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Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center

Annual Report 1989

Introduction

The Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center (SAC), a program of the Office of Justice Assistance, was established in November 1981. Its purpose is to maintain and disseminate information and data on crime and justice system performance in Wisconsin. SAC maintains the Uniform Crime Reporting system for the State, as well as components of a jail information system and a juvenile detention information system. It also conducts special studies and produces reports on other selected justice system topics. SAC responds to over 200 information requests each year from legislators, educators, justice system professionals, news reporters, and other citizens.

Background

The Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center was established on November 1, 1981 through a cooperative agreement between the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice (WCCJ) (now the Office of Justice Assistance) and the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS), U.S. Department of Justice.

On November 27, 1981, then Governor Dreyfus issued Executive Order Number 87 creating the Wisconsin Statistical Analysis Center, to be administered by WCCJ. The SAC program and mandates were continued under Governor Earl, again by Executive Order. Under present Governor Tommy Thompson the SAC program was statutorily created through the 1989-1990 Biennial Budget Act. Under Statute, the Statistical Analysis Center is directed to serve as a clearing house of justice system data and information and conduct justice system research and data analysis. Duties include:

- Collecting information on the number and nature of offenses committed and other information useful in the study of crime and justice; this information is to include all information necessary to operate the Uniform Crime Reporting system in the State.

- Making statistical information available to the governor and the legislature;
- Preparing and publishing reports and releases of statistical information;
- Cooperating with other agencies in developing and conducting a system of criminal statistics.

SAC Organization and Administration

The Wisconsin SAC is a program of the Office of Justice Assistance. The Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) was created in the Biennial Budget Bill of 1987-1989, replacing the Wisconsin Council on Criminal Justice. Most of the functions of the Council on Criminal Justice, which was abolished, were transferred to the Office.

At the end of 1989, SAC was allocated five permanent positions: two Research Analysts, one of them the Acting Director, a Management Information Specialist, and two Data Entry Operators. SAC also employed one Management Information Specialist and one Research Analyst in project positions.

Office of Justice Assistance
Theodore Meekma, Executive Director

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

SAC Advisory Committee

A SAC Advisory Committee was established in the Spring of 1984. The five member committee includes representatives from law enforcement (a county sheriff), the Director of State Courts Office, the Division of Corrections (of the Department of Health and Social Services, beginning in 1990, the Department of Corrections), the Department of Justice, and the University of Wisconsin.

The SAC Advisory Committee meets quarterly with SAC staff and provides input on SAC projects and products. Advisory Committee members also act as liaisons between SAC and their own agencies and organizations.

SAC Program Functions

SAC serves as a clearinghouse for criminal and juvenile justice data in Wisconsin. It publishes statistical reports on crime and justice system performance and conducts other special analyses to assist planning and policy making efforts at both state and local levels. Through the cooperation of the various State agencies that make up the justice system, SAC has ready access to most of the crime and justice system data collected and maintained at the state level.

In addition, SAC collects and maintains certain data itself. Shortly after its creation, SAC assumed responsibility for the State Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. At that time it also assumed responsibility for maintaining some functions of the Jail Information System (JIS), a system which had been operated by the Department of Health and Social Services. In January 1984, SAC began operating a Juvenile Detention Information System (JDIS) through which data on juvenile detentions are regularly collected from most county juvenile court intake workers. Additional data on juvenile detentions are collected from county jails and detention centers throughout the State. Also in January 1984, SAC began collecting incident-based (case by case) sexual assault data from law enforcement agencies as part of the UCR program.

SAC prepares annual and, in some cases, semi-annual statistical reports on the data it collects. These data, as well as the data provided to SAC by other State agencies, are also used to respond to over 200 information requests each year.

In addition to its ongoing or periodic data management activities, and as resources permit,

SAC conducts special research studies and prepares special data reports on selected justice system topics.

Systems Operated

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)

Data on reported crimes and arrests are maintained by Wisconsin law enforcement agencies and reported to the State UCR program operated by SAC. SAC publishes annual reports on crime and arrests and provides other data and information upon request; it also provides data to the National UCR program operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The state UCR program, which was operated by the Crime Information Bureau of the State Department of Justice from 1970 to 1980, was informally assumed by SAC in 1981. In the 1983-1985 Biennial Budget Bill, responsibility for the state program was transferred from the Department of Justice to WCCJ (now OJA). The program operated by SAC was officially recognized as the state UCR program by the FBI in 1984.

Through the UCR program, data are collected on Index Crimes reported to law enforcement agencies. Index Crimes are eight serious crimes intended to represent and reflect general crime trends. They are the violent crimes of murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault, and robbery, and the property crimes of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Data are also collected on all persons arrested. Offense categories for persons arrested include all Part I offenses, that is, each Index offense plus negligent homicide; and the most common Part II offenses (Part II offenses are all other offenses).

The UCR program also collects data on all sexual assaults reported to law enforcement agencies. Sexual assaults are defined by Wisconsin Statutes to include all forms of assaultive sexual contact. This offense category is broader than the UCR category of "forcible rape." Sexual assault data are collected on each offense or incident reported to law enforcement agencies. Most other UCR offense and arrest data are currently collected on an aggregate basis, that is, monthly totals of offenses and arrests in specified categories are reported.

Incident-Based Uniform Crime Reporting

Efforts are currently underway to convert the UCR program, on both the national and state level, to an "incident-based" system, one which will collect and maintain data on each offense and arrest incident.

SAC has a grant from BJS to assist in planning and implementing the conversion to the incident-based system in the state. During 1988 SAC began working with an advisory committee of law enforcement representatives to develop data and reporting standards and system implementation procedures for Wisconsin. The new system will be tested and implemented in selected jurisdictions beginning in 1990, as law enforcement agencies become able to report incident data.

Jail Information System (JIS)

Information on the activities of selected local correctional facilities (jails) is collected and analyzed by SAC, largely on an ad hoc basis. The JIS is maintained on a limited basis as a service to counties which request annual jail reports or a jail population analysis. Annual jail population reports are provided to participating counties, based on data supplied by the jail facilities, on persons confined during the year. Special reports for counties which do not participate in the system on a regular basis are prepared on request. These reports are usually based on confinement data covering several years and usually provide jail population projections.

Juvenile Detention Information System (JDIS)

For several years, OJA (formerly WCCJ) has annually collected data on juveniles securely detained in county jails and detention centers. The data have traditionally been collected from detention facility records. Beginning in 1984, SAC began collecting additional detention data from juvenile court intake workers in many counties to augment the facility data. The JDIS includes descriptive data on juveniles detained, data on the alleged offense, the statutory criteria for detention, and the dates and times of admission and release.

SAC Accomplishments

During 1989 SAC published two annual reports based on Uniform Crime Reporting data (Crime and Arrests, Sexual Assaults), several jail population reports and several local UCR reports. It also published special reports on Index Crime rates and drug arrests in Wisconsin. The following are 1989 SAC publications:

Uniform Crime Reporting System:

- Wisconsin Crime and Arrests 1988
- Sexual Assaults in Wisconsin 1988
- Drug Arrests in Wisconsin 1988
- Wisconsin Crime and Arrests: Semi-Annual 1989
- Drug Arrests in Wisconsin: Semi-Annual 1989
- Special Local UCR Reports for approximately 25 law enforcement agencies

Special Crime and Arrest Reports for 10 Counties for the Governor's Northeast Wisconsin Week Incident-Based Reporting - Quarterly Newsletter

Jail Information System

Annual Jail Reports for:

- Jackson County
- Juneau County
- Kewaunee County

Special Jail Reports for:

- La Crosse County
- Washburn County

Other Reports:

- Index Crime Rates For Wisconsin 1988
- An Inter-State Comparison
- Juvenile Restitution Programs 1984-1988
- Juvenile Detention Projections for North Central Wisconsin
- Information Technology in Small State Agencies
- Anti-Drug Abuse Task Forces Progress Report

Information Requests:

In addition to the publications and other work in progress, SAC responded to 267 requests for data and other information. Inquiries are generally related to crime incidents, pending legislation, other emerging policy issues, or research or administrative analyses. The following are sources of information requests in 1989:

Citizen/Student	21
Media	52
Legislator	24
State Agency	40
County Agency	16
Private Agency	26
Law Enforcement Agency	85
Other	3
TOTAL	267

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