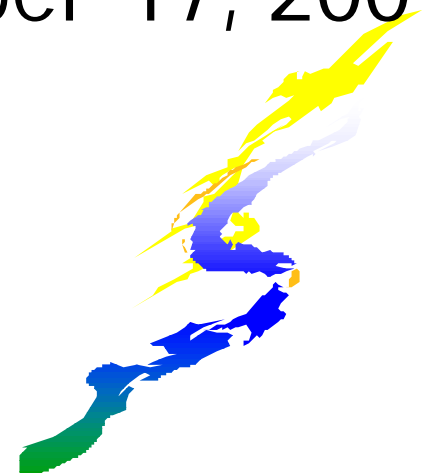




National Criminal Justice Statistical Framework

Presented to OESR, QLD
October 17, 2001



Key questions about the CJS as a unified system

- What will be the downstream effect of making upstream policy changes?
- Is enforcement or prevention more effective in reducing crime?
- How long does it take for people to move through the system?
- What proportion of offenders end up in prison?
- How much recidivism is there?



Requirements for criminal justice data

- Data supporting management of the CJS
 - volume and nature of work entering the CJS
 - time required for work to flow through a given sector



Requirements for criminal justice data

- Data supporting management of the CJS
 - volume and nature of work entering the CJS
 - time required for work to flow through a given sector
- Data supporting the development of social indicators
 - nature and extent of crime over time
 - demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of offenders and victims
 - social and economic correlates of crime



Definition of the Framework

- Structure for organizing, collecting, reporting data
- Builds connections
- Model of CJS transcends individual sectors
- Models how data *should* be collected



Scope of the Framework

- Restricted to data relating to CJS
- Focus on criminal justice but can be applied to civil or juvenile justice as well
- Excludes certain activities of CJS
- Currently includes key data variables already collected



Primary function of Framework

- Facilitate compatibility and integration of *aggregate* data on populations
- Unique identifiers therefore not a feature



Strategic objectives of the Framework

- Integrating data between CJS sectors



Strategic objectives of the Framework

- Integrating data between CJS sectors
- Integrating data across geographical regions



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- Assisting with setting priorities for future development



Strategic objectives of the Framework

- Integrating data between CJS sectors
- Integrating data across geographical regions
- Assisting with setting priorities for future development
- Promoting standardization



Benefits of the Framework -- integrating across the CJS

- Different agencies have own systems
- But interrelationships exist -- activities in one sector affect another
- Framework as a 'map' for drawing data out of systems in a comparable fashion
- Compatible info leads to common understanding
- Provides info on flow-on effect in CJS



Benefits of the Framework -- integrating across regions

- Eight separate legal systems with different scopes and definitions
- Allows for more valid comparisons
- Differences in profile of crime can be linked to regional variation in social, demographic and economic conditions
- Can generalize crime prevention knowledge to similar geographical areas



Benefits of the Framework -- establishing priorities

- Context of currently available data is full scope of data requirements
- Illustrates adequacy of current collections and identifies data gaps
- Facilitates establishment of priorities for future development of current collections
- Ensures ABS remains relevant and useful to clients



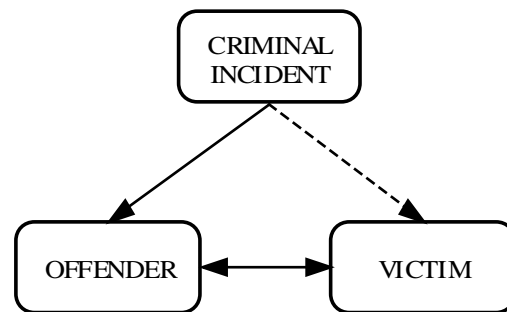
Benefits of the Framework -- promoting standards

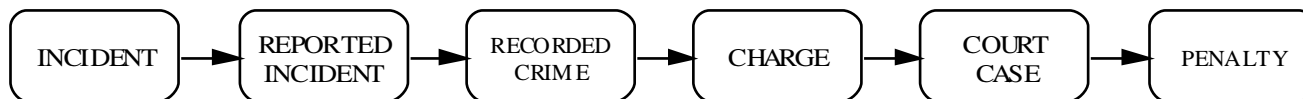
- Standard methods of collecting, compiling and disseminating data
- Leads to a more consistent understanding of data and therefore better communication among users

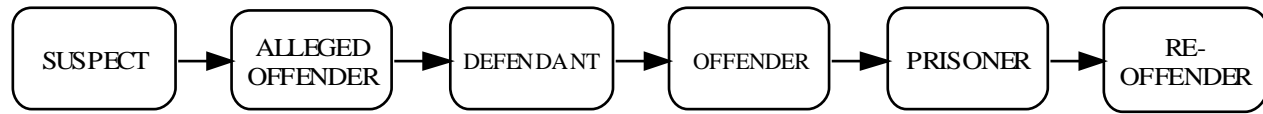


Key counting units in the CJS

- Criminal incident
- Person







CJS process model

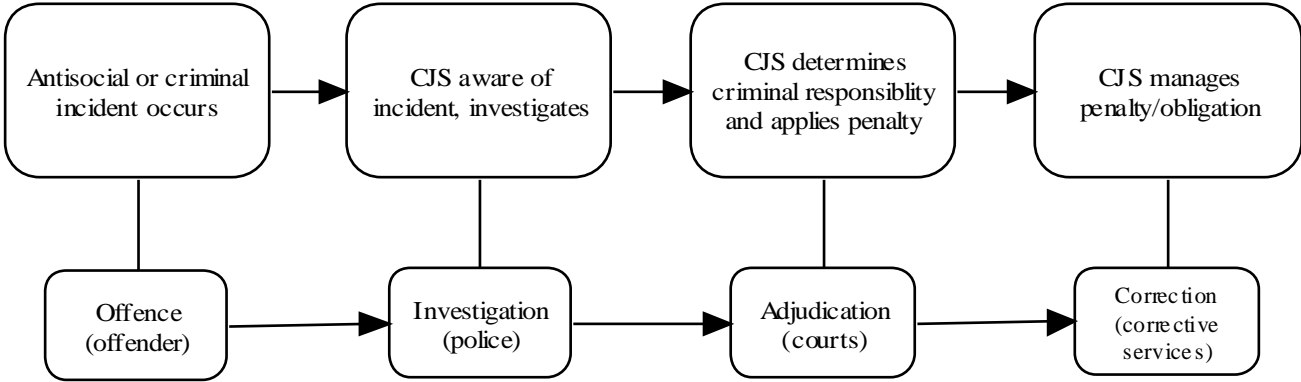
- Stock and flow design
 - data on populations at specific point (stock) e.g. prisoner census data from specific day
 - data on flow through CJS over time (flow) e.g. courts data on defendant initiations over the year



CJS process model

- Stock and flow design
 - data on populations at specific point (stock)
 - data on flow through CJS over time (flow)
- Sequence and consequence
 - four general stages (sequence)
 - flow-on effect (consequence)





CJS Process	Initiation	Processing	Finalisation
Antisocial or criminal incident occurs	Incident experienced	Decision about whether to report	Incident reported or not reported
Detecting/reporting of incident	Incident report filed	Initial investigation of allegations	Offence recorded or not recorded
Recording and investigation of offence	Record of offence initiated	Full investigation	Completion of full investigation and decision on how to proceed
Adjudication	Criminal charge laid before court	Hearing(s)	Criminal responsibility determined/ penalty imposed
Management of penalty/obligation	Penalty initiated	Detention or Community-Based Order	End of penalty period

Alternatives to full process

- Unreported crime
 - self-report offending surveys, victim surveys



Alternatives to full process

- Unreported crime
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- Alternative agencies initiating entry
 - RSPCA, EPA, ATO, Immigration



Alternatives to full process

- Unreported crime
 - self-report offending surveys, victim surveys
- Alternative agencies initiating entry
- RSPCA, EPA, ATO, Immigration
- Alternative movements
 - diversion
 - leapfrogging
 - cycling back



Key data variables

- Key pieces of data that are needed in criminal justice
- Can help connect the sectors of the CJS



Key counting units and data variables

- Incident
- Person (demographic and social variables)
- Person (other variables)
- Criminal justice organization (common variables)
- Sector-specific variables



Current status of the Framework

- Circulated for long-term feedback process
- Mounted on web site
- Data dictionary with definitions, standards and classifications is yet to come



Role of the Framework in the NCCJS

- Will be one of the core parts of the NCCJS Information Development Plan:
 - identify priorities for collection development
 - think of collections in terms of whole system
e.g. offence representation focus on needs for both offender stats and courts to recognize common issues



Role of the Framework in the NCCJS

- Will be one of the core parts of the NCCJS Information Development Plan:
 - identify priorities for collection development
 - think of collections in terms of whole system
- Use the Framework to think about issues in a wider context:
 - focus on system-wide, holistic approach
 - e.g. juvenile justice, Indigenous identifier, sexual assault



The holistic approach in the NCCJS

- Offences of interest
 - ASOC
 - implementation in courts
 - implementation in corrections
 - review of content
 - drugs
 - sexual assault
 - fraud/e-crime



The holistic approach in the NCCJS *(continued)*

- Populations of interest
 - Indigenous (ABS work)
 - juveniles (AIHW work)
 - males/females
- Potential populations of interest
 - older people
 - employed/unemployed
 - country of birth/ancestry
 - other population subgroups?



The holistic approach in the NCCJS *(continued)*

- Geographical areas of interest
 - international data comparisons
 - small area data
 - urban/rural data



The holistic approach in the NCCJS *(continued)*

- Extension of scope of interest
 - offender based statistics (connects sectors)
 - lower courts (connects sectors)
 - emergency management (connects CJS with broader system)



Role of Framework for users

- As starting point for NMDS, PIs
- Facilitates thinking outside of own sector
 - How have others in criminal justice handled the difficult issues I'm facing?
 - What is the relationship between my sector and the others in the CJS?
 - Where does my sector fit in with the others in the CJS and in the broader, related social system as a whole?



Role of Framework for users

(continued)

- As a map for further understanding the field of criminal justice to assist decision-making
 - technical models not always sufficient
 - need broader input to understand effect of changes in legislation, policy
 - this needs understanding of the system as a whole
- Other applications?





Questions?