the inmate, probation and parole populations.

Juvenile justice. This program is designed to produce information on the juvenile justice system in such areas as law enforcement, screening, alternative measures, pre-court, court and post-court processes. It currently produces information on young offenders dealt with by the courts.

20.9.2 Technical assistance program

A service agency in the centre, the technical assistance directorate supports the development of statistical programs and the transfer of technology between jurisdictions, helping them to develop operational information systems through technical expertise and resource support. The technical assistance program touches upon the major sectors of the justice system in the provinces, territories and the federal government.

The federal-provincial partnership. The centre operates on the principle that national justice information is a shared responsibility. A justice information council consists of all deputy ministers responsible for the administration of justice together with the chief statistician of Canada. Its main responsibility is to provide direction to and monitor the federal-provincial initiative, reviewing programs, priorities and progress.

A formal liaison officers committee represents justice information council members. Its primary task is to develop with the centre the specific programs and projects to be undertaken. Members are spokespersons for their jurisdictions. Program advisory committees also provide expert advice to the centre in the development of particular programs and projects.

Source

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada. Co-ordinator, Beverly Prentice.

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